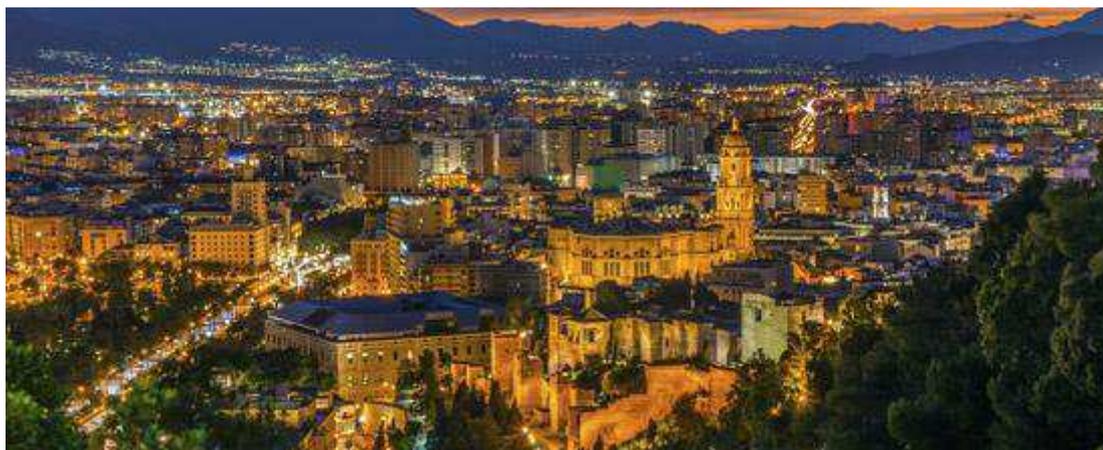


Málaga Information



This document contains general information about Málaga, mainly plagiarised from Wikipedia, Lonely Planet and other internet sites. Additional information may be added from time to time, based on my personal experiences during my two month long stay in the city.

General Information:

Málaga lies on the Costa del Sol (Coast of the Sun) of the Mediterranean, about 100 km east of the Strait of Gibraltar and about 130 km from north of Africa. The city is an important tourist destination, known as "the capital of the Costa del Sol". There are many interesting places to visit in the city, but the birthplace of Pablo Picasso and the Museo Picasso Málaga are top of the list. The old town is also popular, which is where I shall be staying. Málaga harbour is the second busiest cruise port of the Iberian Peninsula.

Málaga is a world apart from the adjoining Costa del Sol: a historic and culturally rich provincial capital which has long lived in the shadow of the iconic Andalusian cities of Granada, Córdoba and Seville. Yet, it has rapidly emerged as the province's city of culture with its so-called 'mile of art' being compared to Madrid, and its dynamism and fine dining to Barcelona.

The tastefully restored historic centre is a delight: its Gothic cathedral is surrounded by narrow pedestrian streets flanked by traditional and modern bars, and shops that range from idiosyncratic and family owned, to urban-chic and contemporary. Cast your eyes up to enjoy a skyline that reflects the city's eclectic character; church spires jostle for space with russet-red tiled roofs and lofty apartment buildings while, like a grand old dame, the 11th-century Gibralfaro castle sits grandly aloft and provides the best view of all.

An impressive number of museums and monuments, including the 11th-century Alcazaba fort and Museo Picasso Malaga, provide plenty of diversions for those who opt not to spend all their time on the coast's famed beaches and in their accompanying bars. The old city bustles with taverns and bistros. The generous Paseo del Parque offers a delightful stroll past banana trees and fountains.

Looming over that modern skyline are the city's 2 massive hilltop citadels, the Alcazaba and ruined Gibralfaro, remnants of Moorish rule. The city's soaring Renaissance cathedral is nicknamed La Manquita ("one-armed lady") because one of its towers was curiously left unbuilt.

Recommended walks:

Start with a coffee in the Plaza de la Constitución, then stroll down the marble-paved Larios street towards the Mediterranean. Walk along the Muelle Uno waterfront development to the new Pompidou Centre in the glass cube up ahead. Visit the Picasso Museum and the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, then drop into the Atarazanas market for lunch at one of the tapas bars. Later on, explore the galleries, bars and cafés of the trendy Soho area.

A popular walk leads up the hill to the Gibralfaro castle (a Parador), offering panoramic views over the city. The castle is next to the Alcazaba, the old Muslim palace, which in turn is next to the inner city of Málaga. Other nearby attractions are the Roman Theatre, the old Jewish quarter, the Cathedral, and the Church of Santiago in mudéjar style. A popular walk follows the Paseo del Parque (a promenade that runs alongside a grand park with many palm trees and statues) to the harbour, ending in Calle Larios, the main commercial street of the city. There is also a curious museum, the Museum of the Holy Week, which includes an impressive display of Baroque ecclesiastical items.

Places of Interest:

The opening of the Picasso Museum in 2003 triggered the city's cultural rebirth, and visitors are now flocking to this port city which boasts excellent transport, top-class cuisine and fascinating monuments, from Moorish and Roman times through to modern day - while retaining its authentic Andalusian feel. Whether you are visiting from a cruise, a weekend break or as curious Costa del Sol visitors, you will be pleasantly surprised by this intriguing city.

Malaga has more museums than any other city in Andalucia; over 30 at last count - and new ones are opening all the time. Learn about the city through its wine, at the Wine Museum; its social history and customs, from the collection of 19th-century paintings at the new Carmen Thyssen museum; and its famous local personalities, such as the painter Felix Revello del Toro. For more art and design delights, you can visit

museums of contemporary art, archaeology or glass; while fashion is covered, together with cars (yes, seriously - it's a clever gender-balancing combination) at one of the city's latest openings.

Alcazaba:

The entrance is next to the Roman amphitheatre, from where a meandering path climbs amid lush greenery: crimson bougainvillea, lofty palms, fragrant jasmine bushes and rows of orange trees. Extensively restored, this palace-fortress dates from the 11th-century Moorish period; the caliphal horseshoe arches, courtyards and bubbling fountains are evocative of this influential period in Málaga's history. Don't miss the small archaeological museum located within the former servants' quarters of the Nazari palace, with its exhibits of Moorish ceramics and pottery.

The Alcazaba has a distinct feel from its more famous, younger neighbours, the Alcazar of Sevilla and the Alhambra of Granada. It was already three centuries old when the others were built. After the reconquest, it fell into decay until restoration work began in 1933, and continues slowly today. Two of its original three walls remain, as well as over 100 towers and three palaces. The fortress's entrance area, which is close to the Plaza de Aduana and the Roman theatre in Calle Alcazabilla, forms part of the city walls. You pass through the Puerta de la Bóveda (Gate of the Vault), a typical Moorish *puerta en recodo* (a defensive castle entrance designed to delay the arrival of attackers - after entering through an arch, they come up against a blank wall, and have to make a sharp turn to gain access to the next part of the fortress). A little higher up, you pass through the Puerta de la Columnas (Gate of the Columns), which was built using Roman marble columns to hold up the Moorish horseshoe arches. You then enter the lower precincts of the Alcazaba, via the second *puerta en recodo* under the Torre del Cristo (Christ's Tower). This was where the first mass was celebrated following the victory over the town by the Reyes Catolicos, and continued to be used as a chapel. The lower precinct follows the contours of the hill, and you can stop and rest at the Plaza de Armas, which is now a garden with fountains and a bastion on the south side which once defended the coast. Follow the little cobbled paths through the Puerta de los Cuartos de Granada (Gate of the Halls of Granada, which lead into the upper precinct where the pathway passes through attractive landscaped gardens. Inside the Nazari palace, at the top of the fortress, you can explore three courtyards: the Patio de los Surtidores (Courtyard of the Fountains), which features a row of caliphal arches leading to the Torre de la Armadura Mudéjar (Mudejar Armoury Tower) with its 16th-century carved wooden ceiling. The Torre de Maldonado (Maldonado Tower), with its original marble columns and balconies, offers the best views so far. The next two courtyards in the palace are the Patio de los Naranjos (Courtyard of the Orange Trees) and the Patio de la Alberca (Courtyard of the Pool). The palace is quite extensive with arches, towers, gates, and original marble columns. Some areas, such as the dungeons and the Patio del Aljibe (Courtyard of the Reservoir), and the Torre del Homenaje (Homage Tower) and original Moorish dwellings, mosque and baths are closed for restoration (as of 2011). There is a small archaeological museum, exhibiting fragments of Roman pottery and statues of various sites around the province, including Lacipo (Casares) and Villa de Rio Verde, (Marbella). You

can also see Moorish ceramics and other artefacts found on the site. *Entry to the Alcazaba is free on Sundays after 1400.*

The Roman Theatre:

El Teatro Romano is the oldest monument in Málaga City and is situated in the cultural heart of the city at the foot of the famous Alcazaba fortress. It is one of the only Ancient ruins left in Málaga after the outwardly Republican city was bombed by Nationalist sympathizers (the Italian army) during the Civil war. It is therefore one of the only remaining Roman ruins in Andalucía after centuries of warfare.

The theatre was built in the first century BC, under Emperor Augustus, and was used until the third century AD. Subsequently it was left to ruin for centuries, until the Moors settled in Andalucía. In 756-780AD the amphitheatre was used as a quarry by the Moorish settlers, to excavate the stone used to build the Alcazaba fortress - you can see some Roman columns and capitals in the fortress. Over time it became buried under dirt and rubble, and remained hidden there for almost five centuries. The theatre was rediscovered in 1951, when the construction of Casa de Cultura uncovered the first archaeological clues. The construction of the gardens was abandoned, and instead excavations began. In 1995 a polemic decision was made to demolish the Casa de la Cultura, which stood over a third of the site. Once the site had been fully excavated, a large scale restoration project began, which proved more difficult than anticipated, as many of the missing pieces are now part of the foundations of the neighbouring Alcazaba. On 15 September 2011, 27 years after reconstruction began, El Teatro Romano reopened to the public, and held its first stage performances for millenia, with performances from Andrés Mérida, Daniel Casares, and Carlos Álvarez, reading from Juvenal Soto and the poetry of Pablo Picasso and Manuel Alcántara. The amphitheatre is now open throughout the year for visitors, and in summer, it will be used for open-air performances. It seats 220 spectators.

Malaga City Hall (Ayuntamiento):

The Malaga City Hall had two architects from Malaga, Fernando Guerrero Strachan and Manuel Rivera Vera. The building was completed in 1919. The design is Neo-Baroque and the floor plan is rectangular, with a big enclosed patio in the middle of the building. The facade has a timpanum (a triangular frieze) that is decorated with sculpture done by Francisco Palma Garcia. There is a sculpture of a woman who represents the city, and beside her are figures that allude to architecture, the sea, fishing, and commerce. Above that there is a tower with a clock. Below the frieze are Ionic columns framing a balcony, and below that is the main entrance to the building, which has three floors. The facade is elaborately decorated. There are figures of men who seem to be supporting the building. These were done by the sculptor Diego Garcia Carreras. Among decorative elements are garlands, large decorative brackets, cornices, volutes, fruits and vegetables, oak leaves, and pedestals. Inside the building, there is an imperial staircase, that is very grand and impressive. There are huge stained glass windows that were made by the Parisian firm of Maumejean de Paris. They represent historic scenes of the city, which are The Foundation of Malaga by the Phoenicians, The Entrance of the Catholic Kings Into Malaga, The Rebellion of Malaga Against the Regent Cardinal Cisneros, and Entrance of Felipe IV Into Malaga. The second floor contains the offices of the mayor, the Hall of Mirrors, and the Council Meeting Room. The Hall of Mirrors has a Neo-Rococo design for the mirror frames. The ceiling has paintings of Orpheus (by Enrique Jaraba), Poetry (by Jose Ponce), and Music (by Jose Nogales). These paintings are framed in ovals that are decorated with little angels by Burgos Oms. The lunettes contain the Gallery of Illustrious Malagueños, painted by Moreno Carbonero (Bergamin), Fernando Labrada (Rita Luna, Francisco de Leiva and Ramirez de Arellano), Pedro Saenz (Andres Borrego), Antonio Burgos Oms (Guillen Robles), Jose Ponce (Juan Jose Relosillas, Maury), Enrique Lafuente (Rodriguez de Berlanga, Eduardo Ocon, Luis Armengual de la Mota), Enrique Simonet (Francisco Jose Simonet), Eugenio Vivo (Ruiz Lopez de Villalobos, Canovas del Castillo, Andres Mellado), and Enrique Jaraba Jimenez (Marques de Valdeflores, Jose Molina Lario, Estebanez Calderon, Jose Moreno Carbonero, Jose de Salamanca, and Carvajal y Hue). The Hall of Mirrors is used when there are important presentations by the city of books and artwork. It is also used for civil weddings. The hall is the most beautiful part of the City Hall. Outside the Hall of Mirrors are two very large paintings. One is "La Peña de los Enamorados" (The Cliff of the Lovers, alluding to the mountain by Antequera), by Serafin Martinez del Rincon, from 1881. The other is "Colon en La Rabida" (Columbus in La Rabida), by Jose Ponce, from 1892. The second floor corridors are flanked by paintings of all of the mayors of Malaga, since the 20th century. Many of these were done by very prominent artists, such as Felix Revello de Toro. The Council Meeting Room has a painting done by Cesar Alvarez Dumont of "Desembarco de los heridos de Africa que fueron socorridos por la poblacion malagueña" (The landing of those hurt in Africa who were rescued by the public of Malaga). He also painted "los Hechos acaecidos en las calles de Malaga en la

Revolucion de 1868” (The Events in the Streets of Malaga during the Revolution of 1868). There is a beautiful painting by Muñoz Degraín of “el Socorro de los malagueños a los naufragos de la fragata alemana Gneisenau” (The Rescue by Malagueños of the Shipwrecked from the German Ship Gneisenau). The city of Malaga received the title of Muy Hospitalaria (Very Hospitable) from the Spanish Crown because of this act of charity. The ceiling is covered with paintings by important painters. In conclusion, Malaga has one of the most beautiful city halls in Spain, filled with beautiful art and design. The location by the park adds to its beauty

La Coracha:

La Coracha, one of the most characteristic and oldest of all the city neighborhoods, was between the south side of the old citadel and the sea, where the old port was in the Arab period, forming a bastion waterfront. It owes its name to just that, a neighborhood that was like joining the fortress wall thus Gibralfaro Castle with the Alcazaba. Subsequent to the port construction works, became the old beach on the large esplanade where today the park is located, definitely away from the sea to the ancient Coracha. It was from 1786 when the Alcazaba began to lose its military function and to fall into disrepair, when the foundations of its walls began to be demolished and to attract people of low social status. Taking advantage of the very stones of the fortress and by docking to own military bastion walls, they crowded into unsanitary conditions malagueñas dozens of families. a neighborhood of Andalusian architecture itself was formed, with white houses perched at Mount Gibralfaro. The newspapers of the time and the trade union itself lamenting the state of the neighborhood with no lighting, no sanitation, not even watch because the City did not dare to impose its law. With respect to this port, the construction of the Muelle Viejo does not begin until the sixteenth century, but may have forgotten, by the Moors attempts, as Corominas indicates, picking the words of al-Himyari (1461, but based on an original h. 1300) speaks of the ancient port of Malaga built along a pier masonry built by the Ancients. The spring penetrates the two natural harbours of the port of Malaga is built on stone blocks like mountain peaks.

Museo Picasso Málaga:

(Address: Camino del Jardín Botánico, 3, 29014 Málaga, Spain)

The Museo Picasso has an enviable collection of 204 works, 155 donated and 49 loaned to the museum by Christine Ruiz-Picasso (wife of Paul, Picasso's eldest son) and Bernard Ruiz-Picasso (his grandson), and includes some wonderful paintings of the family, including the heartfelt Paulo con gorro blanco (Paulo with a white cap), a portrait of Picasso's eldest son painted in the 1920s. Don't miss the Phoenician, Roman, Islamic and Renaissance archaeological remains in the museum's basement, discovered during construction works. Picasso (25 October 1881 – 8 April 1973) demonstrated extraordinary artistic talent in his early years, painting in a naturalistic manner through his childhood and adolescence. During the first decade of the 20th century, his style changed as he experimented with different theories, techniques, and ideas. His work is often categorized into periods. While the names of many of his later periods are debated, the most commonly accepted periods in his work are the Blue Period (1901–1904), the Rose Period (1904–1906), the African-influenced Period (1907–1909), Analytic Cubism (1909–1912), and Synthetic Cubism (1912–1919), also referred to as the Crystal period. Exceptionally prolific throughout the course of his long life, Picasso achieved universal renown and immense fortune for his revolutionary artistic accomplishments, and became one of the best-known figures in 20th-century art.

The Bull Ring:

La Malagueta is the bullring at Málaga. It is located in the eastern district of Málaga, alongside the Paseo de Reding. The first event was held in 1876. There are spectacular views of the Bull Ring from the Castillo de Gibralfaro. The style of the building is neomudéjar and it takes the form of a 16-sided hexadecagon. After a refurbishment carried out in 2010 the arena has a capacity for 9,032 spectators. The ring measures 52 metres in diameter and the complex includes 4 large Pens, 10 small holding pens, stables, dressing rooms and a first aid post.

Mercado Central Atarazanas:

This is definitely one of Malaga's architectural gems - The main entrance, an imposing horseshoe archway in off-white marble, is in fact the only remaining part of what was once a grand seven-arched shipyard - atarazanas in Arabic and old Castellano. A shipyard? In the middle of the city? Amazingly, even as late as the 18th century the sea reached right up to the present-day market, and fishermen sat alongside the south-facing wall of the building and cast their lines into the Malagueñan waters. From shipyard to market, Atarazanas underwent many transformations. Following the fall of the city to the Catholics in 1487, a convent was set up there, but apparently

the sound of the waves distracted the faithful from their prayers. More appropriately perhaps, the building was then turned into a huge military fort for storing weapons. Later, it became a hospital and even housed a medical school. Sadly, by the 19th century the original structure had largely fallen into disrepair and in 1868 the revolutionary government of the time ordered the remaining ruins to be pulled down to make way for a modern and spacious market. Thanks to the efforts of the architect Joaquin Rucoba, the last horseshoe arch was saved. Rucoba rebuilt this, placing it at the centre of the southern façade, and then completed the building in Arabic style, with slatted, arched windows and panels, but using the most modern of 19th century building materials, iron. The result is the gorgeous Mercado Central de Atarazanas (atarazana means shipyard), that happened to be filled with people on the day of our visit. People were shouting, laughing, and carefully inspecting their potential buys. The bar areas were filled with lucky locals, chowing down on the most delicious fried shrimp, octopus skewers, and other mouthwatering delights.

Jardin Botanico Malaga Botanical Gardens:

Around the year 1855, Jorge Loring and Amalia Heredia purchased some ranches situated to the north of Malaga where there were previously olive, almond and citrus fruit trees. Their plans began during a honeymoon, and due to their high purchasing power and their relation with European gardens, they brought back exotic plants from different countries all over the world. In the year 1911 the botanical garden was purchased by a family from Bilbao who continued expanding it until finally in the year 1990 it was purchased by the town hall of Malaga who divided it into 2 parts to build the Limonero reservoir. After a few construction works it was open to the public again in 1994 as a historical botanical garden and cultural, didactic and scientific centre. The garden of the Conception was, back in the day, a meeting centre of illustrious personalities, around the 19th century it gathered politicians, artists and the nobility of Malaga who frequented and enjoyed this garden, something that contributed to the construction of one of its buildings like the Palace-House, the house of the Cyprus trees, 2 greenhouses, bridges, a viewpoint and the Loringian Museum where they exhibited the archaeological remains found in Malaga with excavations financed by the Loring family. Another of the architectonic elements that is worth a visit is the part of the San Telmo aqueduct, built in 1782 it was the most important hydraulic work of the 18th century in Spain. It was more than 10 km long and provided La Concepcion with one water supply. Today the botanical garden is considered a historical-artistic garden, an asset of cultural interest.

Malaga Automobile Museum:

(Address: Avenida Sor Teresa Prat, 15, 29003 Málaga)

More than 85 cars, a collection of hats from 1920s to 1950s, a motor gallery and exclusive contemporary works of art are exhibited in this new space of entertainment and leisure. An unprecedented exposition revives pieces from Maga Collection, never shown in Spain before. Thus, there exists an evident relationship between the history of the automobile, society progress and the world of fashion which improves cultural and congress tourism, as well as other incentives in Malaga. Car engineering as a work of art, seems to be the overall motto of the Museo Automovilístico de Málaga, whose doors opened in 2010 and is set up in the spacious splendour of a former tobacco factory, dating from 1923. The Portuguese collector and director of the museum João Magalhães started collecting the cars during the post war years in the late 1940s. He took up the hobby of scouting for cars with his dad at farm houses in Portugal. The museum offers an attractive, approximately 2 hour morning or afternoon visit for both the younger and older generations. It provides a visual feast for all ages. Cars, fashion and design all play together in pleasant harmony, in the white and grey interior of the museum that sits south-west of Malaga's city centre. There are over 90, carefully maintained and pristinely polished cars to be found. Each of which, are carefully displayed according to age in a logical layout. Home to legendary brands such as Hispano Suiza, Bugatti, Delage, Packard, Auburn, Rolls Royce, Bentley, Jaguar, Mercedes and Ferrari enough to set the heart racing of anyone who has ever admired early engineering from the 1900s, or the classical cars belonging to Hollywood movie stars and the rock and roll icons. The cars are glamorously clad in ostrich or crocodile leather, hardwood and nacre dashboards and embellished with signature hood ornaments by e.g. Lalique and ivory or silver door handles. One of the museum's signature pieces is the Swarovsky studded Rolls Royce, although it is quite difficult to compare or choose a favourite between the likes of a cool pink Cadillac or the more conservative, but ever so elegant silver grey Bentley, or a historical 540K Mercedes from 1936. And what does fashion have to do with cars? Well for one, they share the same passion for beauty. The permanent Maga Sublime vintage collection, inaugurated in March 2013, is created in an intimate, dimly lit boudoir setting. It sits just across the

main entrance of the museum where the haute couture of the 20th century is displayed on approximately 40 mannequins that are wrapped in silks, chiffon, muslin and crepe. This part of the museum collection is organized around illustrious social eras: from turn of the century, post-Edwardian to Belle Époque, on to the cocktail dresses of the 50s and the extravagant feminist free soul looks of the 60s. On display are Hollywood stars' favourites such as Dior, Chanel, Valentino, Marilyn Monroe's favourite Givenchy, as well as a collection of fashionable suitcases and other complements: Dali's shoe hat and the Paradise bird by Elsa Schiaparelli, items from Magalhães' accessory collection 'De Balenciaga a Schiaparelli'. Maga Sublime allows you to linger on all the design wizardry that immortalised women such as Jacky Kennedy, Audrey Hepburn and Rita Hayworth.

Plaza de la Merced:

Plaza de la Merced is one of the best squares to visit in Malaga. Located at the top end of Calle Granada which is the minor (but none less interesting) continuation of major Calle Larios at Plaza de la Constitution. The square is a popular meeting place in the evening and open air events take place here from time to time. On the north side of Plaza de la Merced are a number of pavement cafes which become popular in the afternoons due to their orientation to the sunshine. On the north corner is the house where Picasso was born in 1881, now a museum. One block west from here is the Teatro Cervantes. In the centre of the Plaza de la Merced, lookout for an neo-classical obelisk which was placed here by the town hall in 1842 (replacing a fountain) in memory of General Torrijos to commemorate the "49 victims, who for their love of patriotic liberty where sacrificed in this city on the 11th December 1831" on the four sides of the obelisk can be read the names of the 49. Look out for the rather un-Spanish sounding Mr Robert Boyd. The story of this hapless revolution is told in Malaga history. It is worth noting that terrorists become heroes in 11 years. The square was originally called Plaza del Mercado and later Plaza de Riego in memory of the liberal General. Its current name derives from a church and convent located in the north west corner "Iglesia y Convento de Nuestra Señora de la Merced" built in 1507 which did not survive the burning of the convents in 1931 and was demolished in 1964. The square was renovated in 1857, in 1988 and again in 2011-3 and retains its nineteenth century image. Contemporary historians and photographers will find the old Cine Victoria interesting. Also known by other names such as Plaza del Mercado (Market Square) or Plaza de Riego (Riego Square), it is one of the most beautiful squares in the city. At its centre is the Monument to Torrijos, a large obelisk that dominates the square. It is also known for being the place where Picasso took his first steps, as the Fundación Picasso Museo Casa Natal is in the apartments, known as Casas de Campo, on one side of the square. Politicians such as General Riego, sculptors like Fernando Ortiz, writers such as Juan José Relosillas, architects such as Gerónimo Cuervo and painters such as Bernardo Ferrándiz have all lived in the square. The square was a public market in the 15th century and it was a place of leisure and recreation for citizens in the late 19th century. The sound of the bells of the church of La Merced, near Picasso's birthplace, was witnessed by a mosaic of popular figures that the great artist portrayed throughout his life. Turkey keepers, milk vendors with their herds of goats, candy, biznaga (floral adornment that is typical to Málaga) and jam sellers, guitar makers, servants and soldiers all wandered around the monolith which, since 1842, stands in the centre of the wooded square in tribute to General Torrijos, whose slogans of freedom and justice were a reference point for the boy named Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Mercado Atarazanas:

(Address: Calle Atarazanas, 10, 29005 Málaga, Spain)

North of the city's main artery, the Alameda Principal, you'll find this striking 19th-century iron-clad building incorporating the original Moorish gate that once connected the city with the port. The magnificent stained-glass window depicts historical highlights of the city. The daily market here is pleasantly noisy and animated. Choose from swaying legs of ham and rolls of sausages or cheese, fish and endless varieties of olives. The fruit and veg stalls are the most colourful, selling everything that is in season, ranging from big misshapen tomatoes, sliced and served with olive oil, chopped garlic and rough salt, to large purple onions, mild-flavoured and sweet.

Castillo de Gibralfaro:

One remnant of Mlagas Islamic past is the craggy ramparts of the Castillo de Gibralfaro, spectacularly located high on the hill overlooking the city. Built by Abd ar-Rahman I, the 8th-century Cordoban emir, and later rebuilt in the 14th century when Mlaga was the main port for the emirate of Granada, the castle originally acted as a lighthouse and military barracks. Nothing much is original in the castles interior, but the airy walkway around the ramparts affords the best

views over Malaga. There is also a military museum, which includes a small scale model of the entire castle complex and the lower residence, the Alcazaba. The best way to reach the castle on foot is via the scenic Paseo Don Juan de Temboury, to the south of the Alcazaba. From here a path winds pleasantly (and steeply) through lushly gardened terraces with viewpoints over the city. *Entry to the Castillo de Gibralfaro is free on Sundays after 1400.*

The Málaga Park:

The city park lies beside the port and goes from the Plaza de la Marina to the Plaza del General Torrijos. At the Plaza del General Torrijos, there is a beautiful fountain called the Fuente de las Tres Gracias (Fountain of the Three Graces), which is a French design of the 19th century. The park was constructed in 1897 and conceived as a botanical garden and has been remodeled in 2007, so it is now more than a hundred years old. New walkways have been added, statues have been cleaned, a new pond has been constructed, overgrown shrubbery has been removed, and many thousands of new plants and flowers have been planted. Alongside the main road there are two promenades that are bordered with palm trees and shade trees. There are many benches located throughout the park. The preliminary plans were drafted by the Marquis of Larios and the architects were Rivera, Guerrero Strachan, Rucoba and Crooke were amongst those that took part in the long design and development phase. Joaquin de Rucoba was the architect who oversaw the building of the park. The park was designed as a Mediterranean garden with touches of the Renaissance and the Baroque. The land it sits on was reclaimed from the sea. Many of the trees and shrubs have small signs identifying them. Many of the statues and sculptures are also identified. Across the street and beside the City Hall are the Gardens of Pedro Luis Alonso, which most people think belongs to the park. This smaller park was named for the first mayor of Malaga after the Spanish Civil War, and was designed by the famous Malaga architect Fernando Guerrero Strachan in 1948. The design is Spanish-Muslim and French, with paths bordered with symmetrical shrubs and orange trees. The park was remodeled in 2010 and is now a rose garden, with 10,200 rose bushes that come from 70 different varieties. The roses have signs giving the name and information of each variety. There are also ponds and small fountains. There is a statue of a biznaguero, a young man who sells flowers. During spring one can smell the perfume wafting through the park from the new blossoms. The park has an area of 2558 square metres. Just below the Alcazaba are the Gardens of Puerta Oscura. These were designed by the architect Guerrero Strachan and run along the hill, below the walls of the fortress. It has many interesting trees and plants, with small terraces, fountains, bowers, and footpaths. One can get a good view of the big park and the port from this hillside.

Banco de España:

The Banco de España is located at Avenida Cervantes, 3, beside the park and the City Hall. It is probably the most elegant building in Malaga. The style of the building is Art Deco. The building was designed by the architect Jose Yarnoz and finished in 1936. The building has three floors.

The facade is made of light gray marble and there are six large Corinthian columns in the portico. There is a large gray metal door that seems to have small medallions in its design. The classic style of the facade is integrated into the art deco style. At the top of the building is the name of the bank using an art deco type, done in stone. The second floor windows are decorated with wrought iron grills. The sides of the building have simple columns that give the building elegance. The interior patio where the operations are has a large glass skylight in the art deco style. The interior is very elegant with plenty of marble, wood, and metal lamps. There is a stone wall around the building with wrought iron decorations that also add to the elegance of the building. There is a very strict guard that controls the entrance to the building and one has to enter an isolated anteroom before one can enter the building. People can enter to exchange their old pesetas to euros. The Banco de España is the government central bank that controls all the other banks.

Sculpture of "Points of View":

Located at the corner of Calle Larios and Calle Strachan is the sculpture called "Points of View". The artist was Tony Cragg, a British sculptor born in Liverpool in 1949. The City of Malaga acquired this bronze sculpture in 2005. Tony Cragg has created large sculptures and many have aerodynamic forms and are full of vitality. The artist has won many prizes and lives in Germany.

La Farola Lighthouse:

La Farola is the lighthouse in Malaga port. It was constructed in 1817 by Joaquin Maria Pery y Guzman. At that time it was located at the end of the port. It became a symbol of the city of Malaga and is located at the end of the Paseo de La Farola. During the Civil War, it was damaged and had to be reconstructed in 1939. The port has been expanded recently with Pier No. 2 and the lighthouse is no longer at the end of the port, so a new lighthouse will be built to be at the very end of the new

port. La Farola will be used as the Museum of the Port of Malaga.

Jardines de Picasso:

The Picasso Gardens are located where the Avenida de Andalucía meets the Puente de las Américas. The park has 15,000 square meters and is planted with flowers and a wide variety of trees. The park contains the Monument to Picasso, which is a huge bronze sculpture that was created by the sculptor Miguel Ortiz Berrocal in 1976. This modern sculpture is supposed to represent a woman lying down and taking the sun of Malaga.

Churches:

Catedral de la Encarnación de Málaga:

Málaga's cathedral was started in the 16th century on the site of the former mosque. Of the mosque, only the Patio de los Naranjos survives, a small courtyard of fragrant orange trees. Inside, the fabulous domed ceiling soars 40m into the air, while the vast colonnaded nave houses an enormous cedar-wood choir. Aisles give access to 15 chapels with gorgeous 18th-century retables and religious art. Climb the tower (200 steps) to enjoy stunning panoramic views of the city skyline and coast. Building the cathedral was an epic project that took some 200 years. Such was the project's cost that by 1782 it was decided that work would stop. One of the two bell towers was left incomplete, hence the cathedral's well-worn nickname, La Manquita (the one-armed lady). The cathedral's museum displays a collection of religious items covering a period of 500 years.

The Cathedral of Málaga is a Renaissance church in the city of Málaga in Andalusia in southern Spain. It is located within the limits defined by a now missing portion of the medieval Moorish walls, the remains of which surround the nearby Alcazaba and the Castle of Gibralfaro. It was constructed between 1528 and 1782, following the plans drawn by Diego de Siloé; its interior is also in Renaissance style. The cathedral, built on a rectangular plan, is composed of a nave and two aisles, the former being wider, though having the same height as the aisles. The choir stalls are the work of Pedro de Mena. The façade, unlike the rest of the building, is in Baroque style and is divided into two levels; on the lower level are three arches, inside of which are portals separated by marble columns. Above the doors are medallions carved in stone; those of the lateral doors represent the patron saints of Málaga, Saint Cyriacus and Saint Paula, while that over the centre represents the Annunciation. The north tower is 84 metres (276 ft) high, making this building the second-highest cathedral in Andalusia, after the Giralda of Seville. The south tower remains unfinished. A plaque at the base of the tower states that funds raised by the parish to finish it were used instead to help the British colonies which became the United States to gain their independence from Great Britain. Other investigations of the parish registers deduce that the money may have been used in the renovation of the roadway called the "Way of Antequera" (which began in the present street Calle Martínez Maldonado). This unfinished state has led to the Cathedral being called "La Manquita", meaning in English, "The One-Armed Lady". A series of grand artworks fills the sanctuary, among them are the Gothic altarpiece of the Chapel of Santa Barbara and the 16th century tombs of the Chapel of San Francisco. The Chapel of the Incarnation contains a neoclassic altarpiece (1785) designed by the sculptor Juan de Villanueva and carved by Antonio Ramos and Aldehuela, a group of figures representing the Annunciation and sculptures of the patron saints of Malaga, Saint Ciriaco and Saint Paula, carved by Juan Salazar Palomino also in the 18th century, and The Beheading of Saint Paul, painted by Enrique Simonet in 1887 during his stay in Rome.

Church of San Juan Bautista:

Iglesia San Juan Bautista is one of the four churches founded by the Catholic Monarchs after the conquest of the city of Malaga in 1487. It was originally built in the Gothic style to which Moorish arches and pillars were subsequently added. The Baroque tower was not added until 1770. The church is best known for the fact that the famous Malagueño Antonio Banderas was baptised here. The church was extensively remodelled in the 18th century. This explains the current Baroque style of the interior. The basilica has three aisles, a choir and several beautiful chapels. The altar alone is more than worth a visit.

Iglesia de Santiago Apóstol:

The St. James Church is a Catholic Christian church located in the old town of Málaga. The style is an exponent of two artistic moments of vital importance, Gothic-Mudejar of beginnings, with a clear symbiosis between the art of the Christian Reconquest and Islamic population and the emergence of

Baroque early eighteenth century, producing in this building renovation building a strong corresponding with the new mentality. The historical value is strongly linked with the history of the city, since after the Christian re-conquest in 1487, its construction begins, one of the four parishes, one by collación, existing in the Middle Ages to within the city walls Islamic. Also it has an important urban value for its connotations to understand the urban development of this sector of the city of Malaga, a place where they entered the Catholic Kings after taking the city in 1487, because in the final stretch of the street Granada still can recognized in its meandering appearance, and the next walkway to the church, the urban heritage of Islamic culture. The reading of the property within the urban fabric that generates, promotes the identification of a neat typology of buildings from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that mark a wide range of contrasts and coalesce around it a comparable to that of the church itself volumetrics. It also has strong ethnographic values due to the brotherhoods that have been installed within its walls, which have endowed movable property of singular artistic value. Among them is popularly known as "El Rico" brotherhood emerged in the eighteenth century, which has since that date with the release of a prisoner every year, or the Christ of Medinaceli, of great popular devotion, which brings together around her numerous visits of faithful every first Friday of the month of the year, or the devotion that suggests the Virgen de las Animas painted by Juan Niño de Guevara picture, that very many faithful come to pray and leave offerings oil. Situated in calle Granada, this church was built on the site of a former mosque. It is Malaga's oldest church, having been founded on 25th July 1490. Of the original façade only the Mudejar style central entrance remains (boarded up). The beautiful tower is also Mudejar, whilst the interior of the temple is Gothic-Mudejar and has three naves. In this church Picasso was christened in 1881. It was declared a parish church in 1505, which was confirmed in 1510 by Pope Julius II. The original building had three naves with chamfered pillars that supported pointed arches. The central nave's roof had a polygon form with exterior buttresses and interlaced Mudejar style structures, today hidden, whilst the lateral naves have lean-to roofs. Built slightly separated from the wall of the church, this tower houses the baptismal chapel and has a star vault roof. The upper part of the tower was accessed by an exterior staircase. Seen from the outside it has three parts, the second of particular interest due to the mixtilinear arches of Almohad tradition. On the upper floor there are triangular pilasters crowned by a small cupola of golden glazed tiles. The Sebka panel (rhomboid, tapestry-like Almohad decoration) is reminiscent of those in the Santiago Tower at Carmona. The main entrance was built using bull headers, forming a pointed arch with a frame down to the ground. The spandrels are decorated with glazed ceramic tiles with interlaced motifs. The reforms carried out in the 18th century included the construction of a new vestry, new access doors to the lateral naves, blocking the main portal; elevated choir stalls over the main nave with a new access stairway; gilding of the altarpiece and the Capilla del Pilar chapel. The ground was lowered and the frame covered with a false vault made of plaster and cane, whilst a new vault was also built in the presbytery. Maestro Felipe de Unzurrunzaga drafted the plans for these works. With this reform the Gothic- Mudejar temple became a BAROQUE CHURCH OF BASILICA DESIGN, with three naves and two chapels between the buttresses.

Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Fátima:

The Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Fátima is a Christian Catholic temple. The church was canonically established in 1956 by the Bishop of Malaga, don Ángel Herrera Oria, one of the most respected and remembered bishops of the city, but it was not blessed until the year that the construction was finished. The church, located on the right bank of the river Guadalmedina, in the district La Trinidad, was finally completed in 1961, according to the design of architect Fernando Morilla Cabello. The temple's style is a mix of modern and neo - Gothic elements, making it a valuable piece of avant-garde modern architecture.

Iglesia de los Santos Mártires:

This church is situated in the square called Plaza de los Mártires, close to the Cristo de la Salud church and the Sociedad Económica de los Amigos del País (The Friends of the Country Economic Society). It was founded following the Re-conquest, probably in 1491, although it was not actually built until 1505, by Diego de Deza. It owes its name (Church of the Sainted Martyrs) to the Catholic Monarchs' interest in recovering the cult for the local martyrs, Saint Paula and Saint Ciriaco. The church is of Gothic-Mudejar style with pointed arches. The main chapel and the vestry were built in 1591, with the font, by Diego Portillo, being added later, in 1545, and the tower, in 1548, designed by Bartolomé Pérez, although the latter was destroyed in an earthquake in 1567 and despite being re-built, by 1680 it was once again in ruins. In the 18th century the whole church was re-built, including the tower, and it is the building that still stands today, although it conserved the central buttress and its surrounding staircase. In 1747 the columns were reinforced with red jasper pedestals and from 1760 the apse was widened with a new presbytery and transept in which its branches and the main chapel adopt an apsidal layout. Its decoration makes it one of the

most representative exponents of Rococo style architecture in Malaga. Despite the accidents: destruction of the Capilla del Sagrario (Chapel of the Tabernacle) by a cannonball (1854), an earthquake (1884), and pillaging (1936), its later restoration habilitated it for use and it was re-inaugurated in 1945. The floor plan is distributed in three naves, plus another two chapels between the buttresses, a portico in the back wall and a trefoil presbytery. The central nave, with half-barrel vaulted ceilings and transverse ribs, has a decorated keystone. The decoration lunettes surround the paintings of saints and martyrs. The choir stalls are placed on a cross vaulted support with mixed continuous mouldings, and below the fountains of Holy Water, which, together with those located in front of nave to the left of the central altar, were probably installed between 1724-47 during reforms. The lateral naves have cross-vaulted ceilings with decorations and mouldings. The Rococo decoration is more abundant at the apse end, where the cupola of the transept can also be seen, its intrados decorated with medallions depicting saints, just as the pendentives with medallions of the Evangelists, (supported by allegoric relief engravings of the Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance). The arms of the transept have a cul-de-four vaulted ceiling with Rococo medallions. Under the Corinthian pilasters that separate the medallions are four beautiful stucco relief carvings that date back to the end of the 18th century and which represent scenes from the capture, trial and martyrdom of Saint Paula and Saint Ciriaco. The main chapel, presided over by the Holy Trinity, is flanked by medallions depicting the Archangels and which make up an angelical ensemble with those that are located on the edges of the arms of the transept. The division in the altarpiece between the entablature gives way to the inner sanctum chapel, of circular design with a semi-spherical, ribbed arch vaulted ceiling. The doors located at either side of the main altar have a certain classical Baroque style (high concave crests), with a palm and crown (symbols of the martyrdom) on the pillars. The door to the right gives way to the vestry, with an entablature singular for its sinuosity, its vaulted ceiling with windowed lunettes, and, finally, its subtle decoration. The exterior of the church is constructed in masonry and brickwork, with plinth and chains of ashlar on the tower. The portico of the main façade has a triple line of arches on stone Tuscan columns, crowned by a modern tiled mural that depicts the martyrs and a coat of arms. The brick portal conserves its 16th century design. The wooded door was installed at the end of the 18th century and the chancel, which dates back to 1833, came from Santo Domingo Convent in Ronda. The side portal was built in white sandstone, with a round arch between Tuscan pilasters, crowned by a crest that contains an allegory of the Catholic Faith and is the point of origin of a curved divided pediment over more classic Rococo and Baroque decoration. The chapels (capillas) that open from the lateral naves are of different periods. On the left, as you enter, these are: Capilla de la Cofradía de la Pasión, which houses the image of Cristo Nazareno (clothed image) and an 18th century image of The Virgin; Capilla de Santa Gema; Capilla del Santo Sepulcro y Nuestra Señora de la Soledad; Capilla de la Milagrosa, which was founded in 1530, refurbished in the 18th century and contains an image of Saint Carlos Borromeo of that same century. The inner sanctum of the Neo-Baroque main altarpiece by Pérez Hidalgo, houses the images of the Martyrs Saint Paula and Saint Ciriaco, sculpted by Jerónimo Gñomes de Herosilla in the 17th century. The altarpieces of the transept apses contain the images of Our Lady Inmaculada (18th century) and Our Lady Virgen de las Angustias (20th century). Situated in the right-hand nave, viewed from the transept end, are the following chapels: Capilla del Niño del Remedio, which contains some stucco medallions that depict Saint John the Baptist and Saint Geronimo; Capilla de la Oración del Huerto, where there are images of Christ, the Angel, the Conception, a painting of Saint Clara, and a crystal urn with an 18th century sculpture of Our Lady Virgen de las Lágrimas; Capilla de la Virgen de Gracia, which contains a photograph of the same enclosed in a Neo-Baroque cornucopia, as well as paintings of the Virgin and Child, and Our Lady Virgen del Rosario, and finally, Capilla de Jesús de la Columna, with 20th century images of Christ (Cristo de los Gitanos) and Our Lady (Virgen de la O). The inside of this church is definitely worth visiting, particularly for the depiction of "The Last Supper" - this is not a painting, but a full sized and perfectly sculptured representation of this important chapter in Christian beliefs.

St George's Church, Málaga:

Saint George's Church in Malaga is the oldest Anglican Church in mainland Spain. It stands in the English Cemetery, one of Malaga's well-known and historic gardens close to the city centre. The cemetery, established in 1829 on land ceded to Britain by the Spanish authorities, was the first Protestant cemetery in Spain. The church building, constructed in classical style with fine Doric columns in 1839-40 as a funeral chapel and lodge for the cemetery guard, was converted to become St. George's Anglican Church in 1890-91. Address: Avenida de Pries 1, Málaga 29916. (Located within the English Cemetery, 300m east of the Malaga bullring, where Paseo de Reding becomes Avenida de Pries).

The English Cemetery:

The English Cemetery is located at Avenida de Pries, 1. Why is there an English Cemetery in Malaga? William Mark was the British Consul in Malaga between 1824 and 1836. At that time Spain was a very Catholic country and it was prohibited for any Protestant to be buried in any Catholic cemetery or churchyard. Protestants had to be buried at the seashore at night during low tide, upright, and looking at the sea. Many times the tide would wash up the bodies onto the shore and dogs would tear them up or the sea would wash them offshore. This was a very cruel and barbaric custom. William Mark applied diplomatic pressure on the Spanish king and finally in 1830 King Fernando VII allowed the establishment of Protestant cemeteries in Spain in towns where there were British Consuls. Mark obtained local permission to acquire land for a small cemetery about a mile from the center of town, and this is where the English Cemetery is now located. In 1840 a small chapel was built in the cemetery. This was enlarged in 1891 and is now St. George's Anglican Church. This church has beautiful Doric columns. In 1856 a Gothic style gatehouse was built and used as the home of the cemetery gardener. In 2005 this building was remodeled into a gift shop for the church and is manned by volunteers from the church. Hans Christian Andersen visited Malaga in 1862 and visited the English Cemetery. This became his favorite spot in the city. Among the famous people who are buried in the cemetery are William Mark. So is the writer Gerald Brenan of Bloomsbury fame. He came to Andalusia and fell in love with it and lived for a long time here in Churriana. There are some Spanish non-Catholics buried also, such as the writer Jorge Guillen, known for being a member of the Generation of 27. His wife is also buried here. In 1900 the Gneisenau, a German Imperial Navy ship sank in the port of Malaga during a fierce storm. Many people from Malaga risked their lives to save many survivors. The German government later donated money for the German Bridge (Puente de los Alemanes) across the Guadalmedina River. Those who died are in a common grave in the English Cemetery and there is a monument to them. The city no longer allows burials of people unless they have been cremated beforehand. The gift shop has a diagram showing where the famous people have been buried.

Monuments:

In addition to homage to the great Picasso, other great historic monuments include the imposing Baroque Cathedral, popularly known as 'La Manquita' (One Armed Woman), and the newly restored Roman theatre. Although there has been a certain amount of destruction here over the centuries, especially during the Spanish Civil War, there is still plenty of proof of the Moorish occupation. Today you can visit the Moorish Alcazaba fortress, dating back to 1065, which also now features a very interesting archaeological museum, as well as the Castillo de Gibralfaro, another Moorish castle.

There are also many churches of great architectural and historic interest in and around the centre, which are well worth visiting.

Downtown:

The city is not only the perfect place to explore many historical monuments, atmospheric little streets and squares with delightful café culture, but it is also an excellent shopping centre. The main street to head for runs perpendicular to the stunning tree lined avenue, the Alameda, and starts at the Plaza Marina, near the port. Calle Marqués de Larios (often simply referred to as 'Larios') was pedestrianised with marble in 2002 and spearheaded improvements to the city centre. The result is a bustling, pedestrianised chic area with many boutiques, designer shops and classy cafes, all surrounded by beautifully restored buildings.

At the top of Larios is the main square, Plaza de la Constitución, which is the focus for cultural, traditional and religious events. This plaza is especially pretty in December, when a huge Christmas tree and decorations bring dazzling colour and light. During Semana Santa (Easter Holy Week), Malaga is taken over by extraordinary religious processions and the square is decked out with tiers of seats for spectators. Notably during this very important week of religious celebration, Antonio Banderas often returns to his home town to take part, as he has done since he was a young boy. Near the Plaza de la Constitucion square at the north end of Calle Larios is the Room Mates Larios Hotel, where Banderas often stays.

The city has several indoor commercial shopping malls, such as Malaga Plaza just behind the landmark building of the huge quality department store, El Corte Ingles. Whereas previously, the city used to follow the southern tradition of keeping the siesta time sacred, more and more shops are now open all day. Some of the smaller, family-run businesses may still lock up for a long lunch. But

the commercial shopping centres, El Corte Ingles and many of the shops in Calle Larios stay open all day, to meet the demand of residents and, especially, tourists who enjoy the freedom of longer shopping hours. During the summer months and leading up to Christmas and Kings Day (6 January) many specialist shops, such as El Corte Ingles department store, extend their hours to open on certain Sundays.

The urban sprawl around the city is undergoing expansion and development as the population of Malaga grows year on year. Included in the many on-going municipal projects is the construction of a Metro (underground train) to connect key areas including the large university campus and the International Congress Centre to the West.

El Corte Inglés Málaga Shopping Centre:

(Address: Calle Hilera, 8, 29002 Málaga, Spain)

Located next to the Historic Centre, El Corte Inglés Málaga is one of the city's most symbolic department stores. El Corte Inglés is one of the leading major retailers in Europe with more than 80 locations across Spain and Portugal. It's a place where you will be able to find anything from the best souvenir from your stay in our country to the most exclusive fashion brands and accessories, perfumes, jewellery and luxury goods. The Top Floor of El Corte Inglés Málaga houses the Gourmet Experience, an unmatched space that combines different cutting edge cooking styles, gourmet products and the exclusive Lounge Terrace, where you'll be able to enjoy stunning views of the city of Málaga. El Corte Inglés has designed the best shopping experience so it can be enjoyed to the full, rewarding people who go to its stores with all sorts of incentives and benefits.

Centro Comercial Larios Centro:

(Address: Av. de la Aurora, 25, 29002 Málaga, Spain)

The Centro Comercial Larios Centro is a great shopping center in the heart of Málaga. Two floors of stores here offer up a respectable array of shopping finds to choose from. 125 shops from shoe boutiques to any kind of apparel you can think of accentuate the Eroski hypermarket's discount prices. What you save at the super grocery store though, will surely be spent elsewhere in this lavish center. Technology to tea, lunch with a friend to an all day shopathon, Centro Comercial Larios Centro is Malaga's version of an American mall. Don't miss out on this spot for your shopping itch while in the city. The shopping centre stands where the old Larios gin factory used to be. Opened in 1996 and renovated in 2003, it's a modern four-storey building -two floors for shops and two for parking. At Larios Centro you can find shops of the best catering, food, apparel, sportswear, houseware, accessories and entertainment brands. In addition, there's a hypermarket and ten cinema theatres, as well as two WiFi Hotspots by the food court. And there's more: banks, a lottery kiosk, a travel agency and a dry cleaner's. About fourteen million visitors come to Larios Centro every year to do their shopping, go to the movies, or eat out. The shopping centre's location helps attract so many people, as it lies next to Avenida de Andalucía, near the main coach and the train stations.

Eating & Drinking:

You'll find no shortage of places to eat and drink, from top-notch, Michelin-starred restaurants to the most humble tapas bar, and everything in between. Calle Larios is a good starting point. If you find yourself in a chiringuito (beach bar) in the El Palos district a few km east of the centre, then the traditional espeto (skewer) of sardines cooked outside over hot coals is not only delicious, but also an integral part of the healthy Mediterranean diet. Many other delicious fresh fish dishes are available on most menus and generally at very reasonable prices.

El Jardín Cafeteria:

(Address: Calle Cañón, 1, 29015 Málaga, Spain)

The building situated on the corner of Cañón and Cister streets next to the cathedral gardens, designed a hundred years earlier by the Cervantes Theatre architect, Jeronimo Cuervo, was acquired in 1987. Three years later it was restored to all its former glory and in 1990, the Restaurant and Cafeteria "El Jardín" opened on the ground floor. In a superb location, El Jardín offers a journey back in time to the elegant cafés of the 1900s. The large windows look on to the cathedral gardens and images of Málaga writers and poets adorn the walls. One of these, the playwright and theatre critic Enrique Llovet was most agreeably surprised by the renovation of the house where he had once lived. When it opened 20 years ago, El Jardín resolved to offer something more than just the traditional Malaga atmosphere. Live music and particularly the piano, became a key element. Now, starting at 9 o'clock in the evening, patrons can watch and

listen to tangos on Thursdays, and piano and flamenco on Fridays and Saturdays.

Antigua Casa de Guardia:

(Address: Alameda Principal, 18, 29005 Málaga, Spain)

The Antigua Casa de Guardia is the oldest wine bar/tavern in Malaga. Founded in 1840 by Don José Guardia, the Casa de Guardia is so much more than a wine bar or cellar. It's an institution. For wine lovers, it is a place that must be visited when in Malaga. A true cultural heritage that has been producing wine in the same way for the last 172 years. The Casa de Guardia is sometimes locally nicknamed as "El Barril Místico" - "the Mystic Barrel," a place that contains a wine that is so rare, so scarce and so valuable that only a select few are able to try it. Queen Isabel II appointed the Antigua Casa de Guardia as their official Malaga wine supplier, even allowing the Royal seal to be used on their bottling. Which was no small feat. The bar has little changed over the years. With its age-old oak counters and cask wooden barrels, the wine is pulled using Cuban/Russian taps that date from before the Second World War. The bill is still chalked on the bar in front

of you, the antiques, the paintings and the carefully preserved bottles, all combine to make the Casa de Guardia an authentic living museum.

Bodega-Bar El Pimpi:

(Address: Calle Granada, 62, 29015 Málaga, Spain)

The most famous tapa bar on the Costa del Sol and one of Malaga's most iconic landmarks, no visit to Malaga is complete without visiting El Pimpi. It consistently ranks as top of any places to see in Malaga list. The appeal is easy to understand. The bodega - bar is situated in a former eighteenth-century mansion located right in the heart of the city, just a stone's throw from the popular Plaza de la Merced. The typical bar oozes Andalucía charm, with interior patios and terraces that are perfect to wile away warm summer evenings, while sipping wine and enjoying some local tapas. The food is second to none and is also responsibly priced. Its Malaga Virgin wine was voted as being the best in Andalucía. Bodega-Bar El Pimpi is decorated with old pictures, posters, bull fighting memorabilia and old barrels, many of which, have been signed by its numerous famous visitors such as the Picasso family, Antonio Banderas, the Duke of Alba, Rafael Nadal, various big names in Flamenco, politicians and numerous other celebrities. A visit to a bodega in this beautiful and emblematic city is a must for any traveller or tourist. They form the route of a pilgrimage for tourists who enjoy the great pleasures of wine, occupying an important place in Costa del Sol tourism. Visit Malaga for this unparalleled experience that touches all the senses.

Everyone says, "If you have not been to El Pimpi, you have not been to Malaga." This bar, restaurant and wine cellar opened its doors in 1972. Since then it has become an icon and institution of Malaga. It is visited by all kinds of people every year and is very popular among locals, tourists, artists, writers and politicians. It owes its name "El Pimpi" to a popular character from bygone Andalucía, dedicated to "catching" seamen and visitors who arrived in the port by ship, with the aim of offering their tour services around the city. This character no longer exists, but like its namesake, El Pimpi will surely show you a lot about the gastronomy and culture of Malaga. The building where El Pimpi exists nowadays used to be the stables of the Count of Malaga's Palace two centuries ago, then years later it was a convent and after that a party venue. There is no doubt that these walls could tell many tales about Malaga's history.

It owes its name "El Pimpi" to a popular character from bygone Andalucía, dedicated to "catching" seamen and visitors who arrived in the port by ship, with the aim of offering their tour services (and probably more salubrious services) around the city. This character no longer exists, but like its namesake, El Pimpi will surely show you a lot about the gastronomy and culture of Malaga.

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El Pimpi has two entrances, a small one in Calle Granada and the main entrance next to the terrace in Jardines Alcazabilla, just opposite the ruins of the Roman theatre. If you arrive through the terrace you will surely be received by Blanca Calzada as we were. You will recognize her because she wears a typical Spanish dress and stands on the terrace offering a wine tasting in an original way called "escanciado" by Spaniards (translated as something like pouring). The "escanciador" (the

person who serves the wine) is kind of artist. They take the wine from the barrel using a type of long stick with a little glass at the end and serve it from above their heads into a little shot glass that they hold in the other hand. The photo below will certainly explain it better! El Pimpi is divided into the Bodega-Bar El Pimpi and Pimpi Marinero. Pimpi Marinero was opened this year, featuring a modern seafood restaurant, decorated all in white and with a really wide variety of cocktails. It is a total contrast with the Bodega-Bar, which is just to its left, sharing the terrace with Pimpi Marinero. The Bodega-Bar is the one you cannot miss. It includes six different rooms but some of them are open just for special events. My favourite one is the Barrel Hall (the first one you will see when entering from the terrace). It is decorated with lots of wine barrels autographed by all the famous people who have visited El Pimpi, with an impressive collection of traditional bullfighting posters on the walls alongside plenty of old (and new) photos of the most famous visitors like Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith, the Duchess of Alba, the Picasso family or Carmen Thyssen. If you are curious about the photos, you can actually check them out on their website. The terrace is also a lovely place to be, especially during summer, with amazing views of the old Roman theatre and the Alcazaba of Malaga. El Pimpi in Malaga is famous for being a cultural meeting point, holding cultural debates, reading clubs and folk music and dance performances. In fact, if you like flamenco, do not miss the live flamenco music on Thursday nights!

Café de Chinitas:

(Address: Calle Moreno Monroy, 4-6, 29015 Málaga, Spain)

One summer evening in 1969, some members of the Verdasco family along with some of his cousins Heras family were enjoying the music from a street artist, on a terrace they had in the Plaza de Oriente. They had to make a business decision to transform one of their business into a different business, then someone, inspired by musician playing near them, said "Why not set up a Flamenco Show Restaurant? - We don't know about this business, but surely we can ask for help from people we know". With limited knowledge of flamenco, but with the teachings from previous generations, particularly Candida Santos, our great-grandmother and founder of a dynasty. We broke the rules and opened our Flamenco show in an eighteenth century palace - we were inspired by the oldest Café Cantante in Spain, Café de Chinitas in Málaga and García Lorca. The shawls and bullfighting motifs decorate our home. Sculptors such as Manuel Sanguino, who also sculpted the doors of the Cathedral of the Almudena, gave birth to many corners of our house.

La Canasta Café en Vélez-Málaga:

A bakery, pastry and coffee shop in Velez-Malaga, on a corner opposite the Le Corte Inglés shopping centre. But they also have a café - I used it several times - excellent for a little lunch and a glass of wine.

Books:

English Reading Material:

Most British and some US newspapers are printed locally so expats can catch up with the day's news immediately rather than waiting for them to be shipped out. Magazines from all over the world are also widely available, both in major shopping centres as well as street corner kiosks.

For more in-depth English reading material such as novels, recipe books, travel guides, many of the larger department stores, such as the enormous El Corte Ingles in the Centro Comercial Bahia Malaga or the Avenida de Andalucia, contains book departments with separate sections for books in English. There are also a couple of specialist English bookstores in the city, such as Luces on Alameda Principal and Rayuela Idiomas in the Plaza de la Merced.

Sightseeing:

A great way to get an overall impression of the area is to hop on and off the Malaga Tour Bus. The whole tour takes under one and a half hours and costs €29. The Tour Bus ticket also includes a free voucher for bus transport to the beautiful botanical gardens on the outskirts of Málaga (although you still have to pay for entry to the gardens), Jardines de la Concepcion, on the main road to Antequera. There is also a free boat tour and guided walking tour include in the price of the ticket. The city also has many beautifully-kept gardens worth seeing.

Climate:

Sea breezes from the Mediterranean coastline regulate the summer heat to a more comfortable level than inland Andalusian towns, while the Malaga Mountains form the perfect barrier to protect the city

from colder weather in winter. However, it is still hot in July and August (30C), though mild (minimum of around 13°C) between December and February. Some much-needed rainfall is to be expected in the cooler months, but it usually does not usually last for long.