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'Gateway to the Costa del Sol'

Málaga's nickname explains it all: Plenty of sand and sunshine! But the *vibrant and enchanting capital* of Andalusia has a lot more to offer its visitors than just 290 days of sun a year and endless heaps of sand!

With close to 3,000 years of history, Málaga is one of the oldest cities in the world. From the Phoenicians to the Romans to the Moors to current day - Málaga surprises with its mixture of history, modern spirit, contemporary art, cultural diversity and culinary delights.

About 580,000 Malagueños still affectionately maintain their traditions in their daily lives. Enjoy their *hospitality* and allow yourself to become immersed in the *friendly flair* that is the essence of Málaga City.

Though of only medium-sized, there is so much to do and see in Málaga that the choices can be overwhelming when trying to get the *most out of a limited time* here. You, on the other hand, can relax - your Edelweiss tour guide will take you to the city and *show you a great time*.

After getting off the taxi, our tour begins at the *Puerta de Atarazñas*, the former entrance to the dockyard. Our stroll continues through the vibrant *Mercado Central*, the best place to experience the bustling activities of a typical, snack-encouraging Spanish market - definitely a feast for the senses!

A relaxing walk along the *tree-lined Paseo del Parque* invites you to have a look at the Town Hall, Málaga's finest example of a neo-Baroque building. Continuing down to the newly built and hip port area, it is quite likely that you will spot some luxurious yachts or a cruise ship.

The next landmark is Málaga's bullfighting arena: 'La Malagueta'. Visit the arena and its museum, or just enjoy the magnificent view from the top: from *Castillo Gibralfaro*! A short taxi ride takes you up to the fortification.

Gibralfaro, literally translating into 'Lighthouse Hill', is a ruined Moorish castle built in the early 14th century. It is linked to the Alcazaba below by parallel walls.

A short walk leads you down to the fortress-like Palace, a complex construction of houses and palaces built by the Moors in the 8th century. A little further down you'll have a *bird's eye view of the Teatro Romano* before we turn again into Málaga's city center.

Calle Alcazabilla takes us to the *Plaza de la Merced*, probably Málaga's best known square. The city's most famous son, *Pablo Ruiz Picasso*, was born in today's house No. 10!





Although very cosmopolitan nowadays, the Plaza de la Merced has always been the scene of historical action. The giant obelisk in the center of the square is a witness to history. Your tour guide will be happy to *tell you more* about it.

The *Picasso Museum*, our next sight, has had a significant impact on Málaga. A beautiful 16th century Mudejar-style *Renaissance Palacio*, combined with ashlar rock, houses some 150 art works of the brilliant artist.

Right in the heart of Málaga's historical center sits the *Plaza de la Constitución*, which we approach via some winding roads through the old town. Without doubt, this is where all the city's important political events of modern, contemporary Spain have taken place.

The Town Hall and other official buildings, such as the *house of the Justice of the Peace*, the *Prison* and the *Courthouse*, were located in this square until 1869. Nowadays it's a good place to have a drink in one of the many cafes and watch the world go by. Do you have your souvenir shopping list handy?

Subsequent to the Plaza de la Constitución, we will come to *Calle Marques de Larios*, Málaga's main shopping boulevard. Originally built to provide access to the new port, the numerous shops will make your shopping heart miss a beat!

A series of smaller, winding streets and countless little squares will take us through Málaga's historic quarter until we arrive at our last highlight for the day: the *Cathedral de la Encarnation*, right next to *Plaza Obispo*. Looking up into the sky, the work stoppage at one of the church towers, due to a lack of money, becomes obvious.

While the northern tower rises up to the planned height of over 300 feet, the other tower has never been completed, thus giving the cathedral a lopsided appearance. The Malagueños affectionately call their church 'La Manquita' (the one armed lady).

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Málaga is the capital of the Province of Málaga, and, after Sevilla, is the second most populous city of Andalusia and the sixth largest in Spain.
- Málaga has more museums (over 20) than any other city in Andalusia. The University of Málaga is a public university hosting almost 40,000 students and 2,000 researchers.
- Typical of Spain, and especially of Málaga, are the expressive Flamenco dance and the 'Semana Santa' tradition during Holy Week, with its traditional processions in the streets.
- Apart from Pablo Picasso, Antonio Banderas is another famous son of Málaga.
- Málaga International Airport is one of the busiest and most important airports in Spain, with up to a staggering 16 million passengers annually.

USEFUL PHRASES

<i>¡Hola!</i>	-	hello	<i>¡Hasta luego!</i>	-	goodbye
<i>¡Por favor!</i>	-	please	<i>¡Gracias!</i>	-	thank you
<i>¡Tengo sed!</i>	-	I am thirsty	<i>¡Tengo hambre!</i>	-	I am hungry
<i>¡Una cerveza / una caña, por favor!</i>	-	A small/large beer please!			
<i>¡Un plato mixto con tapas, por favor!</i>	-	A mixed platter of tapas, please!			
<i>¡La cuenta, por favor!</i>	-	The bill please!			
<i>¡Estuvo muy bien aquí!</i>	-	That was nice!			
<i>¡Málaga me gusta mas!</i>	-	I like Málaga!			

USEFUL INFORMATION

For more information about *availability and pricing* please do not hesitate to contact our Edelweiss Bike Travel team. We are looking forward hearing from you:

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