



# Málaga Province

POP 1.6 MILLION

## Includes »

Málaga.....	148
Costa del Sol.....	157
Torremolinos & Benalmádena.....	157
Fuengirola.....	159
Marbella.....	160
Estepona.....	162
Mijas.....	163
The Interior.....	163
Ronda.....	163
Around Ronda.....	170
Ardales & El Chorro.....	170
Antequera.....	171
Around Antequera.....	174
East of Málaga.....	174
La Axarquía.....	174
Nerja.....	178

## Best Places to Eat

- » La Consula (p17)
- » Tapeo de Cervantes (p154)
- » Venta Garcia (p162)
- » Oliva (p179)
- » Vino Mio (p154)

## Best Places to Stay

- » El Molino de los Abuelos (p301)
- » El Molino del Santo (p300)
- » Claude (p300)
- » Hostal Larios (p298)

## Why Go?

Málaga is a delightful city, intrinsically Andalusian, yet with an increasingly innovative streak. It is also developing into something of a gourmet and culture capital; the historic centre has an astonishing 400-plus restaurants and bars, and is home to some world-class museums. Base yourself here and discover the equally fascinating diversity of the region, ranging from the breathtaking mountains and rural scenery of La Axarquía to the tourist-driven razzle dazzle of the Costa del Sol.

Inland are traditional *pueblos blancos* (white villages) crowned by the spectacularly situated fabled town of Ronda. Visit, too, the underappreciated, yet superbly elegant, old town of Antequera with its nearby archaeological site and fabulous *porra antequera* (garlic-laden soup).

Try to time your visit to coincide with one of the annual celebrations, when the party atmosphere is infused with flamenco, fino (sherry) and carafe-loads of fiesta spirit.

## Driving Distances (km)

Antequera	40			
Ronda	64	87		
Mijas	25	70	70	
Nerja	53	89	117	88
	Málaga	Antequera	Ronda	Mijas

## Getting Around

A convenient train service links Málaga and its airport with several Costa del Sol resorts, including Torremolinos and Fuengirola. There is also a reasonable bus service that links the Costa capital and several coastal towns with Ronda and Antequera, as well as trains. Interior roads in La Axarquía and the Serranía de Ronda are among the most scenic in the province so your own wheels are preferable and, overall, pretty essential, as public transport is patchy and slow.

### THREE PERFECT DAYS

#### Day 1: Culture & Cuisine

Pablo Picasso is Málaga's most celebrated son so visit the **Museo Picasso** before strolling to nearby **Plaza Merced** square and the **Casa Natal de Picasso** where he was born. After enjoying tapas at one of several bars circling the square, head to the extraordinary **Museo del Vidrio y Cristal** (Museum of Glass and Crystal – you'll thank us. Afterwards take a stroll around Málaga's evocative old town, followed by Michelin-star tapas at beachfront **La Moraga Antonio Martín**.

#### Day 2: Explore Ronda

Make an early start to visit the one of the province's most dramatically sited towns, **Ronda**, perched over a vertiginous gorge. The town is a delight to explore with its fascinating museums, traditional tapas bars and historic sights, including the famous Puente Nuevo. Simply wandering around the town with your camera at the ready will provide plenty of evocative memories over a day, but stay overnight if you can to enjoy the surrounding countryside and national park.

#### Day 3: Mountain Village Tour

Wend your way past stunning scenery to explore the rural villages of La Axarquía, including mountaintop **Comares** and **Cómpeta**; the latter is famed for its local wines. Or opt for an architectural feast in **Antequera**, which is rich with cultural heritage, boasting Roman, Islamic and Spanish historic buildings, plus a fascinating archaeological site. From La Axarquía, consider returning to Málaga via the coast, with a stop at the low-key resort of **Nerja** for a plate of fried fish on the beach.

## Accommodation

Málaga city has boosted its number of hotels over recent years, with accommodation ranging from slick business-style, with a trouser press, to homey inexpensive *hostales* (small family-run hotels). For the highest concentration, the Costa del Sol has endless choice, while the rural regions have some outstanding country hotels. Read all about hotel choices in our dedicated Accommodation chapter (p288).

### DON'T MISS

Málaga city still gets bypassed by the vast majority of tourists here. Be sure to explore the historic quarter surrounding the cathedral; it is fabulously evocative.

## Best Beaches

- » La Carihuella (Torremolinos; p158)
- » Playa Burriana (Nerja; p178)
- » Playa el Palo (Málaga; p153)

## Best Family Attractions

- » Biopark (p159)
- » Tivoli World (p158)
- » Selwo Aventura (safari park; p162)
- » Mariposario de Benalmádena (butterfly park; p158)

## Resources

- » **Málaga City** ([www.malaga.com](http://www.malaga.com)) Málaga city information.
- » **Turismo de Ronda** ([www.turismoderonda.es](http://www.turismoderonda.es)) Ronda tourist board.
- » **Sur in English** ([www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com)) Online English-language newspaper.
- » **Costa del Sol** ([www.visitcostadelsol.com](http://www.visitcostadelsol.com)) Tourist info on Costa resorts.