



MÁLAGA PROVINCE

3 PERFECT DAYS

♥ DAY 1 // PICASSO'S MÁLAGA

One of Málaga's claims to fame (apart from the wonderful weather, beaches and food) is its most celebrated son – and father of modern art – Pablo Picasso. Born in the city, Picasso grew up here and you can visit his house, Casa Natal de Picasso (p164), and spend a good few hours in the Museo Picasso (p164), appreciating the permanent collection and changing exhibitions. Afterwards, take a stroll around Málaga's old town and imagine how the artist was inspired by its aesthetic.

♥ DAY 2 // EXPLORE RONDA

Take at least a day to explore Málaga province's most spectacular town, Ronda (p175). Perched dramatically on a mountain fissure and overlooking a vertiginous gorge, Ronda's monuments, streets, restaurants and the famous Puente Nuevo (p177) are a treat. Easily seen in a day (but happily enjoyed over a few), Ronda is Málaga's unmissable destination.

♥ DAY 3 // MOUNTAIN VILLAGE TOUR

Take the dizzying roads up for a rustic day in the villages of La Axarquía (p188), Comares (p189) and Cómputa (p189), or opt for an architectural feast in Antequera (p184). Comares and Cómputa are pretty white villages, with plenty of local culture, tasty food and quiet life, especially Comares, while Antequera is rich with cultural heritage, with Roman, Islamic and Spanish structures and remains. From La Axarquía, you could pop down to Nerja (p191), on the coast, before heading back to Málaga.

MÁLAGA

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pop 558,000

Málaga is a world apart from the adjoining Costa del Sol; a briskly modern yet historic city, it still has the atmosphere and swagger of a Mediterranean port. The charming, historic centre is vibrant and exciting, its backdrop the blue Mediterranean, and all around are wide, leafy boulevards dotted by impressive monuments. Climbing up to Gibralfaro hill to appreciate the soaring cityscape can't fail to impress.

Málaga has been sprucing itself up for tourists for a few years now, and vying for the 2016 European City of Culture title means that its cultural appeal is ever increasing: there's the great Picasso museum, the modernistic contemporary arts centre, a fine arts museum that's still a work in progress, plus the ongoing modernisation of the port that's looking to become a leisure zone.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

EMERGENCIAS // Policía Local (Local Police; Map p162; ☎ 952 12 65 00; Avenida de la Rosaleda 19)
Policía Nacional (National Police; off Map p162; ☎ 952 04 62 00; Plaza de Manuel Azaña) The main police station is 3km west of the centre.

TOURIST OFFICES // Municipal tourist office (Map p165; ☎ 952 12 20 20; www.malaga.turismo.com, in Spanish; Plaza de la Marina; 🕒 9am-7pm Mon-Fri Apr-Oct, to 6pm Mon-Fri Nov-Mar, 10am-6pm Sat & Sun year-round) Offers a range of city maps and booklets, including the monthly *¿Qué Hacer?*, which gives day-by-day upcoming events in the province. It operates another office in the **Casita del Jardinero** (Map p165; ☎ 952 13 47 31; Avenida de Cervantes 1; 🕒 9am-7pm Mon-Fri Apr-Oct, to 6pm Mon-Fri Nov-

Mar, 10am-6pm Sat & Sun year-round) and information kiosks on Plaza de la Aduana, at the main bus station, on Plaza de la Merced, in front of the main post office and on the eastern beaches. **Regional tourist office** (Map p165; ☎ 951 30 89 11; www.andalucia.org; Pasaje de Chinitas 4; 🕒 9am-7.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat, 10am-2pm Sun) On an alley off Plaza de la Constitución. Provides a range of information including maps of the regional cities. The staff speak numerous languages. It operates a second office at the airport.

ORIENTATION

The eastern and western halves of the city are neatly separated from each other by the Río Guadalmedina. Málaga's central axis, running from west to east, comprises Avenida de Andalucía, the Alameda Principal and finally the landscaped Paseo del Parque (ending in the upmarket district of La Malagueta). From La Malagueta, Avenida de Prías takes you, with several changes to its name, out to the eastern beaches of El Pedregalejo and El Palo.

Rising up above the eastern half of Paseo del Parque, the Alcazaba and Castillo de Gibralfaro dominate the city and overlook the *casco antiguo* (old town) with its narrow winding streets. The main streets leading north into the old town are Calle Marqués de Larios, ending at Plaza de la Constitución, and Calle Molina Lario.

The modern central shopping district stretches between Calles Marqués de Larios and Puerta del Mar.

The airport is 9km from the city centre – for details on getting to/from the airport, see p172.

EXPLORING MÁLAGA

Essentially a Renaissance city with its wide boulevards and decorative facades,

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