

## Guide to Advice for Visitors in the Province of Malaga

The province of Malaga, located on the Andalusian Costa del Sol, is famous for its beaches, historical heritage, and vibrant culture. From the white villages of the Serranía de Ronda to the modernity of the city of Malaga, this region offers a wide range of tourist experiences. Here are some tips to enjoy your stay in a respectful and responsible way, protecting the environment and supporting local communities.

### **1. Information on the Local Area, Culture and Heritage**

Malaga has a rich cultural heritage that ranges from Phoenician and Roman influence to the splendor of the Islamic era. The city of Malaga, with its Roman Theatre, the Alcazaba and the Cathedral, offers a journey through centuries of history.

- **Historical Sites:** Don't miss the Picasso Museum, the Alcazaba, and the Gibralfaro Castle in the city of Malaga. In the province, the villages of Ronda with its impressive Puente Nuevo, and Mijas, with its charming white houses, stand out.
- **Local Culture:** Enjoy local festivities such as Malaga's Semana Santa, famous for its impressive processions, or the Malaga Fair in August, a celebration of Andalusian culture with music, dance and gastronomy.

### **2. How to Respect Local Culture and Way of Life**

Malaga's culture is a reflection of the relaxed and welcoming lifestyle of southern Spain. Respect it by following local customs and being aware of cultural sensitivities.

- **Local Etiquette:** Always greet with a "Good morning" or "Good afternoon," and use "Thank you" to show courtesy. Familiarize yourself with local customs, such as the importance of napping in rural areas.
- **Dress and Behavior:** Dress appropriately in religious places and at traditional events. It is also important to be respectful of the tranquility of residents, especially in residential and rural areas.

### **3. Local Tourism Products, Services and Experiences**

Supporting the local economy is essential for sustainable tourism in Malaga.

- **Local Products:** Buy artisanal products such as ceramics, wines from the Axarquía region, and olive oil. Visit local markets, such as the Mercado de Atarazanas in Malaga, where you can find fresh produce from the area.
- **Restaurants:** Try Malaga's cuisine, known for its fish and seafood. Don't miss the sardine skewers and other traditional dishes at the beach bars along the coast.
- **Excursions:** Take walking tours through the Serranía de Ronda or the Montes de Málaga Natural Park. You can also explore the route of the white villages, or visit the prehistoric caves of Nerja.

#### 4. Low-Emission Transportation Possibilities

To get around Malaga in a sustainable way, consider these options:

- **Public Transport:** The province of Malaga has a public transport network that includes buses and trains, which connect the capital with other towns. Use the commuter train to get between Malaga and cities like Fuengirola, or the bus to explore the interior. Ask at reception for routes and schedules.
- **Bike Rental and Walks:** Malaga city offers bike rental options with specific lanes for cyclists. There are also several hiking trails, such as the famous Caminito del Rey, which allow you to explore the region's natural environment on foot.

#### 5. How to Protect and Respect Areas of Environmental, Historical, or Cultural Significance

The province of Malaga is home to important ecosystems and historical sites that need to be protected.

- **Protected Areas:** Respect natural areas such as the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park and protected coastal areas. Do not leave trash and follow local conservation regulations. In coastal areas, respect seabird nesting areas.
- **Monuments and Heritage:** In historical sites such as the Alcazaba of Malaga or the Dolmens of Antequera, follow the guidelines established for the visit and do not damage the structures or leave residues.

#### 6. Support for Local Conservation Initiatives

Contribute to the conservation of Malaga by supporting local initiatives.

- **Donations and Volunteering:** Find out about local organizations such as the Axarquía Environment Foundation, which works to protect local

landscapes and biodiversity. Consider participating in volunteer activities, such as beach cleanups on the Costa del Sol.

- **Responsible Tourism:** Choose tourism experiences that promote sustainable practices. Look for operators that respect the environment and contribute to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

## 7. Tips for Safely Dealing with Destination-Specific Issues

Malaga, like other tourist destinations, faces particular challenges.

- **Vulnerable People and Abandoned Animals:** If you encounter vulnerable people or abandoned animals, find out about local organizations that can help. Avoid feeding stray animals, as this can aggravate the problem.
- **Personal Safety:** Malaga is generally safe, but it is still important to be alert in tourist areas and protect your belongings. Use only reputable shuttle services and avoid lonely areas at night.

## 8. How to Manage Wildlife Encounters

Malaga has a rich biodiversity, and you may encounter local wildlife during your stay.

- **Respect for Wildlife:** Keep a safe distance if you encounter animals in the wild. On the coast, respect marine life, and do not disturb the natural habitats of fish or birds.
- **Wildlife Viewing:** Choose responsible tour operators if you decide to participate in wildlife watching activities, such as dolphin or bird watching on the Costa del Sol. Make sure they respect the welfare of the animals.

By following these tips, you will be able to enjoy an enriching experience in the province of Malaga, contributing to the protection of its cultural and natural heritage, and supporting local communities in a responsible way.