



Routes Málaga

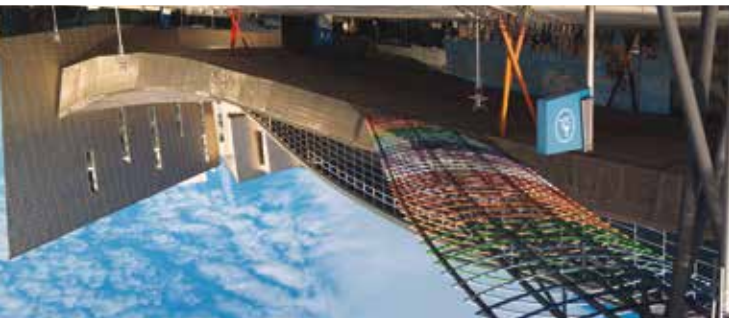
Málaga

Málaga

Practical city guide / Map



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Málaga is the capital of the Costa del Sol. Its beaches are washed by the Mediterranean Sea and behind the city the rounded Montes or mountains of Málaga rise, an area protected as a Nature Park and the first rung of the steps that make up the mountain chain of the Cordillera Penibética. Inhabited since the time of primitive man, Málaga has been

the settlement of the most prominent Mediterranean cultures. The city today is a legacy from the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans and Moors. Its cosmopolitan character is evident in the chronicles of the travellers from all times who mention the impetus of its merchant port, the clemency of the climate and the lively character of the people. Pablo Ruiz Picasso, the city's favourite son, always kept his home town Málaga in mind, this can be seen in the luminosity and exigency of his work. The Nobel Prize winner Vicente Aleixandre called Málaga the "city of Paradise". Aleixandre, the same as Jorge Guillén, Rafael Alberti, Gerald Brenan, Ernest Hemingway and many other writers who were not born in Málaga, felt at home in this city. The first marks of the city can be seen around the disinterred Roman Theatre, situated next to the pedestrian calle Alcazabilla. Mount Gibralfaro rises from here to the site of the Moorish Alcazaba castle, surrounded by Spanish Moorish andalusí type gardens and flowerbeds that protect palace rooms like the Granada suite. The andalusí city developed at the foot of the Mount. The port traded with the most important coastal towns on the Mediterranean. The Christian conquest gave a new impetus to the urban development of the city and it expanded towards the banks of the river Guadalmedina. The building of the Cathedral, which the local people affectionately call la manquita or cripple because it is not finished, took place during one of the most interesting episodes of the contemporary history of the city. The towers are not finished because the money destined for the second tower was spent on the American war of independence. Málaga enjoys a mild climate offers over three thousand hours of sunshine a year and an average temperature of 22° C.

Pablo Ruiz Picasso has a **museum art gallery (16)** in Málaga. Around two hundred works by the Málaga painter are on permanent display in the Palacio de los Condes de Buenavista, an emblematic building situated behind the **Cathedral (13)**, near to the pedestrian calle Granada. His **birthplace (19)** in the **Plaza de la Merced (18)** is also a museum and exhibits a collection of lithographs and ceramics from different periods of the artist. The places of tourist interest in Málaga are all near each other. At the foot of Mount Gibralfaro, crowned by the **Alcazaba (7)** citadel and the **Castle (5)**, the nineteenth-century city is situated over the primitive Moorish medinas. The old part of Málaga is crammed with churches in



Renaissance and Mudejar style as well as manor houses. There are charming places like the Pasaje Chinitas, surrounded by centenary taverns and plazas full of colour like the plaza de la Constitución or la Plaza de la Marina. In the interior of the Renaissance style Cathedral, the design of Diego de Siloé, there are impressive choir stalls and a collection of paintings and sculptures by master craftsmen like Alonso Cano or Pedro de Mena. The Archaeological Museum, housed in the Moorish Palace of the Alcazaba, attracts interest because it reveals the most remote past of Málaga. The **Museum of Art and Folk Customs (29)**, situated in the Pasillo de Santa Isabel in the ancient tavern of the Victoria, has a collection of exhibits of anthropologic interest. The city art gallery, the Museo de la Ciudad, is situated at the beginning of Paseo Reding, it exhibits all the paintings, sculptures and photographs belonging to the town. The Alameda is shaded by tall trees and takes you to the new suburbs that have developed opposite the river Guadalmedina. The **Centre of Contemporary Art (34)** is on one of the banks of the river and housed in the old wholesale



market that has been converted into one of the most interesting modern art galleries in Andalucía. The historic garden of the Concepción is situated outside the city on one side of the motorway that runs down from Granada and Córdoba, it is one of the most important botanical centres in Andalucía with its origins rooted in the illustration of the eighteenth century.

After Christmas and Epiphany the city gets ready for the Carnival with the participation of many different carnival groups like comparsas and chingotas, wearing different kinds of fancy dress. Holy Week is after Lent and it has been declared to be of International Tourist Interest. The Holy Week in Málaga is one of the main celebrations in the city. Here the processions are not pasos or floats like in most places in Andalucía but immense "thrones" and there is rivalry in size and beauty between the different guilds. The religious images with painful expressions in baroque style evoke the fervour of the local people. Images carried in procession depicting the Passion of Christ, Christ El Cautivo or captive on Holy Monday, Christ El Rico (a prisoner is released at the beginning of this procession) and La Expiración or Christ Expiring on the Cross on Holy Wednesday, while Our Lady of Hope or the Esperanza and Christ of Good Death or Buena Muerte, are carried in procession accompanied by legionnaires through the streets of the city on Maundy Thursday. On the 16th of July, the festival of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the malagueños take the Patroness of seafarers in sea procession near the port. However it is in August when the city puts on its party cloths for the fair. The biggest summer festival on the Costa del Sol has two sites. In the morning, the daytime fair is celebrated in calle Larios and the surrounding areas, while at nightfall the fun moves to the



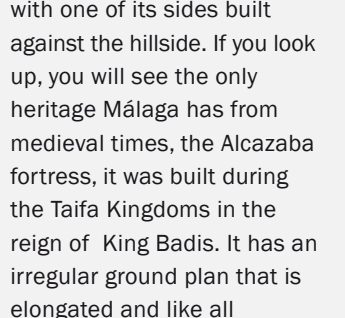
fairground on Cortijo de Torres. The festival of the Santos Inocentes on the 28th of December (the Spanish equivalent of April Fools' day) is when the verdiales folk groups compete before thousands of spectators. The cultural activities include the Spanish Film Festival that is held in springtime and later on the Cultural Autumn programme.



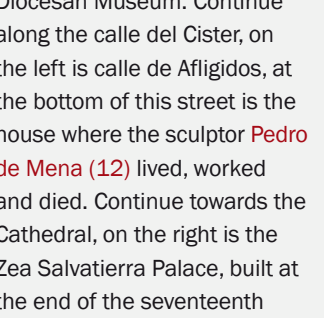
At dawn everyday the fishermen, who have been fishing all night in the peaceful waters of the Mediterranean, pull their boats up onto the Málaga beaches. The daily catch of herreras, codling, fresh anchovies and sardines arrive to the fish markets on the port; as well as angler fish, hake, corvina and porgy; not forgetting squid, cuttlefish and octopus. With such excellent fish there are lots of local recipes that just need olive oil as the extra ingredient. The pescaito frito or small fried fish is one of the most delicious dishes of the Andalusian cuisine. In fishing suburbs like El Palo and Pedregalejo there are bars right on the beach where you can have sardines grilled in an upturned boat by the water's edge. The boquerones vitorianos are small fresh anchovies and delicious accompanied by a salad made of roast peppers. The grilled shellfish are another of the most succulent dishes of the Málaga cuisine. In the centre of the city of Málaga there are many bars and taverns where there is no shortage of pork products. The restaurants prepare fish in many different ways, from paella made with shellfish to casseroles or zarzuelas, soups and fish stews using sea bass, John Dory or turbot. Crafts in the province of Málaga include pottery with the most important production in Ronda, Estepona, Coin, Málaga, Torremolinos, Cártama, Fuengirola, Rincón de la Victoria and Vélez-Málaga. Very beautiful ceramics are made in the city of Málaga (tiles and enamels, designed ceramics, terracotta, models and Nativity scenes). Wood is another craft that is outstanding in the province of Málaga, with a special



mention for the furniture made in Ronda and Marbella. Metal crafts are spread out all over the province with bars for the windows and lamps in wrought-iron. There are beautiful articles of folk expression, like the hats the verdiales folk groups wear which are made to order in Almogía or Comares.



with one of its sides built against the hillside. If you look up, you will see the only heritage Málaga has from medieval times, the Alcazaba fortress, it was built during the Taifa Kingdoms in the reign of King Badis. It has an irregular ground plan that is elongated and like all defensive buildings its design is conditioned by the site where it is built. Inside the grounds of the fortress King Badis built a palace. After the conquest of the city in 1487, the Alcazaba kept its military role until the eighteenth century. After your visit to the Alcazaba, with its towers, arches and patios continue your walk to the gardens of Puerta Oscura, and then on to the **Gibralfaro castle (5)**, situated on the hill named after it. Apparently this castle was used as a prison for some Moorish princes of the Hamudi kingdom. The main role of this castle was strategic because of its privileged situation. Evidence of its impregnable condition is in the historic fact that its guards held the fort for two days after the Christian Monarchs took the rest of the city of Málaga. During Moorish times Málaga expanded into the present-day historic centre. From the tenth century on it developed to the North and West forming new suburbs.



housed the Town Hall of Málaga. Inside there is a central patio, remodelled in the nineteenth century, formed by arches supported by marble pillars with Corinthian capitals. **Málaga Cathedral (13)** is opposite, it is the most notable monument of the city. It was built over the ancient Mosque-Ajama, that stood there during eight centuries of Moorish rule. After visiting the Cathedral and its rare works of art, opposite you will find the Sagrario, the Santo Tomás Hospital, one of the oldest institutions in Málaga, founded in 1505. Cross calle Molina Lario, which brings you to calle Santa María, with the

Episcopal Palace (14) on the left, it is made up of a conglomeration of different buildings and styles, the result of the numerous reforms it has undergone over the centuries.

A visit to nineteenth-century Málaga

The main transformations of Medieval Málaga took place in the nineteenth century and the results are still easily visible today. The desamortización with its redemption of property was what contributed most to these changes, claiming both civil and religious property, bringing with it an urban burst of growth. Our walk starts at the statue of the Marquis of Larios and continues along the street named after him, calle Larios, a pedestrian street that takes you to the plaza and the port. Calle Larios was designed by the municipal architect Joaquín Rucoba in 1882, using the new architectural style from the Chicago School. The opening of calle Larios, which is now Málaga's main shopping street, transformed the city. Continue along this street to the Plaza de la Constitución and then to calle de Granada, the first stretch of this street has kept some examples of nineteenth-century architecture. Calle Santa Lucía and calle de Luis de Velázquez are on the left, they have a wide selection of architecture, a mixture of symmetric buildings with classical to neo-medieval decorations. Go back to calle Granada along the one of the alleys and you come to the plaza del Siglo, that arose after the demolition of the Santa Clara convent. Almost all the houses that were built between 1870 and 1880 still stand today. Continue to walk up Calle Granada, calle Méndez Núñez is on the left, it leads to the plaza de Uncibay, its most recent remodelling took place in 1989, based on a project by José F. Oyarzábal and Luis Bono. The reform transformed the square on two levels separated by a step in the form of a wave, an obelisk of a lighthouse with a Viennese air presides over the square and it also has a bronze fountain, the work of José Seguiri. From the plaza de Uncibay walk up calle Casapalma which brings

us to a small square and the **Cervantes Theatre (22)**, designed by Jerónimo Cuervo in 1870. It has a regular ground plan, the stalls are in a horseshoe shaped frame inside the main building, the decoration was also the design of Cuervo. The walk finishes in the **plaza de la Merced (18)** where the **house Picasso (19)** was born in is situated.

From the Victoria suburb to the Perchel

The sanctuary of Our Lady of Victory stands in the square named after it, the site of the camp of the troops of King Fernando the Christian King during the siege on Moorish Málaga. The church was first founded by the Minim Friars at the end of the sixteenth century, the image of Our Lady of Victory the Patroness of Málaga is in this church. The present-day church was inaugurated in 1700 and is the work of the architect Felipe de Unzuurrúnzaga with the intervention of friar Alonso de Berlanga. The church is in the form of a Latin cross, centred on the main altar, the image of Our Lady of Victory is in the niche which is part of the tower. The crypt is underneath, decorated in black and white,



it houses the pantheon of the Counts of Buenavista. The niche is octagonal, covered in plasterwork of leaves, flowers, fruits, cherubs and symbols of the Virgin Mary, these, together with the mirrors, safeguard the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus, an image of the central European school, according to tradition, the Emperor Maximilian 1st gave it to the Christian Monarchs. Leave the plaza where the Sanctuary is situated and head south towards calle de la Victoria, the main street in this popular and middle-class suburb, evidence of this is in the palaces, working-class housing and the Hermitage of Jesus el Rescate situated on the corner of calle Agua. On the right, you come to Las Lagunillas and la Cruz del Molinillo suburbs. Calle de la Victoria ends at the Plaza de la Merced. From here take calle Alamos, this street and calle Carretería used to mark the limits of the Moorish city walls of Málaga.

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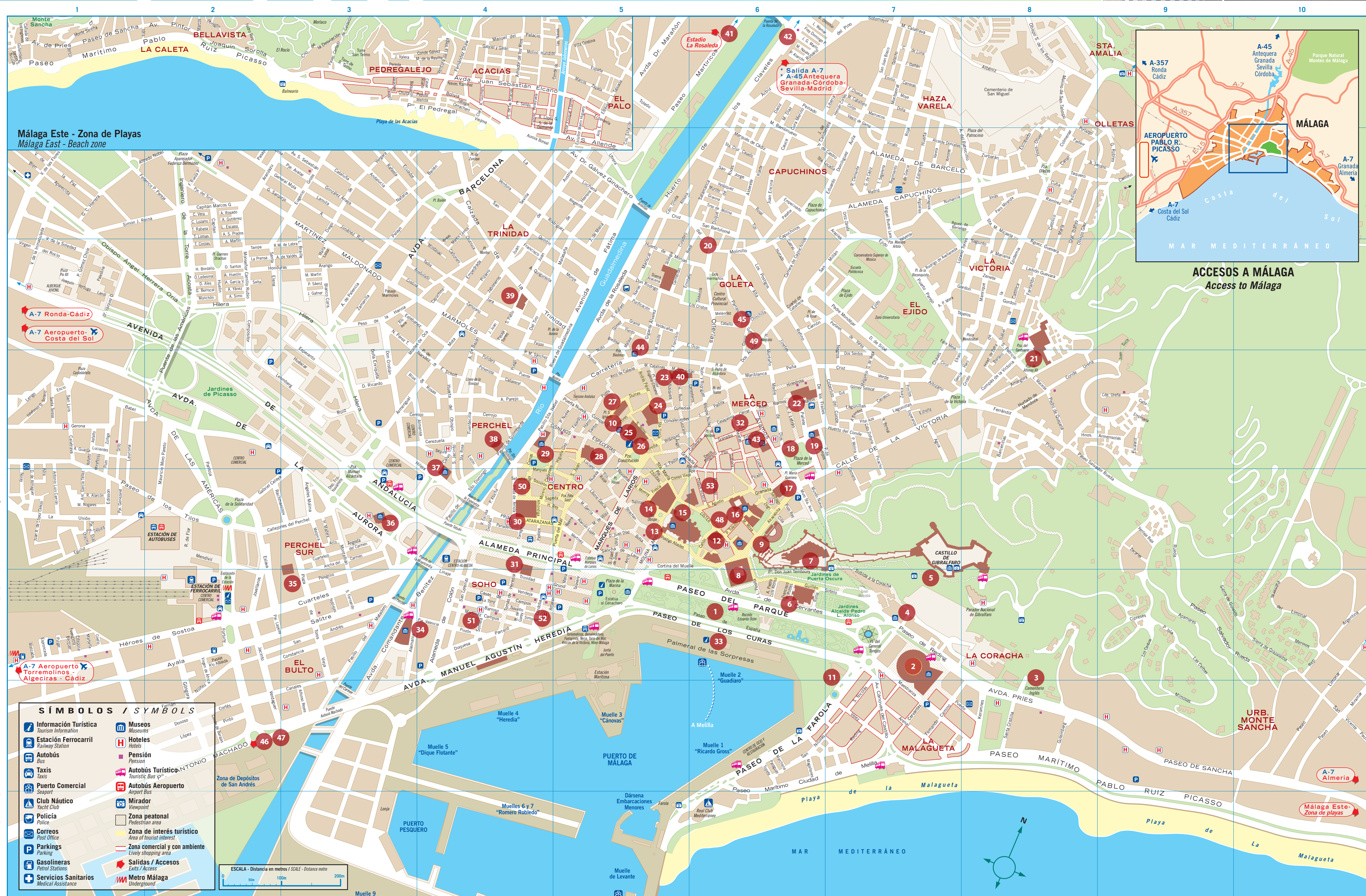
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Málaga



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| 3 Cementerio Inglés | 30 Mercado Central de Atrazanas |
| 4 Museo del Patrimonio Municipal | 31 Archivo Histórico Municipal |
| 5 Castillo de Gibralfaro Centro de Interpretación | 32 Museo Interactivo de la Música |
| 6 Ayuntamiento | 33 Alborania Aula del Mar |
| 7 Alcazaba | 34 Centro de Arte Contemporáneo CAC |
| 8 Museo de Málaga Palacio de la Aduana | 35 Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Carmen |
| 9 Teatro Romano Centro de Interpretación | 36 Museo de la Cofradía de la Expiración |
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