









**ALGECIRAS** 

Algeciras and its surroundings

tourism: a visit to the Baelo

or the Campo de Gibraltar, swimming on the beaches of the

offers numerous possibilities for

Claudia Archaeological Complex

del Estrecho Nature Park, surfing in Tarifa, or watching the whales, dolphins and birds in the Estrecho. The De los **Alcornocales Nature** 

Park -the "European Rainforest"-

is an ideal setting for nature-



The first thing one notices when approaching Almeria from the sea is the essentially Mediterranean character of a city which offers a compendium of artistic styles and ambiences: the **monumental** complex of the Moorish Alcazaba, the Christian Cathedral-Fortress, the palaces which reflect the splendour of the 19th century, and iconic iron constructions such as the "Cable Inglés", the old mineral loading system which ran down to the Las Almadrabillas beach. Other attractions of special interest include the **Cueva de los** Letreros with its prehistoric cave paintings, now declared a World Heritage Site; the imposing Castle in Vélez Blanco; numerous coves and unspoilt



offers tourists a perfect

combination of culture and

hand in hand with baroque

from the sea and blends in

architecture which is so strongly

reminiscent of Havana in Cuba.

The popular Barrio de la Viña -

which hosts the famous Carnival

is ideal for sampling the best

local cuisine. Other options while

include following the **Route of** 

the White Villages, walking

along the golden sands of the

beaches on the Costa de la Luz,

visiting the **Grazalema Nature** 

"bodega-cathedrals", admiring

School Equestrian Art in Jerez,

or enjoying a good meal in Bajo

de Guía (Sanlúcar) overlooking

the Doñana Nature Park.

Park, sampling wines in the

the horses from the Royal

enjoying a stopover in Cadiz

perfectly with the colonial

Huelva is proud to demonstrate its role in the Discovery of America in its colossal Monument to the Faith of Discovery. The city is within easy reach of numerous attractions including the De las Maravillas Grotto (Aracena), the walled city of Niebla, Doñana and the Sierra de Aracena. There are also 122 kilometres of uniterrupted beaches, the hamle of **El Rocío** (which is the centre of a massively popular religious pilgrimage), and the **Lugares** Colombinos Route, which features the towns which played an active role in Columbus' voyage to the New World: la Rábida, Palos de la Frontera and Moguer. The



# CADIZ

Considered the oldest city in the western world, Roman Gades

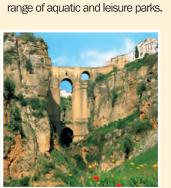
by renowned products such as the Del Condado Wines, the famous Huelva Hams, and a wide range of locally sourced fish and shellfish including the much sought after White Prawn.

# MALAGA



The pedestrianised historical Alpujarras. centre of Malaga is ideal for tapa sampling and discovering the wealth of ancient monuments. Entering via Calle Larios, the gateway to the city centre, we come to the Cathedral, the Roman Theatre, the Moorish Castle of Gibralfaro and the Alcazaba. Almost next door is the house where Pablo Picasso was born and Malaga's Picasso Museum, which is housed in a magnificent renaissance palace from the 16th century and exhibits a selection of essential works by the artist. The city's most

significant cultural venues include the La Malagueta bullring, the Wine Museum and the Cervantes Theatre (which hosts **Malaga's International Theatre Festival** and the Spanish Cinema **Festival**). Other interesting attractions which are within easy reach of the city include the historic towns of **Ronda** (featuring a famous bullring inaugurated in 1785 which hosts Goya-style corridas) and **Antequera**; the **Grotto of Nerja**; the picturesque villages of the Axarquía; impressive natural features such as Torcal de **Antequera**, the Sierra de las Nieves or the Fuente de



Piedra lagoon; luxury resorts such

as Puerto Banús and Marbella;

numerous beaches; and a wide



Sites) in Granada, the renaissance

castle in La Calahorra, the Aquarium in Almuñécar, the Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs (a haven for divers), the **Sierra** Nevada ski station (with 86 slopes and its attractive and unique artificially lit night time skiing), and the **Granadan** 



main monuments in the historic centre, the largest in Europe, include the Cathedral with its iconic **Giralda** minaret, the Alcázar, and the Historic Archive of the Indies, all of which have been declared World Heritage Sites, as well as the Fine Art **Museum**, the second most important gallery in Spain. It is wonderful to stroll along the Avenida de la Constitución (having passed the Old Tobacco Factory), and the Barrio de Santa Cruz (the old Jewish quarter), the central Plaza Nueva, the Barrio de la Macarena – with its Almoravid walls - as well as the lively streets of Triana, the bullfighting area of Arenal, the María Luisa Park (site of the 1929 Iberian-American Exposition), whilst not forgetting the more modern aspects of Seville: the site of the Expo'92 World Trade Fair and the Isla Mágica theme park. Outside the city itself there are numerous other attractions and activities to choose from: walking in the Sierra Norte, bird watching at the **Peñón de** Zaframagón or in Doñana (also a safe haven for the Iberian lynx), spending a day at the races at the Hippodrome of Dos Hermanas, or discovering the







Roman splendour of Itálica.







# **BEACHES AND LEISURE**

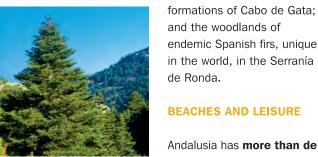
andalusia has **more than de** 900 kilometres of coastline

Costa de la Luz in Huelva and Cadiz) is essentially flat, with long beaches of fine golden sand and abundant dune formations. On the other hand, the Mediterranean part of the coast – the Costa del Sol (Malaga), Costa Tropical (Granada) and Costa de Almería (Almería) features



beaches of varying lengths, some of which are in secluded coves as is the case with the Maro-Cerro Gordo Nature Area (Malaga and Granada). Year certifies the quality of their

or following the fishing boats in search of a stray tuna is certainly a unique sight, whilst for golf lovers, Andalusia has more courses than any other part of Spain,



# endemic Spanish firs, unique in the world, in the Serranía de Ronda.

**spread over five different areas**. The Atlantic section (the



a succession of cliffs with after year numerous Andalusian beaches are awarded the **Blue Flag** which

waters. The traditions of the mountain villages, the calendar of festivities, the craftwork, the gastronomy and the unique customs and traditions such as the art of Flamenco are all excellent reasons to choose Andalusia as a holiday destination. To sail through the Estrecho de Gibraltar between schools of whales and dolphins, and see these huge mammals

swimming with their young

more than half of which are situated along the Costa del Sol in Malaga.

# which cater for a significant receive visits from major



Andalusia has 16 commercial

sea ports and 2 river ports

Malaga (the 2nd most important destination for cruises in Spain), Motril, and Almeria, on the Mediterranean. Andalusia and its ports are amongst the world's prime tourist destinations because in addition to their long maritime tradition, magnificent location and mild Mediterranean weather, they also offer sites with innumerable attractions for tourists.

# **MARITIME TRADITION**

Andalusia's close relationship with the sea dates back to ancient times. Tartessians and Phoenicians landed on our coasts, developing intense commercial and trading activities. They founded important colonies and factories in Abdera (Adra, in Almería), Gadir (Cadiz – the oldest and most dynamic Phoenician settlement in the West), Sexi (Almuñécar, in Granada), and Malaca (Malaga). Greek and Carthaginian influences also arrived in Andalusia by sea until they lost their power following Rome's final victory in the Punic wars. **Baelo Claudia** (in the spectacular inlet of Bolonia, in Cadiz) is a must for those wishing to discover a Roman metropolis which exported salted fish and a variety of fish-based sauces, such as the much-coveted garum, to the rest of the Empire.



The **Muslims** also arrived in Andalusia by sea in a succession of waves passing through the Straits of Gibraltar from 711 onwards. Their cultural, historic and even gastronomic legacy is still very much alive today.



A historic milestone in Andalusia's maritime tradition was the Discovery of the Americas. The initial expedition to the New World was forged in La Rábida (Huelva), and Columbus' first voyage, which included many Andalusian sailors, left from Palos de la Frontera on the

3rd of August 1492. As a result, Andalusia became the epicentre for the great South American adventure and with the establishment of the Casa de la Contratación which controlled the commercial monopoly with the new found territories, Seville became the nerve centre of the Spanish

The strategic coastline of Andalusia has been the setting of numerous historic naval battles, such as the pirate Barbarossa's

attack on Cadiz in 1553, the plundering of Cadiz by the corsair Sir Francis Drake (1587), and the Battle of Trafalgar (1805) waged between the Franco-Spanish and British fleets. Andalusia's ancient history has left a huge artistic legacy which has been recognised

with the World Heritage Site designation by UNESCO of the **Alhambra**, the **Generalife** and El Albaicín in Granada; the Alcázar, the Cathedral and the

**Historic Archive of the Indies in Seville**; the **Mosque and** 

the Jewish Quarter in Córdoba; and the renaissance towns of Úbeda and **Baeza**. Artists such as Velázguez, Murillo and Picasso, amongst others, were born in the region which has a range of magnificent art galleries. There are also numerous tourist routes

can be enjoyed all year round.

The contrasting landscape is

allowing visitors to pass from

Guadalquivir to the leafy hilly

woodland, from the volcanic

landscapes of the Tabernas

**Desert** (Almería) to the snow-

Nevada (Granada is a point of

capped peaks of the Sierra

also an important factor,

the fertile valley of the

region's ecological wealth. The range of natural features in the Peninsula, with 14 peaks in the Sierra Nevada reaching over 3,000 metres in height; the marshlands of Doñana, Europe's last remaining great wetland reserve; the volcanic

featuring a wide variety of

Andalusia is one of the

Mediterranean climate is

characterised by dry, warm

summers and mild winters,

CLIMATE AND LANDSCAPES

varmest regions in Europe. Its

themes.

with irregular rainfall. Another distinctive feature of the region

is its luminosity, with more than 3,000 hours of sunshine in

areas like Cadiz and Almería. An annual average temperature

of 16° C makes Andalusia an ideal tourist destination which

contact between two continents, Africa and Europe, and forms a link between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean). This explains its great natural diversity and the numerous possibilities that Andalusia offers for active tourism.

The fact that Andalusia's network of natural areas occupies approximately 18% of its total territory, gives us an idea of the

includes the highest mountains

beaches; and beautiful nature

areas - the Cabo de Gata; the limestone karstic landscape of Sorbas, and the **desert of Tabernas**. From Almería it is also possible for visitors to discover the medieval architecture of Mojácar and the Almerian side of the sierra of the **Alpujarras** or

Hollywood "westerns" were filmed some decades ago.





Situated on a raised area in the foothills of the Sierra de Lújar, Motril offers visitors sunny beaches and a magnificent climate (with an average temperature of 18.5° C and 320 days of sunshine per year), with a gastronomy based on locally-sourced fish and tropical products. Nearby attractions which can be visited whilst stopping over in the town include the Alhambra and Generalife (World Heritage



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ARCHIVES OF THE INDIES

8 GRUTA DE LAS MARAVILLAS CAVERNS

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

9 NIEBLA

**U** EL ROCÍO

1 COLUMBUS SITES

12 WHITE HILL TOWNS

SURFING

**RONDA** 

24 AXARQUIA

**ANTEQUERA** 

**NERJA CAVES** 

**CETACEAN- AND BIRD-WATCHING** 

**ROUTE OF THE BULL** 

PICASSO MUSEUM

**30 ALMUÑECAR AQUARIUM** 

**32** GRANADA ALPUJARRA

3 LOS LETREROS CAVE

**34** VELEZ BLANCO CASTLE

**35 TABERNAS DESERT** 

**37** MINI HOLLYWOOD

**36** ALMERIA ALPUJARRA

**31** SKI RESORT

Tourist body

Commercial Port

Dual Carriageway

♣ Airport

Marina

# From the Atlantic to the Mediterranean

# **Beaches on the Costa de la Luz**

With golden sands, calm waters and pine woods, this coastline features the lowest amount of seaside development in Spain (buildings within a km. of the coast), something which guarantees the existence of a large number of unspoilt beaches.

### **Wines and the Equestrian Tradition**

Numerous film stars and renowned figures from the cultural world (Liz Taylor, Orson Welles, and Steven Spielberg, amongst others) have all visited Jerez – the cradle of the Carthusian horse – El Puerto de Santa María, and Sanlúcar de Barrameda (where the famous horse races are held on the beach), to visit the elegant bodegas and sample their prestigious wines.

## **A Natural Observatory**

The Campo de Gibraltar is one Europe's most important sites for watching whales, dolphins and birds. Due to its proximity to the African continent, the confluence of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and the variety of habitats, the area is an essential route for birds as they migrate to and from Africa.

# **Monuments and Gastronomy**

The Archaeological Site of Itálica (Santiponce), the Dolmens in Valencina de la Concepción, and the historic town of Carmona are all testimony to the rich monumental heritage which is to be found in the area surrounding the city of Seville. Routes dedicated to must, rice, olive oil, table olives, hunting and mushrooms also highlight the gastronomic heritage of the province's towns and villages.

# The Golf Coast

This is the nickname given to the Costa del Sol, the area with the largest number of golf courses in the whole of Europe. The area's extraordinary climate and its ideal topographic conditions have inspired internationally renowned figures to design imaginative and challenging courses.

# Leisure en famille

There are four different leisure parks with a variety of themes around Almuñécar on the Costa Tropical. Of particular interest is the Aquarium of Mediterranean Species, the biggest and most modern of its kind in Andalusia, with 18 different aquariums and a fascinating 17 metre long panoramic tunnel.

## A Taste of the Sea

The diversity of landscapes of the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Nature Park offers tourists the opportunity to observe salt flats, dunes, and unspoilt beaches as well as visit places such as the picturesque Barrio of the Isleta del Moro, where it is still possible to experience the atmosphere of a typical fishing village, with the outsides of the houses covered by fish and octopuses drying in the sun.







■ Tourist Cave

Aquatic Park

Megalithic Monument

Casino

Spa town

🥎 Roman Bética Route

🤅 Route of the Caliphs

Route of the Nasrids

Washington Irving Route

