

# MALAGA



# SPAIN

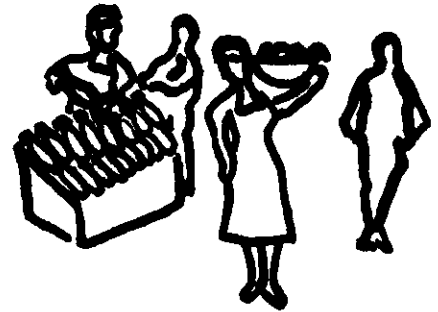
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
Gives You

Malaga, Spain

Malaga has a population of approximately 300,000. It stands on the small lowland formed by the Rio Guadalmedina at the head of Malaga Bay. The city covers the level ground north and west of the harbor and ascends in the north-east the lower slopes of Monte de Gibralfaro (summit 433 ft.) and other hills. The low irrigated lands extend with rapidly decreasing width for over two miles inland. To the east the mountains come almost to the sea; to the west the rich coastal lowlands maintain a width of 1,200 yards and then expand into the large vega of the Rio Guadalhorce. These lowlands are luxuriant with tropical and sub-tropical crops, but landwards, they are backed by a semi-circle of rather barren slopes, the southern foothills of the Andalusian Mountains. Within 5 miles of Malaga harbor the hills rise to 2,500 feet in the northeast and to nearly 1,800 feet in the northwest.

The town is like a bouquet of flowers set amid the palm-trees, the bamboos and the giant eucalyptus-trees thickly entwined with creepers: the Moors used to say that it "smelled like an opened flask of musk." It is a town given up to the delights of the table, and its streets echo to the cries of the fish-sellers and the orange-girls; it has its own recipes for shell-fish and fried fish, especially the boquerones and chanquetes, and it can offer very sweet pastries that should be taken with a drop of its own sweet wine.

This Mediterranean land is so warm that Motril, one of the finest places along the whole Spanish coast, is a centre of cane-sugar plantations, which give way eventually to real desert country growing esparto and thorny plants, an empty, vast stretch that quivers in the heat and causes mirages like those to be seen in the heart of the Sahara.

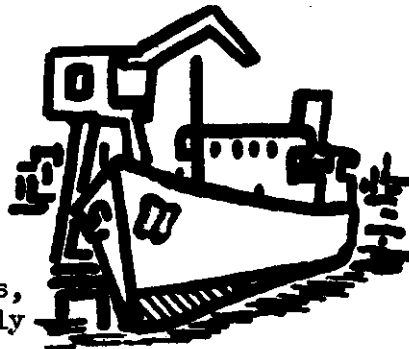


HISTORY

Malaga (Malaca) was one of the early Phoenician factories in Spain, and during the following centuries carried on a considerable trade with eastern Mediterranean ports. In A.D. 711 it fell to the Moors, who made it the chief port of Granada. In 1487 the town was recaptured by Ferdinand, after a long siege which was followed by wholesale confiscations and burnings. With the expulsion of the Moors, Malaga lost much of its former importance, and its later rank depended on the wealth of its lowland rather than on overseas trade. The mole on the eastern side of the harbor nevertheless was built as early as 1588. The subsequent history of the town was relatively peaceful until the nineteenth century, when it was sacked by the French (in 1810) and became the scene of three Liberal insurrections against the central government. About 1900 the eastern mole had been silted up on its eastern side and a small sandy beach had been formed. Today, this is the site of the suburb of Malagneta. The harbor in 1900 was said to be spacious enough to accommodate upwards of 450 merchant ships, but the trade was small. In the present century the rich vegas southeast of Malaga were increasingly developed and the town and port grew in like proportion.

The sudden floods in winter of the Guadalmedina, which normally dries up in its lower course in the dry season, were controlled by a dam, while the needs of a dense population caused many manufacturing industries to arise.

Industry and Commerce - The main industrial quarter of Malaga lies near the coast southwest of the harbor. The chief industrial establishments are flour mills, sugar, and olive oil refineries, iron and steel works, including an iron foundry and railway repair shop, and sulphuric acid. In 1933, 2,222 ships of nearly 3 million tons used the port and the weight of merchandise handled was 492,195 tons. The chief items were fuel (coal, coke and petroleum), cotton both raw and manufactured textiles, iron hardware, fish and dyestuffs. The exports were mainly the products of local agriculture and mining; they included wines, raisins, grapes, almonds, figs, lemons, olive-oil, brandy, vegetables, lead and iron oxide.



Weather - From May to September easterly winds prevail and, when well established, will blow for a week at a time. From November to April winds from the southwest set in, and alternate with northerly and northeasterly winds. Winds from a westerly quarter prevail especially in winter (November to January), when they bring bad weather and heavy rain. By March the southwesterners are being displaced by easterly winds which, at this season, may cause thick, boisterous weather.

Winters along the coast from Gibraltar to Cabo de Gata are the warmest in Spain. The January mean temperature is about 55° and the warmest days are often 65° or 67°. Frosts are unknown and the temperature rarely falls below 39°. Summers are hot (mean July and August 79°). Between 98° and 100° is recorded in most years and sometimes the thermometer reaches 110°. Summer nights are relatively warm, and seldom below 66°.

From September to April relative humidity remains at 65-70 per cent and then decreases to almost 60 per cent during the summer. The low humidities in July and August make the days less oppressive and the nights fresh and pleasant.

The average annual rainfall in Malaga is 25 inches. The chief rainy season lasts from October to January (3-3½ inches per month), but there is a distinct shorter rainy season in March. The dry season begins in May and continues to Mid-September, and has scarcely 1½ inches of rain. June, July and August are almost rainless. The number of rain days seldom exceeds 50; of these about 7 are in March, and 6 a month in winter. From May to September inclusive only 9 days in all bring rain. The 3 wet days between June and August have brief storms only.

Transportation - A broad-gauge single track railway leads from the inner port to the main station, which west of the Rio Guadalmedina, and thence to Bobadilla (43 miles). By this route Cordoba is 120 miles and Madrid 382 miles. A narrow gauge railway runs eastward along the coast to Veles-Malaga and then inland to Ventas de Zafarraya (42 miles). Other narrow-gauge lines run westwards to Coin (25 miles) and southwestward along the coast of Fuenpirola.

Street cars are the principal mode of transportation in Malaga. There are a few bus lines that operate to the outlying sections of the city. The Street cars are crowded and, owing to frequent power stoppage, service is unreliable. Taxis are plentiful, but dilapidated; rates are very reasonable.

Communications - The telephone and telegraph systems of Spain are owned by the state. The telephone system was built and operated by the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, but has been sold to the government. Although the equipment is getting old, and is not up to par, communications with all parts of the world are available.

Telegraph and cable service is available at the Post & Telegraph Building, and service is fairly rapid and quite satisfactory.

Health Conditions - A typhoid fever epidemic was present in Malaga during 1951 and 1952. Since that time, all water supplies have been chlorinated, resulting now in only an occasional case. Those cases of typhoid fever which do occur are thought to be endemic in nature and result from contamination of both water and food. Cases of typhoid fever reported in the province of Malaga occur in small towns located in mountain country. Food brought to Malaga from these areas is thought to account for the occasional case of typhoid fever noted in the city of Malaga. There have not been any other significant epidemic or endemic diseases. All water brought aboard ship should be properly chlorinated.

Currency - U.S. Naval personnel are forbidden to take U.S. currency ashore. Requirements should be made known to the Naval Attache or American Consul, who will make the necessary arrangements with the Bank of Spain. Unused quantities will be bought back on the last day of the visit at the same exchange rate. The unit of exchange in Spain is the pesetas, divided into 100 centimos. The present exchange rate (tourist rate) is approximately 60 pesetas to the U.S. dollar.

Restaurants, Food, Beverages - Meals vary from the equivalent of \$1 to \$5. A 12% service charge is included, which theoretically eliminates the necessary tip. As a rule, the best meals are to be had in any of the larger hotels, but there are many excellent small restaurants. Whiskey and gin are poor and expensive, but brandy and wines are excellent and prices are very reasonable. The following restaurants and bars are recommended:

Hosteria de Cibralfaro is one of the best restaurants in Western Europe, located with a magnificent view of the bay.

The Banos del Carmen is a pleasant place to go for a drink or meal. It is on the sea northeast of the town (on the street car line). There is a bathing beach there and tennis courts where rackets may be rented. There will be music provided for dancing as a special concession to the Navy personnel (a small entrance fee will be charged)

Hotel Miramar has an excellent dining room and dance floor, located outdoors during the summer. Music is available every night except Mondays. Dinner costs 55 pesetas without wine, 125 to 160 pesetas al la carte.

Bar-Restaurant Alegria, has good simple cooking and is down in the center of town (just off the main shopping street, calle Larios).

Bar-Restaurant Meson, has quite good typical Spanish food, and is also in the center of town just a block from the Alegria.

Bar-Cafe Los Camarotes, is a picturesque little bar just off the main street and opposite Cook's Travel Agency.

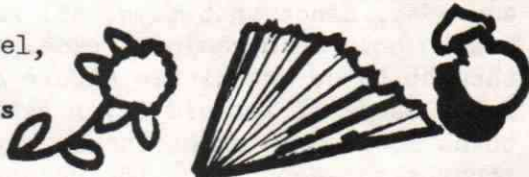


Posada del'Mar, a few kilometers east of Malaga, has good food at about 40 pesetas. Music is available.

Remo's at Torremolinos, has a beach, swimming pool, bar, and excellent restaurant. Meals cost about 55 pesetas without wine. There is music nightly except Mondays from about 2100 until 0200.

There are various other cafes and bars where "Flamenco" singing and dancing and plenty of local color is to be found, but it is suggested that they be visited with prudence.

There are no dance clubs, but the Miramar Hotel, which is the best in Malaga, has dancing between 2000 and 2230 on week days and later on Saturdays and Sundays.



Churches - Spain is a Catholic nation, and Catholics in the principal residential district attend service in the chapels of the Paulist Fathers and the Carmelites or at the Cathedral where masses are said every half hour from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays and feast days and hourly on weekday mornings. The British community has an attractive Church of England chapel set in the British cemetery where services are held occasionally when the Anglican minister can get away from Gibraltar in order to conduct the services.

Athletic Facilities - Golf, tennis, swimming, small boat sailing, pigeon shooting and clay pigeon shooting are all available in Malaga. The government sponsored golf course consists of nine holes, and although not a sporty course it is a pleasant one and well maintained. Tennis courts are now available about five minutes outside the town. The yacht club offers small boat sailing as well as rowing facilities. Each winter a regatta for the Snipe class is held here with boats from all parts of Spain participating. A softball field at the military airport and a basketball court located in the Square outside the main gate to the port in Avenida Generalisimo Franco are available.

Tours - The American Express Company representative in Malaga has agreed to provide special excursions by bus at reasonable rates to points of interest such as Torremolinos, Granada, Gibraltar, Ronda and other scenic centers at any time during naval visits-provided that at least thirty persons are willing to make the particular expedition together. The following tours have been reported as excellent:

- a. A half day tour of Malaga, price \$1.
- b. A one day bus tour to Granada, price \$7.
- c. A five day tour to Madrid, price \$44.
- d. A three (3) day tour to Seville, price \$28.50



Points of Interest - Tours of the city may be made in the old-fashioned horse and buggies of which there are quantities along the main Avenida. Touring the city you will discover many quaint streets, squares, fountains and old fragments of architecture. The plaza de la Merced is attractive as is the main square - the plaza de la Constitution with the Casa del Consulado on the far corner. This is one of the oldest buildings in Malaga and now houses a museum and library.

Cathedral - Originally built on the site of a Mosque and is quite imposing, both from point of view of size and style. There are a few objects of merit inside, notably some 15th century wood carvings and paintings.

Bishop's Palace - Opposite the Cathedral and was originally connected to it by a closed in passage way. This was destroyed, along with most of the building during the civil war, but the palace has since been restored.

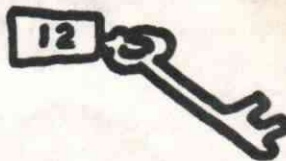
Alcazaba - (Just up the hill from the Cathedral) In the old part of town, until recently inhabited by gypsies, but now in the process of being restored. It was built as a palace and fortress by the Moorish King Badis of Granada during the 11th century. Successive kings rebuilt and enlarged the fortress to suit their needs and finally made it, what is said to have been the most perfect, stronghold in all Andalucia. Its situation on a hill dominating the harbour of Malaga gives it an imposing appearance and a fine view of the sea. There is a small museum there open from 4-7 p.m. daily.

Bullring - (Plaza de Toros) is on the continuation of the Avenida going northeast. It is the largest in this section of the country and has a capacity for over 16,000 spectators.

Excursions - Torremolinos, a small fishing village 17 kilometers from Malaga has of late years become popular with many Americans as a winter resort. There is an agreeable little town square and further along a bathing beach and a club, the "Remo", where a good meal and drinks may be had upon the payment of an entrance fee at the door. There are buses going to Torremolinos from Malaga every hour from a bus stop just around the corner from the Consulate.

Hotel Miramar - The Hotel Miramar is the best hotel in town. It has excellent facilities and food. Prices are as follows:

Single room without meals	- \$2.50
Double room without meals	- \$4.50
Single room with meals	- \$4.75



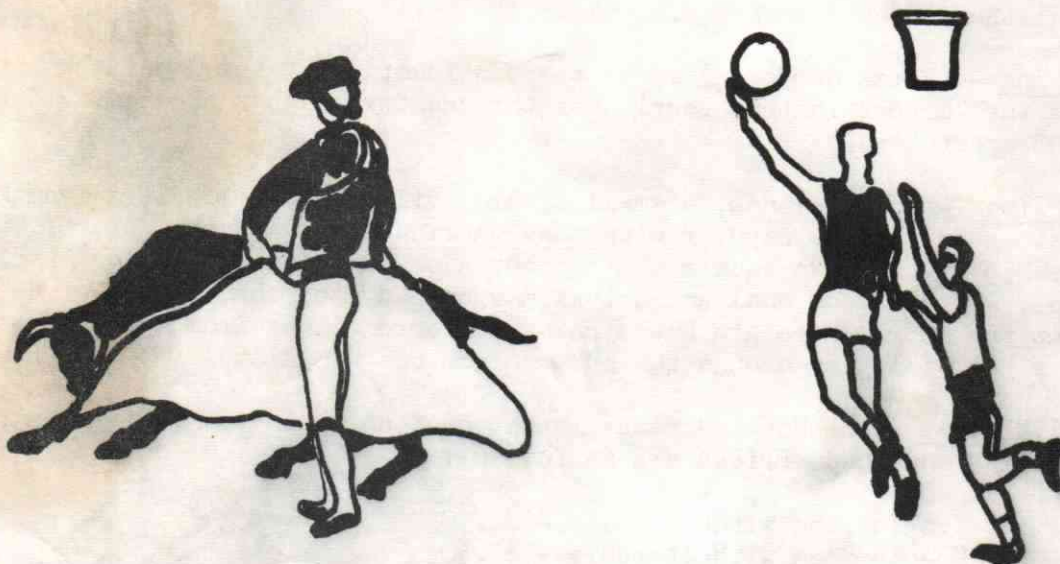
The newly opened Hotel Bel Aire is on a par with the Miramar in both facilities and prices. Recommended cheaper hotels are the Villa Suecia, Casa del Monte and Limonar. The small pension Santa Clara in Torremolinos (9 miles west of Malaga) is highly recommended if transportation is available. The Hotel Imperatriz, about 500 yards east of the Miramar, is a new established with prices about 20 per cent less than those of the Miramar. There is a small swimming pool.

Beaches - There are two beaches located near the city one of which is the beach at the yacht club, while the other is located near the tennis courts at a resort called Banos del Carmen. The sand on these beaches, located at some distance from the city, is dark and not nearly as fine as the beaches in the United States, but after a short time one gets used to it. Secluded beaches in the vicinity of Malaga suitable for beach parties are located at La Victoria, La Cala and Boliche.

Shopping - The main shops are on calle Larios and calle Nueva (a continuation of the calle Puerta del Mar).

The public market place is just off the calle Larios and calle Nueva (a continuation of the calle Puerta del Mar one block away from the Consulate.

Other General or useful Information - One of the main attractions here, as is the case all over Spain, are the bullfights which are held on Sundays during the season (March through August) and occasionally on week days when there is a special holiday. During January and February Malaga holds its winter sports which include competitions in the sports mentioned in this brochure. There is a "Feria" or period of general festivities between 9-20 August, and another in the winter between 12-15 January. There are four good movie houses in the city where Spanish films are shown and foreign films, mostly American, with the original sound tracks dubbed in Spanish. The Teatro Cervantes puts on occasional concerts-Spanish comedies and Spanish dancing in the winter. Variety shows with typically Spanish singing and dancing are put on regularly at the smaller theatres. There are no English speaking motion pictures shown in Malaga.



NOTE: There is no map available of Malaga at this time.