

# MÁLAGA, SPAIN

## Factsheet 2024

### **CULTURAL ASPECTS**

#### **COMPREHENSIVE EXPERIENCE AND VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES**

Málaga city is a perfect combination of culture, the sea, a lively atmosphere, food, cutting-edge neighbourhoods like Soho, areas like the port that have transformed and become more modern, and monuments with centuries of history. The result is a city full of passion, with an endless amount of activities.

#### **SOCIAL CULTURE**

Spanish people are known for being friendly and for spending lots of time socialising. It is very common for friends to sit for long hours in the late afternoon chatting over coffee or drinking beer/wine. It is easy to find a variety of types of food in the city, however meat is a staple in the diet as Spain is known for its tapas and jamón ibérico. You may find it very difficult to resist different tapas as food is also always included in any kind of social gathering! It is common to eat dinner between 8:30 pm and 11 pm. Most restaurants will open at about 8 pm and serve food until 1 am.

#### **GREETINGS**

Spaniards tend to be affectionate between friends, family members, partners, and even people they just meet. It is customary to exchange kisses both on the right and left cheek when greeting others, so don't be alarmed if your new Spanish friends greet you this way.

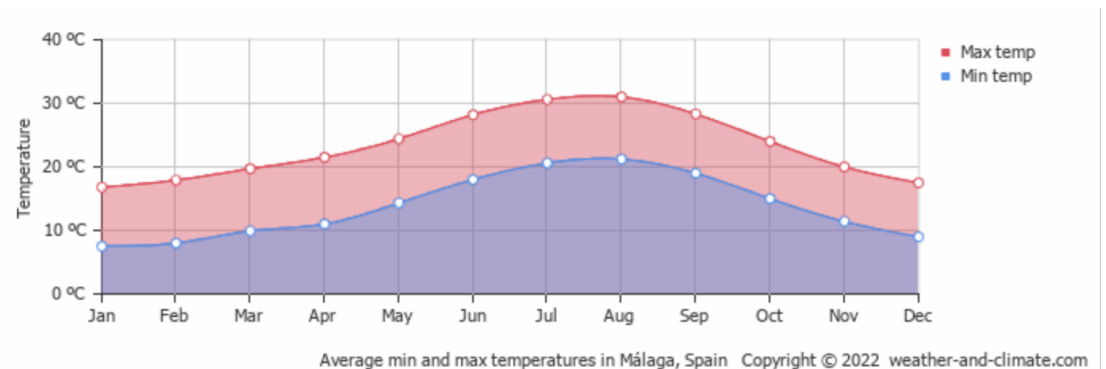
### ARRIVING A BIT LATE IS OKAY

It is customary for Spaniards to arrive a bit late to social gatherings. For those who are used to an organised, on-the-go lifestyle, it may take some time to adapt to the more relaxed Spanish way of life.

### CLIMATE

Málaga will surprise you with its great weather. The nice weather allows us to enjoy the outdoors in every season. The climate is subtropical-Mediterranean with very mild winters and hot summers. Málaga enjoys plenty of sunshine throughout the year, with an average of about 300 days of sunshine and only about 50 with precipitation annually. Its location in the Costa del Sol makes Málaga a perfect place, being among the cities in Spain with more sunshine hours.

The average annual temperature in Málaga province is 23 °C during the day, one of the warmest in Europe, and 13°C at night. In the coldest month, January, the temperature ranges from 12 to 20 °C during the day.



Málaga experiences one of the warmest winters in Europe. The average temperature during the day in the period December through February is 17–18 °C. Because of its proximity to the Mediterranean sea, during the summer temperatures are milder.

### LANGUAGE

In Málaga, the language that's spoken is Castellano (Spanish). Castellano is one of four official languages in Spain and is spoken throughout the country. You can hear it in music, movies and on TV. Citizens in Málaga have a strong Andalusian accent, but you should have no problem understanding it.

## LOCAL TERMS TO KNOW

- **Tapa(s)** – is an appetizer or snack and translates to a small portion of any kind of Spanish cuisine.
- **Caña** – a beer (a half pint) or caña pequeña (a quarter pint)
- **Birra** – beer!
- **Garito** – a bar or a pub
- **Vale** - Popular way to say okay or understood
- **Me mola / flipa** - Molar and flipar mean to be great, awesome, amazing. So if you have a favorite place, you might say, “Me mola mucho este lugar.”
- **Me renta (mazo)** – The same as the previous example with an addition! Mazo means “a lot”!
- **Un Tío / Una Tía** - Technically the Spanish word for “uncle”, but colloquially used as the word “dude” and is used typically when telling a story.
- **Picar algo** – grab something to eat
- **Ir a pachas** – splitting the bill
- **Chupao** – something really easy, a piece of cake!
- **Te dan las uvas** – hurry up! This expression comes from a New Year celebration tradition, check it out [here](#)

## THINGS TO SEE IN MÁLAGA

### 5 Sights to See:

- Cathedral - [Malaga's cathedral](#) is one of the city's main sights, and boasts a fascinating history of its own.
- [Mercado de Atarazanas](#) - This covered market is located in a stunning 19th century building with colorful stained-glass windows.
- Alcazaba - This beautiful building that's home to beautiful floral patios, orange trees and stunning Arabic architecture.
- Roman Theater - Malaga's Roman Theater dates back to the first century, although its existence was only discovered in the 1950s.
- [Museo de Málaga](#), [Museo Picasso](#), [Centre Pompidou](#) and [Carmen Thyssen Museum](#).

### 5 Things To Do:

- Explore the old streets in the historic centre.
- Palmeral de las Sorpresas & Muelle 1 - Walk by this harbourside promenade.
- Visit Pedregalejo and El Palo, fishermen's neighbourhoods where you can taste some 'espetos de sardinas' or Malaga's typical 'pescaito frito' (fried fish).
- Enjoy the sunset from a catamaran.
- Try a sweet wine at El Pimpi, a famous local restaurant.

### 5 Cultural Activities:

- Visit the [Picasso's Birthhouse Museum](#).
- Spend the Sunday morning at the Soho street market.
- Visit the [Cathedral rooftop](#).

- Visit the [Botanical Garden](#).
- Take a walk to Lagunillas neighbourhood, a street art district.

### 5 Nights Out:

- Sip cocktails in one of many breathtaking rooftop bars in the city center
- Watch a Flamenco show or, better yet, take a Flamenco class!
- Dance until dawn at nightclubs like Sala Gold or the ZZ pub if you like rock.
- Take a short salsa and bachata class (and party after) in many bars or clubs
- Eat delicious churros at the historic Casa Aranda.

### 5 Sports Activities:

- Practice kayak or paddle at the beach (even during the winter!).
- Do some fitness activities at an outdoor beachfront gym.
- Climb 'San Antón' mountain and take a selfie in the cross at the top.
- Cycle your way through Malaga's promenade.
- Do a trekking in the 'Montes de Málaga'

### 5 Sights Outside of Málaga:

- Take a day-trip to Ronda, a small town with a rich history.
- Visit el '[Caminito del Rey](#)' located in the Natural Park of the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes.
- Visit the nearby town of Nerja and go to see [the caves](#).
- Take a bus to Granada (1h30m) and visit the [Alhambra](#).
- Get lost in the 'Sierra de las Nieves' natural park.

## HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

Spain and the Málaga region celebrate a diverse range of annual festivals throughout the year. They range from traditional to contemporary and no matter when you plan your trip, there is always something going on. Here are just a few of the bigger ones:

MONTH	FESTIVALS
<b>January</b>	6th - Los Reyes Magos (The Three Kings)
<b>February</b>	11th to 19th - Carnaval (Carnival) 28th - Día de Andalucía
<b>March</b>	10th to 19th - Festival de Cine (Malaga Film Festival)
<b>April</b>	2nd to 9th - Semana Santa (Holy Week)
<b>May</b>	1st - Día de los Trabajadores (Labour day) 26th to 28th - Concurso de patios y corralones

<b>June</b>	23rd - Noche de San Juan (Midsummer)
<b>July</b>	16th - Procesión de la Virgen del Carmen
<b>August</b>	12th to 19th - Feria de Málaga
<b>September</b>	Pasarela Larios - Málaga Fashion week
<b>October</b>	12th - National Day of Spain La noche en Blanco 31st - Halloween
<b>November</b>	1st - Dia de todos los santos (All Saints day) 23rd - Final Copa Davis Encendido de luces de Navidad
<b>December</b>	Gran Feria de Sabor a Málaga Nochevieja

## Other Useful Information

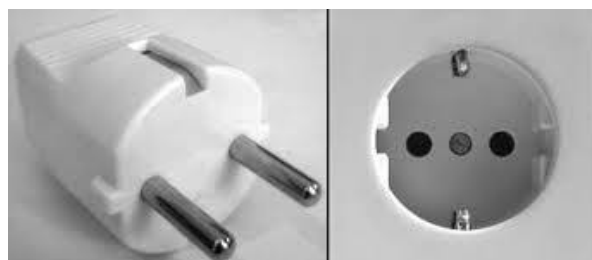
### SAFETY

Málaga is a very safe city in Europe. Nonetheless, students should practise street smarts to avoid any potential problems. Expanish conducts a safety orientation on the first day of classes to help keep students safe and healthy during their program. Here are some quick safety tips:

- Use a money belt for important documents and large amounts of cash.
- Carry a photocopy of passport at all times while leaving the original in a safe place.
- Be wary of pickpockets in crowded areas and on public transportation.
- Becoming intoxicated while out in the city makes students an easier target for thieves, so we advise students to drink moderately.

### ELECTRICITY

Spain uses 2 pronged round European plugs with 220 volts at 50 hertz. You can buy electrical adapters/converters at most hardware stores, pharmacies, and travel stores.



### STUDENT BUDGET

We understand that making a budget is an important step when planning your client's trip. In general, we recommend students to budget **200€ per week** for meals, snacks, cell phone data, transportation and miscellaneous incidentals.

### TIPPING

Tipping, although modest, is considered polite. It is custom to leave the small change behind to tour up to the nearest Euro or even at an extra Euro or two if the service was especially good. At upscale restaurants, tipping can be expected and is usually around 10%.

Note: Taxis are not customarily given a tip.

### CURRENCY

The currency in Spain is of course the Euro (€). It is always handy to have a bit of cash in euros when travelling but students can also easily use credit and debit cards at most grocery stores, restaurants and businesses.



## **INTERNET**

Wi-Fi is available for free almost anywhere in the city. Expanish has free Wi-Fi, our housing has guaranteed free Wi-Fi, most restaurants have free Wi-Fi and now public spaces do as well (parks, subway and bus stops, etc.).

## **CELL PHONES**

Expanish recommends that students bring an unlocked cell phone with them and just purchase a local SIM card for their phone. This costs around 15€ and includes data in an initial package.

## **POSTAL SERVICES**

If students would like to receive mail while abroad, please provide any friends and family with our Expanish office address. All mail can be sent to:

**Attn: Student Name**  
**c/o Expanish**  
**Calle Granada 23, 1<sup>a</sup> planta**  
**29015 Málaga**  
**Spain**

Please be advised that most larger packages may be held at customs where it can be time-consuming to obtain, so Expanish only recommends receiving letters and postcards.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The public transportation in Málaga is really good. Public buses run 24/7 and students can get anywhere in the city. You can use the bus card (price 5,50€ for 10 rides). There is also a subway system that runs from 6 am to 1:30 am and comes every 6 to 10 minutes or so. The Málaga metro card has a minimum price of 5€. Public transportation can be paid for by the ride (1.35 – 2.0€ per ride).

## **SHOPPING**

Retail stores are typically open:

- Monday to Friday – 10 am to 9 or 10 pm
- Saturday – 10 am to 9 or 10 pm
- Sunday – 10 am to 9 or 10 pm

Larger grocery stores are open 7 days per week as well as cafes and restaurants.

## **VISAS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

For detailed visa requirements, please re-confirm information with your local Spanish embassy/consulate as they will be able to provide accurate and up-to-date visa information. Students are responsible for their own legal status while studying.

Students with European Union member passports can enter Spain for any length of time without a visa.

Non-European Union students with programs of less than 90 days should enter the country on a tourist visa. Requirements for the tourist visa vary by country and should be consulted with a local embassy/consulate.

Non-European Union students with programs of 90 days or more will need to obtain a student visa before departure. Expanish can provide an enrollment confirmation as part of the required documents. In order to emit the document, Expanish requires the full payment for the program (including document courier fee). Upon payment, we will send an enrollment confirmation and send via courier directly to the student. The cancellation policy for denied visas or other reasons in this case can be found on our Terms & Conditions on our Price List. Visas typically take 8 weeks to process so students need to plan ahead. Visa information can be found on the Spanish Immigration website [HERE](#).