

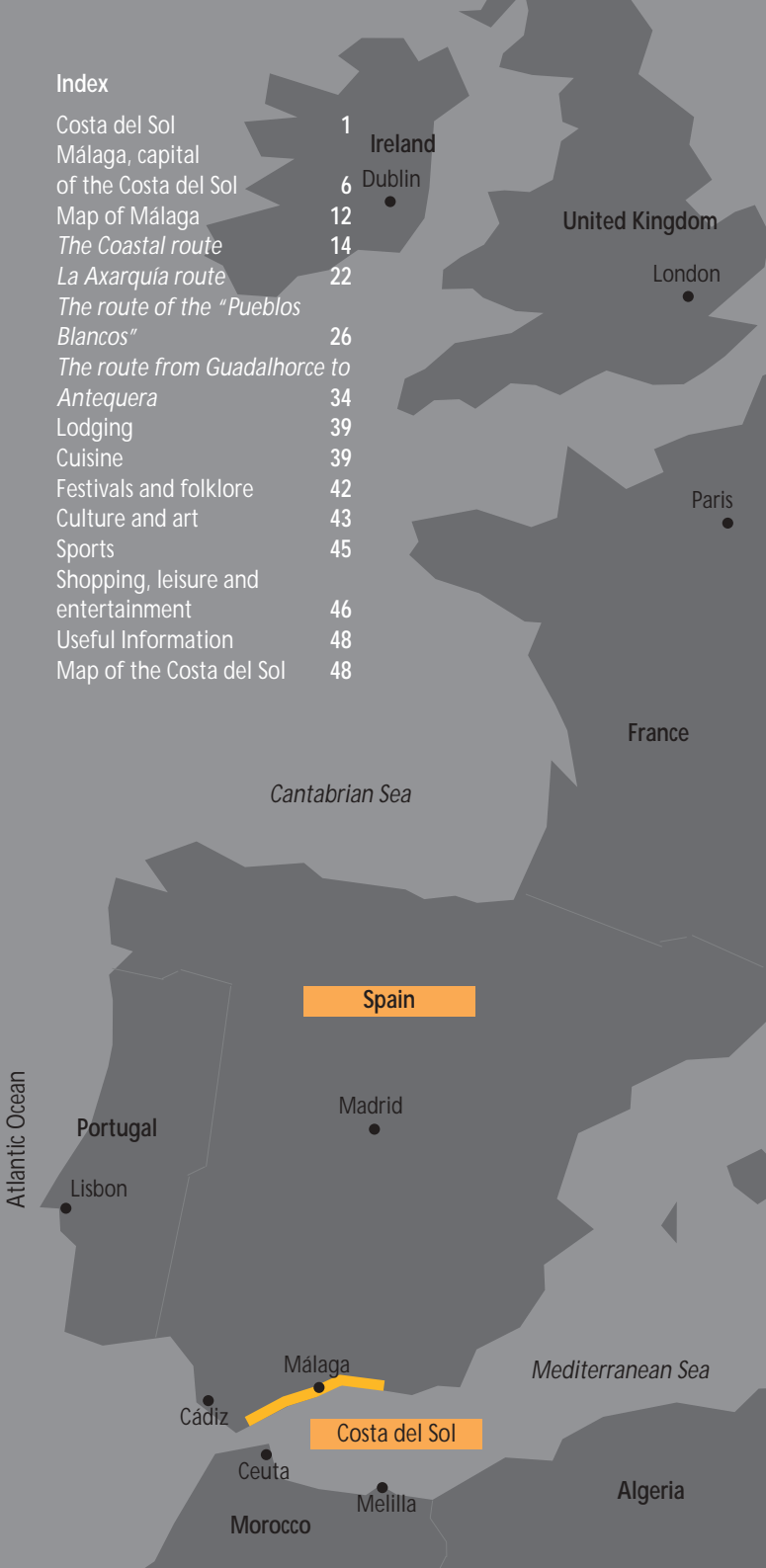
Málaga • Cádiz Spain

Costa del Sol



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Costa del Sol

The Costa del Sol or “Sun Coast”, one of the most attractive tourist destinations in the world due to its natural beauty and infrastructure, extends along the entire coast of the province of Málaga and the Mediterranean coast of Cádiz.

The section along the Mediterranean coast from Nerja to Sotogrande blends the beauty of its beaches with the rustic mountain countryside that protects the coast and provides it with a truly exceptional climate. Three hundred and twenty-five days of sunshine a

year and an average water temperature of eighteen degrees Centigrade (64°F) attract visitors all year round to the sun and shores.

From densely populated tourist areas to small secluded coves, the entire coastline is a marvel of clean, transparent waters and coveted blue flags, modern facilities and services, a wide variety of cultural and leisure activities, with a price range for every traveller.

Protecting the coast, like privileged watchmen standing guard over the Mediterranean

Fishing boats, Torrox





Castle, Olvera

sea, we find the mountains of Sierra Bermeja, Serranía de Ronda, Sierra de las Nieves, Sierra Blanca, Sierra de Alpujarra, Sierra de Mijas, Montes de Málaga, Sierra de Tejeda, and Sierra de Almiraj, offering rural tourism, hiking or simply the opportunity to become captivated by the peaceful life of Andalusian towns and the charming popular architecture.

The Costa del Sol is bordered by Costa Tropical or Granadan coast to the east, and Costa de la Luz to the west, the point

where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Mediterranean.

Travelling the various routes, such as **La Axarquía Route**, **Route of the Pueblos Blancos** (White Villages), Route of Islamic Málaga, Route of La Pasa, Route of Sun and Wine, and visiting places as fascinating as Antequera or Mijas, inland travel lovers will also find the Costa del Sol an authentic paradise where they can enjoy nature's attractions and follow the vestiges of its former cultures which received the early influence of other

Lucena Beach, Mijas



ancient civilizations, such as the Phoenicians, Greeks and Carthaginians.

The Roman Empire, throughout history, developed a vigorous trade along the coast and encouraged the sale of its products to other provinces, but it would be the Moorish culture, born of Islamic domination, that would provide a lasting imprint on its customs, way of life, popular architecture, surviving even today in numerous ordinary characteristics, as well as in the cuisine, and in the sensitivity towards both music and literature.

Sports enjoy a special distinction. Numerous beaches



and various marinas, among them the celebrated pleasure boat harbor of Puerto Banus, provide the Costa del Sol with an exceptional infrastructure for all activities related to the sea. Tennis and golf also deserve special mention. Tennis for the quantity and quality of the facilities available, and golf, with over forty well-equipped golf courses within a radius of about a hundred kilometers, is in itself one of the biggest international attractions, as evidenced by the Ryder Cup '97 Championship that was held at Valderrama golf course in Sotogrande, Cádiz.

Regional cooking, shopping, entertainment, and special events are also important attractions on the Costa del Sol. Along with the specialities of the area, among which products from the sea play an outstanding role, one finds a wide variety of restaurants and cuisines, from the famed international establishments to the popular beachside lean-tos or "chiringuitos", where you can sample freshly caught fish. Department stores, specialized shops and

Roman theater, Málaga



Marina, Estepona

sophisticated boutiques open their doors along the entire coast, offering the latest trends in apparel, gifts and handicrafts, while a world of dazzling lights and colors invades every corner when night approaches.

Nighttime on the Costa del Sol offers countless possibilities for entertainment, from dancing to drinks in a fashionable discotheque, typical flamenco music and dance, shows and attractions in theme parks or clubs, gambling at casinos, or simply sitting at an outdoor café by the seaside enjoying the Mediterranean breeze with the outline of the African coast in the distance.

The Costa del Sol, for the sheer magnitude of its resort complex, the variety of attractions, and the superb climate, is a unique destination where every visitor is able to choose among the myriad of options available with the certainty that reality will far surpass even the best expectations.

■ Málaga, capital of the Costa del Sol

Vicente Aleixandre, the distinguished Nobel prize-winning poet, described Málaga as the “City of paradise. You seem to reign under the heavens, over the waters, between the air”; a city in which different peoples and cultures have left an imprint of their rich historical and cultural heritage.

Málaga, fenced in by mountains and fractured by the mouth of the Guadalmedina river, looks upon the Mediterranean with its maritime vocation and medley of villages. The Phoenicians arrived by sea and founded the settlement of Malaka. From its port they ferried their products (fish, silk, figs, wines, raisins, almonds, etc.) throughout the Roman Empire, receiving from Rome Lex Flavia malacitana ensuring their privileges.

Under Arab domination it became one of the most important cities of the area, with a population of fifteen

thousand at the end of the 10th century. Capital of the Moorish Hammudí kingdom, it was a flourishing city when the famous traveller Ibn Batuta said in the 14th century that “it combined the advantages of both the inland and the seaside” .

The recapturing of Granada by Ferdinand, the Catholic Monarch, and the subsequent revolts leading to the expulsion of the Moors, seriously affected its development in the 16th and 17th centuries. Prosperous trade with America and improved communications turned it into one of the main commercial centers in Spain during the next century. The confrontation between the absolutists and liberals led in the second half of the 19th century to industrialization and an economic boom at the hand of the textile, and iron and steel industries. The decline of these industries at the end of the 19th century brought it to a lull from which it bounced back with more vigor than ever thanks to tourism starting in the 50's, consecrating it as capital of the sun and one of the most popular tourist destinations in Spain.

Málaga





Alcazaba, Málaga

City Visit

*In the old quarter of the city center, the complex consisting of the stronghold of the **Alcazaba (1)** and **Gibralfaro castle (2)** is undoubtedly the best preserved Arab monument. The castle, founded by Phoenicians and reconstructed as a defense of the city by the Moorish king Badis, rises on the highest hill and is connected to the Alcazaba fortress by a walled road.*

The Alcazaba, as palace-fortress of the rulers, was also connected to the city by ramparts. We enter the interior perimeter by Cristo tower to visit the Arms courtyard and tower. Through the gate of Puerta de los Cuartos de Granada, we arrive at the upper area where we encounter the keep, the Palace (part of which dates back to the 11th century

Church of San Juan, Málaga

and the rest from the 13th and 14th centuries) and also the Archeological section of the Málaga Museum.

Strolling along the nearby street called Calle Alcazabilla and its side streets among cypresses and fragrant purple



Cathedral, Málaga

*bougainvilleas, we find the **Roman theater (3)** and very close to it the building of the old **Customhouse (4)** and the **Cathedral (5)**, built by order of the Catholic Monarchs over an ancient mosque.*



Its construction lasted throughout three centuries and followed the original design of Diego de Siloé. Of interest in the interior are the choir stalls, carved principally by Pedro de Mena in the 17th century.

*The **Church of El Sagrario (6)**, with its Gothic-Isabelline doorway and altarpiece, as well as other churches scattered throughout the city, such as the **Church of Santiago (7)**,*



Church of Sagrado Corazón, Málaga

***San Juan (8)**, **Los Mártires (9)**, **Cristo de la Salud (10)**, and the **Shrine of La Victoria (11)** are other points of interest, as well as civil buildings, such as **Casa de Mena (12)** and **Villalcázar palace (13)**. The **palace of the counts of Buenavista (14)** and **Pablo Picasso House (15)**, located in the Plaza de la Merced, complete our tour through the center of the city.*

Practical Information

Distances: Madrid - 544 km.
Seville - 219 km. Algeciras - 139 km.

Altitude: Sea level

Population: 550,000 approximately
Beaches: 95

Road access: A-4, A-92, N-340,
Autovía Costa del Sol.

Airport: 9 km. west of Málaga in
the direction of Torremolinos.

☎ 95 204 84 84

Airlines:

Iberia - ☎ 95 213 61 65

Air Europa -

☎ 95 204 82 47

Autoexpreso:

☎ 95 212 82 25

Spanish National Railways: Renfe
Explanada Estación

☎ 95 236 02 02. A local line
connects Málaga with Fuengirola,
departing every 30 minutes
between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Boats to Melilla:

Compañía Trasmediterránea

☎ 95 222 43 91. Regular line
Monday, Wednesday and Friday in
winter, also Sunday
during summer.

Buses: Bus Station. Plaza de los
Tilos, ☎ 95 235 00 61

Tourist Information Office:

Oficina de Turismo de la Junta de
Andalucía. Pasaje Chinitas, 4

☎ 95 221 34 45

Oficina Municipal de Turismo.
Plaza de la Merced.

☎ 95 235 00 61

Patronato de Turismo de la
Costa del Sol.

Palacio de Congresos y
Exposiciones de la Costa del Sol
Calle México s/n. Torremolinos

☎ 95 205 86 94/ 95

www.costadelsol.sopde.es



Perhaps the most appealing part of Málaga resides in its typical streets and squares. A stroll through the gardens



Plaza Cánovas del Castillo

reminds us of the ancient Arab culture while the park, next to the port, is a large open-air museum with exotic specimens from all over the world. A charming music area can also be found. A walk down the Pasaje de Chinitas, in the heart of the city, is a typical sample of the enjoyable atmosphere.



*A quiet street
Town Hall
Consulate House
El Cenachero*

Málaga harbor





■ The coastal route

The Coastal Route from Nerja to Sotogrande along the Costa del Sol offers the traveller one hundred and fifteen kilometers of coastline with all the attractions typical of the sea, as well as the added allure of the countryside and the neighboring nature parks.

Mijas





Roman aqueduct, Maro



If as our starting point we take the eastern most point at the border between the provinces of Granada and Málaga, we will find at kilometer 297 of the N-340 coastal highway the **Maro-Cerro Gordo** nature park, an impressive headland with its tower and huge cliffs covered with mastic trees above which flocks of sea gulls fly.

Nearby is **Nerja** with its attractive old village, its beaches between cliffs, the Balcony of Europe, a lookout high over the sea, and the famous cave also known as the Prehistoric Cathedral with almost two kilometers of floodlit caverns open to the public, boasting enormous vaults, haunting figures and Paleolithic cave paintings.

Continuing along the same road, we reach **Torre del Mar** (21 Km.), travelling through the coastal areas of the towns of La Axarquía, such as **Torrox** and **Algarrobo**, where ruins of a Roman settlement may be visited at the mouth of the Torrox river and a wide variety of wines of the region from dry to sweet can be sampled. Torre del Mar has experienced recent prosperity from tourist development and little is left to remind us of the fortified city where it once served as lookout for **Vélez Málaga**. Not too far away, we encounter the interesting Phoenician settlement of Toscanos and the Garden necropolis, at the mouth of the Vélez river.

Skirting along the coast, we come to **Rincón de la Victoria**,

about 18 kilometers away. It is a typical tourist town close to the capital, with a lovely beach and warm water.

Málaga, at the mouth of the Guadalmedina and Guadalhorce rivers, lies in a depression and maintains a maritime vocation from ancient times, with its port, its Paseo Marítimo devoted to the immortal artist Picasso, and its well-known beaches called *playas del Palo*.

From Málaga, capital of the Costa del Sol, our journey brings us to a stretch of coastline which has experienced the greatest tourist growth in Spain during the last thirty years.

Málaga





Benalmádena



La Carihuela Beach, Torremolinos

Twelve kilometers from the capital, **Torremolinos** is the leading force behind tourism in the area. Repopulated after its reconquest by the Catholic Monarchs in 1489, the origin of the tourist industry may be found with the English Castle, which in the 1920's took in veterans from World War I. The castle keep and the fishermen's district of **La Carihuela**, with restaurants specializing in

"pescaito frito" (mixed fried fish), are the main attractions.

As Torremolinos burgeoned in the 60's, overcrowding caused the boom of other nearby spots along the coast, such as **Benalmádena**, six kilometers away, which has also experienced surprising growth on the coast, as well as Arroyo de la Miel, a little inland. The marina, hub of nightlife, **Torrequebrada** casino, which takes its name from the nearby watchtower, and Tivoli amusement park, patterned after the one in Copenhagen, offer a wide variety of sports and leisure activities, as well as entertainment.

Fuengirola is another example of a bustling town devoted to tourism of sun and sand. Of

interest are the historical vestiges, such as Sohayl castle, the “termas” or hot springs, and Villa Romana, an interesting museum of painting on adjoining walls of buildings, and the mandatory trip to **Mijas**, a truly picturesque mountain village.

Marbella, some 50 kilometers from the capital, is undeniably the main international tourist attraction on the Costa del Sol. At the foot of Sierra Blanca and situated on a beautiful bay, the town has



Marina, Fuengirola

overcome a lull in its development and offers high quality facilities. The colorful old quarter, the attention given to its streets and beaches, the surprising variety

and distinction of the housing developments have spawned the name of the golden triangle for the financial power generated here. Very well-known is **Puerto Banús**, frequented by magnates from all over the world, as well as the beaches of **San Pedro de Alcántara**, today annexed by Marbella.

A short distance inland, we find **Istán**, spring of the Costa del Sol and **Ojén**, an ecological paradise. **Estepona**, the Phoenician *Astapa*, was the center of important naval and land battles during the Middle Ages. Protected from winds by Sierra Bermeja, it has a typically Mediterranean village center, a notable marina, and a well-known nudist beach, Costa Natura, in Arroyo Vaquero.

Before arriving at Manilva, sentinel of the coast, past sprawling housing developments and enchanting beaches, we turn off at **Casares** at kilometer 146 of the N-340. Fourteen kilometers further along, we reach the mountain village where Blas Infante, father of Andalusianism, was born.

Puerto Banús, Marbella





Marina, Sotogrande

Manilva, 94 kilometers from Málaga, rounds off this coastal route before arriving at **Sotogrande** where Costa de la Luz begins. Perched on a hill presiding over seven kilometers of beaches, it boasts a castle and Sabinillas beaches, around which a recreational complex including housing developments, golf courses, and a marina has been built.

Here we also find ruins of an old fortress. Founded by order of Julius Caesar, it has been declared an historic-artistic complex which includes the Church of La Encarnación, tower of la Sal, and an archeological area.

Casares



Practical Itinerary

The coastal route begins on the N-340 coastal highway (Almería-Málaga) in the direction of Málaga. Bypassing Málaga, we take the Costa del Sol Autovía, an expressway leading to the western part of the coast.

Málaga airport is located 9 kilometers from the city, close to Torremolinos, and is the main air traffic center in the area.

Málaga is also the best connected point for visiting this route, either by bus

(**Bus Station**, Plaza de los Tilos,

 95 235 00 61) or by train

(**Railway Station** Estación

Ferrocarril.

Explanada de la Estación,

 95 236 02 02)


Tourist Information

Turismo Andaluz S.A.

International Center for
Tourism of Andalusia,

 95 283 87 85

Patronato de Turismo de la
Costa del Sol,


 95 205 86 94/95

Tourist Offices

Málaga: Pasaje de Chinitas, 4

 95 221 34 45

Málaga Airport,

 95 204 84 84, ext. 58617

Málaga Town Hall:

“Casita del Jardinero”

Avenida de Cervantes

 95 260 44 10

Benalmádena Costa:

Carretera de Cádiz, km. 220

 95 235 00 61

Estepona:

Avenida de San Lorenzo

 95 280 20 02

Fuengirola: Avenida Jesús

Santos Rein, 6

 95 246 76 25

Marbella: Glorieta de la

Fontanilla-Paseo Marítimo

 95 277 14 42

Puerto Banús


 95 281 74 74

Nerja: Puerta del Mar, 2

 95 252 15 31

San Pedro de Alcántara

Avenida Marqués del Duero, 69

 95 278 52 52

Torre del Mar

Avenida de Andalucía, 119

 95 254 11 04

Torremolinos: Plaza de las

Comunidades Autónomas

 95 237 19 09

Torrox Costa

Centro Internacional, bloque 79

 95 253 02 25



■ La Axarquía route

“Good water and healthy air, good land for producing silk and many raisins and fermented juice”, this was La Axarquía for the 17th century writer, Henríquez de Jorquera. A land east of Málaga, extending from the division formed by the mountain ranges of Sierra Alhama, Tejada and Almijara in the province of Granada.



Following the path of the great 14th century traveller Ibn Batuta, we penetrate into the region of **La Axarquía**. Its history recalls the essence of the Moorish legacy, as it was here in this region that the kingdom of Granada won its last battle from the Christians before being recaptured by the Catholic Monarchs.

Leaving the Malagan beaches of El Palo and Pedregalejo behind us, we arrive at **Rincón de la Victoria**, a tourist spot frequented by Malagans. Coastal fishing for sardines, anchovies and other small fish, usually eaten right on the beach, has become quite popular. From here and after visiting the cave paintings at Higuero cave, we turn off onto a local road to **Macharaviaya**, birthplace of the Gálvez family, conquistadors and generous patrons.

We return to the coast to get to **Torre del Mar**, a very popular tourist enclave and from here, a few kilometers inland, we reach **Vélez Málaga**, capital of La Axarquía where the Roman Mainoba once settled.

From here, we observe how the region rests on a gigantic amphitheater of more than one thousand square kilometers, a great arena of mountainous land that slopes towards the sea.

Perched on Veas hill, Vélez Málaga castle-fortress gives its name to the city whose old quarter is considered an historic-artistic complex, presided over by Santa María la Mayor, a parish church constructed in the Gothic-Mudejar style on the site of an ancient mosque.

Other noteworthy religious architecture includes the Convents of San Francisco, Las Claras and Las Carmelitas, and the Churches of San Juan Bautista, San José de la Soledad, and its famous street chapels. The most notable civil architecture includes the Casa de Cervantes and Hospital of San Marcos in the historic city center which also deserves to be discovered and admired in its own right.

Vélez Málaga is the point of departure for a route which



Nerja cave

will take us on a journey through various enchanting little villages. To the west, we will pass through Benamocarra and Benamargosa before we come to **Comares** situated on the crest of a mountain which preserves a typical Moorish appearance with steep narrow

streets; **Viñuela** with archeological finds dating from Neolithic to Roman times; and **Alcaucín** with castle and baths. In the surroundings, we have **Cutar**, **El Borgue** and **Almáchar** with their wine-presses and subtropical fruits.

To the east, through the rolling countryside and between Andalusian farms, the dazzling sight of small villages with their Arab architecture await where the imprints of a Moorish past can be discovered, for example, in the minarets of **Árchez** and **Salares** or the traces of different religions in the circular cemetery of **Sayalonga**, the hermitage of San Sebastián in **Algarrobo**, and Holy Week in **Riogordo**.

Villages where nature carves the most impressive scenery include **Cómpeta** with its graceful tower and multi-colored hamlet, and **Canillas**, among the valleys of the Vélez and Rubite rivers.

Torrox, on the coast, was the birthplace of Caudillo Almanzor and center of the silk industry in Nasrid times, and **Nerja**, at the eastern border of the Costa del Sol, with its lovely town center, its beaches, and famous Dolomitic cave.



Cómputa

Inland from Nerja, a short distance to the north is the village of **Frigiliana**. Its prehistoric necropolis of Cerillo de las Sombras and the abrupt terrain, site of one of the last battles between Moors and Christians, preserves one of the purest Arab structures of La Axarquía.

Frigiliana

Practical Itinerary

From Málaga to Torre del Mar on the N-340 (30 km.). In Torre del Mar turn off at the C-335 for Vélez Málaga (4 km.). From Vélez Málaga, within a 50 kilometer radius, it is only a short distance to the most important towns of the region on the local roads though the beautiful countryside.

Tourist Information

Nerja

Puerta del Mar, 2

☎ 95 252 15 31

Torre del Mar

Avenida de Andalucía, 119

☎ 95 254 11 04

Torrox

Centro Internacional, bloque 79

☎ 95 253 02 25





Espera (Cádiz)



■ The route of the “Pueblos Blancos” (white villages)

Situated in the provinces of Málaga and Cádiz, between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and in a mountainous area where the Bético, Ronda and Cádiz mountain ranges converge, the “Pueblos Blancos” make up one of the most beautiful routes for admiring popular Andalusian architecture.

Geographical locations on the tops of mountains, on slopes, or in ravines allow the landscapes to dominate, appearing on the horizon like white spots against a backdrop of oak trees, Spanish firs, or pine groves.

Steep narrow streets, passageways leading to courtyards and dwellings, propped-up facades, and tile roofs over dazzling white-washed walls, form a unique assembly often clustering around a castle for protection in the Medieval



struggle between Arabs and Christians. A number of itineraries may be followed. A good starting point is **Ronda**, the charismatic city of Celtic origin, perched more than seven hundred meters overlooking an imposing ravine that divides it in two. Several of the gateways to the city are preserved in good condition including the Almocábar (13th century), Puerta de los Molinos giving access to the Arab medina (town), and Puerta de Carlos V. The San Francisco district preserves all the Moorish design and in the lower part of the city, we find the Arab baths, the structure



Ronda



Bullring, Ronda

almost intact (13th-14th century). An impressive historic enclave boasts more than 70 houses including the palace of Salvatierra, Casa del Gigante, Casa de Mondragón and Casa del Rey Moro. The religious

monuments of interest include the Church of Santa María la Mayor, convent of Santo Domingo, and minaret of San Sebastián. The Plaza de Toros (Bullring), which dates back to the days of Philip II, makes this a mandatory stop. Twelve kilometers away, we encounter the Roman city of Acinipo, also called Ronda la Vieja, which dates from the second century.

From Ronda, the southern route takes us to **Montejaque** and nearby Hunidero cave, where the waters of the Gadares river disappear and reappear nine kilometers farther down in the Cave of the Cat in the township of **Benaoján**, with its watchtower,

Ronda ravine

Church of the Rosario, and Pileta caves, with their Paleolithic cave paintings.

Crossing the Guadiaro river, we approach **Jimena de Libar** which has an ancient Roman-Arab castle. We proceed by Atajate; **Benadalid** with the



Palace of the Marquis of Salvatierra, Ronda

oldest castle in the region; **Algotocín** with Roman ruins, and **Cortes de la Frontera** boasting a magnificent square, the Church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario, Casa de los Valdenebro, and the Town Hall.

The northern and western route situates us in **Setenil de las Bodegas**, where popular architecture melts into the surroundings with its houses hewn in the walls of the

ravine. The castle-fortress from Moorish times and Gothic Church of La Encarnación are the most representative monuments. From here, passing through **Alcalá del Valle** and **Alhauquime**, we come to **Olvera**. The village emerges like a great white pyramid crowned by an Arab castle from the 12th century. The Church of San José is also visible. Nearby, we find the rock of Zaframagón, an important ecological reserve.

Going towards the west, we encounter **Algodonales**, surrounded by olive trees and orchards, contrasting with the white-washed houses. We will take the route of **Zahara de la Sierra**,



Algotocín

founded by the Arabs in the 8th century and presently declared a National Monument. The typical uneven streets of Zahara, the 12th century Moorish castle, and Baroque Church of Santa María de Mesa can be enjoyed on a walking tour. A splendid view of Grazalema Nature Park can be admired from the castle. On the road towards **Grazalema**, a path to the



Zahara de la Sierra



Olvera

right leads to "Garganta Verde", a gorge with an impressive cave known as Ermita de la Garganta. After ascending Puerto de las Palomas (1,357 meters), we arrive at Grazalema, embraced by the Pinar and Endrinal mountain ranges. A place of ancient Roman and Arab settlements, its artistic heritage is centered around the Churches of La Encarnación

and La Aurora (17th century). We proceed afterwards to **Villaluenga del Rosario**, the highest town in the region, to reach **Ubrique**, perched on the almost vertical slopes of the Algarrobal hill, and famous for its leather goods. It has an important religious heritage as shown in the 16th century Church of San Antonio, convent of los Capuchinos, Church of Nuestra Señora de la O, and Church of San Pedro, presently a library. To the east of El Bosque, we find **Benamahoma** with its grove of native Spanish firs, growing in very isolated areas. **El Bosque**, white and luminous, is a lovely village with ideal spots for trout fishing.

Villamartín, the next stop on our route, has interesting examples of civil architecture, including the Palace of los Ríos, Casa de los Topete, as



Grazales

well as religious buildings, such as the 16th century Church of Las Virtudes, and Churches of San Francisco and Las Angustias.

Before reaching **Bornos**, we can visit the Roman ruins of

Carissa Aurelia and Bornos reservoir. Its monuments include the Castle-Palace of Los Ribera, Casa de Ordóñez, and the religious architectural assemblage made up of the 16th century Church of Santo Domingo, La Sagra school, hermitage of El Calvario, and convent of Corpus Christi.

Leaving to our right the route leading to **Espera**, another attractive mountain town, we arrive in **Arcos de la Frontera**, the end of our route and archetype of the "Pueblos Blancos". Site of Roman, Visigoth and Arab settlements, the town of Arcos has one of the most spectacular old quarters in Spain.

Bornos





Arcos de la Frontera

There are many monuments to visit, including the 15th century Gothic-Mudejar Church of Santa María, the Castle of the Dukes, former residence of Moorish kings, Casa de Belén, Convents of San Francisco, San Agustín, and La Encarnación, and other religious monuments, such as the Churches of San Pedro, La Caridad, San Juan de Dios, and La Misericordia.

Practical Itinerary

Access from San Pedro de Alcántara by the C-339 to Ronda (49 km.).

By a local road to Setenil until reaching N-342 (23 km.) and arriving in Olvera. By said road to Algodonales (17 km.) and from here by local roads to Zahara (7 km.), Grazalema (13 km.), El Bosque (17 km.), El Prado del Rey (7 km.) and Villamartín (12 km.). Returning to the N-342 to get to Bornos (8 km.) and Arcos de la Frontera (13 km.).

Railway Station: Ronda

Avenida Andalucía

☎ 95 287 16 73

Bus Station: Ronda (Plaza Concepción García Redondo, 2

☎ 95 287 26 57)

Olvera (Cabrera Menacho

☎ 956 13 04 92)

Arcos de la Frontera

(Los Amarillos. Alcaldes, s/n

☎ 956 70 02 57)

Tourist Information

Arcos de la Frontera

Plaza del Cabildo

☎ 956 70 22 64

Benaoján

☎ 95 216 71 03

El Bosque

☎ 956 71 60 63

Cortes de la Frontera

Camino de la Estación

☎ 95 215 43 45

Grazalema

Plaza de España, 11

☎ 956 13 22 25

Ronda

Plaza de España, 1

☎ 95 287 12 72



■ The route from Guadalhorce to Antequera

Following the course of the Guadalhorce river, the route from Antequera to Málaga winds through places of unique and spectacular beauty.



Torcal de Antequera



Taking Málaga as our reference point, we go in the direction of the villages of La Hoya by the orange-blossom route starting in **Alhaurín el Grande** which can be reached by way of the coast or via Cártama. Alhaurín, Roman *Lauro Nova*, shows the

imprints of ancient civilizations that included Iberians, Tyrians, Phoenicians and Romans. Situated on the northern slope of Sierra de Mijas and spilling into the valley of Guadalhorce, its most notable monuments are the Town Hall, Church of



Antequera

Nuestra Señora de La Encarnación, and Palace of Montellano. The most important festivals are held during Holy Week when the brotherhoods of “verdes” and “moraos” rival in their processions.

Coín, a short distance to the west, known for its lovely castle, also boasts beautiful churches and fountains, a strong pottery tradition, and the legend of the apparition on its soil of the Virgin of Fuensanta in the 15th century.

Continuing the route, we can return to Cártama in order to reach **Álora** (34 km.) by a road lined with lemon trees.

The village is set among rolling hills, and the town center is a

La Menga Cave, Antequera

succession of steep slopes leading to an Arab castle where the fertile valley of the Guadalhorce can be viewed in all its splendor. From here, we can make two interesting side trips and follow the road to **Carratraca**, with its 19th century spa, and see **Ardales**, on the banks of the Turón river, with its Medieval castle.

The second trip will take us to the ruins of Bobastro (a Mozarab church excavated in rock) and “garganta del Chorro”, a gorge with a magnificent landscape and caves with ancient paintings.

We will return to Álora to get to **Antequera** (34 km.). Antequera is the heart of the Andalusian land, on the route from Seville to Granada and on the road from Málaga to Córdoba. All the civilizations have converged here since prehistoric times, thus producing one of the richest monumental groupings in



Andalucía. City of white churches and Gongorists (Gerardo Diego), which was the Madina Antakira almost impregnable under Arab domination, invites us to visit the Granada gate, arch of the Giants, and the castle with the keep.

The Christian heritage is patent in the Royal Collegiate Church of Santa María la Mayor, Churches of San Sebastián, Santo Domingo, San José, San Pedro, La Encarnación, and El Carmen, among others, and the Municipal Museum which boasts collections of painting, sculpture, and gold and silverworks.

Thirteen kilometers to the south, Torcal de Antequera, with more than a thousand hectares, is one of the most spectacular spots in Andalusia. Time and water have eroded unusual forms in the rocks of this Nature Park formed by a karstic mass of amazing beauty.

Practical Itinerary

Access by road from Málaga on the motorway towards the airport. At the junction of Churriana, take the C-344 until Alhaurín el Grande and Coín. From there, a local road to the junction of Estación de Cártama and by the C-337 to Álora and Antequera.

Railway station. Antequera (Renfe. Avenida de la Estación, s/n

☎ 95 284 32 26)

Bus Station with various regular lines to different destinations (Calle Campillo Alto).

Tourist Information

Antequera

Plaza de San Sebastián, 7

☎ 95 270 25 05

Practical Information

AHRA. Asociación de Hoteles Rurales de Andalucía (Association of Rural Hotels of Andalusia) ☎/fax 957 53 80 96

RAAR. Red Andaluza de Alojamientos Rurales (Andalusian Network of Rural Lodging)

☎ 950 26 50 18, fax 950 27 04 31
Tourism and Development (Málaga Provincial Authority),

☎ 95 260 28 80

Asociación de Promoción Turística de La Axarquía (Association for the Promotion of Tourism of La Axarquía)

☎ 95 254 28 08

Paradores de Turismo (Tourist Inns) deserve special mention due to their privileged locations and facilities. On the Costa del Sol, we find both the Málaga del Golf (☎ 95 238 12 55) and the Parador de Nerja (☎ 95 252 00 50) on the ocean. The Málaga-Gibralfaro is perched on a spot overlooking the beautiful city and has been recently remodeled (☎ 95 222 19 02)

The Parador de Antequera boasts comfortable facilities (☎ 95 284 09 01) and the ones in Ronda (☎ 95 287 75 00) and Arcos de la Frontera (☎ 956 70 05 00), on the route of the "Pueblos Blancos", are located in areas of great natural beauty.



■ Lodging

The Costa del Sol has a wide variety of hotels, tourist inns, apartments, camping sites, tourist villas, and rural houses allowing visitors to find



comfortable accommodations in the desired price range. During high season, which includes the months of July, August and September, it is necessary to make reservations well in advance.

The coastal region, from Nerja to Sotogrande, abounds with hotels, apartments, residential villas, and camping sites, while inland, rural tourist facilities are common, including charming little hotels. Information may be found at tourist information points.

■ Cuisine

For many centuries Andalusia has been a land of different cultures, center of maritime trade, and port to the Indies. Its land of great contrasts and changes in landscape and climate gives rise to a cuisine as wide in variety as it is rich in flavors.

From the deluxe restaurants of Marbella to the "chiringuitos" on the beach, or the mountain cooking of La Axarquía and the "Pueblos Blancos", the cuisine along the Costa del Sol keeps



the influence of former cultures alive; the Phoenician style of salting, Roman appreciation for oils and garlic, and Arab cuisine which helped agriculture and garden products flourish.

The strong contrast between the coast and inland is also evident in the cuisine. Coastal Málaga looks to the sea and revels in the freshly caught fish

and seafood, cooked with unique and special skill, such as the "pescaito frito" (mixed fried fish), grilled or marinated fish, anchovies, red mullet, squid,



and sardines. Rice dishes also occupy a privileged place in Mediterranean cuisine with endless varieties combined with fish and seafood.

Cold vegetable soups or "gazpachos" acquire their own identity in this region, especially in the region of La Axarquía. The splendid garden produce of Vélez Málaga makes for delicious dishes, such as "ajoblanco" (chilled white garlic-almond soup), "ajobacalao" (with salted cod), "sopa Maimones" (Arab soup of garlic, bread and olive oil, sometimes with ham), "ropa vieja", and pastry such as "tortas de aceite" (pastry biscuits made with oil), and "mostachones" (S-shaped biscuits, often with nuts). The "porra antequerana" is a very thick type of "gazpacho".

Hunting and fishing also influence the cuisine of the mountain regions. Trout from El Bosque, rabbit stew, pork sausages, celery salads and green cabbage are some of the specialties of the "Pueblos Blancos".

We also find, especially in the inland areas, a rich traditional cuisine abounding in stews and thick vegetable soups, pork products, and pastoral recipes, with its simple country cooking, which gives us products such as goat cheese from Estepona, liver pastoral-style, or "gachas" (gruel).



To all of this must be added the influence of both Arab and Jewish cultures in the wide variety of subtle and splendid treats that can transport one to the world of "A Thousand and One Nights". Crumbly little cakes called "mantecados" and "polvorones" of Antequera, "alfajores" (almond-and-honey candy), "batatillas" in honey, as well as almond soup from

Ronda are some of the sweetest examples we can enjoy throughout the region. This appealing cuisine is not only present at the dinner table at home or in a restaurant, but also at the hour of the "tapeo", a pleasant Spanish custom of bar-hopping or "grazing", enjoying life to the fullest in the company of friends while delighting in good conversation and a variety of succulent tidbits, where the essence of Andalusia shines. Accompanied by a glass of sherry, this delightful custom brings out the vast culinary repertoire of this southern land.

Fruits also deserve special mention. From time immemorial, they have been associated with the Costa del Sol. Grapes, raisins, pomegranates, and figs from these coasts once travelled throughout the entire Roman Empire and lately, subtropical fruits, such as avocados, cherimoyas or custard apples are also grown in the eastern part of the Costa del Sol.

Wine is the perfect accompaniment for such a rich assortment of dishes. The wines of the region are the famous sweet wines of Málaga. "Moscatel", "pajarete", "campanilla", and "pedrito" are some of the varieties, but visitors can also sample some of



the other wines from neighboring Cádiz, without which bar-hopping would not be complete.

"Fino" (dry, light, pale yellow sherry), "manzanilla" (dry delicate sherry), and "oloroso" (dark golden full-bodied sherry) or "amontillado" (amber medium-dry sherry), more colorful and sweet, are indispensable culinary accompaniments in these Andalusian lands.

Gastronomy is inseparable from the joy of life. And because of this, festivals and celebrations devoted to food and drink abound, such as the Festival of the Ajoblanco in **Almachar** in August; Festival of the Harvest in **Antequera** also in August; Day of the "Pescaíto" in **Torremolinos**; Festival of las Migas y los Vinos in **Torrox** in December, Festival of the Raisin in the region of **La Axarquía** held in September.

■ Festivals and folklore

It is not unusual to run into some type of colorful “Fiesta” or exciting “Feria” on the Costa del Sol. Many are related to religious observances and include processions. Holy Week is the first grand celebration which holds a special significance in Málaga, Ronda and Riogordo with its traditional display of the passion of Christ by the townspeople. Brotherhoods, religious images, bearers of stages in the Passion of Christ, religious songs, a spectacle born of the religious fervor of the people. “The blessing of Christ” during the early morning of Good Friday maintains a special



Holy Week

significance in **Arcos de la Frontera**.

The Cruces de Mayo, a springtime celebration, still preserves the tradition of adorning the squares and corners of the town with flowers. **Casabermeja, Coín** and

Torrox celebrate this traditional festival today.

Romerías (pilgrimages or visits to nearby shrines), a deep-seated Andalusian tradition, have their expression in those celebrated in **Estepona** and **Nerja** in the middle of May. The maritime tradition gives rise to the festivities such as San Bernabé in **Marbella** in June, the Fiestas Mayores in **Estepona** or the Virgen del Carmen on the entire coast in July which is joined to the “Day of the Fish Fry” in **Torremolinos** in June. **Benalmádena** also celebrates another important day on the Spanish calendar which is Corpus Christi.

Associated with the rites of the harvest, we have the festivals of **Antequera** and **Almachar** in August with their “Fiesta de la Recolección” and “Fiesta del Ajoblanco”, “La Asunción” in **Cómpeta** and the September celebrations of San Miguel in **Vélez Málaga** and **Torremolinos**. The Festival of the Raisin in **Alcaucín** and **El Borge** in September, has a special significance in the lands of La Axarquía. Along another line, we need to highlight the Summer Festival of Music and Dance in **Nerja** in August, and the Day of the Tourist in **Torremolinos**, at the beginning of September.

For their originality and connection with the

Mediterranean, the Festival of Moors and Christians in **Benalauría** at the beginning of August must be mentioned. Closing the series are the festivals of the Rosario in **Fuengirola** at the beginning of October, "Fiesta de la Virgen de los Rondeles" in **Casarabonela** in December, as well as "Fiesta de las Migas y los Vinos" in **Torrox**, and Festival of "verdiales" in **Málaga** held on Innocents' Day, is the culmination of the celebrations.



Los Verdiales

The verdiales and malagueñas have a special significance in the folklore of the region. The "verdiales" are ancient fandangos which today maintain all their vitality and color, born in the Partido de Verdiales of the Montes de Málaga. They are accompanied by primitive two-string violins, guitars, cymbals, tambourines, and kitchen utensils, such as mortars or bottles. The sound of castanets marks the rhythm of singers' voices.

■ Culture and art

All cultural manifestations have their place, as well as a brilliant setting on the Costa del Sol. Music is an important part of all fairs which often feature live performances by well-known singers; the Flamenco Festival of **Mijas** in July, and in August, Festival Flamenco de lo Rancio in **Ronda**, the Flamenco Festival in **Ojén** and the "Feria" of **Malagá**. Málaga displays a handsome array of color and the townspeople's participation during its "Ferias" where the typical folklore must be highlighted. Throughout the year, a series of concerts which includes "Bands of Music" (spring), "Andalusian artists" (August), "Young Music" (fall) and "Young Artists" (December) have an active musical program for all tastes. **Nerja's** International Festival of Music and Dance has as a backdrop the famous prehistoric cave during the month of July, and each year hosts special events with distinguished international stars. Ronda hosts "fiestas" in honor of Pedro Romero with a singular Goyesque bullfight.

Films have always had a special significance on the Costa del Sol. Movies are filmed here, distinguished directors and actors reside here, and special



Arqueological Museum, Antequera

events are celebrated here also, such as the Festival of Speleological Cinema in **Fuengirola**, the International Comedy Film Festival in **Torremolinos** held during January; the Amateur Films Contest in **Marbella** in July; Week of Scientific Films in **Ronda** during the month of October, and the recently inaugurated International Film Festival at **Puerto Banús**.

Theater and dance also enjoy special prominence in the already mentioned International Festival of Music and Dance in **Nerja**, and in Andalusian Theater Week, held in August in **Ronda**. Torremolinos also schedules International Ballroom Dance Contests. Cultural institutions, such as the Picasso Foundation and the Cultural Center of the Generation of '27 in **Málaga**, hold other important cultural events in connection with painting and literature.

Different forms of art can be admired in the various museums on the Costa del Sol. Highlighting a few in **Málaga**, we have the Archeological museum (☎ 95 221 60 65), Provincial Museum of Fine Arts (☎ 95 221 83 82), Cathedral Museum (☎ 95 221 59 17), Arte Sacro Museum (☎ 95 222 25 52), Popular Arts Museum (☎ 95 221 71 37), the Aquarium (☎ 95 222 92 87), and Holy Week Museum (Expiración, ☎ 95 226 02 71).

Antequera also has an Archeological Museum (☎ 95 270 40 25), a Municipal Museum (☎ 95 270 07 26), Picasso Museum (☎ 95 221 50 05), and Bullfighting Museum.

In Ronda, we find the interesting Bullfighting Museum located at the Bullring (☎ 95 287 41 32) and an Archeological Museum (☎ 95 287 84 50).

Benalmádena has a Municipal Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, and in Marbella we find the Museum of Spanish Engraving (☎ 95 282 50 35), and in Nerja, a new Archeological Museum.

■ Sports

The Costa del Sol is a paradise for sports. Its privileged climate and excellent facilities not only attract the amateurs but also numerous professionals with the possibility of practicing their favorite sport or training for a championship.

Water sports occupy a prominent place along the entire coastline. More than a dozen yacht clubs are scattered along the coast, from Nerja to Sotogrande, as well as many



marinas. The following is a partial list: Real Club Mediterráneo of Málaga (☎ 95 221 63 11), Puerto Deportivo of Benalmádena (☎ 95 244 30 47), Puerto Deportivo of Fuengirola (☎ 95 246 80 00), Puerto Deportivo of Marbella (☎ 95 277 57 00), Puerto Deportivo of Puerto Banús (☎ 95 290 98 00) and Puerto Deportivo La Duquesa in Manilva (☎ 95 289 01 00).

Information about water sports activities may be requested from Federación Andaluza de Pesca Deportiva (Sport Fishing) (☎ 957 32 64 89), Federación Andaluza de Vela (Sailing) (☎ 956 85 22 39), Federación Andaluza de Actividades Subacuáticas (Subaquatic Activities) (☎ 950 25 21 13), Federación Andaluza de Piragüismo (Canoeing) (☎ 956 25 21 87) and Federación Andaluza de Remo (Rowing) (☎ 95 422 66 62).

Golf is unquestionably king of sports on the Costa del Sol. Some forty golf courses provide the densest infrastructure in Europe and the most modern in design and facilities. Some of the golf courses are listed below:

Club de Campo of Málaga (☎ 95 237 66 77), Alhaurín Golf (☎ 95 259 59 70), Golf Torrequebrada in Benalmádena (☎ 95 244 27 42), Club Mijas Golf-Los Lagos (☎ 95 247 68 43),



Golf Miraflores (☎ 95 283 73 83),
Marbella Golf (☎ 95 283 05 00),
Los Naranjos Golf
(☎ 95 281 52 06),
La Quinta Golf (☎ 95 276 23 90),
Estepona Golf (☎ 95 211 30 81),
La Duquesa Golf
(☎ 95 289 07 25) and
Club de Golf Sotogrande
(☎ 956 79 50 50).

Tennis has become one of the most important sports on the Costa del Sol. Hosting international championships has helped the area acquire fame and prestige among tennis players around the world. A few of the existing tennis clubs are: Club de Tenis of Málaga (☎ 95 229 10 92), Club Manolo Santana of Marbella (☎ 95 282 61 03), Club de Tenis Torremolinos (☎ 95 243 51 25), Club de Tenis in Nerja (☎ 95 252 09 48), Campo de Tenis Lew Hoad in Mijas Costa (☎ 95 247 48 58), Club de Tenis of Estepona (☎ 95 280 15 79).

Along its entire length, the Costa del Sol offers innumerable opportunities for other sports, such as hunting (Andalusian Hunting Federation, ☎ 95 271 48 51), fishing (Andalusian Fishing and Angling Federation, ☎ 957 25 30 59), mountaineering (Andalusian Mountaineering Federation, ☎ 958 29 13 40), caving, scuba

diving (Andalusian Scuba Diving Federation, ☎ 950 27 06 12), flying and aerial sports (Andalusian Aerial Sports Federation, ☎ 95 260 13 61), and para- and hang-gliding.

■ Shopping, leisure and entertainment

The Costa del Sol is an immense paradise for shopping and investments. Many of the world's leading firms, jewelers and antique dealers have shops on the coast. The demanding traveller can find a wide variety of products of excellent quality.

A popular custom, the local flea market or "mercadillo", is a fun way to acquire a variety of articles at affordable prices. Some of them are mentioned below along with the days of the week they are held: antiques in Puerto Banús (Saturdays), handicrafts in Estepona (Sundays), and the largest ones where a wide variety of articles can be found include Arroyo de la Miel (Fridays), Estepona (Wednesdays), Fuengirola (Tuesdays and Saturdays), Málaga (Sundays and Wednesdays), Marbella (Mondays), Mijas (Saturdays), Nerja (Tuesdays) and Torremolinos (Thursdays).

With respect to native products, ceramics and pottery continue to maintain the Moorish traditions of these Andalusian crafts. We find interesting examples in the towns of Coín and Mijas, as well as along the route of the "Pueblos Blancos". The skillful crafting of leather has gained well-earned fame in the town of Ubrique, and the northern part of the province of Málaga is noted for esparto grass products.

In Vélez Málaga, we find examples of the delicate handiwork on religious vestments in silk, as well as embroidery and metal objects. Mijas is also famous for its embroidery and numerous other handicrafts, and in Ronda we find handsome wrought iron work. The blankets from Grazalema continue to preserve the texture and designs from centuries ago which have adorned saddles and riders in the mountains of Málaga.

Visitors can find a wide variety of activities to choose from on the Costa del Sol to fill their leisure time. From practicing a favorite sport to attending Fairs and Festivals, excursions and hiking in Nature Parks, such as the Montes de Málaga, Sierra de las Nieves, Sierra de Grazalmema or Alcornocales, or a visit to admire the scenery at the gorge of Gaitanes

(El Chorro), los Reales de Sierra Bermeja, and Sierra Crestellina in Estepona, Torcal de Antequera, or the cliffs of Marocerro Gordo; the possibilities are endless.

The mouth of the Guadalhorce river and lagoons of El Bosque, Capillos, La Ratosa, Fuentepiedra and Archidona are also interesting sites to visit in the region.

Theme parks such as Tívoli amusement park located in Arroyo de la Miel (☎ 95 257 70 16); the Zoo in Fuengirola (☎ 95 247 15 90); Aquavelis in Torre del Mar (☎ 95 254 27 58); Aquapark in Torremolinos (☎ 95 238 88 88), Aquatic Park in Mijas (☎ 95 246 94 42); Sea Life in Benalmádena (☎ 95 244 50 00); Acuarium in Puerto Banús (☎ 95 281 40 80), Botanical and Ornithological Park "El Retiro" in Churriana (☎ 95 262 16 00), Selwo Nature Park in Estepona (☎ 95 279 21 50), Crocodile Park in Cártama and the Hipódromo (Racetrack) in Mijas (☎ 95 249 36 06) are also other interesting options. There are also the Casinos of Torrequebrada in Benalmádena (☎ 95 244 23 54) and Nueva Andalucía in Marbella (☎ 95 281 40 00). Torremolinos is the site of the Spanish Mus Championships, a very popular card game in Spain.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Telephone dialing codes:
International: 34

TOURIST INFORMATION

TURESPAÑA: ☎ 901 300 600
www.tourspain.es

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Planificación Turística de la
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Avenida de la República
Argentina, 25 - 8th floor
☎ 95 455 84 11, fax 95 455 57 79
Patronato de Turismo de la
Costa del Sol
Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones
de la Costa del Sol
Calle México s/n. Torremolinos
☎ 95 205 86 94 & 95 205 86 95
fax 95 205 03 11 & 95 237 04 06
www.costadelsol.sopde.es
Patronato Provincial de Turismo
de Cádiz. Plaza San Antonio, 13
☎ 956 80 70 61

TRANSPORTATION

IBERIA AIRLINES:

Málaga: Calle Molina Lario
☎ 95 231 61 66
Cádiz: Jerez Airport
☎ 956 15 00 10

RENFE (Spanish National Railways):

Cádiz: Plaza de Sevilla
☎ 956 25 43 01
Málaga: Explanada de la Estación
☎ 95 236 02 00
Buses:
Cádiz: Plaza de la Hispanidad, 1
☎ 956 22 42 71
Málaga: Plaza de los Tilos
☎ 95 235 00 61

Taxis:

Cádiz: Radio-Taxis
☎ 956 21 21 21
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Traffic Information:

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☎ 900 12 35 05
Civil Guard Traffic:
Cádiz: ☎ 956 26 16 11
Málaga: ☎ 95 239 19 00

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☎ 956 21 18 78
Málaga: Avenida de Andalucía, 1
☎ 95 235 90 08
Public Telephone center:
Cádiz: Avenida José León de
Carranza
Málaga: Calle Molina Lario

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Red Cross

Cádiz: ☎ 956 22 22 22
Málaga: ☎ 95 222 22 22
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National Police: ☎ 091
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Calle Requena, 3, Madrid 28013
☎ 91 516 66 66,
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www.parador.es

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www.tourspain.ru

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Costa del Sol

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