

VOLVO MASTERS AMATEUR

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TOURIST INFORMATION

Weather

At the end of October and the beginning of November, the weather in the South of Spain is generally cool and dry, with the chance of showers. It is cold in the mornings (around 10°C) and warm during the day (20°C). It is advisable to bring a (rain)coat or windbreaker, especially for the evenings.

Money

The official currency in Spain is the Euro.

Major credit cards such as AMEX, VISA, Master Card are widely accepted.

If you are searching for foreign exchange offices, look for the word *CAMBIO* which means 'exchange'. Alternatively, you can exchange your money at local banks or the hotel. Commission and tax will be charged when exchanging money.

Electricity

The Spanish electricity system operates on 220 volts. Electrical appliances will require a continental two-pin plug. Therefore, guests coming from countries working on 110 volts will require an adapter for their electrical appliances.

Time Difference

In Spain the time is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+1). From the end of March until the end of October (In 2009, until October 25th), Spain applies Daylight Savings Time.

Dining

Andalusia offers a range of restaurants, tapas bars, and cafés. Restaurants are strictly for lunch and dinner; they do not serve breakfast. Tapas bars are the ideal places for wine or beer, accompanied by a great choice of snacks and appetizers. Cafés, called *cafeterias*, are basically coffee shops that also serve snacks, light meals, tapas and pastries; with coffee, tea and alcoholic drinks.

Meal times in Spain are much later than in most other European countries. Lunch begins around 1pm and ends around 3pm, whereas dinner is usually available from 8:30pm, but more often taken at 9 or 10pm. Bottled water is recommended even though in general tap water is safe to drink.

Opening and Closing Times

Banks are open Monday-Saturday, 9am-2pm. Museums and churches vary in their opening hours, but most open in the mornings, although museums tend to close on Mondays. Stores are open on weekdays from 9am or 10am until 1:30pm or 2pm, then in the afternoon around 5pm to 8pm.

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About Marbella

Marbella is deservedly one of the Costa del Sol's prime destinations. Its excellent climate, beaches, natural surroundings and its major sports complexes are just some of the countless attractions which this town on the Málaga coast offers.

Clear proof of the high quality of its infrastructure is **Puerto Banús**, one of the most emblematic spots in Marbella. Surrounded by exclusive housing developments, this famous marina welcomes some of the biggest and most luxurious yachts in the world each year. Its facilities also offer a select leisure area made up of restaurants, business premises and shops selling the big international designer labels and luxury items.

From Cabopino to Guadalmina, Marbella offers the visitor 26 kilometres of beautiful coastline with a succession of sun-drenched beaches equipped with all kinds of services, which include modern hotels, residential complexes, shops and restaurants. The beaches of **San Pedro de Alcántara**, a major population centre less than ten kilometres from Marbella, are a fine example of the balance struck between nature and tourist development.

Sports lovers will be in paradise in Marbella. A dozen magnificent golf courses allow the sport to be played at the highest level year-round, in surroundings of striking natural beauty. Those who prefer water sports will find the town has three marinas where they can take up the activity of their choice. In addition, Marbella has several riding schools, tennis clubs and other facilities to suit the most varied tastes.

At the foot of the Sierra Blanca hills, on a beautiful bay, is **Marbella's historic quarter**. A delightful layout which displays its typically Andalusian charm through neat whitewashed façades decorated with grilles and geraniums or the orange trees which spring up on every corner.

The heart of the town is Plaza de Los Naranjos, from the Renaissance period, flanked by noble buildings such as the City Hall (16th century) and the old Chief Magistrate's Office (17th century).

In the small church square you will find the Greater Church of la Encarnación, built in the 16th century. In this same setting stands one of the two towers, which formed part of the city's old Arab fortress, from the 9th century.

Testimony to the city's Roman origins are the many archaeological sites to be found in the area, outstanding among which are the Paleochristian basilica of Vega del Mar, the Roman baths of Guadalmina or the Roman villa of Río Verde.

The considerable cultural offer of Marbella is completed by the Spanish Contemporary Engraving Museum, which is considered to be the most important of its kind in Spain. Situated in the Hospital Bazán (16th century), it houses an interesting collection of engravings from the 19th and 20th centuries, with works by grand masters of the stature of Picasso, Miró or Dalí.

For more info: www.andalucia.org & www.spain.info