TAX FREE SHOPPING

VAT Most stores participate in the Value Added Tax program in which Non-European citizens may be entitled to reclaim a portion or all of the taxes paid (depending on the total purchase price). It is your responsibility to inquire as to whether or not the store participates in VAT refund program if the purchase qualifies for a refund.

Global BLUE Shop where you see this Global Blue - Tax Free Shopping sign and ask for your tax refund receipt. To qualify, there are minimum amounts, per store, per day, so please ask the retailer for details. Show your purchases and Global Blue receipts to Customs officials when leaving the EU. Have your Global checks stamped and collect your cash at the Global Blue cash refund office.

GLOBAL BLUE

Located along the Southern Coast of Spain, Málaga is known to many as the capitol of the Costa del Sol or “Sun Coast”. With resort towns bordering the city both to the east and the west, Málaga is a very popular attraction to many visitors throughout Europe. The city is very busy, and one of its unique characteristics is its small garden lined streets that tend to be hidden by newer high rises.

In the past the Costa del Sol has been known for its tiny fishing villages. These villages have now all been replaced with large retirement and resort towns filled with Europeans and Spaniards. The coast is beautifully decorated with small cottages and villas that are covered with bougainvillea and jasmine.

Málaga is home to over half a million residents and reflects the personality of its inhabitants: unhurried, charming and warm. For visitors the message is clear, forget where you come from, leave your watch at home, relax and go local. Just outside Málaga are the villages of Mijas and Marbella, which are pretty little towns with expansive ceramic views of the Spanish countryside.

Beyond Málaga is the famous region of Andalusia. This area stretches across the South of Spain and includes such famous sites as the city of Granada and the Palace of Alhambra. The region is also known for its lovely villages with whitewashed cottages.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Málaga and the Costa del Sol we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and price.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: The prices in most stores are fixed. Tips: In general, a 10% tip is left if the service is not already included in the price of the meal.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES Paella is the traditional Spanish dish: a combination of seafood, chicken and vegetables with saffron-seasoned rice. The conventional Andalusian food is reflected in the dishes that use the technique of frying with olive oil. Fried fish, seafood and cured ham with its designation of origin are very common in the area. Especially characteristic are the cold soups, such as gazpacho and salmorejo. Andalusian pastries, such as the ring-shaped wine-flavoured cakes, the milk or wine-soaked fried bread, and the sweet biscuits are delicious.

Famous worldwide are the wines from Jerez, as well as the manzana (fino sherry) from Sanlúcar de Barrameda and the white wines from the lands of Cadiz and Huelva. Bottled water is recommended.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro.

There are plenty of exchange bureaus located throughout Málaga, not to mention banks and ATM’s.

An Exchange Office is located inside the Tourist Information Office downtown. It is common for local shopkeepers to accept foreign currency at a fair rate of exchange according to the daily rate published in the local newspaper.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main post office is located at Avenida de Andalucía within the city center.

Telephones are located throughout the city and calling cards can be purchased at any tobacco “tabacos” shop.

TOURIST INFORMATION The tourism office is located in the Plaza de la Marina, 11 (j). There are also two other places to get tourist information located at Avenida Andalucía 1, and in the Plaza Mercad 17.

TRANSPORTATION A limited amount of taxis are located on the pier. Fares are metered and most taxi drivers will accept U.S. Dollars.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Yes •Si No • No Good Bye • Adios Good Day • Buen Dias Thank You • Gracias You’re Welcome • De nada

This information has been compiled for the convenience of our guests and is intended solely for that purpose. While we seek to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, we cannot accept responsibility for any changes that may have taken place since printing.

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The CATHEDRAL OF MALAGA was constructed between the 16th and 17th centuries in the place formerly occupied by an Arab mosque and it is one of the best examples of Spanish Renaissance architecture. Inside, the sculptural work of the choir with 42 carvings and the two organs from the 18th century deserve mention.

The PICASSO MUSEUM is located in a lovely 16th century building that is devoted to the Málaga born painter. The collection has a large amount of works that were donated by his daughter-in-law.

PICASSO'S BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM is an essential visit for the many admirers of this famous cubist painter. This was where he was born and lived during the first 14 years of his life and where he discovered his first love for painting. Later, the painter and his family moved to Barcelona. The house has been restored recently and offers limited guided visits.

The ALCAZABA is the Muslim palace-fortress that dominates most of the city center. Started in 1057, it was the official residence to the Arab Emirs of Málaga who ruled the kingdom. Seen on a hilltop from anywhere throughout the city, the fortress offers excellent views of the downtown area and now houses an archaeological museum that displays stucco work as well as 12th and 13th century pottery.

The GIBRALFARO CASTLE was built in the 14th century to house the troops and to protect the Alcazaba. It consists of a series of towers and walls covered with bougainvilleas. The castle, which was used for the last time in 1936 during the Civil War, offers beautiful panoramic views of the city.

The ALAMEDA PRINCIPAL is a busy thoroughfare that was constructed in the late 18th century. Located along the sea, its gardens contain rare, exotic and tropical plants. Today it is a main gathering area for the locals to stroll and enjoy the beautiful scenery. (This public park never closes).

The MALAGA BULLRING is one of the largest in Spain and was built in the year 1874 in the neomudejar style. Today traditional bullfights are still held frequently.

The MERCADO CENTRAL was built in the 19th century and is the central shopping area for the locals, with fresh fish and produce for sale daily. Near the market there are some cafés and bars serving locally produced wine.

JOYERIA A. MARCOS

Located on one of the most prominent and commercial streets in Malaga, Joyeria Au-relio Marcos has been open since 1942. This family owned jewelry store is known for their superb service and has a fine selection of watches and luxury brands such as Rolex, Breitling, Chopard, Ulysse Nardin, Hublot, Kailis, IWC, Zenith, Carrera y Carrera, Frank Muller, Tudor as well as their own jewelry designs. Cruise ship guests will enjoy special discounts and promotions. Tax free refunds available. Staff speaks Spanish, English and German.

SHUTTLE BUS DROP-OFF

LA ALHAMBRA – named for its walls of reddish color, it is located on the top of a hill. It is a vast compound created over more than 600 years by cultures as diverse as the Muslim, the Renaissance and the Romans. It housed the monarch and the court of the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada. Throughout its history it has undergone various transformations, with portions of prior stages being left in it. The Alhambra was declared a historical monument in 1870.

MIJAS – is located west of Málaga and was founded by the Muslims. The village sits 3,000 feet above sea level and has some beautiful views of the Spanish countryside. The small village is dotted with charming whitewashed houses that are covered with jasmine and bougainvilleas. Small cafés and souvenir shops line its streets and its narrow alleyways are only accessible to pedestrians and local donkeys.

MARBELLA – is a large resort town that is the choice of the rich and famous. Best known for its large beach areas and high price tag items, the area is lined with designer boutiques and elegant restaurants. Located in its old town is Marbella’s most famous plaza, the “Plaza de los Naranjos”. Most locals will go and get “lost” among the plaza’s narrow winding streets while forgetting about the hustle and bustle of the main town with its hotels and marina.