Living nature

Málaga boasts a natural heritage that allows visitors the opportunity to enjoy another sort of tourism. There are places of extraordinary environmental wealth, including Montes de Málaga Nature Reserve, Guadalhorce River Estuary Natural Area, La Concepción Botanical and Historical Garden of Málaga and Málaga Park. And there are museum spaces such as the Alborania Museum and Lagar de Torrijos Ecomuseum, which take an educational approach to discovering our natural resources.

All of them provide educational and nature interpretation activities, with Las Contadoras Nature Centre being especially noteworthy in this area. Or visitors can combine sports with other leisure pursuits through the wide range of activities offered by active tourism companies and a variety of accommodation options.

And to round it all off, Málaga has a unique cuisine which can be enjoyed alongside its natural surroundings.

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Flora and fauna

The Aleppo pine is one of the hallmarks of Montes de Málaga due to the intensive replanting carried out in the first half of the last century in order to protect the city from devastating floods caused by the Guadalmedina River. However, along the way you will find areas populated with other species such as holm oaks and cork oaks, recalling the original landscape of this district.

Highlights among the nature reserve’s fauna include its birds of prey. It is easy to spot the spectacular silhouettes of the short-toed eagle and the booted eagle in flight.

In the lower and more open areas of the park, you will find one of the most unique reptiles on the European continent, the chameleon.

Activities and active tourism

Hiking, cycling tourism, camping, courses and activities are some of the many offerings which Montes de Málaga makes available to visitors.

• Recreation areas

The nature reserve has two recreation areas Torrijos and El Cerrado both highly valued by their many visitors. The first is located near Lagar de Torrijos (an old presshouse) and the second is close to Humaina Stream.

These areas have large spaces with tables, benches and barbecue grills where visitors can relax amid nature. There is also easy vehicle access with parking areas and public bathrooms.
Hiking

The nature reserve has over 100 kilometres of unpaved roads and forest lanes, some closed to motor vehicles but with unrestricted access for walkers and cyclists. There are also four signed trails: El Cerrado, Pocopán, Torrijos and Umbría de Contadoras.

- **El Cerrado Trail**
  This circular 2.9-kilometre route with medium difficulty starts and ends at the recreation area of the same name and runs along the lower slope of El Cerrado Hill. The Cochino Viewpoint is the main landmark on the trail. Approximate duration: 1 hour 20 minutes.

- **Pocopán Trail**
  2.7 kilometre linear route with medium difficulty. This trail runs from Llano de las Contadoras to the Pocopán Viewpoint, which, after a climb along the firebreak, offers the most expansive views of all the viewpoints in the nature reserve. Approximate duration: 1 hour 30 minutes.

- **Torrijos Trail**
  0.7 kilometre linear route with low difficulty which runs from the Lagar de Torrijos Ecomuseum to Chaperas Stream. It begins at the recreation area of the same name. Approximate duration: 30 minutes.

- **Umbría de Contadoras Trail**
  0.9 kilometre linear route with low difficulty, ideal for environmental education. From Llano de las Contadoras, this trail runs along the northward slope of the hill to Francisco Vázquez Sell Viewpoint. Approximate duration: 25 minutes.

Cycling tourism

Bicycling is an excellent way to explore Montes de Málaga Nature Reserve, following its many lanes. There are two signed bike trails.

- **Picapedreros-Boticario Bike Trail**
  With a distance of 6.7 kilometres, this trail is easily accessible from the city via the San Telmo Mill area, one of the entrances to the nature reserve. Climbing alongside Don Ventura Stream, between Aleppo pines and eucalyptus trees, it passes the ruins of the Lagar de Picapedreros (an old press house) and Casa de Don Ventura (House of Don Ventura) before coming to the Casa del Boticario (House of the Apothecary).

- **Lagar de Contreras Bike Trail**
  This 14 kilometre trail follows the same route as the Picapedreros-Boticario Bike Trail as far as Casa de Don Ventura (House of Don Ventura). Turning left, it crosses a firebreak and passes Casa Guijarro (Pebble House). After crossing Humaina Stream, it passes the ruins of Casa Contreras (Contreras House) before coming to the Lagar del Conde (an old press house). After fording Querellanta Stream, the trail again follows Humaina Stream, finally reaching one of the park’s main roads.

Activities, workshops and courses

Montes de Málaga Nature Reserve has a wealth of nature tourism offerings. Basketry and mycology workshops; hiking or cycling tourism with a culinary element; night visits, interpretive and Segway tours; orchid spotting; and birdwatching and bird ringing workshops are just an example of the activities which can be enjoyed in this natural environment.
Las Contadoras Nature Centre

This refurbished 18th century building is located in the heart of Montes de Málaga Nature Reserve. It is an environmental education and rural tourism centre, with activities, courses and workshops for people of all kinds.

There is a mammal and bird observatory with a small man-made pond which serves as a watering place for animals. Other facilities include multimedia rooms, swimming pool, sports field and outdoor classroom which acts as an astronomy observatory. The centre also offers accommodation and catering for groups.

There are native tree and shrub reforestation activities, as well as workshops and courses on reed basketry, photography, mycology, hiking, activities around the history of Los Montes, and wine tastings. Visitors can also spend a weekend in rural tourism accommodation or enjoy a night-time visit to the nature reserve.

How to get here: Take the Málaga–Colmenar road (A-7000) and turn left at Fuente de la Reina (Queen’s Fountain). Follow signs for the nature centre.

Tel. 952 110 529 – 952 117 725 – 699 942 965/66 • www.contadoras.org

Lagar de Torrijos Ecomuseum

This 1843 building is located in the heart of the nature reserve and surrounded by a dense pine wood. It is a prototype of the structures known as lagares, press houses/wineries built in this area to exploit and market the local wine.

As many as 800 were in operation at the peak of the international Málaga wine trade.

Inside, highlights include a spectacular screw press, made up of the huge tree trunk and one-tonne stone used to crush and squeeze the grapes. Each year, this press is started up for the Grape Harvest Festival.

There are also an olive oil mill and two ovens, currently used for educational activities.

How to get here: Take the Málaga–Colmenar road (A-7000). One kilometre past Fuente de la Reina (Queen’s Fountain) in the direction of Colmenar, take the lane on the left.

Tel. 951 19 32 36 – 606 615 624 – 600 620 054
El Cortijo de Santa Isabel Restaurant
Restaurant specializing in meats: shoulder, chops or sirloin steak, among others; seasoned and marinated roasts. It has a fireplace, parking, children's area, and accessible entrance and bathrooms.
Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar 166 (A-7000)
Tel. 952 654 825

Trepolla Restaurant
Trepolla Restaurant offers traditional local dishes, including plato de los Montes (pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes), migas (fried breadcrumbs), callos (tripe stew) and lamb, as well as fish. It has a children's area, parking, and accessible entrance and bathrooms.
Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar, Km 558
Tel. 952 525 752

La Minilla Restaurant
Specializing in stone-cooked red meats. Appetizers include excellent gazpachuelo (fish and potato soup), potaje (legume and vegetable stew), aliños (seasoned meats) and migas (fried breadcrumbs). It has a fireplace, panoramic views, parking, and accessible entrance and bathrooms.
Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000), Km 557
Tel. 952 251 858

Ventorrillo De Santa Clara Restaurant
This restaurant features local dishes such as plato de los Montes (pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes), as well as other meats, including lamb and entrecote. It has a fireplace, parking, and accessible entrance and bathrooms.
Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000), Km 28
Tel. 952 253 391

Cortijo Los Tres Cincos Restaurant
Here guests can enjoy plato de los Montes (pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes), plato a lo bestia (fried breadcrumbs, egg, chorizo sausage, peppers, black pudding), rice dishes and barbecued meats. It has a fireplace, children's area, parking, and accessible entrance and bathrooms.
Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000), Km 555
Tel. 952 283 615

Gastronomy
Montes de Málaga Nature Reserve has a unique selection of culinary offerings. Along Los Montes road, also known as the Málaga–Colmenar road (A-7000), there are a number of the type of restaurants commonly called ventas (inns), forming a culinary district whose location and specialties make it different from the city.

Although it is possible to enjoy a wide variety of dishes and different cooking styles, the vast majority of the ventas serve the dish referred to as plato de los Montes, which includes pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes. The same is true of migas (fried breadcrumbs), in which the bread base is generally accompanied by chunks of pork loin or chorizo sausage. They also serve kid goat, Málaga suckling lamb, venison and wild boar.
Venta El Boticario Restaurant
In addition to offering such traditional dishes as plato de los Montes (pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes), the menu features bull’s tail and plato a lo bestia (fried breadcrumbs, egg, chorizo sausage, peppers, black pudding). If has a panoramic view, children’s area, parking, and accessible entrance.

Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar Km 554 (A-7000) Tel. 952 259 698 · www.ventacarlosdelmirador.es

Venta Los Montes Restaurant
Restaurant which has been serving plato de los Montes (pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes) and other traditional local meals since 1979. It has a fireplace, parking, children’s area and accessible entrance.

Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000) Km 555 Tel. 952 260 235

Venta El Detalle Restaurant
The restaurant has two dining rooms with fireplaces, where guests can savour homemade meals, including plato de los Montes (pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes), wild boar in gravy and garlic kid goat. Panoramic views, children’s area and parking.

Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000), km 20 Tel. 952 110 630

El Mijeño Restaurant
This restaurant serves plato de los Montes (pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes), and other traditional local meals. It has a fireplace, parking, children’s area and accessible entrance.

Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000) Km 23 800 Tel. 669 420 831

Fuente de la Reina Country Inns
This old refreshment stand, which has been in Los Montes for half a century, offers plato de los Montes (pork loin, chorizo sausage, peppers, eggs and fried potatoes), migas a lo bestia (fried breadcrumbs with egg, chorizo sausage, peppers, black pudding), garlic rabbit and vegetarian dishes, among other menu items. Accessible entrance.

Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000) Tel. 952 110 123

El Puerto del León Restaurant
This restaurant is located at the mountain pass from which it takes its name. Guests can enjoy migas (fried breadcrumbs) and callos (tripe stew). It has a panoramic view and parking.

Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000) km 14-Montes de Málaga · Tel. 952 110 023

Venta Galwey Restaurant
Old traditional inn dating from at least 1886 with views of the Axarquía region and fireplaces. In addition to migas (fried breadcrumbs) and pork loin, it offers game such as wild boar and venison. Parking.

Carretera de Málaga a Colmenar (A-7000) Km 12 Tel. 952 110 128

Señorio de Lepanto
Located on the grounds of La Herradura, a 19th-century country house, this establishment is available for event hire, with indoor and outdoor areas, as well as an old chapel.

Carretera de Colmenar (A-7000) Tel. 952 447 012
Montes de Málaga Vintagers, Harvesters and Winemakers Guild

The aims of this guild, headquartered at Venta El Puerto del León in the Montes de Málaga area, include promoting the quality of the local wine, as well as that of all wine products and sub-products; developing winery tourism; and promoting the revitalization of traditional winemaking in Montes de Málaga.

The guild focuses on the economic development of native agriculture in Montes de Málaga. In particular, it undertakes initiatives relating to the development of vineyards, and making and ageing wines from different grape varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon red and white, Garnacha and Merlot, as well as the traditional Moscatel and Pedro Ximénez varieties.

Grape Harvest Festival

Each September, Lagar de Torrijos hosts the Grape Harvest Festival. It features a recreation of grape crushing using the press at the ecomuseum, offering a live demonstration of the methods used to produce the wines that once made the wineries of Montes de Málaga famous.

Winery tourism

Málaga wines enjoyed great fame in the 18th and 19th centuries, making it possible to export them throughout the world. The phylloxera plague, which lasted from 1878 to the first third of the 20th century, destroyed the majority of the crops, causing the wine to lose market position. Today this recognition has been restored and is protected by the Málaga and Sierras de Málaga designations of origin.

In the historic town centre, where the city’s main culinary district is located, visitors can sample these wines at many establishments, pairing them with a rich variety of dishes. Museums, wineries, trade guilds and even celebrations are still a part of Málaga life, a symbiosis of wine and city which has continued from the late Roman Empire down to today.

• Wine Museum

This space combines history, culture, art and education associated with the wines of the province of Malaga. It has an exhibition of over 400 lithographs (labels and signs from the 19th and 20th centuries), interpretive centre, tasting room, teaching room and shop. It promotes the culture of the wines with the Málaga and Sierras de Málaga designations of origin.

Plaza de los Viñeros, 1
Tel. 952 228 493 • www.museovinomalaga.com

• Antigua Casa de Guardia Winery

Near the nature reserve, in the Olías neighbourhood, we find the oldest winemaker in Malaga, the Antigua Casa de Guardia Winery. Since 1840, they have been making the sweet and dry wines that are now included in the Málaga and Sierras de Málaga designations of origin.

The winery, which is newly-built but whose lines hark back to its origins, has a large central aging building. Next door is the press house and a farmhouse where visitors can do tastings and learn about the history of the wines of Málaga.

Ctra. Olías – Comares, s/n; Finca El Romerillo. Barriada de Olías
Tel. 952 030 714 - 722 230 308 • www.casadeguardia.com

• Montes de Málaga Vintagers, Harvesters and Winemakers Guild

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Accommodation

Humaina Hotel
Carretera de Colmenar (A-7000) s/n
www.hotelhumaina.es
Tel. 952 641 025

La Minilla Hotel
Carretera de Colmenar (A-7000)
www.laminilla.es
Tel. 952 251 858

Casa Vazquez Hotel
Camino del Colmenar nº 82
www.hotelvazquez.com
Tel. 952 65 73 93

Montes de Málaga Natural Park
2.5 km de la Carretera M-A 3103
Dirección Comares
Tel. 952 657 063 / 646 957 392
www.lagarmartinez.com

Pedregales Rural Guest House
A-45 Road. Exit 136
www.ruralmontesmalaga.com
Tel. 639 439 528

Las Contadoras Nature Centre
Colmenar (A-7000)
www.lascontadoras.org
Tel. 952 110 529
952 117 725
699 942 998

Lagar Martínez Rural Guest House

Cortijo Juan Salvador Rural Guest House
Ma-3103 antigua
Carretera Olías a Colmenar
Camino Juan Salvador, 14.
29197 Málaga
www.cortijojuansalvador.es
Tel. 952 110 339/ 633 223 386

Casa Rural Mirador de los Palomos
Lagar Los Palomos, s/n, Moheda Portales
29160 MÁLAGA
www.miradordeospelomos.com
Tel. 646 208 398

Lagar Velas Concas, 29195 Comares Málaga Espagne.
www.lovelazen.com
Tel. 648 157 371
How to get here

By road – whether it be a private care, hire car, taxi or group transport – at the end of the Fuente Olletas area, take the old C-345 road, now the A-7000, also known as the Colmenar or Los Montes Road. On the climb you will find various entrances to the nature reserve.

Did you know ...?

Because of its mild climate and natural resources, the Montes de Málaga area has been inhabited since prehistoric times. From the Phoenician era to the end of the Middle Ages, it was used for wood production and agriculture. Following the Reconquista, the land was privatized and crops became specialized with the planting of grapevines. This increased the removal of tree cover, which in later centuries would lead to serious flooding.

The grape monoculture and quality of the wines produced in the area made Málaga an international leader in the wine trade until the appearance of the phylloxera, going back to the first third of the 20th century. In the early years of that century, land expropriation and replanting of the Aleppo pine succeeded in putting a stop to the overflowing of the Guadalmedina River, giving the area its current appearance.

The Montes de Málaga Road was originally a medieval path. In 1732, with the aim of linking Málaga with Antequera via Colmenar, the road was overhauled as far as Fuente de la Reina (Queen’s Fountain). It was not until 1830 that it was finished and declared a main road of the kingdom. Given the unique relief of the terrain and its proximity to large wooded groves, great length and low population density, together with coach traffic, this road was much frequented by bandits.

For more information: www.juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/agriculturapescaymedioambiente
The Guadalhorce River Estuary Natural Area is located on a 122-hectare island, currently delimited by the two branches of the final stretch of the Guadalhorce River. The natural area occupies 64 hectares.

It contains various lagoons, river banks and a sandy area bordering the sea. The terrestrial areas offer a variety of environments, allowing different species to be found here throughout the year.

Flora and Fauna

You will find riverbank vegetation with poplars, eucalyptus trees, African tamarisks, bulrushes, reeds and rushes. Tasselweed is one example of the vegetation submerged in the lagoons. In the sandy areas of the beach, you will see unique species which have adapted to the saline, sandy soil that is not found on other nearby beaches.

The geographic location, along one of the main migratory routes between Europe and Africa, together with the range of land environments, make for a wide variety of bird life.

There are fish in both branches of the river and in the lagoons, with an abundance of striped mullet and eels.

Mammal are also well represented by an assortment of species: rabbits, foxes and otters. And there are also reptiles, with the most important being the chameleon.
Local birds

Depending on what time of year you visit, you will see different species of birds, more than 260, with the most abundant and varied being found during migratory periods: spring, autumn and winter.

White-headed duck

- Diving duck with significant sexual dimorphism. The male has a blue beak during mating season. It can be seen year-round.
- Osprey

- A winter visitor to the natural area, as there are perches and roosts where it can take refuge. Up to three specimens have been observed during certain winter periods.
- Audouin’s gull

- This bird uses the natural area as a resting place. On the rise in recent years during post-mating migratory periods. It is common to see them in large groups together with other species of gull.
- Kentish plover

- Small wader which is usually found in sandy areas, where it builds its nest. More common in spring and summer in the beach area.
- Black-winged stilt

- This eye-catching wader with long legs and a slender appearance searches for its food in shallow waters. It is easy to spot in most of the wetlands in the natural area at any time of year.
- Photos provided by Eduardo Alba Padilla and Javier Alba Córdoba

Did you know ...? The white-headed duck, classified as endangered at a national level, was a very rare species in the natural area until 2003. Since then, it is commonly found here. Every year, it has bred in different wetlands and in drought years, this natural area receives 30% of the breeding females in Andalusia.

White-headed duck

- A winter visitor to the natural area, as there are perches and roosts where it can take refuge. Up to three specimens have been observed during certain winter periods.
- Osprey

- This medium-sized raptor is frequently found during the winter period, with up to seven individuals at the same time. It is easy to spot because it uses visible perches and is continuously flying over the natural area.
- Booted eagle

- Small insectivorous bird. It is commonly seen from September to March.
- Bluethroat

- The most common of our herons, it is frequently found in the reedbeds of the lagoons. The natural area is one of the few locations where it is common to see this species during the winter period, although only in limited numbers.
- Little bittern

- This small bird finds its food in lagoons and rivers, where it is possible to observe its rapid flights. It can be spotted in any of the natural area’s wetlands, even during the winter period.
- Gannet

- Large sea bird which lives out its life in marine areas, without venturing onto dry land. During the winter it is easy to spot the bird’s powerful dives into the sea from the beach of the natural area.

Photos provided by Eduardo Alba Padilla and Javier Alba Córdoba
Trails

There are two recommended trails with routes and observatories that provide access to the major points of interest in the natural area.

• Río Viejo
  A 1.6 kilometre route with low difficulty which visits the Laguna de la Casilla and Río Viejo observatories, ending at the Aves Marinas observatory.

• Laguna Grande
  A 1.7 kilometre route with low difficulty which offers birdwatching opportunities at the Laguna Grande and Laguna Escondida observatories, as well as the chance to see the saltiness of the lagoons that creates the conditions for this type of vegetation.

Activities and active tourism

The Guadalhorce River Estuary Natural Area makes it possible for visitors to enjoy nature through a variety of activities, including hiking and bike rides. But its most distinguishing feature is the opportunity for birdwatching. Whether on your own or with the help of an expert guide, there are several observatories where you can watch the bird life in this natural area.
How to get here

The Guadalhorce River Estuary Natural Area is located on the western edge of the city, adjacent to the end of Paseo Marítimo Antonio Banderas on one side, and the Guadalmar neighbourhood on the other.

The best way to reach the natural area is by public transport. Line 10 (Alameda Principal Guadalmar Churriana) has several stops in Guadalmar. The closest to the park entrance is in Manuel Curros Enríquez Street. (www.emtmalaga.es)

It is also easy to get here by private car via the MA-20 road, taking the San Julián–Guadalmar exit. The natural area is less than two kilometres from Málaga-Costa del Sol International Airport.

For more information www.juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/agricultura-pescaymedioambiente

Did you know ...?

The ‘river of silences’ as the name Guadalhorce can be translated from the Arabic, is 166 kilometres long and is Málaga’s main river. The mouth has two branches, one of them man-made, built to prevent floods.

Located just five minutes from the airport and a few kilometres from the beach. It is less than three kilometres from José María Martín Carpena Sports Hall, the Tabacalera Building and La Farola Andalucía Open Future Business Centre. Its location also offers quick and easy access to Málaga’s city centre thanks to its excellent transport links (underground, bus and direct access to the major road).

Avenida Velazquez, 126
Tel. 952 233 122 www.hiltonhotels.com

Avenida Velazquez, 212
Tel. 952 173 757 www.campanille.com

Avenida Velazquez, 290
Tel. 952 248 500 www.hiexpress.com

Ubicado en un edificio de 4 plantas, dispone de 122 habitaciones y es el hotel más cercano al aeropuerto de Málaga. Cuenta con servicio wifi, además de ofrecer, de forma gratuita, un desayuno buffet continental a todos sus clientes.

Avenida Velazquez, 290
Tel. 952 244 288 www.hotelmalaganostrum.com

C/ Herman Hesse, 17
29004 Málaga
Tel. 952 173 757 www.hiltonhotels.com

C/ Horacio Quiroga, 33
Tel. 952 105 155 www.ibis.com

Accommodation

- Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Málaga
- Hotel Málaga Picasso
- Campanile Málaga Aeropuerto
- Holiday Inn Express Málaga Airport
- Hotel Málaga Nostrum Airport
- Ibis Budget Málaga Aeropuerto Avenida de Velázquez
- Acacias de Guadalmar, 153
- Avenida Velazquez, 212
- C/ Horacio Quiroga, 33
- Avenida Velazquez, 290

For more information www.juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/agricultura-pescaymedioambiente

The Guadalhorce River Estuary Natural Area is located on the western edge of the city, adjacent to the end of Paseo Marítimo Antonio Banderas on one side, and the Guadalmar neighbourhood on the other.

The best way to reach the natural area is by public transport. Line 10 (Alameda Principal Guadalmar Churriana) has several stops in Guadalmar. The closest to the park entrance is in Manuel Curros Enríquez Street. (www.emtmalaga.es)

It is also easy to get here by private car via the MA-20 road, taking the San Julián–Guadalmar exit. The natural area is less than two kilometres from Málaga-Costa del Sol International Airport.

For more information www.juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/agricultura-pescaymedioambiente

Did you know ...?

The ‘river of silences’ as the name Guadalhorce can be translated from the Arabic, is 166 kilometres long and is Málaga’s main river. The mouth has two branches, one of them man-made, built to prevent floods.
La Finca de la Concepción is one of the most beautiful and important tropical and subtropical gardens in Spain, and one of the most highly regarded in all of Europe. Created in 1855 by the Marquis and Marchioness of Casa Loring, it was enlarged years later by the second owners, the Echevarría–Echevarrieta family.

It was officially named a Historical-Artistic Garden (now a Property of Cultural Interest) in 1943. In the spring of 1990, it became the property of the Málaga City Council, which opened it to the public in 1994.

It covers 23 hectares with a historical-artistic garden in the centre occupying approximately 3 hectares. The many fountains and waterfalls, combined with a beautiful selection of subtropical plants from all over the world, emphasize its Romantic landscape style, with Neoclassical elements.

There are more than 25,000 plants representing some 2,000 different species, of which around 90 are palm trees, 200 are native, and the rest are tropical and subtropical.

Noteworthy buildings include the Casa Palacio (Mansion) and Casa del Administrador (Land Agent’s House). The first houses the administrative facilities and has large function rooms for a range of uses, as well as a comfortable, well-equipped auditorium. The second contains laboratories for the research staff, an exhibition hall and a teaching room.

There are other small buildings dotted around the garden, including the Antigua Escuelita (Old Schoolhouse), Casita del Jardinero (Gardener’s House), Casita de los Cipreses (House of the Cypresses), Loringiano Museum, and a regionalist style cupola that serves as a viewpoint overlooking the city.

The Loringiano Museum houses the archaeological finds acquired by Jorge Loring from excavations in Málaga and the province. The collection includes the Lex Flavia Malacitana, currently at the National Archaeological Museum in Madrid. Some of these archaeological pieces can be seen at the Málaga Museum.
Around the historical garden there is a botanical garden, a group of plant collections organized scientifically, which can be visited by following themed routes.

- **Around the World in 80 Trees.** An imaginary and winding tour of the world that travels to the different continents, featuring trees, bushes, climbing plants and herbaceous plants from each.

- **The Plants of Our Land.** Next to an old threshing floor there is a collection of plants native to the local landscape and culture, including olive trees, vines, pomegranates, palmettos, arbutuses, oleanders and almond trees.

- **The Palm Tree Collection or ‘Mappa Mundi’.** This space, created in 2002, expands the rich historical collection. The trees are grouped by continent.

- **The Primitive Plants.** These plants have survived on the planet for millions of years. In addition to the mythical Ginkgo biloba, we find different species of cycads, Encephalartos, Zamia and Dodoon.

- **The Bamboo Collection.** Near the Casita del Jardinero there is a magnificent collection of bamboo plants. Highlights include the black bamboo (Phyllostachys nigra) wood, which covers over 1000 m², and the extremely tall common bamboo (Bambusa vulgaris) plants, both some 150 years old.

- **The Biodiversity Rock Garden.** A representation of plants native to the Mediterranean macrobioclimate from the European/North African Basin, as well as other parts of the world (Canary Islands, Madeira, South Africa, central Chile, southern Australia, California and Baja California).

- **The Route of the Viewpoints.** This walk runs through Mediterranean vegetation. Along the way you will find several places to stop and rest, viewpoints with lovely views of the historical garden and the city of Málaga. The most unique aspect of this walk is the view of the treetops and the contrast between the subtropical flora of the garden and the native plants.

- **The Forest Route.** This route runs across Finca de la Concepción from north to south, along the highest trail. It offers magnificent views of the entire garden and surrounding area, with Montes de Málaga Nature Reserve and Finca de San José opposite, and the city of Málaga in the background. Along this 1200 metre route, the flora are predominantly Mediterranean.

- **The Fruit Tree Collection.** La Concepción was originally an agricultural property. On its hillsides, arranged in terraces, there were lemon trees (the fruit was marketed and even came to have its own brand), almond trees, olive trees, and others. Today there is a rich collection of all kinds of fruit trees, including those grown in the Axarquía region and the Guadalhorce Valley.

- **The Insectivore, Orchid and Bromeliad Collection.** An old glass pavilion next to the garden entrance has been converted, providing the constant temperature and humidity necessary to house a group of plants with very special requirements.

- **The González-Andréu Garden.** This damp, dark place with a number of small pools and waterfalls contains a huge variety of species from many parts of the world, including the Solomon Islands, Polynesia, China, Japan and Australia, as well as Brazil and Mexico, among others.

- **The Aquatic Plants Collection.** La Concepción offers the opportunity to see numerous aquatic species in its ponds and pools. Papyrus, lilies, different varieties of water lilies, scarlet rosemallow and dazzling lotuses, among others, have their unique flowering seasons during the spring and summer.

- **The Cactus and Succulent Collection.** This collection brings together a great wealth of genera and families, as well as shapes, sizes and adaptations to the environment in which they live. From the spectacular Bombax, which thicken their stems, to the diminutive Sedum and the Lithops, which resemble small stones.
How to get here

The garden is 15 minutes on foot from the last stop on the number 2 bus line. The Málaga Tour sightseeing bus has stops on its green line, which goes to the Automobile Museum, Train Station and Coach Station.

By private vehicle, take Camino de Casabermeja, which runs parallel to the A-45 Antequera–Córdoba, and turn left, following signs for the MA-431, a few metres from the garden.

Camino del Jardín Botánico, 3
29014 Málaga
Tel. 951 926 179
www.laconcepcion.malaga.eu
Málaga Park is located right in the city centre. It is a unique place due to its wide variety of subtropical plants, open spaces, important buildings adjacent to the park along the north side, fountains and statues, among other attractions.

It originated as an enlargement of the port, driven by the then prime minister, Málaga politician Cánovas del Castillo. Part of the land gained from the sea was ceded for use as a park, which was received by the city in 1897.

The park is divided into two parts: the southern section, which has two walkways 10 metres wide on either side and a centre area filled with a variety of profuse vegetation; and the northern section, from which it is possible to see various notable buildings adjacent to the park.

These include the City Hall; Bank of Spain; old post office, which now houses the Vice Chancellor’s Office of the University of Málaga, and Casita del Jardiner (Gardener’s House).

Flora

The park contains up to 364 subtropical species from different places, making it possible to travel the world by just contemplating its beautiful flora. Highlights include one of the best collections of palm trees found in a public space with free access.

From Europe, there is one specimen of the dragon tree. Visitors can explore a small grove of tall Asian bamboo and stroll beside Vietnamese palm trees from the Mekong River, sago palms from Japan, queen sago from India, and the solitary fishtail palm from Thailand.

From the Americas, there is a group of more than 30 Mexican fan palms, Argentinian jacarandas, avocado trees and a romantic grove of Montezuma cypresses, or ahuehuete, from North America. Other highlights include the silk floss trees, which come from southern Brazil and northern Uruguay, commonly known as palos borrachos (drunken sticks) because of the curious manner in which the trunk bulges.

Another eye-catching feature are the aerial roots of the Australian banyan, and from the same region, the New Caledonia pine and Alexander palm. To round out the visit, other highlights include the pandans from Africa, with their prop roots, and the gigantic South African bird of paradise flower.
How to get here

The park extends for 800 metres between Plaza de la Marina, where Alameda Principal ends, and Plaza del General Torrijos, which marks the entrance to the Malagueta neighbourhood. It runs parallel to the Port of Málaga, specifically Pier 2, in the centre of the city.

Did you know ...?

Today we are able to enjoy this important urban park thanks to the diligence of Málaga politician Antonio Cánovas del Castillo, one of the most influential public figures of the second half of the 19th century.
This museum space allows visitors to learn about and discover the flora and fauna of the Alboran Sea, an exceptional sea with a unique biodiversity situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. This is the museum to explore the maritime culture and traditions of Málaga, delving into its surprising stories, customs and legends.

Here we learn about the fragility of the marine environment, its underwater spaces and its inhabitants. The museum's principal mission is to promote attitudes and knowledge in order to protect and preserve them. It is common to find species in recovery at the museum facilities, such as the loggerhead sea turtle, which after a few months of rehabilitation is returned to its environment.

Enjoying an extremely fun and interactive experience allows visitors to explore the surprising and mysterious world beneath the sea.

5

Alborania Museum. Maritime Learning Centre

This is a participatory space where it is possible to touch whale bones, look at marine organisms under a microscope and see what a shark’s skin is like.

At the Maritime Learning Centre you

• Visit the museum on your own. Guided tours and micro-workshops are also included in the ticket price. Ask about times.

• Participate in group activities.
We have an Environmental Education Programme for groups which you can visit on our website.

• Celebrations
Hold events, presentations, business meetings, concerts, conferences, etc. We offer an out of the ordinary option for celebrating children’s birthdays, sure to be a success.

• During the summer, we run our Themed Nights at the Museum. And at weekends, you can enjoy our cultural programme for children and adults.
Ask about programming.

• During school holidays, we open the Marine Play Centre.

• We have a shop specializing in sea-related items, where you can buy books and nature guides, Málaga handicrafts, educational toys and souvenirs.

• We also offer an ecotourism routes and trails programme, advance reservations required.
Services

• Accessible for persons with disabilities
• Recommended for families
• Located in the city centre
• Coastal area
• Sea turtle recovery centre
• Guided tours
• Environmental education and cultural activities programme

Hours

Winter Hours: 16 de September - 14 de June
Open every day: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 4:30pm - 6:30pm

*Closed 25 de December, 1 and 6 de January.

Summer Hours: 15 de June - 15 de September. Open every day
11:00am - 2:00pm and 5:30pm - 8:30pm

How to get here

By car: easy parking with car parks nearby
Train station: Renfe local trains and AVE (high-speed rail)
CITY BUS: Lines 1, 3, 16, 19, 24
GPS coordinates: 36.7181028 – 4.4161351

Location:
MALAGA. Palmeral de las Sorpresas Muelle 2. Edificio 2. Puerto de Málaga. 29001

Contact and reservations:
Maritime Learning Centre
Tel. 951 600 108 - 952 229 287
museoalborania@auladelmar.info
www.auladelmar.info · www.museoalborania.com
La Araña neighbourhood, located on the east side of the city, has a unique area of cliffs and coves found nowhere else in the municipality.

Although it is possible to find crabs and mussels along the breakwater, the most noteworthy feature of the area is the Limonium malacitanum or ‘Málaga everlasting flower’, a flower species which is only found in a few spots along the Málaga coast and is currently endangered.

La Araña also has prehistoric caves and shelters which can be visited by arrangement. And there is the Málaga Prehistoric Park Interpretive Centre, where visitors can discover the cultural evolution of humankind since the pre-Neanderthal period.

COMPLEJO HUMO   archaeological sites
Advance reservations: Tel. 952 620 103 - 674 729 574

Puerta Oscura Gardens

Located on the south slope of Mount Gibralfaro, these gardens owe their name (Dark Gate) to a gate of Arabic origin located in the area.

They were designed to complement the area surrounding the Alcazaba, combining harmoniously with its decoration and layout. Fountains, walkways and arbours alternate with abundant vegetation.

C/ Guillén Sotelo
These gardens, which are located to the east of the City Hall, extend over 6500 m². It is a ‘Latin garden’ which includes elements of both the Hispano-Muslim and French styles. Highlights include the rose garden, which features a collection of 75 varieties of rose from different parts of the world.

C/ Guillén Sotelo

This centrally-located garden was opened in 1981 on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great Málaga painter Pablo Ruiz Picasso, to whom it is dedicated. Among its most notable distinguishing features is its symmetry, which emulates the petals of a flower. Highlights include centuries-old rubber plants and a sculpture by Miguel Ortiz Berrocal titled Siéxtasis and dedicated to Picasso.

Avenida de la Aurora

Covering 160,000 m², this park is located between the Parque Clavero and Cerrado de Calderón residential areas and El Morlaco neighbourhood. The lower part is only a short distance from the sea, very close to Paseo Marítimo Pablo Ruiz Picasso. It has forest tracks, viewpoint and dog parks.

Camino de la Desviación

Other parks
- Oeste Park. C/ Realenga de San Luis, 11
- San Miguel Park. C/ Albéniz
- Playa Virginia Park. Avenida Salvador Allende
- Alegria Park. C/ Camino de Casabermeja
- Norte Park. Avenida Valle Inclán
- Tabernáculo Park. C/ Juan Gris
- Manuel Navarrete Park. Avenida James Bowles
- Huelin Park. Paseo Marítimo Antonio Banderas
- La Noria Park. C/ Decano Salvador Barroso
- Lineal Park. C/ Fausto
- Cine Park. C/ Carril del Capitán
- Isla del Tesoro. Avenida de Victor Hugo
- Gibralta. Mount Gibralta
- La Virreina. Palma-Palmilla District
- Laguna de la Barrera. Teatinos District
- Monte Victoria. Enter via the Diocesan Seminary

For more information:
www.parquesyjardines.malaga.eu
Active Tourism: Málaga has a number of different companies offering a wide range of active tourism activities. The nature reserve, natural area, botanical garden and Málaga Park are just a few of the locations where visitors can enjoy the environment through outdoor activities.

**Active tourism companies**

- **Birdaytrip**
  - Tel.+34 629 573 229 • www.birdaytrip.es

- **Educare-Aventura**
  - Tel. +34 600 620 054 • www.educare-aventura.com

- **Exploramás**
  - Tel. +34 952 477 951 • www.exploramas.com

- **Ibernature Andalusia**
  - Tel. 656 663 833 • www.ibernature.es

- **Ruta Cero**
  - Tel.+34 952 243 324 • www.rutacero.com

- **Segway Málaga Tours**
  - Tel.+34 630 152 978 • www.segwaymalagatours.com

- **Sun Aventure Turismo Activo**
  - Tel.+34 650 730 117 • www.sunaventure.com
Whether on your own or with a guided tour of Málaga’s natural spaces, this is the perfect way to combine exercise and nature. Bicycles, electric bikes and motorbikes make it possible to enjoy a different sort of visit to these spots.

BICYCLE HIRE AND EXCURSIONS

Camino: Turismo y Aventura  Tel. +34 952 21 90 23  •  www.caminotravel.es

Entrecaminos  Tel. +34 645 33 63 57  •  www.entrecaminos.es

Explora Málaga  Tel. +34 611 45 44 04  •  www.exploramalaga.com

Malaga City Adventure  Tel. +34 618 25 06 17  •  www.malagacityadventure.com

Malaga Sun Tours  Tel. +34 610 05 15 95  •  www.malagasuntours.com

Malaga Tour Running  Tel. +34 665 94 44 76  •  www.malagatourrunning.com

Tour in Malaga  Tel. +34 688 91 91 66  •  www.toursinmalaga.com

Bike2malaga Tours & Rent  Tel. +34 650 677 063  •  www.biketoursmalaga.com

Larios Rentals  Tel. +34 951 092 069  •  www.lariosrentabike.com

Málaga Bike Tours  Tel. +34 606 978 513  •  www.malagabiketours.eu
The sea is one of the hallmarks of the city of Málaga, making it the perfect setting for nature tourism activities. From boat hire to incentive activities, from rides around the bay with underwater views to boat trips with cetacean watching.

### Boat hire and rides

- **Ferry Estrella Fugaz**
  - Tel. 630 069 117
  - www.mundomarino.es
- **La Pinta**
  - Tel. 645 815 915
  - www.malagaenbano.com
- **Málagam Charter**
  - Tel. 670 800 702
  - www.malagacharter.es
- **Anne Boony**
  - Tel. +34 952 21 21 22
  - www.annebonny.es
- **QQ Bikes**
  - Tel. +34 677 171 238
  - www.qqbikes.com
- **Recyclo Bike Shop**
  - Tel. +34 952 29 73 24
  - www.recyclobikeshop.es
- **Prima Rent a Car and Bikes**
  - Tel. +34 952 310 975
  - www.rentacarprima.com
- **Sail & Fun**
  - Tel. 630 069 117
  - www.mundomarino.es
- **Magic**
  - Tel. 630 069 117
  - www.mundomarino.es

### Ebikes

- **Ebikes**
  - Tel. +34 677 171 238
  - www.qqbikes.com

### QQ Bikes

- **QQ Bikes**
  - Tel. +34 677 171 238
  - www.qqbikes.com

### Recyclo Bike Shop

- **Recyclo Bike Shop**
  - Tel. +34 952 29 73 24
  - www.recyclobikeshop.es
Information offices:
• Central Office. Plaza de la Marina, 11. 951 926 020 – Fax: 951 926 620
Municipal Information Telephone: 010 (from Malaga) 951 92 60 10