

Language Immersion in Málaga, Spain

with Susan Biales

in partnership with EF Educational Tours

Dates of Travel: December 9-17, 2016

Travel Fee: \$3,900

Open to students in grades 9-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Situated on the Costa del Sol along the Mediterranean, Málaga is one of the oldest cities in the world, an ancient crossroads for Phoenician, Roman, Moor, and Christian cultures. Students will have the opportunity to explore this diverse and historically significant region in depth while “living the language” during this 10-day trip offered in conjunction with EF Educational Tours. The program begins with a walking tour of Malaga followed by a one-day excursion to Granada. Traversing steep, narrow streets with spectacular views, students will explore this city's Moorish Islamic culture--from the *Acera del Darro*, Granada's main shopping street, to the Alhambra, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The five days of language instruction, led by certified native Spanish speakers at the Málaga Language Institute, will take us into the city, building our language skills. We will learn to dance Flamenco and barter for food at the *Mercado Central de Atarazanas*. There will be paella, of course--and cooking lessons taught by a local chef. We will learn Spanish history on an excursion to the Nerja cave paintings. We will spend a day with Spanish students, join a local family for dinner, and visit the *Museo Picasso Málaga* (the city is the birthplace of Pablo Picasso). The last day will be spent exploring the fishing villages and beaches of Torremolinos along the *Costa del Sol*.

There will be five days devoted to learning and practicing Spanish: no previous experience is required.

Included in Tour:

Round-trip flights on major carriers; travel insurance; full-time Language Immersion Tour Director; air-conditioned motorcoaches and internal transportation; 7 overnight stays in centrally-located hotels with private bathrooms; select authentic local meals; 15 hours of language learning at one of EF's International Language Schools; WeShare online project-based educational tool.

Expenses not included:

Beverages and lunches; any applicable luggage fees imposed by airlines.

Itinerary

DAY 1: FLY OVERNIGHT TO SPAIN

DAY 2: MÁLAGA

Welcome to Málaga, a city with a history spanning almost 3,000 years. You're greeted at the airport by your specially trained Language Immersion Program Director, who will be with you throughout your tour. Get acquainted with the city's main attractions on a walking tour from the historic city center to the harbor and down to the Mediterranean beaches. Continue to the hilltop castle of Gibralfaro, where you can take in panoramic views of the city and the Costa del Sol.

DAY 3: GRANADA | MÁLAGA

- Travel to Granada, a Spanish city with Moorish origins and an Andalusian Islamic legacy.
- With an expert local guide, explore the Cathedral of Granada, Calle Acera del Darro and el Palacio de Congresos.
- Visit the Alhambra, a magnificent complex that was originally built as a fortress in 889 and later converted into a royal palace in 1333 by Yusuf I, Sultan of Granada. The theme of the Alhambra is “paradise on earth,” and the geometrical patterns typical of Muslim art are found in and throughout its arabesque tiles.

DAY 4: MÁLAGA

Today's Theme: Spanish Art and Artists—Like its culture, Spanish art has long been influenced by artists and movements from outside the country's borders. Pablo Picasso was born in Málaga, but he spent much of his life in France, working alongside artists such as Georges Braque, Gertrude Stein and André Breton. Today you'll learn more about Picasso's work and his importance to Spain's artistic culture.

- Master art-related terms and learn about one of Spain's most renowned artists, Pablo Picasso, in an interactive language lesson.
- Visit the Museo Picasso Málaga, home to more than 200 Picasso originals.
- Explore Málaga's art scene during an interactive art workshop with a local artist.
- Enjoy an excursion to watch a Spanish movie!

DAY 5: MÁLAGA

Today's Theme: Spanish Culinary Traditions— Spanish food has influences from many different regions and cultures, as you'll taste for yourself today. Traditional Spanish cuisine consists of dishes ranging from full plates of fresh seafood to small tapas shared with friends. Most dishes use fresh, local and inexpensive ingredients. Naturally, Málaga's cuisine features fish and sardines from the surrounding waters, often considered Spain's best.

- Prior to 1879, Mercado Central de Atarazanas served as a shipyard, a convent and a military hospital. Recent renovations have added gorgeous stained glass windows that overlook the many stands below. This morning you'll interact with local vendors during a market challenge and try traditional Spanish foods.
- Practice food-related vocabulary in an interactive language lesson.
- Prepare your dinner at a cooking class led by a local Spanish chef.

DAY 6: MÁLAGA

Today's Theme: Family Life in Spain—The life of a typical Spanish family has many similarities and differences to the life that you know at home. Many Spanish adolescents live with their parents until well into their 20s or

30s, and it's common for extended family to live in the same home. This unity is also seen in Spain's social culture, where kids tag along with parents to parties and there's rarely a babysitter.

- Practice your Spanish while you learn about family life in Spain during an interactive language lesson.
- Interact with locals during a city-wide scavenger hunt.
- Enjoy a homemade dinner with a local Spanish family. This is the perfect opportunity to get some rare insight into Spanish people and their own distinct culture.

DAY 7: MÁLAGA

Today's Theme: Spanish Culture, Past and Present—The Spanish language is actually a mixture of Latin, Celtic, Arabic and several other languages. It's just one vestige of the variety of historical influences on the country and its culture. Other distinctly Spanish traditions are afternoon siestas and dinners that don't start until 9 p.m.

- Learn about traditional and contemporary Spanish culture during an interactive language lesson.
- Participate in a cultural exchange activity with locals. Whether it's a pickup soccer game or student-guided walking tour, this is your chance to hear about life in Málaga.
- Discover the soul of Spain during a flamenco dance lesson. Flamenco is a unique art form combining guitar playing, singing, chanting, dancing and handclapping.

DAY 8: MÁLAGA

Today's Theme: Málaga History and Heritage—Málaga has been home to many different groups throughout its history. Founded by the Phoenicians in 770 BC, the settlement was originally named Málaga, likely deriving from the Phoenician word for salt for the practice of salting fish in the harbor. A lengthy Muslim rule

in the region, followed by Málaga's more recent battles in the past few hundred years, prove that this harbor city has long been a coveted location for many rulers and their people.

- Practice your Spanish while learning about the history and heritage of Málaga during an interactive language lesson.
 - Take an excursion to Nerja, a relaxed coastal town where you'll discover another side of Spanish culture. Settled by the Moors in the 8th century, Nerja's name under Muslim rule was Narixa, meaning "abundant source."
- Explore the Nerja Caves for which the town is best known.
- Enjoy a paella dinner, arguably Spain's most famous dish and a key ingredient of Spanish culture.

DAY 9: DEPART FOR HOME

Your tour may be coming to an end, but your lifelong love of the Spanish language is only beginning.

