Málaga and its Paradors

Why Málaga?
We think Málaga often gets overlooked by tourists, leaving it mainly to the Spanish to enjoy. The city of Málaga is one of the oldest in the world, as for more than 2000 years it has been inhabited by a variety of Mediterranean civilisations, creating an incredibly rich cultural heritage. When visiting the city, you can see the archaeological remains and monuments from the Phoenician, Roman, Arabian and Christian eras, which allow you to appreciate its historical influences and background. Málaga prides itself on being the perfect blend of the modern and the traditional and this is evident as you wander through the streets.

Málaga was the birthplace of the painter Pablo Picasso, and the Picasso Museum continues to be an incredibly popular tourist destination. Málaga is undoubtedly a perfect location for sightseeing; The citadel (8th-11th centuries) is, as well as being one of the city's important symbols, one of the largest Arab fortresses in Andalusia. The Archaeological Museum is located within this building and contains valuable pieces from the significant Phoenician and Roman periods. The castle of Gibralfaro (14th century) is located at the top of the hill and overlooks the city. It is the perfect place to see the breathtaking panoramic views including the ports and the sea, the bullring and the impressive cathedral. You can also see the beautiful old buildings located in the historic quarter. The cathedral is situated in the centre of the town and is probably one of the most important focal points. It was built between the 16th and 18th centuries and is also known as “la Manquita” because of its unfinished right tower; (the word ‘Manco’ means one-armed in English). This stunning construction was built in the Renaissance style and is a beautiful example of wonderful Andalusian artwork.

Málaga is famous for it’s wonderful climate, beautiful beaches and famous golf courses; and being situated on the Costa del Sol, residents of Málaga enjoy very pleasant weather, even during the winter months. The town also has a great selection of shops and restaurants, as well as many parks and green spaces; creating the perfect balance of historical and contemporary features. The town has a buzzing atmosphere and well merits a stopover to explore the winding streets to enjoy some tapas and to take in the true Spanish culture.

Why do we rate the Parador highly?

Málaga Gibralfaro
As you travel up the Gibralfaro mountain, situated at the top and near the castle is the converted stone-built mansion that now houses the Parador de Málaga Gibralfaro. The Parador is impressive from the outside with very attractive surroundings, the perfect location to experience the amazing views overlooking the stunning city and the bay beneath. As you enter the Parador and continue to explore the interior, it continues to impress with its high standards of décor including beautifully traditional bedrooms. The entire experience that the Parador offers provides exactly the right amount of historical culture, comfort and relaxation for the perfect break. You can easily take a bus or taxi down into the town, or if you fancy a short stroll downhill, you can take in the sights on the way. The Parador is ideally situated as it is close enough to the town, however its position higher up the mountain is undoubtedly an advantage in terms of the impressive sights to be enjoyed.

Málaga Golf
Málaga Golf is a much more contemporary option with a very attractive golf course (the first on the Costa del sol) and outdoor pool. It is surrounded by beautiful gardens, creating a very tranquil environment overlooking the sea. The rooms are very bright and clean and the sandy beach is just a stone’s throw away. This Parador is the perfect place, not just for golfers (as it of course attracts many), but also people looking for a lovely getaway with great weather and high quality Mediterranean cuisine.
What, Why and When?

There are many festivals and traditions that are incredibly popular amongst tourists, drawing crowds to the streets during Easter time and various fiestas;

Holy Week (Easter)
For centuries, Holy Week has been one of the most prominent traditions existing in Málaga as it dates back to the reign of the Catholic Monarchs. The event attracts many spectators due to its outstanding flamboyance, colour and grandeur. Throughout the week a variety of fantastic displays and processions take place, which include very impressive floats and costumes. Each of these processions is led by a different parish brotherhood, symbolising each of the distinct religious backgrounds. It is due to this that the Holy Week festivals are not only significant to the people of Málaga but also to thousands of visitors who come from all over to admire this brilliant display of religious culture.

Fiesta de San Juan
This fiesta is celebrated on the longest day of the year and falls on the 23rd June in 2011. There is a massive celebration which takes place all over the beaches, parks and streets of Málaga. The display includes fireworks, musical performances, religious rituals and street entertainment. It is a very significant event in Málaga, and one well worth visiting to participate in such a lively atmosphere.

Feria de Málaga
This event is an enormous party for the entire city! Taking place in August, it is very popular with tourists as it has an abundance of fun activities to enjoy. Similarly to other festivals there is music, dancing and wonderful costumes, and the streets are transformed with colourful decorations and a fairground. There are also stalls offering a selection of delicious typical local cuisine and a great party atmosphere.

There exist a great number of different celebrations and fiestas throughout Spain and Málaga, these are just a few examples which are very popular amongst visitors to the city. Therefore, between these and the various tourist attractions scattered throughout Málaga, there is certainly plenty to see and experience. It is undoubtedly a beautiful place full of culture and history, which is often overlooked.