



# MÁLAGA, SPAIN: A GLOBAL HUB FOR CONNECTING EUROPEAN CUSTOMS

*"SPANISH BID FOR THE NEW EUROPEAN UNION CUSTOMS AUTHORITY"*





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# First Deputy Prime Minister

The Government of Spain strongly promotes and supports Malaga's candidacy as the future seat of the European Customs Agency (EUCA), an institution that is called upon to have strategic relevance for the Union, ensuring a secure and efficient management of international trade within the European single market.

We are convinced that Malaga's application meets the best technical and logistical conditions to host the EUCA: an unbeatable geographical location, an extraordinary capacity for connectivity, an environment with a powerful technological and innovative dynamism, modern infrastructures and an enviable quality of life in a safe and welcoming environment.

This candidacy is also based on the long tradition of customs excellence that Spain treasures, which is today also a benchmark in modernization, digitalization and paperless management, fully aligned and committed to the objectives of the European Union in terms of security, sustainability and trade facilitation.

Thus, Spain's commitment to building a more agile, efficient European customs area that protects the single market and its citizens is reflected in the excellence of its customs system, which is renowned for its efficiency and its ability to respond to the challenges of international trade and the current unstable geopolitical environment.

Equally remarkable is the unanimous support of all Spanish public administrations. From the first minute the Government of Spain and the City of Malaga have been working and cooperating to make this proposal a reality, together with the Junta de Andalucía and Malaga civil society.

Malaga therefore offers a unique combination of strategic relevance, operational excellence, institutional balance and human appeal. And from the Government of Spain, we are convinced that its choice as the seat of the EUCA will undoubtedly contribute to the strengthening of the European project and the development of a modern and excellent customs policy at the service of citizens and the prosperity of our companies.

Sincerely,



**María Jesús Montero**



# Andalusia Regional Government President

Through this letter, I would like to express my full support, as well as that of the Government I lead, for Málaga's candidacy to host the European Customs Authority (EUCA), a strategic proposal that brings together the best technical, logistical, and operational conditions to be selected as the host city.

Without a doubt, we know we face strong competition, but we must recognize that the city of Málaga offers countless strengths that make it deserving of this choice: high international connectivity, a consolidated technological ecosystem, an international city attractive to European talent with a high quality of life, an administrative, business, and office infrastructure with modern and sustainable buildings suitable for hosting international institutions, and significant logistical and geostrategic potential.

We are firmly convinced that collaboration and institutional cooperation are essential. For this reason, on behalf of the Government of the Andalusian Regional Government, I want to express to you our fullest support in bringing this initiative to a successful conclusion. I am sure that it will not only contribute to the progress of Andalusia and of Spain as a leading customs country, but also to the modernization of the European Union, increasing efficiency and harmonization in trade and customs operations.

All these qualities will ensure that the selection of Málaga as the EUCA headquarters strengthens the consolidation of the European project and promotes a more coordinated and efficient customs system.

Kind regards,



**Juan Manuel Moreno**



# Málaga Mayor

On behalf of the City of Málaga, allow me to formally express our strongest support for Málaga's candidacy to host the new European Union Customs Authority (EUCA).

Málaga embodies the strategic, operational, and quality-of-life criteria essential for EUCA's success. As a dynamic, medium-sized European city, Málaga offers the advantages of a major metropolitan centre—world-class infrastructure, international connectivity, and comprehensive services—without the congestion, pollution, or limitations often found in larger capitals. Strategically located near the Straits of Gibraltar, Málaga sits at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and the Americas, and serves as a vital gateway to the Mediterranean and global trade flows. The region is supported by a major international airport, a rapidly growing commercial port, high-speed rail, and robust logistics networks, assuring EUCA a modern, secure, and optimally connected foundation for customs operations.

The city's innovation ecosystem further enhances its suitability as a host. Málaga leads Southern Europe in technological transformation, anchored by one of Europe's largest technology parks specializing in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and supply-chain management. Leading European firms—including Vodafone, Dekra, Ericsson, and over 720 other tech companies—have established offices here, making Málaga a reference point for customs modernization and data-driven management. Moreover, the €650 Million investment to establish IMEC's cutting-edge European semiconductor research centre in Málaga not only strengthens the city's role in digital innovation but also significantly contributes to Europe's strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty—critical factors underpinning the success and security of the European Union Customs Authority.

Málaga also guarantees an exceptional quality of life, marked by safety, affordability, outstanding healthcare and education, and a tradition of welcoming families and professionals from across Europe. The Costa del Sol hosts more than fifteen international schools and a large, established European expatriate community, ensuring a smooth transition and deep integration for EUCA staff. The city's status as the largest European urban centre without a formal EU institutional presence guarantees visibility and impact for the Authority, both locally and at European level.

The City of Málaga is fully committed to working with EU institutions and partners to deliver a successful, enduring home for EUCA. We stand ready to offer the Authority a resilient, well-connected, and future-oriented environment, fully aligned with its mission and with the values of the European Union.

Sincerely,



**Francisco de la Torre**



# Málaga, the all-round city

Spain is proud to present the candidacy of Málaga as the future host of the European Union Customs Authority

Málaga is a **flourishing and open-minded city** that welcomes the opportunity to host EUCA and is excited by the challenges that this new project presents.

**The capital covers all the key elements and criteria defined by the European Union** to ensure the successful settlement of the Agency:

- A **set of buildings ready for EUCA's needs.**
- An **accessible location**, with a compact design that makes it easy to move around the city. This is further enhanced by the **productive triangle** — which connects the airport, tech park, university, city center, and train station—ensuring seamless connectivity to key facilities and services.
- A **sustainable and digital security and connectivity** regarding physical and IT infrastructure. Malaga has been a Smart city for decades now transforming into a cognitive city with cloud capabilities, data centres and artificial intelligence.
- Adequate **education facilities.**
- Appropriate **access to the labour market, social security and medical care** for both, children and spouses.
- A **high quality, reputation and experienced national Customs framework**, able to recruit high-qualified and specialised staff, as well as provide adequate training opportunities
- A detailed **business allocation plan** to ensure that EUCA can be set up on-site.



# Introduction

## Why Spain?

Hosting the European Union Customs Authority (EUCA) is an opportunity for Spain to show its commitment to Europe, while promoting a stronger and better Union for all its citizens. **Spain is among the countries with the greatest confidence levels in the future of the European Union, and has always been committed to its objectives**, promoting the European spirit of democracy, tolerance and diversity.

Málaga's bid brings two key elements that will guarantee EUCA's landing with the minimum impact for its staff and their families: engaged administrations and its commitment with the European project.

## Engaged administrations

Establishing the new EU Customs Authority represents a major challenge for the European Union. It is vital that the future host city meets all the criteria and has a proven track record to support all the infrastructural needs of the Authority, in order to guarantee EUCA's daily operations from day one.

All levels of Spanish public administration are fully committed to the success of the landing process, aligning their objectives and joining forces to present Málaga's bid as the ideal venue.

The national, regional and local administrations are working closely together to provide a smooth landing. Spain firmly believes that Málaga is the best location for the European Union Customs Authority and its staff.



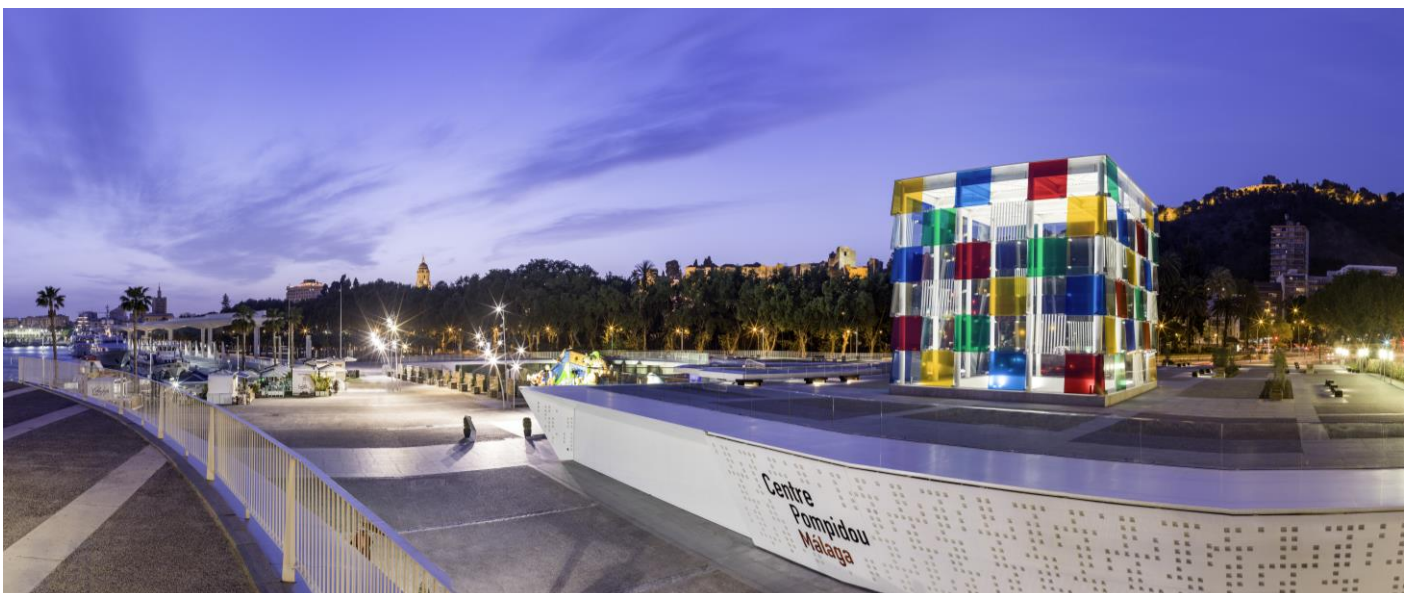
Málaga ensures that EUCA can be established on-site at any time, as well as the smoothness of the landing process, both for its activity and its employees.

## Committed with the European project

The European Union plays a crucial role through its institutions and agencies, which take care of its citizens, ensure progress and foster tolerance. Due to the importance of these tasks, Spain is highly committed to the European project, particularly with EUCA, as it aspires to contribute greatly to the construction of a preventive system for potential illicit activities.



Spain is committed with the European project and has always supported the European spirit of democracy and diversity.



Centre Pompidou Málaga





# 1

## **The building**

### A home for EUCA

Buildings, offices and workspaces play a fundamental role in ensuring the functionality, productivity, and identity of public institutions. They are not only operational environments but also symbols of efficiency, innovation and well-being for the people who work within them.

The proposed buildings for the EUCA in Málaga are located in one of the city's most strategic and modern areas, surrounded by high-quality services and excellent transport connections. It combines architectural distinction with functionality, offering flexible, bright and energy-efficient spaces that promote collaboration and comfort.

The premises are being designed with sustainability and accessibility at their core, integrating smart energy systems, cutting-edge technologies and eco-friendly materials. Fully equipped and ready to host a European agency, the buildings reflect Málaga's modern spirit — dynamic, connected and committed to the values of innovation, openness and environmental responsibility.

# 1

## The building

**1.0** | Buildings ready to welcome the EUCA

**1.1** | ÁGORA: Ready-to-use building

**1.2** | NOA: Soon-to-open building

**1.3** | MARÍTIMO 26: Next-generation building

**1.4** | PACÍFICO: Dedicated Headquarters site

# 1.0

## Buildings ready to welcome the EUCA Designed to match EUCA's operational model

Málaga reaffirms its strong commitment to its candidacy to host the European Customs Agency, **offering three outstanding Class A commercial office buildings as potential headquarters.** These facilities meet the highest standards in quality, energy efficiency technology, and are designed with technical floors and adaptable layouts that allow rapid and easy reconfiguration of spaces and systems. Each option offers different timelines, space configurations and levels of readiness, giving EUCA the flexibility to choose the setting that best fits both its immediate needs and long-term vision. Together, Ágora, NOA and Marítimo 26 form a solid, future-ready portfolio capable of supporting the Agency from day one.

### Three distinct buildings

Optimal offices to accommodate EUCA staff



Ágora



*Calle Pacífico, 24, 29004 Málaga*



Scheduled for completion in **January 2026**



**13'** by car to Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport



**7'** by car to María Zambrano railway station



*Paseo de Martiricos, 32, 29009 Málaga*



Scheduled for completion in **Q4 2026**



**15'** by car to Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport



**10'** by car to María Zambrano railway station



Noa



Marítimo 26



*Paseo Antonio Machado 26, 29002 Málaga*



Scheduled for completion **Q4 2027**



**15'** by car to Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport



**2'** by car to María Zambrano railway station



# 1.0

## Buildings ready to welcome the EUCA Designed to match EUCA's operational model

### Spoilt for choice

Comparison of the three potential buildings



Building	ÁGORA	NOA	Marítimo 26
<b>Availability</b>	January 2026	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
<b>Fit-out &amp; adaptation work</b> (months)	3 - 9	3 - 9	3 - 9
<b>Secure operational facilities</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Executive conference room</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Various medium and small meeting rooms</b>	✓	✓	✓



Financial Terms	ÁGORA	NOA	Marítimo 26
<b>Rent</b> (€/m <sup>2</sup> /month)	23	26	30
<b>Monthly maintenance costs</b> (€/m <sup>2</sup> /month)	3.5	3.5	3.9
<b>Parking fees</b> (€/space/month) + IVA	120	120	150
<b>Fit-out and adaptation costs</b> (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	750 - 850	750 - 850	750 - 850



Building Characteristics	ÁGORA	NOA	Marítimo 26
<b>Floors</b>	7	7	8
<b>Total surface</b> (m <sup>2</sup> )	9,186	9,805	9,029
<b>Available surface for EUCA</b> (m <sup>2</sup> )	6,000	6,000	6,000
<b>Staff capacity for EUCA</b>	507	520	532
<b>Parking spaces available for EUCA</b>	26	200	130
<b>Electric parking spaces</b>	20	33	20
<b>Bicycle parking spaces</b>	32	32	30
<b>Digital connectivity certifications</b>	WiredScore Gold	WiredScore Gold	WiredScore Gold
<b>Sustainability/Accessibility certificates</b>	Breem Excellent, Well Gold	Leed Gold, Well Gold	Leed Gold, Well Gold, AIS

The Regional Government of Andalusia and the City of Málaga will provide:

**12 Million €**  
Subsidy

**6 years**  
Duration

**2 Million €**  
per year

to **cover rental, refurbishment, maintenance** and other related costs

The City of Málaga is offering a **prime seafront plot of land** (free of cost) for EUCA to develop a customized headquarters:

**2,680 m<sup>2</sup>**  
Surface

**8,819 m<sup>2</sup>**  
Buildable area

**7**  
Floors

For security and independence reasons, if the EU deems it necessary to have a dedicated building, the City of Málaga is also **willing to assist in negotiating the purchase of any of the three proposed buildings** and to occupy any space not used by EUCA in order to guarantee the building's security.

# 1.0

## Buildings ready to welcome the EUCA Citywide headquarters portfolio

Málaga is a **dynamic** and **well-connected city**, combining a strategic location with excellent transport links, a thriving innovation ecosystem, and strong urban infrastructure. Its connectivity – by road, rail, air and sea – makes it an ideal base for operations, while proximity to tech hubs, universities, and cultural assets reinforces its appeal as a centre for talent, collaboration, and growth.

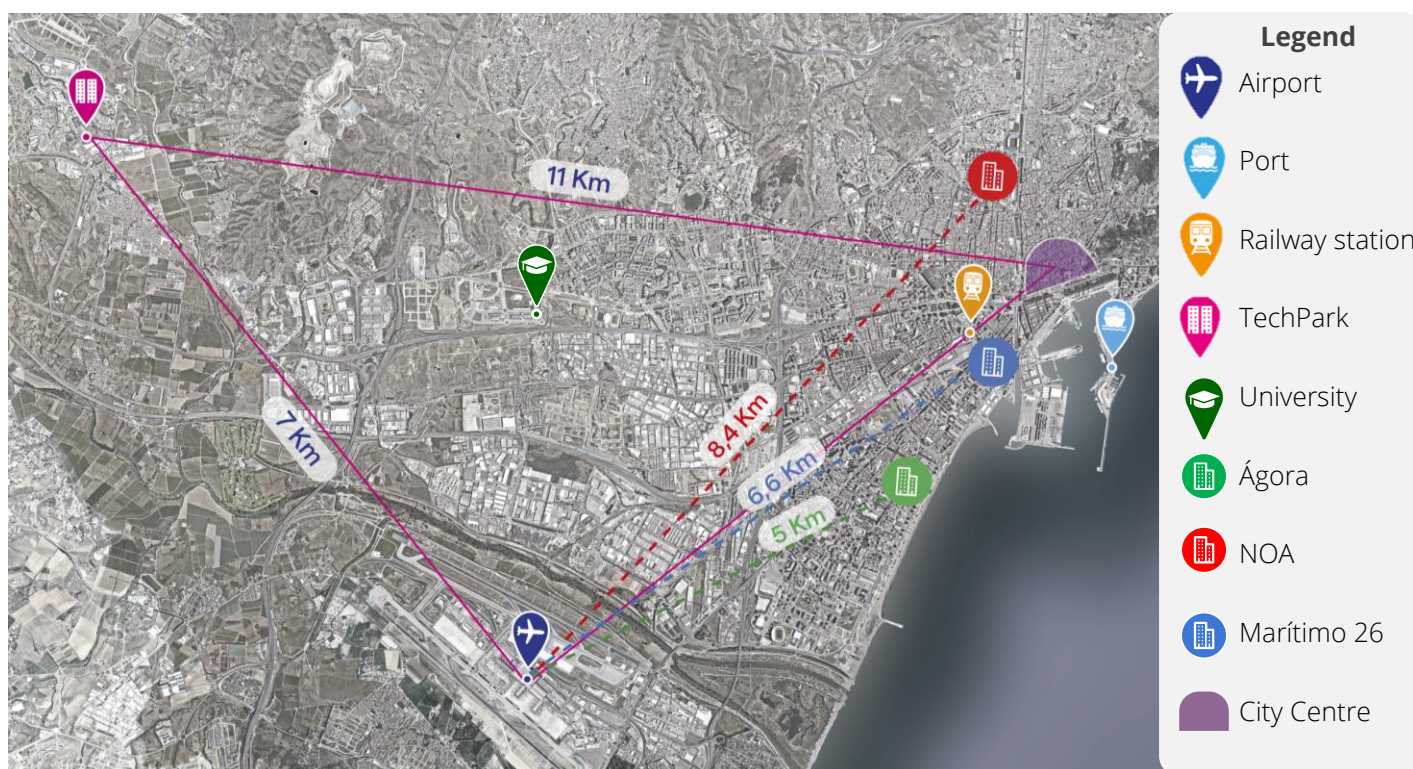
### Málaga build on connectivity

Easy access across the city

The map below showcases Málaga's strategic layout, highlighting the **city's productive triangle**—City Centre, Málaga Tech Park, and the Airport—and the distances between them. It also pinpoints the three proposed buildings available for the EUCA, showing each

site's proximity to the airport. Additionally, icons highlight four **key hubs** that reinforce the city's strategic advantage: Málaga Port, María Zambrano high-speed rail station, the University of Málaga, and The Green Ray innovation centre.

### Productive Triangle



Málaga has evolved into a **global tech hub** thanks to **long-term planning, strong investment in quality of life and education**, and the development of a **thriving innovation ecosystem**.

# 1.0

## Buildings ready to welcome the EUCA Citywide headquarters portfolio

### 2 districts, 3 buildings, infinite choices

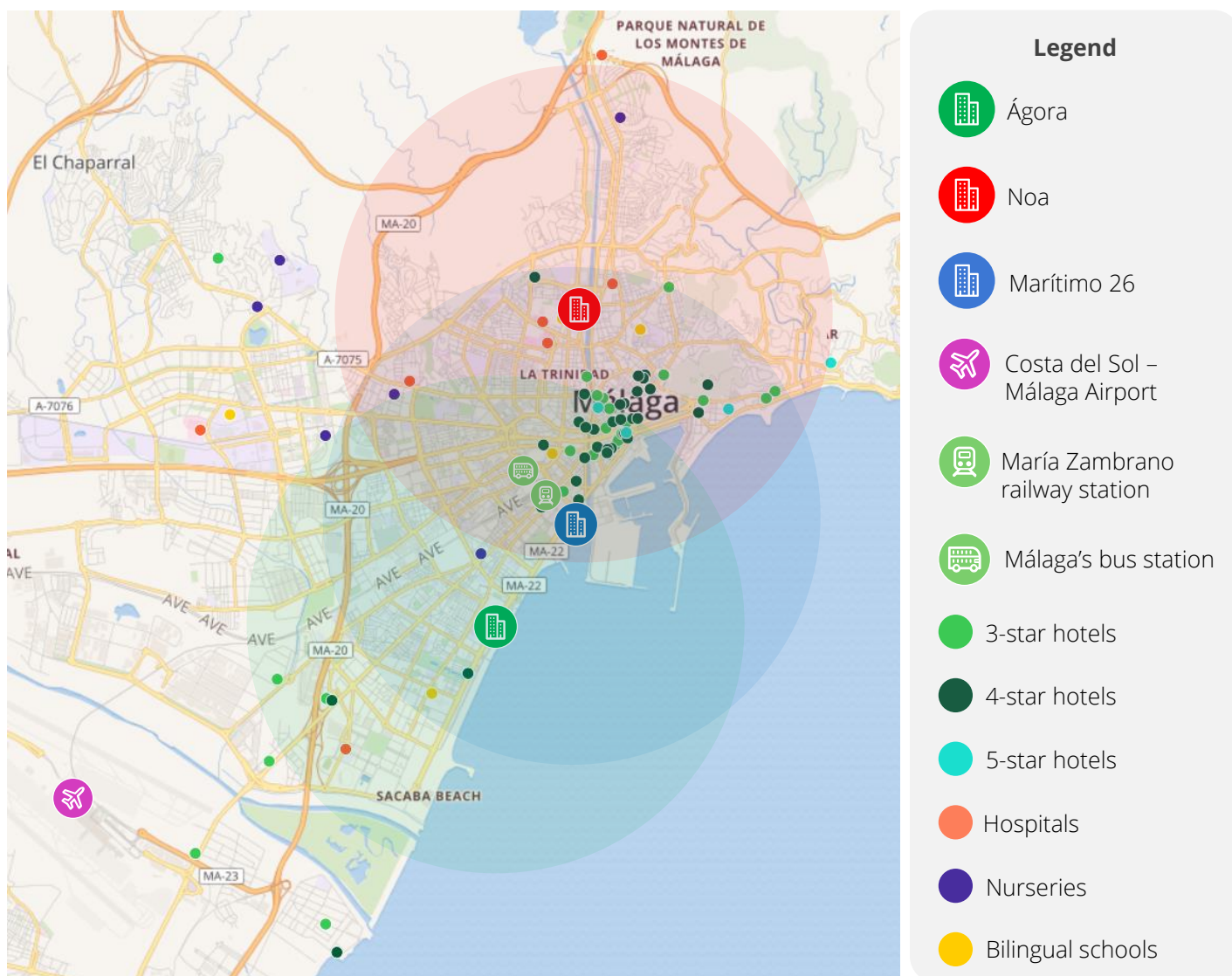
Unique offering of services

The proposed locations are situated in **central, strategically connected areas of the city of Málaga**, in an environment that offers a **comprehensive range of services, and an integrated transport network** that ensures optimal accessibility. Together, these elements provide a highly functional setting, ideal for the conduct of institutional activities.

Having three buildings located in different areas of the city provides flexibility and the ability to adapt to the needs of the EUCA, promoting a functional distribution of activities.

The following map shows the location of the three proposed buildings and the main services in their surroundings.

Area with a 3 km radius around the three buildings





# 1.1

## ÁGORA: ready-to-use building Seafront location

The **Ágora Building**, Málaga's first proposed location to host the EU Customs Authority, strengthens the city's value proposition with strategic access, an efficient and modern design, and high institutional readiness. Its **location**, **architecture** and **security** framework create a reliable foundation for EU-level operations and long-term organisational growth.

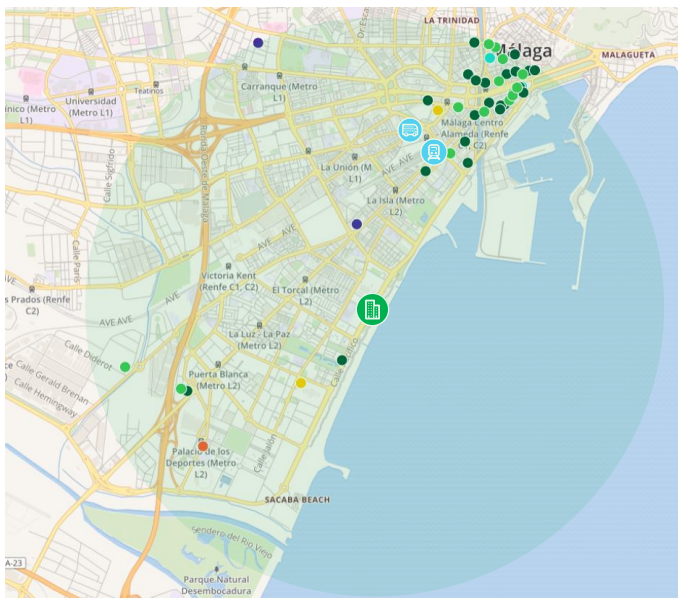
### Ágora in the city

Connected, modern, coastal

Ágora is strategically **located** in **Carretera de Cádiz district** of Málaga, at **Calle Pacífico 24**, one of the city's most dynamic coastal areas, where residential life, commerce, services, and hotel developments converge. This modern **seafront** district offers a balanced blend of **urban** vibrancy and coastal well-being, positioning the building in a privileged environment for hosting a high-level European institution.

The building is surrounded by a wide range of amenities, creating a **complete ecosystem** for professionals and visitors. Its proximity to the airport, the train station, the port, and the city centre reinforces its strategic relevance while providing an excellent quality of life for employees.

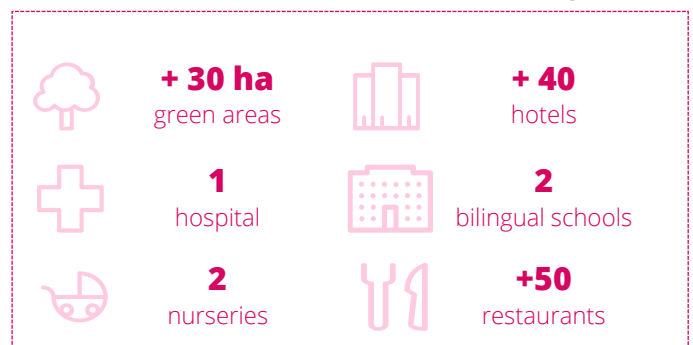
### Area with a 3 km radius around Ágora



#### Legend

- 3-star hotels
- 4-star hotels
- 5-star hotels
- María Zambrano railway station
- Málaga's bus station
- Hospitals
- Nurseries
- Bilingual schools
- Ágora

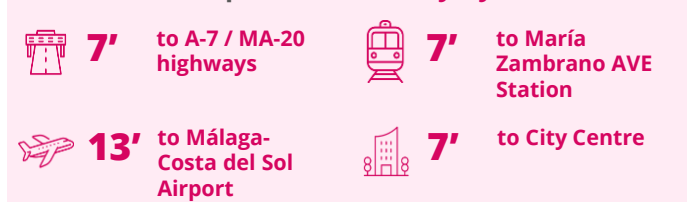
### Main urban services within 3 km of Ágora



### Strategic urban connections

The property benefits from **exceptional transport connectivity**, ensuring fast **access to Málaga's key strategic points**, including the airport, María Zambrano rail station, key highways, and the city centre.

### Transport connectivity by car



### Public transport connections

- +8** Accesses to move around
- +4 bus lines
- 3 bicycle stations

The integration with public transport enables sustainable mobility and ensures smooth daily commuting and excellent **local and international accessibility**.



# 1.1

## ÁGORA: ready-to-use building An inspiring workspace by the sea

### Striking structure

A place that inspires

The Ágora Building spans more than **9,186 m<sup>2</sup>** across **seven floors**, with **open, light-filled workspaces** designed to host up to 900 employees. Its **horizontal layout and large windows** maximize natural light, creating a bright, uplifting environment that fosters **productivity, creativity, and well-being**.

#### Key features of the office spaces

**6,000 m<sup>2</sup>**

leasable space for EUCA

**507**

staff capacity for EUCA

**26**

parking spaces for EUCA

**804 m<sup>2</sup>**

terraces



Ágora immediately provides 3,461 m<sup>2</sup> —1,241.94 m<sup>2</sup>. Additional space is expected to become available from year three, subject to early lease terminations by current tenants, and from year five as leases reach expiry, potentially bringing the total area available to 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

The building's **biophilic design** incorporates light, openness, and greenery to **reduce stress, support concentration, and enhance comfort**, offering an environment where every detail—from **natural lighting to ventilation and interior finishes**—is carefully considered for the satisfaction and health of its users.

#### Amenities of the office spaces



7-story building



40 kW photovoltaic panels

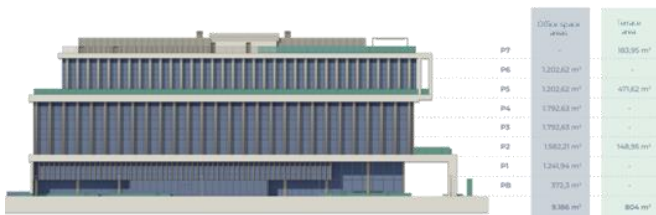


Rooftop with panoramic views

Ágora represents a **new model of office living**, where work, wellness, and the outdoors converge. It is a space designed not just to **work in**, but to **experience**, providing a stimulating, healthy, and inspiring environment that attracts and retains talent while reflecting **Málaga's vibrant, innovative character**.

"Innovative project", where natural light and sea views are the protagonists

Source: El Español



Leasable area

Workers enjoy **over 800 m<sup>2</sup> of seafront terraces**, seamlessly connected to interior spaces. These outdoor areas offer spaces to **relax, collaborate informally, and recharge**, while enjoying the **Mediterranean breeze and panoramic sea views**.



Ágora terrace



Ágora building

# 1.1

## ÁGORA: ready-to-use building An inspiring workspace by the sea

### Designed for comfort

Beyond its striking design, Ágora offers a suite of **modern amenities** that make daily work seamless, comfortable, and productive.



#### Parking & EV charging

26 parking spaces available for EUCA

Secure underground parking providing convenience for employees and visitors, supporting sustainable commuting and including EV charging points and spaces for reduced mobility.



#### Sustainable transport

32 bicycle parking spaces

Encourages eco-friendly commuting and promotes healthy mobility for employees and visitors.



#### High-speed elevator

4 high-speed elevators per floor

The building includes highspeed elevators, including rooftop access, plus two additional elevators connecting basement and ground floor.



#### Comfort climate

Optimal comfort, efficient control

High-efficiency VRF system with flexible zoning, ensuring optimal comfort while minimizing energy use.



#### Telecommunications

High-speed fiber-optic

Fast and direct connectivity through the building. Delivers reliable and secure internet access for offices, operational areas, and guest networks.

### Advanced standards that elevate efficiency

The building elevates efficiency, comfort, and sustainability through advanced building standards, combining **BREEAM Excellent targets**, strong **ESG alignment**, and a comprehensive approach to **future-ready, environmentally responsible operations**.

#### Compliance with the Manual of Standard Building

The building meets the requirements to obtain three certificates: **BREEAM Excellent**, **WELL Gold** and **WIREDSCORE Gold**. This portrays its commitment to the environment's protection, and biodiversity's improvement. The building incorporates sustainable features like **green spaces** with native plants, **LED lighting with DALI and BMS control**, and a glazed façade to maximise natural light, along with the use of **certified wood** and **low-carbon materials**. It also incorporates high-performance digital connectivity, robust telecom infrastructure, and resilience in case of service interruptions – allowing companies to operate efficiently and without disruptions.



#### Commitment to ESG

With its focus **on renewable energy**, flexible and efficient spaces, and sustainable mobility, Ágora promotes **responsible development** and enhances user well-being. Main sustainability highlights:

- ❖ Photovoltaic energy generation (40kW)
- ❖ Energy-efficient and independent office systems
- ❖ Electric vehicle and bicycle parking
- ❖ Open, light-filled workspaces that support comfort and productivity

The Project aims for sustainability certifications such as Broom (excellent level) and Well Building (gold level), consolidating itself as a cutting-edge building in Málaga.

Source: Savills News



# 1.1

## ÁGORA: ready-to-use building

Your safety, our standard

### Secure by design

Trust at the core

Ágora provides a **secure, resilient, and digitally-enabled environment**, combining flexible operational spaces, advanced infrastructure, and strategic compliance. From **high-restriction zones and 24/7 security** to **sovereign-ready digital systems** and **Day-1 operational readiness**, the building is designed to meet the highest standards of **institutional security and preparedness**.



#### Secure operational design

- ❖ Flexible floor places for secure operational clusters.
- ❖ High-restriction areas (Data Hub, secure rooms, technical spaces)
- ❖ Compartmentalised zones for controlled circulation.



#### Comprehensive access control

- ❖ Building-wide Access control with identify validation.
- ❖ Controlled visitors pathways and security checkpoints.
- ❖ CCTV-ready perimeter and protected car-park access.



#### Mission-critical digital security

- ❖ Infrastructure prepared for a 24/7 security & incident-response centre.
- ❖ Continuous monitoring capability (MFA, digital oversight).
- ❖ Secure operational backbone for mission-critical continuity.

The building delivers a fully secure, resilient, and mission-ready environment combining robust digital infrastructure.

### Secure by design

Powering secure

The building features a **sovereign-ready digital infrastructure**, with **dual-carrier redundancy**, **segmented corporate and guest Wi-Fi**, **integrated 5G coverage**, and dedicated spaces for **archives and cloud continuity**. This ensures **seamless, resilient, and mission-critical operations**, while supporting advanced **cybersecurity measures** such as **multifactor authentication** and **continuous monitoring**.

Next-generation **access control** at the lobby

**Anti-intrusion system**

**CCTV coverage** at all entrances

**Controlled vehicle access** to the parking

Positioned to perform

Strategically designed for operational readiness, Ágora combines **flexible deployment**, **EU-aligned compliance**, and **prime location**, enabling seamless **Day-1 operations**, **scalable growth**, and **rapid coordination** with key authorities.



#### Sustainability & compliance

EU-aligned design for energy efficiency, environmental performance, and accessibility.



#### Deployment & scalability

Flexible design allows Day-1 deployment and smooth soft-landing arrangements.



#### Strategic location

Proximity to security forces, emergency services, and municipal authorities

# 1.2

## NOA: Soon-to-open building A location built for access, visibility and impact

The second building proposed is the **NOA Building**, a modern and purpose-driven space aligned with the operational, security, and institutional needs of the EUCA. With bright open areas, adaptable floorplates, and a contemporary architectural identity, NOA provides the infrastructure and services needed to support daily operations and high-level governance activities. More than a workspace, it offers a stable, future-ready environment that ensures accessibility, institutional functionality, and the capacity to grow with evolving organisational needs.

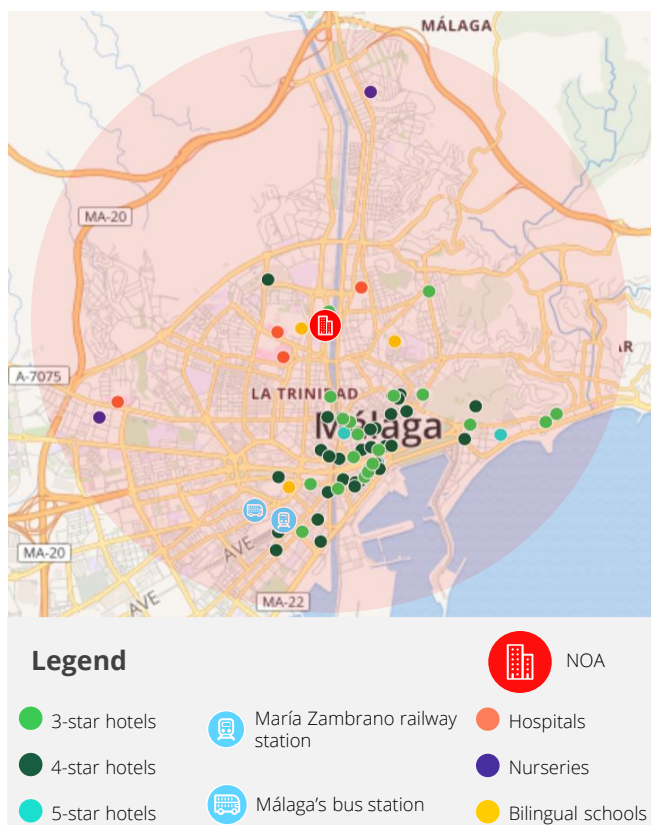
### NOA in the city

Central, connected, future-shaping

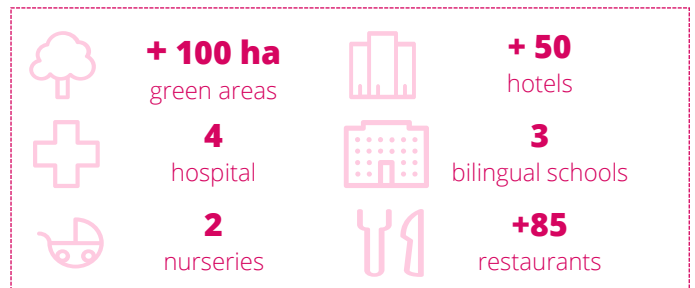
The NOA Building is located in **Martiricos district of Málaga**, at **Paseo de Martiricos 32**, a central area undergoing significant **urban transformation**. Positioned just a short distance from the historic city centre and connected to the future Guadalmedina green corridor, it combines **accessibility, visibility** and a strong urban environment.

The surrounding district brings together **new residential developments, public facilities, educational centres** and an increasing presence of **multinational and technology companies**. Its links through major avenues and public transport ensure smooth access to Málaga's main activity hubs, reinforcing NOA's strategic position.

#### Area with a 3 km radius around NOA



#### Main urban services within 3 km of NOA



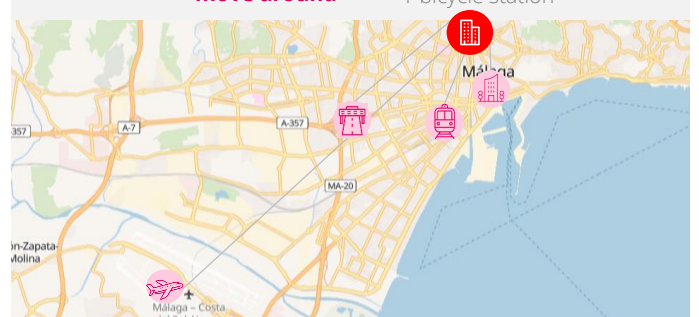
#### Strategic urban connections

The building connects directly to **Málaga's main urban corridors**, ensuring easy daily mobility. Located in the Martiricos district, it links efficiently with key transport routes for smooth movement of staff, visitors, and partners. NOA is well served by **public transport**, with several bus lines just steps away and **pedestrian routes** that integrate naturally with the surrounding area and the city centre. These connections ensure **full accessibility and daily convenient** for all users.

#### Transport connectivity by car



#### Public transport connections



# 1.2

## NOA: Soon-to-open building A future-ready workplace for EUCA

### Striking structure

A place that inspires

The NOA Building offers **9,805 m<sup>2</sup> across seven floors**, providing the capacity to accommodate up to **850 employees** in a functional and adaptable layout. Each level includes a **private terrace** directly connected to the floorplate, adding valuable outdoor space that supports informal meetings, short breaks, and a healthy working dynamic.

#### Key features of the office spaces

**6,000 m<sup>2</sup>**

leasable space for EUCA

**520**

staff capacity for EUCA

**200**

parking spaces for EUCA

**3,666 m<sup>2</sup>**

terraces



	SUP. AVAILABLE m <sup>2</sup>	TERRACES m <sup>2</sup>
P7	--	1307.32
P6	1,495.08	350.1
P5	1,495.08	357.7
P4	1,275.98	352.9
P3	1,495.08	490.3
P2	1,495.08	650.8
P1	1,787.40	636.07
P0	806.27	--
TOTAL 137	9,805.12 m <sup>2</sup>	3,666.48 m <sup>2</sup>

PLAZAS PARKING: P-1 (37), P-2 (13), TOTAL 137

Leasable area

With more than **3,600 m<sup>2</sup> of terraces**, NOA places outdoor space at the centre of its design, offering panoramic views of Martiricos and the city skyline.

These outdoor areas give occupants access to **natural light, fresh air** and a **practical setting** for informal meetings, short breaks or collaborative exchanges.



NOA building

NOA expands the connection with nature beyond its terraces, incorporating a **biophilic approach** that enhances comfort and well-being throughout the building. **Natural light, open views** and **soft, landscaped elements** help create calm, pleasant spaces where people can concentrate, collaborate and recharge. This design philosophy supports healthier work routines and reinforces the sense of balance that defines NOA's overall working environment.

#### Amenities of the office spaces



7-story building



6 high-capacity elevators



High-efficiency hybrid R32 HVAC system



15 kW photovoltaic panels



Fiber-optic cabling



Rooftop with panoramic views

Beyond its structural features, NOA introduces a workspace concept centred on comfort and informal interaction. The ground-floor **coffee area**, illuminated through wide glass façades, provides a relaxed setting for breaks, social encounters and informal meetings. Together with its terraces, rooftop and open floorplates, the building fosters a modern office experience aligned with contemporary organisational culture.



Views from the interior



# 1.2

## NOA: Soon-to-open building A future-ready workplace for EUCA

### Designed for comfort

The NOA Building complements its architecture and workspace design with a set of **additional amenities** that enhance daily operations, improve user comfort, and support an efficient, modern working environment.



#### Parking & EV charging

*200 parking spaces available for EUCA, including charging points for electric vehicles and spaces for people with reduced mobility*

The building includes dedicated on-site parking for staff and visitors, complemented by several electric-vehicle charging points for convenient daily use.



#### Bicycle parking

*With capacity for 32 bikes*

A designated parking area for 32 bicycles, with 4 spots for guests, in compliance with LEED Gold certification.



#### Comfort climate

*Optimal comfort, efficient control*

High-efficiency VRF system with flexible zoning, ensuring optimal comfort while minimizing energy use.



#### Multipurpose Room

*A versatile space for various functions*

A multipurpose room that can be adapted for different needs, such as teamwork, private office use, meeting room.



#### Telecommunications

*High-speed fiber-optic*

Fast and direct connectivity through the building. Delivers reliable and secure internet access for offices, operational areas, and guest networks.

### Advanced standards that elevate efficiency

Building on its architectural ambition, NOA integrates **sustainability** as a core element of its design. **Natural light, efficient systems** and **outdoor spaces shape** an environment that enhances user well-being while reducing environmental impact. The building features **high environmental efficiency**, including LED lighting with BMS control, photovoltaic panels, and a hybrid R32-water HVAC system, as well as fire detection and sprinklers on all floors. NOA's structural qualities are therefore not only visual - they also support a more responsible, healthy and future-ready workplace.

#### Sustainability & building standards

NOA has been conceived under strict criteria of energy efficiency, material responsibility and environmental performance. The building maximises natural light, improves indoor air quality and reduces resource consumption through efficient systems, with the objective of achieving **LEED Gold** and **WELL Gold** certifications.



#### Compliance with the Manual of Standard Building

In line with EU institutional requirements, its design incorporates:

- ❖ Thermal, lighting and acoustic regulation
- ❖ Sustainable material selection
- ❖ Sustainable water management
- ❖ Electrical and digital infrastructure supporting secure, resilient operations
- ❖ Integrated mobility solutions, including electric vehicle charging points

#### Commitment to ESG

Its design and operational model actively support ESG priorities by reducing carbon impact, promoting well-being, and enabling efficient organisational practices.

- ❖ Energy-efficient office systems
- ❖ Electric mobility solutions
- ❖ Abundant natural light and outdoor work areas
- ❖ High-quality ventilation and air purification
- ❖ Digitally resilient infrastructure targeting **WiredScore Gold**



# 1.2

## NOA: Soon-to-open building Security engineered for your mission

### Secure by design

Trust at the core

The NOA Building has been designed to offer a **robust, resilient and fully compliant environment** for EU-level activity. Its architecture, digital backbone and operational layout integrate advanced protective measures that ensure continuity, controlled access and readiness in all circumstances. **NOA can also be adapted to provide separate entrances and meet EU-level security requirements**, further strengthening controlled circulation and institutional-grade protection.



#### Secure operational design

- ❖ Secure lobby with separate staff/visitor access and badge-controlled entry.
- ❖ Monitored parking access and controlled internal circulation.
- ❖ Flexible zoning with clear separation of areas and integrated fire-safety systems linked to the BMS.



#### Comprehensive access control

- ❖ Dual-carrier fibre connectivity with redundant network paths.
- ❖ Segmented enterprise Wi-Fi and 5G-ready coverage.
- ❖ Secure Data Hub with MFA/biometric access and UPS protection



#### Mission-critical digital security

- ❖ Full-building CCTV with 24/7 monitoring and compatibility with on-site or remote supervision.
- ❖ Integrated fire detection, alarm and evacuation systems connected to the central BMS.
- ❖ Redundant power and communication lines to keep critical systems active at all times.

The NOA Building offers a **mature, scalable and security-aligned platform** capable of supporting EUCA's operational requirements.

### Powering secure

The NOA Building is supported by a strong digital infrastructure designed to keep operations running smoothly at all times. Its network systems are built with **redundancy** and **high-quality cabling** to avoid interruptions, while indoor connectivity can be fully segmented to separate corporate, guest, and operational uses. The building is prepared for cloud-integrated workflows and secure data storage, ensuring that information remains protected and accessible whenever needed. Together, these elements create a stable and resilient digital backbone that supports mission-critical activity.

Redundant fibre intake and protected telecom routing ensuring stable

Segmented Wi-Fi and 5G-ready coverage

CCTV coverage at all entrances

Controlled vehicle access to the parking

### Positioned to perform

NOA is strategically prepared to support EUCA with a **secure, efficient and future-ready** headquarters that aligns with institutional standards.



#### Sustainability & compliance

Built to meet high environmental, accessibility and operational standards, aligning with EU expectations for efficiency and responsible development.



#### Operational Readiness & Scalability

Designed for immediate Day-1 deployment, with adaptable spaces that support phased growth and institutional needs.



#### Integrated emergency readiness

With coordinated links to local and national security services and fully adaptable evacuation and response systems, NOA is prepared to manage critical situations quickly and effectively.

# 1.3

## MARÍTIMO 26: Next-generation building Connected to city and coast

The Marítimo 26, a new office development on Málaga's seafront, strengthens the city's appeal as a EUCA headquarters location through **strategic urban connectivity, modern and flexible design, and operational readiness**. Its prime coastal position, elegant architecture, and integrated security and digital infrastructure provide a **reliable, high-performance foundation** for EU-level .

### Marítimo 26 in the city

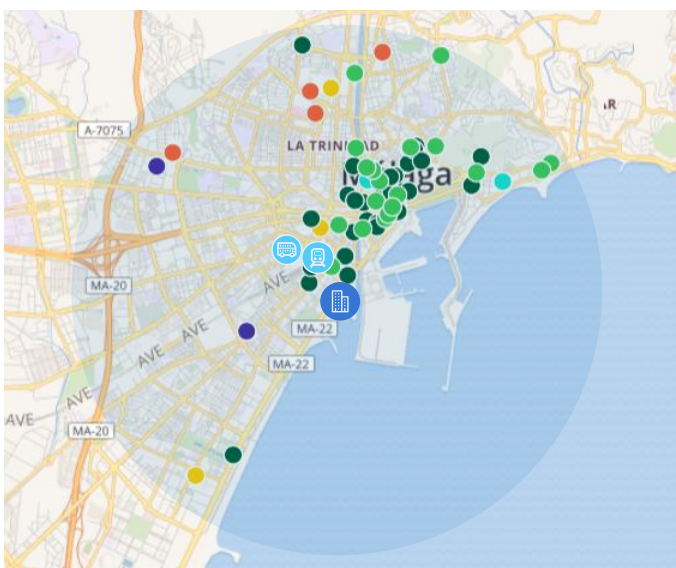
Prime coastal location

Marítimo 26 occupies a **strategically important seafront position** on *Paseo Antonio Machado*, within Málaga's *Carretera de Cádiz* district.

The building offers **immediate access to the port, the city centre, and key transport hubs including María Zambrano station**, placing it at the heart of Málaga's economic and cultural activity.

Surrounded by a dynamic mix of services, leisure, and innovation spaces, the location combines **urban vitality, excellent connectivity, and future development potential**.

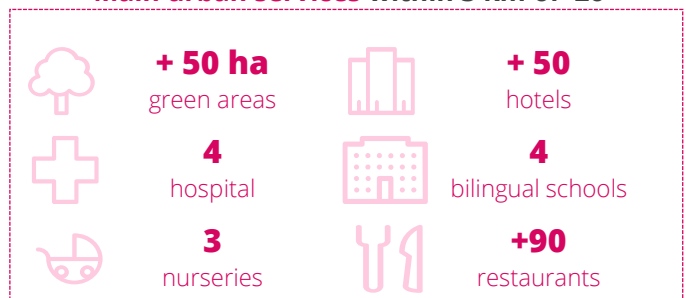
### Area with a 3 km radius around Marítimo 26



#### Legend

- 3-star hotels
- 4-star hotels
- 5-star hotels
- María Zambrano railway station
- Málaga's bus station
- Hospitals
- Nurseries
- Bilingual schools
- Marítimo 26

### Main urban services within 3 km of 26



Seamless connectivity, endless possibilities

Building on its **prime coastal location**, Marítimo 26 offers **direct access to Málaga's key mobility, business, and cultural corridors**. Positioned by the port and near the historic centre, with proximity to **María Zambrano station and major highways**, it ensures **fast, seamless connections** across the city and beyond.

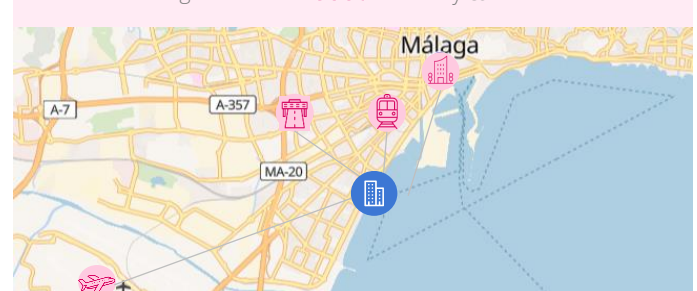
### Transport connectivity by car



### Public transport connections

- +4** **Accesses to move around**
  - +6 bus line
  - 3 bicycle stations

Another strategic benefit... **5'** **to the Port of Málaga**  
By car





# 1.3

## MARÍTIMO 26: Next-generation building An exceptional workplace for EUCA

### A modern workspace

Spaces that empower productivity and well-being

Marítimo 26 features **eight floors**, offering a total of **9,029 m<sup>2</sup> over seven levels**, designed to host up to **800 professionals** in a luminous, functional, and architecturally strong workspace. Transparent façades maximize natural light and provide **sweeping views of the port and waterfront**, connecting occupants to Málaga's seafront.

#### Key features of the office spaces

**6,000 m<sup>2</sup>**

leasable space for EUCA

**532**

staff capacity for EUCA

**130**

parking spaces for EUCA

**+500 m<sup>2</sup>**

terraces

Beyond the key features, light-filled office spaces, the new building offers a range of **additional highlights and amenities** that further enhance comfort, efficiency, and the overall experience for occupants, creating a truly future-ready headquarters.



#### Energy-efficient systems

Optimized building services to reduce energy consumption.



#### Natural light & sea views

Daylight-filled workspaces enhancing well-being and productivity.



#### Sustainable mobility

Parking with **20 EV spaces** and **30 bicycle parking spaces** available for Marítimo 26's employees.



#### High-quality materials



#### 3 high-capacity elevators



#### Auditorium



#### Changing rooms



#### 24h security

This combination of **functionality, elegance, and security** positions Marítimo 26 as a **striking, fully functional headquarters option** for EU-level operations.

### Sustainability & building standards

The building is conceived as a **modern and efficient workspace** that prioritizes comfort, connectivity, and environmental awareness. Its **seafront location and abundant natural light** create an inspiring atmosphere, while its design promotes responsible energy and sustainable mobility. The property elevates sustainability through advanced international standards, combining **LEED Gold, WiredScore, WELL and AIS certification**.

#### Compliance with the Manual of Standard Building

The building follows the standards of **functionality, accessibility, and efficiency**. High-quality materials, optimized layouts, and efficient systems ensure a comfortable and sustainable environment for up to **800 staff members**.

#### Commitment to ESG

With its focus on **energy efficiency**, user comfort, and sustainable design, Marítimo 26 fosters a responsible and **future-oriented workplace**. Key environmental initiatives include:

- ❖ Energy-efficient building systems
- ❖ Natural light and sea views
- ❖ Sustainable mobility with 185 total parking spaces with 20 EV vehicles.



Marítimo 26 building

# 1.3

## MARÍTIMO 26: Next-generation building Smart security for high-trust operations

### Secure by design

Trust at the core

The Marítimo 26 building provides a **stable, resilient and compliant environment** suited to EU-level operations. Its architecture supports controlled access, monitored circulation and the integration of advanced protection systems offering a reliable framework to safeguard staff, assets and mission-critical activities. The building could also be adapted with separate entrances and tailored to meet specific security requirements.



#### Secure operational design

- ❖ Purpose-built structure enabling clear separation of public, administrative and restricted areas across its 7 floors + attic.
- ❖ Fire-safety compliant design with automated alarms, protected evacuation routes and full alignment with EU and Spanish regulations
- ❖ Integrated SOC-ready space, allowing 24/7 monitoring, incident coordination and security-desk functions.



#### Comprehensive access control

- ❖ Controlled reception with badge verification for staff and visitors, ensuring regulated entry and traceability.
- ❖ Segregated flows enabled by the vertical distribution of the building, supporting secure circulation between zones.
- ❖ Parking access supervision, ensuring full oversight of vehicles entering and exiting the premises.



#### Mission-critical digital security

- ❖ Dual telecom routing and carrier-neutral fibre infrastructure supporting resilient, high-availability connectivity
- ❖ Wi-Fi 6/7 and 5G-ready DAS, enabling secure, uninterrupted wireless performance across all floors.
- ❖ Hardened Data Hub capability, including redundant power, access control and monitoring aligned with NIS2 and ISO 27001.

### Powering secure

The building is prepared to support uninterrupted, high-security operations by combining **robust technical systems with reliable redundancy**. Its infrastructure is designed to keep essential services running at all times, ensuring that EU-level work can continue smoothly even during incidents or peak demand. With stable power supply, resilient connectivity and technical spaces ready for advanced security systems, the Marítimo 26 building provides a dependable foundation for continuous, mission-critical activity.

Next-generation **access control** at the lobby

**Anti-intrusion system**

**CCTV coverage** at all entrances

**Controlled vehicle access** to the parking

### Positioned to perform

Marítimo 26 brings together the essential conditions for an **efficient** and **secure** EUCA headquarters. Its **modern design, solid infrastructure** and **strong operational capabilities** ensure a reliable environment where institutional work can run smoothly from day one.



#### Sustainability

Energy-efficient, environmentally conscious and designed for comfort, it offers a bright, sustainable workspace built for long-term performance.



#### Strategic resilience

Robust digital infrastructure, 5G-ready systems and redundant fiber routes to maintain continuity in demanding institutional scenarios



#### Strategic location

Proximity to security forces, emergency services, and municipal authorities

# 1.4

## PACÍFICO: Dedicated Headquarters site Seafront location

In addition to the three buildings, in the case that EUCA desires to build its own premises, the City of Málaga offers (free of cost) a **prime plot of land for EUCA to develop a purpose-built headquarters**. This exceeds EUCA's requirements and ensures ample room to **design a facility fully tailored to its needs**. The plot is completely flat, significantly simplifying and accelerating construction.

### A strategically positioned expansion plot

A site ready to support future growth

Located at Calle Pacífico, 32, in Málaga's Carretera de Cádiz District, is a strategic, dynamic area just meters from the Ágora building, enabling operational synergies and coherent urban integration. With a **surface area of 2,680 m² (33m x 80m)**, the plot can support the construction of a building of up to six floors (G+6), proving **8,819 m² of floor space** –well above EUCA's functional requirements, allowing a technically robust, fully adapted headquarters.

The surroundings offer a balanced urban ecosystem of residential, commercial, office, and public spaces—functional, safe, and active, ideal for a high-level administrative entity. Its location on a main western coastal artery ensures excellent connectivity via bus, metro, and bike lanes, while sea-facing views enhance environmental quality and institutional presence.

Additionally, in the event that an expansion of the area or the program is needed, the City Council can add additional land to the proposed plot since it owns other adjacent plots.

### Key features of the plot

- ✓ **Prime corner location** in a dynamic, well-connected district of Málaga
- ✓ **Immediate proximity to the Ágora Building**, ensuring operational synergy within the EUCA
- ✓ **Flat topography**, enabling fast and cost-efficient building works
- ✓ **Corner position with four-sided exposure**, ensuring high visibility and easy access for an institutional building
- ✓ **Built from scratch**, allowing full adaptation to EUCA needs in security, sustainability and operational design
- ✓ **Zoning aligned with equipment use**, fully compatible with EUCA's functional needs
- ✓ **Ample development capacity** to accommodate the full programme without constraints
- ✓ **Future-proof scalability**, thanks to the adjacent municipal plot that can be integrated if additional surface is required



### Legend

- |                       |     |             |                                |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Ágora                 | NOA | Marítimo 26 | Costa del Sol – Málaga Airport |
| Pacífico plot of land |     |             | Port of Málaga                 |
|                       |     |             | María Zambrano railway station |



A large commercial airplane is positioned on a runway, facing the viewer. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, orange glow in the sky. The airplane's tail fin is prominent, and its landing gear is visible. The background shows a hazy horizon with some distant structures.

# 2

## Gateway to the Costa del Sol

Málaga provides EUCA with a first-rate transport infrastructure

The European Customs Authority will require intense activity and coordination between many agents and professionals. Due to the complexity and volume of its activity, the Agency requires both, the building and the city in which it is headquartered, to be highly accessible.

Málaga is a well-connected city with an outstanding infrastructure. According to Aena, **Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport** received almost **25 million passengers in 2024**, ranking among the top four airports in Spain in terms of passenger traffic and operations.

Additionally, Málaga benefits from an **efficient medium and long-distance rail network**, establishing the city as one of Spain's principal land transport hubs.

Moreover, Málaga's **efficient, sustainable, and accessible urban transport system**, combined with its high-quality accommodation facilities, ensures a comfortable stay for European Customs Authority staff, experts, visitors, clients, and other related personnel, while providing seamless connections to the airport.

# 2 Gateway to the Costa del Sol

## 2.1 | Public Transportation

### **Málaga airport**

Málaga is one of the top 4 airports in Spain in terms of passenger traffic and operations.

### **Rail and road network**

Málaga Railway Station serves as a key rail hub in southern Spain, connecting the region efficiently to national and international destinations.

### **Málaga urban mobility choices**

Moving around the city is easy, fast and smooth, with great infrastructure, competitive prices and wide and sustainable options.

## 2.2 | High-quality welcoming accommodation

### **Accommodation in Málaga**

Málaga has a great range of high-quality hotels.

### **Capabilities for hosting events**

Outstanding conference infrastructure

## 2.3 | Connectivity and telecom infrastructure



## Gateway to Europe

Málaga airport, an outstanding air transport facility

**4<sup>th</sup>**

Largest airport in Spain in operations and passengers

**174,919**

Operations in 2024

**24.9 M**

Passengers in 2024

**275**

Operating routes in 2024



## Extensive high-speed infrastructure

Spain, a world leader in high-speed rail

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Largest high-speed rail network in the EU

**84.3%**

Punctuality rate

**+3,700 km**

Of high-speed railways

**17,551 km**

Of highways in Spain



## Urban connections

Metro, railway, bus & sustainable urban mobility choices

**90%**

Punctuality in bus, metro and commuter train services

**100%**

Electric or hybrid vehicles in the EMT fleet

**50.6 M**

Bus passengers in 2024

**+922**

Kilometres of bus routes



## A wide and varied choice of hotels

Málaga has a great range of high-quality hotels

**4.73/5**

Rating in hotel hospitality services

**4.18/5**

Rating in value for money services

**13,489**

Accommodation capacity - establishments

**92,087**

Accommodation capacity - beds



## Capabilities for hosting events and conferences

A comprehensive and varied selection of conference services

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

In the EU for successful congress destinations

**9.6/10**

Satisfaction rating from event attendees

**2,190**

Professional gatherings hosted in Málaga so far

**323,100**

Participants attended to events hosted in Málaga so far



## 2.1

# Málaga Airport

## Strategic and international airport

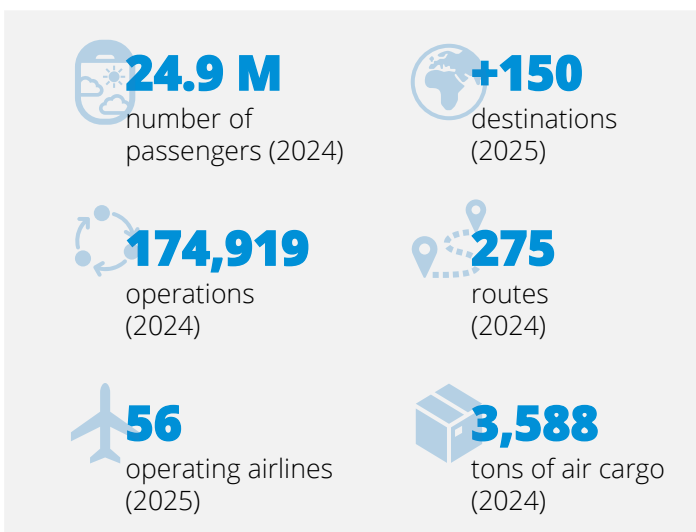
Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport is **one of the leading air transport hubs in southern Spain**, offering direct connections to major European cities, Mediterranean destinations, and Africa, thanks to its strategic location near the Strait of Gibraltar. The airport plays a **key role in regional and international connectivity**, serving as a **vital node for both passenger and cargo transport** and strengthening Spain's integration into European and global networks. Moreover, it is conveniently **located just 15 to 20 minutes by car from Málaga city centre** ensuring fast and reliable access for travellers attending international events and meetings.

### Málaga's air transport network

A strategic hub for global connectivity and mobility

In 2024, Málaga Airport further consolidated its position within **Spain's air transport network**, registering strong performance across all key indicators, including **flight operations, routes, and cargo volumes**, handling an average of nearly **480,000 passengers per week**.

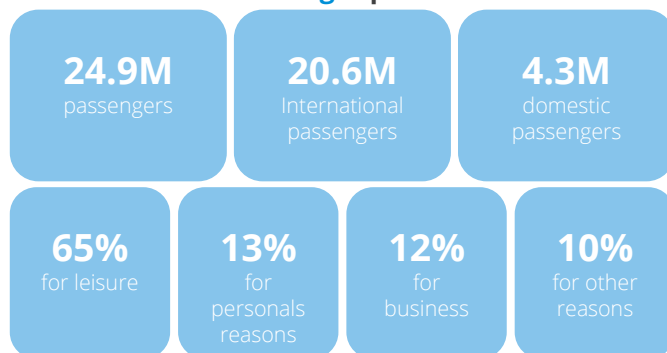
#### Key figures of Málaga's Airport



Source: Aena

The **passenger profile** of 2024, mirrors the airport's increasing **internationalisation**.

#### Passenger profile



Source: Aena

Out of the 48 airports in Spain, Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport ranks as the **4th largest in terms of passenger traffic** and operations, and **9th in cargo volume in 2024**.

Source: Aena



Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport

# 2.1

## Málaga Airport

A hub for global and European connectivity

### Global connectivity

Routes and destinations

As a major international gateway, Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport **provides travellers with extensive connections operated by multiple international airlines**. Its growing network of routes reinforces Málaga's role as a strategic hub linking Europe with the Mediterranean basin, Africa, and beyond.

In 2024, the airport operated **275 routes**, of which **240 were international**, reaching **156 destinations across 38 countries**.



275 routes



38 countries

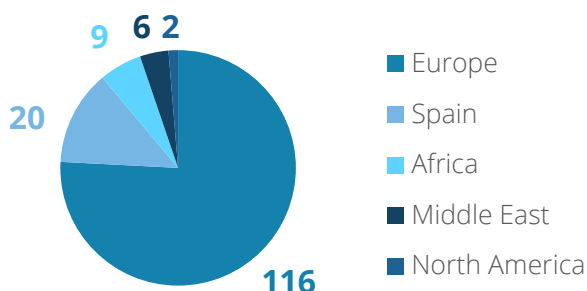


56 airlines

Source: Aena

This vast connectivity offers seamless access to key European capitals and major intercontinental hubs, **consolidating Málaga's position as one of the most globally connected cities in southern Europe**.

### Fight network and destinations from Málaga's Airport



Source: Málaga City Council

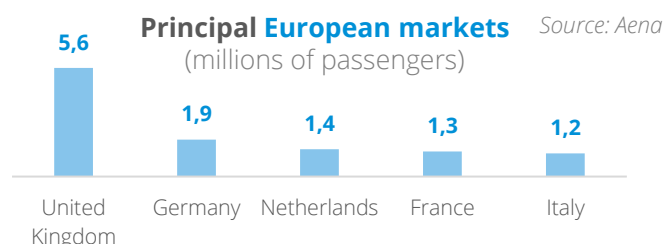
With 2024 marking a historic growth of 11.5% in passengers and 8.2% in operations, Málaga Airport reinforces its global connectivity

Source: Aena

### Connectivity with Europe

Fast connections to major European cities

In 2024, Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport strengthened its role within the European air network, **welcoming 20.6 M international passengers**.



Source: Aena

The airport offers **reduced travel times and direct connections to 24 EU capitals**. Across these capitals, the airport operates **69 routes with an average of 24 weekly flights**, reflecting Málaga's strong and consistent connectivity and reinforcing its role as a natural gateway within the European transport system.

### Flight frequencies (weekly flights)

Nº	Capital	Nº of Flights	Nº	Capital	Nº of Flights
1	Amsterdam	77	13	Warsaw	17
2	Paris	70	14	Prague	15
3	Dublin	57	15	Bucharest	13
4	Brussels	47	16	Budapest	9
5	Madrid	47	17	Luxembourg	7
6	Copenhagen	34	18	Athens	6
7	Rome	30	19	Sofia	5
8	Stockholm	28	20	Zagreb	5
9	Helsinki	24	21	Riga	5
10	Vienna	20	22	Tallin	3
11	Lisbon	19	23	Vilna	3
12	Berlin	18	24	Bratislava	2

Source: Aena

### Average flight duration to EU capitals



Source: Travel Math

# 2.1

## Málaga Airport

Unlimited possibilities within the country

### Connectivity with Spain

Opportunities for domestic mobility

Within Spain, Málaga–Costa del Sol Airport **offers extensive domestic connectivity** through its numerous links with major Spanish cities, frequent flight operations, and its strategic role as a gateway between regions.



21

destinations from Málaga to other domestic airports



35

domestic routes from Málaga

Source: Aena

In 2024, out of a total of **24.9M passengers**, **4.3M were domestic travellers**, highlighting the airport's strong position within Spain's national air network.

This **robust connectivity enhances mobility across the country**, reducing travel times and ensuring fast, reliable access to and from Málaga from all principal urban centres, including Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao, and Seville.

### Duration of domestic flights



Source: Travel Math

### Connections to Madrid and Barcelona

National and international hubs

The main domestic routes from Málaga–Costa del Sol Airport connect to Madrid and Barcelona, two strategic airports that serve as major international hubs and gateways to Europe and the rest of the world.

Through these connections, Málaga is seamlessly **integrated into an extensive global air network**, providing access to intercontinental destinations across the Americas, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa via services operated from Madrid–Barajas and Barcelona–El Prat.

Madrid and Barcelona airports offer short travel times to major EU cities, with each European capital **less than 3,000 km and 2.5 hours away on average**.

Source: Travel Math

Málaga–Costa del Sol Airport offers up **to eight daily flights** to **Madrid** and approximately **seven to Barcelona**, ensuring continuous, reliable air connectivity between southern Spain and the country's principal economic and transport centres.

### Key figures for Madrid Airport (2024)

66.1 M

passengers

92

operating airlines

766,907

tons of air cargo

420,182

operations

### Key figures for Barcelona Airport (2024)

55 M

passengers

87

operating airlines

181,723

tons of air cargo

347,978

operations

Source: Aena



## 2.1

# Málaga Airport

## Airport layout and future expansion

### Airport infrastructure

Airport capacity for further growth

Málaga–Costa del Sol Airport **features state-of-the-art infrastructure**, comprising **three passenger terminals and two runways**, allowing it to handle a high volume of air traffic and efficiently manage peak demand periods, particularly during the tourist season.

Operating **24 hours a day**, the airport ensures uninterrupted service for both passenger and cargo flights.

### Service operational data of Málaga's Airport

3

terminals in a single building

48

boarding gates

19

baggage claim carousels

142

check-in counters

3

VIP lounges

56

shops and restaurants

Source: Aena

In 2024, Málaga–Costa del Sol Airport further consolidated its position as a **key player within Spain's aviation network**, supported by **sustained growth in passenger numbers, flight operations, and international connectivity**.

**+ 25.5 %**  
in passenger  
traffic in the last  
5 years

**+ 13 %**  
in international  
traffic in the last  
year

Source: Aena

To meet the airport's growing operational and passenger demands, an **expansion plan** has been approved, representing an **investment of €1.5B**- the most ambitious project since the opening of Terminal 3 in 2010.

The renovation and enlargement work are expected to be included in the proposal for the upcoming Airport Regulation Document (DORA III), the investment plan that Aena will implement across Spain's airport network during the 2027–2031 period.

The main objectives of the project are:

- To **adapt the facilities** to accommodate **the expected growth in air traffic and airport activity**.
- To **optimize the passenger and airline experience**, with a strong focus on **comfort, efficiency, and quality services**.

This strategic investment will ensure that Málaga's airport remains fully equipped to support future growth.

Furthermore, the **expansion will significantly enhance the city's overall connectivity**, creating new opportunities for economic development and strengthening the strategic positioning of **EUCA** within Europe's mobility and logistics ecosystem.



The expansion will significantly enhance **Málaga's connectivity**, opening new European routes, increasing flight frequencies, and ensuring faster access to major capitals.



The airport will further consolidate its role within the **European transport network**, attracting new airlines and expanding both passenger and cargo capacities.



The modernisation of facilities will also create an ideal environment for **testing and implementing advanced digital customs and logistics solutions** under real operational conditions.

# 2.1

## Málaga Airport

Enhancing comfort, operational excellence and sustainability

### Quality experience

Tailored services and customer-centric solutions

The airport stands out not only for its capacity and connectivity, but also for its **comprehensive range of services** designed to provide a **comfortable, efficient, and high-quality experience** for all passengers.

From modern terminal facilities and spacious waiting areas to premium lounges and advanced digital information systems, every detail is aimed at ensuring operational excellence and traveller satisfaction.

#### List of Málaga's Airport services



Wi-Fi area



Passenger info



Lost and found



Car hire



Banking services



Medical care



Tax refunds



Fast lane



Luggage services



Accessibility for PMR



Special needs passengers



Religious services

In addition to the wide range of services, the **official Aena App** has been introduced to **simplify the passenger journey and enhance accessibility**.

The app provides real-time flight updates, personalized notifications, and intuitive wayfinding tools, contributing to a seamless and user-friendly travel experience at Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport.

#### Features of Málaga's Airport App



- Check the flight status, scan the board card and guide to the gate
- Join Aena Club
- Plan the journey, book the parking, access to VIP services and Aena Market
- Request PRM services, biometric boarding, etc.

Ensuring operational excellence and recognition

The Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport is managed by AENA, **Spain's leading airport operator**. It's also one of the largest in the world, with more than 300 millions of passenger in 2024.

This ensures an **excellent level of service and smooth connectivity**, allowing EUCA personnel to reach Málaga safely and efficiently.

Supported by AENA's operational reliability and expertise, Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport has achieved **recognition for its excellence in operations, service quality, and regional impact**, earning multiple national and international awards in recent years.



The **Gold Medal of the Province of Málaga** by the Provincial Council in 2022 for its decisive contribution to the development, well-being, and progress of the city.



Award for economic and **tourism development** in the province, granted by SER Málaga in 2022.



In 2021, it received the **"Voice of the Customer"** award from ACI World.



**Honorary Distinction from the Faculty of Tourism of the University of Málaga** for the promotion of tourism training.



In 2020, Málaga-Costa del Sol was named **Highly Commended** in the ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards.

Commitment to Sustainability

In addition to its operational excellence and recognized achievements, at Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport, sustainability is showcased through **393,29 m² of green spaces and vertical gardens**, enhancing both the environment and the passenger experience. Key benefits include:

- Produces enough **oxygen** for **383 people**.
- Traps and processes **95,8 kg** of **heavy metals** annually.
- Filters **268,3 tons** of **harmful gases** each year.
- Captures **53,7 kg** of **dust** annually.

Source: Aena

## 2.1

## Rail and road network Possibilities within Málaga

Spain's rail network ranks among Europe's most extensive and technologically advanced, combining **high-speed, long-distance, medium-distance, and suburban commuter train services** to offer travellers a wealth of options for mobility. This comprehensive rail system, complemented by Spain's radial road network, allows **seamless connectivity across the entire peninsula**. With a total railway **network of 15,652 kilometres, 1,496 stations**, and approximately **2M train operations** annually, Spain ranks among the **five largest rail networks in the European Union**, cementing its position as a global leader in mobility and transport innovation.

### Spain's rail services

Current situation of the service in Spain

Spain boasts the **most extensive high-speed (AVE) rail network in the European Union**. With over **3.700 km of track**, the AVE and long-distance trains provide fast, efficient connections between major cities, reducing travel times and supporting both business and leisure mobility.



km of rail lines

2<sup>nd</sup> largest high speed rail network in the world, and first in the EU



daily operations

Frequent long-distance services every day

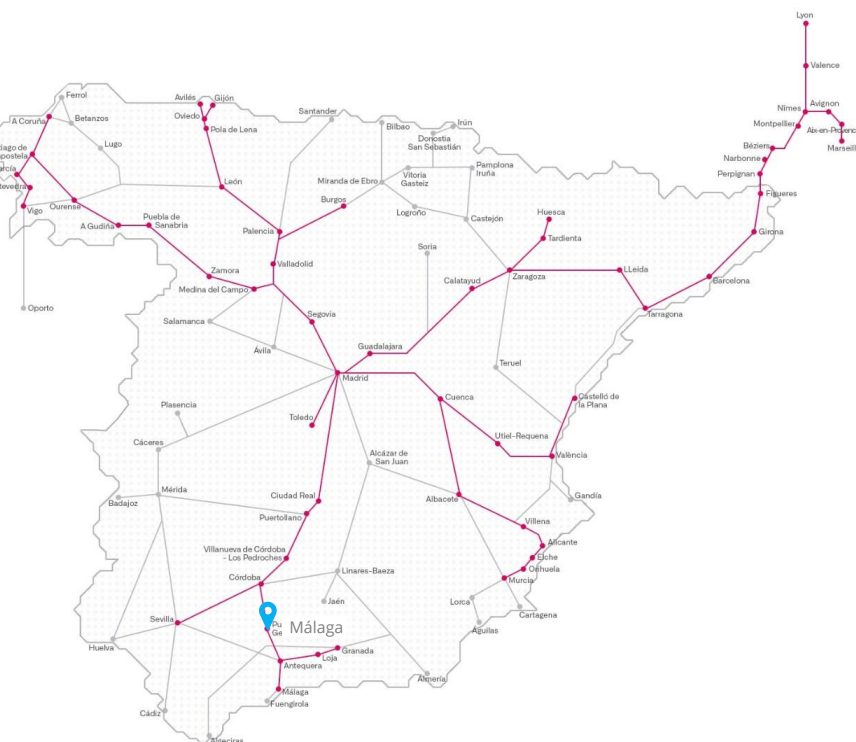


average speed

Faster than other industries, such as Japan or France

Source: Renfe

### Map of high speed (AVE) and long-distance railways in Spain



This network connects **Spanish cities** and extends to **destinations in France**, offering direct high-speed access to 65% of the Spanish population, equivalent to approximately **32M people**. The **system plays a key role in Spain's domestic and international connectivity**, reinforcing the country's position as a leader in rail transport and innovation. This network allows travellers to move comfortably throughout Spain and beyond.

Spain has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest high-speed rail network in the world, and 1<sup>st</sup> in the EU, best-equipped with the most cutting-edge innovation and design.

Source: Renfe

Source: Renfe



# 2.1

## Rail and road network

### The future moves at high-speed

#### Rail connectivity with Europe

High-speed mobility

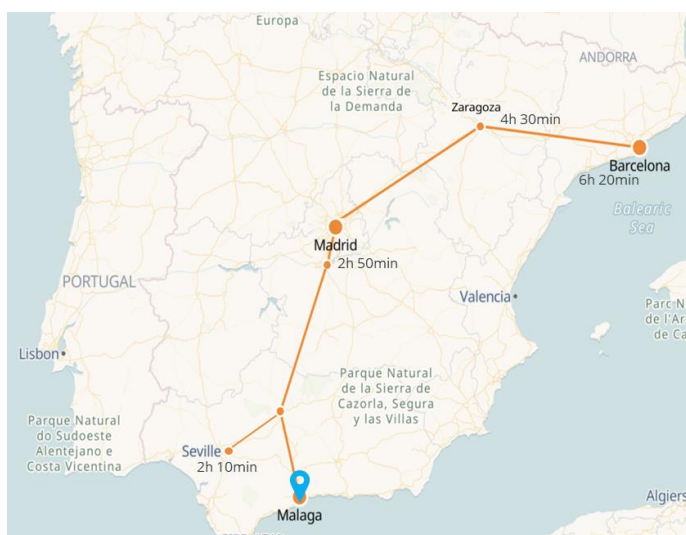
Málaga offers excellent high-speed mobility through the **Málaga María Zambrano Station**, located in the city centre.

Spain boasts an **extensive and modern railway network**, with high-speed AVE trains arriving at **Madrid and Barcelona**, two of the country's main international transport hubs. From these cities, Málaga is easily accessible through Spain's **well-integrated domestic transport system**, including **trains, buses, cars, or flights**. Key high-speed connections for European travellers include:

- **Madrid:** Over 10 daily services, with an average journey time of less than 3 hours.
- **Barcelona:** 4 daily services, with an average journey time of approximately 6 hours.
- **Zaragoza:** over 3 daily services, with an average journey time of 4 hours and 15 minutes.
- **Sevilla:** over 15 daily services, with an average journey of 2 hours.

This **strong integration** ensures that **travellers from any European capital can reach Málaga conveniently**, enjoying fast, reliable, and comfortable connections throughout the country. Spain's rail and transport infrastructure makes it simple to **combine international and domestic travel** seamlessly.

#### Average train travel time to Málaga



Source: Spanish Trains

Málaga remains easily accessible from other cities such as **Valencia, San Sebastián, Bilbao, and A Coruña** though well-coordinated rail links via Madrid and other key interchange points.

Furthermore, travellers from cities such as **Paris or Lisbon** can reach Spain by high-speed train, via Barcelona or Madrid, and continue their journey smoothly to Málaga on the AVE network.

#### Connection with the Mediterranean Corridor

Building upon these national connections, Málaga also benefits from its strategic position relative to the **Mediterranean Corridor - a major infrastructure project running along Spain's Mediterranean coastline**.

Currently under development and scheduled for completion by 2040, the Mediterranean Corridor will be a **double-track, high-speed line with international gauge, linking Algeciras (near Málaga) to the wider European rail network**.

Designed for **both passenger and freight transport over approximately 1,300 km**, the project will greatly enhance Málaga's connectivity through its proximity to Algeciras and Antequera, reinforcing the city's position as a key node within southern Europe's transport system.

#### Mediterranean Corridor network



Source: El Corredor Mediterráneo

# 2.1

## Rail and road network Efficient connections

### Spain's medium distance network

Spain's medium distance trains provide **efficient regional and local connectivity**, linking smaller cities and towns with major urban centres across their regions and provinces. These services play a crucial role in supporting daily mobility for work, study, and leisure. They represent the true backbone of the country's rail connectivity, operating **over 600 services per day**.

The system encompasses **three categories of medium-distance rail services**, each tailored to specific regional needs, and in 2024 transported a significant share of Spain's total rail passengers.



**Conventional medium-distance trains:** Link regional cities efficiently.



**Avant trains:** High-speed services for short and medium-distance routes.



**Narrow-gauge trains:** Serve regional and rural areas, connecting smaller towns with larger cities.

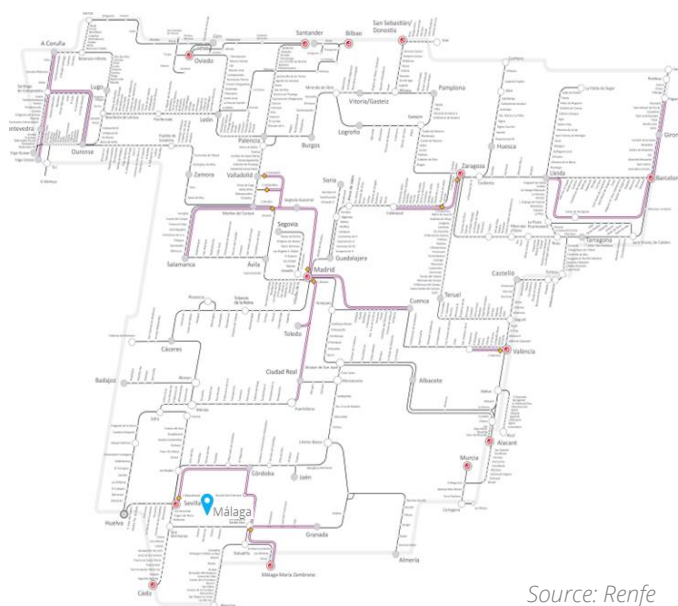
Spain's national railway operator sets new record in 2024, carrying almost 60M passengers on medium-distance.

### Málaga's medium distance network

**In Andalusia, Málaga's medium-distance network** ensures efficient connections with major cities such as **Seville, Córdoba, and Granada**, typically within **one to two hours of travel time**, with several daily departures.

It also serves key towns including **Antequera, Ronda, Álora, Bobadilla, and Campillos**, extending **westward to Algeciras** and **eastward through Puente Genil, Osuna, and Loja**.

#### Map of medium-distance railways in Spain



Source: Renfe

Together, these routes enhance **Málaga's role as a regional mobility hub**, ensuring reliable access across both coastal and inland Andalusia.

This network supports daily commuting, fosters economic and cultural exchange between provinces, and provides **seamless travel options** for residents, professionals, and visitors.



**Journey times vary depending on the number of stops, and fares depend on advance booking, time of day and demand.**



Maria Zambrano railway station

Maria Zambrano railway station

## 2.1

# Rail and road network

## Mobility for everyone

### Málaga's commuter train network

Málaga's commuter rail system forms an essential part of the province's integrated mobility network, providing **efficient, sustainable, and high-frequency connections** between the city centre, its metropolitan area, and neighbouring municipalities along the Costa del Sol.

The **C1 and C2 lines** operate frequent services that link **Málaga with the airport, Fuengirola, Álora, Benalmádena, Torremolinos**, and other key towns along both the coast and inland corridors. The **C1 line**, connecting Málaga city centre to Fuengirola, covers the route in approximately **45 minutes**, offering a fast and reliable alternative to road transport.



€1.80

1 and 2 zones

€2.05

3 zones

€2.70

4 zones

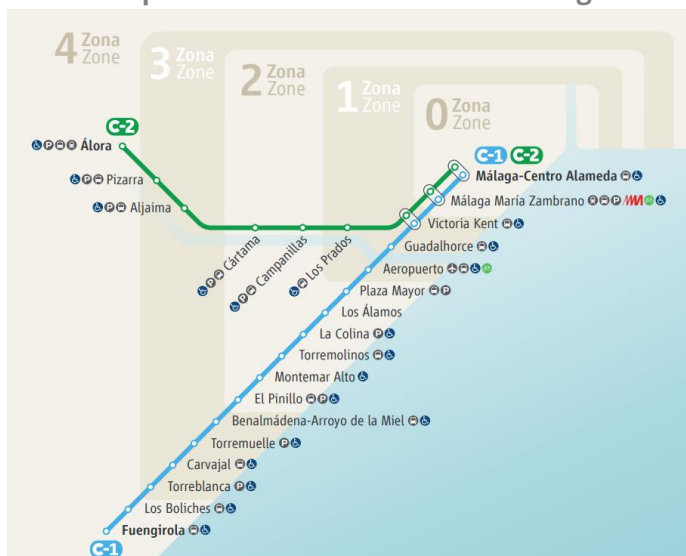
€3.60

5 zones

Source: Renfe

Fares are calculated according to travel zones, with **single tickets valid for one journey**, and a wide range of **discount passes and subscription options** available to suit different mobility needs. Reduced rates for **regular commuters, students, and senior citizens** ensure that the service remains **accessible, affordable, and socially inclusive**, reinforcing Málaga's commitment to sustainable urban mobility.

### Map of commuter trail lines in Málaga



Source: Renfe



Málaga's train



## 2.1

# Rail and road network

Seamless road connections across Spain and Europe

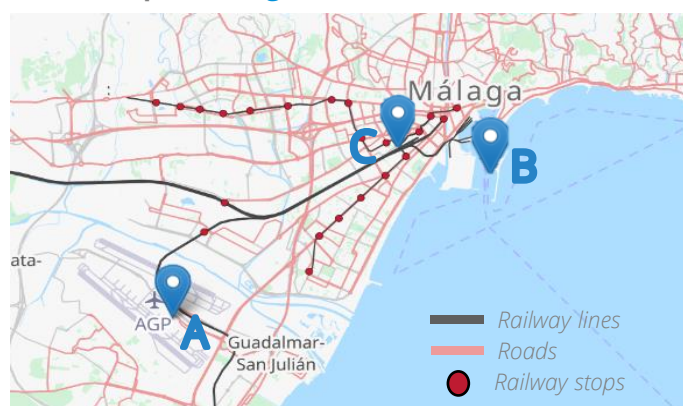
### Road network

Privileged location and multimodal links

Málaga's road network forms the **backbone of the city's mobility system** and plays a fundamental role in structuring its metropolitan area. Its configuration reflects both the region's **unique geography** — a narrow coastal strip framed by the sea and the mountains — and the **historical process of urban growth and territorial expansion**.

The road network is closely integrated with the city's main **intermodal transport hubs**, ensuring efficient connectivity across modes:

Map of Málaga rail and road network



A Airport of Málaga B Port of Málaga C María Zambrano station

Source: Own elaboration, map extracted from REDTRANSPORTE

- **Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport**, with direct access from the **MA-20** and **A-7** motorways. It is located **less than 15 minutes from the urban centre**.
- **Port of Málaga**, connected through the coastal axis and linked to both the **A-7** and **A-45** highways, strengthens its role as a multimodal logistics platform and a key node in international maritime transport.
- **María Zambrano railway station**, fully integrated into the urban fabric, with access from **Avenida de las Américas** and the surrounding **MA-20** corridor.
- **Metropolitan and urban transport network (Metro and EMT bus system)**, complementing the city's road infrastructure.

Málaga exhibits a **high level of overall accessibility**, derived from its **strategic position along the Mediterranean corridor** and its **direct integration within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)**. The city's road access system is organized around a **hierarchical network of corridors** that ensure efficient regional and metropolitan connectivity. Average travel times by road from the metropolitan belt (10–25 km radius) range between **15 and 30 minutes**, depending on time and traffic density.

€ +120 M

invested by the Spanish govt. in Málaga's road infrastructure since 2018.

>1,000 km

by road from the main logistics hubs of southwestern Europe.

Source: Europa Press

Internally, the city's mobility system follows a **radial-concentric configuration**, where major **penetration corridors** channel traffic from peripheral areas toward the urban core, complemented by **circumferential routes** that redistribute flows and minimize congestion in central zones. The **Alcazaba Tunnel**, **Paseo Marítimo**, and **Avenida de Andalucía** act as key radial axes, linking the historic centre with the western coastal area. In contrast, the **MA-20** and **A-7** ring roads operate as **primary bypass infrastructures**, facilitating the segregation of through-traffic and improving inter-district connectivity.

The historic centre, characterized by its compact medieval layout, offers **excellent pedestrian accessibility** and is **well integrated with the public transport network**, fostering sustainable and human-scale mobility.

Meanwhile, **modern districts such as Teatinos, Puerto de la Torre, and Carretera de Cádiz** benefit from a **well-structured road network**, optimized **junction design**, and **greater traffic capacity**, enabling **efficient intra-urban circulation** and **direct access to key functional areas** across the city.

In 2025, Spain ranked 13<sup>th</sup> worldwide in road quality.

Source: World Population review

## 2.1

# Málaga urban mobility choices

## Sustainable urban mobility plan

Málaga demonstrates a **strong and ongoing commitment to sustainable mobility**, reflected in the implementation of its Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, **launched in 2019** and currently under development through successive stages **up to 2030**. Key milestones achieved so far include the **extension of the metro network** to the historic centre, the creation of **more than 40 km of cycling lanes**, the introduction of **electric and hybrid buses** within the EMT fleet, and the progressive implementation of **a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in the city centre**.

### Main objectives

Focused on sustainability and connectivity



**Emission Reduction:** Decrease CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and noise pollution through cleaner and **more efficient transport management**.



Promotion of **Intermodality:** Integrate buses, metro, commuter trains, and active mobility into a **single, coordinated system**.



**Universal Accessibility:** Ensure safe, affordable, and sustainable mobility for all citizens.



Urban Space Rebalancing: Prioritize collective and **non-motorized transport** modes over private vehicle use.



**Road Safety and Resilience:** Reduce accident rates and ensure the **operational continuity** of the system in the event of disruptions.

- Promotion of Active and **Non-Motorised Mobility:** Expanding the urban and metropolitan cycling network to **over 40 km of bike lanes**.

- Territorial and **Multimodal Integration:** Coordinating urban transport with the metro, commuter trains, and the airport.

### Key figures of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

**- 30%** reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from urban transport by 2030.

**10%** increase in the share of public transport and micromobility

**90%** punctuality in bus, metro, and commuter train services.

**100%** electric or hybrid vehicles in the EMT (Málaga Transport Company) fleet

Source: Málaga City Council

### Strategic measures

Roadmap towards an efficient model

Málaga's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan outlines a **comprehensive roadmap** toward a more efficient, safe, and low-emission mobility model, with an implementation horizon extending to 2035.

Its strategic lines focus on improving accessibility, **reducing private vehicle use**, and strengthening urban and **metropolitan intermodality**.

Priority measures

- Decarbonisation** of Public Transport: Aiming to achieve a **zero-emission fleet by 2030**, supported by European Next Generation EU funds.
- Implementation of a **Low Emission Zone (LEZ)**: In the city centre, designed to reduce motorized traffic and **improve air quality**.

### Strategic Impact

The **comprehensive vision of the mobility plan**, combined with the **digitalisation of transport** and a commitment to clean energy, reinforces Málaga's image as an ideal location for European institutions, such as the future European Customs Authority (EUCA).



Overview of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

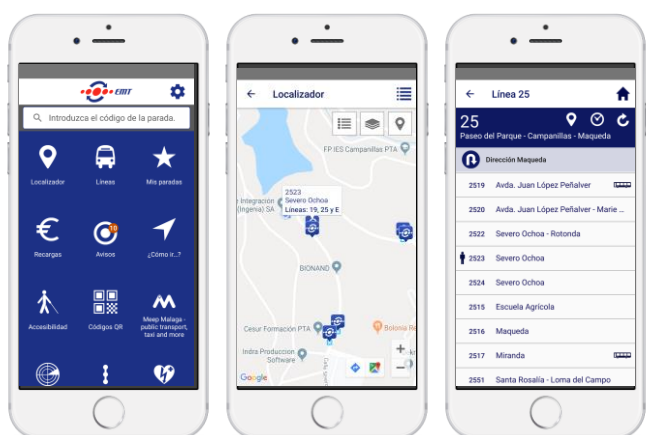
## 2.1

# Málaga urban mobility choices

## A diverse and integrated mobility network

- **QR code reader:** permits instant access to real-time bus arrival information by scanning the QR codes displayed at each bus shelter.
- **Augmented reality mode ("Radar"):** uses the device's camera to visualize nearby bus stops within the user's immediate surroundings.
- **Defibrillator map:** provides the locations of both fixed and mobile defibrillators available throughout the city.

### Overview of the Málaga Municipal Transport App (EMT)



Source: Málaga Municipal Transport Company



### Metro network

Fast, reliable, and sustainable urban transport connecting key districts

The Málaga Metro is a central component of the city's sustainable urban mobility framework, providing **efficient, reliable, and environmentally friendly transportation** for both residents and visitors. Comprising two lines (L1 and L2) and approximately 15 km of track, the **metro network links key residential areas, the city centre, the university, and major transport hubs** such as María Zambrano station.

### Key figures of Málaga's metro network

**+50**

Thousand daily users of the metro

**+15**

Kilometres of track

**19**

Stations in Málaga and surrounding areas

**18.3**

Million passengers in 2024

Source: Junta de Andalucía

Passenger satisfaction remains high due to the system's **reliability, punctuality, and cleanliness**, while its fully electric operation minimises environmental impact.

The metro is integrated with other transport modes, including buses and commuter trains, **facilitating smooth intermodal transfers and reinforcing Málaga's position** as a city committed to sustainable, efficient, and accessible mobility.

### Map of metro trail lines in Málaga



Source: Málaga Municipal Transport Company

### Bus network pricing

Fare Type	Price (€)	Details
Single Ticket (cash)	1.60	Valid for one trip within Málaga city limits.
10-Trip Card	4.20	Multi-trip card; requires transport card.
Student Monthly Pass	13.50	Unlimited travel for students; 50% discount applied.
General Monthly Pass	27.00	Unlimited trips within the city network.
Senior/Youth Discounts	50% off	Reduced fares for senior citizens, young people, and other eligible groups.
Airport Express Line A	4.00	Flat fare from the city centre to the airport

Source: Málaga's Area Metropolitan Transport's Consortium (2025)



## 2.1

# Málaga urban mobility choices

## Efficient transport, competitive costs

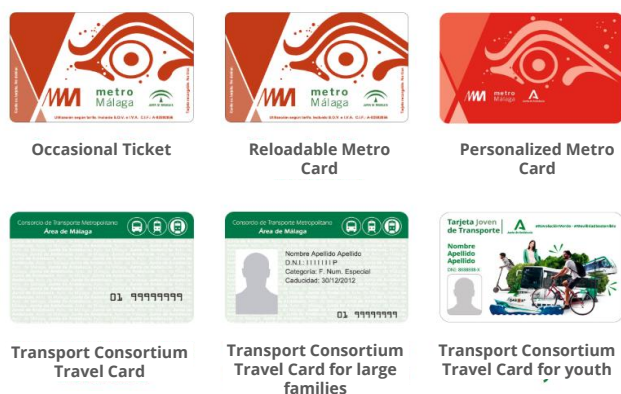
### Metro network pricing

The Málaga Metro system **offers a variety of fare options**, structured to accommodate the diverse travel needs of its users, including:

### Málaga's tickets types

Fare Type	Price/ Trip	Card Cost	Details
Occasional Ticket	€1.35	€0.30	Valid for up to 9 trips; ideal for occasional users.
Reloadable Metro Card	€0.49	€1.80	Rechargeable card; cost-effective for regular users.
Personalised Metro Card	Tier 1 (1-20): €0.49 Tier 2 (21-40): €0.37 Tier 3 (+40): €0.25		Passengers can benefit from progressive discounts based on the number of trips taken in a calendar month
Transport Consortium Travel Card	€0.82	€1.80	Valid for metro and public buses; €0.66 for transfers from public buses.
Transport Consortium Travel Card for large families	€0.39	€1.80	Discounted fare for large families.
Transport Consortium Travel Card for youth	€0.66	€1.80	Discounted fare for youth.

### Málaga's Metro Card types



Source: Málaga's metro website

Málaga's metro

# 2.1

## Málaga urban mobility choices

### City life on two wheels

#### Cycling network

Over 40 km of interconnected cycling routes

**Málaga's cycling network connects the city centre with residential districts, university campuses, and business areas.** Strategic routes along the Coastal Axis (Eje Litoral) and toward Rincón de la Victoria and Torremolinos integrate the city within the metropolitan corridor.

The **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of Málaga** foresees the network's expansion to 70 km by 2030, emphasising **safety, separation from motor traffic, and intermodality with the metro, bus, and commuter rail.**

Smart bike-parking facilities and secure racks at major hubs like María Zambrano Station strengthen accessibility and convenience for daily users.

#### Public and Private Bike Services

- **Public system (MálagaBici):** Operated by EMT Málaga, with 400+ bicycles and 20 docking stations, integrated with the metropolitan transport card.
- **Private operators**, such as Lime, Donkey Republic, and Cooltra, extend service coverage to tourist and residential areas, complementing the public system.

Both initiatives promote the use of clean, shared transport, **contributing to reduced car dependency and emissions.**

**+1,000**

Public bicycles  
by 2028

**+80**

Docking stations  
by 2028

Source: El Español de Málaga

#### Cycling services pricing

##### Registration:

- Done at the EMT Customer Service Office (Requires the EMT bus card to activate the account).

##### Initial Payment: €10

- €5 – Civil liability insurance (mandatory, annual fee)
- €5 – Initial credit balance for bike use

##### Fees:

- Monthly fee: €10
- Annual fee: €40

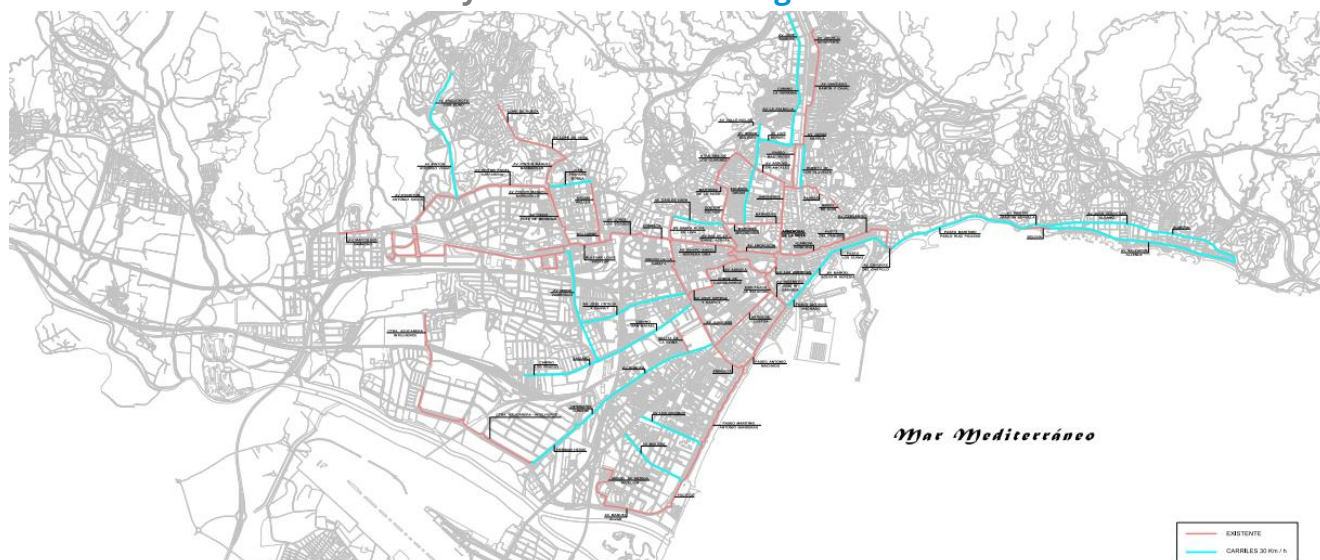
##### Usage Fees:

- First 30 minutes: €0.35 (monthly) / €0.30 (annual)
- Between 30 and 60 minutes: €0.70 / €0.60
- After 60 minutes: €5 per hour

The Spanish bicycle market grew at a double-digit rate for the second consecutive year, increasing by 10.76% in 2021.

Source: Spanish Bicycle Industry Association (AMBE)

#### Bicycle lanes and docking stations



Source: Málaga's City Council

# 2.2

## Accommodation in Málaga

### Where quality meets comfort

Málaga possesses the necessary accommodation capacity to host the EUCA headquarters, with a **robust, diversified, and high-standard hotel infrastructure**. The city stands out for its **quality hospitality sector**, consistently achieving **exceptional satisfaction ratings among visitors and professionals alike**.

### Places to stay

Extensive accommodation options

Málaga is a leading destination for international visitors, featuring a well-established and reputable hotel sector renowned for its quality, prestige and high levels guest satisfaction.

The city's accommodation capacity continues to expand, currently comprising **13,489 establishments** with a total of **92,087 beds**.

#### Accommodation spaces in Málaga city (2025)

Accommodation types	Establishment	Capacity
Hotels	96	13,339
Hostels and guesthouses	98	4,277
Short-term rental homes	12,877	65,508
Tourist apartments	310	8,100

Rural accommodation 106 863  
*Source: Tourism and Planification Costa del Sol*

Málaga's hotel sector plays a central role within this diverse accommodation landscape, particularly its 3- to 5-star properties, which offer a wide range of options to suit different preferences and needs.

#### 3-to-5-star hotels in Málaga city (2025)

★★★★★	31 establishments and 3,757 capacity
★★★★☆	36 establishments and 7,077 capacity
★★★★★	4 establishments and 951 capacity

*Source: Tourism and Planification Costa del Sol*

High levels of satisfaction

According to a 2024 study by the Málaga City Council, tourist **satisfaction levels** in the city are **exceptionally good**.

The results showed that the visitors value positively many aspect of their stay, confirming Málaga as a destination that exceeds expectations.

#### Tourist satisfaction level in Málaga city



*Source: Tourist satisfaction survey for visitors to the city of Málaga. Málaga City Council.*

Regarding **overall satisfaction** with their stay in Málaga, visitors give an **average rating of 4 out of 5**.



Gran Hotel Miramar



## 2.2

# Accommodation in Málaga

## Major hotel chains

### Hotels in Málaga city

Great variety of accommodation

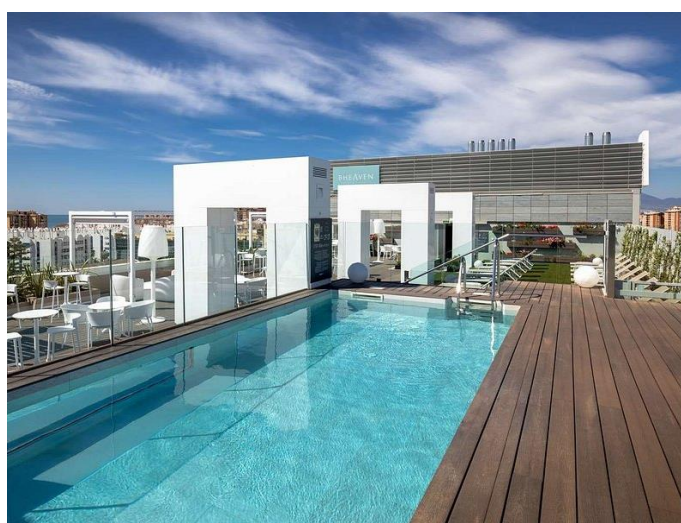
Spain is famous for its tourism and features prestigious **hotel chains that combine luxury and comfort.**

Málaga hosts some of the leading Spanish and international chains, highlighting its status as a **top tourist destination.**

Some of this hotel chains include:

	<b>Barceló</b> Málaga Hotel	★★★★★
	<b>NH</b> Málaga Hotel	★★★★★
	<b>Eurostars</b> Málaga Hotel	★★★★★
	<b>ILUNION</b> Málaga	★★★★★

Spain has one of the most extensive selections of **high-quality hotels** in the world and is recognized globally for its **excellence and commitment to sustainable tourism.**



Rooftop, Barceló Málaga Hotel.

The city offers an exceptional range of hotels that cater to every type of traveller, from **beach lovers and business guests to culture enthusiasts and foodies.** Here are some examples:

#### **Hotel with sea views**

**Gran Hotel Miramar:** an iconic beachfront overlooking La Malagueta Beach, offering panoramic views, luxurious accommodation, and a full-service spa.

#### **Hotel near the airport or María Zambrano Train Station**

**Eurostar Málaga hotel:** just steps from the AVE train station, with modern rooms and a restaurant with local cuisine, and convenient access for business travellers.

#### **Hotel in the Historic centre**

**AC Hotel Málaga Palacio:** located near the Cathedral, featuring a rooftop terrace and pool with stunning views of the city.

#### **Hotel with outstanding gastronomy**

**Gran Hotel Miramar:** home to an elegant and fine restaurant with a seasonal menu elaborated with products of the highest quality and accompanied by a large selection of Spanish and international wines.

#### **Boutique and charming hotel**

**Hotel Mariposa Málaga:** located in the trendy Soho district, hotel stands out for featuring Málaga's first hydroponic vertical garden using regenerated water, combining sustainability with design and comfort.

#### **Hotels for business travellers**

**NH Málaga:** with conference rooms, executive lounge and proximity to María Zambrano train station.

**Barceló Málaga:** equipped with conference halls and coworking spaces, ideal for meetings and events.



## 2.2

# Capabilities for hosting events

## Outstanding conference infrastructure

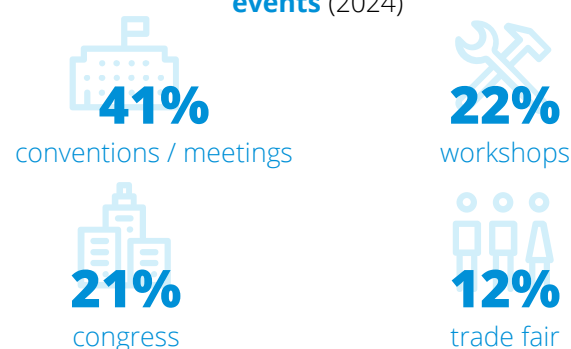
Málaga serves as an **outstanding meeting destination**, offering a comprehensive selection of **venues and facilities suitable for conferences, conventions, and corporate events** of all scales. The city combines tradition and innovation, providing event spaces that range from historic landmarks to state-of-the-art convention centres. Complemented by a high-quality hospitality sector, excellent transport infrastructure, and a welcoming Mediterranean atmosphere, Málaga ensures an exceptional environment for professional gatherings and international cooperation.

### Positioning and offer

A leading destination for meetings and events

In 2024, the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) ranked **Spain as the 2nd leading country in the EU and 3rd worldwide in terms of successful congress destinations**. Within this context, Málaga has firmly consolidated its position as a premier city for international meetings and events, hosting **2,190 professional gatherings that attracted over 323,100 participants**. These figures reflect the city's growing prominence and its strong capacity to deliver high-quality, well-organized events that meet the expectations of the global professional community.

#### Key figures of Málaga's activity in hosting events (2024)



Source: Tourism and City Promotion. Málaga City

Málaga's appeal is further enhanced by its **strong presence in key sectors** such as healthcare and technology, attracting a highly diverse audience, with more than **55% of attendees visiting the city for the first time**.

**Málaga combines sectoral strength and versatile infrastructure to foster international collaboration and innovation.**

### Satisfaction level

The **city's excellence is also reflected in participant feedback**, with **attendees awarding an average of 9 out of 10 for meeting venues and 8.9 out of 10 for event organisation**. Moreover, **three out of four participants consider the host city a key factor** when deciding to attend professional events, highlighting Málaga's strategic appeal and its capacity to deliver exceptional experiences for international gatherings.

**The city of Málaga receives a 9.6 out of 10 satisfaction rating from event attendees.**

Source: Tourism and City Promotion. Málaga City

### Institutions Supporting Events

The Málaga Convention Bureau

The Málaga Convention Bureau (MCB), part of the Tourism Department of Málaga City Council, plays a **central role in supporting the city's meetings and events**. Its mission is to position Málaga as a leading destination for congresses, conventions, and incentive travel, reinforcing the city's status as a premier hub for business events. The **MCB's work focuses on two main areas**:

- **Advising on event planning and organisation**, offering technical and logistic support to ensure smooth and efficient execution.
- **Promoting Málaga as a meetings destination**, through participation in international fairs or professional gatherings.

By providing this **comprehensive institutional support**, the MCB **enhances the city's ability to host high-profile events successfully**, ensuring that organizers and participants alike benefit from Málaga's world-class infrastructure, sectoral expertise, and welcoming environment.

## 2.2

# Capabilities for hosting events

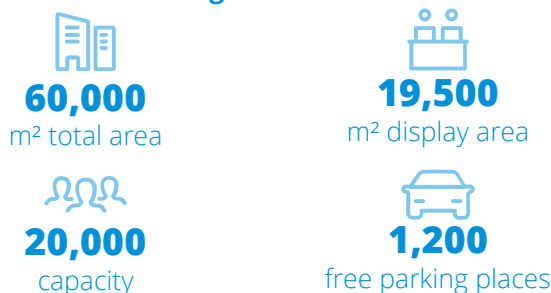
## FYCMA: Málaga's premier venue for meetings

### Trade Fair and Congress Centre of Málaga

Support for EUCA events and conferences (FYCMA)

Building on this strong institutional framework and the city's proven appeal as a destination for international events, Málaga is home to the **Trade Fair and Congress centre of Málaga (FYCMA)**. As the city's flagship venue, the FYCMA serves as the **central hub for major business activities in the city**.

#### Key figures of Málaga's Trade Fair and Congress centre



Source: official FYCMA website

FYCMA's striking architecture, featuring a roof that evokes a wavy sea of aluminium, pays tribute to Málaga's maritime tradition. As an iconic landmark in the city, the **building embodies Málaga's commitment to excellence and modernity**, projecting an image of professionalism and forward-looking vision for international visitors.

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, FYCMA **offers versatile and fully equipped spaces capable of hosting events of any scale**, from international congresses to large exhibitions, with the highest standards of quality and functionality.

**Its flexible infrastructure allows organizers to tailor each venue to the specific requirements of their event**, ensuring smooth execution, optimal attendee experience, and positioning Málaga as a central hub for professional gatherings in Southern Europe.

#### Key figures of Málaga's Trade Fair and Congress centre installations



Source: official FYCMA website

In addition to its versatile infrastructure, FYCMA offers a **comprehensive range of services** designed to ensure the success of every event. These services are **tailored to meet the specific needs of organizers and participants**, providing technical, logistical, and operational support that enhances the overall event experience

-  **Stands:** spaces and setups tailored to each client's specific needs.
-  **Restaurant service:** wide and diverse catering options.
-  **Advertising media:** support the event's communication strategy with a catalogue of advertising solutions.
-  **Hostess service:** team of hostesses and hosts with extensive experience in the sector.
-  **Communication:** specialized communication and marketing team to support and enhance promotional activities.
-  **Audiovisual:** technicians and advanced equipment to ensure optimal audiovisual setup and staging.

Source: official FYCMA website

Epicentre of cultural, business, and entertainment

The venue hosts a **wide variety of events**, from international conventions bringing together renowned experts to trade fairs showcasing the latest trends. Its versatility allows for academic conferences, corporate presentations, and live performances, creating an environment where innovation and knowledge uniquely come together.



Source: official FYCMA website. Year 2024

## 2.2

# Capabilities for hosting events

## Exceptional facilities

### Meeting and events facilities

#### Unique venues

The city offers a **wide variety of distinctive venues**, including historic buildings and iconic museums, providing exclusive and memorable settings for professional events.



#### Picasso Museum of Málaga

A 16th century palace declared a National Monument, right in the city centre.



#### Museum of Automobiles and Fashion

The perfect place for a unique and original event, surrounded by an exclusive collection of cars, hats, and vintage fashion.



#### Limonero House

This early 20th-century mansion, retains the refined style of early-century high society. Its versatile interiors are complemented by lush gardens offering panoramic views of the Mediterranean.



#### Victoria Palace

A former 19th-century hospital, combines historical charm with Andalusian touches, creating a unique atmosphere for corporate events.



#### La Panorámica

Located near the Guadalmedina River, offers stunning views of Málaga. This rooftop space, with varying levels, is ideal for corporate events, combining comfort and versatility.

#### Hotel facilities

Renowned Spanish chains such as Barceló, feature fully equipped spaces designed to accommodate **corporate courses, professional gatherings, and business meetings**, ensuring both comfort and high-quality services for attendees.

For example:



#### **Barceló Málaga Hotel**

**16 meeting rooms**, which can host events of up to **567 people**.



#### **Gran Hotel Miramar**

**10 meeting rooms** with a maximum capacity of **500 people**.



#### **Ilunion Hotel Málaga**

**9 meeting rooms** with a maximum capacity of **450 people**.



#### **AC Málaga Hotel**

**7 meeting rooms** with a maximum capacity of **225 people**.



#### **Eurostars Málaga Hotel**

**Maximum capacity of 700 people.**



*Málaga's rooftop*

**Málaga will support EUCA in the planification of successful meetings and events.**

## 2.3

# Málaga's telecommunications infrastructure

Seamlessly connected, globally and locally

The city of Málaga has a telecommunications infrastructure fully aligned with the **operational continuity, resilience and digital sovereignty** requirements set by the European Union for **data centres, high-speed broadband** and highly redundant **communication networks**. This combination of physical and digital connectivity strengthens the city's competitiveness, supports economic growth, and positions Málaga as a gateway between Europe, the Mediterranean and Africa.

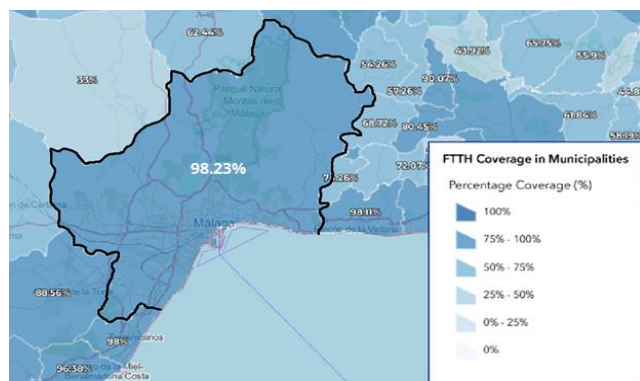
### Málaga's telecommunications infrastructure

Global backbone connectivity and diversified routing

The local infrastructure is supported by **Level 3 network nodes** connected to one of the world's largest global telecommunications networks, composed of an **extensive terrestrial fiber backbone** and multiple international submarine cable routes. This architecture enables critical traffic to be routed through diversified and physically independent paths, **minimizing the risk of interruption** and ensuring the availability levels required for an **EU Scale Data Centre facility**.

Complementing this international backbone, Málaga also benefits from broad **territorial fiber deployment** and strong **fixed broadband infrastructures**, including municipal fiber and multi-operator metropolitan networks, that enhance route diversity and reinforce resilience at the local and regional scale.

#### FTTH coverage in Málaga's region



Source: Spain's Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Administration

Private data centre already operating in Málaga

Málaga hosts a **strong ecosystem of private operational data centres managed by national and international operators**, which significantly strengthens its suitability as a European-scale Data Centre location.

#### Key features of Málaga's data centres

Data centre	Key features
<b>Templus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 MW capacity</li> <li>• TIER III architecture</li> <li>• 100% renewable energy</li> <li>• 2,200 m² technical hall / 40 racks</li> </ul>
<b>Aire / OASIX Málaga</b>	<b>Aire / OASIX Málaga</b>
<b>OASIX Rosalind Franklin</b>	<b>OASIX Rosalind Franklin</b>
<b>ODC - Olivenet Data Centres</b>	<b>ODC - Olivenet Data Centre</b>
<b>DataRush Málaga I &amp; II</b>	<b>DataRush Málaga I &amp; II</b>
<b>Box2Bit (in development)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €279M investment</li> <li>• 12,770 m² of IT space</li> <li>• Renewable-powered substation</li> <li>• Modular and scalable design</li> </ul>

This consolidated infrastructure demonstrates **Málaga's strong technical readiness**, offering stable and scalable power capacity, high-performance carrier-neutral connectivity with multiple IXPs, and robust redundancy.

The use of renewable energy and the integration of solar generation reflect a clear commitment to sustainability and scalability.



## 2.3

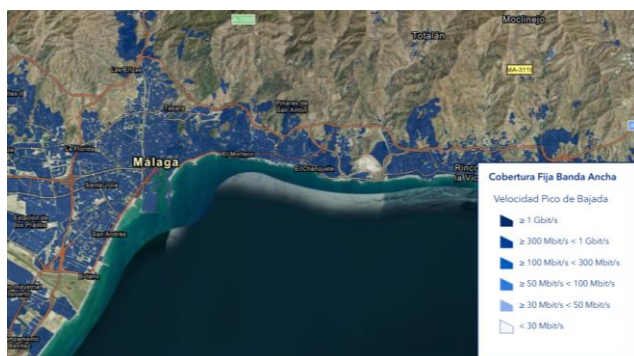
# Málaga's telecommunications infrastructure

Seamlessly connected, globally and locally

High-capacity municipal data centres and European backbone integration

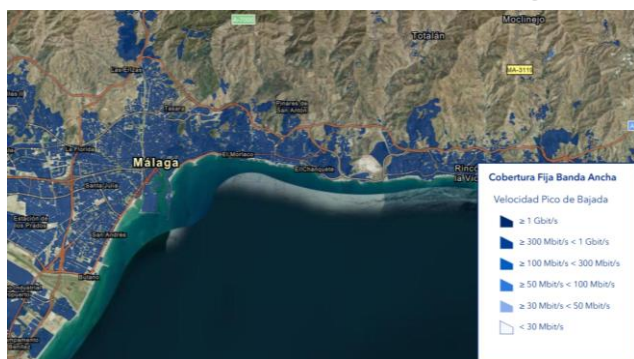
The city operates **two municipal data centre** integrated into the metropolitan network through high-capacity optical fiber, with immediate availability for activating **Layer 1 and Layer 2 links**.

### Fixed Wireless Broadband Coverage



Source: Spain's Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Administration

### Fixed Wireless Broadband Coverage



Source: Spain's Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Administration

Growing cybersecurity hub

Málaga hosts the **Andalusia Cybersecurity Centre (CIAN)**, which provides incident detection and response for regional public entities, and the **Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC)**, reinforcing the city's global role in digital security. The **University of Málaga** supports this ecosystem with specialized cybersecurity degrees, while local and international companies deliver monitoring, incident response and secure application services, creating a mature environment aligned with EU standards.

Low latency performance with European and transatlantic hubs

Reference metrics place the average latency between **Málaga** and major **European interconnection hubs**, including Paris, London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt and Zurich, in the **range of 15–20 ms**. This low-latency performance extends to European cloud regions (AWS, Azure and Google Cloud), supporting **hybrid environments** and near-real-time recovery of distributed workloads. Transatlantic routes maintain **competitive response times of 55–90 ms**, ensuring operational continuity with global strategic nodes.

Strategic access to European IXPs and reinforced traffic resilience

Málaga has direct or **near-direct access** to the principal national and **European Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)**. These IXPs are interconnected through high-capacity links, often in multiples of 100 Gbps, and provide optimized peering with the main European autonomous systems. This **reduces intermediate hops, lowers latency**, and enhances the **resilience of traffic flows**, ensuring compliance with EU robustness standards applicable to essential services.

Metropolitan redundancy and multicarrier resilience

Málaga's urban infrastructure includes diversified ducts and **extensive municipal fiber**, enabling independent paths to critical facilities and eliminating single points of failure.

The coexistence of several **metropolitan networks** operated by Telefónica, Vodafone, Orange, MásMóvil and Cellnex enables **full multicarrier redundancy**, guaranteeing service continuity even during cybersecurity incidents or physical disruptions. These features **align with EU directives** on operational continuity for critical ICT infrastructure.

Málaga's diversified urban fiber network provides the resilience threshold required for EU-level mission-critical operations.

Source: Málaga City Council – Urban Fiber Network & ICT Infrastructure

## 2.3

# Málaga's telecommunications infrastructure

Seamlessly connected, globally and locally

### Málaga's technology and talent ecosystem

Málaga's growth as a European technology hub provides a **skilled talent pool and a mature digital environment**, supported by **scalable, sustainable and secure infrastructure** capable of hosting critical EU digital functions.

Structural resilience through proximity to submarine cable routes

The province's proximity to **major international submarine cable systems**, linking Europe with Africa, Asia and the Americas, adds an extra layer of strategic redundancy. These alternative paths guarantee international traffic continuity should terrestrial long-distance backbones be affected, meeting EU-level resilience requirements for **cross-border communication** continuity under the **framework of the European Customs Union**.

### Suitability for the European Union Customs Authority

Overall, Málaga's telecommunications infrastructure provides a **fully suitable environment** for hosting the **data centre** of the European Union Customs Authority (EUCA). The city meets the required standards for high availability, operational redundancy, low latency, sovereign connectivity, and incident-resilient performance, ensuring **continuity of customs-critical workloads and alignment with the EU's cybersecurity and resilience framework**.

### Key features of Málaga's telecommunications infrastructure

98.1%

1 Gbps Broadband

Ultra-fast and reliable connectivity for households and businesses.

98.23%

FTTH (Fiber-to-the-Home)

Full-fiber symmetrical gigabit access.

99.53%

100 Mbps Broadband

Meets EU Next-Generation Access standards.

99.27%

5G SA (Standalone)

Independent 5G core with ultra-low latency and high reliability.

99.51%

5G 3.5 GHz

Maximum performance in urban, port and industrial areas.

99.88%

5G Global (NSA)

Gigabit mobile connectivity and low latency.

Source: Spain's Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Administration



Málaga Techpark



# 3

## Work-life balance

Embrace the city:  
lifestyle, climate,  
environment, services

Málaga offers a **Mediterranean lifestyle** with a pleasant climate, abundant sunshine, and a relaxed, yet vibrant environment. The city enjoys an average of 2,900 hours of sunlight per year and **mild temperatures** around 23°C, creating ideal conditions for living and working. Its residents benefit from a **high-quality public healthcare system** and robust **social services**, ensuring safety, comfort, and wellbeing.

The city is increasingly attractive for **international families and professionals** with 113 international schools and around 932 local schools, as well as well-known daycare centres, universities, and business schools. Its language schools and **multilingual programs** further enhance the city's international appeal.

Málaga is also an ideal city for remote work and digital nomads, offering **modern infrastructure**, reliable services, fast internet connectivity, and a variety of coworking spaces that create flexible and collaborative work environments. The city's vibrant **tech** and **startup ecosystem**, along with cultural and recreational amenities, makes it easy for professionals to balance work and lifestyle.

Additionally, Málaga also boasts a **rich cultural life** and recreational options. The city is home to more than 40 museums, historical landmarks, and a vibrant gastronomy and arts scene. Combined with modern infrastructure, reliable services, and excellent connectivity, **Málaga is a perfect destination for professionals seeking a balanced lifestyle, blending work, leisure, and family life.**

# 3

## Work-life balance

### 3.1 | Unbeatable quality of life

*Mediterranean lifestyle with endless possibilities*

### 3.2 | Education

*Outstanding academic success for future talent*

### 3.3 | Labour, medical care & social welfare

*A competitive and dynamic labour environment*

### 3.4 | Housing & cost of living *Metropolitan city*

*A wide range of options in a vibrant city*

### 3.5 | Sustainability

*Metropolitan oasis with sustainable facilities*





## Exceptional standard of Living

Málaga offers an exceptional quality of life, with one of the most welcoming cities in Europe, with abundant sunshine, a safe environment, and a vibrant, friendly atmosphere that makes everyday life enjoyable.

**40**

Museums

**16.7%**

Foreign resident population in Málaga

**300**

Days of sunshine per year

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

best city in the world for expats to live and work



## A consolidated educational system

Wide range of international and business schools, as a key factor in attracting foreign talent, and extensive range of other academic opportunities

**113**

International schools

**9**

International curricula offered in 7 different languages

**932**

Local schools

**5**

Universities



## Thriving labour market & universal healthcare

A productive work environment ideal for remote work, with access to quality public services and utilities, alongside one of the world's best-performing health systems, which is universal and free.

**4<sup>th</sup>**

Eurozone economy

**83**

Life expectancy

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

Best City in the World for Remote Work

**32**

State and private hospitals



## Better life, for a better price

Málaga has affordable housing options and a cost of living lower than in many other major European cities, making it an ideal place to live comfortably without compromising quality of life.

**+41,000**

Houses and apartments for sale

**-52%**

Utility prices lower in Málaga than in other EU candidates

**+9,300**

Houses and apartments for rent

**-62%**

Transport prices lower in Málaga than in other EU candidates



## Oasis and sustainable facilities

A wide range of green areas that allow you to practice outdoor sports, enjoy nature, and benefit from numerous sustainable initiatives.

**39**

Parks

**+35**

Km of running and biking lanes

**85**

climate comfort corridors, 19 indoor and 74 outdoors spaces

**+50**

Golf courses

# 3.1

## Unbeatable quality of life A city of timeless culture

Málaga offers an exceptional quality of life that combines Mediterranean charm, modern infrastructure, and a dynamic cultural scene. The city's **balance between work and leisure**, together with its **safe environment, mild climate**, and **strong sense of community**, creates ideal conditions for professionals and families alike. With a vibrant social life, diverse cultural offerings, and access to nature and the sea within minutes, Málaga stands out as one of **Europe's most liveable and welcoming cities** — a place where opportunity and wellbeing coexist every day.

### A city of culture, heritage and Mediterranean inspiration

Blending ancient legacy with modern urban life

Málaga has transformed itself from a historic Mediterranean port into one of Europe's most vibrant cultural destinations. With world-class museums, a lively creative scene, and a rich architectural and artistic heritage. The city offers a unique combination of **European sophistication and Andalusian warmth**.



#### Cultural Heritage & Identity

Few European cities embody such a continuous dialogue between cultures as **Málaga**. Founded by the **Phoenicians nearly 3,000 years ago**, the city has been shaped by **Roman, Islamic, and Christian** civilizations each leaving an indelible mark on its architecture, traditions, and collective identity.

Today, Málaga stands as a living testament to Europe's historical diversity: a city where ancient heritage coexists with modern urban life, creativity, and innovation. This unique blend makes Málaga not only a cultural destination, but symbol of the European spirit itself.

Málaga's vibrant cultural heritage, filled with remarkable historical landmarks, offers EUCA employees a unique opportunity to live surrounded by history and Mediterranean charm.



#### Heritage that tells Europe's Story

The city's monumental landscape narrates the evolution of European culture across centuries.

- ❖ **The Roman Theatre** (1st century A.D.) sits at the foot of the Alcazaba, one of the best-preserved Moorish fortresses in Spain (11th century).

- ❖ **The Cathedral of Málaga**, often called *La Manquita*, reflects the Renaissance humanist ideals that reshaped Europe in the 16th century.
- ❖ The Gibralfaro Castle offers both historical depth and panoramic views over a modern European city that continues to grow around its past.

+1 million

annual visits to cultural sites and monuments in the province of Málaga

3rd

most visited monument in Andalusia (The Roman Theatre of Málaga)

Source: Cadena Ser

Together, these form part of the **51 monuments** that constitute the city's historical heritage, according to the Málaga City Council.



#### A Living Heritage Integrated into Daily Life

Málaga's cultural identity extends beyond its monuments. The historic centre **fully pedestrianised and restored with sustainable urban design** is home to artisan shops, local markets, open-air cafés, and performance venues.

Traditions such as the Holy Week processions, the **Feria de Agosto**, and **Málaga Gastronomy Festival** are deeply rooted in civic life, attracting residents and visitors alike. Each celebration reinforces the sense of belonging while inviting dialogue among cultures and generations.

EUCA employees can immerse themselves in Málaga's rich heritage and vibrant culture, exploring its historic streets and lively Mediterranean atmosphere.

# 3.1

## Unbeatable quality of life A global hub for creativity

### Museums and art

A city where art and innovation shape daily life

Over the past two decades, Málaga has transformed itself into one of Europe's most dynamic and inspiring cities to live in. Once primarily known for its beaches and Mediterranean climate, it **now offers a rich cultural environment**, with world-class museums, contemporary art, and international institutions.

Culture has become a cornerstone of everyday life, shaping Málaga's identity as a vibrant, innovative, and cosmopolitan city for those who choose to call it home.

#### City of Museums: A Model of Cultural Transformation

In Málaga, art comes alive by the seaside. Along the city's renowned "Art Mile," located on the waterfront, museums, cultural centres, and a vibrant artistic district offer a unique and immersive cultural experience. Across the city, **more than 40 museums** showcase the richness of Málaga's artistic and cultural heritage, including:

#### Museum of Málaga – History of Andalusia

As one of Spain's largest museums, it combines fine arts and archaeology within the historic Palacio de la Aduana. It reflects Málaga's cultural richness and the city's commitment to preserving and showcasing Andalusian heritage.



**5th**  
biggest  
museum in  
Spain



**+255,000**  
visitors in  
2024



**+17,000**  
pieces in the  
museum's  
collection

Source: Málaga City Council and Cadena SER

#### International Art Institutions – Contemporary Art

Málaga's cultural landscape has expanded beyond its local heritage through alliances with some of Europe's most prestigious institutions.



The Cube – Centre Pompidou Málaga

- ❖ The **Centre Pompidou Málaga** the first international branch of the prestigious French museum, has become a cultural landmark since its opening in 2015, attracting more than **850,000 visitors**. Located in the iconic *El Cubo* building, it embodies Málaga's commitment to art, innovation, and international collaboration.
- ❖ The **Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga** further reinforce this international dimension, offering world-class exhibitions throughout the year.

Málaga's diverse museums offer EUCA employees the chance to enjoy art, history, and innovation every day.

#### The Picasso Legacy: - A Cultural Identity Rooted in Genius

As the birthplace of **Pablo Picasso**, Málaga holds a singular position in the international art scene. The **Museo Picasso Málaga**, opened in 2003, celebrates the artist's enduring influence and remains one of Spain's most visited museums.

Beyond the museum itself, Picasso's legacy permeates the city — from educational programs and festivals to the annual **Picasso Birthplace Museum**, fostering a dialogue between tradition and contemporary creativity.

#### Local Cultural Spaces and Performing Arts

Málaga hosts a **vibrant network of cultural and performing arts venues** that foster creativity and community life. Among its highlights are the Mingorance Halls of the Municipal Archive, the Casa Gerald Brenan, and the Exhibition Hall of the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País, while iconic theatres such as Teatro Cervantes, Teatro Echegaray, and La Caja Blanca complete a diverse cultural scene that reflects the city's dynamic identity.

**150**

Performances scheduled  
for the 2025/26  
Municipal Theatre  
Season

**204,853**

Spectators – Municipal  
Theatres of Málaga,  
Season 2023-24

Source: Málaga City Council and Málaga Procultura

# 3.1

## Unbeatable quality of life Where sea and mountains meet

### Mediterranean Lifestyle

A balanced life between the sea, the city, and the sun

Málaga has evolved from a traditional coastal town into **a modern city** that promotes a **sustainable urban living** in the **Mediterranean**. It offers residents an exceptional balance between global connectivity, natural surroundings, and authentic Andalusian lifestyle — a place where people enjoy both a vibrant cultural scene and everyday Mediterranean well-being.



### A World-Class Coastal Destination

Few European cities capture the Mediterranean lifestyle as authentically as Málaga. With more than **160 kilometres of coastline**, the province offers an unparalleled diversity of seaside landscapes — from urban beaches framed by palm-lined promenades to secluded coves nestled between cliffs and fishing villages.

### Diversity Along the Costa del Sol

Málaga's coastline is a mosaic of experiences. The **urban beaches** of La Malagueta, Pedregalejo, and El Palo are seamlessly integrated into the city's daily rhythm, offering residents and visitors year-round leisure spaces within walking distance of the city centre. To the east, the **Axarquía region** reveals wilder landscapes, with cliffs, crystal-clear waters, and small coastal towns like Nerja or Maro, known for their charm and authenticity. Meanwhile, the western coast, around Marbella and Estepona, exemplifies coastal luxury and international tourism excellence.

### Blue Flag Excellence and Environmental Stewardship

Málaga stands out as one of Spain's leading provinces in coastal management.

In **2025**, it achieved a record **45 Blue Flag beaches**, a distinction awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) for meeting strict standards in **water quality, safety, services, and environmental sustainability**.



### Nature, Outdoor Experiences and Active Tourism

Nestled between the Mediterranean Sea and the Andalusian mountains, Málaga offers a natural setting that few European cities can match. In less than an hour, residents can move from the beach to the mountains, enjoying both vibrant urban life and peaceful outdoor escapes. This geographical diversity fosters a healthy, balanced lifestyle — where nature, wellbeing, and sustainability are part of everyday living.

### A Natural Landscape of Remarkable Diversity

Málaga's is home to an extraordinary variety of natural landscapes — from coastal cliffs and fertile valleys to inland mountains and rural trails that reveal the region's authentic Mediterranean character.

This environmental diversity offers year-round opportunities for hiking, cycling, birdwatching, and eco-tourism.



#### Sierra de las Nieves

declared **National Park**, covering **+22k hectares**



#### Montes de Málaga

15 km from the city



#### Guadalupe Natural Area

home to 300+ species.

### The Caminito del Rey: A Global Icon of Adventure Tourism

Few experiences define Málaga's adventurous side like the **Caminito del Rey**, a spectacular walkway suspended along the cliffs of the Gaitanes Gorge. The route attracts visitors from across the globe, combining adrenaline, natural beauty, and world-class safety standards.



*The Caminito del Rey*



# 3.1

## Unbeatable quality of life Style, flavour, and sophistication

### Urban Life

A City of Gastronomy and Vibrant Energy

Málaga offers a wide range of activities to enjoy with friends, colleagues, or family. From lively terraces and open-air cafés to a vibrant cultural calendar, the city invites everyone to experience its unmistakable Mediterranean rhythm.

#### Gastronomy



9

Michelin- starred  
restaurants



11

Michelin  
stars

Source: Michelin Guide

Spanish cuisine is one of the most popular in the world: Málaga's gastronomy is defined by its strong **Mediterranean influence**, with a special emphasis on **fresh seafood** and locally sourced produce. Signature dishes include grilled sardine skewers (*espetos de sardinas*), Málaga-style fried fish (*fritura malagueña*), fried anchovies (*boquerón frito*), *porra antequerana*, and the traditional Málaga salad (*ensalada malagueña*).

The region also boasts a distinguished **winemaking tradition**. Renowned for its rich viticultural heritage, Málaga produces exceptional wines primarily from Pedro Ximénez and Moscatel grapes.

Across the province, numerous wineries open their doors to visitors, offering guided tours and tastings that provide a full **sensory experience, blending history, tradition, and the authentic flavors** of the Mediterranean.



Map of production areas in Málaga

#### Shopping, and Family Activities

Málaga offers a distinctive and authentic shopping experience. Everyday life unfolds among local markets, traditional boutiques, and modern retail spaces that blend seamlessly with the city's culture. Strolling through its vibrant streets, residents enjoy not just shopping, but the rhythm and charm of Andalusian urban life.

#### From historic streets to modern malls

- ❖ **Calle Larios (Larios Street):** It is the city's most prominent and iconic street - one of the most visited and photographed, admired for its remarkable architecture and its wide range of shops and boutiques.
- ❖ **Málaga Plaza Mall:** With its pleasant architectural design and natural light all year round thanks to its skylight, Málaga Plaza, located in the heart of the city offers a wide variety of shops and services to suit all tastes and budgets.



Calle Larios, early morning

#### Family fun under the Andalusian sun

Málaga offers families a rich variety of experiences beyond the beach. From water parks such as Aqualand Torremolinos and AquaMijas, to aquariums like SEA LIFE Benalmádena, theme parks and outdoor nature escapes, every member of the family finds something memorable. With activities tailored to all ages and interests, Málaga becomes not just a destination for a weekend, but a place to build a lifestyle.

# 3.1

## Unbeatable quality of life Endless nights and perfect weather

### Nightlife and Leisure

A city that never stops shining

Málaga's lively spirit extends well into the evening, offering residents a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere year-round.

Thanks to one of the **warmest climates** in Europe, life naturally flows outdoors — from tapas bars and seafront terraces to cultural events and neighbourhood gatherings. The city's mild nights and Mediterranean charm create the perfect setting to enjoy social life by the sea, every day of the year.

- ❖ **Beach bars and cocktails:** Beach bars are an essential part of Málaga's lifestyle. Facing the sea, they combine local cuisine, good music, and a relaxed atmosphere that lasts from sunset until late at night. They are the perfect place to enjoy the Mediterranean spirit, share moments with friends, or simply feel the sea breeze under the moonlight.



*A seaside restaurant with beautiful coastal views*

- ❖ **Rooftop Terraces:** Málaga's skyline can be best enjoyed from its rooftop terraces, where modern design meets Mediterranean elegance. Spaces like AC Hotel's Terrace or Room Mate Valeria offer panoramic views, signature cocktails, and a relaxed sunset ambiance above the city lights.

- ❖ **Summer Cinema:** One of Málaga's most popular evening activities is enjoying an open-air movie. For several weeks during the summer, beaches such as El Dedo, Las Acacias, La Malagueta, and La Misericordia are transformed into outdoor cinemas where locals and visitors watch films under the stars.

- ❖ **Concerts:** During Málaga's most popular summer festivities, such as *San Juan Night*, the *Virgen del Carmen* celebration, or the *Málaga Fair*, the city's beaches become exceptional stages for concerts featuring renowned artists.

- ❖ **Bars and pubs:** In Málaga, there are numerous bars and pubs that stand out as some of the city's most popular nightlife spots. Among them are places such as Chester & Punk, known for its creative cocktails; La Terraza de Valeria, offering panoramic views and a relaxed atmosphere; and Calanmor Pub, a favorite for its lively ambiance and live music. Each of these venues reflects a different side of Málaga's vibrant nightlife.

### Climate

Endless Sunshine, Perfect Balance

Málaga enjoys a mild winter climate with consistently gentle minimum temperatures, while its proximity to the sea ensures moderate and pleasant summers. With an average of **300 sunny days per year**, the city offers an exceptional balance of warmth and comfort, making it an ideal place to enjoy life outdoors all year round.



**300 days of  
sunshine**

per year



**23°C**

Average annual  
temperature

*Source: Universidad de Málaga and Málaga City Council*



*Málaga's fair*

# 3.1

## Unbeatable quality of life Open, safe, and welcoming to everyone

### Inclusion, Safety and Accessibility

A city designed for everyone

Málaga is the **6th province in Spain with the highest proportion of foreign residents** and stands out for its ability to attract newcomers. It is also ranked among the Spanish cities with the **highest quality of life**. Its expanding international community reflects a vibrant, cosmopolitan spirit — a city where diversity is embraced, celebrated, and truly valued.

**64,601**

New residents during 2021, 2022 and 2023

**64%**

of Málaga's new residents came from abroad during 2021, 2022, and 2023.

**16.7%**





Foreign resident population in Málaga

**50**

Consular agents

Source: Málaga City Council and INE

#### Málaga Highlights

-  **2nd best city** in the world for expats to **live and work**, according to InterNations.
-  Forbes' list of 20 **Best Places for Americans to Live, to Work and to Invest** in Europe
-  **Best National Destination in Spain** by Condé Nast Traveler Award.
-  **3rd city in Southern Europe for quality of life**, according to Numbeo.

Source: Numbeo & Málaga City Council

### A commitment to diversity and equality

**The Inclusive Policies Program on Sexual, Family, and Gender Diversity**, supported by the **Municipal Plan for Sexual, Family, and Gender Diversity**, promotes visibility, equality, and respect for all citizens, ensuring that inclusion is embedded in the city's everyday life. Led by the Málaga City Council, this initiative extends beyond the LGBTBI+ community to embrace the entire population, fostering coexistence, inclusion, and social awareness through education, public engagement, and institutional action.

It stands as a catalyst for social and cultural transformation, strengthening Málaga's identity as a modern, open, and inclusive city built on equality, diversity, and shared wellbeing.



### A safe and peaceful environment

**Safety is one of Málaga's strongest attributes.** The city offers a calm, welcoming, and family-oriented environment, where residents enjoy a genuine sense of security in their everyday lives. Effective law enforcement, community engagement, and a culture of mutual respect contribute to maintaining a safe urban atmosphere — a foundation for wellbeing, social trust, and overall quality of life-



### An accessible and barrier-free destination

**In Málaga, inclusion also means accessibility.** The city ensures that everyone can enjoy its spaces freely and equally through a barrier-free urban model that includes accessible beaches such as **La Misericordia** and **El Dedo**, equipped with adapted facilities and support services. Across the city, cultural and public spaces — from the **Palmeral de las Sorpresas** to the **Centre Pompidou Málaga** — show how accessibility, innovation, and daily life coexist seamlessly.

**2nd**

Most Secure City in Spain in 2024

**5th**

Country in the EU for the lowest thefts rate

Source: Numbeo and Agencia Tributaria



Accessible city with over **800 parking spaces** reserved for people with **reduced mobility** and pedestrian crossings equipped with **acoustic and radio-controlled systems** to assist **visually impaired people**.



Terraces at Plaza de la Merced



## 3.2

## Education

### Outstanding academic success for future talent

The Spanish education system in Málaga offers extensive capacity to meet the needs of future EUCA employees and their families. The province hosts **113 international schools and around 932 local schools**, ensuring a wide range of educational options to accommodate diverse requirements and preferences. In addition, the region boasts a comprehensive network of daycare centres, universities, and business schools, providing high-quality academic opportunities for all family members.

#### Spanish national education system

Alternative to International Schools

**The Spanish academic system is structured in stages**, levels and years or grades of learning based on the children's and young adults' ages.

#### Spanish Educational Levels: Key information

- 00/ **First Cycle of Preschool** **Non-compulsory education.** Children between **0 and 3 years old.**
- 01/ **Pre-school education** **Non-compulsory education.** Children between **3 and 6 years old.**
- 02/ **Primary education** **Compulsory Education.** Children between **6 and 12 years old.**
- 03/ **Secondary education** **Compulsory Education.** Children between **12 and 16 years old.**
- 04/ **High school or professional training** **Non-compulsory education.** Students with **secondary education.**
- 05/ **University** **Non-compulsory education.** Students who have passed the university entrance exam, **over 18 years of age.**

Alternatively, there is the possibility of pursuing **bilingual and multilingual options throughout the whole education cycle.**

#### Education for the youngest

Extensive network of daycare centres and nurseries

Children under the age of 3 require special attention. **Málaga boasts a comprehensive network of approximately 429 nurseries** that provide outstanding care and education to children ranging from 4 months to 3 years old.

102

State nurseries in Málaga

327

Private and state-subsidised nurseries in Málaga

Source: MiCole Database

Andalusia, particularly Málaga, stands out for its commitment to early education and its wide range of educational centres, with an enrolment rate of 58.6% for students aged 0 to 3 years, significantly exceeding the European Union's recommendation of 33%.

Source: EuropaPress

The city of Málaga and its surroundings also offer a **wide and diverse range of nurseries**, including facilities that provide **multilingual care.**

429

Bilingual or multilingual nurseries available in Málaga, incorporating curricula in **English, French, German and Chinese.**








## 3.2













































## Education

### Starting bilingual from day one

Characteristics of main bilingual nurseries in Málaga

Bilingual nurseries are spread across the Málaga area and vary in size, ranging from smaller schools accommodating around 35 students to larger institutions with capacity for nearly 650 children. Some of the most relevant nurseries in Málaga are:

Key				
				
Spanish	English	French	Chinese	German

Name	Location	Languages
Escuela Infantil El Osito Carlos	Málaga	  
Escuela Infantil Olivitos de San Agustín	Málaga	  
Escuela Infantil San Juan de Ávila	Málaga	 
Escuela Infantil La Casita de Peque	Málaga	 
Escuela Infantil Don Pablito	Málaga	 
Escuela Infantil Lili & Lala	Málaga	 
Escuela Infantil Green Tree English Nursery	Málaga	 
Escuela Infantil Wake-Up Nursery	Málaga	 
Escuela Infantil Pequeschool	Rincón de la Victoria	 
Escuela Infantil El Jardín de Añoreta	Rincón de la Victoria	 
Escuela Infantil Ángel de la Guarda	Alhaurín de la Torre	 
Escuela Infantil Virgen del Rosario	Alhaurín de la Torre	 
Escuela Infantil Colorin Colorado	Benalmádena	 
Escuela Infantil Europea	Mijas	 
Escuela Infantil Campanales	Mijas	 
Escuela Infantil Salliver	Fuengirola	   
Escuela Infantil Nuestra Señora de la Blanca	Fuengirola	 
Escuela Infantil Novaschool Fuentenueva	Marbella	 
Escuela Infantil Funky Feet	Estepona	 
Escuela Infantil Jardín Seghers	Estepona	 

## 3.2

## Education

Diverse paths to one goal: excellence

### School Options

Diverse educational institutions

The Spanish education system offers three types of educational institutions for EUCA staff's children to study in Málaga:

#### Public Schools

- Publicly-funded schools are covered by the government, **offer free tuition** and are secular.

#### State-subsidised private schools/charter institutions

- Schools are privately owned and managed.** However, tuition is partly-subsidised by the government.

#### Private schools

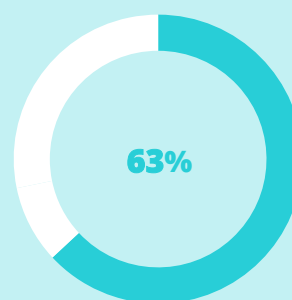
- Schools do not receive any government funding; therefore, **families cover all tuition costs.**

Málaga provides a wide variety of educational options, with 1,045 schools in the province.



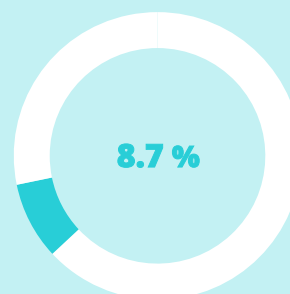
Education

### Distribution of educational institutions in Málaga



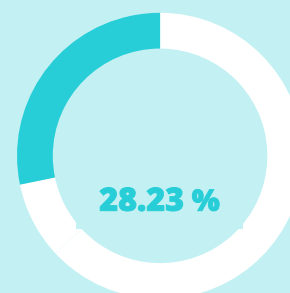
659

Public Schools



91

Charter schools



295

Private schools

Source: Databases from the Government of Andalusia

## 3.2

## Education

### Global education, local roots

#### European, accredited European and international schools

Endless options for everyone in Málaga

International schools are key to attract **foreign talent**. The province has **113 international schools that follow international curricula** and offer a broad range of possibilities in terms of degree options. These international schools have specific characteristics:

- They follow an international curriculum, and **classes are taught in a foreign language**.
- **Students obtain a diploma from their system of choice** rather than the Spanish one.
- Some schools are **sponsored by foreign governments**. Others are not associated with any government but follow the **curriculum of a certain state**.



Students in class in an international school

Málaga's education opportunities are adapted to provide a diverse environment, welcoming nationalities from all around the world.

EUCA staff's children can continue their educational journey in their home system, reducing adaptation barriers and providing a home-alike environment.

#### Languages in international schools

Great opportunities for children

Málaga provides international schools' students with access to different recognitions, depending on the international institution they attend. This includes Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), International Primary Curriculum (IPC), the US Student Plan or the UK Student Plan (including IGCSE), among many other options. In addition, classes are taught in **French, English, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian**.

#### Key figures



#### 9 DIFFERENT CURRICULA

offered by the international schools

Source: International Schools Database & Málaga City Council



#### 7 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES OF INSTRUCTION

offered by these schools

Source: International Schools Database & Málaga City Council



#### 4.98 OUT OF 5 SATISFACTION RATING

for the Top 5 International Schools in Málaga

Source: Finder of colleges and schools – Micole









## 3.2




































## Education

### Leading names in global learning

Name, capacity and location of main international schools in Málaga

International schools are located throughout the Costa del Sol, yet remain within close proximity to Málaga, offering large capacities that make them easily accessible for EUCA employees. Some of the most relevant international schools in Málaga are:

Key				
				
IB	British	French	American	German
				
Norwegian	Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Spanish

Name	Location	Capacity	Curriculum
Lycée Français International Málaga	Málaga	835	
The British School of Málaga	Málaga	960	
Yago School Málaga	Málaga	-	 
MIT School Málaga	Málaga TechPark	497	 
Novaschool Añoreta	Rincón de la Victoria	1,050	 
Torrequebrada International College	Benalmádena	750	 
The Benalmádena International College	Benalmádena	170	
Den Norske Skolen Málaga	Benalmádena	140	
Aurinkorannikon suomalainen koulu	Fuengirola	-	
Aloha College Marbella	Marbella	910	 
Svenska Skolan Marbella	Marbella	220	 
Brave Generation Academy	Marbella	-	 
The English International College	Marbella	450	
The British International School of Marbella	Marbella	650	
Swans International School	Marbella	565	  
École Français Internationale Marbella	Marbella	-	
Laude San Pedro International College	Marbella	1,060	
Deutsche Schule Málaga	Ojén	720	
The American College in Spain	Puerto Banús	100	
Calpe School	San Pedro de Alcántara	120	 
The International School Estepona	Estepona	100	
Atlas American School of Málaga	Estepona	440	 
Sotogrande International School	Sotogrande	1,040	
Контакты	-	-	



## 3.2

## Education

### Bridging cultures through language

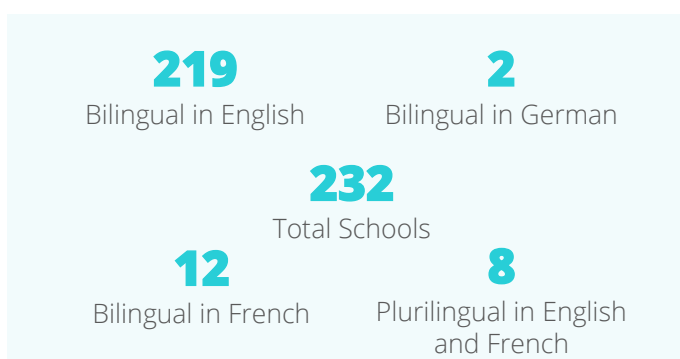
#### Bilingual Programmes

Local ecosystem with an international outlook

Málaga also offers strong multilingual education opportunities, reflecting the importance of languages in the Spanish education system. Through **Andalusia's Programme for Bilingual and Plurilingual Schools**, students are exposed to foreign languages from early stages, ensuring a solid foundation in communication skills and intercultural understanding. The initiative is supported by regional and national education authorities, reinforcing high-quality language learning across all levels.

- Bilingual and plurilingual schools **offer instruction in two languages**, alternating by subject or educational stage. The second language is introduced progressively, gaining presence as students advance in their educational journey.
- At least **50% of subjects are taught in a foreign language** (English, French, or German) through the CLIL methodology, combining language and content learning.
- Schools **follow the official Spanish curriculum** while promoting openness to other cultures with a primarily local focus.

#### Key data of Bilingual and Plurilingual schools in Málaga



Source: Government of Andalusia

EUCA staff's children can benefit from a balanced learning between two languages and cultures.



Students in class in a multilingual school

#### Integrated Curriculum

Opening doors to their future

Málaga's education institutions offer bilingual learning opportunities, with instruction in Spanish and another language, allowing students to **develop skills in both languages while gaining insights into both cultures**. English is the most taught second language, though other languages may also be offered.

This system is progressively integrated into students' educational journey starting from **early stages of preschool to the end of secondary education**.

This system is progressively integrated into students' educational journey from the early stages of preschool to the end of secondary education, following primarily the Spanish curriculum. However, these bilingual schools can also:

- ❑ Offer language proficiency certificates of the language studied alongside Spanish
- ❑ Enable students to obtain a curriculum certificate of the language studied alongside Spanish

## 3.2

## Education

### Proven models of bilingual success

Main characteristics of bilingual schools in Málaga

Finally, bilingual schools are distributed throughout the Málaga area and vary in size, providing an integrated curriculum in multiple languages and complementing the city's international school offerings. Some examples include:




















English



French



German

Name	Location	Languages
Instituto de Educación Secundaria Cánovas del Castillo	Málaga	 
Instituto de Educación Secundaria Christine Picasso	Málaga	
Instituto de Educación Secundaria Litoral	Málaga	
Centro Internacional María Montessori	Málaga	
Colegio Sierra Blanca-El Romeral	Málaga	
International Montessori School Caracolis (IMSC)	Alhaurín de la Torre	
Colegio de Educación Infantil y Primaria San Sebastián	Alhaurín de la Torre	 
Colegio de Educación Infantil y Primaria Flor de Azahar	Estación de Cártama	
Colegio de Educación Infantil y Primaria Atenea	Torremolinos	
Instituto de Educación Secundaria Jorge Guillén	Torrox	
Colegio de Educación Infantil y Primaria Narixa School	Nerja	
Instituto de Educación Secundaria Mediterráneo	Estepona	 
Colegio de Educación Infantil y Primaria Ramón García	Estepona	 



Students in a multilingual school

## 3.2

## Education

Excellence across public and private universities

### Universities

A strong and competent network

Málaga offers **5 world class universities** and higher education institutions: **1 state-led, 3 private, and 1 international one**. Málaga's universities offer a great range of campus facilities, including innovation and tech hubs, medical research labs, linguistic services or sport facilities.

Málaga's universities offer a diverse, complementary and competitive degree range, together with study abroad opportunities through international partnerships.

European Dimension

Spain is a member of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). As such, all Spanish universities have adopted the European system for **undergraduate, master and doctorate degrees**. Consequently, all degrees taught in Málaga's universities follow the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

Over 73% of graduates find employment after the conclusion of their studies.

Source: University of Málaga

### Public Universities

The University of Málaga – Best for healthcare and STEM degrees

The **University of Málaga (UMA)** is the leading state university in the city. With over 50 years of history, it hosts **35,820 students**, out of which 7,000 belong to Engineering branches.

#### Key data from the University of Málaga

**17**

Faculties

**77**

Undergraduate degrees on offer

**78**

Master degrees on offer

**22**

Doctorate degrees on offer

Source: Málaga's City Council

### Private Universities

Three universities with complementary degree range

#### Key data from private universities (UAX, UEA, UTAMED, MIUC)

**11**

Faculties

**50**

Undergraduate degrees on offer

**37**

Master degrees on offer

**2**

Doctorate degrees on offer

Source: Universities' official websites

Alfonso X the Wise University (UAX) - Mare Nostrum University – Best for technology and business, as well as health and life sciences

**UAX** has established an innovative approach in its Mare Nostrum campus, setting **Málaga as a referent in employment generation**. As such, programme offerings focus on three main areas: **healthcare, technology and, business and creativity**.



**UAX ranks first in Spain** for graduate employability and is **among the top 10 worldwide** for graduates working in their field.

European University of Andalusia (UEA) – Best for education, design and creativity

The **European University of Andalusia (UEA)**, with a 30-year long journey, offers rigorous academic programs, especially in **business, communication, healthcare, sports, engineering and education**. Its facilities include 6 labs for investigation and research, as well as a tech factory and a simulation hospital. Its student body is composed of **110 nationalities**, and it has an **employability rate of 93.5%**.

Atlantic Mediterranean Technological University (UTAMED) – Offers a full online programme

**UTAMED** is characterised for being a university with a **full online programme**, with the purpose of closing the breach between higher education and the real-working world's demands.

# 3.2

## Education Globally ranked, locally strong

### International University

Marbella International University Centre

Málaga is home to one of **the most prominent international universities in Spain**, the Marbella International University Centre (MIUC).

**MIUC** is a global academic institution which provides a learning experience based on a career-oriented curriculum and dynamic programmes. What makes it unique is its **exclusive partnership with the University of West London, through which students can acquire a UK degree**. The university offers 6 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in **business, politics and international relations**, all of which are instructed **exclusively in English**.



*International students in an international university*

All universities provide worldwide study abroad programmes and opportunities, offering students a truly international experience.

### International Students

The best university experience

**According to an Erasmus EU report, Spain is the most chosen country by Erasmus students in Europe**, ahead of Italy, Germany and France.

Moreover, all campus offer international programmes, promoting studying abroad opportunities and attracting foreign students through partnerships with other universities around the world. Every year, Málaga's universities bring **numerous international students**, contributing to the fact that **11.4% of all students enrolled in Spanish universities are international**.

### Degrees offered in foreign languages

A wide range of languages within programmes

The Spanish University system offers multiple degrees in foreign languages. In this way, it promotes both the learning of foreign languages for Spanish citizens and the studying process for foreign students in Spain. This incentivises both, employees and students, to continue developing their professional skills through multilingual postgraduate and doctorate studies in Spain.

### Key figures from international higher education

**2**

Different languages offered in university degrees in Málaga's universities: English and Spanish

**19**

Degrees offered in foreign languages in Málaga's universities

**83,962**

International students enrolled in undergraduate degrees in Spanish universities in 2023

**96,601**

International students enrolled in master and doctorate degrees in Spanish universities in 2023

*Source: Spanish Government*



*International students*



## 3.2

# Education

## Shaping future global leaders

### Business Schools

Distinguished European schools

Málaga is considered to be a **leading innovation and technology hub**, not only in the Iberian Peninsula but in the whole European south. Being **home to 6 of the most globally renown business schools**, it offers a wide scope of programmes (ranging from MBA, to cutting-edge training for the corporate world).

Málaga's business schools are ranked amongst the best universities in the world.



**San Telmo Business School** - Top 1 in the world for the food sector

**San Telmo Business School** arrived in the city of Málaga over 20 years ago, and it has become the business school which writes the most business cases in Spanish. It has 9 **different specialisations**: corporate governance, digitalization, women in business, family business, continuous improvement, SMEs and the food industry.



**ESIC Málaga** - Top 1 in Spain for Marketing and Digital Economy

**ESIC Business & Marketing School** is one of the most renowned business schools in Spain. It specialises in marketing, management and digitalisation, standing out for its **practical training and its location in the Málaga TechPark**, the leading technology and innovation hub in Southern Europe.



**ESESA Málaga**

**ESESA Málaga** is another leading business school in the south of Spain. It offers **specialisations and company training**, combining practical and up-to-date methodologies with **direct links to the business world**.



**EADE Málaga**

**EADE Málaga** is a centre affiliated with the University of Wales which offers **official British degrees** in areas such as design, architecture, sports, communication, business and marketing.



**ESSCA Málaga** - Part of the exclusive 1% of Triple Crown business schools in the world

With a legacy of over 100 years, **ESSCA Administration School is one of the major international business schools originated in France**. In its campus in Málaga, it offers a Bachelor in International Management and summer programmes.



**Les Roches Marbella** - #2 in the QS World University ranking by subject in Hospitality and Leisure Management, with an immediate employment rate of 94%

**Les Roches Global Hospitality Education** in Marbella is one of the **world's most prestigious schools for hotel management and luxury tourism**. It hosts an **international student body from over 80 countries**, combining practical classes in real-life environments and stays in luxury hotels.

### Capital for R&D

Innovation and Tech make Málaga unique

Málaga hosts a wide range of institutions dedicated to **knowledge generation** and **Research and Development**.

25

Centres for Research and Development

Source: Government of Andalusia

**Málaga's Foundation for Biomedicine and Health Investigation (FIMABIS)** is one of the most prominent R&D centres in the region, positioning the city as a hub for biomedical investigation.

It focuses on cardiovascular diseases, neuroscience, e-health, nano-diagnosis and oncologic treatments amongst other fields. Since its inception, it has managed **over 700 projects**, including Málaga's Institute for Biomedical Investigation (IBIMA) and its platform BIONAND. In 2024, it had 1,400 researchers and 884 scientific publications backed by 32M€ in public funding.

## 3.2

## Education

Learn, speak, connect globally

### Language Schools

Málaga emphasises multilingualism

Málaga is home to **8 official language schools** that complement standard academic education, offering a broad selection of language courses for all levels, from beginner to native proficiency (A1 to C2). The languages offered include **Arabic, German, Chinese, Spanish, French, Greek, English, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Russian**. Classes are available in different formats, including in-person, hybrid, and online.



Map of official language schools in Málaga

Furthermore, to promote linguistic immersion for foreigners, the city of Málaga has numerous **Spanish schools, several of which are accredited by the Instituto Cervantes**, a government institution responsible for inspecting Spanish schools. These have undergone the Instituto Cervantes Schools Accreditation System (SACIC), guaranteeing quality standards in teaching Spanish as a foreign language.

**24** Schools accredited by the Instituto Cervantes in Málaga's province.

These institutions are distributed throughout the city, making it easier to combine language learning with other types of linguistic immersion activities. Additionally, they offer a wide range of courses (intensive, super-intensive, and semi-intensive), preparation for official exams, and both online and in-person formats for young people and families.

Málaga also hosts 78 language schools operating independently to Instituto Cervantes's accreditation.



Students at a language school

## 3.2

# Education Inclusive learning for all

### Education for Everyone

Support for special needs

In Spain, **the enrolment of students with Specific Educational Support Needs (SESN) is encouraged in regular schools**. Special attention models are established to ensure quality education for all. Depending on the needs of each student, there are four options:

- I. **Special education centres**. They are organised into **compulsory Basic Training (6-18 years)** and a Training period for **the Transition to Adulthood and the Working Life** - equivalent to secondary school. They also include off-school **assistance services** to cover every child's needs.
- II. **Special Education classrooms in ordinary schools**. They provide **specialised care for students with SESN**, allowing their integration into the common school environment.
- III. **Ordinary group with variable support periods**. This option is designed to foster **the full development of students' skills through an adapted curriculum**, delivered either inside or outside the regular classroom, according to individual needs.
- IV. **Full-time ordinary group**. It seeks that students with SESN **acquire the maximum development, participating in the same environment and learning activities as their reference group**.



The educational intervention model used in Spain allows for full academic and social inclusion.

On the other hand, within the context of the Spanish education system, **support is provided to students with SESN through specialised units and resources tailored to their specific requirements:**

- ❖ **Students with special educational needs (SEN)**, including, in ordinary schools, hearing impairment units, motor disability team or developmental disorders units, among others.

- ❖ **Students with high intellectual abilities** or with **specific learning difficulties** (dyslexia or ADHD).
- ❖ **Students who need compensatory actions** due to social, cultural or economic disadvantages.

In Andalusia, 89,4% of students with SEN are integrated into regular classrooms, highlighting the region's commitment to inclusive education.

*Source: Government of Andalusia*

### Key figures of commitment to support SEN and SESN in Málaga and Andalusia

<b>490</b>	SEN classrooms in Málaga, of which:
<b>371</b>	In infant and primary schools
<b>119</b>	In secondary schools
<b>2,300</b>	SEN classrooms in schools in Andalusia
<b>2,342</b>	Professionals directly working with students with SESN or SEN in Málaga
<b>952</b>	Therapeutic pedagogy teachers
<b>372</b>	Hearing and Language Teachers
<b>604</b>	Technical Support Staff for Integration
<b>414</b>	Counsellors focused on supporting students with SESN

In addition to specialised classrooms, Málaga features **dedicated centres that provide psycho-pedagogical care and personalised academic assistance to students with learning difficulties**. Examples include UNIDIVERSO or Platero Green School.

# 3.3

## Labour, health and social framework

### A competitive and dynamic work environment

**Málaga is a modern, open city focused on people's well-being**, being known for its high quality of life and Mediterranean environment. In fact, **Forbes has recognised it as one of the best cities in the world to live and work**. The city provides a supportive environment for EUCA's employees and facilities, promoting a good work-life balance. Málaga also has a strong public services network and a social welfare system, contributing to its high quality of life. Finally, Spain also boasts one of the **highest life expectancies** in the EU, thanks to its renowned public health system.

### General Overview

#### Situation of the national economy

The **Spanish economy has been showing solid growth since the Covid-19 crisis**. In **2024**, its GDP growth was **of almost 3.2%**, being one of the most dynamic economies in Europe. The resilience of the labour market and a solid performance in various sectors, such as manufacturing or services, support and sustain this progress. **According to the International Monetary Fund**, growth is expected **to be of around 2.9% in terms of GDP in 2025 and 2% in 2026**. Undoubtedly, Spain remains among the leading countries in expansion within the European Union.

#### Highlights of the Spanish economy



Spain is the **4th national economy in the Eurozone**

Source: Eurostat

In this same context, the Andalusian economy has also grown **at a rate of 3.6%** in 2024. The regional employment rate is also expected to improve, mostly due to the combination of a diversified export offer, expansion into new markets, and a strong performance across most provinces.

Finally, in terms of GDP, it is worth noting that Málaga closed 2024 with a GDP growth **rate of 2.9%**, being well-above European, national and regional averages, and ranking, once again, as the fastest-growing province in Andalusia.

#### Presence of international companies

Spain is home to over **18,300 foreign-owned companies**, which operate across a wide range of sectors including finance, automotive, telecommunications, and technology. These companies play a key role in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and fostering the transfer of international expertise and best practices.



According to Forbes, **70% of the world's top 100 companies** have a presence in Spain, especially in finance, automotive, telecommunications, and technology.

Source: Forbes

Out of the total number of foreign companies, Andalusia hosts over **3,171 of them, originating from 80 countries**. The activity of these enterprises is concentrated in sectors such as technology, renewable energy, biotechnology, and automotive. These companies generate thousands of jobs and contribute significantly to the regional economy.

These foreign companies generated a combined turnover of €36,259 million and employ 88,472 people. The province of Málaga stands out as the main destination for these foreign investments, **hosting more than half of these companies**. In addition, there are another **1,282 foreign-owned companies, headquartered in other Spanish regions, but with operate branches in Andalusia**.

#### GDP and its forecasts 2023-2026

Region	2023	2024	2025	2026
Málaga	3.6	2.9	2.8	...
Andalusia	2.5	3.6	3.3	2
Spain	2.7	3.2	2.5	2
EU	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.2
World	3.3	3.2	3.2	3

Source: CEM Empresas de Málaga & IECA



## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## A top destination for investors

### Attraction of foreign direct investment

In 2023, Spain attracted **€28.215 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI)**, with the United States being the leading source, accounting for 28.9% of the total. The services sector received most of this investment, comprising 54.3% of total FDI.



Spain is the **13th recipient of foreign investments in the world.**

It is also worth mentioning that the OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index ranks Spain as the **10th country in the world** with **the least restrictive regulations** for international investments.

On the other hand, **Andalusia attracted €913.7 million in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2024**, according to the Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Business. This figure exceeds the **ten-year annual average** (€696 Million for 2015–2024) by **20%** and represents the **second-best record of the last decade**. Compared to 2023 (€595 million), this is a **53.5% increase**, 32 points above the growth of FDI in Spain overall (+19%).

This year also concludes a historic six-year period for Andalusia, with foreign investments totalling **€5.026 billion**, nearly double the amount recorded in the 2013–2018 period (€2.641 billion) and 54% higher than the previous record period (2007–2012, with €3.265 billion).

Regarding the origin of these investments, there have been **five countries contributing over €80 Million each** in 2024: the **United States, United Kingdom, France, Denmark, and Germany.**

The promotion of FDI in Andalusia is made by **Andalucía TRADE**, the Andalusian public agency dedicated to transform and develop the regional economy.

Regarding Málaga, the region leads the way for accumulated foreign investment in Andalusia. The province attracted **383.4 million euros** of foreign investments last year, a **42 % of the total FDI of Andalusia.**

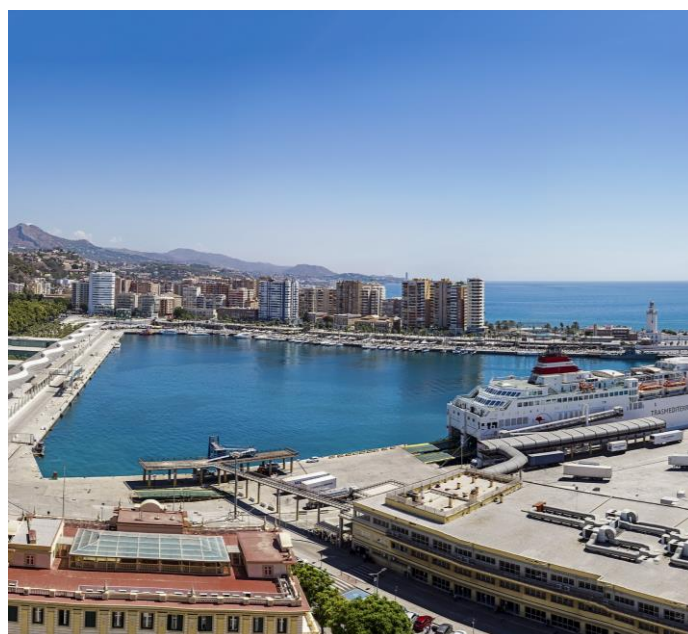
### Assistance services in Andalusia

#### Andalucía TRADE

**Andalucía TRADE** serves as the primary point of contact for businesses. It offers comprehensive support across various areas:

- **FDI:** Attracting and consolidating FDI through programs that provide tailored services for project establishment and expansion.
- **Internationalisation:** Assisting Andalusian companies in expanding into global markets.
- **Business Financing:** Offering financial instruments and grants to support industrial development and innovation.
- **Innovation and R&D:** Promoting knowledge transfer and fostering collaboration between businesses, universities, and research centres.

It is a network with 11 national offices and 42 international branches across more than 70 markets. Andalucía TRADE is staffed by over 350 specialised professionals committed to enhancing the competitiveness and international presence of Andalusian enterprises.



Málaga City Port

## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## Málaga shines among Spanish cities

### Málaga within Spain

A constantly growing city

Málaga has positioned itself as one of **the main economic engines of Southern Europe**. The region's leadership within Andalusia represents **20% of the regional GDP**, ranking among the most thriving regions in Spain.

**+4.6%**

Málaga's employment rate growth in 2024

**2nd**

Region of Spain with the highest drop in unemployment in 2024

Source: INE & CEM Empresas de Málaga

Over recent years, the city has experienced a significant workforce growth, particularly in sectors such as **information technology, tourism, healthcare, and education**. Málaga is also establishing itself as an emerging hub for **technology and innovation** in southern Spain, attracting both domestic and international companies and fostering a dynamic ecosystem for economic development and professional opportunities.

With 136,150 companies in 2022, Málaga was ranked as the 5th Spanish province with the most business volume.

In this context, it is worth highlighting the City Council's 2030 strategy, which envisions Málaga as **a green and sustainable city**. Overall, this strategy promotes the development of the sustainable activities sector and reinforces the city's dynamic and future-oriented economic ecosystem. This approach is expected to **generate new employment opportunities, attract investment**, and position Málaga as a leading hub for **sustainable innovation** in southern Europe.

### Málaga: key economic indicators



Málaga is an attractive destination for international companies. It hosts **111 international companies from 28 countries, generating 8,000 new jobs** (2019-2024).



**1st for growth of technological jobs in Spain:** From 8,631 jobs in 2013 to 19,250 in 2023, according to the Technology Employment Map of the COTEC Foundation.



**123% growth in the technological workforce** in Málaga over the last decade, outpacing the growth rates of both, Andalusia and Spain.



The launch of the **Google Safety Engineering Centre** in 2023 positions Málaga as a European reference in cybersecurity.

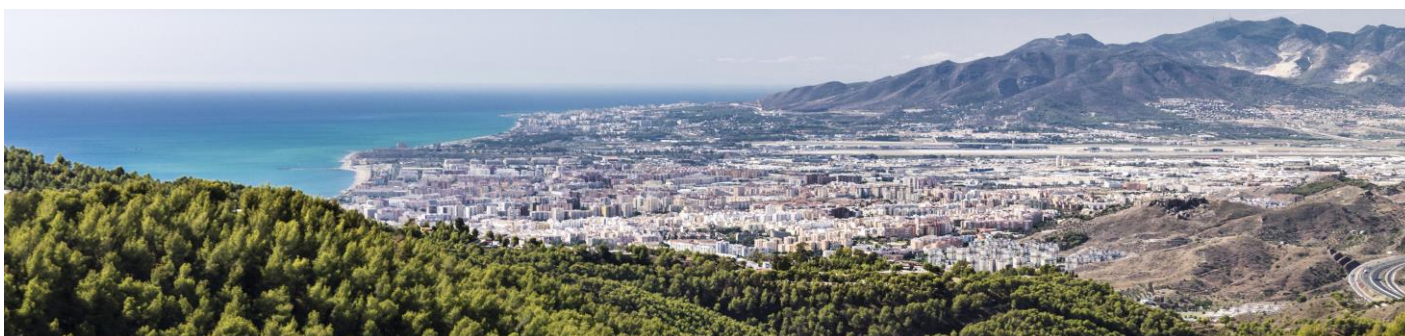


In 2023, Málaga reached an export volume of **3,200 Million** euros, which represents a year-on-year increase of **11.8%**.



**The city attracted €134 million in foreign investment** in 2023, **marking a 37 % growth** compared to the previous year.

Source: Málaga City Council



Málaga's mountains

## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## An innovation hub by the sea

### Innovative Economic Ecosystem in Málaga

Capacity to offer international jobs

Málaga has become a **leading European hub for innovation and technology**, driven by a dynamic business environment, advanced infrastructure, and a strong focus on digital transformation. Backed by specialised talent and a collaborative mindset, the city attracts investment and generates international employment across diverse technology sectors — many of which are based in **the Málaga Valley, its flagship innovation cluster**.

The **Málaga Valley innovation ecosystem**, launched in 2006 as an initiative by technology executives and local leaders, has steadily evolved into a dynamic network that drives entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and technological excellence. Today, it stands as a dynamic network that fosters entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and technological excellence.



#### The Málaga Valley

The city offers a comprehensive ecosystem for companies, startups, entrepreneurs, and international talent. It combines physical spaces, collaboration networks, smart city projects, and technology hubs that promote creativity, research, and cybersecurity.

In this context, the **Málaga Valley** has become a technological and creative hub that brings together digital companies, startups, and innovation centres, positioning the city as a reference cluster in innovation and the digital economy in Southern Europe. Notable aspects include:

- ❖ Leading companies in areas such as cybersecurity, microelectronics, and AI.
- ❖ Local enterprises with global success
- ❖ Constant increase of Foreign Direct Investment
- ❖ Málaga TechPark (PTA)
- ❖ Smart City pilot projects

Strategic companies and sectors

The city **hosts national and international companies in key sectors like cybersecurity and microelectronics**, generating jobs and fostering knowledge transfer. Málaga's commitment to these fields drives innovation, training, and public-private collaboration, strengthening a competitive digital ecosystem.



#### Cybersecurity

- ❖ **The Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC)** will play a key role in advancing cybersecurity, driving public-private partnerships and fostering cutting-edge research and development.
- ❖ **The Andalusian Cybersecurity Centre**, with an investment of €74 Million, promotes training, and incentives for companies to adopt cybersecurity.

#### IoT y Big Data

- ❖ **Vodafone** has opened a new IoT/5G Innovation Centre in Málaga, creating 500 jobs and reinforcing the city's position in the tech industry.
- ❖ **Mercedes-Benz** has opened a research centre focusing on big data, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and finance.
- ❖ **Globant** has launched an AI centre in Málaga, dedicated to leveraging artificial intelligence to drive digital transformation.
- ❖ **BHS Corrugated** has set up an R&D centre in Málaga that concentrates on Industry 4.0, AI, and cybersecurity for corrugated machinery, creating 50 jobs and boosting the company's competitiveness in the global market.

#### Microelectronics & Nanotechnology

- ❖ **IMEC** is a leading research and development centre in microelectronics and nanotechnology, designing chips, sensors, and intelligent systems for applications in health.

Málaga hosts 111 international companies from 28 countries, generating 8,000 new jobs



## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## Local talent, global success

### Local companies with international success

- ❖ **DCOOP:** Based in Antequera, it is Europe's largest **agri-food cooperative**, bringing together **more than 75,000 farmers and producers** across Spain. In 2024, it generated a record turnover of **€1.55 billion**, with **exports to over 100 countries exceeding €635 million**. Its success is rooted in technological integration, sustainability, and a cooperative model that combines tradition and innovation.
- ❖ **Acotral:** Headquartered in Antequera, the company has generated revenues of **€361.3 Million** in 2024. Acotral plays a key role in Spain's logistics network, driven by its integration into the larger Ontime group. It places an emphasis on advanced **fleet management**, digitalisation and sustainable transport solutions.
- ❖ **Famadesa:** Founded in Málaga, it is a benchmark in **Spain's meat processing industry**. It generates **revenues of 351 million euros**, representing a year-on-year increase of 22%. The company has invested over €44 Million in a new high-tech production plant in Málaga, reinforcing its focus on R&D, circular economy, and international expansion.
- ❖ **Mayoral Moda Infantil:** A Málaga-born fashion company and one of Europe's leading brands in children's apparel. It operates in over **100 countries and has a workforce of more than 2,200 employees**. In 2024, Mayoral reached €370 million in turnover, consolidating its global presence. The company's success lies in combining creativity and digital innovation with sustainable production and logistics.

DCOOP



mayoral

Málaga is home to successful local companies with international reach across different sectors, providing EUCA employees and their families with opportunities to connect with leading global businesses.

In addition to the aforementioned successful international companies and thriving local businesses, the Málaga Valley **hosts over 180 companies operating in a wide range of sectors**.

These include engineering and aerospace, biotechnology and health, smart logistics and mobility or renewable energy and sustainability, among others. These companies, both local and international, **reinforce Málaga's position as a leading hub in Southern Europe**.



Málaga Tech Park



## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework Innovation powered by global investment

### Foreign direct investment (FDI)

Málaga offers a unique combination between strategic location, modern infrastructure, and a highly qualified workforce, making it **an ideal destination for investment**. It also has a strong connectivity to Europe and Northern Africa, a favourable business environment, and active support for startups and international companies. All in all, Málaga provides investors with the resources, talent, and networks needed to thrive in competitive sectors.

**383**

Million euros in 2024

**134**

Million euros in 2023

**186 %**

Increase from 2023 to 2024

*Source: Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Business & Málaga City Council*

Foreign companies maintain their confidence in Málaga and highlight quality of life and infrastructure as the city's main attractions.

### Málaga TechPark

The Málaga TechPark has established itself as a European reference point in innovation and technological development.

Founded in 1992, with just 8 companies, it now **symbolises the success of a long-term vision based on collaboration between the public, private, and academic sectors, reaching an annual turnover of €4.1 Billion euros**.

It has an environment that combines business excellence, advanced research, and quality of life, offering a unique ecosystem where innovation and talent drive progress.



**Málaga  
TechPark;**  
Parque Tecnológico  
de Andalucía



**715**

Companies



**27,940**

Employees



**72**

Foreign Companies

*Source: Málaga City Council*

### Smart City projects

Málaga has positioned itself as one of Europe's leading cities in urban innovation, combining technology, sustainability, and citizen engagement. **Its smart city initiatives aim to optimise energy use, improve mobility, enhance public services, and create a connected, efficient, and sustainable urban environment.** Examples include:

- ❖ **SmartCity Málaga (Endesa):** A pioneering smart grid project involving over 11,000 households and 1,200 businesses. It aims to achieve up to 20% energy savings and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by around 6,000 tons annually.
- ❖ **Centésimal IoT Platform:** Over 1,200 sensors across 200 buildings for real-time urban monitoring.
- ❖ **Open Málaga:** Citizen-facing SuperApp encouraging engagement with city services.
- ❖ **Citywide Digital Twin:** Virtual city model to support planning, management, and predictive analysis.
- ❖ **High-Tech & Metaverse Centre (IAT):** Research hub for immersive technologies and digital innovation.



### Success story: IMEC's Landmark Project Highlights Málaga's Investment Appeal

IMEC, the world-renowned Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre, has chosen Málaga's Technology Park as the location for a €115 Million project supported by the Spanish Government. This highlights Málaga's capacity to attract foreign investment and its position as a hub for advanced technological development.



**1st facility outside Leuven (Belgium):** Located in the Málaga Technology Park.



**Focus on innovation:** The facility will develop new 300 mm chip prototyping processes using advanced materials alternative to silicon.



**Global expertise:** with more than 5,500 expert scientists from over 96 countries.



**Industrial collaboration:** collaboration with a network of 600+ leading global industrial partners.

## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## A thriving startup and scale-up scene

### Entrepreneurship and innovation

#### Municipal Incubators Network

Málaga is also committed to fostering startups and entrepreneur, creating a vibrant ecosystem that encourages innovation and business growth. The city actively supports the development of small businesses and promotes comprehensive economic advancements through various initiatives:

The city, through the municipal company Promálaga, operates the **Municipal Incubators Network** (RMI). Its purpose is to aid in the creation and consolidation of startups and small businesses, with the ultimate goal of developing the overall economy of the city.

  
**CENTRES**  
14

  
**STARTUPS**  
200



**Highest Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity Rate in Spain 2022-2023.**

Source: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor



Innovative engineer

#### Success stories of startups

Some local startups that demonstrate Málaga's potential as a hub for talent in different sectors include:

**AT4 Wireless**, founded in 1995 and acquired by DEKRA in 2015. It provides testing and compliance services for the telecommunications industry. Its acquisition strengthened DEKRA's presence in Spain, making Málaga its global competence centre for mobile, wireless, EMC, and radio frequency technologies.



Hispasec Sistemas, a Spanish cybersecurity company, created in 2004 **VirusTotal**, a file and URL analyser. The company was acquired by Google in 2012 and, since then, it has been a key driver of Málaga's tech growth, playing a central role in the opening of Google's European Cybersecurity Centre in 2023.



**BeSoccer** is a Málaga-based football data platform that was acquired by Czech tech company LiveSport. This landmark acquisition was the largest in Livesport's history, adding 28 million monthly users to its customer base and strengthening its presence in Spanish and French-speaking markets.



**Logístiko** optimises companies' last-mile delivery by efficiently managing their operations in real time. It is a unique platform that facilitates the planning, assignment, tracking, and analysis of all operational processes in real time, ensuring the highest quality service for its clients.



In 2024, 7,541 new companies were founded in Málaga, representing a third of those founded in Andalusia. This reaffirms the city as an entrepreneurial hub and an attractive environment for EUCA employees.

## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## Europe's best remote-work hub

### Favourite destination for digital nomads

Ideal city for remote work

Málaga has become one of the world's most attractive destinations for remote work, due to its excellent quality of life, strong technological infrastructure, and a growing international community of remote professionals.

Its global connectivity, multicultural environment, and wide range of **coworking spaces** make it a preferred European city for **digital nomads**, offering flexible, collaborative, and hybrid work environments.

**88%**

Coworking  
occupancy,  
1<sup>st</sup> 2025

**854**

Occupied  
workspaces,  
2024

**8,540**

m<sup>2</sup> of flexible  
office space,  
2024

Source: CBRE – office rental and coworking services

The city has received several international recognitions, demonstrating that it offers an outstanding work environment:



**1st Spanish city** certified by AENOR as a  
**Destination for Digital Nomads in 2023**

Source: Málaga City Council

In 2023, the city reached a historic milestone by being recognised by AENOR as a destination for digital nomads, an acknowledgment that highlights its **commitment to innovation, connectivity, sustainability, and well-being**. This distinction positions Málaga at the forefront of Europe in attracting remote talent and reinforces its image as a modern, open city ready to welcome professionals and companies within the new global work model.

The certification reaffirms that the city provides all the necessary conditions for living and working remotely, combining innovation, safety, and an exceptional quality of life.

Málaga is internationally recognised as an ideal city for remote work, offering a dynamic lifestyle, excellent infrastructure, and a supportive environment for professionals.

**3rd Best City in the World for Remote Work according to Savills Executive Nomad Index, in 2025.**



Source: Savills

According to the Savills Executive Nomad Index, Málaga is Europe's rising star, ranking **2nd globally in 2023, 3rd in 2024, and again 3rd in 2025**, just behind Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The index highlights its high quality of life, first-class digital connectivity, excellent air connections, and an enviable Mediterranean climate.

Málaga also provides a residential offer suited for remote work and a modern professional environment, including coworking spaces and abundant networking opportunities. On top of this, the Costa del Sol destination edges out other Spanish cities thanks to its strong cost advantage.



Coworking space colleagues



## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## Helping talent settle and succeed



### Best Workplaces Málaga Ranking by Great Place to Work.

*Source: Great Place to Work*

The city has been recognised by Great Place to Work with a dedicated ranking for its companies, a unique distinction that highlights the strengths of the local work ecosystem.

This recognition demonstrates that Málaga offers not only suitable infrastructure and services for remote work, but also a dynamic and positive business environment. It fosters collaboration, innovation, and productivity for remote professionals.

### Málaga WorkBay

Services assisting expatriates and foreign nationals in job seeking

Málaga has also developed **support platforms that reinforce its attractiveness for remote professionals** and provide services assisting expatriates and foreign nationals in job seeking. This facilitates their integration into the local economy and professional community.

Among them is **Málaga WorkBay**, a pioneering initiative created to facilitate the **arrival and integration of digital nomads and international workers**. The Málaga WorkBay offers practical information on the city's housing, administrative procedures, workspaces, social life or technology companies' network.



This platform works as an **active community**, connecting entrepreneurs, startups and local companies, and generating synergies and opportunities for collaboration in an open and innovative environment.

Resultingly, Málaga stands as one of the most attractive destinations in Europe for remote working, as it integrates public services, business networks and a wide offer of coworking spaces.

Málaga offers dedicated support services for digital nomads, helping them to adapt to the city.



*City of Málaga*



## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## High-quality and universal healthcare services

### Spanish Health Care System

#### Universal coverage

Spain boasts a **highly advanced public healthcare system**, widely recognised for its **universality, quality and accessibility**, which is further complemented by **private healthcare options**. In this sense, residents can choose private health insurance to enhance coverage, while public services provide comprehensive care across all levels.

The Spanish National Health System is based on universal coverage and offers a comprehensive portfolio of free, high-quality healthcare services that EUCA employees and their families can benefit from.

**Any European resident in Málaga can benefit from full and unlimited treatment in the Spanish health system**, including EUCA staff. To get assistance in the Spanish health system, every person must apply and obtain the **Spanish Health Insurance card**, which gives the holder access to the entire universal and free Spanish healthcare network.

#### Structure of the Spanish Healthcare System

- ❑ **Primary Care:** entry point to the system. It is organised into Basic Health Zones (ZBS), which cover several municipalities. Each ZBS has a Health Centre providing general medicine, paediatrics and nursing, among others.
- ❑ **Specialised Care:** Primary care professionals refer patients to specialists when necessary. This level of care is provided in Specialist Centres, where consultations and more complex procedures are carried out.
- ❑ **Hospital Care:** Public hospitals offer a wide range of medical and surgical services.
- ❑ **Urgent Care:** Emergency and urgent care services are available 24 hours a day, both in Primary Care Centres (Urgent Care Units) and public hospitals. This structure ensures immediate response to medical emergencies, supported by ambulance networks (061/112) and specialised emergency departments.

#### Complementary Private Sector

The public healthcare system is complemented by the private sector, which **participates through agreements and public-private collaborations**. In terms of private healthcare, **26% of the Spanish population** has integral health coverage from its private insurance.

Although the public system is predominant, the private sector plays an important role, especially in urban areas and in services such as dental care, aesthetics, and certain medical specialties.

#### Key data on Spanish healthcare



Spain and Málaga are among **the highest life expectancies in the EU**: at 84 and 83 years respectively, compared to the EU average of 81.



According to OCDE, Spain has low rates of preventable mortality, surpassing the EU average in areas such as vaccination coverage.



**71%** of Spanish citizens **rate their health state as good or very good**.



Spain shines for being a **world referent in organ donation and transplant**. In 2023, the country reached a rate of 52.6 donors per million residents, ranking **1st in the world** and far ahead of the EU's average of 22,9.



Only **1.1%** of Spanish citizens report **uncovered medical needs**, far below the EU's **3.8%**.



Estimated **cancer incidence and mortality rates in Spain are among the lowest in the EU**, due to early detection methods.

#### Spain Highlights



**Spanish healthcare ranks 7<sup>th</sup> worldwide** in the health care index and **2<sup>nd</sup> in the EU**.



Spain ranks **10<sup>th</sup>** globally in terms of the **population's satisfaction with the national health system**.

Source: Numbeo & IPSOS

## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## Comprehensive healthcare for everyone

### Access to Primary Care

The first point of contact with medical care

**Primary Care** is the first and **most essential level of care** within the Spanish National Health System. It promotes health education, disease prevention, wellness, rehabilitation, and social support, ensuring comprehensive care and long-term wellbeing.

Spanish Primary Care guarantees continuity and the ongoing provision of care throughout the patient's life.

The Spanish National Health System provides each citizen with a **General Practitioner (GP)**, who is responsible for promoting and maintaining patients' health, preventing and treating illnesses, and making home visits when necessary.



The Government of Andalusia allows for the obtention of the Spanish Health Insurance Card from any primary care centre.

The Andalusian Healthcare Service provides **1,513 Primary Care Centres**, of which **30 are located in Málaga** city. At these centres, citizens can obtain the Spanish Health Insurance Card, which grants access to public healthcare services.



Primary Care Centre



Specialist doctors during a procedure

### Specialised care

Advanced care and specialist treatments

Specialised Healthcare in Spain provides patients access to more **advanced diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical services** that require the intervention of medical specialists. It is mainly delivered through hospitals and specialised outpatient clinics.

Málaga has some of the best Neurosurgery and Paediatric Surgery professionals in Spain.

In the Public Healthcare System, patients are generally referred to specialists by their GP to ensure continuity and coordination of care across the system. However, individuals may also choose to access private healthcare services, allowing them to directly book consultations with their preferred specialist without requiring a referral.

**Málaga: pioneer in healthcare specialisations**

Neurosurgery service **3<sup>rd</sup>** in Spain

Paediatric surgery service **8<sup>th</sup>** in Spain

Allergology **9<sup>th</sup>** in Spain

Source: Government of Andalusia 2024

# 3.3

## Labour, health and social framework

### Leading hospitals with top specialists

#### Access to Hospitals

Centres of national reference

Málaga has **32 hospitals**, both public and private, including 26 general hospitals which cover all medical and surgical specialisations: university educational centres, state healthcare services, research centres, labs and other facilities which complete the healthcare package. Some of the most important ones are:



**Regional University Hospital of Málaga** – *Renowned for its excellence in neurosurgical care*

**Regional University Hospital of Málaga** is considered to be the best hospital in Málaga Province and one of the most renown ones in Spain according to the *Health System Reputation Index*. Its most prominent specialties are **Neurosurgery, Paediatric Surgery, and Allergology**. It forms part of a large hospital network with 20 medical and 14 surgical units, serving the entire province of Málaga.



**Virgen de la Victoria University Hospital** – *Stands out for its research activity*

A university hospital offering **34 accredited** medical specialties for resident training, renowned for its research and teaching activities in collaboration with the University of Málaga. It is recognised for its advanced **intensive care, Emergency Medicine (with a dedicated respiratory circuit), and Critical Care units**.

In fact, **Virgen de la Victoria University Hospital** has recently been recognised with an “Excellent” level certification by the Andalusian Agency for Healthcare Quality (ACSA) in its Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care unit.



**QuirónSalud Málaga Hospital** – *Renowned for its urology services.*

**QuirónSalud Málaga Hospital** is one of the leading private hospitals in the Andalusian region and in Málaga province. Equipped with cutting-edge technology, it provides a wide range of advanced medical services and a broad portfolio of private healthcare specialties, all delivered with personalised patient care.

The hospital is particularly renowned for its **Urology Department**, which specialises in oncological urology, pelvic floor disorders, lithiasis, and benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).



**Costa del Sol Hospital** – *Renowned for its organ donation and transplant programs*

**Costa del Sol Hospital**, located in **Marbella**, is considered to be the best hospital in Málaga outside the city, according to *Newsweek*.

It offers a comprehensive range of specialties, including Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation, General and Digestive Surgery, Intensive Care, Paediatrics, and Emergency Medicine. It is recognised for its **excellence in organ donation and transplantation programs**, demonstrating its advanced clinical capabilities. The hospital serves as a key healthcare reference point for the Costa del Sol region and international residents.



*Paediatric check-up*

All hospitals have some of the best healthcare professionals in the world and are equipped with the latest healthcare technologies. In fact, Málaga has a **ratio of doctors per resident above the Spanish average, with almost 9,500 professionals**.

In **Málaga**:

**5.27**

Doctors per  
1,000 residents

In the **UE**:

**4.06**

Doctors per  
1,000 residents

*Source: INE y Eurostat*



#### Key Data from **Andalusia's Healthcare System**

Hospitals have an **intense research activity**, both independently and **associated to universities**, such as **in collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry**, as shown in the 4,273 clinical trials performed in 2024.

## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## Trusted names in healthcare

### Main Characteristics of Hospital's in Málaga

Málaga has a **wide network of hospitals** across the region, providing **comprehensive healthcare** services to meet the needs of EUCA employees and their families:

Name	Location	Type of Centre	Capacity (beds)	Funding
Hospital Universitario Regional de Málaga	Málaga	General Hospital	523	Regional Health Services
Hospital Universitario Virgen de La Victoria	Málaga	General Hospital	657	Regional Health Services
Hospital Civil	Málaga	General Hospital	201	Regional Health Services
Centro Asistencial San Juan de Dios	Málaga	Specialised Hospital – <i>Mental health care</i>	398	Private
Centro Asistencial Hnas. Hospitalarias del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús	Málaga	Specialised Hospital – <i>Mental health care</i>	321	Private
Hospital Quironsalud Málaga	Málaga	General Hospital	132	Private
Hospital Materno Infantil del H.U.R. de Málaga	Málaga	Specialised Hospital - <i>Maternal and child healthcare</i>	349	Regional Health Services
Hospital Internacional Hm Santa Elena	Torremolinos	General Hospital	90	Private
Hospital Marítimo de Torremolinos	Torremolinos	General Hospital	89	Regional Health Services
Hospital Vithas Xanit Internacional	Benalmádena	General Hospital	125	Private
Hospital de La Axarquía	Vélez-Málaga	General Hospital	219	Regional Health Services
HTC Marbella International Hospital	Marbella	General Hospital	12	Private
Hospital Quironsalud Marbella	Marbella	General Hospital	75	Private
Hospital Costa del Sol	Marbella	General Hospital	408	Regional Health Services
Hospital de Antequera	Antequera	General Hospital	159	Regional Health Services
Hospital de La Serranía	Ronda	General Hospital	150	Regional Health Services
Clínicas del Sur Slu	Estepona	General Hospital	74	Private



## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## Fast, reliable emergency services

### Urgent Care

24 / 7 / 365

On top of 112 (Spanish 911), Andalusia's Healthcare System offers a mobile phone hotline **(061)**, which **provides urgent-specialised medical care**, particularly in situations where there is a high threat to life or where serious and permanent sequelae can remain.

#### Andalusia's Plan for Urgencies and Emergencies

These capabilities are reinforced by **Andalusia's Plan for Urgencies and Emergencies**, an instrument that coordinates all urgent care resources across the region. It aims to guarantee rapid, effective, and secure medical attention for every patient, ensuring full coordination between hospitals, primary care centres, and emergency services. The plan also includes advanced logistics, specialised training for healthcare professionals, and digital tools that enable faster communication and decision-making in critical situations.

#### Key data for urgent care

**609,752**

Calls attended by  
Málaga's 061  
coordination centre  
during 2024

**9.2/10**

Score from people  
who requested  
urgent medical  
assistance through  
061 during 2023

*Source: Government of Andalusia & europa press*

EUCA's employees and families have access to high-quality urgent care services at both hospitals and primary healthcare centres.



*Hospital during daily activities*

## 3.3

# Labour, health and social framework

## Multilingual support for patients

### Linguistic Support for Healthcare

24/7 multilingual support in public healthcare system

The Andalusian Healthcare Service includes the initiative **Salud Responde** (Healthcare Reacts) which allows, amongst other services:

- ✓ 24h Healthcare Advice.
- ✓ Free hospital choice.
- ✓ Primary Care and specialised medicine appointment management.
- ✓ **Linguistic translation services.**



#### Linguistic translation services

The Linguistic Translation Service, provided by Salud Responde, offers professionals and users a simultaneous remote translation service in **39 languages**, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. **This service is available in primary care centres and public hospitals throughout Málaga.** It is designed to meet the fast-paced demands of urgent and emergency healthcare. It assists both foreign users in accessing medical services and healthcare professionals in communicating effectively, benefiting staff and patients alike.

The **tele-translation service connects the healthcare professional, patient, and translator in a three-way call**, allowing each to speak in their own language while the translator conveys messages, ensuring confidentiality and privacy.

The most frequently requested languages in Málaga reflect the diversity of users. **English, French, German, Italian, and Dutch** are among the main languages, alongside others such as **Arabic, Russian, Romanian, and Chinese**, ensuring comprehensive support for both EUCA citizens and international residents. This tele-translation service provides an **immediate, practical response** that is particularly valuable in urgent or emergency healthcare situations.

EUCA staff and families have 24/7 access to tele-translation in public healthcare, ensuring clear communication across 46 languages.

Multilingual assistance in private hospitals

Apart from Salud Responde for public services, Málaga has private hospitals that provide assistance on a multilingual basis. For example:

Quirónsalud, Europe's largest hospital group, operates two private hospitals in Málaga and Marbella. Communication with medical teams are usually in **Spanish or English**, though many doctors also speak languages such as **French, Arabic, Italian, or Urdu**. On request, interpreters can assist during visits, and both hospitals offer multilingual, personalised care and work with leading international insurers.



HM Hospitales – which operates four hospitals in Málaga – offers tailored-made services for international people, with multilingual assistance ensuring comfort and understanding. The group's International Department and Insurance Liaison team — available 24/7 — speak **English, Arabic, French, Russian, Portuguese**, and other languages, having supported over **47,000 international patients** from 55 nationalities since 2012.



The Vithas Group also operates three hospitals in Málaga, some of which provide personalised assistance for international patients in up to **16 languages**.



Apart from hospitals, there are **multiple clinics** that understand that the language barrier can be a significant obstacle to quality healthcare and offer medical professionals who are multilingual, trained to communicate effectively in different languages. For example:



# 3.3

## Labour, health and social framework

### Strong social care and support

#### Social Security

Universal social welfare benefits

In addition to universal healthcare, Spain provides a **broad range of social services available to all residents**, along with targeted monetary benefits for specific groups depending on their circumstances.



#### Maternity and paternity benefits:

After childbirth or adoption, each parent is entitled to a legally established parental leave period of **19 weeks**. In addition, they receive a financial benefit to compensate for the loss of income resulting from this interruption of work.



#### Elderly and dependent care services:

Some services include **remote assistance**, ensuring safety and comfort **24 hours a day**, with at home or in-centre care available both day and night, travel support or specific discounts for transport and other activities.



#### Social services for people with disabilities

A wide range of services are available for people with disabilities, including **specialised transport, employment inclusion programmes, healthcare services** and **initiatives to promote personal autonomy**. This group of people may also obtain an official disability recognition certificate, which provides access to dedicated resources.

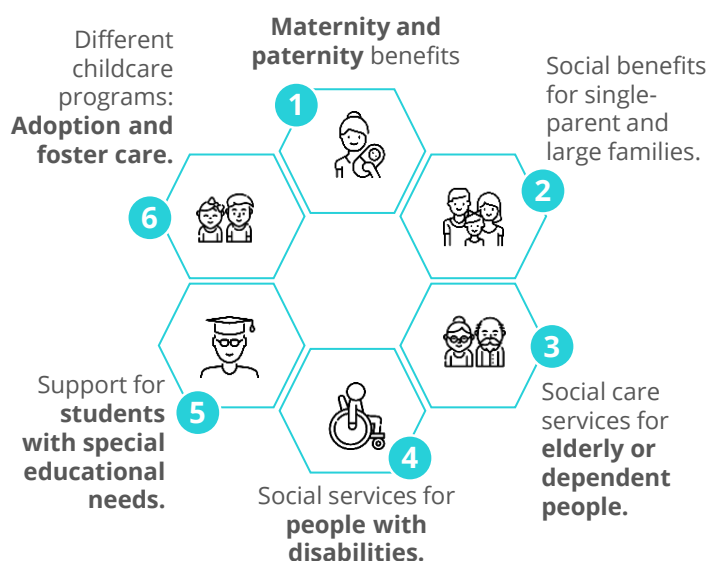


#### Support for large and single-parent families:

Financial assistance is available for university education and extracurricular activities in the public sector, as well as discounts and reductions on housing cost and public services (water, electricity, etc.), public transport and cultural visits, such as museums.

EUCA's employees and families can benefit from a broad number of social services.

#### Public social services offer and summary data



Málaga's social services are structured to support individuals, families, and communities facing difficult personal or social circumstances.

1

19 weeks of **fully paid parental leave**

**Job protection.**

**Working hours reduction.**

2

**Tax deductions.**

**Additional financial support** on single-parent families.

**Extended parental** leave for large families.

3

**Personalised Home Care Services.**

**Day Care Centres.**

**Financial allowances** for family caregivers or private care.

4

**Disability certification.**

**Job inclusion schemes.**

**Accessible transport and housing adaptations.**

5

**Individualised educational support.**

Access to **specialised learning materials and technologies.**

**Adapted exams and classrooms.**

6

**Information, training and suitability assessment.**

Intermediation in **international adoption.**

**Post-adoption follow-up** and support programmes



# 3.4

## Housing and cost of living

### Endless choices for every type of person

**Málaga has the capacity of satisfying all the requirements that any family may have**, offering multiple housing options that vary in size, pricing and spaces. New residential developments and refurbished historic buildings coexist, providing choices that range from modern apartments in vibrant urban areas to spacious villas and family homes in quieter neighbourhoods or municipalities. In addition, the market is characterised for its **high quality and competitive prices**, which are notably lower than in other European cities.

### A competitive market

Housing in the city of Málaga

Málaga and its metropolitan area offer **numerous affordable living options**, opposed to other EU cities. IT offers diverse options, including the possibility of living near the city's vibrant cultural life, or looking for peace and calm in housing developments. Below, is an outline of rental and buying housing prices in the province of Málaga:

	RENT	BUY
HOUSING OPTIONS	<b>9,300+</b> Houses and apartments for rent	<b>41,000+</b> Houses and apartments for sale
MARKET PRICES	<b>17.1 €</b> /m <sup>2</sup> per month in apartments in the city centre	<b>4,146 €</b> /m <sup>2</sup> in apartments in the city centre

Source: Idealista & Numbeo, September & October 2025

Buy and rental **housing prices are usually lower than in other important EU cities**, and the market is big and diverse offering a wide diversity of housing options for EUCA employees and their family to buy or rent.

Málaga is one of the most affordable cities to live in the city centre in the EU, both for renting and buying.

### Málaga Highlights



**Málaga** is at the forefront of the Spanish luxury real estate market, being home to **30% of Spain's luxury housing options**.

Source: CBRE



View of Málaga from above



# 3.4

## Housing and cost of living

Find a perfect place to live

### Málaga is attentive to its citizens' needs

Heterogeneous neighbourhoods to settle in

Málaga is subdivided into different zones depending on their main purpose. These can be furthered disaggregated into different districts.

There are five main zones in the city:

**Zone 1: City centre**

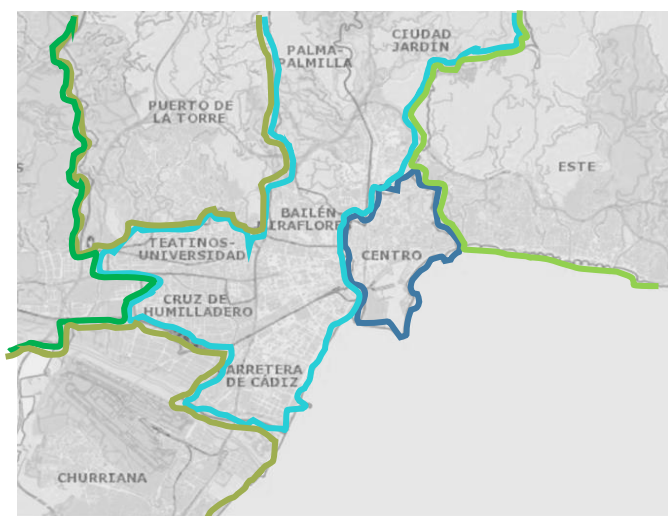
**Zone 2: Suburban areas**

**Zone 3: Business areas**

**Zone 4: Luxury housing developments**

**Zone 5: Málaga's outskirts**

Málaga is divided in five main areas near EUCA



#### City centre

The city's **cultural and historic hub** includes a **great variety of cultural spots, consolidated marketplaces and traditional stores**. This area is also exclusively habilitated for **pedestrians** for commercial purposes, as well as being Málaga's **backbone and financial hub**.



#### Suburban areas

Málaga has developed into numerous suburban districts, which now comprise the **city's urban core**. These represent Málaga's real, characteristic residential, commercial and social lifestyle.

Altogether, suburban areas reflect the **city's transition towards modernity, balancing tradition, urban growth and economic development**. Being located close to the business area, these are characterised by a **young and family-friendly atmosphere, enjoying commercial areas and easy access to public transport links**.



#### Business areas in Campanillas

This area is **the heart of Málaga's higher education institutions**, as well as the **emerging area for business, innovation and technology**, with hundreds of corporate offices, coworking spaces and startups. Housing developments in these area will allow employees to live and work in the same neighbourhood, promoting an outstanding **work-life balance**.



#### Luxury housing developments

Málaga's East District is characterised by its **above-average socioeconomic standard**. It offers **large and modern houses**, as well as **20th century villas**. Despite being a residential area, it enjoys a coastal and social lifestyle near the city centre. On the other hand, it is also equipped with some of the **highest standard schools, medical centres, sport facilities and yacht clubs** in the city.



#### Málaga's outskirts

The city offers different **suburban, residential areas** in the city outskirts, characterised by their **local lifestyle and tranquillity**. These offer proximity to nature, local sport facilities, and multiple other services to enjoy in a **family-friendly and natural environment**. These areas are widely known for their **large green areas and open spaces** and are linked with the city centre with **public transport**.

# 3.4

## Housing and cost of living




### Varied housing choices nearby


#### Residential Areas in Málaga City

**The five main residential areas** in Málaga city offer a diverse range of characteristics depending on their location and surroundings, with options that adapt to all kinds of lifestyles and needs. Each neighbourhood provides distinct services, amenities, and environments—reflected in varying housing prices across the city.

#### Living Beyond Málaga: Nearby Municipalities

Beyond Málaga, the province includes **102 additional municipalities** that also provide comfortable and welcoming environments for families to settle in, often with more affordable housing options while maintaining excellent quality of life. The following table compares these aspects in greater detail, both within Málaga city and in selected municipalities across the province.

 <b>Zone</b>	 <b>Rent prices</b>	 <b>Property prices</b>
City centre	≈17.1€/m <sup>2</sup>	≈4,146€/m <sup>2</sup>
Suburban areas	≈16.4€/m <sup>2</sup>	≈3,164€/m <sup>2</sup>
Business areas	≈13.35€/m <sup>2</sup>	≈3,135€/m <sup>2</sup>
Luxury housing developments	≈16.5€/m <sup>2</sup>	4,654€/m <sup>2</sup>
Málaga's outskirts	≈13.95€/m <sup>2</sup>	2,702€/m <sup>2</sup>

 <b>Other municipalities</b>	 <b>Rent prices</b>	 <b>Property prices</b>
Málaga	≈15.4€/m <sup>2</sup>	≈3,620€/m <sup>2</sup>
Torremolinos	≈16.9€/m <sup>2</sup>	≈3,762€/m <sup>2</sup>
Rincón de la Victoria	≈13€/m <sup>2</sup>	≈3,256€/m <sup>2</sup>
Alhaurín de la Torre	≈11.8€/m <sup>2</sup>	≈2,392€/m <sup>2</sup>
Benalmádena	≈16.3€/m <sup>2</sup>	3,989€/m <sup>2</sup>
Fuengirola	≈15.7€/m <sup>2</sup>	4,451€/m <sup>2</sup>
Mijas	≈15.4€/m <sup>2</sup>	3,496€/m <sup>2</sup>
Vélez-Málaga	≈9.7€/m <sup>2</sup>	1,794€/m <sup>2</sup>
Torrox	≈11.5€/m <sup>2</sup>	2,858€/m <sup>2</sup>
Antequera	≈7.6€/m <sup>2</sup>	1,343€/m <sup>2</sup>
Marbella	≈20€/m <sup>2</sup>	5,410€/m <sup>2</sup>
Ojén	≈22.3€/m <sup>2</sup>	3,838€/m <sup>2</sup>
Estepona	≈18.6€/m <sup>2</sup>	4,057€/m <sup>2</sup>
Ronda	≈7.4€/m <sup>2</sup>	1,599€/m <sup>2</sup>

Source: Idealista

# 3.4

## Housing and cost of living

### High quality, lower expenses

#### Competitive Living Costs

Lower prices than other EU cities

**Málaga is considered to be one of the best places to live in Europe.** Its weather, cultural and social offerings and its accessibility are strong reasons for it to be chosen over other European cities. Yet, Málaga also is a trendy city for its competitive prices.

Its citizens enjoy an admirable **quality of life**, with a **well-above-average** purchasing power in comparison to the rest of Europe. Despite being the southern European hub for technology and innovation, Málaga has **managed to keep its prices low**. Consequently, EUCA's staff have the opportunity of improving their purchasing power.

	LILLE	THE HAGUE	HAMBURG	MÁLAGA	AVERAGE*	SAVINGS
	Average costs per month/unit corresponding to the list of relevant and comparable goods in 2025				*Price average in Europe	Difference between Málaga and average* (%)
MARKETS						
Milk (1L)	1.35 €	1.25 €	1.11 €	1.08 €	1.47 €	26% lower
Eggs (12u)	3.21 €	4.30 €	3.59 €	2.40 €	3.80 €	37% lower
Rice (1kg)	2.58 €	2.36 €	2.84 €	1.47 €	2.56 €	43% lower
Loaf of fresh bread	1.68 €	1.99 €	1.89 €	1.29 €	1.92 €	33% lower
UTILITIES (MONTHLY)						
Basics (electricity, heating, cooling, water, garbage) for 85m²	181.46 €	205.06 €	315.04 €	112.65 €	233.74 €	52% lower
RESTAURANTS						
Meal (inexpensive restaurant)	15.50 €	18.00 €	18.00 €	15.00 €	16.72 €	10% lower
Meal 2PPL. (mid-range restaurant)	60.00 €	80.00 €	80.00 €	60.00 €	73.26 €	18% lower
Cappuccino (regular size)	3.22 €	3.84 €	4.24 €	2.08 €	3.62 €	42% lower
TRANSPORTATION						
One-way ticket	2.00 €	3.00 €	3.60 €	1.40 €	2.23 €	37% lower
Monthly public transport pass	62.00 €	102.50 €	58.00 €	21.00 €	54.74 €	62% lower
Taxi 1 hour waiting	21.60 €	30.00 €	38.00 €	19.96 €	24.55 €	19% lower
Gasoline (1L)	1.76 €	1.96 €	1.74 €	1.54 €	1.82 €	15% lower
CHILDCARE						
Monthly rate at private preschool (1 child)	491.67 €	2,171.43 €	228.20 €	456.67 €	846.06 €	46% lower
Annual rate for international primary school (1 child)	7,425.00 €	10,710.00 €	23,250.00 €	9,440.00 €	13,870.58 €	32% lower
SPORTS & LEISURE						
Tennis court rental (1h, weekend)	15.67 €	23.00 €	22.50 €	14.25 €	23.97 €	41% lower
Cinema ticket	11.50 €	14.50 €	15.00 €	9.50 €	12.06 €	21% lower

#### Key

Positive difference in percentage for Málaga. Spanish prices are lower than average.

Negative difference in percentage for Málaga. Spanish prices are higher than average.

Source: Numbeo

# 3.5

## Sustainability Green city and sustainable lifestyle

Málaga boasts **39 parks and green areas**, offering residents abundant opportunities for outdoor sports and recreation. The city actively promotes a **sustainable lifestyle** through numerous ecological initiatives, including renewable energy use, waste reduction, and green urban planning. Recognised as the Most Sustainable City in 2020–2022, Málaga combines environmental responsibility with vibrant outdoor activity, enhancing the overall quality of life for its residents and international community.

### Green City

#### Parks and green areas

Being in contact with nature improves health and reduces stress levels. Málaga has **39 parks** divided into different categories:

- ❖ Historical parks
- ❖ Large parks
- ❖ Playgrounds and bio-healthy
- ❖ Forest areas
- ❖ Urban planning entities



#### The Natura 2000 Network in Málaga

Málaga is a synonym of good weather, sun and beach, but it secretly hides many of the great natural riches of Andalusia.

Its natural environment is officially protected under the EU's Natura 2000 network, with **35 designated natural areas covering over 180,000 hectares in the province.**

These areas include major conservation sites such as the Sierra de Grazalema (53,411 ha), Sierras Bermeja and Real (30,824 ha), Valle del Río Genal (23,555 ha), and Sierra de las Nieves (20,131 ha).

This extensive protection highlights Málaga's commitment to preserving biodiversity and natural beauty, reinforcing its appeal as a destination for residents and professionals who value an environment rich in natural heritage.

Málaga works by the **3-30-300 rule**:  
See 3 trees from home - 30% vegetation cover of the urban space - 300 meters to the nearest green space from one's home.

Málaga is also actively transforming its urban landscape, with a major project underway to reintegrate the River Guadalmedina into the city.

The plan will add over **76,000 m² of green areas** along the river, turning it into a central space for leisure, mobility, and cultural life.

#### Climate Comfort Areas

Apart from parks and green areas, Málaga has **Climate Comfort Areas**. These spaces are publicly accessible and can protect people from high temperatures, reducing the ambient temperature by 5-10 °C. In total, there are 19 indoor spaces, 74 outdoor spaces and 85 climate comfort corridors.

Málaga offers residents a network of climate comfort areas that provide relief from high temperatures and create enjoyable public spaces year-round.

*Source: City of Málaga*

Additionally, Málaga's City Council is developing a strategy based on the **One Health approach**, which connects human, animal, plant and environmental health.

This roadmap aims to integrate all actions for a healthier and more sustainable city model, unifying existing and future municipal actions to improve the well-being of citizens and the environment. Málaga has been implementing measures related to this approach for years, including:

- ❖ Creation and expansion of green areas.
- ❖ Air quality control.
- ❖ Environmental education and awareness.



# 3.5

## Sustainability Dynamic city of sports and events

### City committed to sport

Sport in Málaga

**Málaga is a sport city**, which promotes and encourages a healthy lifestyle. The city **schedules different activities to practice different sport disciplines in parks** and outdoor spaces. Some important activities include:

- ❖ **"Move in your neighbourhood"**, which includes multiple activities scheduled in the different districts such as: Zumba, Yoga, Pickleball, Body Combat or aerobics, among many others.
- ❖ **Deportes en FERIA**, an initiative for the summer months, through which the city promotes accessible sports for all ages with activities such as:



Photographic hiker



Grilled Sardine Skewers Beach Running



Jugger



Qi Gong



Padel



Pickleball



Jabega Boat Race



Open-water swimming



Beach volleyball



Yoga



Zumba

Source: City of Málaga

It also has a wide variety of sport facilities:

- **City of Málaga Athletics Stadium** has a 4,823 m<sup>2</sup> training module, a 400m athletics track and a certified rugby field. It has covered enclosures with administrative areas, services, press, VIP area and stands for 7,562 spectators.
- **Ciudad Jardín Sports Centre** offers activities for adults and the elderly, as well as aikido, directed activities with music, pilates or sports schools.
- **Tiro de Pichón Sports Centre** has activities for adults and seniors, as well as court rentals.
- **José Paterna Sports Centre** offers activities for adults and seniors, as well as badminton, court rentals and sports schools.

### European sports reference

Safe and benchmark sporting events

Málaga has been named the **European Capital of Sport in 2020** for its extensive sports infrastructure, the wide variety of services it offers and its calendar of international events, such as the World Padel Tour or the II International Sea Rowing Open.

In addition, the Mediterranean climate, favours the practice of outdoor physical activity, including the **22 urban races** scheduled in 2025 throughout the year. Likewise, there are other different sports spaces around the city:



**Running lanes:** There are three running lanes in Málaga, adding up to more than 25 km.



**Bike route:** Nearly 10 km of bike lanes run along Málaga's seafront promenade.



**Swimming lanes:** Two designated and buoy-marked areas. In total, there are 1,200 meters available for open-water swimmers, triathletes, and swimming enthusiasts. In addition, athletes can also choose to swim close to the coast along Málaga's beaches.



**Areas of activity:** The city features various urban spaces and outdoor fitness parks equipped with exercise machines for free public use.



**Hiking Trails:** Paths surrounded by nature that anyone can use, divided into three categories — long-distance (over 50 km), short-distance (between 10 and 50 km), and local trails (less than 10 km).



**Golf Courses:** There are three golf courses in the city of Málaga and over 50 across the province.



Málaga's golf course

# 3.5

## Sustainability Committed to a greener future

### A Sustainable City for the Future

Environmental excellence for everyday life

**Málaga is a city committed to sustainability and quality of life.** The city has become a model of urban wellbeing, where systematic policies foster environmental responsibility, innovation, and a citizen-centred development as integral elements of daily life.

#### City's Awards & Recognitions

Málaga received the **Most Sustainable City Award in 2020-22** from the Fundación Forum Ambiental. This honours its coordinated and wide-reaching strategy to improve environmental quality. In this sense, Málaga has undertaken more than **70 initiatives** across several sectors, including waste management, air quality, mobility, education, and public participation.



**Winner** of 2020 European Capitals **of Smart Tourism**



**Winner** of 2021 Istanbul **Environment-friendly City Award**

*Source: European Commission & UN Environment Programme*



#### Key initiatives and programmes

- ❖ **Málaga Sustainability Hub:** It is an initiative focused on driving the city's transition towards a sustainable urban model. It seeks to enhance wellbeing, protect the environment, and promote an economy with a positive social and environmental impact. As a collaborative space, it brings together the public sector, businesses, and civil society to address environmental challenges and strengthen local capacity through free training initiatives.
- ❖ **Circular Economy Strategy for 2030:** Málaga has promoted the Circular Economy Strategy for 2030, a roadmap of **95 actions** that aims to transform the production and consumption models of the city. The plan integrates sustainability into all areas of city life — from mobility and waste to energy and construction — aligning the city's goals with the **European Green Deal and the UN 2030 Agenda**.

It promotes resource efficiency, renewable energy, and innovation as drivers of the local economy, fostering collaboration among citizens, businesses, and research institutions.

- ❖ **Pollution Control Service:** Complementing its circular-economy vision, Málaga's City Council operates a **Pollution Control Service** dedicated to monitoring and improving the city's environmental quality. This department manages the control of **air and noise pollution**, supervises emissions from industrial and mobility sources, and coordinates actions to enhance **urban air quality and public health**.



#### Concrete Environmental Actions

Building on these initiatives, Málaga turns its sustainability goals into real, measurable actions — improving daily life through cleaner spaces, greener infrastructure, and responsible urban management.



**Furniture & bulky-item collection service:** The municipal cleaning service organises the systematic collection of bulky waste across neighbourhoods to ensure efficient removal and recycling.



**Waste-sorting & recycling system:** Málaga operates a well-organised selective collection system with colour-coded containers and public education campaigns to minimise its environmental impact.



**Participation of the hospitality sector in climate action:** More than 300 bars and restaurants in Málaga have joined the "*Hostelería #PorElClima*" initiative to reduce their carbon footprint through systematic actions.



**Implementation of eco-design criteria in public procurement:** Málaga integrates circular principles into municipal purchasing to reduce waste and promote sustainable production models.



# 4

## Robust Customs Ecosystem

Spain, a European reference  
in customs management

The establishment of the European Customs Authority (EUCA) in Málaga would represent a strategic opportunity to leverage the Spanish customs system as a benchmark platform and testing ground. **Spain's customs infrastructure, solidly established and supported by advanced, state-of-the-art IT systems,** allows for the **testing of procedures, tools, and solutions** under any circumstances, ensuring the agency's operational efficiency and reliability from the very start.

Moreover, Spain has highly qualified professionals across multiple relevant fields who can contribute their expertise and knowledge in an advisory capacity. Their support would assist the agency in addressing complex challenges and implementing best practices, without the need for permanent integration.

This **combination of advanced technology and specialized talent positions Spain as a European leader in customs** matters and guarantees strong operational and strategic support for the EUCA from its headquarters in Málaga.

In addition, the city of Málaga offers an ideal environment for hosting the EUCA headquarters, thanks to its modern infrastructure, excellent international connectivity, and outstanding quality of life. The city also boasts two strategic customs facilities, port and airport, that reinforce its role as a key hub for trade and customs control.



# 4 Robust Customs Ecosystem

**4.1** | Institutional framework

**4.2** | Testing environment for the EUCA

**4.3** | The Port of Málaga

**4.4** | Synergies with EU agencies in Spain



# 4.1

## Institutional framework

### A robust and efficient customs system

**Spain's customs system** plays a pivotal role in ensuring the **efficient functioning of trade and border management** within the European Union. Through a combination of **robust regulation, effective institutional coordination, and active international cooperation**, and as a member of the European Union and the EU Customs Union, Spain has developed **extensive expertise and a well-established institutional framework** in the customs domain.

#### The Spanish customs system

Regulatory and institutional excellence

Through full adherence to the **Union Customs Code (UCC)**, the country guarantees transparent, consistent, and reliable procedures, providing confidence among international operators and facilitating smooth cross-border trade.

##### Union Customs Code (UCC)

Establishes a modern, **fully digital customs framework**, ensuring faster, more efficient and traceable procedures across the EU.



#### A coordinated and efficient system

The Spanish Customs System operates through a network of key institutions that work collaboratively to ensure the secure and seamless movement of goods.

**The Spanish Tax Agency (AEAT) serves as the main authority**, overseeing customs operations, enforcing regulations, and ensuring compliance with European customs legislation.

Spain complements EU customs law through national measures ensuring effective administration and enforcement.

#### International cooperation and institutional recognition

The country maintains **strong partnerships with European and international entities**, including the European Commission, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and the World Customs Organisation (WCO) – further strengthening its reputation for reliability and excellence in the global customs environment.



Operational collaboration with the **European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)** to prevent and combat customs fraud, smuggling, and illicit trade.



Active member of the **World Customs Organisation (WCO)**, supporting global standards and capacity-building initiatives.



Contribution to **data-driven and risk-based** customs initiatives, including ICS2 and the EU Customs Risk Strategy.



Participation in **joint cross-border operations** and intelligence-sharing networks to reinforce supply-chain security, such as WCO operations and EUROFISC.



Engagement in bilateral and regional **cooperation agreements** to harmonize procedures and strengthen border control.

Its custom system has also been recognized through several **national and European awards for innovation and excellence**:

#### Institutional recognition



##### Public Management Innovation Award (2021)

Awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Territorial Policy and Public Function for the implementation of the fully digital VAT-refund system for non-EU travellers (DIVA).



##### Public Management Innovation Award – Second Prize (2025)

Granted to the Spanish Tax Agency for the initiative *“Single Point of Entry (PUE) – Cooperation between administrations as the key to a pioneering model in Europe”*.



##### European eGovernment Good Practice Award (European Commission, 2003)

Recognized by the European Commission for excellence in e-administration and early adoption of digital public services.

# 4.1

## Institutional framework

### A robust and efficient customs system

Spain's active leadership in shaping EU customs reform

**Spain has been actively engaged from day one in shaping the ongoing EU Customs Reform**, making it a central priority during its **Presidency of the Council of the EU** in the second semester of 2023.

The reform package was first discussed at the inaugural ECOFIN meeting of the Spanish Presidency on 14 July 2023. Building on this, the Presidency initiated a detailed examination of the customs union reform package within the **Customs Union Working Party (CUWP)**.

To ensure a rigorous and coherent assessment, the Presidency structured the reform into thematic blocks – Customs Processes, E-commerce, the EU Customs Data Hub, restrictive measures, crisis management, cooperation, risk management, the EU Customs Authority, and customs infringements - according to the different elements of the reform proposals.

A significant part of this Spanish Presidency's agenda and resources was **devoted to present and analyse these areas**, with technical support from the European Commission. To ensure an in-depth discussion, the Presidency convened **three regular monthly CUWP meetings, held an informal CUWP session on customs union governance in Málaga**, and hosted a **High-Level Seminar on e-commerce** for the Directors General of Customs.

This sustained involvement confirms **Spain's commitment to a modern, integrated and forward-looking customs union**, values that align directly with the mission of EUCA.

#### Key message about the Spanish System

Excellence and proven capacity

AEAT, specifically the Customs and Special Taxes Department, is internationally recognized for its operational efficiency, technological leadership and strong regulatory alignment with the Union Customs Code (UCC). As one of the first EU Member States to implement **a fully electronic, interoperable customs environment**, Spain has consistently **led EU-level progress** in digitalisation, data governance and risk-based border management.

Its systems rely on advanced capabilities — including **AI-assisted risk analysis, automated recognition technologies, satellite-supported surveillance, and integrated multi-agency workflows** — allowing Spanish customs to manage high volumes of trade, complex logistics chains and sensitive border-control environments with proven reliability. Spain is also at the forefront of emerging customs paradigms such as **smart customs, e-commerce management, green customs, and data-driven supply-chain security**, positioning it as a reference model for the future development of EUCA.

Spain has led and shaped the EU Customs Reform, driving its progress with focused leadership.



CUWP countries flag

## 4.2

# Testing environment for the EUCA Málaga, a key location for customs operations

Málaga is consolidating its position as a strategic gateway for international trade, offering a **robust customs infrastructure, strong multimodal connectivity, and a highly skilled talent pool**. These assets, together with its excellent **quality of life, strategic location, and global outlook**, make the city **an ideal environment for testing innovative customs solutions within the EUCA framework**.

### Strategic positioning

The Mediterranean gateway to global flows

Situated along the Mediterranean coastline, the city serves as a natural **crossroads** connecting **Europe with Mediterranean, Atlantic, and global trade routes**. Its geographic location ensures fast access to key EU consumer markets and offers direct maritime and air links to **Latin America, Africa, and the increasingly significant Asian markets**.



**1,300 km** linking Southern Spain to the core European network.

The forthcoming integration of Málaga into the **TEN-T Mediterranean Corridor** will further enhance its logical role by connecting the city to a high-capacity rail network linking **Algeciras and Antequera** with the wider European system. Combined with Málaga's international airport with global connections, this integration will enable faster, more efficient cargo movement and greater accessibility for EUCA staff and partner agencies through Málaga's port and airport facilities.

A connected customs ecosystem

Málaga hosts two fully operational customs platforms – **the Port of Málaga and Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport** –, functioning together as a coordinated sea-air logistics hub for inspections, clearance, and control operations.



**+27.9%**

Air cargo growth (2024)

*Highest freight movement in its historical series*

Source: AENA



**+76.4%**

Cargo growth (2024)

*Fastest growth among Southern European ports*

Source: Málaga's Port Authority

This integrated approach allows for the **efficient management of bulk, containerized, and high-value cargo flows**, reinforcing the city's role as a **pivotal node in Europe's trade and logistics network**.

**Top 3** airport in Spain for international cargo growth (2024)

Source: AENA

### Global projection

Linking continents

Málaga's growing international profile and institutional reliability have attracted significant global partnerships. Increasingly recognized as a **trusted platform for trade, innovation, and cross-border cooperation**.

Málaga exemplifies this role through a series of strategic initiatives:

#### Strategic cooperation between Málaga and Shenzhen (China)



The city has formalized a **cooperation protocol with Shenzhen**, aimed at fostering cultural, educational, and economic exchange. This partnership connects **Málaga with one of China's foremost innovation hubs**, creating new opportunities for joint projects, talent mobility, and business establishment.

Source: Europa Press Andalucía

#### Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC) opens its first European headquarters in Málaga



Moreover, the city is home to the **first European headquarters of the Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC)**, which provides arbitration services for international commercial disputes. This development further strengthens Málaga's as a reliable **centre for legal and economic coordination between Europe and Asia**.

Source: Málaga Hoy



Source: Opening of SHAC

## 4.3

# Testing environment for the EUCA

## Advanced technology and infrastructure

### A testing ground for Europe's advanced customs

Advanced technology and cutting-edge infrastructure

Aligned with the goals of the EUCA, Spain serves as a **strategic pilot** for the deployment of **advanced customs systems**. With its **strong technological infrastructure** and **digitalized customs processes**, the country offers an optimal environment to test and implement European initiatives under real operational conditions.

Some of this initiatives include:



Implementation of the **H1 import declaration system**, which becomes mandatory in October 2025, replacing the previous Single Administrative Document (SAD/DUA).



Development of a **national Single Customs Window**, led by the Spanish Tax Agency, integrating multiple regulatory procedures through electronic channels.



Strong performance in **UNCTAD's Trade Facilitation Survey**, showing high levels of paperless trade, transparency, and simplification of formalities.

### Shaping the future with technology

Smart Port

The Port of Málaga strengthens its progress toward digitalization with the implementation of **the Posidonia Port Solution, a platform that serves as the port's central technological hub**.

This suite connects the various actors within the port ecosystem, authorities, logistics operators, customs, shipping lines, and carriers, enabling a secure and efficient flow of information and facilitating the transition toward a Smart Port model.



Málaga marina

### Key components of the platform

#### Port Community System (PCS)

Collaborative digital platform that interconnects all actors in the port ecosystem, enabling the secure and automated exchange of information across logistics and customs processes.

#### Port Management Information System (PMIS)

Internal digital platform used by port authorities to manage and monitor operational processes, ensuring efficient and data-driven port operations.

### Ensuring security

Surface Surveillance System

The **Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport** uses an **advanced surface surveillance system**, known as MLAT (Multilateration), to monitor all aircraft and vehicles across the airport's operational areas. This system combines two technologies:

- **Multilateration (MLAT):** an independent system that determines the position of aircraft and vehicles by comparing the time their signals reach multiple antennas, enabling precise ground tracking even in areas out of sight of controllers.
- **Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B):** a system where aircraft transmit their own GPS-based position, altitude, and speed in real time, allowing ground controllers to continuously track their movements.

By combining these technologies, **the airport can monitor areas that are not visible to controllers**, improving safety on taxiways, runways, and other operational zones.

The system also allows the implementation of **real-time alerts** and facilitates the **identification of all traffic** within the airport, increasing overall efficiency and security.



## 4.2

# EUCA testing environment

## Customs talent and specialised support

### Academic and Professional Ecosystem

A solid foundation for continuous talent development

Strong academic and professional base for developing highly qualified talent in key customs-related fields such as law, economics, taxation, and information technology. The **University of Málaga (UMA)** plays a central role within this ecosystem, complemented by a **strong national network of universities** and training institutions offering specialised programs in customs management and EU law.

Spain offers specialised education and training programs to ensure a highly qualified workforce capable of contributing to the efficiency, integrity, and innovation of the European customs system.

### Highlights of specialised training courses



#### Masters and Postgraduate programmes

closely related to the customs fields. The **Master's in Taxation and Fiscal Advisory offered by the UMA** provides advanced training on Spanish and EU fiscal systems, customs valuation, and international taxation. At the national level, the **Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM)** offers the **Postgraduate Master in EU Customs Law**, one of the most prestigious programmes in Europe, providing specialised training on UCC, authorised economic operator (AEO) status, and EU customs compliance procedures.



#### Executive and professional training opportunities

through specialised institutions. Centres such as **TARIC Formación** and the **Madrid Chamber of Commerce** offer comprehensive programmes on customs operations, UCC procedures, import/export management, and digital documentation systems.



#### Connection with the Public-Private Ecosystem

- The **AEAT** provides specialised technical training for customs and excise officials through its **Customs Training School**, as well as through collaborations with universities and European institutions.
- Organisations such as **ICEX Spain Trade and Investment** and the **Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations (CEOE)** regularly offer courses on foreign trade, customs compliance, and digital procedures, supporting the upskilling of both public and private professionals engaged in international operations.



University of Málaga

## 4.2

## Testing environment for the EUCA Customs talent and specialized support

### External professional support ecosystem

An extensive support network ready to strengthen the EU Customs

The IT Department of the AET stands as a national benchmark in **public sector digitalisation, cybersecurity, and data governance**. It manages large-scale fiscal and customs information systems, ensuring reliability, integrity, and risk mitigation across millions of transactions daily. Its expertise could provide strategic and punctual support to the EUCA's future Data Hub.

Surrounding this institutional backbone, Málaga hosts a robust ecosystem of organisations and institutions with proven expertise in areas directly relevant to the customs domain.



Málaga concentrates a **strong legal ecosystem** specialised in international trade, customs regulation, administrative and EU law, as well as data protection and privacy. This network provides the EUCA with direct access to professionals experienced in complex regulatory environments, dispute resolution and compliance with European frameworks.



The city is home to a dynamic **community of advisory and consulting firms** with expertise in public administration, digital transformation, risk management and policy implementation. These organisations can provide the EUCA with strategic support in areas such as process optimisation, regulatory adaptation, and the deployment of data-driven governance tools.



The city stands out as a Southern European hub for **cybersecurity and innovation**. It hosts specialised centres, testing facilities and research programmes focused on cyber threat intelligence, AI governance, digital forensics and privacy-by-design solutions. These capabilities ensure a secure foundation for customs interoperability and data protection across borders.



The **Port of Málaga** serves as a living lab for digital logistics and customs innovation, implementing EU-aligned systems such as single-window platforms and data-sharing protocols. This environment allows real-world testing of interoperability, automation and risk management tools relevant to the EUCA's future operations.

### Innovation and Business Ecosystem

A digital, connected, and future-oriented environment

Málaga's business ecosystem provides an innovation platform uniquely suited to the EUCA's digital priorities.

**+700 companies and 28,000 professionals work within Málaga TechPark in fields such as cybersecurity, AI, logistics, cloud infrastructure, and digital governance**

Málaga also benefits from a robust **digital infrastructure** supported by the rollout of new **data centres, high-capacity fibre networks, and interconnection hubs**, fostering a specialized talent pool in areas such as data governance, cloud architecture, cybersecurity, and digital operations.

#### Google Safety Engineering Centre

The **GSEC Málaga** consolidates the city's international role in cybersecurity and governance positioning the city as a strategic hub for cybersecurity, research, and digital services. It brings together expert teams from across Europe to work on threat intelligence, tool development, and skills training. For the EUCA, the presence of such an advanced hub provides a **live innovation ecosystem** where customs-related digital challenges can be addressed, tested, and evolved in collaboration with leading experts.

## 4.3

# The Port of Málaga

## Málaga, a key location for customs operations

**Málaga's proximity to major and key nodes**, notably the **Port of Málaga** and nearby **Port of Algeciras**, one of Europe's busiest, provides real-world access to customs operations, global logistics chains and enforcement points. In particular, the Port of Málaga plays a leading role in Andalusia's customs ecosystem, offering modern logistics capabilities with an advanced digital and innovation-driven environment. Its transformation into a smart, hyper-connected hub aligned with EU standards makes it an ideal asset to support EUCA with efficient and secure customs processes.

### Scale, cargo operations & market relevance

Málaga's strategic position in European supply chains

Málaga's port has experienced strong growth in recent years. In **2024**, it handled approximately **4.5 million tonnes of cargo**, representing a record increase of **76.4%** from the prior year. The container segment soared, with **2.57 million tonnes moved in 2024**, a dramatic rise over 2023 levels. This expansion is driven by increasing import-export flows, especially in **consumer goods, vehicles** and **e-commerce-related shipments**.

Beyond containers, the port manages **bulk operations** including agro-food commodities: over 60% of its solid bulk traffic corresponds to agro-product flows such as cereals and flour. In the **first quarter of 2024** alone, it processed **800,000 tonnes**, lifted by container, bulk, and vehicle traffic.

**4.5 M**  
Cargo in tonnes (2024)

**+700%**  
Cargo growth (from 2023)

**+300**  
Cruise calls registered (2024)

**+500,000**  
Cruise passengers (2024)

Source: Málaga's Port Authority

Moreover, Málaga is a key cruise destination: in 2023, it recorded more than **300 cruise calls** and **welcomed over 500,000 passengers**, reinforcing its role as a dynamic, multifunctional maritime hub. The port's modern infrastructure and digitalization strategy give it outsized **strategic importance**, especially for trade corridors involving the Mediterranean, Africa, and Southern Europe.



Source: Puerto de Málaga

### Digital transformation & port innovation

Smart port initiatives driving efficiency in Málaga

Digital innovation lies at the heart of the Port of Málaga's strategic vision. Since the launch of the "Málaga, Puerto Verde" initiative in 2019, the port has **integrated environmental and digital transformation** under a unified **sustainability agenda** aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) and EU-level policies.

**Key innovations include:**

- Smart-port management system - supporting a transition to a "paperless port"**
- Pilot projects with Telefónica - using 5G, IoT and AI to improve cargo traceability**
- Strong R&D ecosystem, built in collaboration with Málaga TechPark - promoting smart port tech.**

Sources: Telefónica, Puerto de Málaga

### Leading sustainable efforts

Green commitment and climate leadership

Sustainability is a cornerstone of the **Port's 2024-2030 Strategic Plan**, structured along four axes: growth, green innovation, port-city integration, and transparency.

**Key initiatives include:**

- Transition to **100% renewable electricity**.
- Electrification** of the port's **vehicle fleet**.
- Green infrastructure** at the port edge.
- Transparent governance** and engagement.

### Port of Algeciras – located 130km from Málaga

**1st port** in Spain, **2nd** in the Mediterranean, and consistently ranks among the **top 5 ports in Europe** by total cargo volume, handling more than **100 million tonnes annually** and functioning as Europe's main connection point with **North Africa**.



## 4.4

# Synergies with EU agencies in Spain

## Strong ecosystem of EU institutions

Spain hosts a strong ecosystem of EU institutions that directly support EUCA's mission, with the Joint Research Centre in Seville just two hours from Málaga offering cutting-edge expertise in risk modelling, data analytics, AI, and supply-chain monitoring. Alongside other agencies in Alicante, Vigo, and Bilbao, Spain provides a unique, integrated network for technical cooperation and innovation. **Placing EUCA in Málaga would leverage these synergies** while expanding the EU's institutional presence into an underrepresented region.

### Building Synergies Across Spain's European Network

An ecosystem for cooperation and knowledge sharing

Spain hosts a consolidated network of EU institutions that **collectively generate expertise in areas closely aligned with the mission of the EUCA**. This ecosystem — diverse, operational, and interconnected — represents a powerful foundation for technical cooperation, data-driven policymaking, and cross-sector innovation.

Among these institutions, the **Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Seville** stands out as the most strategically relevant partner for EUCA. Its proximity to Málaga, located just 2 hours by car, enables the development of valuable synergies, particularly in the **use of AI for the Customs Data Hub** and, where appropriate, for the management of the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**.

In addition, The JRC's cutting-edge expertise in risk modelling, data analytics, supply-chain monitoring, and AI-based anomaly detection can directly support EUCA in developing predictive risk-analysis systems, detecting illicit trade and fraud, assessing the economic impact of customs procedures, advancing digital transformation with AI-enabled screening, and enhancing border-control technologies.

On the other hand, **The European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, hosted by the EUIPO in Alicante, also offers a key partnership opportunity for EUCA, especially in the area of **customs enforcement of IPR**. Collaboration between EUCA and the Observatory would strengthen anti-counterfeiting efforts and improve the protection of intellectual property across EU borders.

Additional EU agencies in Spain, such as the European Fisheries Control Agency (Vigo) and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao), provide complementary expertise in maritime surveillance and compliance frameworks.

Together, these institutions form a **strong European ecosystem within Spain**. Locating EUCA in Málaga would further enhance these synergies and expand the EU's institutional presence in a region currently underrepresented, reinforcing the Union's commitment to balanced geographical distribution.

EUCA will have strategic synergies with both the EUIPO and the JRC, unlocking innovation and operational excellence.



Joint Centre in Seville (JRC)



# 5

## Soft Landing Programme

Málaga, come in & cosy up

Málaga is fully prepared to ensure that **EUCA employees can begin their professional journey smoothly and confidently from day one**, without disruption or delays during the relocation process. The city has developed a comprehensive framework to guarantee an **efficient, coordinated, and welcoming landing experience**, designed to minimise the challenges of international relocation.

Through the **Headquarters Agreement**, specific mechanisms and economic privileges will be established to facilitate the relocation of EUCA staff and their families — ensuring a fast, stable, and comfortable integration into Málaga's local environment.

In addition, Málaga offers a dedicated **Soft-Landing Plan**, including a personalised **Welcome Pack Service** for EUCA employees and their families. This service provides tailored guidance and practical support helping newcomers settle quickly and feel at home from the very first day.

A **technical support team** will also accompany EUCA throughout the adaptation of its new headquarters, ensuring that facilities fully meet operational needs and addressing any logistical or infrastructural matters that may arise during the transition.

# 5

## Soft Landing Programme

### 5.1 | Headquarters agreement & Special provisions

*End-to-end support to the EUCA Agency*

### 5.2 | Soft landing: a smooth arrival

*Feeling at home from the very first contact*



## Special provisions & Headquarters agreement

Comprehensive assistance provided to the EUCA Agency throughout the entire process.

The **Executive Director of EUCA** will have full diplomatic immunity



## Smooth transition: a seamless arrival experience

Experiencing a sense of belonging and exceptional conditions right from the start

The Soft-Landing services will **provide assistance** through all the necessary procedures and **welcoming sessions**, and will offer **personalised attention and accompaniment** to EUCA's staff:

- **Welcome Pack and Technical Support**
- **Family Relocation Support**
- **Welcome Sessions**
- **Customs Experts Network**

# 5.1

## Agreement & Special provisions End-to-end support to the EUCA Agency

**Málaga offers to sign a Headquarters Agreement** that provides a solid framework and that will ensure that **EUCA's establishment in Málaga** is efficient, stable, and fully operational from day one. Designed to provide optimal conditions for the Agency and its staff, it facilitates a smooth relocation process for **EUCA employees and their families**, while ensuring the best framework for the Agency's long-term success.

### Unbeatable advantages made for EUCA

Unique services & incentives

National and regional authorities fully recognise the challenges and adjustments involved in relocating to a new city or transitioning to a new workplace. Therefore, the Spanish bid will offer different benefits designed **to ensure a smooth integration for all EUCA statutory staff**.

By submitting this application for the city of Málaga to be the seat of EUCA, **the Spanish government commits to concluding a headquarters agreement with EUCA**, incorporating the offers outlined in this dossier.

The agreement between the Spanish government and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Seville, concluded the 30 June 2025, can serve as a basis for the agreement to be concluded with EUCA. Some of these benefits include:

- ❖ It will grant the **Executive Director of EUCA full diplomatic immunity**, as enjoyed by the directors of diplomatic representations in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations signed on 18 April 1961.
- ❖ **Further privileges**, like those provided for in the JRC Agreement, **will include appropriate measures to remit or refund the amount of certain indirect taxes or sales taxes**.

In sum, all provisions contained in the JRC Agreement can be applied to the headquarters agreement with EUCA in addition to Protocol 7.

The Executive Director of EUCA will have full diplomatic immunity



EU & Spain's flag



## 5.2

# Soft landing: a smooth arrival

## Feeling at home from the very first contact

**Spanish and Málaga's authorities** are committed to ensuring a **soft landing process** for **EUCA employees and their families**. The main goal is to provide comprehensive assistance and services that facilitate their **integration and settlement** from the very beginning. This **Soft-Landing Strategy** will address all needs that may arise during the relocation process, ensuring that each employee and family member receives timely, personalised support, and a **dedicated technical team** will oversee the implementation of all measures to maintain the highest quality.

### Soft Landing

A zero-impact on the routine arrival

To facilitate the settlement process in Málaga, **Spain has designed a comprehensive Soft-Landing Service for EUCA employees and their families**, offering personalised guidance, technical assistance, and access to an extensive support network of local institutions and specialised professionals.

The main goal of this initiative is to make the **relocation and adaptation process as seamless as possible**, minimising administrative complexity and absorbing the impact of logistical and procedural changes associated with the move.

This **Soft-Landing Strategy** will operate through two key instruments that ensure efficiency, coordination, and continuous assistance throughout the entire integration process.

### Soft Landing objectives



Facilitate the relocation and smooth integration of EUCA staff and their families in Málaga.



Ensure the Agency's full operational capacity from day one.



Support the professional, educational, social, and cultural integration of employees and their families.

The Soft-Landing Services will guide EUCA employees through all procedures, offering welcome sessions, personalised support, and continuous assistance throughout their arrival and adaptation.

### Soft Landing services



Welcome Desk Service and technical support

- ✓ A team will give **support for different procedures**
- ✓ **Personalised, face-to-face** and online assistance for administrative and logistical procedures.
- ✓ **Technical support to adapt** workspaces and ensure operational readiness from the first day.
- ✓ Continuous guidance to address any issue that may arise during the initial setup phase.



Family Relocation Support

- ✓ **Personalised assistance for families** during their relocation process.
- ✓ **Multilingual support with housing**, healthcare registration, schooling, and other public services.
- ✓ **Guidance for finding accommodation and vehicles.**



Welcome sessions

- ✓ **Sessions covering topics** such as local culture, leisure, tourism, sports, and social life in Málaga.
- ✓ **Practical orientation** to facilitate integration into the local community.



Customs Experts Network

- ✓ Access to a national network of **customs experts** will be provided to support EUCA employees with specialised guidance.

## 5.2

# Soft landing: a smooth arrival

## Feeling at home from the very first contact

### The Welcome Desk phases

Guiding the European Union Customs Authority's staff through the landing experience step-by-step

The Welcome Desk will provide its services to EUCA's staff in **three different stages**. The **Pre-landing phase** starts with the announcement of Málaga as the host city for EUCA and finishes 3 months before EUCA's staff arrive to Málaga. The **Landing phase** includes a period of three months which will concentrate most of the preparatory tasks for the settlement. Lastly, the **Integration phase** consists of the year after landing, to ensure that the whole experience has been successful.



*The Welcome Desk will provide companionship during three different stages*

The Welcome Desk will ensure that the services are tailored to EUCA's staff-specific needs and preferences.

The three different phases that build up the Welcome Desk's stages are:



#### 1. PRE-LANDING

During this phase, EUCA's staff will answer a **questionnaire**, followed by an **interview invitation** in order to draw up a **personalised plan**, tailored to each employee. This will ensure that all employees' needs and preferences are reflected in their landing experience.

Employees will have the chance to **express their interest in specific services**. A confidentiality agreement will be signed with each employee to ensure information privacy.

*From the host city announcement until three months before the landing takes place.*



#### 2. LANDING

In this phase, the Welcome Desk will support **EUCA's staff to get everything ready** to move to Málaga. Staff and their families will receive **briefings** on all relevant aspects of the city, tailored to their custom plan.

EUCA's employees will also be **assigned a local volunteer** that will support them and help them during the landing experience. The Landing concludes when EUCA's staff and their families start their lives in Málaga, in a new city, a new school or a new job.

*Prior to the relocation of their current residences to Málaga.*

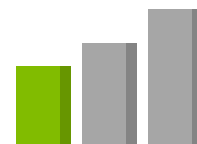


#### 3. INTEGRATION

EUCA's staff will receive **assistance for the first year** following their landing to guarantee a smooth adaptation. For this purpose, the Welcome Desk will periodically monitor the success of their experience.

During the Integration phase, employees will have **volunteers at their disposal**, who will assist them and show them Málaga through the eyes of a local.

*For one-year post-relocation.*



# 5.2

## Soft landing: a smooth arrival Personalised Itinerary for everyone

### Announcement of EUCA's location

#### PRE-LANDING



#### Welcome Pack

Presentation on the end-to-end landing process and all Welcome Desk services available



#### Briefings on Málaga



#### Questionnaire



#### Personal Interview



#### Spanish courses



#### Briefings on necessary administration procedures

**A custom plan and the individual itinerary are received**



#### Pack Hola Málaga!

A

#### PERSONAL INTERVIEW



##### FAMILY PROFILE

Family

##### STAFF PROFILE

EUCA's staff



**Relocation service** and information on accommodation.



Management of **educational options** and assistance in its related procedures.



Profiling and support in **job-seeking efforts** for family members.



Information services on available **sports, culture** and **gastronomic** activities.



Fast track in obtaining **residence and work permits** for the family members.



B

#### Pack Hola Málaga!



Marks the beginning of the journey

##### FAMILY PROFILE

Family

##### STAFF PROFILE

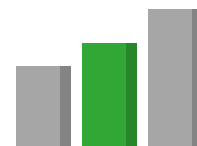
Single EUCA member

✓ **Custom itinerary** with specific landing services and milestones.

✓ **Custom plan** with extended information about the landing experience.

✓ **Bundles and benefits for when they finally land:**  
- Public transport personal ticket



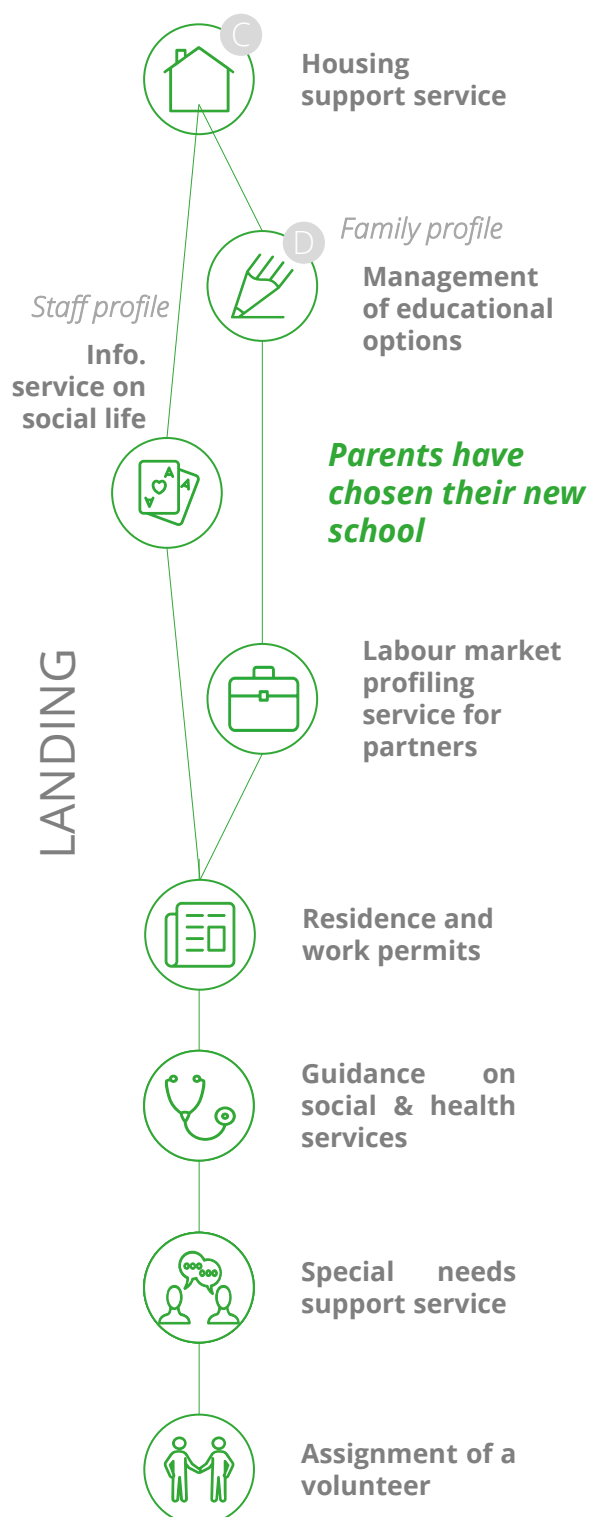


## 5.2

# Soft landing: a smooth arrival

## Personalised Itinerary for everyone

### Before the transfer



### FINDING A NEW HOME

A personalised home adapted to their needs

#### FAMILY PROFILE

Couple with children  
A home nearing residential areas

**Based on the personal profile**  
Experts will prepare housing options.

**One-on-one session**  
The team will show the personalised options prepared for every member.

**Choose an ideal home**  
Our experts will help picking and booking a home.

**Once they moved in**  
Once the choice has been made, the team will assist in any problem that might arise.

#### STAFF PROFILE

EUCA's staff  
A home in the city centre, in an active district

**Based on the personal profile**  
Experts will prepare housing options.

**One-on-one session**  
The team will share information about the districts of Málaga to make the right choice.

**Visiting the apartment**  
The service will help to set up a visit for the interesting flats, assisting in the process with the landlord.

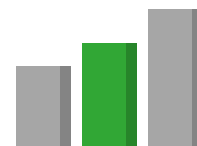
### FINDING A NEW SCHOOL

That ensures the continuity of their studies

**After showing the family the international schools available that fit their needs:**

The In-house Welcome Desk Team will guide parents through the alternatives.





## 5.2

# Soft landing: a smooth arrival

## Personalised Itinerary for everyone

*All procedures are initiated*

LANDING (Cont.)



Information on cultural activities



Details on required administrative and fiscal procedures



Presentation on sport activities available



Tourism briefings



Sessions on the city's transport network



Information on leisure options available

*A new adventure has started in a new city*



Introduction to food and cuisine in Spain

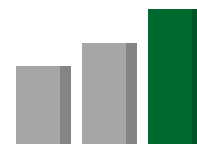
### LEARNING ABOUT THE CITY

*In order to properly enjoy Málaga*

The sessions will help EUCA's staff, and their relatives know more about Málaga and its wonders



*Assistance for EUCA's staff and their relatives*



# 5.2

## Soft landing: a smooth arrival Personalised Itinerary for everyone

### Moving to Málaga



**Volunteer support**



**Personalised assistance and oversight of the custom plan**

**Seeing Málaga through the eyes of a local citizen with the volunteer**



**Support to EUCA's professionals' families in job-seeking efforts**



**Continuity of Spanish courses**



**Housing assistance during the 1st year**

**End of the Landing Experience**

F

### A FAMILIAR FACE IN MÁLAGA

The landing volunteer will assist all EUCA's employees and their families!



**After profiling,** EUCA's staff will be matched with the volunteer that best fits with their interests and lifestyle.



**When EUCA's members land in Málaga** the volunteer will ensure that they have a familiar face to show them around.



**During the first year** the volunteer will periodically show EUCA's staff the best attractions Málaga has to offer.



G

### A NEW JOB FOR THE FAMILY

Our team of experts will help EUCA's staff's families to find a job

The Welcome Desk will provide different job posts available in the market.



H

### LEARNING THE LANGUAGE

As a tool to properly integrate in the city, the culture and the environment

When aiming to integrate in a new city, speaking the local language is one of the best assets people can own. That's why, from the Pre-transfer phase, Spanish courses are available.

**After some classes, before the landing, EUCA's staff can choose to continue learning and improving for a year through Spanish courses offered in Málaga.**



INTEGRATION

## 5.2

# Soft landing: a smooth arrival

## Multiple options to contact the service

### Communication channels

Direct assistance from a technical team

Following the **Soft-Landing Strategy**, EUCA employees and their family members will have access to a **highly qualified Technical Team**. These professionals will provide support to adapt the workspace to EUCA's operational needs and ensure all functional, technical and security requirements are fully met from day one.

Additionally, the Technical Team will ensure the **user-friendliness** of the **Welcome Pack**, providing **immediate support** to resolve any questions or hypothetical technical issues through the following communication options:

### How will the Welcome Pack be accessible?

Overview of the communication channels available to EUCA employees:

#### In-house team

An **in-house EUCA Welcome Desk team** will provide personalised assistance to **EUCA employees** during and after their arrival in **Málaga**.

From day one, this team will be **available in the new EUCA headquarters** in Málaga



Administrative procedures

#### Call Centre

The **in-house EUCA Welcome Desk team** will also be available through a **Call Centre**, ensuring quick responses to the needs and concerns of **EUCA employees and their families** at any stage of the relocation process.



Phone

#### Website

A **centralised website** will be available for **EUCA employees and their families**, streamlining all procedures related to their relocation and settlement. It will provide direct digital access to every service within the **Soft Landing Programme**, easily accessible from any device and location.



Computer



Welcome Pack accessible through the website

## 5.2

### Soft landing: a smooth arrival

Tailored support for each need that may arise

#### Welcome Pack Portfolio

Services for any need that may rise

The main objective of the in-house Welcome Desk is to provide **full support** to the European Union Customs Authority and its employees, including their families, while ensuring maximum **productivity** and **efficiency from day one**. This support, coordinated by national and local institutions, will ensure a smooth landing, a strong start to daily operations, and comprehensive assistance for relocation and family integration services, including



*All these services are available online*



*Housing assistance*

#### HOUSING: Finding a new home for the family

The housing services will support EUCA employees and their families in **finding a new home** in Málaga, tailored to their specific **needs** and **preferences**. The service will include personalised guidance and information sessions about the city's different neighbourhoods, lifestyle, and amenities. In addition, **housing assistance** will be available throughout the first year to ensure comfort, stability, and a smooth transition into their new environment.



*Personalised planning mapping*

#### EDUCATION: Supporting Educational choices for every family member

Choosing the right educational environment is an essential part of settling into a new city. The **Welcome Desk** will assist **EUCA employees and their families** in identifying and enrolling in suitable **international schools, nurseries, and educational institutions** across **Málaga**, providing guidance on curricula, admission timelines, and registration procedures. The service will also include **informative briefings on universities and business schools** in the area, ensuring that every family has access to quality education options at all stages.



*Job-seeking efforts for relatives*

#### EMPLOYMENT: Support in job-seeking efforts

Starting a new life in a different city often involves exploring new professional opportunities. The **Welcome Desk** will assist **partners and family members of EUCA employees** through a **personalised profiling service** to identify career paths and job opportunities in **Málaga**. It will also provide access to **training, career development, and entrepreneurship programmes**, supporting those looking to grow professionally or start new ventures within the city's innovative ecosystem.



## 5.2

### Soft landing: a smooth arrival

Tailored support for each need that may arise



Medical services at people's disposal

#### HEALTH: Access to a World-Class Medical System

Spain's world-renowned public healthcare system will play a key role in the landing process, with **information sessions and personalised guidance** provided to **EUCA employees and their families**. The system is universal and free, guaranteeing comprehensive medical coverage for all residents. The **Welcome Desk** will help in understanding the structure of the healthcare network and navigating the **hospitals and primary care centres** available throughout **Málaga**.



Group of friends enjoying free time

#### SOCIAL LIFE: Connecting Through Leisure and Culture

Beyond its professional opportunities and high-quality services, **Málaga** offers one of the most vibrant social and cultural scenes in Europe. The **Welcome Desk** will introduce **EUCA employees and their families** to the city's **diverse leisure, cultural, and community activities**, providing guidance and recommendations to help them connect, explore, and fully enjoy Málaga's dynamic **Mediterranean lifestyle**.



Woman looking for information

#### PROCEDURES: Assistance for all procedures

A team in **Málaga** will assist **EUCA employees** with essential administrative procedures — such as **opening bank accounts, registering local services, and completing official documentation** — ensuring that all daily and practical matters are handled efficiently and without stress.



Lorry for relocation services

#### RELOCATION PROCESS: Depositing people's trust in the company

**Málaga** understands the challenges of relocation and will provide dedicated support to ensure that **EUCA employees and their families** experience a comfortable, efficient, and stress-free move.



Investment Orientation

#### INVESTMENT: Financial Ecosystem

Málaga stands out for its dynamic and growing financial ecosystem. The city hosts a **diverse network of national and international investment firms, funds, and financial service companies**, supported by a vibrant business environment. Professional assistance will be provided to **EUCA employees** regarding investment opportunities and advisory services, as well as support in finding positions in the financial sector for their accompanying family members.

## 5.2

# Soft landing: a smooth arrival

## Unbeatable conditions in the blink of an eye

### Ready, set go!

Activity and quality standards from Day One

Málaga's Soft Landing strategy aims to provide assistance and support to **achieve a fully functioning EUCA building and team from day one.**

Málaga will provide EUCA with a **technical team** to adapt the space and facilities of the building appointed to EUCA to its needs and requirements. Likewise, EUCA's staff will also be provided access to all building facilities and services.

Málaga's assistance through the technical team guarantees EUCA's activity and quality standards from day one.



Spain **will cover the costs** of adapting the building to EUCA's needs.



*Beautiful sunset in Málaga*



