

Directory

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ACCOMMODATION

The Sleeping sections for larger towns and cities in this book are split into Budget, Midrange and Top End sections. The budget bracket covers places where a typical room for two people costs under €65 in high season; midrange is for places where rooms for two cost between €65 and €120; and the top end is for places where rooms for two cost more than €120.

The budget range includes the more economical hotels as well as most *hostales*, *hospedajes* and *pensiones* (all types of guest-houses), hostels and camping grounds. There are plenty of attractive and comfort-

able places to stay in this range. Most rooms, in all types of establishment, now have a private bathroom (with at least a toilet, a wash-basin and either a shower or a bathtub). All accommodation listed in this book provides private bathrooms unless stated otherwise.

Midrange covers lodgings whose rooms are generally a bit bigger and more attractively designed and furnished, with more touches of comfort. They are also likely to have larger and better-equipped public areas and facilities – swimming pools, gardens, lounges, bars, cafés, restaurants. Top-end establishments will have all these facilities and standards in higher degree. The mid-range and top-end categories include many places whose charming design or architecture (from ancient palaces to hip contemporary minimalism), or their spectacular location, add greatly to their attractions – these characterful lodgings are the ones you are most likely to remember after your trip.

Most places to stay have separate prices for *temporada alta* (high season), *temporada media* (shoulder season) and *temporada baja* (low season). Every hotel in Andalucía seems to have its own unique twist to seasonal prices, but in most places high season is some part of the summer. On the coast, July and August is the typical high season; inland, it's more likely to be May, June and September, when temperatures are more pleasant. In many places the Christmas–New Year period, *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) and local festivals that attract lots of visitors are also high season – or even *temporada extra* (extra-high season). Low season is typically November to February, and shoulder season whatever is neither high nor low.

BOOK ACCOMMODATION ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at www.lonelyplanet.com. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

PRACTICALITIES

- Spain uses the metric system for weights and measures.
- Like other Continental Europeans, the Spanish indicate decimals with commas and thousands with points.
- Most prerecorded video tapes on sale in Spain use the PAL image registration system common to most of Western Europe and Australia. PAL is incompatible with the NTSC system used in North America and Japan.
- Electric current in Spain is 220V, 50Hz, as in the rest of Continental Europe. Plugs have two round pins.
- Among the major daily national newspapers, the liberal-left *El País* is hard to beat for solid reporting. Every sizable Andalusian city has at least one daily paper of its own.
- Dozens of commercial radio stations fill the FM band, but you might prefer the several stations of Radio Nacional de España (RNE): RNE3 plays a variety of pop and rock, RNE2 is classical. *El País* publishes province-by-province wavelength guides in its *Cartelera* (What's-On) section.
- Switch on the TV in your hotel room and you'll probably get six or eight free-to-air channels including the state-run TVE1 and TVE2, the national independent channels Antena 3 and Tele 5, and a couple of local channels. International satellite channels crop up on some TVs.

Accommodation prices given in this book are high-season prices unless stated otherwise – so you can expect some pleasant surprises at other times. Differences between low- and high-season prices vary from place to place: you might pay 40% less in winter in one place, or 10% less in another.

Most places to stay display an official chart of room prices according to season in the reception area or somewhere reasonably prominent. But they can also vary their prices according to demand and are free to charge less than the posted prices, which they quite often do, or more, which happens less often.

In the low season there's generally no need to book ahead, but when things get busier it's advisable to do so, and at peak periods it can be essential if you want to avoid a wearisome search for a room. Often, all that's needed is a phone call with an indication of what time you'll arrive. Occasionally you'll be asked for a credit card number: this is a safeguard for the hotel in case you fail to show without having cancelled.

The official Andalucía tourism website, **Andalucía te Quiere** (www.andalucia.org), has a directory of over 4000 officially registered establishments of all types, often with links to their websites.

Camping

Andalucía has over 130 officially registered *campings* (camping grounds). Some are

well located in woodland or near beaches or rivers, others are stuck away near main roads on the edges of towns and cities. Some cater for under 100 people, others can take over 5000. None are near city centres.

Camping grounds are officially rated 1st class (1°C), 2nd class (2°C) or 3rd class (3°C). Facilities range from reasonable to very good, though any camping ground is likely to get crowded and noisy at busy holiday times. Even a 3rd-class place is likely to have hot showers, electrical outlets and a cafeteria. The best *campings* have heated pools, supermarkets, restaurants, laundry service and children's playgrounds.

Camping grounds usually charge per person, per tent and per vehicle – typically around €5 for each. Children usually cost a bit less. Some places close from around October to Easter.

With certain exceptions – such as many beaches and environmentally protected areas – it is permissible to camp outside camping grounds (though not within 1km of official ones). Signs may indicate where camping in wilderness areas is not allowed. You'll need permission to camp on private land.

Hospedajes, Hostales & Pensiones

These places are mainly inexpensive guest-houses or budget hotels, typically a town or city house with between six and 12 rooms.

Hostales – not to be confused with hostels – are generally a grade better than *hospedajes* and *pensiones*, and the best *hostales* are as good as some midrange hotels, though they rarely provide meals of any kind.

Most rooms have private bathrooms, though there are still places where some rooms share bathrooms.

Hostels

International backpackers hostels have not yet taken off in a big way in Andalucía. So far there are just a few in places such as Granada, Seville and Cádiz. Most of Andalucía's 30 or so hostels are *instalaciones juveniles* (youth hostels) affiliated to the official Andalusian youth-hostel organisation **Inturjoven** (Instalaciones y Turismo Joven; ☎ reservations & information 902 510000; www.inturjoven.com). Inturjoven hostels are mostly modern places with a large number of twin rooms as well as small dormitories with bunks. Though they are sometimes full of large, noisy school groups, they provide decent accommodation for travellers with tight budgets.

Most rooms have private bathrooms. Hostels don't have cooking facilities but they do have *comedores* (dining rooms), usually serving meals at low prices. You can book places in any Inturjoven hostel through the Inturjoven website, on Inturjoven's reservations line or through the hostel itself.

Prices for bed and breakfast in any Inturjoven hostel for the low/mid/high season are €9.50/12.50/14.50 for under-26s and €13/17/19 for people aged 26 or over. The periods of the different seasons vary from hostel to hostel; see the website for full details.

To stay in an Inturjoven hostel you need a youth-hostel card. If you don't already have one from your own country, you can get a Hostelling International (HI) card, valid for the calendar year in which you buy it, at any Inturjoven hostel or any of the 140 or so other hostels in the Red Española de Albergues Juveniles (REAJ), the Spanish HI affiliate. For the HI card, you pay in instalments of €3.50 for each of the first six nights you spend in a hostel, up to €21.

SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION

Renting self-catering accommodation is a popular way to cut costs and be your own boss. It's particularly worthwhile for families or other groups of three, four or more, and when you plan to stay at least several days in one place.

Andalucía's holiday *costas* (coasts) are thick with apartments and villas for rent – many of them owned by non-Spaniards – and inland there are plenty of tourist apartments in the cities and *casas rurales* (country houses) available in villages in the countryside. The latter are usually comfortably renovated village houses or farmhouses.

A typical straightforward, well-equipped, two-bedroom coastal apartment for four people ranges from around €300 a week in winter to around €550 in July or August. A two-bedroom coastal villa with private pool, or a *casa rural* for four, might run from €400 to €800 a week.

An internet search for 'apartment', 'villa' or 'self-catering' plus the name of a town or village will usually throw up plenty of options, many of them with online booking. **Andalucía te Quiere** (www.andalucia.org) and **Andalucia.com** (www.andalucia.com) are two general websites with lots of leads to self-catering (and other) accommodation. The following organisations are strong on rural accommodation:

Red Andaluz de Alojamiento Rurales (Andalusian Country Lodgings Network; ☎ 950 28 00 93; www.raar.es) About 150 rural accommodation possibilities throughout Andalucía.

Rural Andaluz (☎ 952 27 62 29; www.ruralandaluz.es) Around 450 rural properties in most parts of Andalucía, especially Málaga province.

Rustic Blue (☎ 958 76 33 81; www.rusticblue.com) Cottages, farmhouses and village houses, mainly in inland areas of Granada and Málaga provinces (Las Alpujarras, La Axarquía, the Ronda area and so on).

Tourist offices and their websites can supply lists of places for rent; in Britain the travel sections of the broadsheet press carry private ads for such places.

British-based house and villa agencies include **Individual Travellers Spain** (☎ 08700 780194; www.indiv-travellers.com) and **Travellers' Way** (☎ 08456 129001; www.travellersway.co.uk).

OLD-FASHIONED LUXURY

Spain's *paradors*, officially *Paradores de Turismo*, are a state-owned chain of 91 high-class hotels dotted all around the country (16 of them in Andalucía). Most are in beautiful locations and a good number, such as those at Carmona, Jaén, Úbeda and Granada, are in historic and atmospheric buildings such as castles, mansions or monasteries. The network, founded in 1928 to help preserve Spain's historical heritage, is still expanding, and many *paradors* – some of which had become a little dowdy – have recently been modernised and improved. Singles/doubles in the low season range from €77/96 to €120/150, and in the high season from €94/118 to €128/160 – even more at the *Parador de Granada* (p375), which is the most expensive *parador* in Spain. Special offers can make *paradors* more affordable and there are deals for the over-60s and people in their 20s. Check out the offers at www.paradores.es, or by contacting the *paradors'* central reservation service, the **Central de Reservas** (☎ 91 516 66 66; reservas@paradores.es; Calle Requena 3, 28013 Madrid) or one of its 22 overseas booking offices (listed on the website).

Hotels

Hoteles range from simple places where a double room could cost €40, up to super-luxury places where you would pay €300. Officially they're classified from one to five stars, depending on their facilities. Even in the cheapest hotels, there is usually a restaurant (if there isn't, the establishment will be called a *hotel-residencia*).

Some of Andalucía's most charming and atmospheric lodgings are small- or medium-sized hotels occupying old town houses or mansions, or country properties with attractive gardens and pools. The manageable scale of such establishments makes for more personal attention. For our top 10 Andalusian hotels based in beautifully converted properties, see p16.

Some places offer a range of rooms at different prices – standard rooms, suites, rooms with or without terrace or sea view, interior and exterior rooms, and so on. Many places have rooms for three, four or more people where the per-person cost is much lower than in a single or double – good news for families. Ask for an *habitación familiar* if you want a family room. Note that *una habitación doble* (a double room) might have one *cama matrimonial* (double bed) or two *camas individuales* (single beds). If one or the other option is important to you, specify it.

Checkout time is nearly always noon.

ACTIVITIES

You can do it all in Andalucía, from windsurfing off Europe's southern tip to scaling the highest peak in mainland Spain. Classes and courses are available in many outdoor

activities. See the Andalucía Outdoors chapter (p71) for details.

ADDRESSES

In Spain, in an address such as 'Edificio Sevilla 2, 8º', the symbol after the 8 indicates the equivalent of the English 8th; in this case it refers to the 8th floor of the building. The letters s/n following a street name (such as Calle Beatriz s/n) stand for *sin número* (without number), which indicates that the building has no street number.

BUSINESS HOURS

Banks generally open from 8.30am to 2pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday, and post offices from 8.30am to 8.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1.30pm Saturday. There are of course some local and seasonal variations.

Most shops and nongovernment offices (such as travel agencies, airline offices and tour companies) open from 9am or 10am to 1.30pm or 2pm and 5pm to 8pm or 9pm, Monday to Saturday, though some skip the Saturday evening session. Large supermarkets, department stores and *centros comerciales* (large, purpose-built shopping centres) normally stay open all day, from 9am to 9pm, Monday to Saturday.

Restaurants and tapas bars typically open from between 12.30pm and 1.30pm to between 3.30pm and 4pm, and in the evening from 7.30 or 8.30pm to 11pm or midnight. Many have one weekly closing day (often Monday).

Night-time bars generally open in the early evening, but get kicking from between 11pm and midnight to between 2am and

4am – the later in the week, the later they stay open.

CHILDREN

Travelling with children in Andalucía is easy. You can get just about everything you need, and Andalucians as a rule are very warm towards children. Any child whose hair is less than jet black will get called *rubia* (blonde) if she's a girl, *rubio* if he's a boy. Children accompanied by adults are welcome at all kinds of accommodation, and in virtually every café, bar and restaurant. Andalusian children stay up late and at fiestas it's commonplace to see even tiny ones toddling the streets at 2am or 3am. Visiting kids like this idea too, but can't always cope with it quite so readily.

Cots are usually available in hotels, though highchairs in restaurants are not so common. Safety seats are available for hire cars: you're certainly given the option when booking a hire car on the internet. Safety seats in taxis are rarer. Andalucians still have a slack attitude to using safety seats and wearing seat belts, though this is slowly changing with improved traffic law enforcement.

Some top-end hotels will be able to help arrange childcare. Nappy-changing facilities are rare and breast-feeding in public is unusual, though discreet breast-feeding is no problem.

As well as the obvious attraction of the beaches, playgrounds are plentiful. Special attractions such as water parks and aquariums are spread over the region but abound in Málaga province and especially along the Costa del Sol; see the Andalucía for Kids itinerary (p21) for details. Another feature of Andalucía that excites many young 'uns is the visibility of wildlife such as dolphins, apes, deer, vultures and wild boar: to find out more, check the Top 10 Wildlife Spotting Sites box (p62) in the Environment chapter.

Along the coasts many older kids will enjoy water sports – see p73 for an introduction to what they can do and where. The generally gentler winds on the Mediterranean make it more suitable for beginners in some sports than the Atlantic coast, but more adventurous young adults can try windsurfing or kitesurfing on the Atlantic, and even have a go at surfing

at El Palmar (see p210). Andalucía has plenty more adventurous activities on offer; see Andalucía Outdoors (p71) for more ideas.

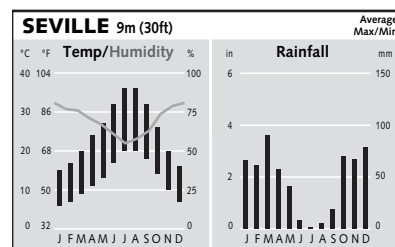
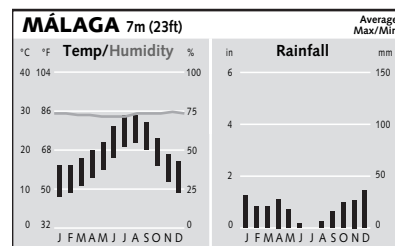
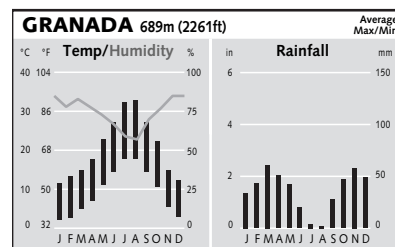
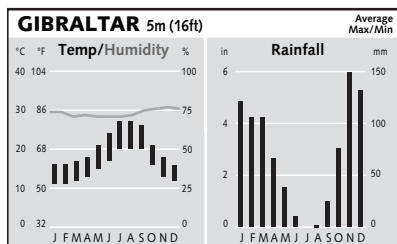
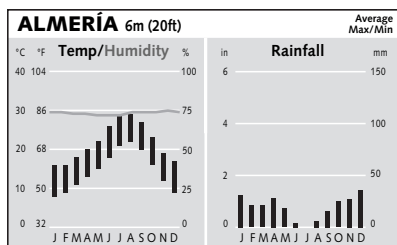
Children benefit from cut-price or free entry at many sights and museums. Those under four years of age travel free on Spanish trains and those aged four to 11 normally pay 60% of the adult fare. Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* has lots of practical advice and first-hand stories from many Lonely Planet authors and others.

CLIMATE CHARTS

There's a difference between the coastal and interior climates. Inland, the weather can be pretty inclement from November to February and frying hot in July and August. On the coasts, temperatures are more temperate in winter and not quite so hot in summer. And with the prevailing winds coming from the Atlantic Ocean, western Andalucía is damper than the east.

Andalusian weather is less predictable than you might imagine. Only June, July and August are certain to be more or less rain-free. Winter (November to February) can be predominantly dry and warm (raising the danger of drought) or subject to weeks of rain, with the possibility of flooding.

For tips on the best times to travel in Andalucía, see p14.



COURSES

Taking a course in Andalucía is a great way not only to learn something but to also meet people and get an inside angle on local life. Many of the universities and schools offering language courses (see right) also offer other courses in Spanish history, literature and culture.

Alternative Lifestyles

Andalucía has a big alternative scene, with members of its large international community at the forefront of activities. A variety of classes and courses, from tai-chi and chigong to oriental dance and holistic medicine, is available if you know where to look for them, especially in areas like Las Alpujarras (p386). A good source of information is the bilingual (English and Spanish) magazine *La Chispa*, dedicated to 'natural living in Andalucía', and available in places like

health-food shops, vegetarian restaurants and *teterías* (oriental-style tearooms), and also online at www.lachispa.net. See p285 for a recommended yoga school.

Cooking

Courses in creative Spanish cookery are increasingly popular – see p85 for our list of recommendations.

Dance

Andalucía is dance-mad and a good place both for professional dancers to hone their skills or for beginners to try a little flamenco or other styles of dance. See Seville (p111) and Granada (p371) for information on courses in Spanish dance and/or guitar. The magazine *El Giraldivo* (available from tourist offices) carries ads for dance classes and courses. You can learn salsa or tango in Granada, flamenco in Nerja, or Bollywood in Vejer de la Frontera with **Dance Holidays** (www.danceholidays.com).

Language

Teaching Spanish to foreigners is a booming business in Andalucía and new language schools are springing up all the time. The **Instituto Cervantes** (www.cervantes.es in Spanish) has a great deal of information on Spanish-language courses in Andalucía. With branches in more than 30 cities around the world, it exists to promote the Spanish language and the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish Directory (www.europa-pages.com/spain) is another good internet source on language courses.

Seville (see p112), Granada (p371), Málaga (p248) and Cádiz (p179) are the most popular places in Andalucía to study Spanish, but there are schools in many other attractive and interesting towns such as Córdoba (p310), and even in some mountain villages such as Cómpea (p293) in Málaga province. Courses sections in this book point to recommended schools, and tourist offices can usually supply plenty more information.

University courses offer some of the best value, with a typical four-week course of 20 one-hour classes a week for around €500 to €600. These courses can range from as little as two weeks to as long as a year. Private language schools are generally more flexible

about when you can start and how long you study. Most places cater for a wide range of levels, from beginners up.

Many schools offer accommodation with families, in student lodgings or in flats – generally from around €300 a month with no meals to €700 to €1000 for full board. Shared apartments are often the cheapest option at around €180 a month.

Things to think about when choosing a course include how intensive it is (this varies at different schools), class sizes, who the other students are likely to be and whether you want organised extracurricular activities. Recommendations from previous students count for a lot in selecting your school. It's also worth asking whether a course will lead to any formal certificate. The Diplomas Oficiales de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELEs) are internationally recognised diplomas at initial, intermediate and superior levels awarded by Spain's Ministry of Education & Science. For a complete beginner, approximately 40 hours of classes are required to achieve the most basic DELE qualification.

It's easy to arrange private classes in many places; check notice boards in universities and language schools, or small ads in the local press. Expect to pay around €15 per hour for individual private lessons.

Outdoor Activities

You can do plenty of courses in a gamut of active pursuits from diving to skiing – see Andalucía Outdoors (p71) for more details.

CUSTOMS

Duty-free allowances for entering Spain from outside the EU include 2L of wine, 1L of spirits and 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars. Duty-free allowances for travel between EU countries were abolished in 1999. Limits on imports and exports of duty-paid goods between other EU countries and Spain include 110L of beer, 90L of wine, 10L of spirits, 800 cigarettes and 200 cigars.

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Andalucía is generally a pretty safe place. The main thing you have to be wary of is petty theft (which of course may not seem so petty if your passport, money and camera go missing).

BE INFORMED

For a variety of useful information on travel to Spain, consult your country's foreign affairs department:

Australia (☎ 1300 139 281; www.dfat.gov.au)

Canada (☎ 800 267 6788; www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

New Zealand (☎ 04-439 8000; www.mft.govt.nz)

UK (☎ 0845 850 2829; www.fco.gov.uk)

USA (☎ 888-407-4747; travel.state.gov)

To safeguard your money, keep only a limited amount as cash and the bulk in more easily replaceable forms such as plastic cards or travellers cheques. If your accommodation has a safe, use it.

Most risk of theft occurs in tourist resorts and big cities, and when you first arrive in a city and may be unaware of danger signs. In Málaga, gangs of pickpockets and bag snatchers are at work relieving unwary tourists of their belongings. Don't draw attention to your money or valuables by waving cameras or large notes around or having a wallet bulging in your pocket. Keep hold of your baggage and watch out for people who touch you or seem to be getting unwarrantedly close at bus or train stations, on crowded streets, or in any situation. When using ATMs be wary of anyone who offers to help you, even if your card is stuck in the machine. Don't leave anything that even looks valuable visible in a parked car.

Anyone driving away from Málaga airport should be aware of a tyre-puncture scam perpetrated on some tourists there; see p244.

If you want to make an insurance claim for anything stolen or lost, you'll need to report it to the police and get a copy of the report. For help replacing a lost or stolen passport, contact your embassy or consulate.

Terrorism

The Basque terrorist organisation Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA; Basques & Freedom) has occasionally exploded bombs or committed murders in Andalucía, as in other parts of Spain. The country has of course also been victim to Islamic terrorism. Before travelling to Spain, you can consult

your country's foreign-affairs department for any current warnings.

DISCOUNT CARDS

Student, teacher and youth cards can get you worthwhile discounts on airfares and other travel as well as reduced prices at some museums, sights and entertainment venues.

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC), for full-time students, and the International Teacher Identity Card (ITIC), for full-time teachers and academics, are issued by colleges and student-travel organisations such as STA Travel. The ISIC gives access to discounted air and train fares, 50% off national museums in Spain and up to 20% off trips with the Alsa bus company.

Anyone under 26 can get a Euro<26 card (Carnet Joven in Spain), which is available in Europe to people of any nationality, or an International Youth Travel Card (IYTC or GO25 card), available worldwide. These give similar discounts to the ISIC and are issued by many of the same organisations. Benefits for Euro<26 card holders in Andalucía include 20% or 25% off many train fares, 20% off some car hires and bus fares with the Sobibus company, 10% to 15% off rooms at accommodation and discounts at a few museums and tourist attractions.

For more information, including places you can obtain the cards, see www.istc.org and www.euro26.org.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES Spanish Embassies & Consulates

Following is a list of Spanish embassies and consulates in selected countries:

Australia Canberra (☎ 02-6273 3555; www.embaspain.com; 15 Arkana St, Yarralumla, ACT 2600); consulate in Melbourne (☎ 03-9347 1966); consulate in Sydney (☎ 02-9261 2433)

Canada Ottawa (☎ 613-747 2252; www.embaspain.ca; 74 Stanley Ave, Ontario K1M 1P4); consulate in Montreal (☎ 514-935 5235); consulate in Toronto (☎ 416-977 1661)

France Paris (☎ 01 44 43 18 00; www.amb-espagne.fr; 22 Ave Marceau, 75008); consulate in Paris (☎ 01 44 29 40 00; www.cgesparis.org; 165 Blvd Malesherbes, 75840); consulate in Lyon (☎ 04 78 89 64 15); consulate in Marseille (☎ 04 91 00 32 70); consulate in Toulouse (☎ 05 61 52 05 50)

Germany Berlin (☎ 030-254 00 70; www.spanischebotschaft.de; Lichtensteinallee 1, 10787); consulate in Düsseldorf

(☎ 021-123 90 80); consulate in Frankfurt am Main (☎ 069-959 16 60); consulate in Munich (☎ 089-998 47 90)

Ireland (☎ 01-269 1640; www.mae.es/embajadas/dublin; 17A Merlyn Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4)

Italy Rome (☎ 06-684 04 01; www.amba-spagna.com; Palacio Borghese, Largo Fontanella di Borghese 19, 00186); consulate in Rome (☎ 06-687 14 01; Via Campo Marzio 34, 00186); consulate in Genoa (☎ 010-56 26 69); consulate in Milan (☎ 02-632 88 31); consulate in Naples (☎ 081-41 11 57)

Japan (☎ 3-3583 8531; embesppj@mail.mae.es; 1-3-29, Roppongi, Minato-ku, 106-0032, Tokyo)

Morocco Rabat (☎ 07-633900; ambespma@mail.mae.es; Rue Ain Khalouija, Rte Des Zaïers Km 5.3, Suissi); consulate in Casablanca (☎ 02-220752); consulate in Tangier (☎ 09-937000)

Netherlands The Hague (☎ 070-302 49 99; ambespnl@correo.mae.es; Lange Voorhout 50, 2514 EG); consulate in Amsterdam (☎ 020-620 38 11)

New Zealand See Australia.

Portugal Lisbon (☎ 213-472 381; embesppt@correo.mae.es; Rua do Salitre 1, 1269); consulate in Porto (☎ 225-363 915); consulate in Vila Real de Santo António (☎ 281-544 888)

UK London (☎ 020-7235 5555; embespuk@mail.mae.es; 39 Chesham Pl, SW1X 8SB); consulate in London (☎ 020-7589 8989; www.consalon.org; 20 Draycott Pl, SW3 2RZ); consulate in Edinburgh (☎ 0131-220 18 43); consulate in Manchester (☎ 0161-236 1233)

USA Washington DC (☎ 202-452 0100; www.spainemb.org; 2375 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 20037); consulate in Washington (☎ 202-728 2330; 2375 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 20037); consulate in Boston (☎ 617-536 2506); consulate in Chicago (☎ 312-782 4588); consulate in Houston (☎ 713-783 6200); consulate in Los Angeles (☎ 323-938 0158); consulate in Miami (☎ 305-446 5511); consulate in New Orleans (☎ 504-525 4951); consulate in New York (☎ 212-355 4080); consulate in San Francisco (☎ 415-922 2995)

Embassies & Consulates in Spain

All foreign embassies are in Madrid, but many countries also have consulates in Andalusian cities, especially Seville. Embassies and consulates include the following:

Australia Madrid (☎ 91 353 66 00; www.spainembassy.gov.au; Plaza del Descubridor Diego de Ordás 3); honorary consulate in Seville (Map pp102–3; ☎ 954 22 09 71; Calle Federico Rubio 14)

Canada Madrid (☎ 91 423 32 50; www.canada-es.org; Calle de Núñez de Balboa 35); consulate in Málaga (Map p243; ☎ 952 22 33 46; 1st fl, Plaza de la Malagueta 2)

France Madrid (☎ 91 423 89 22; www.ambafrance-es.org; Calle Salustiano Olózaga 9); consulate in Seville (Map pp102–3; ☎ 954 29 32 00; www.consulfrance-seville.org; Plaza de Santa Cruz 1)

Germany Madrid (☎ 91 557 90 00; www.embajada-alemania.es; Calle de Fortuny 8); consulate in Málaga (Map p243; ☎ 952 36 35 91; Edificio Eurocom, Calle Mauricio Moro Pareto 2)

Ireland Madrid (☎ 91 436 40 93; Paseo de la Castellana 46); consulate in Fuengirola (☎ 952 47 51 08; Galerías Santa Mónica, Avenida de los Boliches); honorary consulate in Seville (Map pp102–3; ☎ 954 21 63 61; Plaza de Santa Cruz 4)

Italy Madrid (☎ 91 423 33 00; www.ambmadrid.esteri.it; Calle Lagasca 98); consulate in Seville (Map pp102–3; ☎ 954 22 85 76; Calle Fabiola 10)

Japan Madrid (☎ 91 590 76 00; www.es.emb-japan.go.jp; Calle de Serrano 109)

Morocco Madrid (☎ 91 563 10 90; www.maec.gov.ma/madrid; Calle de Serrano 179); consulate in Algeciras (Map p225; ☎ 956 66 18 03; Calle Teniente Maroto 2); consulate in Seville (Map pp94–5; ☎ 954 08 10 44; Pabellón de la Naturaleza, Camino de los Descubrimientos s/n, Isla de la Cartuja)

Netherlands Madrid (☎ 91 353 75 00; www.embajadapaisesbajos.es; Avenida del Comandante Franco 32, Madrid); consulate in Seville (Map pp102–3; ☎ 954 22 87 50; Calle Placentines 1); consulate in Torremolinos (☎ 952 38 08 88; Edificio San Andrés 1F, Avenida Carlota Alesandri 33)

New Zealand Madrid (☎ 91 523 02 26; Plaza de la Lealtad 2)

Portugal Madrid (☎ 91 782 49 60; www.embajadaportugal-madrid.org; Calle Pinar 1); consulate in Madrid (☎ 91 577 35 85; Calle Lagasca 88); consulate in Seville (Map pp94–5; ☎ 954 23 11 50; Avenida del Cid 1)

UK Madrid (☎ 91 700 82 00; www.ukinspain.com; Calle de Fernando el Santo 16); consulate in Málaga (Map p243; ☎ 952 35 23 00; Edificio Eurocom, Calle Mauricio Moro Pareto 2)

USA Madrid (☎ 91 587 22 00; www.embusa.es; Calle de Serrano 75); consular agency in Fuengirola (☎ 952 47 48 91; Apartment 1C, Avenida Juan Gómez 8); consular agency in Seville (Map pp102–3; ☎ 954 21 87 51; Plaza Nueva 8-8)

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Andalucians indulge their love of colour, noise, crowds, pageantry, dressing up and partying at innumerable exuberant local fiestas. Every little village and every city *barrio* (district or quarter) holds several festivals every year, each with its own unique twist. Many fiestas are religion-based but still highly festive.

Most places hold their *feria* (main annual fair) in summer, with concerts, parades, fireworks, bullfights, fairgrounds, dancing and an all-night party atmosphere. You'll find information on the most important local

events in city and town sections throughout this book, and tourist offices can supply detailed information. The following are the outstanding regionwide celebrations:

January

Día de los Reyes Magos (Three Kings' Day) On 6 January each year, children receive gifts in commemoration of the gifts brought by the Three Kings to the baby Jesus; in many towns, Reyes Magos *cabalgatas* (cavalcades) tour the streets the evening before, tossing sweets to the crowds.

February/March

Carnaval (Carnival) Fancy-dress parades and general merry-making happen in many places (wildest in Cádiz), usually ending on the Tuesday 47 days before Easter Sunday.

March/April

Semana Santa (Holy Week) The biggest event of Spain's religious calendar. The week leading up to Easter Sunday sees parades of lavishly bedecked holy images, long lines of *nazarenos* (penitents), and big crowds lining the streets, in almost every city, town and village. In major cities there are daily processions from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Seville's celebrations are the most lavish and intense; Málaga, Granada, Córdoba, Arcos de la Frontera, Jaén, Baeza and Úbeda also stage spectacular processions.

May

Cruces de Mayo (May Crosses) Crosses are placed in squares and patios in many towns, notably in and around Granada and Córdoba. Decorated with flowers, the crosses become the focus for temporary bars, food stalls, music and dancing. It's held on 3 May and around.

June

Hogueras de San Juan (Bonfires of San Juan) Bonfires and fireworks, especially on beaches, are the heart of this midsummer celebration held 23 June; many thousands of people camp overnight along Andalucía's beaches.

July

Día de la Virgen del Carmen On this feast day of the patron of fisherfolk on 16 July, the Virgin's image is carried into the sea, or paraded upon a flotilla of small boats, at many coastal towns.

FOOD

The Eating sections for some larger towns and cities in this book are split into Budget, Midrange and Top End sections. The budget bracket covers places where a typical main dish is under €9; midrange is where a typical main dish is between €9 and €15;

and the top end covers places where typical mains cost more than €15.

Restaurants normally open for lunch between 12.30pm and 1.30pm, closing at 4pm; for dinner they open around 7.30pm to 8.30pm and close between 11pm and midnight. Variations to these hours are given in reviews in this book. For an introduction to Andalusian food, see p79.

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Andalucía's liveliest gay scenes are in Málaga, Torremolinos, Seville and Granada, but there are gay- and lesbian-friendly bars or clubs in all major cities.

Websites such as www.andalucia.com, www.gayinspain.com, www.guiagay.com (in Spanish) and www.cogailes.org have good listings of gay and gay-friendly accommodation, bars, clubs, beaches, cruising areas, health clubs and associations. Gayinspain and Cogailes have message boards too. Cogailes is the site of the Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana, a Barcelona-based gay and lesbian organisation that operates a free national information telephone line in English, Spanish and Catalan on ☎ 900 60 16 01, from 6pm to 10pm daily.

The **Asociación Andaluza de Lesbianas y Gais** (Calle Lavadero de las Tablas 15, Granada) runs the **Teléfono Andaluz de Información Homosexual** (☎ 958 20 06 02). The **Federación Colega** (www.colegaweb.net) works for Andalusian gay and lesbian solidarity, rights and acceptance, and has branches in all eight provincial capitals.

Even though gay marriage was legalised in Spain in 2005, some hotel receptionists still have difficulty understanding that two people of the same sex might want to share a double bed. One traveller suggested that to avoid wasted time, it can be a good idea for one of the pair to do the checking in before the other appears.

HOLIDAYS

Everywhere in Spain has 14 official holidays a year – some are holidays nationwide, some only in one village. The list of holidays in each place may change from year to year. If a holiday date falls on a weekend, sometimes the holiday is moved to the Monday. If a holiday falls on the second day following a weekend, many Spaniards take the intervening day off too – a practice known as making a *puente* (bridge).

The two main periods when Spaniards go on holiday are Semana Santa (Holy Week, leading up to Easter Sunday) and the six weeks from mid-July to the end of August. At these times accommodation in resorts can be scarce and transport heavily booked.

There are usually nine official national holidays:

Año Nuevo (New Year's Day) 1 January
Viernes Santo (Good Friday) 6 April 2007, 21 March 2008
Fiesta del Trabajo (Labour Day) 1 May
La Asunción (Feast of the Assumption) 15 August
Fiesta Nacional de España (National Day) 12 October
Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day) 1 November; traditional day for paying respect to the dead.
Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day) 6 December
La Inmaculada Concepción (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) 8 December
Navidad (Christmas) 25 December

In addition, regional governments normally set three holidays, and local councils a further two. The three regional holidays in Andalucía are usually these:

Epifanía (Epiphany) or **Día de los Reyes Magos** (Three Kings' Day) 6 January – see opposite
Día de Andalucía (Andalusia Day) 28 February
Jueves Santo (Holy Thursday) 5 April 2007, 20 March 2008

The following are often selected as local holidays by town halls:

Corpus Christi 7 June 2007, 22 May 2008
Día de San Juan Bautista (Feast of St John the Baptist, King Juan Carlos I's saint's day) 24 June
Día de Santiago Apóstol (Feast of St James the Apostle, Spain's patron saint) 25 July

INSURANCE

A travel-insurance policy to cover theft, loss and medical problems is a good idea. Travel agents will be able to make recommendations. Check the small print: some policies specifically exclude 'dangerous activities', which can include scuba diving, motorcycling, even trekking. You may prefer a policy that pays doctors or hospitals directly, rather than you having to pay on the spot and claim later. If you have to claim later, make sure you keep all documentation. Check whether the policy covers ambulances or an emergency flight home.

Buy travel insurance as early as possible. If you buy it in the week before you leave


home, you may find, for example, that you are not covered for delays to your trip caused by strikes.

Paying for your airline ticket with a credit card often provides limited travel accident insurance, and you may be able to reclaim payment if the operator doesn't deliver.

See p455 for more information on health insurance and p452 for motor insurance.

INTERNET ACCESS

There are plenty of internet cafés in large and small towns throughout Andalucía, with a typical charge of around €1.50 per hour. Some are equipped with CD burners, webcams, headphones and so on. But they may not have card readers, so bring your own or the camera-to-USB cable if you plan on burning photos to CD along the way.

For those travelling with a laptop or hand-held computer, a growing number of hotels in Andalucía provide wi-fi access, and some have modem connections in rooms (accommodation with any kind of internet access for guests receives an  icon in this book). Be aware that your modem may not work once you leave your home country. The safest option is to buy a reputable 'global' modem before you leave home, or buy a local PC-card modem if you're spending an extended time in any one country. For lots of useful stuff on connecting to the web while travelling, visit www.kropla.com.

LEGAL MATTERS

Article 17 of the Spanish constitution determines that anyone who is arrested must be informed immediately, in a manner understandable to them, of their rights and the grounds for the arrest. Arrested people are entitled to the assistance of a lawyer during police inquiries or judicial investigations. If an arrested person does not appoint their own lawyer, they must be allotted a duty lawyer. For many foreign nationalities including British citizens, the police are also obliged to inform an arrested person's consulate immediately. Arrested people are likely to be held in a police cell until a formal statement answering the charges against them is taken, although by article 17 they may not be compelled to make a statement. Within 72 hours of arrest, the

person must be brought before a judge or released. A lawyer to safeguard the arrested person's rights, and if necessary an interpreter, must be present when the statement is taken and when the arrested person goes before the judge.

Further useful information on Spanish legal procedures and lawyers is published on the website of the UK embassy in Madrid (www.ukinspain.com) under the 'Information Leaflets' section.

Drugs

Spain's once liberal drug laws were severely tightened in 1992. The only legal drug is cannabis, and then only for personal use – which means very small amounts. Public consumption of any drug is illegal. It would be very unwise to smoke cannabis in hotel rooms or guesthouses.

Travellers entering Spain from Morocco, especially with a vehicle, should be prepared for intensive drug searches.

Police

Spain has three main types of police. The **Policía Nacional** (National Police; ☎ 091) cover cities and bigger towns, sometimes forming special squads dealing with drugs, terrorism and the like. A further contingent is to be found shuffling paper in bunker-like police stations called *comisarias*. The **Policía Local** (Local Police; ☎ 092), also known as *Policía Municipal*, are controlled by city and town halls and deal mainly with minor matters such as parking, traffic and bylaws. They wear blue-and-white uniforms. The responsibilities of the green-uniformed **Guardia Civil** (Civil Guard; ☎ 062) include roads, the countryside, villages and international borders.

If you need to go to the police, any of them will do, but you may find the *Policía Local* are the most approachable.

LEGAL AGE

- Voting: 18
- Driving: 18
- Drinking: 16
- Sex: 13 (for both heterosexual and homosexual, but sex between under-15s and over-18s is illegal)

MAPS

Michelin's 1:400,000 *Andalucía* is excellent for overall planning and touring, with an edition published each year. It's widely available in and outside Andalucía – look for it at petrol stations and bookshops.

Maps provided by tourist offices are often adequate for finding your way around cities and towns. So are those in phone directories, which come with indexes of major streets. For something more comprehensive, most cities are covered by one of the Spanish series such as Telstar, Escudo de Oro, Alpina or Everest, all with street indexes – available in bookshops. Check the publication dates, though.

On the internet, **Multimap** (www.multimap.com) and **Andalucía** (www.andalucia.com) have searchable street maps of Andalusian cities and towns.

If you're going to do any walking in Andalucía you should arm yourself with the best possible maps. Good commercially published series, all usually accompanied by guide booklets, come from Editorial Alpina, Editorial Penibética and Britain's Discovery Walking Guides. Spain's **Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica** (CNIG; www.cnig.es), the publishing arm of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN), produced a useful *Mapa Guía* series of national and natural parks, mostly at 1:50,000 or 1:100,000, in the 1990s. The CNIG also covers about three-quarters of Andalucía in its 1:25,000 *Mapa Topográfico Nacional* maps, most of which are up to date. Both the CNIG and the Servicio Geográfico del Ejército (SGE; Army Geographic Service) publish 1:50,000 series: the SGE's, called *Serie L*, tends to be more up to date (most of its Andalucía maps have been revised since the mid-1990s). CNIG maps may be labelled CNIG, IGN or both.

The Junta de Andalucía, Andalucía's regional government, also publishes a range of Andalucía maps, including a *Mapa Guía* series of natural and national parks. These have been published recently and are widely available, although perhaps better for vehicle touring than for walking, with a scale of 1:75,000. Their covers are predominantly green, as opposed to the CNIG *mapas guía* that are mainly red or pink. Other Junta maps include 1:10,000 and 1:20,000 maps covering the whole of

Andalucía – there are good maps but sales outlets for them are few.

Local availability of maps is patchy, so it's a good idea to try to obtain them in advance. **Stanfords** (☎ 020-7836 1321; www.stanfords.co.uk; 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP, UK) has a good range of Spain maps and you can order them online. In Spain, seek out any specialist map or travel bookshops; several are recommended in this book's destination chapters. LTC in Seville (see p93) is the best map shop in Andalucía, selling most Junta maps as well as SGE and CNIG maps.

The CNIG has sales offices in Andalucía's eight provincial capitals, including the following:

Granada (Map pp358–9; ☎ 958 90 93 20; Avenida Divina Pastora 7 & 9)

Málaga (☎ 952 21 20 18; Calle Ramos Carrión 48)

Seville (Map pp94–5; ☎ 955 56 93 20; Avenida San Francisco Javier 9, Edificio Sevilla 2, 8°, módulo 7)

MONEY

Spain's currency is the euro (€), made up of 100 cents. It comes in coins of one, two, five, 10, 20 and 50 cents and one and two euros, and notes of five, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros. See the inside back cover for exchange rates.

You can get by very well in Andalucía with a credit or debit card enabling you to make purchases direct and to withdraw cash euros from *cajeros automáticos* (ATMs), which are extremely common. But it's wise to take more than one card (if you have them) and preferably a few travellers cheques too. The combination gives you a fall-back if you lose a card.

See p15 for an introduction to costs in Andalucía.

Cash & Travellers Cheques

Cash and travellers cheques can be exchanged at virtually any bank or exchange office. Banks are plentiful and tend to offer the best rates. Exchange offices – usually indicated by the word *cambio* (exchange) – exist mainly in tourist resorts. Generally they offer longer opening hours and quicker service than banks, but worse exchange rates.

Travellers cheques usually bring a slightly better exchange rate than cash, though that is often offset by the charges for buying

them in the first place. Thomas Cook, Visa and American Express (Amex) are widely accepted brands with efficient replacement policies. Amex offices cash their own travellers cheques commission-free, but exchange rates may be more favourable at a bank or exchange office.

In many places, the more money you change, the better the exchange rate you'll get. Check commissions first, and confirm that posted exchange rates are up to date. A typical commission is 2% to 3%, with a minimum of €4 or €5. Places that advertise 'no commission' usually offer poor exchange rates. In Spain you usually can't use travellers cheques like money to make purchases.

Credit & Debit Cards

Not every establishment accepts payment by card. You should be able to make payments by card in midrange and top-end accommodation and restaurants, and larger shops, but you cannot depend on it elsewhere. When you pay by card, you may be asked for ID such as your passport. Don't forget to memorise your PIN numbers as you may have to key these in as you pay, and do keep a note of the numbers to call for reporting a lost or stolen card.

Visitors from outside the euro zone will get most value for their pound, dollar or whatever by making purchases by credit card or debit card, with ATM withdrawals as second-best value. After you take into account commissions, handling fees, exchange-rate differentials, etc, obtaining euros by exchanging cash or travellers cheques generally gives less value for your money.

Taxes & Refunds

Spanish value-added tax (VAT) is called IVA (*ee-ba; impuesto sobre el valor añadido*). On accommodation and restaurant prices, it's 7% and is usually (but not always) included in the prices that you'll be quoted. On retail goods and car hire, IVA is 16%. As a rule, prices given in this book include IVA. Some accommodation places will forget about IVA if you pay cash and don't require a receipt. To ask 'Is IVA included?', say '¿Está incluido el IVA?'

Visitors resident outside the EU are entitled to a refund of the 16% IVA on any

purchases costing more than €90.15 from any shop if they are taking them out of the EU within three months. Ask the shop to give you an invoice showing the price and IVA paid for each item and the name and address of the vendor and purchaser. Then present both the invoice and goods to the customs booth for IVA refunds at the airport, port or border from which you leave the EU. The officer will stamp the invoice and you hand it in at a bank in the airport or port for the reimbursement. Some retailers offer a slightly simplified version of this procedure via refund services such as **Global Refund** (www.globalrefund.com) or **Premier Tax Free** (www.premiertaxfree.com).

Tipping

Spanish law requires menu prices to include the service charge, and tipping is a matter of personal choice – most people leave some small change if they're satisfied, and 5% is usually plenty. Porters will generally be happy with €1.50. Taxi drivers don't have to be tipped but a little rounding up won't go amiss.

POST

At 2006 rates, a postcard or letter weighing up to 20g costs €0.57 from Spain to other European countries, and €0.78 to the rest of the world. *Certificado* (registered) mail costs an extra €2.20. *Urgente* service, which means your mail may arrive two or three days quicker than normal, costs around €2 extra for international mail.

Stamps are sold at *estancos* (tobacconist shops with 'Tabacos' in yellow letters on a maroon background), as well as at *oficinas de correos* (post offices). It's quite safe to post mail in the yellow street *buzones* (postboxes) as well as at post offices. Mail to or from other Western European countries normally arrives within a week; to or from North America within 10 days; to or from Australia and New Zealand within two weeks.

Poste restante mail can be addressed to you at Poste Restante (or better, Lista de Correos, the Spanish name for it), anywhere in Spain that has a post office, with the name of the province following that of the town. This will be delivered to the place's main post office unless another one is specified in the address. Take your pass-

SPAIN'S 'ANTI-TOBACCO' LAW

In 2006 smoking was banned in many public places throughout Spain including offices, shops, schools, hospitals and on public transport, largely in response to the country's 50,000 annual smoking-related deaths. Under the January 2006 'anti-tobacco' law, bars and restaurants larger than 100 sq metres must create separate smoking areas with their own ventilation systems. Smaller bars and restaurants can choose whether or not to allow smoking – hence all the signs on bar doors saying whether or not people can smoke in there. Hotels are supposed to set aside at least 70% of their rooms for non-smokers – though this is one part of the law that seems to be widely ignored.

port when you go to pick up mail. Every Spanish address has a five-digit postcode, use of which may help your mail arrive a bit quicker.

SOLO TRAVELLERS

Unfortunately for solo travellers, a single room normally costs well over half the price of a double room. Budget travellers have the option of cutting costs by staying in youth hostels in some places, but backpacker hostels, real gathering places for international travellers, are thin on the ground.

Despite Andalusians' reputation for being gregarious, it is possible for solo travellers to feel left out of some of the fun. You can't expect the locals to want to get to know every foreigner who passes through, and Andalusian accommodation is not, in general, terribly conducive to getting to know other guests. Bars can be a good place to meet people but women need to be wary as many bars are the domain of macho males or those on the lookout for female tourists. This obviously is less the case in sophisticated places such as central areas of Málaga, Granada and Seville. Of course, if you're gregarious, self-assured and can speak a bit of Spanish, you'll get by just fine.

Solo travellers need to be watchful of their luggage when on the road and should stay in places with safe boxes for their valuables so as not to be burdened with them when out and about. One big drag of travelling alone is when you want to take a quick

dip in the sea and there's no-one to keep an eye on your valuables!

TELEPHONE & FAX

Spain has no telephone area codes. Every phone number has nine digits and for any call within Spain you just dial all those nine digits. If calling Spain from another country, dial your international access code, followed by Spain's country code ☎ 34, followed by all nine digits of the local number. The international access code for calls from Spain is ☎ 00.

The first digit of all Spanish fixed-phone numbers is ☎ 9. Numbers beginning with ☎ 6 are mobile phones.

Many towns now have cheap-rate call offices known as *locutorios*, where you can make international calls for low rates (eg around €0.20 a minute to the USA or €0.30 a minute to Australia), although calls within Spain are generally at similar rates to street payphones. Even cheaper (to fixed phones) are internet phone calls, available at some *locutorios* and internet cafés.

Andalucía is fairly well provided with blue payphones, which (as long as they are in working order) are easy to use for both international and domestic calls. They accept coins and/or *tarjetas telefónicas* (phonecards) issued by the national phone company Telefónica. Phonecards come in €6 and €12 denominations and are sold at post offices and *estancos*. Coin payphones inside bars and cafés – often green – are normally a little more expensive than street payphones. Phones in hotel rooms may be a good deal more expensive: managements set their own rates, so ask about costs before using one.

Costs

A three-minute payphone call to a fixed phone costs €0.20 within your local area, around €0.30 to other places within the same province, around €0.40 to other Spanish provinces, about €1 to other EU countries or the USA, and about €2 to Australia – though for international calls you're usually better off finding a *locutorio*. Payphone calls are generally 10% to 20% cheaper from 8pm to 8am Monday to Friday, and all day Saturday and Sunday. Payphone calls to most Spanish mobile phones (which are numbers starting with ☎ 6) cost around €1 for three minutes.

Calls to Spanish numbers starting with ☎ 900 are free. Numbers starting with ☎ 901 to ☎ 906 are pay-per-minute numbers and charges vary; a common one is ☎ 902, for which you pay about €0.35 for three minutes from a payphone.

Calls from private lines cost about 25% less than calls from payphones.

Fax

Most main post offices have a fax service: sending one page costs €1.90 within Spain, €8 elsewhere in Europe and €15 to North America or Australasia. However, you'll often find cheaper rates at shops or offices with 'Fax Público' signs.

Mobile Phones

If you're going to make lots of calls within Spain, it's worth considering buying a Spanish mobile. Shops on every main street and in every shopping centre sell phones at bargain prices and Amena, Movistar and Vodafone are widespread and reputable brands. You need to understand the detail of advertised deals, however. For example if a phone with a call credit of €50 is on sale for €40, you will usually have to buy more credit at normal rates to qualify for the €50 free credit.

If you're considering taking a mobile from your home country to Spain, you should find out from your mobile network provider whether your phone is enabled for international roaming, and what the costs of calls, text and voicemail are likely to be. Don't forget to take a Continental adaptor for your charger plug.

Ofcom (www.ofcom.org.uk; go to 'Advice for Consumers') and **Steve Kropla's Help for World Travelers** (www.kropla.com) have useful advice on using your mobile abroad; **GSM World** (www.gsmworld.com) provides coverage maps, lists of roaming partners and links to phone companies' websites.

Reverse-charge & Information Calls

Dial ☎ 1009 to speak to a domestic operator, including for a *llamada por cobro revertido* – a domestic reverse-charge (collect) call.

To make an international reverse-charge call via an operator in the country you're calling to, dial the following numbers:

Australia (☎ 900 990061)

Canada (☎ 900 990015)

France (☎ 900 990033)

New Zealand (☎ 900 990064)

UK (☎ 900 990044)

USA AT&T (☎ 900 990011); MCI (☎ 900 990014); Sprint (☎ 900 990013)

Codes for other countries are often posted up in payphones. Alternatively, you can usually get an English-speaking international operator on ☎ 1008 to call Europe and ☎ 1005 for the rest of the world.

For Spanish directory inquiries you need to dial ☎ 11822; these calls cost €0.22 plus €0.01 per second.

For international directory inquiries dial ☎ 11825. Warning: the cost is €1 plus €0.75 per minute.

TIME

All mainland Spain is on GMT/UTC plus one hour during winter, and GMT/UTC plus two hours during the country's daylight-saving period, which runs from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October. Most other Western European countries have the same time as Spain year-round, the major exceptions being Britain, Ireland and Portugal. Add one hour to these three countries' times to get Spanish time.

Spanish time is normally USA eastern time plus six hours, and USA Pacific time plus nine hours. But the USA tends to start daylight-saving time a week or two later than Spain, so you must add one hour to the time differences during the intervening period.

In the Australian winter subtract eight hours from Sydney time to get Spanish time; in the Australian summer subtract 10 hours. The difference is nine hours for a few weeks in March.

Morocco is on GMT/UTC year-round, so is two hours behind Spain during Spanish daylight-saving time, and one hour behind at other times of the year.

For further information see World Time Zones, pp486–7.

TOILETS

Public toilets are not common, but it's OK to wander into many bars and cafés to use the toilet even if you're not a customer. It's worth carrying some toilet paper with you as many toilets lack it.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Offices in Spain

All cities and many smaller towns and even villages in Andalucía have at least one *oficina de turismo* (tourist office). Staff are generally knowledgeable and increasingly well versed in foreign languages. Offices are usually well stocked with printed material. Opening hours vary widely.

Tourist offices in Andalucía may be operated by the local town hall, by local district organisations, by the government of whichever province you're in, or by the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía. There may also be more than one tourist office in larger cities, each offering information on the territory it represents. The Junta de Andalucía's environmental department, the Consejería de Medio Ambiente, also has visitors centres located in many of the environmentally protected areas (*parques naturales* and so on).

You'll find details of useful tourist offices in the Information sections of destination chapters throughout this book.

Spain's national tourism authority is **Tur-españa** (☎ 91 343 35 00, tourist information 901 300600; www.spain.info; Calle José Lázaro Galdiano 6, 28071 Madrid). The Andalusian regional tourism authority is the Junta de Andalucía's **Consejería de Turismo, Comercio y Deporte** (☎ 955 06 51 00; www.juntadeandalucia.es/turismocomercioydeporte; Torretrejana, Isla de la Cartuja, 41092 Seville). Marketing, promotion and planning are handled by **Turismo Andaluz** (☎ 951 29 93 00, tourist information 901 20 00 20; www.andalucia.org; Calle Compañía 40, 29008 Málaga).

Tourist Offices Abroad

You can get information on Andalucía from Spanish national tourist offices in 23 countries, including the following:

Canada (☎ 416-961 3131; www.tourspain.toronto.on.ca; Suite 3402, 2 Bloor St W, Toronto M4W 3E2)

France (☎ 01 45 03 82 57; www.espagne.infotourisme.com; 43 rue Decamps, 75784 Paris, Cedex 16)

Germany (☎ 030-882 6036; berlin@tourspain.es; Kurfürstendamm 63, 5.0G, 10707 Berlin) Also branches in Düsseldorf, Frankfurt am Main and Munich.

Italy (☎ 06 692 00 453; www.turismospagnolo.it; Piazza di Spagna 55, 00187 Rome)

Japan (☎ 03-3432 6141; www.spaintour.com; Daini Toranomon Denki Bldg, 4F, 3-1-10 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105)

Netherlands (☎ 070-346 59 00; www.spaansverkeersbureau.nl; Laan Van Meerdervoor 8a, 2517 AJ The Hague)

Portugal (☎ 213 541 992; lisboa@tourspain.es; Avenida Sidónio Pais 28-30 Dto, 1050-215 Lisbon)

UK (☎ 020 7486 8077; www.tourspain.co.uk; 2nd flr, 79 New Cavendish St, London W1W 6XB)

USA (☎ 212-265 8822; www.okspain.org; 35th fl, 666 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10103) Also branches in Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami.

You'll find details of the other offices on the Turespaña website.

TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Some Spanish tourist offices in other countries (see left) provide a basic information sheet with useful addresses for travellers with disabilities, and can give details of accessible accommodation in specific places.

Wheelchair accessibility in Andalucía is improving as new buildings meet regulations requiring them to have wheelchair access. The Spanish-language guidebook for people with disabilities, *Guía de los Hoteles mas Accesibles para Viajeros en Sillas de Ruedas* (sold at www.valinet.org) lists over 300 recommended Spanish hotels with wheelchair access, many of them in Andalucía. Many midrange and top-end hotels are now adapting rooms and accesses for wheelchair users. Nearly all Andalusian youth hostels have rooms adapted for the disabled, but accessibility is poorer at other budget accommodation. In this book we indicate with a wheelchair icon (♿) where a sight or accommodation option is particularly well set up for wheelchair users.

Accessible Travel & Leisure (☎ 01452-729739; www.accessibletravel.co.uk) is a travel agency specialising in holidays for the mobility-impaired. It can book you into accessible hotels, villas and apartments in Spain. The following UK-based organisations have further travel information for travellers with disabilities:

Holiday Care (☎ 0845 124 9971; www.holidaycare.org.uk) Produces an information pack on Spain for people with special needs, including accommodation with disabled access.

Radar (☎ 020-7250 3222; www.radar.org.uk) Run by and for disabled people. Its excellent website has links to travel and holiday-specific sites.

VISAS

Citizens of EU countries, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein need only carry their passport or national identity

document in order to enter Spain. Citizens of many other countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA, do not need a visa for visits of up to 90 days but must carry their passport.

At the time of writing, nationalities required to obtain a visa to visit Spain included South Africa, Russia, Morocco, India and Pakistan. Consult a Spanish consulate well in advance of travel if you think you need a visa. The standard tourist visa issued when necessary is the Schengen visa, which is valid not only for Spain but for all the 14 other countries that are party to the Schengen agreement, which abolished controls at borders between these countries in 2000. The other Schengen countries are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Sweden. You normally have to apply for the visa in person at a consulate in your country of residence. In the UK, visas cost UK£24.15.

VOLUNTEERING

Spain doesn't offer the opportunities for volunteer work that a developing country might, and the majority of openings that exist are in the country's north. But the following sources are worth checking out if you're keen to volunteer or do an internship in Andalucía:

Adelante Abroad (www.adelanteabroad.com) Arranges internships with private-sector companies in Seville, including some language study. A two-month internship costs around US\$3000.

Best Programs (www.bestprograms.org) Nine-to-12-week internships with Spanish NGOs, including some language study, for around US\$1600 to US\$2000.

Earthwatch (www.earthwatch.org) Seeks volunteers for 12-day dolphin research projects off Andalucía's coasts (volunteers usually pay around UK£1000 or more).

Idealist.org (www.idealists.org) Good place to look for Spanish volunteer possibilities.

Oasis Project (www.aulapolis.com/oasis/oasising.htm) Internships in nonprofit organisations.

Transitions Abroad (www.transitionsabroad.org) Good source on volunteering and internships worldwide, including in Spain.

Volunteer Abroad (www.volunteerabroad.com) Details on a range of volunteer openings in Spain.

WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Women in Spain are just about on an equal footing with men these days. By and large women work, contribute to the family purse,

and have their own money to spend and share in decision-making in the home. Sexual equality has been slower coming to Spain than in many other parts of the Western world but this new-found confidence among Spanish women is striking. Women now occupy positions of power and authority in all sectors. Young women generally hold their own and are unafraid to stand up for themselves, although this sometimes results in unpleasant consequences. Spain has its share of abused girls and women – something the PSOE government under José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero has made a priority of tackling since it was elected in 2004.

Men under about 35, who have grown up in the post-Franco era, are less sexually stereotyped than their older counterparts whose thinking and behaviour towards women is still directed by machismo.

Though harassment is not frequent, women travellers should be ready to ignore any stares, catcalls and comments. Avoid plunging necklines, short skirts and bare shoulders to spare yourself unwanted attention. Remember the word for help (*socorro*) in case you need to use it. You do still need to exercise common sense about where you go solo. Think twice about going alone to isolated stretches of beach or country, or down empty city streets at night. A lone woman, for example, would be better to forget wandering around the uninhabited parts of Granada's Sacromonte area. It's highly inadvisable for a woman to hitchhike alone – and not a great idea even for two women together.

Skimpy clothes are the norm in many coastal resorts, but people tend to dress more modestly elsewhere. As in France and Italy, many Spanish women like to get really dressed up and made up. You can feel rather conspicuous on a Sunday when they take to the plazas and promenades for the afternoon *paseo* (walk) and you're in your casual gear.

Each province's national police headquarters has a special Servicio de Atención a la Mujer (SAM; literally Service of Attention to Women). The national **Comisión para la Investigación de Malos Tratos a Mujeres** (Commission for Investigation into Abuse of Women; emergency ☎ 900 10 00 09; www.malostratos.org in Spanish; ☎ 9am-9pm) maintains an emergency line for victims of physical abuse anywhere in Spain. In Andalucía the **Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer** (☎ 900 20 09 99; ☎ 24hr) also offers help.

Transport

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THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Most vacationers fly to Andalucía, which has five airports with direct flights from several European countries as well as Spanish domestic services. Gibraltar receives flights from the UK. Andalucía's busiest airport, Málaga, also has flights from Morocco. From other countries, you'll need to change planes en route, usually at Madrid or Barcelona or in another European country.

Andalucía is well connected by train and bus with the rest of Spain, and there are direct bus services from several European countries and Morocco (though flying is often no more expensive from Europe). Rail

routes to Andalucía from other European countries involve a change of train in Madrid or Barcelona.

Drivers can reach Andalucía from just about anywhere in Spain in a single day on the country's good-quality highways. The main routes run down the centre of the country from Madrid and along the Mediterranean coast from Barcelona. Popular vehicle ferries run from the UK to Bilbao and Santander in northern Spain, from which you can drive to Andalucía via Madrid. Ferry routes also connect Andalucía with Tangier and Nador in Morocco and with Ceuta and Melilla, the Spanish enclaves on the Moroccan coast.

ENTERING THE COUNTRY

Citizens of many countries need no visa to enter Spain but must carry a passport (or, for many European nationalities, a national identity document) – see p439 for further information. Immigration formalities for travellers entering Spain from other European Union countries are minimal – a quick glance at your identity document if you arrive by plane and often no checks at all if you arrive overland from France or Portugal. If you're flying into Spain from outside the EU, officials might take a little more interest in your passport and luggage.

Travellers coming by ferry from Morocco should be prepared to receive more attention: vehicles in particular may be subject to rigorous searches when reaching Spanish territory.

AIR Airports & Airlines

Málaga airport (code AGP; ☎ 952 04 88 38) is the main international airport in Andalucía. **Almería** (code LEI; ☎ 950 21 37 00), **Seville** (code SVQ; ☎ 954 44 90 00), **Granada** (code GRX; ☎ 958 24 52 07), **Jerez de la Frontera** (code XRY; ☎ 956 15 00 00) and **Gibraltar** (code GIB; ☎ 73026) also receive international flights. For useful information on all Spanish airports, visit www.aena.es.

Airlines flying into Andalucía, with local telephone numbers in Andalucía or Spain, include the following:

Aer Lingus (airline code EI; ☎ 902 50 27 37; www.aerlingus.com; hub Dublin)

Air Europa (airline code UX; ☎ 902 40 15 01; www.air-europa.com; hub Madrid)

Air Nostrum See Iberia.

Air-Berlin (airline code AB; ☎ 901 11 64 02; www.airberlin.com; hub Palma de Mallorca)

Alitalia (airline code AZ; ☎ 902 10 03 23; www.alitalia.it; hubs Milan, Rome)

Bmibaby (airline code WW; ☎ 902 10 07 37; www.bmibaby.com; hubs Birmingham, Cardiff, Durham Tees Valley, London Heathrow, Manchester, Nottingham East Midlands)

British Airways (airline code BA; ☎ 902 11 13 33, in Gibraltar 79300; www.ba.com; hub London Heathrow)

Condor (airline code DE; ☎ 902 51 73 00; www.condor.com; hub Frankfurt)

Finnair (airline code AY; ☎ 952 13 61 77; www.finnair.com; hub Helsinki)

Flybe (airline code BE; ☎ 952 10 54 88; www.flybe.com; hubs Birmingham, Exeter, Norwich, Southampton)

Flyglobespan (airline code GSM; ☎ 952 04 84 84; www.flyglobespan.com; hubs Glasgow, Edinburgh)

GB Airways (airline code BA; ☎ 902 11 13 33, in Gibraltar 79300; www.gbairways.com; hub London Gatwick)

Germanwings (airline code 4U; ☎ 91 625 97 04; www.germanwings.com; hub Cologne)

Hapagfly (airline code HF; ☎ 902 39 04 00; www.hapagfly.com; hubs Frankfurt, Mallorca, Munich)

Iberia (airline code IB; ☎ 902 40 05 00; www.iberia.com; hub Madrid)

Jet2 (airline code LS; ☎ 902 02 02 64; www.jet2.com; hubs Leeds-Bradford, Manchester)

Lauda Air (airline code; ☎ 902 25 70 00; www.aaa.com; hub Vienna)

LTU (airline code LT; ☎ 901 33 03 20; www.ltu.de; hubs Düsseldorf, Munich)

Lufthansa (airline code LH; ☎ 902 22 01 01; www.lufthansa.com; hub Frankfurt)

Monarch Airlines (airline code ZB; ☎ 800 09 92 60, in Gibraltar 47477; www.flymonarch.com; hubs London Gatwick, London Luton, Manchester)

Portugália Airlines (airline code NI; ☎ 952 04 83 50; www.flyppga.com; hub Lisbon)

Regional Air Lines (airline code RGL; ☎ 902 18 01 51; www.royalairmaroc.com; hub Casablanca)

Royal Air Maroc (airline code AT; ☎ 91 548 78 00; www.royalairmaroc.com; hub Casablanca)

Ryanair (airline code FR; ☎ 807 22 00 32; www.ryanair.com; hubs Dublin, Liverpool, London Stansted)

Scandinavian Airlines (airline code SK; ☎ 902 11 71 92; www.scandinavian.net; hubs Copenhagen, Stockholm)

SN Brussels Airlines (airline code SN; ☎ 902 90 14 92; www.flysn.com; hub Brussels)

Spanair (airline code JK; ☎ 902 13 14 15; www.spanair.com; hubs Barcelona, Madrid)

Sterling (airline code NB; ☎ 91 749 66 43; www.sterlingticket.com; hubs Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm)

Swiss (airline code LX; ☎ 901 11 67 12; www.swiss.com; hub Zürich)

Thomas Cook Airlines (airline code TCX; ☎ 952 04 82 14; www.flythomascok.com; hubs Birmingham, Glasgow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Newcastle)

Thomsonfly (airline code TOM; ☎ 91 414 14 81; www.thomsonfly.com; hubs Bournemouth, Bristol, Doncaster, Manchester, London Gatwick, London Luton, Newcastle)

Transavia (airline code HV; ☎ 902 11 44 78; www.transavia.com; hub Amsterdam)

Virgin Express (airline code TV; ☎ 902 88 84 59; www.virginexpress.com; hub Brussels)

Vueling (airline code VY; ☎ 902 33 39 33; www.vueling.com; hub Barcelona)

Tickets

The best-value tickets to Andalucía are usually found on the internet (direct from budget airlines, or through agencies). International online booking agencies worth a look include **CheapTickets** (www.cheaptickets.com) and, for students and travellers under the age of 26, **STA Travel** (www.statravel.com).

Tickets on budget airlines of course get more expensive nearer departure date: low-season flights (especially mid-September to mid-December and mid-January to just before Easter) and weekday flights (Monday to Friday) generally fill up slower, so bargains are more readily available at these times.

For flights heading out of Andalucía, including last-minute and standby seats, it's worth checking the ads in local foreign-language papers such as *Sur in English*, or trying the following local travel agencies with offices at Málaga airport:

Flightline (☎ 902 20 22 40; www.flightline.es)

Servitour (☎ 902 40 00 69; www.servitour.es)

Travelshop (☎ 952 46 42 27; www.thetravelshop.com)

Viajes Mundial Schemann (☎ 902 10 06 05) For flights to Germany.

Several Spanish online booking agencies, including **Rumbo** (☎ 902 12 39 99; www.rumbo.es) and **eDreams** (☎ 902 88 71 07; www.edreams.es) offer good fares too.

Australia & New Zealand

There are no direct flights from Australia or New Zealand to Spain. You fly to Europe via Asia, the Middle East or (less often) America, changing flights at a major Euro-

pean airport to reach Spain. Return fares from Sydney or Auckland to Málaga normally start at somewhere around A\$2000 or NZ\$2500, plus a few hundred dollars if you're travelling in the high seasons, especially European summer. Round-the-world tickets can sometimes be cheaper.

The following are well-known agents for cheap fares, with branches throughout both countries:

Flight Centre Australia (☎ 133 133; www.flightcentre.com.au); New Zealand (☎ 0800 243 544; www.flightcentre.co.nz)

STA Travel Australia (☎ 1300 733 035; www.statravel.com.au); New Zealand (☎ 0508 782 872; www.statravel.co.nz)

For online fares try www.travel.com.au or www.zuji.com from Australia, and www.travel.com.nz or www.zuji.com from New Zealand.

Continental Europe

Except for very short hops, air fares usually beat overland alternatives on cost. For online bookings throughout Europe, try **Opodo** (www.opodo.com) or **Ebookers** (www.ebookers.com).

FRANCE

Air Europa has daily flights from Paris (Charles de Gaulle) direct to Málaga and to Seville via Barcelona, both for as little as €110 if booked in good time. Iberia flies Paris-Seville direct, and can take you from a range of French cities to any Andalusian airport with a connection in Barcelona or Madrid. Return fares start just under €100 but you'll often have to pay more than that.

Recommended ticket agencies:

OTU Voyages (www.otu.fr) Student and youth travel specialist.

Voyageurs du Monde (☎ 01 40 15 11 15; www.vdm.com)

GERMANY

Several budget airlines typically provide flights for €100 to €200 each way when booked one to two months in advance. Partners Air-Berlin and Hapagfly fly from around 15 German airports to Almería, Jerez de la Frontera, Málaga and Seville, usually with a stop at Palma de Mallorca. Condor flies to Málaga and Jerez from many German airports; LTU heads to Almería

and Málaga from Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Stuttgart; Spanair connects many German cities with Jerez, Málaga and Seville via Frankfurt and Madrid; EasyJet flies to Málaga from Berlin and Dortmund; and Germanwings runs an inexpensive Cologne-Jerez service.

With a connection at Barcelona or Madrid Iberia will take you to any Andalusian airport from seven German cities, and Lufthansa flies to Jerez, Málaga and Seville from most German airports. Return fares booked in good time can be as low as €200.

Recommended ticket agencies:

Expedia (www.expedia.de)

Just Travel (☎ 089 747 3330; www.justtravel.de)

STA Travel (☎ 01805 456 422; www.statravel.de) For travellers aged under 26.

NETHERLANDS & BELGIUM

Transavia (Amsterdam to Almería, Málaga and Seville; Rotterdam-Málaga) and Virgin Express and Ryanair (both Brussels-Málaga) have some of the best fares, typically €200 to €250 return if booked a month or two ahead. SN Brussels Airlines (Brussels-Seville) typically charges a little more. Iberia often has competitive fares from Amsterdam or Brussels to any Andalusian airport. A recommended ticket agency is **Airfair** (☎ 070-3076110; www.airfair.nl).

PORTUGAL

Portugália Airlines flies daily nonstop between Lisbon and Málaga. Return fares, typically in the region of €200, are worth considering.

SCANDINAVIA

Sterling, flying from all four Scandinavian capitals to Málaga, consistently has some of the best fares, often in the €200 to €300 region for return flights a month or two ahead. Some fares on Iberia and Spanair are pretty competitive, too. Other airlines linking Scandinavia with Andalucía include Finnair, Scandinavian Airlines and Virgin Express.

Morocco

Royal Air Maroc, with some flights operated by Regional Air Lines, flies direct between Málaga and Tangier (daily), and Málaga and Casablanca (several days weekly), with

typical return fares in the region of €350 for Tangier and €500 for Casablanca. Iberia and Air Europa often offer better fares via Madrid. Iberia also flies daily nonstop from Málaga, Almería and Granada to Melilla, the Spanish enclave on the Moroccan coast, with return fares under €100 if booked far enough ahead. These flights are operated by Air Nostrum.

Spain

Flying within Spain is most worth considering if you're in a hurry and you're making a longish one-way trip or a return trip.

Spain's biggest airline, Iberia, flies daily (in some cases several times a day) nonstop from Madrid and Barcelona to all five Andalusian airports. One-way/return fares from Madrid or Barcelona to Málaga or Seville are often below €50/100 if booked sufficiently in advance. Other direct routes include Asturias, Bilbao, Santander, Santiago de Compostela, Valencia and Vigo to Seville and Málaga, and Alicante and San Sebastián to Seville. With a connection in Madrid or Barcelona, Iberia will fly you to any Andalusian airport from any airport in Spain.

Air Europa flies nonstop on the following routes: Madrid–Málaga, Barcelona–Seville, Palma de Mallorca–Granada, Palma de Mallorca–Seville, Bilbao–Málaga and Palma de Mallorca–Málaga. Spanair's nonstop routes include Barcelona to Málaga and Seville, and Madrid to Málaga, Seville and Jerez de la Frontera. Both these airlines offer connections at Madrid to and from many other Spanish cities. Their fares are similar to Iberia's.

Vueling flies from Barcelona to Málaga and Seville, and from Valencia to Seville. Fares can be under €50 each way.

UK & Ireland

An ever-growing array of budget or semi-budget airlines flies to Andalucía, especially Málaga. Return fares range between about UK£80 and UK£300 on most routes year-round and depend on how far ahead you book. (Advertised fares of two quid and the like don't include taxes or booking charges.) Budget airlines flying to Málaga from the following airports include:

Aberdeen Monarch
Belfast EasyJet, Thomsonfly

Birmingham Bmibaby, Flybe, Monarch, Thomas Cook Airlines

Blackpool Monarch

Bournemouth Thomsonfly

Bristol EasyJet, Thomsonfly

Cardiff Bmibaby

Cork Aer Lingus

Doncaster Sheffield Thomsonfly

Dublin Aer Lingus, Ryanair, Spanair

Durham Tees Valley Bmibaby

Edinburgh Flyglobespan, Thomsonfly

Exeter Flybe

Glasgow EasyJet, Flyglobespan, Thomas Cook Airlines, Thomsonfly

Humberside Thomsonfly

Leeds-Bradford Jet 2, Thomsonfly

Liverpool EasyJet, Thomsonfly

London (Gatwick/Heathrow/Luton/Stansted)

EasyJet, GB Airways, Monarch, Thomas Cook Airlines, Thomsonfly

Manchester Bmibaby, GB Airways, Jet 2, Monarch, Thomas Cook Airlines, Thomsonfly

Newcastle EasyJet, Thomas Cook Airlines, Thomsonfly

Norwich Flybe, Thomsonfly

Nottingham East Midlands Bmibaby, EasyJet

Shannon Ryanair

Southampton Flybe

Services to Seville go from Dublin (Aer Lingus), Liverpool (Ryanair), London Gatwick (GB Airways) and London Stansted (Ryanair); to Granada from Liverpool (Ryanair), London Gatwick (Monarch) and London Stansted (Ryanair). To Jerez de la Frontera you can fly from London Stansted (Ryanair) or Manchester (Thomas Cook Airlines). Flights to Almería go from Birmingham (Monarch), Dublin (Aer Lingus), London Gatwick (EasyJet, Thomas Cook Airlines), London Stansted (EasyJet, Ryanair) and Manchester (Monarch, Thomas Cook Airlines). And you can fly to Gibraltar from London Gatwick (GB Airways), London Luton (Monarch) and Manchester (Monarch).

British Airways and Iberia fly to all Andalusian airports (usually with connections at London, Madrid, or Barcelona) from London, Aberdeen, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester and Newcastle, plus Belfast (British Airways) and Dublin (Iberia), often with competitive fares.

Recommended travel agencies include the following:

Airline Network (☎ 0870-700-0543; www.airline-network.co.uk)

Avro (☎ 0870-458-2841; www.avro.com) Charter and scheduled flights.

Dial A Flight (☎ 0870-333-4488; www.dialaflight.com)

Expedia.co.uk (☎ 0870-050-0808; www.expedia.co.uk)

First Choice (☎ 0870-850-3999; www.firstchoice.co.uk) Mainly charter flights.

Flight Centre (☎ 0870-890-8099; http://flightcentre.co.uk)

Lastminute.com (www.lastminute.com)

Quest Travel (☎ 0870-442-3542; www.questtravel.com)

Sky Deals (☎ 0800-975-5477; www.skydeals.co.uk)

STA Travel (☎ 08701-630-026; www.statravel.co.uk)

For travellers under the age of 26.

USA & Canada

There are no direct flights between North America and Andalucía at the time of writing, but plenty of flights with transfers in Madrid or another European city are available. Fares via Barcelona, London, Paris or Frankfurt are not necessarily more expensive than via Madrid. Booking ahead, you should be able to get a New York–Málaga round-trip ticket for about US\$500 to US\$700 in low season or US\$1000 to US\$1200 in high season. Round trips from Montreal or Toronto to Málaga range from about C\$1000 to C\$1700.

The following agencies are recommended for online bookings from the USA:

www.cheaptickets.com

www.expedia.com

www.lowestfare.com

www.orbitz.com

www.sta.com (for travellers under 26)

www.travelocity.com

Travel Cuts (☎ 800 667 2887; www.travelcuts.com) is Canada's national student travel agency. For online bookings from Canada try www.expedia.ca and www.travelocity.ca.

LAND

For information on the paperwork needed for taking a vehicle to Spain and general information on driving in Spain, see p450. For a summary of routes through Spain to Andalucía, see p446.

Continental Europe

BUS

Bus travel to Andalucía from other countries except Portugal often works out no cheaper than flying. **Eurolines** (www.eurolines

.com), a grouping of 32 bus companies from different countries, runs to several Andalusian cities from France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, the Czech Republic and Portugal. The Spanish company **Alsa** (www.alsa.es) is the Eurolines operator on many of these routes. A Paris–Granada trip, for example, costs €118/213 one-way/return (24 hours each way).

From Portugal, Eurolines/Alsa has daily services from Lisbon's Terminal Oriente to Seville (€36, seven hours) via Évora and Badajoz, and to Málaga (€53, 12 hours) via Faro, Huelva and Seville. **Anibal** (www.anibal.net) runs six times weekly from Lisbon to Seville (€30, seven hours) via Faro and Huelva, and Spain's **Casal** (www.autocarescasal.com) has a daily service between Seville and the border at Rosal de la Frontera (west of Arcena), where you can connect with Portuguese buses to/from Lisbon for a total Seville–Lisbon journey time of 10 hours, costing €22. There's also a twice-daily service (except Saturday, Sunday and holidays from October to May) from Lagos to Seville (€18, 5½ hours) via Albufeira, Faro and Huelva, run jointly by Portugal's **Eva Transportes** (☎ 289-899 700 in Portugal; www.eva-bus.net) and Spain's **Damas** (www.damas-sa.es).

TRAIN

All routes from France to Andalucía involve at least one change of train (usually in Madrid). The only direct train between France and Madrid is the overnight 'Francisco de Goya' sleeper train, No 409, from Paris Austerlitz to Madrid Chamartín, taking 13½ hours. Standard one-way/return tourist-class fares are €137/220, though special offers can cut those by half. Trains from Madrid (usually Atocha station) get you to the main Andalusian cities in a few hours for between €28 and €70.

No railway crosses from Portugal into Andalucía, but trains run along the Algarve to Vila Real de Santo António, where there's a ferry across the Río Guadiana to Ayamonte in Andalucía. To travel all the way by train from Lisbon to any Andalusian city you need to transfer in Madrid (and change from Chamartín to Atocha station there): tourist-class seats on the overnight Lisbon–Madrid 'Lusitania' train (11 hours) are €55.

Direct trains run at least three times a week to Barcelona from cities in Switzerland and northern Italy, and daily from Montpellier in southern France. You can transfer to an Andalucía-bound train at Barcelona.

Rail companies serving international routes to Andalucía include the following:

Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses (Portuguese Railways; ☎ 808 208 208 in Portugal; www.cp.pt)

Renfe (Red Nacional de los Ferrocarriles Españoles; Spanish National Railways; ☎ 902 24 02 02 in Spain; www.renfe.es)

SNCF (French National Railways; ☎ 36 35 in France; www.sncf.com)

Morocco BUS

Eurolines and Alsa run several weekly buses between Moroccan cities such as Casablanca, Marrakesh and Fès, and Andalusian destinations such as Seville, Marbella, Málaga, Granada, Jerez de la Frontera and Almería, via Algeciras–Tangier ferries. The Málaga–Marrakesh trip, for example, takes 19 to 20 hours for around €95/165 one-way/return.

Spain BUS

Bus is sometimes quicker or cheaper than the train, sometimes slower or more expensive – it depends on the route.

From Madrid, buses running to Cádiz, Córdoba, Huelva, Jerez and Seville are operated by Socibus/Secorbus; to Málaga, the Costa del Sol and Algeciras by Daibus; to Granada by Continental Auto; and to Jaén by La Sepulvedana. Most leave from Madrid's **Estación Sur de Autobuses** (☎ 91 468 42 00; Calle Méndez Álvaro; metro Méndez Álvaro). The trip from Madrid to Seville, Granada or Málaga, for example, takes around six hours for between €15 and €20. The Barcelona–Granada trip takes 12 to 15 hours for between €62 and €73.

Services down the Mediterranean coast from Barcelona, Valencia and Alicante to Almería, Granada, Jaén, Córdoba, Seville, Málaga and the Costa del Sol are mainly provided by Alsa. The other main route into Andalucía, covered by Alsa and Dainco, is from northwestern Spain (Galicia, Asturias and Cantabria) via Castilla y León and

Extremadura to Seville and Cádiz. Damas runs from Badajoz (Extremadura) to Seville and Huelva.

All these services go at least daily, often several times daily.

The following are the main bus companies serving Andalucía from other parts of Spain:

Alsa (☎ 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es)

Continental Auto (☎ 902 33 04 00; www.continental-auto.es)

Daibus (☎ 902 27 79 99 in Madrid, 95 231 52 47 in Málaga; www.daibus.es in Spanish)

Dainco (☎ 902 42 22 42; www.dainco.es)

Damas (☎ 959 25 69 00; www.damas-sa.es in Spanish)

La Sepulvedana (☎ 902 22 22 82; www.lasepulvedana.es in Spanish)

Secorbus/Socibus (☎ 902 22 92 92; www.socibus.es in Spanish)

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Spain's main roads are good and you could drive to Andalucía in a day, if you wish, from any corner of the country.

The main highway from Madrid to Andalucía is the A4/AP4 to Córdoba, Seville and Cádiz. For Jaén, Granada, Almería or Málaga, turn off at Bailén.

From the ferry ports at Santander or Bilbao or the French border at Irún, the most direct route is to head for Burgos, from which it's a pretty straight 240km to Madrid.

The AP7/A7 leads all the way down the Mediterranean side of Spain from La Jonquera on the French border as far as Algeciras, except for a couple of stretches in Andalucía where the old, unmodernised N340 remains. There are tolls totalling around €50 between La Jonquera and Algeciras, and €12 between Málaga and Algeciras, and toll-free alternative roads on these stretches tend to be quite busy and slow. Branch off the A7 along the A92N for Granada; this is also the quickest approach to Málaga and beyond, until further stretches of the N340 are replaced between Almería and Málaga. It is possible to drive from Barcelona to Málaga in eight hours (though at a sane pace it's closer to 11 hours).

The A66/AP66/N630 heads all the way down to Seville from Gijón on Spain's north coast, through Castilla y León and Extremadura.



TRAIN

Spain's national railway company **Renfe** (Red Nacional de los Ferrocarriles Españoles; Spanish National Railways; ☎ 902 24 02 02; www.renfe.es) provides quick, comfortable, reliable direct trains to Andalucía from Madrid and points along the Mediterranean coast, plus more basic regional train services linking western Andalucía with neighbouring Extremadura. From most other parts of Spain you can reach Andalucía by train in one day, usually with a connection in Madrid. The fastest services are the AVE (Alta Velocidad Española) trains covering the 471km from Madrid to Seville, via Córdoba, in around 2½ hours, reaching speeds of 280km/h.

Most long-distance trains have *preferente* (1st-class) and *turista* (2nd-class) carriages. They go under various names indicating standards of comfort and time of travel. An InterCity is a straightforward, limited-stop, daytime train on the Madrid–Córdoba–Málaga route. More comfortable and more expensive daytime trains may be called *Altaria*, *Arco*, *Talgo*, *Talgo 200*, or *AVE*. The fastest and most expensive

way to go is to take the AVE itself on the Madrid–Córdoba–Seville line. An AVE branch to Málaga is under construction: in the meantime, most Madrid–Málaga trains are Talgo 200s, which use the existing AVE line for part of their journey. Overnight trains are classed as *Estrella* (with seats, couchettes and sleeping compartments) or the more comfortable *Trenhotel*. Both types offer seats, couchettes, and single or double compartments with and without shower.

It's best to buy your ticket in advance as trains can get fully booked. You can do so in English by both telephone and internet, though there are a couple of complications. Phone-booked tickets must be collected and paid for at a Renfe ticket office within 72 hours of booking and more than 24 hours before the train's departure from its starting point. Internet tickets can be paid for online. For the first online purchase with any individual credit card, tickets must be picked up at a Renfe ticket office at least one hour before the train's departure from its starting point; for further purchases,

tickets can also be printed online or, for many trains, collected on board.

The fare you pay between two places depends on the type of train, the class you travel in, and sometimes the time of day. Examples of one-way *turista*-class seat fares include the following:

| Route | Fare (€) | Duration (hr) |
|-------------------|----------|---------------|
| Barcelona-Granada | 53 | 11½ |
| Mérida-Seville | 12 | 5 |
| Madrid-Córdoba | 28-52 | 1¾-5½ |
| Madrid-Málaga | 35-58 | 4¼-7¼ |
| Madrid-Seville | 55-70 | 2½-3¼ |

Return fares on long-distance trains are 20% less than two one-way fares. Children aged under four years travel free; those from four to 11 (to 12 on some trains) get 40% off the cost of seats and couchettes. The Euro<26 card (see p431) gives 20% or 25% off long-distance and regional train fares.

UK BUS

Bus travel to Andalucía often works out no cheaper than flying. Eurolines runs two or three times weekly from London's Victoria coach station to all the main Andalusian cities. The trip takes 31½ hours to Granada and 32½ hours to Seville or Málaga, for around UK£120/170 one-way/return in each case.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

If you just want to drive *in* Andalucía, it's normally easier and cheaper to fly and rent a car there. But if you plan to stay for several weeks and want a car most of the time, driving from home might work out cheaper. The options for getting your vehicle from Britain to continental Europe are threefold: you can use **Eurotunnel** (www.eurotunnel.com; France ☎ 08 10 63 03 04, Spain 902 30 73 15, UK 0870 535 3535), the Channel Tunnel car train from Folkestone to Calais; or put your vehicle on a cross-channel ferry to France; or use the direct vehicle ferries from England to Bilbao or Santander in northern Spain (from which it's possible to reach Andalucía in one long day).

Using Eurotunnel or a ferry to France, then driving pretty hard to Andalucía, should cost between UK£600 and UK£800

there and back for two people, including petrol, food and one night's accommodation each way en route. To this, add about UK£80 each way for road tolls if you use the quickest routes. Eurotunnel runs around the clock, with up to four crossings (35 minutes) an hour. You pay for the vehicle only. Standard one-way fares range from about UK£50 and UK£130 for a car and UK£25 to UK£65 for a motorcycle, depending when you travel and how far ahead you book. See opposite for details of the ferry options.

In the UK, further information on driving in Europe is available from the **RAC** (☎ 0870 572 2722; www.rac.co.uk) or the **AA** (European breakdown cover inquiries ☎ 0800 085 2840; www.theaa.com).

TRAIN

The simplest and quickest route from London to Andalucía (about 24 hours) involves **Eurostar** (☎ 0870 518 6186; www.eurostar.com), the Channel Tunnel service from Waterloo to Paris, a change in Paris from the Gare du Nord to the Gare d'Austerlitz, an overnight sleeper-only train to Madrid's Chamartín station, and a change there to Atocha station for a fast train to Andalucía. This costs around UK£300 return to Seville, Málaga or Granada with a reclining seat (the cheapest option) on the Paris-Madrid leg.

For information and bookings on rail travel from Britain, contact **Rail Europe** (☎ 0870 837 1371; www.railurope.co.uk) or Eurostar.

SEA

Morocco & Algeria

You can sail to Andalucía from the Moroccan ports of Tangier and Nador, as well as Ceuta or Melilla (Spanish enclaves on the Moroccan coast) and Ghazaouet (Algeria). The routes are: Melilla-Almería, Nador-Almería, Ghazaouet-Almería, Melilla-Málaga, Tangier-Gibraltar, Tangier-Algeciras, Ceuta-Algeciras and Tangier-Tarifa. All routes usually take vehicles as well as passengers. The most frequent sailings are to/from Algeciras. Usually, at least 10 sailings a day ply the routes between Algeciras and Tangier (1¼ to 2½ hours) and 16 between Algeciras and Ceuta (45 minutes). Extra services are added at busy times, especially during the peak summer period (mid-June to mid-September) when hundreds of thou-

sands of Moroccan workers return home from Europe for holidays.

Anyone travelling to Morocco for the first time should consider sailing to Ceuta or Melilla rather than Tangier. The hustlers around the port at Tangier can be hard to handle and it's more painless to sail to Ceuta or Melilla. The border crossing into Morocco itself is more straightforward from Melilla than from Ceuta, but sailings to Melilla can take eight hours and are much less frequent (just one a day from Almería and one a day from Málaga for most of the year). Passenger seat fares to Melilla are little more than to Algeciras or Ceuta, but if you want a cabin or are taking a car, it gets more costly.

The most prominent ferry company, with sailings from Tangier and Ceuta to Algeciras, Melilla to Málaga and Melilla to Almería, is the Spanish-owned **Trasmediterránea** (www.trasmediterranea.es; Spain ☎ 902 45 46 45, Tangier 039-931133, UK 0870 499 1305). The other main operators to Algeciras are **EuroFerry**s (☎ 902 19 50 14; www.euroferries.com) and, from Ceuta only, **Buquebus** (☎ 902414242; www.buquebus.es). There's little price difference between the rival lines. One-way passenger fares from Algeciras are around €32 to Tangier and €25 to Ceuta. Two people with a small car pay around €160 to Tangier and €130 to Ceuta.

If you're taking a car, book well ahead for July, August or Easter travel. Anyone crossing from Morocco to Spain with a vehicle should be prepared for rigorous searches on arrival at Ceuta and Melilla and on the mainland.

For further details see the Getting There & Away sections for Algeciras (p226), Almería (p406), Gibraltar (p238), Málaga (p263) and Tarifa (p223).

UK

PORTSMOUTH-BILBAO

P&O Ferries (www.poferries.com; Spain ☎ 902 02 04 61, UK 0870 598 0333) operates a ferry from Portsmouth to Bilbao. As a rule, there are two sailings a week except for a few weeks in January (when there's no service) and the month of February (when it's once weekly). Voyage time varies between 29 and 34 hours.

Standard return fares for two people with a car range from around UK£430 to UK£750 depending on the season, includ-

ing the cheapest cabin accommodation. The ferries dock at Santurtzi, about 14km northwest of central Bilbao.

PLYMOUTH-SANTANDER

Brittany Ferries (www.brittanyferries.com; Spain ☎ 942 36 06 11, UK 0870 366 5333) operates a twice-weekly car ferry from Plymouth to Santander (19 to 23 hours sailing time), between March and November. For two people with a car, return fares range from about UK£350 to UK£800 with reclining seats, or around UK£520 to UK£970 with the cheapest type of cabin.

VIA FRANCE

The busiest and quickest (1¼ to 1½ hours) ferry route, with around 60 crossings daily at peak times, is Dover-Calais, operated by **P&O Ferries** (www.poferries.com; France ☎ 0825 120 156, UK 0870 598 0333) and **SeaFrance** (www.seafrance.com; France ☎ 0825 082 505, UK 0870 571 1711). Fares are volatile and you should re-search the latest offers. In August a Dover-Calais return ferry ticket for a car and two people can cost UK£150 to UK£250. Winter fares are lower.

Other routes include Newhaven-Dieppe, operated by **Transmanche Ferries** (www.transmancheferries.com; France ☎ 0800 650 100, UK 0800 917 1201), and Portsmouth-Caen and Portsmouth-Cherbourg, which are both operated by **Brittany Ferries** (www.brittanyferries.com; France ☎ 0825 828 828, UK 0870 366 5333).

Ferriesavers (☎ 0870 990 8492; www.ferriesavers.com) offers an online booking service and comparisons of cross-Channel sailing options.

GETTING AROUND

AIR

There are no internal flights operating between Andalusian cities.

BICYCLE

Andalucía is good biking territory, with wonderful scenery and varied terrain. Plenty of lightly trafficked country roads, mostly in decent condition, enable riders to avoid the busy main highways. Road biking here is as safe as anywhere in Europe provided you make allowances for some drivers' love of speed. Off-road, thousands of kilometres of tracks, including old railway lines adapted

.co.uk), **Transhire** (www.transhire.com), **Carjet** (www.carjet.com), **TravelAutos** (www.travelautos.com) and **Sunny Cars** (www.sunnycars.de, www.sunnycars.nl). These firms act as intermediaries between you and the agencies, offering a wide variety of vehicle options and pick-up locations. You'll usually wind up paying a bit more than if you rent direct.

Spain's national tourism authority, **Turismo de España** (www.spain.info), has useful town-by-town listings of car-rental companies on its website.

To rent a car you need to be aged at least 21 (23 with some companies) and to have held a driving licence for a minimum of one year (sometimes two years). Under-25s have to pay extra charges with many firms.

It's much easier, and often obligatory, to pay for your rental with a credit card.

As always, check the detail of exactly what you are paying for. Some companies will throw in extras such as child seats and the listing of additional drivers for free; others will charge for them. See the following section for some tips on rental-car insurance.

Insurance

Third-party motor insurance is a minimum requirement throughout Europe. If you live in the EU, your existing motor insurance will probably provide automatic third-party cover throughout the EU. But check with your insurer about whether you will also be covered for medical or hospital expenses or accidental damage to your vehicle. You might have to pay an extra premium if you want the same protection abroad as you have at home. A European breakdown assistance policy such as the AA's or RAC's European Breakdown Cover, or the policies offered by Eurotunnel and many cross-Channel ferry companies, is also a good investment, providing services such as roadside assistance, towing, emergency repairs and 24-hour telephone assistance in English.

The Green Card is an internationally recognised document showing that you have the minimum insurance cover required by law in the country visited. It is provided free by insurers. If you're carrying an insurance certificate that gives the minimum legal cover, a Green Card is not essential, but it

has the advantage of being easily recognised by foreign police and authorities.

If you are renting a vehicle in Andalucía, the routine insurance provided may not go beyond basic third-party requirements. For cover against theft or damage to the vehicle, or injury or death to driver or passengers, you may need to request extra coverage.

Road Conditions

Spanish roads have one of the highest death rates in Europe, and some drivers' love of high speed has to be a factor in the casualty rate. Be prepared for other road users to be travelling faster than you might be accustomed to, especially on *autovías* (toll-free dual carriageways) and even in heavy traffic.

One-way systems, heavy traffic and poor signposting can make urban driving a frustrating headache, especially on arrival in a new city. Keep your patience, use maps to get close to your destination, and park. You can always move the car later if a better spot comes up.

PARKING

Street parking space can be hard to find during working hours (about 9am to 2pm Monday to Saturday and 5pm to 8pm Monday to Friday). You'll often have to use underground or multistorey car parks, which are common enough in cities, and well enough signposted, but not cheap (typically around €1 per hour or €10 to €15 for 24 hours) – though generally more secure than the street. City hotels with their own parking usually charge for the right to use it, at similar rates to underground car parks.

Blue lines along the side of the street usually mean you must pay at a nearby meter to park during working hours (typically around €0.50 an hour). Yellow lines mean no parking. It's not sensible to park in prohibited zones, even if other drivers have (you risk your car being towed and paying around €60 to have it released).

Road Rules

As elsewhere in continental Europe, drive on the right and overtake on the left. The minimum driving age is 18 years. Rear seat belts, if fitted, must be worn. Children under three must sit in child safety seats. The blood-alcohol limit is 0.05% (0.03% for

drivers with a licence less than two years old) and breath-testing is carried out on occasion. The police can, and do, carry out spot checks on drivers so it pays to have all your papers in order. Nonresident foreigners may be fined on the spot for traffic offences. You can appeal in writing (in any language) to the Jefatura Provincial de Tráfico (Provincial Traffic Headquarters) and if your appeal is upheld, you'll get your money back – but don't hold your breath for a favourable result. Contact details for each province's traffic headquarters are given on the website of the **Dirección General de Tráfico** (www.dgtes). Click on 'Direcciones y Teléfonos,' then select the province you are in.

The speed limit is 50km/h in built-up areas, 90km/h or 100km/h outside built-up areas, and 120km/h on *autopistas* (toll highways) and *autovías*.

In Spain it's compulsory to carry two warning triangles (to be placed 100m in front of and 100m behind your vehicle if you have to stop on the carriageway), and a reflective jacket, which must be donned if you get out of your vehicle on the carriageway or hard shoulder outside built-up areas.

It's illegal to use hand-held mobile phones while driving.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

Cities and larger towns have efficient bus systems, but you often won't need to use them because accommodation, attractions and main transport terminals are usually within fairly comfortable walking distance of each other. All Andalucía's airports are linked to city centres by bus – in Málaga's case also by train. Gibraltar airport is

within walking distance of downtown Gibraltar and of the bus station in La Línea de la Concepción, Spain.

Taxis are plentiful in larger places and even most villages have a taxi or two. Fares are reasonable – a typical 2km to 3km ride should cost about €3 to €4 (airport runs are a bit extra). Intercity runs are around €0.60 per kilometre. You don't have to tip taxi drivers.

TRAIN

Renfe (☎ 902 24 02 02; www.renfe.es), Spain's national railway company, has an extensive and efficient rail system in Andalucía linking all the main cities and many smaller places. Trains are at least as convenient, quick and inexpensive as buses on many routes.

See p447 for information on long-distance trains linking Andalucía with other parts of Spain. Some of these are good for journeys within Andalucía as well, on routes such as Córdoba–Málaga, Córdoba–Seville–Cádiz, and Córdoba–Ronda–Algeciras. Generally more frequent services between Andalusian destinations are provided by the cheaper, one-class *regional* and *cercañía* trains. *Regionales*, some of which are known as Andalucía Exprés, run between Andalusian cities, stopping at towns en route. *Cercañías* are commuter trains that link Seville, Málaga and Cádiz with their suburbs and nearby towns.

Good or reasonable train services, with at least three direct trains running each way daily (often more), run on the following routes: Algeciras–Ronda–Bobadilla–Antequera–Granada, Córdoba–Málaga, Málaga–Torremolinos–Fuengirola, Seville–Jerez de la Frontera–El Puerto de Santa María–Cádiz,

LUXURY AT AN OLD-FASHIONED PACE

If you like trains and believe journeys can be as much fun as arriving, and you find that today's superefficient trains often get there a little too soon – and you have a couple of thousand euros to spend – consider riding the **Alandalus Express** (www.alandalusexpreso.com). This luxurious private train is definitely not an express – it takes six days to toddle from Seville to Granada and back – but it provides its passengers with a supercomfortable holiday on rails, complete with luxurious sleeping compartments, restaurant cars serving quality food and wine, and a bar and lounge all in impeccable leather-upholstered, glass lamp-fitted, belle-époque style. The international, mainly retired clientele are treated to tours of selected stops along the way. At the time of writing the standard trip was a six-day venture from Seville to Córdoba, Granada, Jerez de la Frontera and back to Seville, for €2700 per person in a double cabin.

Seville–Córdoba, Seville–Huelva, Seville–Bobadilla–Málaga and Seville–Antequera–Granada–Guadix–Almería.

Services on other routes tend to be infrequent and they often involve changing trains at the small junction station of Bobadilla in central Andalucía, where lines from Seville, Córdoba, Granada, Málaga and Algeciras all

meet. But with a little perseverance you can reach a surprising number of places by train, including Jaén, the Sierra Norte of Sevilla province and the Sierra de Aracena.

Regional trains average around 75km/h, for a cost of around €1 per 15km. For more information see this book's city and town sections.

Health

Dr Caroline Evans

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BEFORE YOU GO

Prevention is the key to staying healthy while abroad. Some predeparture planning will save you trouble later on. See your dentist before a long trip, carry a spare pair of contact lenses and glasses, and take your optical prescription with you. Bring medications in their original, clearly labelled, containers. A signed and dated letter from your physician describing your medical conditions and medications, including generic names, is also a good idea. If carrying syringes or needles, be sure to have a physician's letter documenting their medical necessity.

INSURANCE

If you're an EU citizen, the free EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) covers you for most medical care in Spain, including maternity care and care for chronic illnesses such as diabetes (though not for emergency repatriation). You will, however, normally have to pay for medicine bought from pharmacies, even if prescribed, and perhaps for some tests and procedures. The EHIC does not cover private medical consultations and treatment in Spain; this includes nearly all dentists, and some of the better clinics and surgeries. In the UK, you can apply for an EHIC online at www.dh.gov.uk/travellers,

by telephone on ☎ 0845 606 2030, or on a form available at post offices. Non-EU citizens should find out if there is a reciprocal arrangement for free medical care between their country and Spain.

If you do need health insurance, strongly consider a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, such as an accident requiring an emergency flight home. Find out in advance if your insurance plan will make payments directly to providers or reimburse you later for overseas health expenditures. The former option is generally preferable, as it doesn't leave you out of pocket.

RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS

No vaccinations are necessary for Spain; however, the WHO recommends that all travellers should be covered for diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio, regardless of destination. Since most vaccines don't produce immunity until at least two weeks after they're given, visit a physician at least six weeks before departure to be safe.

INTERNET RESOURCES

The WHO's publication *International Travel and Health* is revised annually and is available online at www.who.int/ith. Other useful websites:

www.ageconcern.org.uk Advice on travel for the elderly.

www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk General travel advice for the layperson.

www.maristopes.org.uk Information on women's health and contraception.

www.mdtravelhealth.com Travel health recommendations for every country; updated daily.

IN TRANSIT

DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS (DVT)

Blood clots may form in the legs during plane flights, chiefly because of prolonged immobility. The chief symptom of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) is swelling or pain of the foot, ankle or calf, usually but not always on just one side. When a blood clot

travels to the lungs, it may cause chest pain and breathing difficulties. Travellers with any of these symptoms should seek medical attention immediately.

To prevent the development of DVT on long flights you should walk about the cabin, contract the leg muscles while sitting, drink plenty of fluids and avoid alcohol and tobacco.

IN ANDALUCÍA

AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE

If you need an ambulance call ☎061. For emergency treatment go straight to the *urgencias* (casualty) section of the nearest hospital.

Good health care is readily available and *farmacias* (pharmacies) offer valuable advice and sell over-the-counter medication. In Spain, a system of *farmacias de guardia* (duty pharmacies) operates so that each district has one open all the time. When a pharmacy is closed, it posts the name of the nearest open one on the door.

TRAVELLER'S DIARRHOEA

If you develop diarrhoea, be sure to drink plenty of fluids, preferably an oral rehydration solution such as Dioralyte. If diarrhoea is bloody, persists for more than 72 hours or is accompanied by a fever, shaking, chills or severe abdominal pain, you should seek medical attention.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Altitude Sickness

Lack of oxygen at high altitudes (over 2500m) affects most people to some extent. Symptoms of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) usually develop during the first 24 hours at altitude but may be delayed up to three weeks. Mild symptoms include headache, lethargy, dizziness, difficulty sleeping and loss of appetite. AMS may become more severe without warning and can be fatal. Severe symptoms include breathlessness, a dry, irritable cough (which may progress to the production of pink, frothy sputum), severe headache, lack of coordination and balance, confusion, irrational behaviour, vomiting, drowsiness and unconsciousness. There is no hard-and-fast rule as to what is too high: AMS has been

fatal at 3000m, although 3500m to 4500m is the usual range.

Treat mild symptoms by resting at the same altitude until recovery, usually a day or two. Paracetamol or aspirin can be taken for headaches. If symptoms persist or become worse, however, *immediate descent is necessary*; even 500m can help. Drug treatments should never be used to avoid descent or to enable further ascent.

Diamox (acetazolamide) reduces the headache caused by AMS and helps the body acclimatise to the lack of oxygen. It is only available on prescription and those who are allergic to sulfonamide antibiotics may also be allergic to Diamox.

In the UK, fact sheets are available from the **British Mountaineering Council** (www.thebmc.co.uk; 177-179 Burton Rd, Manchester, M20 2BB).

Bites & Stings

Bees and wasps only cause real problems to those with a severe allergy (anaphylaxis). If you have a severe allergy to bee or wasp stings carry an 'epipen' or similar adrenaline injection.

In forested areas you should watch out for the hairy reddish-brown caterpillars of the pine processionary moth. They live in silvery nests up in the pine trees and, come spring, leave the nest to march in long lines (hence the name). Touching the caterpillars' hairs sets off a severely irritating allergic skin reaction.

Some Andalusian centipedes have a very nasty, but nonfatal sting. The ones to watch out for are those composed of clearly defined segments, which may be patterned with, for instance, black-and-yellow stripes.

Jellyfish, with their stinging tentacles, generally either occur in large numbers or hardly at all, so it's fairly easy to know when not to go in the sea.

The only venomous snake that is even relatively common in Spain is Lataste's viper. It has a triangular-shaped head, is grey with a zigzag pattern and up to 75cm long. It is found in dry, rocky areas, usually away from humans. Its bite can be fatal and needs to be treated with a serum, which state clinics in major towns keep in stock.

Mosquitoes are found in most parts of Europe. They may not carry malaria but can cause irritation and infected bites.

Sandflies are found around the Mediterranean beaches. They usually cause only a nasty itchy bite, but can also carry a rare skin disorder called cutaneous leishmaniasis. Use a DEET-based insect repellent to prevent both mosquito and sandfly bites.

Scorpions are found in Spain and their sting can be distressingly painful but is not considered fatal.

Check for ticks if you have been walking where sheep and goats graze as these parasites can cause skin infections and other more serious diseases.

Heat Exhaustion & Heat Stroke

Heat exhaustion occurs following excessive fluid loss with inadequate replacement of fluids and salt. Symptoms include headache, dizziness and tiredness. Dehydration is already happening by the time you feel thirsty – aim to drink sufficient water to produce pale, diluted urine. Replace lost fluids by drinking water and/or fruit juice, and cool the body with cold water and fans. Treat salt loss with salty fluids such as soup or add a little more table salt to foods than usual.

Heat stroke is a much more serious condition, resulting in irrational and hyperactive behaviour and eventually loss of consciousness and death. Rapid cooling by spraying the body with water and fanning is ideal treatment, and emergency fluid and

electrolyte replacement by intravenous drip is recommended.

Water

Tap water is generally safe to drink in Spain, but the city of Málaga is one place where many people prefer to play it safe by drinking bottled water. Do not drink water from rivers or lakes as it may contain bacteria or viruses that can cause diarrhoea or vomiting.

TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

Make sure children are up to date with routine vaccinations, and discuss travel vaccines well before departure as some vaccines aren't suitable for children under one year old.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Travelling during pregnancy is usually possible but always seek a medical check-up before planning your trip. The most risky times for travel are during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and after 30 weeks.

SEXUAL HEALTH

Condoms are widely available but emergency contraception may not be, so take the necessary precautions. When buying condoms, look for a European CE mark, which means they have been rigorously tested. Remember also to keep them in a cool, dry place so that they don't crack and perish.

Language

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Spanish, or Castilian (*castellano*) as it's often and more precisely called, is spoken throughout Andalucía. English isn't as widely spoken as many travellers might expect, though you're more likely to find people who speak some English in the main cities and tourist areas. Generally, however, you'll be much better received if you make some attempt to communicate in Spanish.

For a more comprehensive guide to the Spanish language than we're able to offer in this book, pick up a copy of Lonely Planet's handy pocket-sized *Spanish Phrasebook*.

ANDALUCIAN PRONUNCIATION

Andalucians don't pronounce Spanish in quite the same way as do speakers from other parts of Spain, or as it is taught to foreigners. Local accents vary too, but whether you choose to use mainland pronunciation or learn the following rules, you're sure to get your message across. The pronunciation guides included with the words and phrases below reflect the local Andalucian pronunciation, which should make things even simpler still.

Vowels

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| a | as in 'father' |
| e | as in 'met' |
| i | as in 'marine' |
| o | as in 'or' (with no 'r' sound) |

u as in 'rule'; the 'u' is not pronounced after **q** and in the letter combinations **gue** and **gui**, unless it's marked with a diaeresis (eg *argüir*), in which case it's pronounced as English 'w'

Consonants

While the consonants **ch**, **ll** and **ñ** are generally considered distinct letters, **ch** and **ll** are now often listed alphabetically under **c** and **l** respectively. The letter **ñ** is still treated as a separate letter and comes after **n** in dictionaries.

c as 'k' before **a**, **o** and **u**; as 's' when followed by **e** or **i** (not the liped 'th' of standard Castilian)

ch as in 'choose'

d as in 'dog' when initial or preceded by **l** or **n**; elsewhere as the 'th' in 'then', and sometimes not pronounced at all – thus *partido* (divided) becomes 'partio'

g as in 'go' when initial or before **a**, **o** and **u**; elsewhere much softer. Before **e** or **i** it's a harsh, breathy sound, similar to the 'ch' in Scottish *loch* (**kh** in our guides to pronunciation).

h always silent

j as the 'ch' in the Scottish *loch* (**kh** in our guides to pronunciation)

ll similar to the 'y' in 'yellow' but often closer to a 'j' in Andalucía

ñ as the 'ni' in 'onion'

s often not pronounced at all, especially when it occurs within a word; thus *pecados* (fish) can be pronounced 'pecao' in Andalucía

x as the 'x' in 'taxi' when between two vowels; as the 's' in 'sound' before a consonant

z pronounced as 's' (not 'th' as in standard Castilian); **z** is often silent when at the end of a word

Word Stress

Stress is indicated by italics in the pronunciation guides included with all the words and phrases in this language guide. In general, words ending in vowels or the letters **n** or **s** have stress on the next-to-last syllable,

while those with other endings have stress on the last syllable. Thus *vaca* (cow) and *caballos* (horses) both carry stress on the next-to-last syllable, while *ciudad* (city) and *infeliz* (unhappy) are both stressed on the last syllable.

Written accents indicate a stressed syllable, and will almost always appear in words that don't follow the rules above, eg *sótano* (basement), *porción* (portion).

GENDER & PLURALS

In Spanish, nouns are either masculine or feminine, and there are rules to help determine gender (there are of course some exceptions). Feminine nouns generally end with **-a** or with the groups **-ción**, **-sión** or **-dad**. Other endings typically signify a masculine noun. Endings for adjectives also change to agree with the gender of the noun they modify (masculine/feminine **-o/-a**). Where both masculine and feminine forms are included in this language guide, they are separated by a slash, with the masculine form first, eg *perdido/a*.

If a noun or adjective ends in a vowel, the plural is formed by adding **s** to the end. If it ends in a consonant, the plural is formed by adding **es** to the end.

ACCOMMODATION

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| I'm looking for ... | <i>Estoy buscando ...</i> | <i>e-stoy boos-kan-do ...</i> |
| Where is ...? | <i>¿Dónde hay ...?</i> | <i>don-de ai ...</i> |
| a hotel | <i>un hotel</i> | <i>oon o-tel</i> |
| a boarding house | <i>una pensión/ residencial/ un hospedaje</i> | <i>oo-na pen-syon/ re-see-den-syal/ oon os-pe-da-khe</i> |
| a youth hostel | <i>un albergue juvenil</i> | <i>oon al-ber-ge khoo-ve-neel</i> |
| I'd like a ... room. | <i>Quisiera una habitación ...</i> | <i>kee-sye-ra oo-na a-bee-ta-syon ...</i> |
| double | <i>doble</i> | <i>do-ble</i> |
| single | <i>individual</i> | <i>een-dee-vee-dwal</i> |
| twin | <i>con dos camas</i> | <i>kon dos ka-mas</i> |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| How much is it per ...? | <i>¿Cuánto cuesta por ...?</i> | <i>kwan-to kwes-ta por ...</i> |
| night | <i>noche</i> | <i>no-che</i> |
| person | <i>persona</i> | <i>per-so-na</i> |
| week | <i>semana</i> | <i>se-ma-na</i> |

Does it include breakfast?

¿Incluye el desayuno? *een-kloo-ye el de-sa-yoo-no*

May I see the room?

¿Puedo ver la habitación? *pwe-do ver la a-bee-ta-syon*

I don't like it.

No me gusta. *no me goos-ta*

It's fine. I'll take it.

OK. La alquilo. *o-kay la al-kee-lo*

I'm leaving now.

Me voy ahora. *me voy a-o-ra*

MAKING A RESERVATION

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| To ... | <i>A ...</i> |
| From ... | <i>De ...</i> |
| Date | <i>Fecha</i> |
| I'd like to book ... | <i>Quisiera reservar ... (see 'Accommodation' for bed and room options)</i> |
| in the name of ... | <i>en nombre de ...</i> |
| for the nights of ... | <i>para las noches del ...</i> |
| credit card ... | <i>tarjeta de crédito ...</i> |
| number | <i>número</i> |
| expiry date | <i>fecha de vencimiento</i> |
| Please confirm ... | <i>Puede confirmar ...</i> |
| availability | <i>la disponibilidad</i> |
| price | <i>el precio</i> |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| full board | <i>pensión completa</i> | <i>pen-syon kom-ple-ta</i> |
| private/shared bathroom | <i>baño privado/ compartido</i> | <i>ba-nyo pree-va-do/ kom-par-tee-do</i> |
| too expensive | <i>demasiado caro</i> | <i>de-ma-sya-do ka-ro</i> |
| cheaper | <i>más económico</i> | <i>mas e-ko-no-mee-ko</i> |
| discount | <i>descuento</i> | <i>des-kwen-to</i> |

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

When talking to people familiar to you or younger than you, it's usual to use the informal form of 'you', *tú*, rather than the polite form *Usted*. The polite form is always given in this guide; where options are given, the form is indicated by the abbreviations 'pol' and 'inf'.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Hello. | <i>Hola.</i> | <i>o-la</i> |
| Good morning. | <i>Buenos días.</i> | <i>bwe-nos dee-as</i> |
| Good afternoon. | <i>Buenas tardes.</i> | <i>bwe-nas tar-des</i> |
| Good evening/ night. | <i>Buenas noches.</i> | <i>bwe-nas no-ches</i> |
| Goodbye. | <i>Adiós.</i> | <i>a-dyos</i> |
| Bye/See you soon. | <i>Hasta luego.</i> | <i>as-ta lwe-go</i> |
| Yes. | <i>Sí.</i> | <i>see</i> |
| No. | <i>No.</i> | <i>no</i> |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Please. | <i>Por favor.</i> | por fa- <i>vor</i> |
| Thank you. | <i>Gracias.</i> | gra-syas |
| Many thanks. | <i>Muchas gracias.</i> | moo-chas gra-syas |
| You're welcome. | <i>De nada.</i> | de na-da |
| Pardon me. | <i>Perdón/</i> <i>Discúlpeme.</i> | per-don dees-kool-pe-me |
| | (before requesting information, for example) | |
| Sorry. | <i>Lo siento.</i> | lo sen-en-to |
| | (when apologising) | |
| Excuse me. | <i>Permiso.</i> | per-mee-so |
| | (when asking permission to pass, for example) | |

How are things?

¿Qué tal? ke tal

What's your name?

¿Cómo se llama Usted? ko-mo se ya-ma oo-ste (pol)

¿Cómo te llamas? ko-mo te ya-mas (inf)

My name is ...

Me llamo ... me ya-mo ...

It's a pleasure to meet you.

Mucho gusto. moo-cho goos-to

Where are you from?

¿De dónde es/eres? de don-de es/e-res (pol/inf)

I'm from ...

Soy de ... soy de ...

Where are you staying?

¿Dónde está alojado? don-de es-ta a-lo-kha-do (pol)

¿Dónde estás alojado? don-de es-tas a-lo-kha-do (inf)

May I take a photo?

¿Puedo hacer una foto? pwe-do a-sair oo-na fo-to

DIRECTIONS**How do I get to ...?**

¿Cómo puedo llegar a ...? ko-mo pwe-do lye-gar a ...

Is it far?

¿Está lejos? es-ta le-khos

Go straight ahead.

Siga/Vaya derecho. see-ga/va-ya de-re-cho

Turn left.

Doble a la izquierda. do-ble a la ees-kyer-da

SIGNS

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Entrada | Entrance |
| Salida | Exit |
| Abierto | Open |
| Cerrado | Closed |
| Información | Information |
| Prohibido | Prohibited |
| Prohibido Fumar | No Smoking |
| Comisaría | Police Station |
| Servicios/Aseos | Toilets |
| Hombres | Men |
| Mujeres | Women |

EMERGENCIAS

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Help! | <i>¡Socorro!</i> | so-ko-ro |
| Fire! | <i>¡Incendio!</i> | een-sen-dyo |
| Go away! | <i>¡Vete!/¡Fuera!</i> | ve-te/fwe-ra |

Call ...!

¡Llame a ...! ya-me a

an ambulance

una ambulancia oo-na am-boo-lan-sya

a doctor

un médico oon me-dee-ko

the police

la policía la po-lee-see-a

It's an emergency.

Es una emergencia. es oo-na e-mer-khen-sya

Could you help me, please?

¿Me puede ayudar, por favor? me pwe-de a-yoo-dar por fa-*vor*

I'm lost.

Estoy perdido/a. es-toy per-dee-do/a

Where are the toilets?

¿Dónde están los baños? don-de es-tan los ba-nyos

Turn right.

Doble a la derecha. do-ble a la de-re-cha

I'm lost.

Estoy perdido/a. es-toy per-dee-do/a

Can you show me (on the map)?

¿Me lo podría indicar (en el mapa)? me lo po-dree-a een-dee-kar (en el ma-pa)

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| here | <i>aquí</i> | a-kee |
| there | <i>allí</i> | a-ye |
| traffic lights | <i>semáforos</i> | se-ma-fo-ros |
| north | <i>norte</i> | nor-te |
| south | <i>sur</i> | soor |
| east | <i>este</i> | es-te |
| west | <i>oeste</i> | o-es-te |

HEALTH**I'm sick.**

Estoy enfermo/a. es-toy en-fer-mo/a

I need a doctor (who speaks English).

Necesito un médico (que habla inglés). ne-se-see-to oon me-dee-ko (ke a-bla een-gles)

Where's the hospital?

¿Dónde está el hospital? don-de es-ta el os-pee-tal

I'm pregnant.

Estoy embarazada. es-toy em-ba-ra-sa-da

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| I'm ... | <i>Soy ...</i> | soy ... |
| asthmatic | <i>asmática/a</i> | as-ma-tee-ko/a |
| diabetic | <i>diabético/a</i> | dya-be-tee-ko/a |
| epileptic | <i>epiléptico/a</i> | e-pee-lep-tee-ko/a |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| I'm allergic to ... | <i>Soy alérgico/a a ...</i> | soy a-ler-khee-ko/a a ... |
| antibiotics | <i>los antibióticos</i> | los an-tee-byo-tee-kos |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| nuts | <i>las nueces</i> | las nwe-se |
| peanuts | <i>los cacahuetes</i> | los ka-ka-we-tes |
| penicillin | <i>la penicilina</i> | la pe-nee-see-lee-na |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| I have ... | <i>Tengo ...</i> | ten-go ... |
| diarrhoea | <i>diarrea</i> | dya-re-a |
| a fever | <i>fiebre</i> | fee-eb-ray |
| a headache | <i>un dolor de cabeza</i> | oon do-lor de ka-be-sa |
| nausea | <i>náusea</i> | now-se-a |

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES**Do you speak (English)?**

¿Habla/Hablas (inglés)? a-bla/a-blas (een-gles) (pol/inf)

Does anyone here speak English?

¿Hay alguien que hable inglés? ai al-gyen ke a-ble een-gles

I (don't) understand.

Yo (no) entiendo. yo (no) en-tyen-do

How do you say ...?

¿Cómo se dice ...? ko-mo se dee-se ...

What does ... mean?

¿Qué quiere decir ...? ke kye-re de-seer ...

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Could you please ...? | <i>¿Puede ..., por favor?</i> | pwe-de ... por fa- <i>vor</i> |
| repeat that | <i>repetirlo</i> | re-pe-teer-lo |
| speak more slowly | <i>hablar más despacio</i> | a-blar mas des-pa-syo |
| write it down | <i>escribirlo</i> | es-kree-beer-lo |

NUMBERS

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | <i>uno</i> | oo-no |
| 2 | <i>dos</i> | dos |
| 3 | <i>tres</i> | tres |
| 4 | <i>cuatro</i> | kwa-tro |
| 5 | <i>cinco</i> | seen-ko |
| 6 | <i>seis</i> | says |
| 7 | <i>siete</i> | sye-te |
| 8 | <i>ocho</i> | o-cho |
| 9 | <i>nueve</i> | nwe-ve |
| 10 | <i>diez</i> | dyes |
| 11 | <i>once</i> | on-se |
| 12 | <i>doce</i> | do-se |
| 13 | <i>trece</i> | tre-se |
| 14 | <i>catorce</i> | ka-tor-se |
| 15 | <i>quince</i> | keen-se |
| 16 | <i>dieciséis</i> | dye-see-says |
| 17 | <i>diecisiete</i> | dye-see-sye-te |
| 18 | <i>dieciocho</i> | dye-see-o-cho |

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 19 | <i>diecinueve</i> | dye-see-nwe-ve |
| 20 | <i>veinte</i> | vayn-te |
| 21 | <i>veintiuno</i> | vayn-tee-oo-no |
| 22 | <i>veintidós</i> | vayn-tee-dohs |
| 30 | <i>treinta</i> | trayn-ta |
| 31 | <i>treinta y uno</i> | trayn-ta ee oo-no |
| 32 | <i>treinta y dos</i> | trayn-ta ee dos |
| 40 | <i>cuarenta</i> | kwa-ren-ta |
| 50 | <i>cincuenta</i> | seen-kwen-ta |
| 60 | <i>sesenta</i> | se-sen-ta |
| 70 | <i>setenta</i> | se-ten-ta |
| 80 | <i>ochenta</i> | o-chen-ta |
| 90 | <i>noventa</i> | no-ven-ta |
| 100 | <i> cien</i> | syen |
| 101 | <i>ciento uno</i> | syen-to oo-no |
| 200 | <i>doscientos</i> | do-syen-tos |
| 1000 | <i>mil</i> | meel |
| 5000 | <i>cinco mil</i> | seen-ko meel |

SHOPPING & SERVICES**I'd like to buy ...**

Quisiera comprar ... kee-sye-ra kom-prar ...

I'm just looking.

Sólo estoy mirando. so-lo es-toy mee-ran-do

May I look at it?

¿Puedo mirar(lo/la)? pwe-do mee-rar-(lo/la)

How much is it?

¿Cuánto cuesta? kwan-to kwes-ta

That's too expensive for me.

Es demasiado caro para mí. es de-ma-sya-do ka-ro pa-ra mee

Could you lower the price?

¿Podría bajar un poco el precio? po-dree-a ba-khar oon po-ko el pre-syo

I don't like it.

No me gusta. no me goos-ta

I'll take it.

Lo llevo. lo ye-vo

I'm looking for the ... *Estoy buscando ...* es-toy boos-kan-do

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ATM | <i>el cajero automático</i> | el ka-khe-ro ow-to-ma-tee-ko |
| bank | <i>el banco</i> | el ban-ko |
| bookstore | <i>la librería</i> | la lee-bre-ree-a |
| chemist/ pharmacy | <i>la farmacia</i> | la far-ma-sya |
| embassy | <i>la embajada</i> | la em-ba-kha-da |
| laundry | <i>la lavandería</i> | la la-van-de-ree-a |
| market | <i>el mercado</i> | el mer-ka-do |
| post office | <i>los correos</i> | los ko-re-os |
| supermarket | <i>el supermercado</i> | el soo-per-mer-ka-do |
| tourist office | <i>la oficina de turismo</i> | la o-fee-see-na de too-rees-mo |

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Do you accept ...? | <i>¿Aceptan ...?</i> | a-sep-tan ... |
| credit cards | <i>tarjetas de crédito</i> | tar-khe-tas de kre-dee-to |
| travellers cheques | <i>cheques de viajero</i> | che-kes de vya-khe-ro |
| less | <i>menos</i> | me-nos |
| more | <i>más</i> | mas |
| large | <i>grande</i> | gran-de |
| small | <i>pequeño/a</i> | pe-ke-nyo/a |

What time does it open/close?

¿A qué hora abre/cierra? a ke o-ra a-bre/sye-ra
I want to change some money/travellers cheques.

Quiero cambiar dinero/cheques de viajero. kye-ro kam-byar dee-ne-ro/che-kes de vya-khe-ro

What is the exchange rate?

¿Cuál es el tipo de cambio? kwal es el tee-po de kam-byo

I want to call ...

Quiero llamar a ... kye-ro lya-mar a ...

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| airmail | <i>correo aéreo</i> | ko-re-o a-e-re-o |
| letter | <i>carta</i> | kar-ta |
| registered mail | <i>correo certificado</i> | ko-re-o ser-tee-fee-ka-do |
| stamps | <i>sellos</i> | se-lyos |

TIME & DATES

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| What time is it? | <i>¿Qué hora es?</i> | ke o-ra es |
| It's one o'clock. | <i>Es la una.</i> | es la oo-na |
| It's seven o'clock. | <i>Son las siete.</i> | son las sye-te |
| midnight | <i>medianoche</i> | me-dya-no-che |
| noon | <i>mediodía</i> | me-dyo-dee-a |
| half past two | <i>dos y media</i> | dos ee me-dya |
| now | <i>ahora</i> | a-o-ra |
| today | <i>hoy</i> | oy |
| tonight | <i>esta noche</i> | es-ta no-che |
| tomorrow | <i>mañana</i> | ma-nya-na |
| yesterday | <i>ayer</i> | a-yer |

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Monday | <i>lunes</i> | loo-nes |
| Tuesday | <i>martes</i> | mar-tes |
| Wednesday | <i>miércoles</i> | myer-ko-les |
| Thursday | <i>jueves</i> | khwe-ves |
| Friday | <i>viernes</i> | vyer-nes |
| Saturday | <i>sábado</i> | sa-ba-do |
| Sunday | <i>domingo</i> | do-meen-go |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| January | <i>enero</i> | e-ne-ro |
| February | <i>febrero</i> | fe-bre-ro |
| March | <i>marzo</i> | mar-so |
| April | <i>abril</i> | a-brel |
| May | <i>mayo</i> | ma-yo |

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| June | <i>junio</i> | khoo-nyo |
| July | <i>julio</i> | khoo-lyo |
| August | <i>agosto</i> | a-gos-to |
| September | <i>septiembre</i> | sep-tyem-bre |
| October | <i>octubre</i> | ok-too-bre |
| November | <i>noviembre</i> | no-vyem-bre |
| December | <i>diciembre</i> | dee-syem-bre |

TRANSPORT**Public Transport**

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| What time does ... leave/arrive? | <i>¿A qué hora sale/llega ...?</i> | a ke o-ra sa-le/ye-ga ...? |
| the bus | <i>el autobús</i> | el ow-to-boos |
| the plane | <i>el avión</i> | el a-vyon |
| the ship | <i>el barco</i> | el bar-ko |
| the train | <i>el tren</i> | el tren |

the bus station *la estación de autobuses* la es-ta-syan de ow-to-boos-ses

the bus stop *la parada de autobuses* la pa-ra-da de ow-to-boos-ses

the left luggage room *la consigna* la kon-seeg-na

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| taxi | <i>taxi</i> | tak-see |
| the ticket office | <i>la taquilla</i> | la ta-kee-lya |
| the train station | <i>la estación de tren</i> | la es-ta-syan de tren |

The ... is delayed.

El ... está retrasado. el ... es-ta re-ta-sa-do

I'd like a ticket to ...

Quiero un billete a ... kye-ro oon bee-lye-te a ...

Is this taxi free?

¿Está libre este taxi? e-sta-lee-bre es-te tak-see

What's the fare to ...?

¿Cuánto cuesta hasta ...? kwan-to kwes-ta a-sta ...

Please put the meter on.

Por favor, ponga el taxímetro. por fa-vor pon-ga el tak-see-me-tro

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| a ... ticket | <i>un billete de ...</i> | oon bee-lye-te de ... |
| one-way | <i>ida</i> | ee-da |
| return | <i>ida y vuelta</i> | ee-da ee vwel-ta |
| 1st class | <i>primera clase</i> | pree-me-ra kla-se |
| 2nd class | <i>segunda clase</i> | se-goon-da kla-se |
| student | <i>estudiante</i> | es-too-dyan-te |

Private Transport

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| I'd like to hire a/an ... | <i>Quisiera alquilar ...</i> | kee-sye-ra al-kee-lar ... |
| 4WD | <i>un todoterreno</i> | oon to-do-te-re-no |
| car | <i>un coche</i> | oon un ko-che |
| motorbike | <i>una moto</i> | oo-na mo-to |
| bicycle | <i>una bicicleta</i> | oo-na bee-see-kle-ta |

ROAD SIGNS

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Acceso | Entrance |
| Aparcamiento | Parking |
| Ceda el Paso | Give Way |
| Despacio | Slow |
| Desvío | Detour |
| Dirección Única | One-way |
| Frene | Slow Down |
| No Adelantar | No Overtaking |
| Peaje | Toll |
| Peligro | Danger |
| Prohibido Aparcar/No Estacionar | No Parking |
| Prohibido el Paso | No Entry |
| Vía de Acceso | Exit Freeway |

Is this the road to ...?

¿Se va a ... por esta carretera? se va a ... por es-ta ka-re-te-ra

Where's a petrol station?

¿Dónde hay una gasolinera? don-de ai oo-na ga-so-lee-ne-ra

Please fill it up.

Lleno, por favor. ye-no por fa-vor

I'd like (20) litres.

Quiero (veinte) litros. kye-ro (vayn-te) lee-tros

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| diesel | <i>diesel</i> | dee-sel |
| petrol/gas | <i>gasolina</i> | ga-so-lee-na |

(How long) Can I park here?

¿(Por cuánto tiempo) Puedo aparcar aquí? (por kwan-to tyem-po) pwe-do a-par-kar a-kee

Where do I pay?

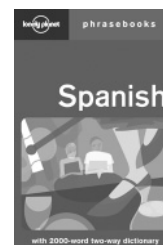
¿Dónde se paga? don-de se pa-ga

I need a mechanic.

Necesito un mecánico. ne-se-see-to oon me-ka-nee-ko

The car has broken down (in ...).

El coche se ha averiado (en ...). el ko-che se a-ve-rya-do (en ...)



Also available from Lonely Planet:
Spanish Phrasebook

The motorbike won't start.

No arranca la moto. no a-ran-ka la mo-to

I have a flat tyre.

Tengo un pinchazo. ten-go oon peen-cha-so

I've run out of petrol.

Me he quedado sin gasolina. me e ke-da-do seen ga-so-lee-na

I've had an accident.

He tenido un accidente. e te-nee-do oon ak-see-den-te

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN**I need ...**

Necesito ... ne-se-see-to ...

Do you have ...?

¿Hay ...? ai ...

a car baby seat

un asiento de seguridad para bebés oon a-syen-to de se-goo-ree-da pa-ra be-bes

a child-minding service

un servicio de cuidado de niños oon ser-vee-syo de kwee-da-do de nee-nyos

a children's menu

un menú infantil oon me-noo een-fan-teel

(disposable) diapers/nappies

pañales (de usar y tirar) pa-nya-les (de oo-sar ee tee-rar)

an (English-speaking) babysitter

un canguro (de habla inglesa) oon kan-goo-ro (de a-bla een-gle-sa)

infant formula (milk powder)

leche en polvo le-che en pol-vo

a highchair

una trona oo-na tro-na

a potty

un orinal de niños oon o-ree-nal de nee-nyos

a stroller

un cochecito oon ko-che-see-to

Do you mind if I breast-feed here?

¿Le molesta que dé de pecho aquí? le mo-les-ta ke de de pe-cho a-kee

Are children allowed?

¿Se admiten niños? se ad-mee-ten nee-nyos

Glossary

For terms for food, drinks and other culinary vocabulary, see p86. For additional terms and information regarding the Spanish language, see the Language chapter on p458.

alameda – *paseo* lined (or originally lined) with *álamo* (poplar) trees
alcázar – Islamic-era fortress
artesonado – ceiling with interlaced beams leaving regular spaces for decorative insertions
autopista – toll highway
autovía – toll-free dual carriageway
AVE – Alta Velocidad Española; the high-speed train between Madrid and Seville
ayuntamiento – city or town hall
azulejo – tile

bahía – bay
bailaor/a – flamenco dancer
bandolero – bandit
barrio – district or quarter (of a town or city)
biblioteca – library
bici todo terreno (BTT) – mountain bike
bodega – winery, wine bar or wine cellar
buceo – scuba diving
bulería – upbeat type of flamenco song
buzón – postbox

cabalgata – cavalcade
cajero automático – automated teller machine (ATM)
calle – street
callejón – lane
cama individual – single bed
cama matrimonial – double bed
cambio – currency exchange
campiña – countryside (usually flat or rolling cultivated countryside)
camping – camping ground
campo – countryside, field
cantaor/a – flamenco singer
cante jondo – ‘deep song’, the essence of flamenco
capilla – chapel
capilla mayor – chapel containing the high altar of a church
carnaval – carnival; a pre-Lent period of fancy-dress parades and merrymaking
carretera – road, highway
carril de cicloturismo – road adapted for cycle touring
carta – menu

casa de huéspedes – guesthouse
casa rural – a village house or farmhouse with rooms to let
casco – literally ‘helmet’; used to refer to the old part of a city (*casco antiguo*)
castellano – Castilian; the language also called Spanish
castillo – castle
caza – hunting
centro comercial – shopping centre
cercanía – suburban train
cerro – hill
cervecería – beer bar
chiringuito – small, often makeshift bar or eatery, usually in the open air
choza – traditional thatch hut
Churrigueresque – ornate style of baroque architecture named after the brothers Alberto and José Churriguera
cofradía – see *hermandad*
colegiata – collegiate church, a combined church and college
comedor – dining room
comisaría – station of the Policía Nacional
consigna – left-luggage office or lockers
converso – Jew who converted to Christianity in medieval Spain
copla – flamenco song
cordillera – mountain chain
coro – choir (part of a church, usually in the middle)
corrida de toros – bullfight
cortes – parliament
cortijo – country property
costa – coast
coto – area where hunting rights are reserved for a specific group of people
cruce – cross
cuenta – bill (check)
cuesta – sloping land, road or street
custodia – monstrance (receptacle for the consecrated Host)

dehesa – woodland pastures with evergreen oaks
Denominación de Origen – a designation that indicates the unique geographical origins, production processes and quality of wines, olive oil and other products
duende – the spirit or magic possessed by great flamenco performers
duque – duke
duquesa – duchess

embalse – reservoir
ermita – hermitage or chapel

escalada – climbing
estación de autobuses – bus station
estación de esquí – ski station or resort
estación de ferrocarril – train station
estación marítima – passenger port
estanco – tobacco shop
estrella – overnight train with seats, couchettes and sleeping compartments

farmacia – pharmacy
faro – lighthouse
feria – fair; can refer to trade fairs as well as to city, town or village fairs
ferrocarril – railway
fiesta – festival, public holiday or party
finca – country property, farm
flamenco – means flamenco and Flemish as well as flamenco music and dance
frontera – frontier
fuelle – fountain, spring

gitano – the Spanish word for Roma people
Guardia Civil – Civil Guard; police responsible for roads, the countryside, villages and international borders. They wear green uniforms. See also *Policía Local*, *Policía Nacional*.

hammam – Arabic-style bathhouse
hermandad – brotherhood (which may include women), in particular one that takes part in religious processions; also *cofradía*
hospedaje – guesthouse
hostal – simple guesthouse or small place offering budget hotel-like accommodation

infanta – daughter of a monarch but not first in line to the throne
infante – son of a monarch but not first in line to the throne
instalación juvenil – youth hostel or youth camp
IVA – *impuesto sobre el valor añadido*; the Spanish equivalent of VAT (value-added tax)

jardín – garden
judería – Jewish barrio in medieval Spain
Junta de Andalucía – executive government of Andalucía

latifundia – huge estate
lavandería – laundry
levante – easterly wind
librería – bookshop
lidia – the modern art of bullfighting on foot
lista de correos – poste restante
lucio – pond or pool in the Doñana *marismas*

madrugada or **madrugá** – the ‘early hours’, from around 3am to dawn; a pretty lively time in some Spanish cities!
marismas – wetlands, marshes
marisquería – seafood eatery
marqués – marquis
medina – Arabic word for town or inner city
mercadillo – flea market
mercado – market
mezquita – mosque
mihrab – prayer niche in a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca
mirador – lookout point
morisco – Muslim converted to Christianity in medieval Spain
moro – ‘Moor’ or Muslim (usually in a medieval context)
movida – the late-night bar and club scene that emerged in Spanish cities and towns after Franco’s death; a *zona de movida* or *zona de marcha* is an area of a town where people gather to drink and have a good time
mozárabe – Mozarab; Christian living under Islamic rule in medieval Spain
Mudejar – Muslim living under Christian rule in medieval Spain; also refers to their decorative style of architecture
muelle – wharf, pier
muladí – Muwallad; Christian who converted to Islam, in medieval Spain

nazareno – penitent taking part in Semana Santa processions
nieve – snow
nuevo – new

oficina de correos – post office
oficina de turismo – tourist office
olivo – olive tree

palacio – palace
palo – literally ‘stick’; also refers to the categories of flamenco song
panadería – bakery
papelaría – stationery shop
parador – one of the Paradores Nacionales, a state-owned chain of luxurious hotels, often in historic buildings
paraje natural – natural area
parque nacional – national park
parque natural – natural park
paseo – avenue or parklike strip; walk or stroll
paso – literally ‘step’; also the platform an image is carried on in a religious procession
peña – a club; usually for supporters of a football club or flamenco enthusiasts (*peña flamenca*), but sometimes a dining club
pensión – guesthouse
pescajería – fish shop
picadero – riding stable

pícaro – dice trickster and card sharp, rogue, low-life scoundrel

pinsapar – forest of *pinsapo*

pinsapo – Spanish fir

piscina – swimming pool

plateresque – early phase of Renaissance architecture noted for its decorative façades

playa – beach

plaza de toros – bullring

Policía Local – Local Police; also known as *Policía Municipal*. Controlled by city and town halls, they deal mainly with minor matters such as parking, traffic and bylaws. They wear blue-and-white uniforms. See also *Guardia Civil, Policía Nacional*.

Policía Municipal – Municipal Police; see *Policía Local*

Policía Nacional – National Police; responsible for cities and bigger towns, some of them forming special squads dealing with drugs, terrorism and the like.

poniente – westerly wind

pozo – well

preferente – 1st-class carriage on a long-distance train

provincia – province; Spain is divided into 50 of them

pueblo – village, town

punte – bridge

puerta – gate, door

puerto – port, mountain pass

puerto deportivo – marina

puerto pesquero – fishing port

punta – point

rambla – stream

Reconquista – the Christian reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula from the Muslims (8th to 15th centuries)

refugio – shelter or refuge, especially a mountain refuge with basic accommodation for hikers

regional – train running between Andalusian cities

reja – grille; especially a wrought-iron one over a window or dividing a chapel from the rest of a church

Renfe – Red Nacional de los Ferrocarriles Españoles; Spain's national rail network

reserva – reservation, or reserve (eg nature reserve)

reserva nacional de caza – national hunting reserve

reserva natural – nature reserve

retablo – retable (altarpiece)

ría – estuary

rio – river

romería – festive pilgrimage or procession

ronda – ring road

s/n – *sin numero* (without number); sometimes seen in addresses

sacristía – sacristy, the part of a church in which vestments, sacred objects and other valuables are kept

salina – salt lagoon

Semana Santa – Holy Week; the week leading up to Easter Sunday

sendero – path or track

sevillana – a popular Andalusian dance

sierra – mountain range

Siglo de Oro – Spain's cultural 'Golden Century', beginning in the 16th century and ending in the 17th century

taberna – tavern

tablao – flamenco show

taifa – one of the small kingdoms into which the Muslim-ruled parts of Spain were divided during parts of the 11th and 12th centuries

taquilla – ticket window

taracea – marquetry

tarjeta de crédito – credit card

tarjeta telefónica – phonenumber

teléfono móvil – mobile telephone

temporada alta – high season

temporada baja – low season

temporada extra – extra-high season

temporada media – shoulder season

terrace – terrace; often means an area with outdoor tables at a bar, café or restaurant

tetería – Middle Eastern-style tearoom with low seats around low tables

tienda – shop, tent

tocaor/a – flamenco guitarist

torre – tower

trenhotel – sleek, expensive, sleeping-car-only train

turismo – means both tourism and saloon car; *el turismo* can also mean the tourist office

turista – 2nd-class carriage on a long-distance train

v.o. – *versión original*; foreign-language film

v.o.s. – *versión original subtitulada*; foreign-language film subtitled in Spanish

valle – valley

zoco – large market in Muslim cities

zona de protección – protected area

zona restringida – restricted area

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