

THE STAGE IN SUMMARY

Kilometre Zero of The Great Málaga Path is found at the main office of the Provincial Council, or Diputación to the south-west of the capital, overlooking Misericordia beach. Following the gentle arc of the coastline of the Bay of Malaga, it passes through Malaga's coastal neighbourhoods. Initially, it takes a north-easterly course until it reaches the Port, where it passes La Farola lighthouse and continues in an easterly direction, on to Rincón de la Victoria.

Seafront boulevards are used wherever possible during this stage, most notably along the beaches of Huelin, Malagueta, Caleta, Pedregalejo, El Palo and El Dedo. Beyond El Candado, the Peñon del Cuervo coastal walkway is utilised. At times, it is necessary to walk along the roadside of the historic dual-carriageway, the N-340 and even a section and the tunnels of the suburban railway line towards La Axarquía. Near the watchtower of Las Palomas in La Araña, there is a segment of pathway that runs over the rocky outcrop, on which the tower is built.

The city of Malaga lies around the river mouth of the Guadalmedina river and is close to the valley of the Guadalhorce, resulting in relatively flat terrain. However, immediately to the east the rocky headlands formed of schist and limestone rise up, meaning some sections are more recently constructed or make use of abandoned infrastructure such as the infamous motorway to Almería or the aforementioned railway line.

All of the watercourses that the route encounters in the city are spanned by bridges, and in addition to the River Guadalmedina, there are the Arroyos (a flood water river channel) Toquero, in La Caleta; Jaboneros, between Pedregalejos and El Palo; Gálica, close to the port of El Candado and Judíos near the Peñón del Cuervo. El Arroyo de Totalán near the end of the Stage separates the municipalities of Málaga and Rincón de la Victoria.

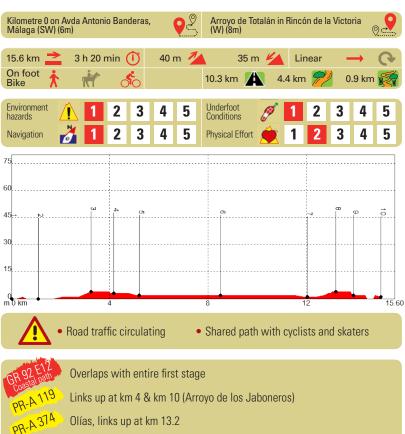
It's around these waterways and other similar enclaves where nature timidly makes an appearance. Similarly on the cliff faces with sparsely distributed plant life that is able to survive so close to the sea. Marine birds and shore birds are the principal attraction of the stage, above all at times of day when tourist activity is at a minimum or during the cooler seasons.

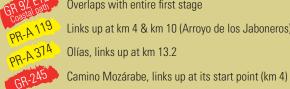
The Cathedral, the Alcazaba fortress and Muelle Uno from La Farola lighthouse



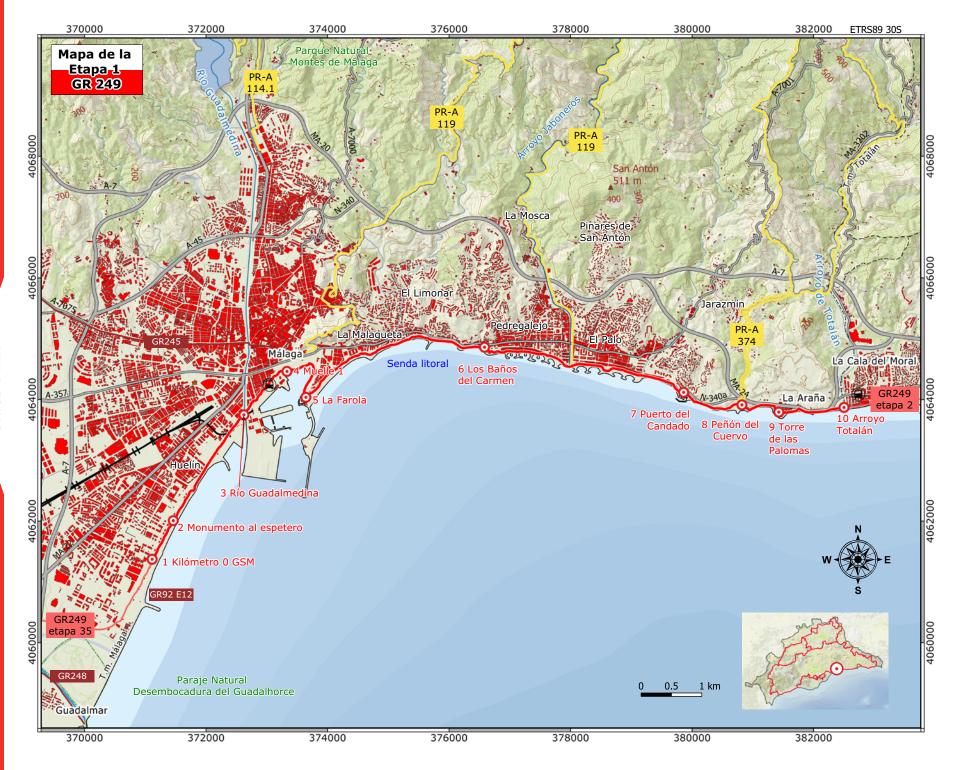


1. MÁLAGA • RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA





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P O I N T	Χ		Υ		HEIGHT ABOVE SL	DISTANCE
1 Kilometre 0 GSM	371115	/	4061375	/	6 m	Km 0,0
2 Statue to El Espetero	371460	/	4062010	/	4 m	Km 1,0
3 Guadalmedina River	372625	/	4063750	/	5 m	Km 3,2
4 Muelle 1	373330	/	4064460	/	1 m	Km 4,2
5 La Farola Lighthouse	373640	/	4064040	/	2 m	Km 5,2
6 Baños del Carmen Marine Spa	376585	/	4064860	/	1 m	Km 8,5
7 El Candado Port	379860	/	4064120	/	4 m	Km 12,0
8 Peñón del Cuervo Rock	380820	/	4063910	/	13 m	Km 13,2
9 Las Palomas Watchtower	381430	/	4063790	/	22 m	Km 14,0
10 Arroyo de Totalán (River bed)	382500	/	4063870	/	8 m	Km 15,6





1. MÁLAGA · RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

ROUTE DESCRIPTION



The adventure gets underway at Misericordia beach, which takes its name from the nearby Casa de la Misericordia, a Provincial Asylum & Hospice from the start of the 20th century. Serving as a hospital during the Moroccan War, it later became the Provincial Council's vocational training centre for the children of Huelin district. This maritime neighbourhood owes its name to the English descendent, Eduardo Huelin Reissig, who built the settlement to house the workers of his cane sugar factory. The first industrial chimney you encounter is the tallest on the Malaga coastline, standing at 104m and known as the Chimenea de Plomo (Lead Chimney) Los Guindos lead smelting Factory, upon which it stood. Its alternative name is Monica's Chimney, thanks to a painting done by some love-struck man in 1993.

Malaga's industrial history originated in Huelin, through its textile, tobacco and railway factories and flour mills. Today, it is a residential area with the standouts being a park, El Parque del Oeste and the entertaining local phenomenon of the so-called Melillero Wave, created by the ferry to Melilla.

After Paseo de Antonio Banderas, the avenue takes the name of another of Malaga's prominent figures, a contemporary of Huelin 1989, along with the Alboranía Museum.

The beaches and maritime neighbourhoods of Eastern Malaga → Up to km 12

Having recently celebrated its second Centenary, La Farola lighthouse is an excellent spot to admire the city skyline of La Alcazaba fortress, La Coracha district, Gibralfaro Castle and La Manguita Cathedral. The multi-levelled pavements of La Malagueta beach give way to those of La Caleta beach, where the route veers to the east. Los Baños del Carmen marine





spa has a privileged location in a forested area at kilometre 8.5, immediately leading on to another local icon, the Nereo Shipyard. Just before Pedregal Seafront Boulevard, is the old boathouse, shipyard, museum and the workshop school. Presently, they are working on projects to recover traditional and historical fishing methods.

The attractive bridge over the Arroyo de los Jaboneros signals the start of the El Palo beaches, while that of the Arroyo de Gálica leads on to El Dedo beach, on the Paseo de la Generación del 27, which maintains the essence of its maritime and fishing past.

The islets of nature and history

→ Up to Km 15.6

The landscape changes after El Candado Port, ascending gradually to higher elevations alongside the guardrail of the N-340. Natural vegetation begins to re-appear on the limestone hills beyond, where the route runs alongside the railway line. Found here are varieties of Scorpion broom, Esparto grasses, Dwarffan palms and aromatic plants. Influenced by the sea spray are the Sea Daisy Asteriscus maritimus and the interesting and endemic Limonium malacitanum, Malaga's evergreen Sea Lavender.

El Peñon del Cuervo beach and its surroundings are of great interest geologically and represent a new shift in the scenery. The cove is sheltered between the two rocky headlands with a tunnel passing through the farther, where El Paseo de los Canadienses, pays tribute to the role of the Transfusion Unit of Dr. Henry Norman Bethune, during the Civil War. The historic cement factory in La Araña comes into view on exiting the tunnel, with its metal towers and dust covering of the rocks, resulting from the grinding of the limestone.

The well-preserved 16th century watchtower, La Torre Vigia de las Palomas, at kilometre 14 and standing at 11 metres tall, indicates the highest point on this stage. Next door is the Visitors Centre for the Humo Complex, a series of shelters and caves in the La Araña gorges. This sheds light on the prehistoric settlers on Malaga's coastal region. These small caves can be seen on the far side of the dual-carriageway, along the side of which you continue until the Arroyo de Totalán, which marks the end of this first stage.





