



**COSTA DEL SOL**  
MALAGA

# CHRISTMAS TRADITION ON THE COSTA DEL SOL

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## Malaga, the best city to enjoy Christmas

Malaga has been chosen before as the best Spanish city to spend Christmas. And this is not surprising. Its average temperature of 18 degrees and the varied entertainment offer is even more remarkable in these dates. All this make the Costa del Sol one of the ideal destinations to travel to at Christmas.



## A tour of Malaga's Christmas lights

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One of the biggest Christmas attractions every year is the lighting of Malaga with its maximum splendor in Larios Street. A gigantic dome of twinkling lights and stars covers the most emblematic artery of the city. As if it were a fantasy sky, the artistic illumination continues to the Plaza de la Constitucion, overlooked by a huge glowing Christmas tree and colourful decorations.



## Christmas in the villages of Malaga

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White houses adorned with Christmas motifs and typical Andalusian carols that can be heard in the streets. This is how Christmas is celebrated in the villages of Malaga. Villas where traditions and sweets like “mantecados” still inspire the essence of the festivity.



## The beat of Christmas

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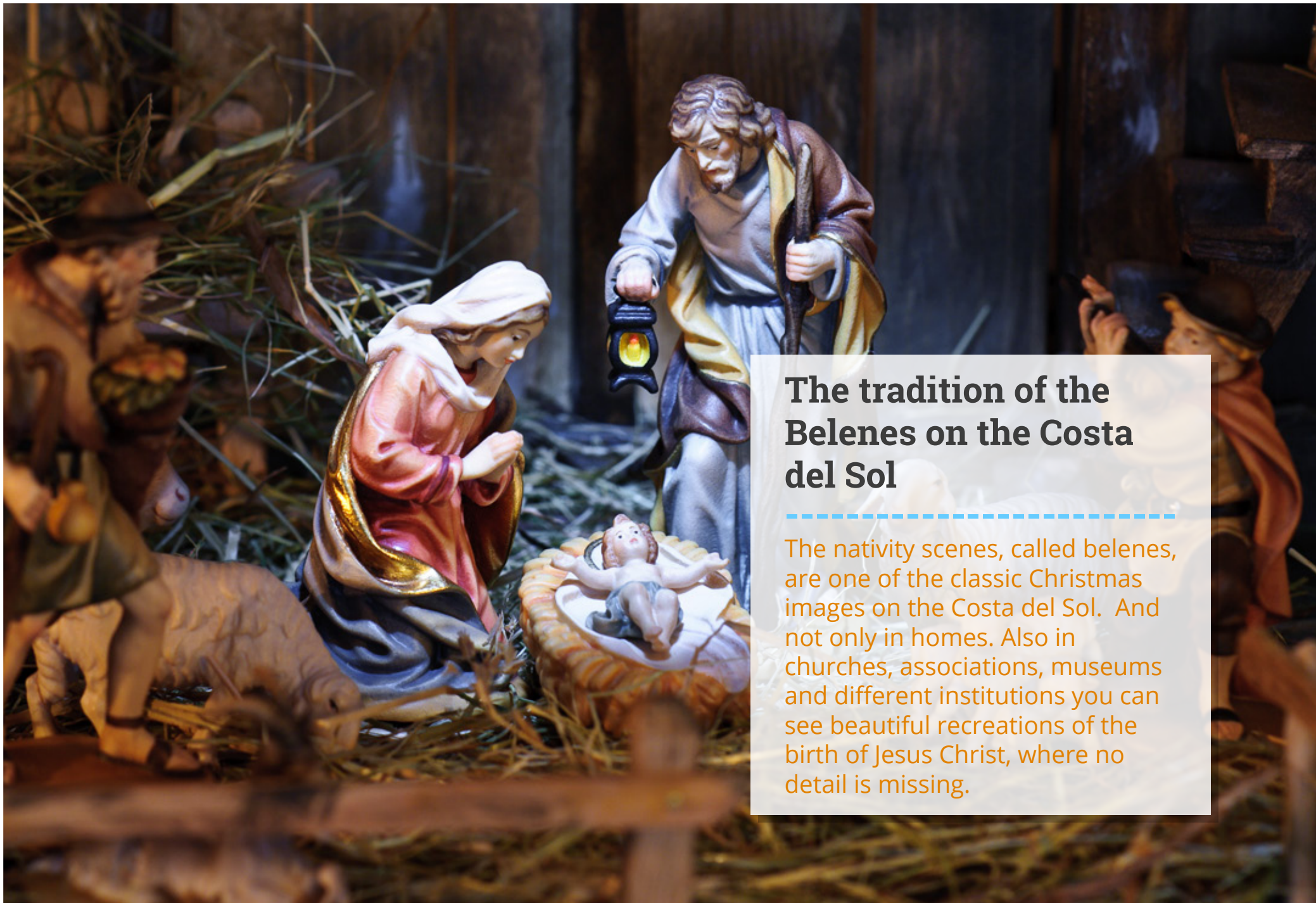
One of the most rooted customs are the “pastorales”, musical groups that in localities like Almachar, Ojen or Casarabonela have a great protagonism. The members of the “pastoral” dress up in unique outfits and sing to the sound of castanets, tambourines and “zambombas”.



## Rhythm of tradition

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Music also fill all the corners of Istan during the month of December. In this village of the Sierra de las Nieves, the locals sing old carols to the rhythm of popular instruments, what is known as 'zambombero'.



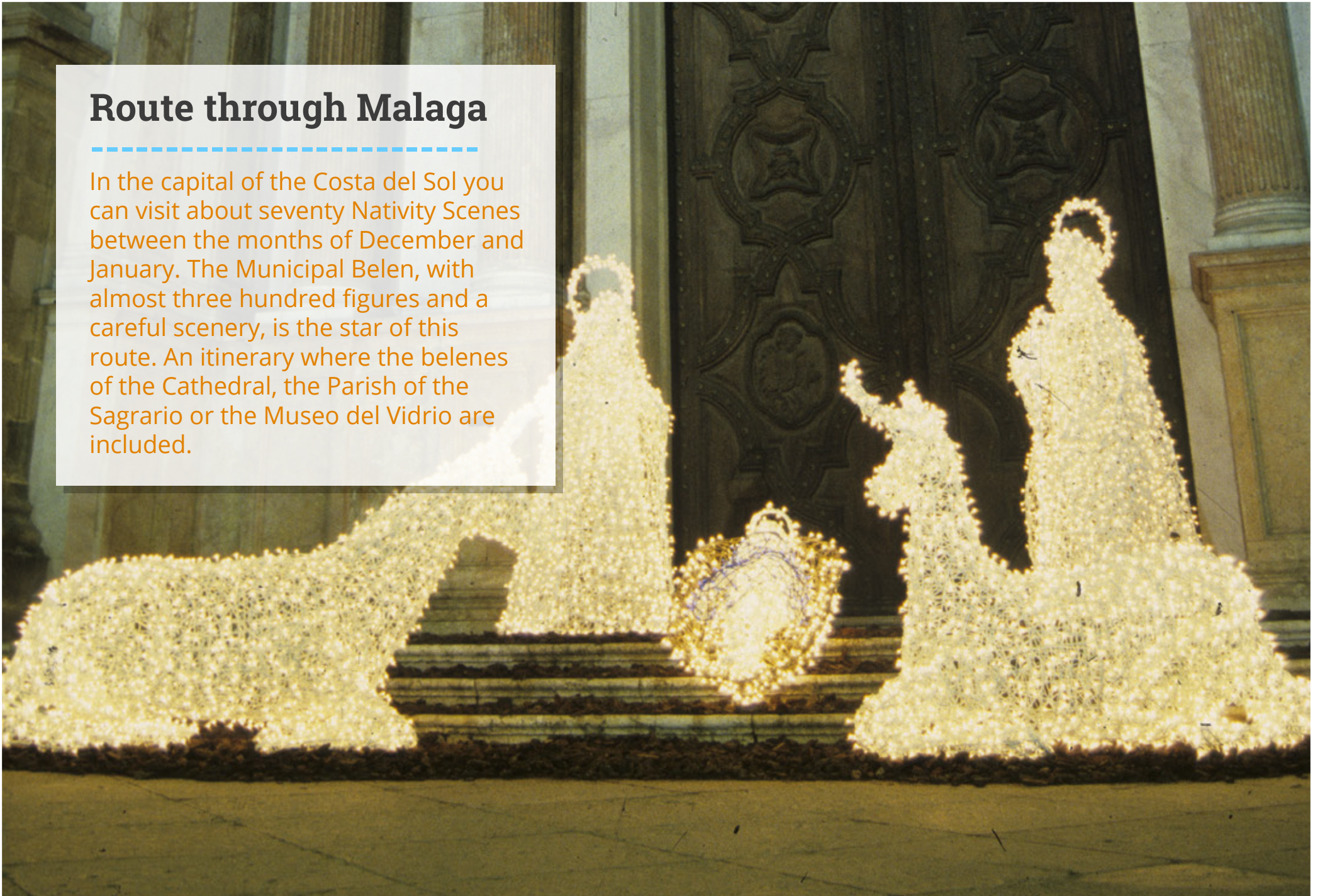
## The tradition of the Belenes on the Costa del Sol

The nativity scenes, called belenes, are one of the classic Christmas images on the Costa del Sol. And not only in homes. Also in churches, associations, museums and different institutions you can see beautiful recreations of the birth of Jesus Christ, where no detail is missing.



## Route through Malaga

In the capital of the Costa del Sol you can visit about seventy Nativity Scenes between the months of December and January. The Municipal Belen, with almost three hundred figures and a careful scenery, is the star of this route. An itinerary where the belenes of the Cathedral, the Parish of the Sagrario or the Museo del Vidrio are included.





## Living nativities

In several towns of Malaga locals themselves play the main characters of this biblical chapter. They are the living belenes of Cartama, Ojen or Comares. Although the most popular is that of Almayate.



## Christmas markets

Among the most popular markets on the Costa del Sol the one located in the street market of the Paseo del Parque in Malaga stands out. Under the spectacular lighting of the historic centre of the city, stalls offer from Christmas decorations and figures for the Nativity scene, to accessories and articles of handmade jewelry. There are also very popular markets in Nerja, Velez-Malaga and Torrox, in the Axarquia region.



## **The parades of the Three Kings: fantasy on the Costa del Sol**

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Following the Spanish tradition, the Three Kings, Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar visit every 5th of January the villages of Malaga. They have a long night of gifts ahead, but before that, it's time to share millions of sweets and tons of joy through the streets. They are the typical parades of the Three Kings.



## Parades by the sea

On the 5th of January, Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar land at the Marina of Marbella and start a ride in vintage cars, which precedes the great parade.

In order to get punctual to their appointments, Their Majesties move by land, sea or air in the villages on the Costa del Sol. This is the case of Velez-Malaga, where they arrive by plane.

# The Christmas Eve dinner according to the gastronomy of Malaga

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## Appetizers

- A wide variety of fried fish
- An orange and cod salad, typical from Malaga
- A few glasses of porra antequerana
- A local goats cheese
- The cold meat of the province

## First course

The gazpachuelo. A hake soup with potatoes thickened by a kind of light mayonnaise and a touch of lemon juice.

## Second course

The Malaga suckling goat, a tender and juicy meat with an exquisite taste.

## Dessert

- The tropical fruits of the Axarquia
- The bienmesabe of Antequera: a sweet made of almonds pumpkin preserve and an unmistakable aroma of cinnamon.



## To accompany

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Some good wines from Ronda, as legendary as the city that charmed many characters, and a sweet Moscatel wine for dessert.  
Bon appetit and Merry Christmas!



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