**Malaga – the rediscovered gem of the south of Spain.**

**3 reasons why our students love studying in Malaga:**

* **The beach area of Pedregalejo**
	+ Originally a small fishing village this is now an area including 2 pedestrian streets and the promenade.
	+ On the eastern edge of the city
	+ A beachfront promenade (45 mins walk from end –to-end) full of typical basic fish restaurants
	+ The freshest fish and seafood at normal Spanish prices
	+ Not a fish & chip shop nor “full-day English breakfast” nor “English spoken here” anywhere in sight – I know, I live 200 yards from this beach and go there every week of my life!
	+ This is absolutely not Torremolinos
	+ Great al-fresco eating at lunchtime and some sun-downer cocktail bars
	+ Lovely atmosphere at night when local craftspeople set up small jewellery stands
	+ This area is enjoyed equally by the 16-25 crowd (the Mafalda “kiosko” sells great camperos and hamburgers with real chips and attracts Spanish youngsters that our language school students want to meet) the 50-70s crowd who love the fresh seafood at great prices and relaxing over a glass of wine with their newfound friends, and everyone in between.
	+ On a Thursday, Friday or Saturday evening this is often the first stop to eat before going into the town centre for some later evening nightlife.
* **The historic centre of Malaga**
	+ Over the last 10 years the building of 24 or so underground car parks has enabled the pededestrianisation of practically the whole historic centre: the streets are now paved with granite and marble paving slabs.
	+ This is an extensive area full of winding, narrow streets, with overhanging balconies
	+ Restaurant and bar terraces abound as Malagueños enjoy the car-free streets and beautifully restored buildings
	+ Christian Churches and historic buildings, many from the period of Muslim occupation (800 years up to 1492) are found everywhere and create a wealth of architectural heritage which, without the traffic pollution is now a joy to look at.
	+ An enormous Cathedral dominates the Plaza de Obispo which in turn has the beautiful Palacio de Obispo which is a classic example of how many of the small palaces have now been converted into beautiful museums or for other cultural use.
	+ Malaga has over 30 museums and counting, many with world famous names from the art world: Picasso, Thyssen, Centre Pompidou, Russian State Art Museum etc etc.
	+ The Roman Amphitheatre is right in the middle of the historic centre, under the walls of the impressive Alcazaba (an Alhambra-like Arabic palace) and you can sit on a pavement terrace bar, enjoy a beer and gaze at 2000 years of history.
	+ There are of course also night clubs and late night bars for those who want them – Malaga is, after all, a university town with some 40,000 university students.
	+ A relatively new feature in Malaga are the hotel rooftop terraces from which you can get fabulous views of the other buildings and look down on the people in the narrow streets far below.
* **Muelle Uno**
	+ Malaga’s yacht marina within the port area but only 10 minutes walk from the historic centre
	+ A people-watching paradise full of bars, restaurants and shops (some expensive for the yachting and cruise ship crowd, others not).
	+ After sun-down you can gaze across the waters of the harbour and see the historic buildings of the city centre floodlit – a truly impressive sight!
	+ There are frequently events (fashion shows, car exhibitions etc) and stalls selling jewellery and other handicrafts which help to keep people coming and gives the area a sophisticated but at the same time, Bohmenian, feel.