





Hello and welcome!

Quick disclaimer: You got lucky, and you'll definitely have a
blast!



Tips and hints

I'll try to give you some tips to help you with your arrival and integration in the province of Malaga.

To be honest, the presentation from the 2022-2023 Aux (Madeleine Stinx) is complete and was a good resource to help me settle here. I recommend it to you. You can find it on IES Torre Almenara website or you can ask your coordinator to send it to you. Here is [one copy](#).

Most of all, the bilingual coordinator at IES Torre Almenara, Jesus Guzman, is always there to help and is a great resource to settle in nicely. He reached out to me beginning of September.

Why being an aux at IES Torre Almenara?

Being an Aux in Spain is an amazing experience!

I personally always wanted to improve my Spanish, and found that this was the best way to immerse myself while still earning some money and having a job to accomplish. I do not regret it at all, as it was a great learning experience.

Working at IES Torre Almenara allows you to live a bit outside Malaga city, which suited me well as I prefer to be in nature and closer to the sea than in a busy city. Plus, the suburbs are well connected with trains and buses, so it is quite easy to travel.

Arrival

It wasn't my first time in Malaga, and I knew how much this place was amazing, so I arrived 2 weeks before the start of the school year to enjoy and visit the area. I stayed at a hostel in Malaga (The lights hostel, really nice one).

I also used that time to visit Fuengirola, as it is, I think, the best place to settle if you work in La Cala de Mijas. Living in Fuengirola allows you to have easy access to Malaga city with the trains (C-1) running every 20 minutes, and easy access to the school, with buses every 30 min (M-220).

Accommodation

As I said, I decided to live in Fuengirola. I really wanted to live with locals instead of with other expats, but some other auxes decided to find a flat altogether. It might be a good option to consider if that is something you'd be interested in. The month before my arrival, I downloaded *Idealista* and started reaching out to landlords and people with flats to share. I got lucky and managed to have 2 viewings in my first few days, and went with one of them.

Flat prices aren't cheap. I found a room in a shared flat for 445 per month + bills (electricity, water and wifi). It means that more than half my income was going for my accommodation, so bare that in mind and come with some savings. I'll tell you ways to make some more money later on.

I recommend to look for a flat near Fuengirola Train Station, as it is the most vibrant location of the town and you'll be close to everything you need (beach, shops, restaurants and bus to go to La Cala de Mijas).

Administration

Of course, you'll need to do some paperwork related stuff (Visa, phone number, bank account, NIE, ...)

It might seem a lot, but honestly, just take a deep breath and go step by step. There's no need to stress too much about that! Once you have your visa and you are in Spain, everything will end up working :)

This blog helped me a lot and has good step-by-step explanations and resources:

<https://ultimatetravelscrapbook.com/blog/things-to-do-when-you-move-to-spain-step-by-step-guide>

Day to day

You'll be working 14 hours a week, 12 with students and 2 to allow you to create some material. I chose to have my Fridays off.

I got lucky and had a 2 weeks schedule. At first, I found it was challenging as it was hard to remember all the names, but then I really appreciated it as every week was different.

Week A was with the younger kids (12-14) and week B was with the older ones (15-17). I really liked that, as I was able to interact with almost every student in the entire school! And to be honest, they are all amazing! Yes, they are teenagers and they do have a high amount of energy, and sometimes they don't want to do the activity you've prepared, but once you start working with them, they truly give their best and they want to know everything about you. I liked to talk to them outside the classroom and find some common interests with them.

The only challenging thing with that schedule was that I sometimes had 2 classes in one period. Therefore, I had more planification and preparation to do, and it was difficult to only stay 30min in one class and then change to the next one. I often had to plan stuff at home.

WEEK A

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8h-9h				History 2C	
9h-10h	Geo 1C		Maths 2C	Materiales	
10h-11h	Geo 1A		Maths 2B	Bio 1D	
Break					
11h30-12h30	Maths 1E	Maths 2A	History 2D	Bio 1E	
12h30-13h30		Maths 1D	Bio 1B		
13h30-14h30					

WEEK B

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8h-9h					
9h-10h	Maths 3D		English 2A/ Bio 3E		
10h-11h	Maths 3A	Bio 3C/ English 4B	Materialies		
Break					
11h30-12h30	Geo 3C	Bio 3D/Geo 3E	Materialies	History 4B	
12h30-13h30	English 3A	History 4E	English 4A	Maths 3E	
13h30-14h30			Maths 3B		

Tips

Money: If you want to make some extra money, there are a lot of opportunities. You can easily tutor some kids in the area, as loads of parents want their kids to be better in English. You can also work in Academia, where students often go after school to have extra classes. I chose the latest and worked in Mijas.

Spanish: If one of your goal in coming here is also to improve your Spanish, I highly recommend attending [Rubele Academia](#). I paid 55E per month for 4 hours a week and I went from A1 to B1+ in a few months. He is an amazing teacher and the lessons are interactives and only with adults. It is also a good way to meet new people.

Hiking: I really enjoy nature and Fuengirola has some nice accessible hiking trail. With AllTrail App, you can find the nearest ones. With the M-122 bus, you can go to Mijas Pueblo. From there, you have access to some nice trails.

Weather: Be sure to bring a good jacket, as it can be cold in the mornings and evenings, especially inside school/houses. Knowing that, I always found the weather enjoyable, as you can do sports outside all year long!

Most of all... enjoy!

You are on one heck of a journey! Be sure to seize every occasion to discover and learn from this amazing place. I definitely felt in love with Andalusia and would like to come back as soon as possible, and I hope you catch the same feeling!

Go out there, explore, talk to people, learn Spanish, taste the amazing food, visit Spain, appreciate the sunrises over the sea, discover some new wines, drink some Tinto de Verano, be amazed by this amazing culture, have fun with the students and most of all, open yourself to everything that surrounds you!

I hope you'll have a blast!

If you have questions or anything —> WhatsApp: +34 691 84 03 24

Enjoy!

Tristan