

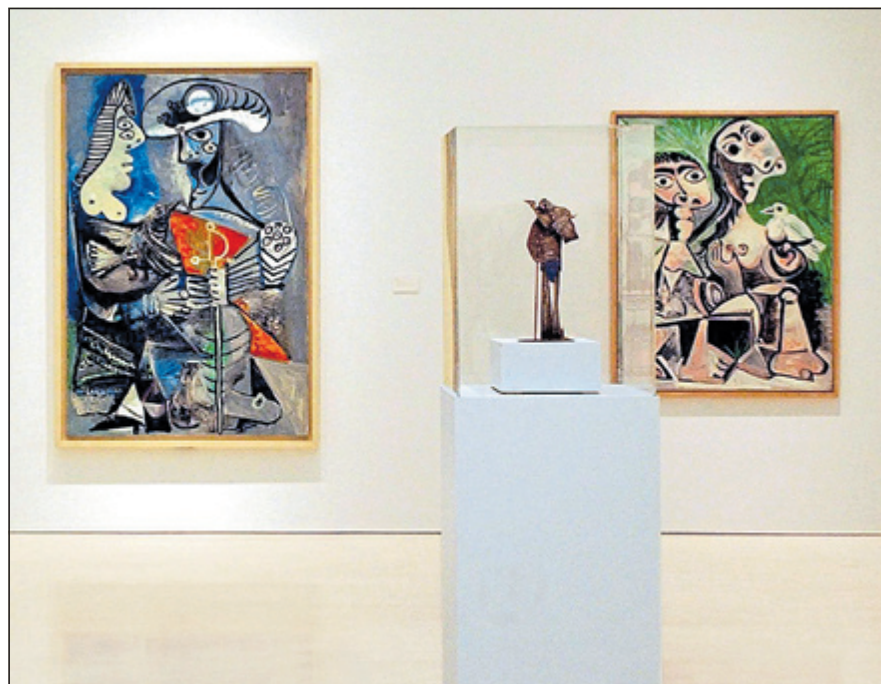
# TRAVEL

Edited by JANE MEMMLER ● [sundayexpress.co.uk/travel](http://sundayexpress.co.uk/travel)



## Spanish culture club that inspired Picasso

**ADAM HELLIKER** and his family soak up the art, sunshine, tapas and luxury accommodation in the artist's home city of Malaga and explore the hotspot of nearby Marbella



**REIGN IN SPAIN:** The main beach in the heart of Malaga, a snapshot of Adam and his family and the close-up treasures to be found in the Picasso Museum

**L**IKE SO many sunseekers, I had always used Malaga merely as an airport stop, somewhere to fly into on the way to the beaches of the Costa del Sol or the more cultural attractions of Andalucia, such as Seville and Granada. But the chance to stay in two different sorts of family villas, both owned by Britons who rent them out when they are vacant, proved to be the perfect opportunity to explore more of this charming Spanish city – and a very rewarding experience it proved to be.

With an upsurge in interest in Pablo Picasso (fuelled by the TV mini-series starring Antonio Banderas) it was also an excellent time to discover more about the place where the artist was born, which provided much inspiration for his early works.

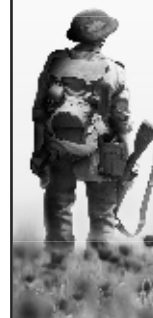
The first stop, in the heart of the old town, was the Picasso Museum. It was the artist's wish that much of his work should be returned to his birth city and now some 200 of his works, from the Cubist paintings, sketches and sculptures to his more surreal creations, are displayed in a series of airy, flowing rooms.

It feels very intimate as a museum because you can get so close to the exhibits and that made for a really enjoyable visit, telling me more than I realised about the diversity of Picasso's prodigious output, and, gratifyingly, igniting the artistic interest of my 12-year-old daughter.

Just around the corner from the museum is Malaga's cathedral, a great hulk of a building in the middle of the cobbled streets and labyrinthine lanes. Building of the edifice began in the 16th century but one of the towers was never completed, resulting

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