

Accommodation: You're spoiled for choice when it comes to pilot-specific accommodation, which usually comes thrown in with a course or shuttle service. Several companies offer rooms in townhouses and each one tends to be popular with specific nationalities. For instance, Ganter Fly is aimed at German speakers, whereas Fly Spain mostly Brits, and the twain only ever meet on take-off or in the bars. Fly Algo is a bit more cosmopolitan, and a good choice for more independent pilots. Park your camper in the LZ for free, or, for not much more, camp at CIVA which offers hot showers. Their shuttles up the hill cost about €10.

Guides and courses: There's no shortage of courses and schools here. Pick a school based on whichever national certification body you want to get your license from. There are also a range of guiding options, with instructors flying alongside you to help you get those first XCs, and guide you down into unfamiliar landing zones wherever you end up. FlySpain and Andalucian Experience have been at it for years. The nearby lake is also used for SIV, with pilots towed up behind a boat. FlySpain also offer paramotoring courses.

Family activities and rainy days: Sit in the lively eateries of the main square, casually guzzling a never-ending stream of cheap tapas over several hours. Nearby medieval town Ronda has enough picturesque sights to fill an afternoon. For the more active, hire mountain bikes locally, choose a hiking route from one to six hours, or let your cerebral creative juices flow with a pottery class. Marbella and the Mediterranean beaches are 1hr40 away.



LEVANTE

Morning flying from the westerly take-off
Photo: Fred Gustafsson



PONIENTE

Late afternoon flying in a southwesterly
Photo: Fred Gustafsson

Weather info

All the usual suspects work well here, but a subscription to topmeteo.eu will get you great data like climb ceiling as well as winds aloft, which can help you plan your bigger flights. Avoid autumnal low-pressure weeks unless you want to feel the rodeo ride of 4m/s hitting an impenetrable inversion layer.

Getting there

Fly in to Malaga, which has direct flights from almost every cold dreary European capital, and hire a car. Outside of the main holiday season they are staggeringly cheap. Many of the schools offer a complimentary shuttle service from the airport if your flights work on their schedule.

Contacts

Paragliding guiding and more: flyspain.co.uk, andalucian-experience.co.uk, fly-algo.com, ganterfly.de, paraglidingspain.co.uk
Hang gliding: lejair.co.uk
Campsite, shop and shuttles: civalgodonales.com