

Granada



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▲ PALACE. OF LOS OLVIDADOS

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FRONT PAGE: Acequia-Generalife Patio
BACK: San Nicolás lookout point

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INTRODUCTION

▲ VIEW OF THE ALHAMBRA AND SIERRA NEVADA

Take a stroll around this city full of **history** that seems to have come straight out of *A Thousand and One Nights*. Almost eight centuries of Moorish presence have left a rich **al-Andalus legacy**. You'll love the beautiful **Alhambra** and the **Albaicín** neighbourhood, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

There is an abundance of culture in the museums and art centres. You can enjoy spectacular Flamenco performances in the Sacromonte caves and follow in the footsteps of illustrious maestros of Spanish literature and music like Federico García Lorca and Manuel de Falla.

You'll enjoy wonderful sunsets from the lookout points and the **cármenes**, beautiful traditional Granada houses with gardens.

In the surrounding area there are extraordinary natural features like the

Sierra Nevada, where you can ski with views of the Mediterranean, or take a dip on the beaches of Salobreña, Motril and Almuñécar in the heart of the Costa Tropical.

The **Granada cuisine** is a delicious blend of Mediterranean flavours with a Moorish legacy, the renowned **tapas** served alongside drinks and which have become both an art and a tradition.

The **friendly and hospitable character** of the Andalusian people who are always ready to help and infect you with their **cheerful** nature, will make you feel right at home.

All this and much more awaits you in Granada. A city for you to feel, experience and explore. Come and discover one of the most delightful destinations in Spain.

DISCOVER GRANADA

NEIGHBOURHOOD BY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Every detail has its charm and its special moment in the day. The neighbourhoods are full of incredible aromas and magic little corners which will make your visit truly unforgettable.

► PATIO OF THE LIONS
THE ALHAMBRA



LA ALHAMBRA, A REAL JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

This extraordinary red fortress (called *al-Qal'a al-hamra* in Arabic), stands on top of the Sabika hill with the white peaks of the Sierra Nevada in the background. A walk around the richly decorated palaces, beautiful fountains and pools will transport you back to another era.

This ancient citadel and place of residence of the Nasrid sultans is the city's greatest cultural treasure. The **Nasrid palaces** are sublimely beautiful. There are beautifully decorated tiles, columns and vaults, especially in places like the **Hall of the Abencerrages**. The patios in the three palaces are of Persian and Moorish inspiration and represent an

earthly paradise. They are a world of symbols and stimuli. The **Patio of the Lions**, with its fountain, is one of the most beautiful features of the complex.

The west wing is where you'll find the **Alcazaba**, a military fortress and residence for the elite guard. Climb to the top of the Vela tower for an extraordinary view out over Granada.

The enclosure also includes prominent buildings from different periods, like the **Church of María de la Alhambra** and the Renaissance **Palace of Carlos V** which houses the Alhambra Museum, and the Fine Arts Museum.



GRANADA

Enjoy the magical atmosphere surrounding the gardens in the **Generalife**, where the Moorish monarchs came to rest, with inspirational features like the Ciprés de la Sultana patio, the scene for imaginary romantic legends.

This authentic Palatine city can be visited by day or at night when the beautiful illumination creates a unique, magical atmosphere.

❶ *Always prepare your visit in advance and book your tickets on the website: www.alhambra-patronato.es*

EL ALBAICÍN, IDEAL FOR A NIGHT OUT

Narrow, winding streets, beautiful **cármenes** (traditional Granada dwellings with an interior garden) and in-

credible Mudéjar fortified towers await you in what used to be a Moorish suburb facing the red hill of Sabika.

Apart from palaces, mansions and churches full of art and history, in Albaicín there are still remains of mosques, minarets, water cisterns, all in bustling, lively surroundings. In the evening, the streets and alleyways are ideal for enjoying a few **tapas** in some of the truly delightful bars.

There are bright, open squares like the **Plaza de San Nicolás**, where you'll find the simple, austere church of the same name and a lookout point with fantastic views.

Alongside the bed of the Darro River there are historic places like the **Cistercian Monastery of San Bernardo**, with a splendid porticoed patio and a terrace overlooking the city.

▼ THE ALBAICÍN



Nearby you'll find one of the Albaicín's best kept secrets, the **House of Zafra**, a fine example of domestic, Nasrid architecture which houses the Albaicín Visitor Centre.

In the upper part of the neighbourhood there are the **Palaces of Córdoba** and **Dar al-Horra**, with wonderful Nasrid decoration and surrounding gardens. Meanwhile, the **Monastery of Santa Isabel la Real** and the **Convent of Santa Catalina de Siena Zafra** are fine examples of Mudéjar architecture.

As the sun goes down, you should to go down to the **Paseo de los Tristes**, in the lush valley of the Darro River. There, apart from the romantic views and the wonderful sunset, you have a good selection of terraces and renowned *tapas* bars.

THE SACROMONTE IS IDEAL FOR ENJOYING SOME FLAMENCO

At the end of the Paseo de los Tristes you start to climb up towards Sacromonte, one of Granada's most picturesque spots.

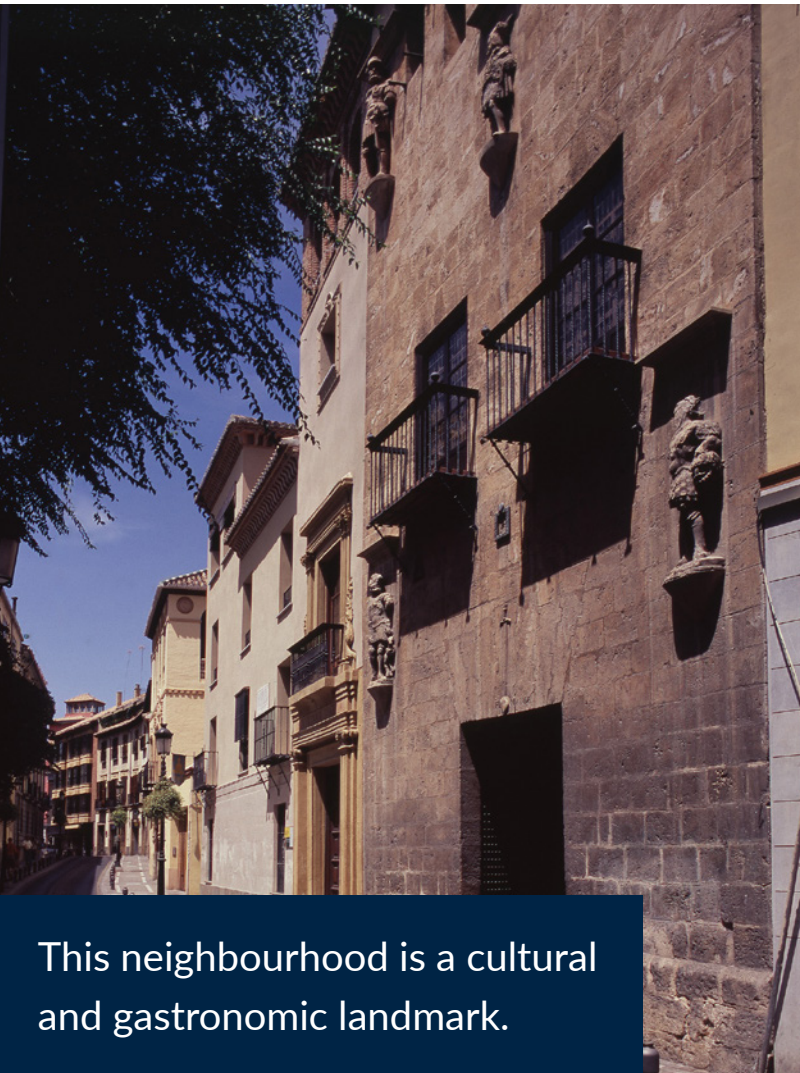
It is famous for the **caves dug out of the hillside**. There are a number of different types, but most of them are renowned for their *zambras*, festivities where they sing and dance Flamenco until dawn.

At the top of **Mount Valparaíso** stands the Abbey of the Sacromonte. The most prominent features of this 16th-century temple are the extraordinary Mudéjar and Renaissance coffered ceilings in the central nave and the chapels. It's also a fantastic place for quietly enjoying superb views of the peaks in the Sierra Nevada.

Strolling around amongst the white-washed houses you'll often hear the strumming of guitars, singing and typical *quejíos* common in Flamenco.



Photo: Juan Aunin/123rf.com



▲ CASA DE LOS TIROS

REALEJO

This neighbourhood in what was formerly the **Jewish Quarter**, is divided into two very different areas: the upper area, with steep, narrow, winding streets, and the lower area with blocks in grid formation.

A good starting point for a visit is the monumental **Plaza del Campo del Príncipe**. It is dominated by a statue of the Cristo de los Favores, quite a symbol for the people of Granada, with a broad selection of bars, restaurants and

taverns. From here you have easy access to Realejo's main streets and its hidden charms.

In the first neighbourhood to be settled by Christians, a tour of the churches and convents, all quite close to each other, is essential. Special mention should go to the **Convent of Las Carmelitas Descalzas**, the **Basilica of Las Angustias**, of **San Cecilio**, **San Matías** and **Santo Domingo**. The latter is a beautiful temple which is a blend of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque, and was the headquarters of the Holy Inquisition.

Nearby, there's the **Cuarto Real de Santo Domingo**, a beautiful 13th-century palace and a precursor of the Alhambra. All that remains is the *qubba* or reception hall, but it is still well worth a visit to see what was the bedchamber of the Nasrid queens.

One of the most interesting of the Realejo's civil buildings is the **Casa de los Tiros**, which preserves a fortified military tower and richly decorated ceilings. Next to this palace stands the **house of Father Suárez**, a Jesuit said to be the pioneer of International Law.

Right on the edge of the medieval enclosure you'll find the **Plaza de Bibataubín** where there is a monumental castle-palace of the same name, originally an Almohad building with a Baroque façade.

What really gives the area life and colour are the beautiful *cármenes*. One of the prettiest is the **Carmen de los Mártires** with romantic gardens. There are wonderful views from the terraces.



THE CENTRE

The busiest and most boisterous area is bordered on the north by the **Elvira Gateway**, which was the main entrance to the city in Moorish times. The archway has witnessed wars and legends and leads onto a maze of streets with so many attractive features.

Nearby is the **Hospital Real** currently the site of the University. It is full of patios, cloisters and gardens which are an invitation to calm, retreat and study, especially in its spectacular library.

A spectacular feature of the historical old town is the **Monastery of San Jerónimo** with an extraordinary main altarpiece. Here lie the mortal remains of Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba, known as the Great Captain and a hero of the war which led to the surrender of the Nasrid kingdom of Granada in the 16th century.

From an artistic and religious point of view, the most essential feature is the **Cathedral of La Encarnación**, the second largest in Spain and the first in the Renaissance style. The temple has a magnificent interior and stands in the Plaza Nueva completely dominating all the surrounding buildings.

It was commissioned by the Catholic Monarchs after the Reconquest, and has an annex which should also be visited. This is the **Royal Chapel**, the mausoleum for Isabel of Castile and Fernando of Aragon, buried beneath majestic, sculptured tombstones.

Where the centre meets the Realejo you'll find the façade of the **Corral del Carbón**, probably the oldest monument in the city. After passing under the horseshoe arch you come to a brick-lined patio of what used to be the

alhóndiga, a public building which used to house merchants and their produce.

Then continue as far as the Plaza del Carmen which leads to the main shopping streets and where you'll find the **Town Hall** which was built over what

used to be the Convent of El Carmen. From there you can take the Calle Reyes Católicos, one of the busiest streets, or the Calle Navas which is full of bars and restaurants serving some of the best cuisine in Granada.

THE ARTS

Granada has always been the home and refuge of great poets, writers and artists and the whole city is full of history which is apparent when you see the long list of palaces, *cármenes* and museums.

Two of those you really should visit can be found in the heart of the Nasrid complex, in the Palace of Carlos V: the **Alhambra Museum**, specialising in Hispano-Moorish culture and art, and the **Granada Fine Arts Museum**, Spain's oldest art gallery. A stroll through its galleries is like a synthesis of Granada art, with iconic works like the *Entierro de Cristo*, or Funeral of Christ, a magnificent Renaissance wood carving by Jacobo Florentino.

Nearby, just a few metres from the Torres Bermejas fortress, there is an amazing *carmen* which houses the **Rodríguez-Acosta Foundation**, where art and nature go hand-in-hand. Based on an idea by José María Rodríguez-Acosta, a renowned painter from Granada, the Modernist garden comprises several terraces with excellent views of both the valley and the Sierra Nevada. There are extraordinary sculptures, secret passages and a beautiful library.



▲ LA CARTUJA MONASTERY

The **Monastery of La Cartuja**, built over what was a Moorish *carmen*, is one of the finest examples of Spanish Baroque architecture. The beautifully decorated white walls in the sacristy make a sharp contrast with the red marble in the high altar. The small cloister is a veritable haven of peace and tranquillity.

❗ **For further information go to:**
www.alhambra-patronato.es
www.fundacionrodriguezacosta.com



TASTING GRANADA

▲ TAPAS.

If *tapas* are an essentially Spanish phenomenon, this is where you'll discover the true meaning of this tradition.

Most of the bars give you a little something to eat with every drink, so you end up sampling a good selection of local dishes and produce at really affordable prices.

They'll often let you choose the *tapa* you'd like to try. This is a good time to try local dishes like fried aubergines, Iberian cold cuts and traditional fried fish. Small rolls with a variety of fillings are also very common.

There are **numerous popular districts ideal for *tapas***. Most of the city's squares have terraces and open-air restaurants where you can sample Granada's culinary delights.

The **Calle Elvira** and the adjacent streets to the north of **Plaza Nueva** are where you'll probably find the greatest number of *tapas* bars. There's also a good selection to be recommended in the **Plaza San Miguel Bajo**, in the **Albaicín** neighbourhood and the **Calle Navas**, a pedestrian street in the heart of Granada.

For afternoon tea or a dessert, try one of the tea-shops in the **Calle Caldereria Nueva**, where they serve Moorish pastries and a great selection of aromatic teas with flowers, fruit and spices.

Innovative cuisine also has its place in Granada. There are establishments serving an exquisite tasting menu while enjoying spectacular views or you could go for authentic, original flavours in an ancient monastery.

An interesting way of discovering Granada cuisine is in the **urban markets**, where you can buy fresh produce and really get the feel of daily life in the city.

One of the most attractive is the **San Agustín Market** which is very near the cathedral. Apart from the usual stalls selling meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, for some years now it has had its gourmet side. You can try delicious fresh produce cooked while you wait.



GRANADA THROUGHOUT THE SEASONS

In Granada there are numerous festivals and activities throughout the year, so come and enjoy ancestral traditions, fantastic concerts and the charismatic atmosphere of the province of Granada.

▲ SALOBREÑA
GRANADA

SUMMER

In late June and early July there's the **International Festival of Music and Dance**, one of the longest-standing musical events in Spain. It takes place in different theatres and special venues like the Alhambra gardens, the Monastery of San Jerónimo and the Corral del Carbón.

❶ *To check the programme and buy your tickets, go to: granadafestival.org*

You can enjoy the Mediterranean in coastal towns not far from the city, like **Salobreña**, **Almuñécar** and **Motril**. The Granada coastline is known as the **Costa Tropical**, and there are beaches ideal for a day out with your family, like **Punta del Río**, in Salobreña. and **Playa de Calahonda**, in Motril. If you're looking for somewhere to go diving, the **Playa del Cantarriján** in Almuñécar is just the place for you.

GRANADA



▲ GRANADA SOUND

▼ SIERRA NEVADA



AUTUMN

After the intense summer heat, at the end of September you have two fantastic days to enjoy the **Granada Sound** pop rock festival which is now recognised as one of the country's foremost events. The concerts take place in the Cortijo del Conde, a modern venue on the outskirts of the city, and there are also live-music cycles in a number of halls in Granada itself.

① *For further information go to:*
www.granadasound.com

WINTER

Get your boots and your skis ready and head up into the slopes of the **Sierra Nevada**, one of the best places in Spain for winter sports.

Apart from state-of-the-art facilities and excellent snow you also have fantastic, sunny winter weather. Up on the slopes of La Laguna and El Veleta you'll have unforgettable, spectacular views. You'll be so high up that on a clear day you'll be able to see the Mediterranean.

The **International Tango Festival** takes place at the beginning of March. This fascinating Argentinian musical and dance style takes the floor for ten days.

① *Check the programme on:*
tangogranada.com

SPRING

All over Spain the transition from winter to spring is heralded by **Easter Week**, one of this country's most deep-rooted festivities. The solemnity of the occasion blends with music, art, colourful, magic processions and solemn parades in which the people accompany their religious images.

Easter Week in Granada provides so many unforgettable moments. On the night of Ash Wednesday you have the **Paso de los Gitanos**, a spectacular, moving event with huge bonfires in the streets of the Sacromonte. Maundy Thursday is the day for the **procession of El Cristo de Silencio**, where the si-

lence is only broken by the rolling of a drum. This is when the Albaicín is full of colour and a special scent.

At sunset on Good Friday is the time for the procession of the oldest brotherhood, that of **La Soledad de San Jerónimo**, in a colourful cortège in which characters appear representing historical, biblical figures.

Granada's most important festivity, the **Corpus Christi Fair** takes place in May or June. The streets fill with theatre, operetta, concerts, exhibitions and pageants. The stalls in the fair enclosure are full of gaiety and music, whilst in the bull ring a bull-fighting festival takes place.

▼ EASTER WEEK



Photo: Paco Ayala/123rf.com

GRANADA

GRANADA FOR CHILDREN

Here you'll find fascinating attractions for both adults and children, like the **Science Park**. This museum occupies over 70,000 square metres and has one of the largest selections of cultural and scientific leisure activities in Europe.

It is divided into pavilions with numerous exhibitions dedicated to science, the human body and technology. The children will especially like playing in the Exploration hall and the open-air tours around the park. The Planetarium, the Observation Tower and the BioDome (an immersive area where human beings play a leading role), are part of this unique experience which the whole family will love.

GRANADA SCIENCE PARK

On a visit to the **CajaGranada Cultural Centre** you'll learn about Andalusian culture and history in an entertaining and educational way. Its multimedia resources enable you to visit Andalusia in Roman times and really appreciate the cultural wealth of al-Ándalus. The museum also has an interesting programme of activities for families: workshops, storytelling, treasure hunt.

When the children get tired of seeing monuments, you have the **Tico Medina Park** right next door. It's one of the city's largest green areas and ideal for a picnic, with spacious lawns and children's

play areas. Then there's the **Federico García Lorca Park** which has a lake with ducks, swings and a giant slide.

A good way of getting around with children is the **tourist train**. There are two routes (day and night) and an audio guide in several languages. You can get on and off as many times as you like throughout the day.

❶ *For further information go to:*

www.parqueciencias.com

www.cajagranadafundacion.es

granada.city-tour.com

▼ CAJAGRANADA CULTURAL CENTRE





THE HIDDEN CITY

If you still have time and would like to discover more, there is so much to do in Granada.

◀ CASA DE CASTRIL

PARKS AND GARDENS

There are many gardens and lovely places where you can take a quiet walk, run, or just relax and enjoy the natural surroundings.

The largest ones are the **gardens in the Paseo del Salón and La Bomba**. Two tree-lined walks along the banks of the Genil River, with beautiful fountains, ponds, bridges and trellises, and a great selection of flora.

The **Quinta Alegre Gardens** are situated around the palace of the same name and divided into terraces at different heights. From here you get wonderful views over the city.

Another option is the **García Lorca Park**, commemorating Granada's most celebrated poet and playwright. It's a really peaceful place with a magical atmosphere in spring where time seems to stand still.

MONUMENTS

Next to the Carrera del Darro you'll find some of the lesser-known monuments and museums. The **Casa Ágreda**, one of the city's most notable mansions and built in the 16th century, stands in the street of Cuesta de Santa Inés. The magnificent façade is in sharp contrast with the narrow street.

Right opposite, there's the **Palace of Los Olvidados**, formerly a Sephardic house which is now a museum. Here there are two very interesting exhibitions: one dedicated to the inquisition and the other to the Jewish culture in Granada.

The **House of Castril** is a Renaissance palace which is home to the Granada Archaeological Museum. The exhibits include finds from the Palaeolithic and Neolithic eras, as well as valuable pieces illustrating the daily lives of the societies which settled in this region.

The Plaza Nueva features the extraordinary **Palace of La Real Chancillería**, the city's most iconic Mannerist building which is now the seat of Andalusia's High Court of Justice.

You can also visit the nearby Moorish baths known as the **Bañuelo**. They were built in the 11th century and have brick vaults and star-shaped skylights which take you right back to the Moorish times.



Photo: Granada Tourist Board-City Hall of Granada

▲ PALACE OF THE REAL CHANCILLERÍA

▼ EL BAÑUELO





▲ MANUEL DE FALLA HOUSE-MUSEUM

SECRET MUSEUMS

Discover the city of Granada through the eyes of its most illustrious characters. In the gardens of San Vicente, in the middle of the García Lorca Park, you'll find the **Federico García Lorca House-Museum**, the summer residence where the distinguished poet wrote some of his most important works. The house preserves its original structure, the furniture and Lorca's personal belongings, together with an interesting collection of writings, photos and pictures.

And then there is the **Manuel de Falla House-Museum** dedicated to the memory of this great 20th-century Spanish composer. Falla lived most of his life in a

carmen in the Antequeruela Alta, which keeps the spirit of his memory alive.

The **Sacromonte Caves Museum**, located in the ravine of Los Negros, is a journey through the history of this neighbourhood and its inhabitants, as well as its close relationship with the natural surroundings and the environment.

❶ For further information go to:
www.huertadesanvicente.com
sacromontegrana.com

GRANADA ROOFTOPS

The uneven terrain of the city centre surrounded by hills provides beautiful, picture-postcard views from up high.

To fully appreciate the architectural values and the landscape of the Alhambra and get a fantastic photo, you should climb up to the **San Nicolás Lookout Point** in the Albaicín. Here you can enjoy the dusk, with the former Nasrid citadel tinged with red as the sun sets.

Less well-known, but just as captivating, is the **San Miguel Alto Lookout Point** up on the top of Mount San Miguel, next to a chapel with the same name. Here you can look out over Granada's sea of rooftops with the Albaicín at your feet.

Another place with wonderful, unique views of the red fortress is the delightful **Placeta de Carvajales** in the lower Albaicín. To get the opposite perspective, cross over the Darro River by the Cabrera or Espinosa bridge and walk up to the **La Churra Lookout Point**, less well-known and with fewer visitors but ideal for a breath of fresh air.

You'll enjoy yet another marvellous view over Granada from the La Reina Lookout Point, in the Alhambra. A balcony looking out on the Granada neighbourhood of Sacromonte.





ENJOY THE NIGHTLIFE...

The nightlife in the city is fantastic, mainly due to it being a university town. When the sun goes down, lots of students go out for a few *tapas*, to have a drink, go to a concert or the cinema, *chill out* or go to a club in this lively, cosmopolitan atmosphere.

The younger ones usually prefer **Pedro Antonio de Alarcón**, an area with plenty of *pubs* and venues with live music. If you're looking for somewhere a little more select, the **Calle Elvira** and the surrounding area are your best option.

Between the **Plaza Nueva** and the **paseo de los Tristes** you'll find some charming establishments frequented by slightly more mature customers attracted by the lights and the good music.

If you're into dancing until dawn, you'll find the best clubs in the area around the **Bull Ring** and on the outskirts of the city.

TOURS AND WALKS IN THE CITY

There are countless itineraries for exploring Granada's main attractions. One of the most striking is the **Ruta de las Puertas** or Route of the gateways, most of them Moorish, on a tour from the Elvira Gateway to the Bibarrambla Gateway, via the Gateways featuring Los Carros, Los Siete Suelos, El Vino. They are the remains of the different city walls and its past dating back a thousand years.

The **Routes of the al-Ándaluz Legacy**, which take you along the highways which communicated the Umayyad

Caliphate with the rest of Andalusia, Murcia and Portugal, include a number of **walks in Granada**. Re-live history by following in the footsteps left by the Moors.

You can also get about in this Andalusian city by **bicycle**, with over 30 kilometres of bike lanes and a municipal bike renting service. This way you can explore the delights of the city using sustainable transport.

❶ *For further information go to:*
www.andalucia.org/rutas





▲ LOJA
GRANADA

WHAT CAN YOU VISIT NEAR GRANADA?

The historical town of **Santa Fe** is just a few kilometres away and has a sweet treasure. The town where the Capitulations of Santa Fe were signed, the agreements between the Catholic Monarchs and Christopher Columbus, is also renowned for its *piononos*, a delicious sponge cake covered with syrup and crowned with toasted cream.

Go up to the **Sierra Nevada** and enjoy a day out surrounded by nature. This splendid Nature Reserve is ideal for hiking. Put on your walking boots and enjoy one of the routes through the park: the Vereda de la Estrella, the route along the Trevélez River or the route around the **Mulhacén**, the second highest peak in Spain.

Another uniquely charming destination is **Loja**, a beautiful town in the province of Granada where the streets are full of the sound of water from the numerous fountains. It has a significant monumental heritage featuring palaces, temples, convents, gardens and stately houses.

One of the most iconic areas in the provinces of Granada and Almería is the Sierra de **La Alpujarra**, a wonderful, natural mountain environment with numerous springs and thermal spas with therapeutic properties. There are incredible white villages to explore like **Lanjarón**, **Órgiva** and **Pampaneira**, or you can just enjoy the peaceful mountain atmosphere.



HOW TO GET THERE

TRAIN AND BUS

You can travel to Málaga by High Speed Train (HST) and then on to Granada by bus.

There are also buses to a great number of Spanish cities in Spain and to the main destinations in Europe.

AIRPORT

The Federico García Lorca Airport, 15 kilometres from the city centre, has domestic flights from Madrid, Barcelona, Palma, Bilbao, Tenerife and Las Palmas and international flights from Paris, London, Manchester and Milan. Another option is to use the Costa del Sol International Airport in Malaga.

ROAD

By road, the A-44 connects Granada to Jaén, Bailén and Madrid to the north and to Motril and the coast to the south. The A-92 runs westwards to Cordoba, Badajoz, Málaga and Seville, and eastwards to Murcia and Almería.

HOW TO GET AROUND IN GRANADA

As it is quite small, it is easy to get around Granada on foot. There are also different services to take you anywhere you need to go.

BUS

There are both public and tourist buses available, as well as taxis. City buses are an effective way of getting around, including minibuses to take you up to the Alhambra and the Generalife.

RENTING BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Avoid polluting the air in Granada by renting bicycles, *electric scooters* and *Segways*. A clean, comfortable way of exploring the city all in your own time. Organise your own itinerary and effortlessly climb up the hills in the Albaicín and Sacromonte.





FURTHER INFORMATION

GRANADA TOURIST OFFICE
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SPANISH TOURISM
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