

ANDALUCÍA AND COSTA DEL SOL GUIDE



Made by Dorling Kindersley

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Highlights

Moorish Granada: The Alhambra



The great complex of the Alhambra is the best-preserved medieval Arab palace in the world and, with nearly two million visitors annually, it is also the most popular monument in Spain. Built on the largely inaccessible Sabika Hill overlooking the city of Granada, its most distinctive phase began in the 11th century as the qa'at al-Hamra (Red Fort) of the Ziridian rulers. From the 13th to almost the end of the 15th century the kings of the succeeding Nasrid dynasty embellished the site in a most spectacular fashion. The later Christian additions, although handsome in their own right, are generally thought to clash with the delicate, evocative architecture

of the Moors.

Each ticket is marked with a half-hour time slot of entrance, which cannot be changed.

Top 10 Features

1 Puerta de la Justicia
Built in 1348, this magnificent horseshoe arch makes use of Arab defensive techniques – a steep approach combined with four right-angled turns – to slow down invading armies.

2 Puerta del Vino
The “Wine Gate” – so called because it was used as a wine cellar in the 16th century – marks the main entrance arch to what was once the Medina (market).



3 Plaza de los Aljibes
From these ramparts visitors can enjoy superb views of Granada. The giant cisterns (aljibes) underneath were built by the Christian conquerors.

4 Alcazaba
Although largely in ruins, this fortress is well worth a look. Don't miss climbing up onto the Torre de la Vela for views of the Sierra Nevada.

5 Palacio de Carlos V
This Italian Renaissance palace is the masterpiece of Pedro Machuca, a student of Michelangelo. Housed here are the Museo de la Alhambra, with a fine collection of Nasrid art, and the Museo de Bellas Artes, with a range of interesting Christian works.

6 Palacios Nazaríes
The Nasrid palaces are built of simple brick, wood and stucco, in keeping with Islamic thought not to compete with the creations of Allah.

7 Palacio de Mexuar
The most poorly preserved of the three palaces, this area was the most public space, dedicated to judicial and bureaucratic business. The original structure dates from 1365, but there are obvious Christian overlays, since it was converted to a chapel in the 16th century.

8 Palacio de Comares
Built in the mid-14th century, this area constituted the Serallo, where the sultan would receive dignitaries and deal with diplomatic issues. Inside is the Salón de Embajadores, the main throne room of the Alhambra. In front of the palace is the Patio de Arrayanes, where serene fountains and pools, fragrant plantings, and elaborate wood and stucco work are all strictly geometric in design yet delicately refined, often featuring inscribed poems in praise of Allah.

9 Palacio de los Leones
Dating from the late 1300s, this palace was the Harem, the private zone reserved for the sultan and his family. The fountain of 12 lions – which may represent the 12 signs of the zodiac, the 12 hours of the clock, or the 12 tribes of Israel – has become emblematic of the whole Alhambra.

10 Partial
As you leave the Alhambra, stroll through the gardens with their fountains and water-courses laid out in an area that used to have palaces of its own. All you can see of them now are five porticoed arches. This area leads up to the Generalife, the summer palace. (see Moorish Granada: Generalife).

Moorish Granada: The Alhambra

Practical information

- Map S2
- Open Mar–Oct: 8:30am–8pm daily, 10–11:30pm Tue–Sat; Nov–Feb: 8:30am–6pm daily, 8–9:30pm Fri–Sat
- Adm €10.00
- Museo de la Alhambra: Open 9am–2:30pm Tue–Sat
- Adm €1.50 (Free to EU Members)

Top tips

- There are snacks and drinks available within the compound, but taking your own bottle of water is a good idea.
- Since visitor numbers are restricted, avoid queues by booking tickets in advance, either through your hotel, by phone (902 22 44 60) or on the internet at www.alhambratickets.com

Seville Cathedral & La Giralda

In 1248, after some 500 years of Islamic culture, Seville was reconquered by Christian forces, who paradoxically threatened the Moorish inhabitants with full-scale massacre if they damaged any of the city's magnificent edifices. Pragmatically, the conquerors simply rededicated the huge Almohad mosque to the Virgin and for about 150 years used it as their principal place of worship. In 1401, however, the momentous decision was taken to demolish the then mouldering building and erect a new cathedral of unprecedented proportions on its enormous rectangular base. In just over a century, the structure was complete, the renowned minaret now serving as the belltower.

More on Places of Worship

Top 10 Features

1 Exterior and Scale
In sheer cubic vastness, Seville Cathedral is the largest Christian church in the world, and there's a certificate from the Guinness Book of Records on display here to prove it. It measures 126 m (415 ft) by 83 m (270 ft) and the nave rises to 43 m (140 ft). The best place to take it all in is from La Giralda.

2 Puerta del Perdón
The "Gate of Pardon" is set in a crenellated wall and is the main entrance to the only surviving section of the mosque. The arch and bronze-covered doors are a masterpiece of Almohad art, carved with 880 Koranic inscriptions. There are also sculpted Renaissance elements, most notably a bas-relief depicting the Expulsion of the Money-changers from the Temple.

3 Patio de los Naranjos
The Courtyard of Orange Trees was the place where ritual ablutions were performed before entering the mosque for prayer.



4 Biblioteca Colombina
The library of ancient manuscripts is also an archive of Columbus's life (see Discovery of America) and his letters. It was founded by the explorer's son, himself an avid

adventurer; he bequeathed more than 20,000 volumes of his travels to the city when he died in 1539.

5 Interior
Inside the cathedral the Gothic arches are so high that the building is said to have its own independent climate.

6 Capilla Mayor
The main altar's tour de force is its 15th-century retablo, which is the world's largest altar-piece. Composed of gilded carved wood, it boasts some 45 Biblical scenes employing some 1,000 figures.

7 Sacristía de los Cálices
Part of the cathedral's treasury is housed here. The anteroom displays the Tenebrario, a 7.8-m (25-ft) Plateresque candelabrum used during Holy Week. Inside, the star turns are a painting by Goya of Seville's patron

saints, Justa and Rufina, as well as canvases by Zurbarán, Jordaens and other Masters.



8 Sacristía Mayor
The Main Sacristy is dominated by a dome, designed in the 16th century. The centre-piece of the sacristy is a 450-kg (990-lb), 3-m (10-ft) silver Baroque monstrance created by Juan

de Arfe.

9 Sala Capitular
The Chapter House contains Murillo's Immaculate Conception in the vault and boasts a lavish marble floor.

10 La Giralda
This grand tower is the symbol of Seville, built between 1172 and 1195. It takes its name from the weathervane on top, called El Giraldillo.

Seville Cathedral & La Giralda

Practical information

- Plaza Virgen de los Reyes
- Map M4
- 954 21 49 71
- www.catedralsevilla.org
- Open 11am–5pm Mon–Sat, 2:30pm–6pm Sun (Jul & Aug: 9:30am–3:30pm)
- Services 8:30am, 9am, 10am, noon, 5pm Mon–Sat; 11am, noon, 1pm, 5pm, 6pm Sun
- Adm €6.00 (free Sun)

Top tips

- For excellent tapas, you can't do better than Bar España, a short walk from the cathedral.
- Note that the climb up La Giralda is fairly easygoing thanks to the 35 broad ramps, designed to accommodate a man on horseback. The unparalleled view makes it well worth the ascent.

Semana Santa Festivities

Seville's Holy Week celebrations leading up to Easter (see Semana Santa) are Andalucía's richest and most renowned. Here, 57 brotherhoods (cofradías) compete to bear aloft the most well-dressed Virgin in mourning and an image from the Passion of Christ. Floats are carried by costaleros (bearers), while the processions are led by nazarenos – penitents donning conical hoods.

Real Alcázar, Seville



This extensive complex embodies a series of palatial rooms and spaces in various styles and from various ages. The front towers and walls constitute the oldest surviving section, dating from AD 913 and built by the Emir of Córdoba, Abd el-Rahman III, most likely on the ruins of Roman barracks. A succession of caliphs added their dazzling architectural statements over the ensuing centuries. Then came the Christian kings, particularly Pedro I the Cruel (or the Just) in the 14th century, and finally the rather perfunctory 16th-century apartments of Carlos V. Much of the structure underwent major modifications as recently as the 18th century, due to

earthquake damage.

For more alcázares in Andalucía (see Alcázares, Palacios and Castillos)

Mudéjar architecture is a blend of Moorish building styles and Christian themes and imagery.

Top 10 Features



1 Puerta del León
The entrance gate into the first courtyard is flanked by original Almohad walls. Note the Gothic and Arabic inscriptions on the interior façade.

2 Sala de Justicia
Here and in adjacent halls and courts is some of the purest Mudéjar art to be found, commissioned by Alfonso XI of Castile around 1330 and executed by craftsmen from Granada. The star-shaped coffered ceiling and fine plasterwork are quite exquisite.



3 Patio del Yeso
The secluded Court of Plaster, greatly restored, is one of the few remnants of the 12th-century palace. The delicate stucco work features scalloped arches and is set off by a shady

garden with water channels.

4 Patio de la Montería
The Hunting Courtyard has 14th-century Mudéjar decorative work – a perfect synthesis of differing cultural influences.

5 Casa de la Contratación
These halls are where Fernando and Isabel met with the explorers of the New World.

6 Patio de las Doncellas
The Court of the Maidens commemorates the annual tribute of 100 virgins delivered to the Moorish rulers by the Christians. The azulejos (tiles) are fine examples of Granada craftsmanship.

7 Salón de Embajadores
The most brilliant room in the entire Alcázar. Its crowning glory is the dazzling dome of carved, painted and gilded wood, inscribed in Arabic as having been constructed by craftsmen from Toledo and completed in 1366.

8 Patio de las Muñecas
The intimate Court of the Dolls was the living room of the palace and is named after two faces carved into the base of one of the arches.



9 Palacio Gótico
In a refurbished 13th-century Gothic structure built by Alfonso X the Wise, this palace has a rather inharmonious Renaissance styling.

10 Gardens
Moorish touches are everywhere among these tranquil pathways and copses. Fountains, pools, lemon and orange groves, palms and hedgerows extend in all directions.

Real Alcázar, Seville

Practical information

- Patio de Banderas
- Map M4
- 954 50 23 23
- www.patronatoalcazarsevilla.es
- Open Apr–Sep: 9:30am–7pm Tue–Sat, 9:30am–5pm Sun; Oct–Mar: 9:30am–5pm Tue–Sat, 9:30am– 1:30pm Sun
- Adm €5.00

Top tips

- The Alcázar has a flow-control entry system whereby limited numbers of people are allowed in every half hour. To avoid long waits, visit at off-peak times.

Pedro I

Few Spanish kings have received such contradictory press over the centuries as Pedro I (1350–69). Called both “the Cruel” and “the Just”, he killed his own brother in order to consolidate his position and flaunted his cohabitation with his mistress María de Padilla. The alcázar we see today is almost entirely the result of Pedro’s rebuilding programme, primarily so that he and María would have a cosy place of retreat.

Córdoba City

The main sight in Córdoba City is undoubtedly the Great Mosque, La Mezquita – one of the unsurpassed masterpieces of world architecture. But the entire city, in all its immaculately whitewashed splendour, is a major jewel in Andalucía's crown. In addition to the mosque and its incongruous but splendid cathedral within, other sights here include fine monuments and palaces from every age, art and history museums, one of Andalucía's greatest archaeological repositories, and a rather gruesome yet fascinating museum dedicated to the glories of the bullfight.

Top 10 Sights

1 La Mezquita, Córdoba

The world's third-largest mosque remains a place of grandeur and mystical power.

2 Judería

All around the Mezquita is the city's ancient Jewish quarter, dating back to the time of the Roman Empire. Its narrow alleyways are brilliantly whitewashed, hung with flowerpots, and graced with beautiful Moorish patios. This district also has Andalucía's only medieval synagogue, built in 1315.

3 Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos

This fortified palace, built in 1328, was used by the Inquisition (1500s–1820) and as a prison (until the 1950s). But today it is tranquil, with gardens, water terraces and fountains.



4 Palacio Episcopal

To the side of the Mezquita, the former bishop's palace was built over the original Moorish alcázar. Fine arts of the diocese are housed here.

5 Museo de Bellas Artes

A former 16th-century charity hospital is now the city's main art museum. It has a collection of works by local painters and sculptors, as well as paintings and drawings by Masters such as Goya, Ribera, Murillo, Zurbarán, and Valdés Leal.



6 Plaza del Potro

This small but elegant square, adorned with a 16th-century fountain, was once the livestock market.

7 Museo Arqueológico

Housed in a Renaissance mansion, this is one of the region's best archaeological museums. A highlight is the 10th-century Moorish bronze of a stag, found at Medina Azahara.

8 Palacio de los Marqueses de Viana

This noble residence (14th- to 18th-century) includes preserved period rooms and furnishings.

9 Museo Taurino

If you want to see the hide of the bull Islero, who gored the renowned Manolete to death in 1947 – as well as a replica of the sarcophagus of the matador – this museum is a must. Dedicated to the bullfight, it is filled with stuffed bulls' heads, posters, costumes and other memorabilia.

10 Puente Romano

Crossing the Río Guadalquivir, this massive arched bridge has Roman foundations, although it was rebuilt by the Moors. Halfway across is a statue of the Archangel Raphael, whom the people of the city still honour with flowers for saving it from the plague.

Córdoba City

Practical information

- Map D3

Alcázar:

- Campo Santo de los Mártires
- 957 42 01 51
- Open daily (times vary)
- Adm €4.00 (free Fri)

Palacio Episcopal:

- C/Torrijos 12
- 957 49 60 85
- Open Jun–Sep: 9am–3pm Mon–Sat; Oct–May: 9:30am– 1:30pm, 4–6pm Mon– Fri, 9:30am–1:30pm Sat
- Adm €1.50

Museo de Bellas Artes:

- Plaza del Potro 1
- 957 47 13 14
- Open 2:30– 8:30pm Tue, 9am– 8:30pm Wed–Sat, 9am– 2:30pm Sun
- Adm €1.50

Museo Arqueológico:

- Plaza Jerónimo Páez 7
- 957 47 40 11
- Open 2:30–8:30pm Tue, 9am– 8:30pm Wed–Sat
- Adm €1.50

Palacio de los Marqueses de Viana:

- Plaza Don Gome 2
- 957 49 67 41
- Open Mon–Sat
- Adm €6.00

Museo Taurino:

- Plaza Judíos
- 957 20 10 56
- Closed from April 2005 for 1 year

Top tips

- Head for the Puente Romano at sunset for glowing views.

Multicultural Tradition

Córdoba's brilliance owes much to its rich multicultural history. Its most important edifices are emblematic of the cross-fertilization of Islamic, Christian and Jewish cultures, and at its height in the 10th century, Córdoba was the spiritual and scientific centre of the Western World, due to its policy of religious tolerance (see Moorish Sophistication). However, following the Christian reconquista, many non-Christian thinkers were banished and the city soon fell into decline.

La Mezquita, Córdoba

Although it has officially been a Christian site for almost nine centuries, La Mezquita's identity as a mosque is inescapable – notwithstanding the cathedral insensitively placed in its centre like a huge spider in its web. As with the Alhambra (see Moorish Granada: The Alhambra), Emperor Carlos V can be blamed for this aesthetic indiscretion. Overriding the wishes of Córdoba's mayor, Carlos authorized the cathedral's construction in the 16th century, although he deeply regretted his decision upon beholding the completed travesty. Yet, despite time's every indignity, the world's third-largest mosque remains a place of grandeur, glory and ineffable mystical power. Climbing up to the top of the Torre del Alminar is a dizzying experience, but affords unmissable views over the town.

Top 10 Features

1 The Caliphal Style

The mosque was begun by Caliph Abd el-Rahman I in AD 786. La Mezquita constitutes the beginning of the Caliphal architectural style, combining Roman, Gothic, Byzantine, Syrian and Persian elements.



2 Puerta del Perdón

Originally entrance to the mosque was gained via many doors, also designed to let in light. This door, the Gate of Forgiveness (1377), is in Mudéjar style and is now the only one open to the public.

3 Patio de los Naranjos

The delightful Courtyard of the Orange Trees would have been used by worshippers to perform ritual ablutions before prayer.



4 Torre del Alminar

A minaret once stood where the belfry now is. Built in 957, it was enveloped in this Baroque belltower.

5 Interior

The plan of the interior is that of a so-called "forest" mosque, with the rows and rows of variegated columns (856 remaining) and arches said to evoke date palms.

Unlike Christian churches, based on earlier Roman basilicas with their focus on the central enthroned "judge", the Islamic aim is to induce an expansive, meditative state for prayer.

6 Recycled Columns

Great ingenuity was required to achieve the rhythmic uniformity inside, since most of the columns used in construction were recycled from Roman, Visigothic and other sources. They were a hotchpotch of varying sizes, so the longer ones had to be sunk into the floor. To reach the desired height, a second tier was added.



7 Mihrab

Dating from the 10th century, this is the jewel of the mosque. An octagonal chamber set into the wall, it was to be the sacred focal point of prayer, directed towards Mecca. No amount of ornamentation was spared. Emperor Nicephorus III sent artisans from Constantinople to create some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in existence.

8 Capilla de Villaviciosa & Capilla Real

One of the happier Christian additions, the Villaviciosa Chapel has exuberant arches in the Mudéjar style and dates from 1377. Next to it, the Royal Chapel sports appealing Mudéjar stucco work and azulejo (tile) decoration.

9 Cathedral

In 1523 some 60 of the 1,013 columns were removed from the heart of the mosque and others walled up so as to construct the cathedral.



10 Choir Stalls
The Baroque choir stalls date from 1758, and the exquisite carved mahogany depicts Biblical scenes.

La Mezquita, Córdoba

Practical information

- Calle Torrijos, Córdoba
- Map D3
- 957 47 05 12
- Open Mar–Dec: 10am–early evening Mon–Sat, 9–10:15am, 2–6:30pm Sun (summer); 2–5:30pm Sun (winter)
- Adm €8.00

Top tips

- El Caballo Rojo (C/Cardenal Herrero 28 957 47 53 75 €) is located just across from the Puerta del Perdón. It's a Córdoba favourite, and many of the recipes are Moorish influenced. Dine on the top-floor terrace for views of the mosque.
- Note that the last visitors are permitted to enter 30 minutes before closing but try to allow at least an hour to do the site justice.

A Spiritual Site

This magnificent edifice was not the first religious structure to be built on this spot. The Caliph bought the land from the Christians, who had built the Visigothic Cathedral of St Vincent here. In its last years, that building had been divided by a partition, so that it could serve the needs of Christian and Muslim communities. The Visigothic structure, in its turn, had been constructed on top of a Roman temple, and its columns are still visible in La Mezquita.

Cádiz

Glowing white in the intense southern light, Cádiz inspired the poet Lord Byron to praise its heavenly blue setting, gorgeous women and sensuous lifestyle. Nowadays it is one of Andalucía's under-visited treasures. According to ancient chronicles, it was founded by the Phoenicians as Gadir ("Fortress") in 1104 BC, giving it a good claim to being Europe's oldest city. Under the Romans it became Gades and was notable as the city where Julius Caesar held his first public office. Having been almost completely destroyed by an Anglo-Dutch raid in 1596, the old part of the present city is pure 18th-century and has remained virtually unchanged since then.

The Torre Tavira sports Spain's first camera obscura, which projects live images of the city onto a large screen.

Top 10 Sights



marks the boundary between the old city and modern-day Cádiz.

- 1 Barrio del Pópulo**
The Barrio del Pópulo is the medieval heart of the city, which still retains its three 13th-century gates. The main entrance of what's left of the 18th-century city wall, the Puerta de Tierra,



- 2 Plaza San Juan de Dios**
On the edge of the Barrio del Pópulo is this palm-fringed plaza, dating from the 16th century. Facing the port, it forms the hub of city life.

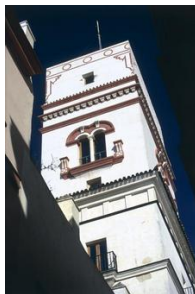


- 3 Catedral Nueva**
The "New Cathedral" was begun in 1722. The best view is from the waterfront, where the yellow dome is set off by the pastel house-fronts.

- 4 Iglesia de Santa Cruz & Teatro Romano**
In the midst of the Barrio del Pópulo is this church dating from 1260 and the ruins of a Roman theatre.



- 5 Plaza de las Flores**
This bustling market square is also known as the Plaza de Topete – named after the tophet, a type of ancient Phoenician temple, that once stood here.



- 6 Torre Tavira**
The highest tower in the city offers great views from its 46 m (150 ft) height.

- 7 Hospital de Mujeres**
This Baroque former hospital's main attraction is the chapel's painting of the Extasis de San Francisco by El Greco.

- 8 Museo de las Cortes de Cádiz**
Full of civic pride, this museum boasts a huge mural eulogizing Cádiz as the birthplace of liberalism. On 29 March 1812 Spain's first liberal constitution was conceived here, a document that played a major role in shaping modern European politics.

- 9 Oratorio de la Santa Cueva**
This elliptical Neo-Classical chapel has an upper church with an elegant dome supported by Ionic columns. Three frescoes by Goya depict miraculous moments from the life of Christ.

- 10 Museo de Cádiz**
Archaeological finds and Baroque paintings are the museum's forte. Exhibits include a pair of 5th-century BC Phoenician marble sarcophagi, one male and one female, showing Greek and Egyptian influences; Roman shipwreck finds; and works by Zurbarán, Murillo and others.

Cádiz

Practical information

- Map B5

Torre Tavira:

- C/Marqués del Real Tesoro 10;
- 956 21 29 10;
- Open mid-Jun–mid-Sep: 10am– 8pm daily; mid-Sep–mid-Jun 10am–6pm daily;
- Adm €3.50

Hospital de Mujeres:

- C/Hospital de Mujeres;
- 956 22 36 47;
- Open 10am–1:30pm Mon–Sat;
- Adm €0.80

Museo de las Cortes de Cádiz:

- C/Santa Inés 9;
- 956 22 17 88;
- Open 9am–1pm, 4–7pm Mon–Fri, 9am–1pm Sat–Sun;
- Free

Museo de Cádiz:

- Plaza Mina;
- 956 21 22 81;
- Open 2:30–8pm Tue, 9am–8pm Wed–Sat, 9:30am–2:30pm Sun;
- Adm €1.50

Top tips

- El Faro, Cádiz is the place to go for first-class seafood.
- You must book up to a year ahead for accommodation during Carnaval.

Los Carnavales

The vibrant Carnaval celebrations in this port town are the most exhilarating in all of Spain (see Carnaval). In fact, so dear is this annual blow-out to gaditanos (as the locals call themselves), that it was the only such event in the country that Franco's forces failed to suppress during the decades of dictatorship. The festival's various traditions date back to the 15th century, when the town had a significant Genoese enclave, though some claim there is also a strong Cuban influence.

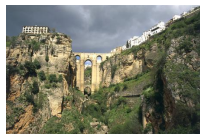
Ronda

This is the most famous of the pueblos blancos (white towns) – a scattering of evocative hamlets that reveal their Moorish roots between Málaga, Algeciras and Seville. Ronda is in the southwest corner of this zone and the only town in the wildly mountainous region of the Serranía de Ronda. Located just half an hour's drive from the Costa del Sol, Ronda hosts up to 75,000 tourists per day, yet has managed to retain its timelessness and charm, despite the inevitable modernization of recent decades. Its natural setting is so spectacular that the views alone make it a must-see experience.

The best views of the town and its stunning setting are from the road from Algeciras or the one from San Pedro de Alcántara.

In early September, Las Corridas Goyescas are held in Ronda, in which matadors fight in costumes based on Goya's etchings.

Top 10 Sights



1 El Tajo & Puente Nuevo

Ronda perches upon a sheer outcrop that is split by a precipitous cleft, El Tajo, 100 m (330 ft) deep. The spectacular 18th-century Puente Nuevo bridge links

the old city, La Ciudad, with the commercial district.

2 Casa del Rey Moro

A visit to the gardens of this 18th-century mansion, built on the foundations of a Moorish palace, will provide wonderful views.

3 Palacio del Marqués de Salvatierra

Another 18th-century mansion sports an ornate façade with a carved stone portal. The upper section is adorned with four squat figures that may represent South American Indians.

4 Puente Viejo & Puente de San Miguel

The Puente Viejo (Old Bridge) dates from 1616 and is thought to be a rebuilding of a Roman span, though some say its pedigree is Moorish, like the Puente de San Miguel. Both cross the gorge at the upstream end of the Río Guadalevín.

5 Baños Árabes

These wonderfully preserved Moorish baths date from the 1200s or early 1300s. The multiple barrel vaulting pierced with star-shaped lunettes is typical of such structures, but the beautifully designed octagonal brick columns supporting horseshoe arches are highly original.



6 Minarete de San Sebastián

This graceful 14th-century tower is all that remains of a Nasrid mosque.

7 Museo del Bandolero

For some 1,000 years, the Sierras were the haunt of bands of rebels and outlaws. The museum chronicles the history of such notorious brigands.

8 Iglesia de Santa María la Mayor

Much of this church incorporates a 13th-century mosque, notably the base of the Mudéjar belfry.

9 Palacio de Mondragón

One of Ronda's most beautiful palaces dates from 1314. Some of the original poly-chrome mosaic work and a magnificent Mudéjar ceiling can still be seen, but the rest was altered by the Christian overlords. Part of the palace is now the city's archaeological museum.

10 Plaza de Toros

Inaugurated in 1785, Ronda's bullring was constructed in limestone in an elegant double-tiered sweep; it is the widest in the world and one of the oldest in Spain. Since Ronda is the birthplace of the sport, this is the spiritual home of the tradition. It also houses a museum about the bullfight.

Ronda

Practical information

- Map D5

Casa del Rey Moro:

- C/Santo Domingo 9;
- 952 18 72 00;
- Open (gardens only) 10am–8pm daily (until 7pm Nov–Feb);
- Adm €4.00

Palacio del Marqués de Salvatierra:

- C/Marqués de Salvatierra;
- Closed to the public

Baños Árabes:

- Barrio de Padre Jesús
- 656 95 09 37;
- Open 10am–6pm Mon–Fri, 10am–3pm Sat & Sun;
- Adm €2.00

Museo del Bandolero:

- C/Armiñán 65;
- 952 87 77 85;
- Open 10:30am–1pm daily;
- Adm €3.00

Iglesia de Santa María la Mayor:

- Plaza Duquesa de Parcent;
- 952 87 22 46;
- Open 10am–8pm daily (until 6pm Nov– Mar);
- Adm €2.00

Palacio de Mondragón:

- Plaza de Mondragón;
- 952 87 84 50;
- Mon–Fri, 10am–3pm Sat & Sun;
- Adm €2.00

Top tips

The Origins of Bullfighting

The establishment here of the Real Maestranza de Caballería (Royal Academy of Knights) in 1572 set the stage for the birth of bullfighting as we know it. The Maestranza's role was equestrian training of Spain's aristocracy and students would challenge wild bulls on horseback. Legend relates that when one rider fell from his horse and was attacked by a bull, a bystander distracted the animal by waving his hat. The man's grandson Pedro Romero (1754–1839) perfected the Ronda School of bullfighting. Ronda stages only a few fights a year, but they are the most prestigious.

Costa del Sol

The former fishing villages of the “Sun Coast” welcome millions of international visitors each year – not counting the estimated 300,000 expats who call the coast home. The winning formula is 320 sunny days a year, warm, clean waters and beaches, and good-value, though somewhat brash, entertainment options. Heavy on neon and tower blocks, most of what’s here has little to do with local culture, but what is exuberantly Andalusian is the verve with which visitors enjoy themselves in the sun. Nights, too, are given over to typically Spanish merriment that continues until dawn.

Estepona still has a large fishing fleet, with a fish auction every dawn when the boats come in with their catch. For places to eat and to party on the Costa del Sol (see Costa del Sol Nightlife in Málaga and Cádiz Provinces, Costa del Sol Places to Eat in Málaga and Cádiz Provinces)

Top 10 Towns

1 Estepona
The first major resort on this coast is an excellent quieter choice, with 19 km (12 miles) of beach. In the casco antiguo (old town), Plaza Las Flores retains considerable charm.

2 Marbella
The 15th-century Plaza de los Naranjos is the heart of the old town of Marbella, Spain’s most expensive resort. Nearby Puerto Banús is the town’s glittering marina, where you can admire the fabulous yachts and breathe the same air as the super-rich.

3 Mijas
Come here for the views of the coast, as well as the maze of old Moorish streets filled with charming shops in the numerous tiny squares.

4 Fuengirola
This large resort is the most family-orientated, with a good beach and a recently remodelled seafront promenade. There is a restored 10th-century Moorish castle overlooking the town.

5 Benalmádena
This resort comes in three parts: the old town inland; the beach and port area; and Arroyo de la Miel, a lively suburb.

6 Torremolinos
Torre de los Molinos (Tower of the Windmills) refers to a Moorish watchtower that was at one time surrounded by 19 flourmills. The ancient Torre Vigia is still here, but surrounding it now is a big, brash and trashily modern resort that is the quintessence of inexpensive fun.



7 Málaga
Málaga is mostly a transit point for the average visitor and thus remains very Spanish in character. Andalucía’s second largest city has an interesting historic district dominated by

a vast 8th-century fortress and the ruins of the 14th-century Castillo de Gibralfaro.

8 Torre del Mar
This resort is favoured by Spanish families, so is less tawdry than others to the west. The tree-lined seafront promenade is part of a recent attempt to prettify facilities.

9 Vélez-Málaga
The old quarter of this market town has beautiful Mudéjar features. An annual flamenco guitar competition is held here every July.

10 Nerja
No high-rises here; Nerja is all white-washed good taste, surmounting attractive, verdant cliffs with quiet sandy beach coves below.

Costa del Sol

Practical information

Estepona:

- Map D5;
- Tourist Office: Avda San Lorenzo 1;
- 952 80 09 13;

Marbella:

- Map D5;
- Tourist Office: Plaza de los Naranjos 1;
- 952 82 35 50

Mijas:

- Map D5;
- Tourist Office: Plaza Virgen de la Peña;
- 952 48 59 00

Fuengirola:

- Map D5;
- Tourist Office: Avda Jesús Santos Rein 6
- 952 46 74 57

Benalmádena:

- Map D5;
- Tourist Office: Avda Antonio Machado 10;
- 952 44 24 94

Torremolinos:

- Map E5;
- Tourist Office: Plaza de las Comunidades Autónomas;
- 952 37 19 09

Málaga:

- Map E5
- Tourist Office: Pasaje de Chinitas 4;
- 952 21 34 45

Vélez-Málaga:

- Map E5;

Nerja:

- Map E5
- Tourist Office: C/Puerta del Mar 2;
- 952 52 15 31

Top tips

- Note that most sights and many shops close for the siesta from about 1pm to 5pm.

Franco's Costa Dream

It was General Franco, Spain's dictator until 1975, who had the idea of transforming this impoverished zone of fishing villages into the "Florida of Europe". He implemented his plan in the 1960s with money loaned by the US, in return for the right to build nuclear bases on Spanish soil. The jet-set glamour and cheap package deals were a runaway success, so much so that by the 1970s the area was an aesthetic and environmental disaster – with added corruption and organized crime. Since the 1980s, steps have been taken to clean up all these issues.

Baeza

Like nearby Úbeda, this smaller town is also a jewel of Renaissance glory, but includes earlier remains dating back to the Moors and, before them, the Romans. The town radiates a sense of tranquillity as you walk from one cluster of lovely buildings to another. Again, much of the beauty owes its existence to Vandelvira (see Baeza and Úbeda).

Úbeda

Ignore the downtrodden outskirts as you approach this town – once you get to the historic centre you will realize that it is one of Andalucía's most remarkable splendours. The keynote here is architecture – an entire district of mostly Renaissance edifices built for local nobility in the 16th century. One of Andalucía's greatest architects, Andrés de Vandelvira, was the genius who gave most of these structures their harmonious forms (see Baeza and Úbeda).

Parque Nacional del Coto Doñana

Europe's largest nature reserve includes important wetlands and shifting dunes that are gradually moving inland. The fragile ecosystem can only be visited on guided tours.

The Sierra Nevada

Spain's tallest peaks – and, after the Alps, Europe's second loftiest chain – make Andalucía home to some excellent skiing in winter, robust trekking in spring and summer, and a favourite with naturalists who come to marvel at the abundant wild-flowers and wildlife. For the more culturally inclined, the historic villages of the Alpujarras, on the dramatic southern slopes, are a fascinating study in an age-old way of life.

2

Getting there

Planning Your Trip

1 Internet Information

There are several sources of information on the Internet. If you're interested in a particular place or aspect of the region, see the following websites for more information.

- www.andalucia.com • www.andalucia.org • www.okspain.org • www.spainlive.com • www.spain.info



2 Climate

The region enjoys a very mild climate. The year-round average temperature is 18–20°C (64–68°F) with some 320 sunny days. Coastal areas have highs fluctuating

between 15°C (59°F) and 30°C (86°F). Inland, average city highs vary from 12°C (54°F) in January to 36°C (97°F) in August.

3 When to Go

Every season offers its reasons to come here: summer for nightlife, spring and autumn for nature, winter for skiing. But autumn is the best time – the weather is still good, the water is warm, the crowds have gone, prices are lower and there are lots of local festivals.

4 Passports & Visas

Britons, Americans, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and EU citizens need only a valid passport to stay for 90 days. Other nationalities must get a visa from their Spanish consulate.

5 Spanish Embassies & Consulates Abroad

If you have any questions, your local Spanish embassy or consulate is well equipped to help you.

- *Australia:* 15 Arkana St, Yarralumla, Canberra • 02 6273 3555
- *Canada:* 74 Stanley Ave, Ottawa; • (613) 747 2252
- *Ireland:* 17a Merlyn Park, Dublin 4; • 353(0) 1283 9900
- *UK:* 39 Chesham Place, London; • 020 7235 5555
- *USA:* 2375 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC • (202) 728 2330

6 Foreign Consulates in Andalucía

For any further questions whilst in Spain, contact your country's consulate.

- *Canada:* Edificio Horizonte, Plaza de la Malagueta 3, Málaga; • 952 22 33 46
- *Ireland:* Avda de los Boliches 15, Fuengirola; • 952 47 51 08
- *UK:* Edificio Eurocom Sur, C/Mauricio Moro Pareta 2, 2°, Málaga; • 952 35 23 00
- *USA:* Paseo de las Delicias 7, Seville • 954 23 18 85

7 Spanish National Tourist Offices

This service (see Planning Your Trip) will provide maps and brochures on request.

8 General Information

The time zone is that for Western Continental Europe (GMT +1 hour). Voltage is 220, and round-pronged plugs are used. UK gadgets need an adapter; US counterparts also require a transformer. The minimum age for driving is 18.

9 Insurance

It is always a good idea to obtain private medical insurance. Then, if you require treatment while on holiday, you pay for the care, keep the receipts and are reimbursed according to the terms of your policy. General travel insurance is also recommended.

10 What to Take

Casual dress is generally acceptable throughout Andalucía – linens or cottons are the best way to beat the summer heat. A hat will also be useful, and don't forget a high-factor sunscreen.

Getting to Andalucía

1 By Air from Europe

Málaga is the main airport in Andalucía, but many other cities in the region also have airports – European flights also come into Seville, Jerez, Almería and Gibraltar. All airports have both bus and taxi services to city centres, except for Jerez, which only has taxis.

- *Air France:* www.airfrance.fr
- *British Airways:* www.britishairways.com • UK 0870 850 9850; • USA 800 247 9297
- *Iberia:* www.iberia.com • UK 0845 850 9000 • USA • 800 772 4642
- *KLM:* www.klm.com
- *Lufthansa:* www.lufthansa.com

2 By Air from outside Europe

Most international flights land at Málaga and the list of carriers is vast. The airport is 6 km (4 miles) southwest of the city. There is a train service to the east and west of the region, as well as buses. Taxis are also an option.

- *American Airlines,* www.aa.com; • USA 800 433 7300

3 Charter & Budget Flights

Most air traffic to Andalucía is made up of charter flights, which are cheaper than scheduled flights. For budget flights to the region, try those recommended below:

- www.easyjet.com • www.ryanair.com • www.vueling.com

4 Packages

Most travel agencies will have slick, full-colour brochures touting these complete getaway deals, and the prices often include full- or half-board accommodation as well as transport. Be aware, however, that these packages are usually centred in the most congested and touristy resorts on the coast, and you may not get a true impression of Andalucía.

5 By Car

From Madrid, it is a day's drive down to Andalucía. To get to Spain with your own car from the UK, options include ferries to France or to the north of Spain itself. Another alternative is to load your car on to an overnight train from Paris and collect it in Madrid the next morning.

- *P&O European Ferries*: • 08705 980 333 • www.poferries.com
- *Brittany Ferries*: 8703 665 333 • www.brittanyferries.com
- *Motorail, SNCF France*: • (+33) 145 820 841

6 By Sea

The ferries from the UK connect with trains to Córdoba and Málaga direct from Bilbao, another with connections in Madrid from Santander. If you're coming to Andalucía from the Balearic Islands, there are ferries from Palma to Barcelona and Valencia, from which you can take the train down to the south.

7 By Bus

This option works out, in most cases, to be more expensive than a low-cost flight. And from the UK, for example, it can be a gruelling 35-hour trip. Consider it as a last resort.

- *Eurolines*: 020 7730 8235; • www.eurolines.com

8 By Train

From Madrid there are 20 high-speed AVE trains daily to Seville. The journey takes 2 hours 20 minutes, with a stop in Córdoba. From Barcelona, the train trip to Seville is about 9 hours.

- *RENFE*: www.renfe.es

9 Car Rentals

Renting a car in Andalucía is comparatively cheap. Local firms will generally treat you better, even delivering and picking up the vehicle. Most companies require that drivers be at least 25 years old, with a valid licence and credit card. Make sure there are no hidden charges.

- *Hertz*: www.hertz.com
- *Avis*: www.avis.com
- *Europcar*: www.europcar.com
- *Málaga companies*: *Autopro* 952 17 60 30; • *Dany Car* 952 79 02 37 • *Helle Hollis* 952 24 55 44

10 By Motorcycle

The same options as for cars apply for motorcycle travel. And, once in Andalucía, it's a great way to get around, especially for the hinterland.

Getting Around Andalucía

1 By Bus

If you don't have your own wheels, the bus system is the best way to get around. Buses go to almost every village, sooner or later, and the roads have improved in recent years, shortening routes. There are dozens of companies dividing up the market, with multiple bus stations in some towns. You can buy tickets on board.

- *Seville*: *Prado de San Sebastian*, • 954 41 71 11
- *Granada*: *Ctra de Jaén*, • 958 18 50 10

- *Córdoba*: *Glorieta de Tres Culturas s/n*, • 957 40 40 40

- *Málaga*: *Paseo de los Tilos*, • 952 35 00 61

2 By Train

Train connections between major towns are fairly developed and there are some regional routes as well. Recently built stations in Seville and Córdoba are efficient and user-friendly. However, expect many stops along the way.

- *Seville*: *Santa Justa, Avda Kansas City*, • 902 24 02 02
- *Granada*: *Avda Andaluces*, • 902 24 02 02
- *Córdoba*: *Glorieta de las Tres Culturas*, • 902 24 02 02
- *Málaga*: *Explanada de la Estación*, • 902 24 02 02 • www.renfe.es

3 By Car

Many of the main roads in the region are less than 10 years old and in great condition. The problem is that, as a result, older maps can be confusingly out of date. Expect chaotic driving conditions, as locals pay little attention to rules and signs. Parking in towns and cities can be a real problem – leave the car in a car park and walk.

4 By Motorcycle

This is an excellent way to visit the out of the way areas and to discover a side of the region that most pass by. For steep inclines you'll need a good-sized bike, but if you're on the coast a scooter will do. Helmets are required by law.

5 Boating

With all the marinas up and down both coasts this mode of transport is a natural if you can afford it. But you'll need to be an experienced sailor to deal with the heavy currents that dominate the waters around the Strait of Gibraltar – for most, it's best to stick close to either coast.

- *Royal Spanish Sailing Federation*: 915 19 50 08; • www.rfev.es

6 By Taxi

Taxis are an affordable way to get around towns – you can find plenty of them cruising the streets to be flagged down. Some have no meters, but the drivers are usually honest about how much the fare should be. It is customary to give the driver a small tip.

- *Seville*: 954 58 00 00
- *Granada*: 958 28 06 54
- *Córdoba*: 957 76 44 44
- *Málaga*: 952 33 33 33

7 By Bicycle

Cycling has taken on the dimensions of a major sport all over Spain – especially here, where the weather is so conducive. You'll see gaggles of Lycra-clad enthusiasts on many of the steepest mountain roads.

- *Spanish Cycling Federation*: 915 40 08 41 • www.rfec.com

8 By Metro

During 2006 a new subway system is being introduced in Seville. City centre stations will branch out to the surrounding suburbs, providing a cost effective and efficient means of transport.

9 Hiking

This is the best way to explore mountainous areas, and there are many local organizations to help you with maps, suggestions and advice. Make sure you have adequate gear, including cold weather or sun protection.

- *Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña, Granada*: 958 29 13 40
- *Nevadensis C/Verónica, Pampaneira (Granada)* • 958 76 31 27

10 Walking

This is really the only practical way to take in Andalucía's cities and towns, mainly because every inch of their historic centres is worth a close look.

Specialist Holidays

1 Walking & Hiking Tours

Walking and hiking are up-close ways to explore the countryside, and many companies offer well-organized groups.

- *Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña, Granada*; • 958 29 13 40
- *Explore Worldwide, 1 Frederick St, Aldershot, Hants*; • 01252 760 144
- *Nevadensis, C/Verónica, Pampaneira (Granada)*; • 958 76 31 27

2 Horse-Riding & Nature Tours

Nature lovers can take to trails on horseback, peer at the local wildlife from special hides, see the dolphins at the Straits of Gibraltar, or go on a nature safari.

- *Bird Holidays, 10 Ivegate, Yeadon, Leeds*; • 0113 391 0510
- *Dolphin Safari, Marina Bay, Gibraltar*; • 956 77 19 14
- *Rancho Los Lobos, Estación de Jimena (Cádiz)*; • 956 64 04 29
- *Safari Andalucía, Apartado 20, Gaucín (Málaga)*; • 952 15 11 48

**3 Bodega Tours**

Tours of the famous wine cellars (bodegas) in the Sherry Triangle and Málaga can be arranged either on the spot or in advance. Tours often feature samplings of great wines as well as

gastronomic delights.

- *Mundicolor Holidays, 276 Vauxhall Bridge Rd, London*; • 020 7828 6021
- *Saranjan Tours, Kirkland, Washington, USA*; • 800 858 9594

4 Flamenco Tours & Salsa Holidays

Learn to dance, Spanish-style. The flamenco-based sevillana is a must for fiesta-goers, while the salsa is popular at clubs.

- *Taller Flamenco, C/Peral 49, Seville*; • 954 90 74 51; • www.tallerflamenco
- *Spanish Fiesta, Urb. Lindaraja 12, Almuñecar*; • 680 22 69 30
- *Dance Holiday, 24-32 Stephenson Way, London*; • www.dance.holidays.com

5 Spanish Language Holidays

Combining a holiday with courses in Spanish is a popular choice. Schools often offer a range of other activities.

- *Instituto Cervantes, 102 Eaton Sq, London*; • 020 7201 0750
- *Don Quijote, Azhuma 5, Granada, or Conde de Ibarra 2, Seville*; • 958 25 42 12
- *Instituto Platón, C/Natalio Rivas 1, Granada*; • 958 29 22 19
- *Instituto de Español Picasso, Plaza de la Merced 20, Málaga*; • 952 21 39 32

**6 Cultural Study Holidays**

Many companies organize art, architecture and archaeology tours, or courses on regional cookery, painting and more.

- *Instituto Internacional Gibralfaro, Duque de la Victoria 8, Málaga*; • 952 21 54 11
- *Prospect Music & Art Tours, 36 Manchester St, London*; • 020 7486 5704
- *The Spirit of Andalucía, c/o Sally von Meister, Apartado 20, El Nobo, Gaucín (Málaga)*; • 952 15 13 03

7 Golfing Holidays

With more than 50 courses on the Costa del Sol (see Costa del Sol Golf Courses) and ideal weather it's little wonder that the world comes here to play golf. Many hotels cater specifically to the golfer, and there are many specialist operators.

- *Longshot Golf Holidays, Meon House, College St, Petersfield, Hants*; • 0870 6090995

8 Extreme Sports Tours

Scuba-diving, paragliding, hot-air ballooning, snowboarding – these are just a few of the more extreme sports you can find in Andalucía.

- *Aviación del Sol, Apartado 344, Ronda*; • 952 87 72 49
- *Club Parapente Valle de Abdalajis, C/Sevilla 2, Valle de Abdalajis (Málaga)*; • 952 48 91 80

9 Luxury Tours

The luxury-minded traveller has plenty of options, including a train tour on the opulent AlAndalus Expresso.

- *AlAndalus Expreso, Cox & King's Travel Ltd., Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London*; • 020 7873 5000

10 Pilgrimages Andalusians take their religious pilgrimages seriously. If you want to join a *romería*, contact the local tourist board for exact dates, as all of them shift according to the lunar calendar or when weekends fall.

Things to Avoid

1 Tap Water The region is subject to drought conditions with some regularity, and at such times the tap water can begin to taste fairly unpleasant. Although it is never dangerous, you might prefer to stick with bottled water. When hiking, never drink from streams – the days of pristine mountain springs are long gone.

2 Rancid Food In the heat of the summer, it's wise to be attentive to the freshness of what you consume. Tapas (see Tapas Dishes) that look as though they've been around a day too long, anything to do with mayonnaise that's been sitting out of the fridge and, of course, shellfish served in less than fastidiously hygienic establishments are probably best refused.

3 Religious Disrespect Despite the casual dress code that predominates here, it is still a good idea to dress respectfully when you visit places of worship, and not to visit at all during mass or religious ceremonies.

4 Fakes & Forgeries In the land of Picasso, it's wise to be wary of supposed "originals". Copies, prints, forgeries and outright fakes do brisk business. If you decide to buy any of these pieces, be very certain you're pledging your trust to a dealer whose credentials are beyond reproach – and get certificates of authentication and guarantees.

5 "Mystery" Tours In the most heavily toured zones you'll occasionally be offered a tour that, on the face of it, looks like something for nothing. It might be a daytrip to some interesting sight at a remarkably cut-rate price, or even an offer of cash or a lavish meal for just going to inspect a new condo or time-share project. These are not promotional bargains in the usual sense, but heavy-handed sales ploys and should be steered clear of.

6 Beach Snacks Many of the snack bars you find along the beaches, especially the most popular beaches, are overpriced and sometimes the food is almost inedible, with a few exceptions. If you want to hang out in such a place for convenience and to enjoy the people-watching, then just get a drink. For meals, head away from the waterfront and into the towns.

7 Flower Girls These women appear friendly enough when they flounce up to you and try to hand you a flower or a sprig of rosemary. But once you take the bait, they indignantly demand a lot of money for their cheery little "gift". Do your best to avoid them.

8 Peddlers Most pavement peddlers will just call out to you a word or two about their merchandise, but once you evince an interest, you will be under pressure to buy something. Make it clear from the outset that you might want to look, but you'll decide what, if anything, you're going to buy. Check all merchandise thoroughly for defects, especially clothing, and then offer half the asking price.

9 Hair-Raising Roads If Grand Prix-style driving is not your thing, it's best to avoid Andalucía's most challenging roads. The worst for sheer craziness remains the Costa del Sol's coastal highway. Some mountain roads are exceedingly narrow, winding and skirt yawning chasms.

10 Street Scams An age-old gambling con in busy pedestrian areas is the shell game. The main man shuffles three cups, showing you how easy it is to follow the one that covers the pea, or whatever. Don't be taken in – you'll never win a game.

Banking and Communications

1 Currency Now that the euro is the currency of many European countries, life is much easier for visitors to the continent, although the changeover has resulted in some price inflation. Euro banknotes have the following denominations: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500. Euro coins come in eight denominations: 1 euro, 2 euros, and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents. Visitors from outside the euro zone should check the exchange rates at the time of travel.

2 Traveller's Cheques If you're going to opt for this safety precaution, get your cheques directly in euros – you won't have to pay any commission to cash them and, in some places, you'll be able to use them as cash. Make sure you keep track of the serial numbers.

3 Cashpoints and ATMs For ready cash, this is the best option. Bank machines are everywhere and very reliable. Spanish banks charge no transaction fee; you'll only have your own bank's fee to pay for using a non-branch machine.

4 Credit Cards Using your credit card is possible for almost everything in larger towns. Only the smallest places in the most off-the-beaten-track outposts will find it a problem. However, be aware that your own bank may charge you a 2 percent currency conversion fee for every card purchase you make, so it's cheaper to use your cash card option.

5 Wiring Money This expensive, laborious process should be considered only as a last resort. You can have your bank send money to a bank in Spain, but you must organize things at the Spanish end first. Then expect it to take an indeterminate number of days and for there to be substantial charges at both ends of the process.

6 Post
Post offices (correos) are open 9am to 2pm and 5pm to 7:30pm, although larger offices do not close for siesta. For letters and postcards, you can also get stamps (sellos) at tobacco shops and newspaper stands. In general, Spanish post is reliable.

7 Telephones
Calling Spain from another country requires dialling 00 then the country code, 34. While you're in Andalucía you must always dial the regional area code, 95, even if you call locally. To call abroad from Spain, dial 00, then the country code, area code and number of your destination. For local and national information call 11850; for international enquiries call 11825.

8 Internet
Many hotels now allow you to use your laptop for accessing the Internet. Internet cafés are also common sights in every town and city, and even villages.

9 Newspapers and Magazines
In the larger towns, you'll find a good selection of international press: USA Today and the International Herald Tribune are available in the larger kiosks, as well as major British, German, French and Dutch papers. Costa del Sol English-language magazines include The Entertainers, Lookout and Marbella Life.

10 TV and Radio
The more expensive hotels all offer satellite TV, with many programmes in English, German, French and Italian – not to mention all the regular Spanish channels. Radio Gibraltar and US Armed Forces Radio from Rota provide English-language broadcasting, and there are others along the Costa del Sol. Spanish stations feature a mix of Spanish and international pop music. Canal Sur is the official Andalusian broadcasting system.

Security and Health

1 Precautions
There are no special inoculations required to visit Andalucía. The only protection you should be sure to use on a regular basis is sunscreen – sunburn and heat stroke are the main sources of discomfort. Some people also experience a slight upset stomach from the change in bacteria in the food and water, although tap water is safe to drink.

2 Prescriptions
If there are any prescription medicines you require, or may require, it's best to bring them along with you. Due to differing pharmaceutical regulations, different countries may or may not have the drugs you need, or they may be sold under a different name.

3 Emergencies
For any emergency, give precise information about what is needed and where exactly you are, in Spanish if you are able.

4 Pharmacies
Pharmacies (farmacias) are a good source of medical advice for minor complaints. The pharmacists

are highly trained, often speak good English, and may be able to sell medicines that would normally only be available by prescription at home. In major towns you'll find at least one pharmacy open 24 hours.

5 Multilingual Doctors
If you are seriously ill and need a doctor who speaks your language, you can get details from your local consulate (see Spanish Embassies & Consulates Abroad), hotel, pharmacy or tourist office. If you need someone who works under the EU health plan, make sure that the doctor is part of the Spanish health care system; otherwise, be prepared to pay and be reimbursed later by your insurance company.

6 Disabled Travellers
Generally speaking, Andalucía is not very well set up for travellers with any sort of disability. The best bet for adequate facilities are the newer hotels, since the law requires that all new public buildings be fully accessible. Older structures will present problems for those in wheelchairs.

7 Condoms
Condoms need no longer be smuggled into Spain, as they had to be during the Franco era. They are available in pharmacies, bars and even vending machines on the street.

8 Accidents
In the case of an accident dial the emergency number or call the Cruz Roja (Red Cross), who will send an ambulance and paramedics. There are good international hospitals along the Costa del Sol, and in major cities.

► *Red Cross: Hospital Victoria Eugenia; Avda de la Cruz Roja; Seville; • 954 35 14 00*

► *Hospital Costa del Sol: Ctra Nacional 340 km 187; Marbella, • 952 82 82 50*

► *Hospital Virgen de las Nieves: Avda de las Fuerzas Armadas, Granada; • 958 02 00 00*

► *Hospital Reina Sofía: Avda Menéndez Pidal, Córdoba, • 957 01 00 00*

9 Petty Crime
In any crowded area, there are bound to be pickpockets. The best solution is not to carry any valuables in easily accessible places. Wallets should be safely tucked into inside closed pockets or under your clothing in a money belt. Never leave bags unattended.

10 Serious Crime
Serious crime is virtually unheard of in this pleasure-loving land. Naturally, however, it's wise not to wander down a deserted, unlit alley at night, especially in the seedier quarters.

Special Concerns

1 Disabled Travellers
Historically lagging behind in providing for people with mobility problems, Spain has begun to catch up in recent years. At least at the airport you should find adequate facilities – as long as you notify your travel

agent and/or airline of your needs in advance and then reconfirm a week before departure.

2 Disabled Accommodation

The older buildings, often refurbished medieval structures, are usually entirely without facilities for the disabled – there are endless stairways and levels to contend with, sometimes even within a single room. Stay in the newest hotel you can find, where lifts and bathrooms will probably be large enough and will all comply with EU laws. But check details before booking.

➤ *Access-Able Travel Services:* www.access-able.com

➤ *All Go Here:* www.allgohere.com

➤ *Access Travel:* 01942 888844; • www.access-travel.co.uk

➤ *Mobility International USA, Eugene, OR(541) 343-1284,* • www.miusa.org

➤ *Australian Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled:* 02 628 524 40, • www.acrod.org.au

➤ *Organización Nacional de Ciegos de España (ONCE):* C/Resolana 30, Seville; • 954 90 16 16; • www.once.es

3 Senior Citizens

The area is very senior-friendly, given the large numbers of international retirees who choose these sunny climes. Many apartment complexes are designed exclusively with seniors in mind, and hotels as well. Seniors also qualify for discounted fees to many sights, travel and even some hotels.

4 Resources for Seniors

There are several educational organizations that cater to seniors, with extensive residential cultural programmes of all types. In addition, the Junta de Andalucía has a helpline for those who can speak Spanish.

➤ *Senior Helpline:* 900 22 22 23

➤ *Elderhostel:* www.elderhostel.org

5 Women Travellers

Compared to Northern Europe, attitudes here towards women can be pretty macho. Still, women generally do not encounter harassment and can travel alone without a problem. Naturally, exercise normal care, especially after dark.

6 Helplines

The Junta de Andalucía runs several helplines, which are free calls from any phone, but they are Spanish-speaking only.

➤ *Women:* 900 20 09 99

➤ *Drug addiction:* 900 16 15 15

7 Student Travellers

Many students come to study in Seville, Granada and Córdoba. With a valid International Student ID Card, you're entitled to some price reductions on entrance fees and travel. There are student information centres in major cities.

➤ *Instituto Andaluz de la Juventud:* C/O'Donnell 22, Seville; • 955 03 57 00

➤ *Centro Municipal de Información Juvenil:* C/Varela 14 Bajo, Granada; • 958 22 20 53

➤ *La Casa de la Juventud:* C/Campo Madre de Dios, Córdoba; • 957 76 47 07



8 Public Conveniences

Public toilets are scarce, but bars are everywhere and they are legally bound to let you use their facilities. A "S" on the door stands for Señoras (Ladies) and a "C" indicates Caballeros (Gents),

although there are variations.

9 Gay Travellers

In more cosmopolitan areas, attitudes towards gays and lesbians are relaxed, but less so in rural areas.

➤ *Asociación Andaluza de Lesbianas y Gays:* Granada, • 958 20 06 02

10 Gay Areas

Torremolinos is gay-central for nightlife (see Gay Torremolinos). Other cities with significant gay populations and venues are Seville, Granada and Cádiz.

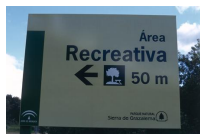
3

Helpful tips

Budget Tips

1 Package Deals

If you choose carefully, making sure that you end up in a fairly pleasant part of the coast or near the sights you want to see, all-inclusive packages can be excellent value. They are particularly appealing if all you mainly want is to be handily situated for the beach and have most of your meals covered into the bargain.



2 Picnicking

Given the wealth of natural beauty here, much of it now given over to parks and reserves, there are excellent picnicking opportunities everywhere. There are also plenty of

grocers for all that you'll need to put together a memorable repast, with settings and views thrown in. Be sure to pick up your litter afterwards.

3 Self-Catering

You'll certainly need to book very much in advance to secure one of the less expensive self-catering apartments. But it's worth it, not only for the money you'll save but also for the freedom you'll enjoy in doing the region entirely your own way (see Self-Catering Options).

4 Partying

Not all bars and clubs are pricey. Some of the most happening ones, in fact, are free to enter and require nothing of you but to have a good time and enjoy the ambience. No cover charges or minimum charges is a reality here – most of the bars are so busy that no one will notice that you're nursing your brew all night long.

5 Camping

There are some 130 authorized campsites in the region, mostly along the coast. Camping rough is legal, although not particularly encouraged. It's prohibited within 1 km (half a mile) of an official campsite, in urban areas, and in zones prohibited for military or ecological reasons. Get permission from the landowner first (see Hostals and Camping).

6 IVA

If you buy anything that has a hefty sales tax tacked onto it and you are a non-EU citizen, keep the receipt, fill out the paperwork, then when you leave you can get a portion of it reimbursed at the airport. Another option for avoiding the 7 percent IVA tax is to have your purchases shipped directly home.

7 Menú del Día

The daily lunch menu in most restaurants can save you a great deal – as much as 75 per cent of the regular à la carte cost. Portions are generally generous, too, so you can make this your major meal of the day. It's also a great way to savour the cuisine of some of the top restaurants without forking out over-the-top prices.

8 Laundromats

A few lavanderías automáticas can be found in cities, but don't bother looking anywhere else. Regular laundries and tintorerías (dry-cleaners) are quite

expensive, and hotel services are even more exorbitant. Bring a packet of travel washing detergent with you.

9 Reduced Admissions

Coupons for reduced group admissions to various attractions can help a lot when you've got a whole family to pay for. You'll find them in various magazines, weekly papers, flyers, brochures and handed out on the street in busy areas. Tourist offices also often have stacks of them lying around as promotional lures.



10 Off-Season Travel

This is by far the best way to make your money go further. Prices plummet as the throngs of July and August become a faint memory. Low-season prices

for everything can delight the budget-minded traveller, plus you have the luxury of being one of only a few, rather than amid vast hordes.

Accommodation Tips

1 Where to Stay

This extensive region offers a tremendous range of climes and terrains, from sophisticated city life, to mountains, to subtropical beaches, to wild, open plains. If you have the time, sample a bit of all of these, each of them beautiful and satisfying.

2 Accommodation Types

Determining your needs and desires before you book will ensure a happier stay. Andalucía has a vast range of accommodation options, from resorts (see Resorts), government-run paradors, often in historic buildings (see Paradors), converted farmhouses (see Rural Retreats), to camping and hostels (see Hostals and Camping). If you want to see many of the region's sights but only want one base, consider renting a car.

3 Choosing the Best Base

Decide first how much of the region you want to see, and how much time you want to spend in differing terrains. Then choose whether to be based in a bustling area, in a smaller village, or in a more remote location. Options exist right on the sea, up in the mountains, or on private fincas (ranches), either working farms or those that have been transformed into pleasant resorts.

4 Price Considerations

The range of accommodation costs is very wide. You can get pretty much whatever you want in terms of location by spending very little. Andalucía tends to be less expensive than many other destinations of equal or greater quality.

5 Making Reservations

If you plan to visit in high season make reservations as far in advance as possible. The good-value accommodations fill up quickly and even high-end gems can be booked solid in the months of July and August. You will need a credit card number with expiry date to book, and you should confirm every detail – exact dates, type of accommodation, number of beds – with the hotel management by sending an e-mail and/or a fax.

6 Finding Something on the Spot Unless you want to face hours of casting about for a room and possibly not finding anything in your price range, this practice is not recommended here, except in low season when you can, indeed, find plenty of options and good prices. Do be aware, however, that many establishments close for up to several months during the winter.

7 Tipping Tipping in Spain, as in many countries in Europe, is not absolutely necessary. Workers are paid living wages and do not depend on your tips. However, a few coins for services rendered by the hotel staff are never amiss. You can tip porters and bellboys on the spot, and leave something for the maid in your room.

8 Hidden Extras A tax of 7 percent may or may not be included in the quoted price of your accommodation. Parking, phone use and breakfast also may or may not be charged as extra, so determine what you are liable for in advance.

9 Travelling with Children Andalucía is well set up for family travel. With very few exceptions, children are welcome at every hotel or resort, and those under certain ages may even stay free, with no extra charge for rollaway beds or cots. Many hotels have a schedule of events with kids in mind, often at no extra charge.

10 Language With so many years of tourism, many Andalucians are multilingual. However, it's a good idea to learn a little Spanish, at least for getting around the more rural areas.

Eating and Drinking Tips

1 Eating Out Both lunch and dinner hours tend to be late in Spain. Lunchtime is certainly no earlier than 1:30pm and even 3 pm is perfectly normal. Dinner is usually no earlier than 9 pm and sitting down at table as late as 11pm is not unheard of. A reservation is never a bad idea, and smart-casual dress is perfectly fine at most establishments.

2 Breakfast As throughout most of the Mediterranean, breakfast here is little more than a coffee and pasta (pastry). Only foreign-run venues offer a full English or American breakfast. Many hotels cater to international taste with a buffet spread.

3 Tapas and Raciones Tapas (see Andalusian Dishes) are a Spanish institution and nowhere more prevalent than here. Locals eat them as appetizers before heading off to dinner, but a few well-chosen tapas can easily make a full meal. Raciones are larger portions of the same dishes.

4 Menú del Día Many places offer a menú del día (daily menu) at lunchtime, which usually means considerable savings compared to à la carte prices. You get a very limited

choice of a first course (typically soup or salad) and second course (fish or meat, with side orders) and dessert, with water and wine included. Coffee is usually extra, or in place of dessert.

5 Meats Pork in all its guises is the central meat in the Andalusian diet, with Jabugo mountain-cured ham considered the crowning glory. Duck, rabbit, quail and other game are also quite common, with beef and veal present but not so important. Chicken is very common, and goat and lamb are also featured on many menus all over the region.

6 Seafood Even along the crowded Costa del Sol, the few remaining fishermen still manage to haul in the full bounty that the Mediterranean has to offer. And the abundance from the Atlantic coast is even more impressive. A local speciality is rape (monkfish), and various types of crustacean and shellfish include lobster, crayfish, prawns and mussels (see Bodegas and Wineries).

7 Side Dishes and Dessert Favourite side dishes include asparagus, both green and white, and mushrooms sautéed with garlic, as well as whatever vegetables may be at their seasonal best. Fresh fruit is always an option for dessert, along with a range of baked treats and several types of custard.

8 Drinks Wine and beer are the top choices, usually accompanied by a small bottle of mineral water, either still or sparkling. Sangria is prevalent, too, but the regional drink of choice is vino de Jerez (sherry), or one of the sweet wines from Málaga. Coffee can be with or without milk and you can also ask for it descafeinado (decaffeinated) (see Top 10 Sherries and Wines).

9 Vegetarian and Vegan Options Such choices are few and far between on most menus around the region. Meat is used in almost everything, and even the vegetable dishes are usually enhanced with a bit of pork. One good recourse would be to have the chef make a salad for you, leaving out any non-vegetarian ingredients. Or head for one of the few vegetarian restaurants.

10 Tipping Tipping is not the absolute necessity here that it is in some countries. Nevertheless, it is customary to leave about 10 percent of the total bill, or at least to round the figure up.

Tips for Families

1 Accommodation Breaks Most accommodation options here – unless they specifically request “adults only” – truly welcome families. Hotels often allow you to include any children up to a certain age – sometimes as high as the teens – at no extra charge, except perhaps a nominal fee for the extra bed or two. The best option for most families is a self-catered apartment (see Self-Catering Options).

2 Meals for Kids

Most restaurants have special kids' meals, and some even have separate menus with things that will please children's palates. Many will also prepare special foods for infants. There are also fast-food restaurants that cater to kids' tastes.

3 Shopping for Kids

There are shops galore that focus on what kids want, from toys to beach gear to clothes and gadgets. Most of the stuff is cheap – and cheaply made – so you can stock up on what they need without worrying about the budget.

**4 Sights for Kids**

Some of the theme parks and museums have exhibits and activities, as well as special playgrounds, that are designed entirely with children in mind.

Andalucía's caves, too, are a big hit with youngsters, instilling them with a rich awareness of the wonders of nature.

5 Kids' Activities

Besides the sea, the region also has a number of commercial water-parks and amusement parks, replete with slides and other facilities for children to burn up a full-day's energy. It's healthy, outdoor fun that the whole family can participate in.

6 Teenagers

Teenagers of every nationality quickly fall in with each other soon after arrival in the most touristed areas, establishing a routine of beaching it during the day and going out at night. There's plenty of high-energy action to get up to while the sun shines. When the sun goes down, it's time to prepare for the forthcoming social whirl.

7 Nightlife

In the very touristy resorts, which depend on families for much of their trade, many clubs will allow entrance for older teens, although the minimum legal age for drinking is 18. Depending on what curfew, if any, is imposed by parental authority, the dancing can go on till dawn. Spanish in general are very relaxed about the presence of children in bars and pubs.

8 Hotel Offerings

Many of the larger hotels and resorts have a full programme of activities for guests of every age. These may include water aerobics, water polo, or other exercise regimes – or anything from crafts classes for adults to organized games for pre-schoolers. Most such activities are scheduled on a weekly basis, with a monthly calendar posted in some conspicuous spot in the foyer.

9 Babysitting

Some hotels also offer babysitting services, especially those that cater primarily to package tourists. The cost of this service may be included in the package, so confirm that it is, if such an option exists. Other hotels may have a play area, supervised by qualified personnel.

10 Transport Options

The best option when you have small children is not to move around much – the kids will be able to adjust and enjoy themselves more readily. Children under four travel free on trains; ages four to eleven pay 60 percent of the fare. Entry fees are either reduced or free to many sights and museums.

4

Places to stay

Rural Retreats

1 Finca Buen Vino, Sierra de Aracena
Set amid green hills, this converted ranch is filled with an eclectic mix of furniture, paintings, pottery and books. Rooms are all distinctive, whether due to hand-painted walls, Oriental hangings, a bathtub with a view, or a fireplace. In spring, the valley below the house is filled with white heather, primroses and the sound of nightingales; summer days can be spent beside the spectacular pool.

► *Nr Los Marínes, N433 km95 • Map A2 • 959 12 40 34 • www.fincabuenvino.com • €€€*

2 Antonio, Zahara de los Atunes
This seaside retreat is decorated in a traditional style, with whitewashed walls, and there's a nice pool. Most rooms have terraces overlooking the sea.

► *Atlanterra km1 • Map C6 • 956 43 91 41 • www.antoniohoteles.com • Dis. access • €€*

3 Alcázar de la Reina, Carmona
In the historic centre of this small town the façade of this hotel stands out, while the interior reflects the style of Mudéjar craftsmanship. No two rooms are alike, but they all have marble bathrooms and several enjoy spectacular views.

► *Plaza de Lasso 2 • Map C3 • 954 19 62 00 • www.alcazar-reina.es • €€€*

4 Hotel Humaina, Montes de Málaga
This is a small, family-run hotel, set in the mountains, and the emphasis is on relaxation, whether that is reading a book in the library, swimming in the pool or enjoying a glass of Málaga wine. Cycling, horse riding and rambling are also on offer.

► *Ctra Colmenar • Map E5 • 952 64 10 25 • www.hotelhumaina.es • €€*

5 Finca Buytrón, outside Montilla
This charming 16th-century farmhouse sits amid olive groves. The interior is welcoming and comfortable, with original stone floors. Outside, the grounds are spacious, with a wide terrace, a barbecue and a pool.

► *C/Gran Capitán 24 • Map D3 • 957 65 01 52 • No air-conditioning • €€*

6 Posada La Niña Margarita, Los Villares
This leafy rural house is two storeys of history and rustic charm. Set in parkland, it's perfect for cycling, hiking and other outdoor activities. It has a pool and restaurant and full board is an option. The common room has a lovely fireplace.

► *5km from Carcabuey • Map E3 • 957 70 40 54 • www.casasdelasubbetica.com • No en-suite bathrooms • No air-conditioning • €*

7 Cuevas La Granja, near Benalúa
A complex of restored cave dwellings, each of which preserves their original style. The location provides the perfect setting for rest and relaxation.

► *Camino de la Granja • Map F3 • 958 67 60 00 • www.cuevas.org • No air-conditioning • €€*

8 Cuevas Pedro Antonio de Alarcón, Guadix
Another charming cave dwelling, yet with modern comforts. Beautiful views over the city of Guadix and the Sierra Nevada. There's a pool too.

► *Bda San Torcuato • Map F4 • 958 66 49 86 • www.andalucia.com/cavehotel • Dis. access • No air-conditioning • €€*

9 Cuevas de Orce, Ctra de María, Orce
A luxury complex of cave dwellings with a large pool.

► *Ctra de María • Map G3 • 958 74 62 81 • www.cuevasdeorce.com • Dis. access • No air-conditioning • €€*

10 Alquería de Morayma, East Alpujarras
A lovely retreat, nestled in farmland, with vines, almonds and olives. Two restaurants.

► *A348 Ctra Trovizcón-Cádir • Map G4 • 958 34 32 21 • www.alqueriamorayma.com • No air-conditioning • €€*

Historic Finds

1 El Cortijo de los Mimbrales, El Rocio
Grouped around flower-decked patios, this converted farm is a series of comfortable cottages that retain an authentic flavour. Private balconies and gardens grace many of the accommodations, and all around there are orange trees, bougainvillea, wisteria and jasmine perfuming the air.

► *Ctra Rocio/Matalascañas A483 km 30 • Map B4 • 959 44 22 37 • www.cortjomimbrales.com • Dis. access • €€€*

2 Monasterio San Miguel, El Puerto de Santa María

This former monastery with Baroque architecture and art is nevertheless up-to-date with the luxuries it offers. Facilities include an excellent restaurant, pool, gardens and a solarium.

► *C/Larga 27 • Map B5 • 956 54 04 40 • www.jale.com/monasterio • Dis. access • €€€€*

3 Cortijo Faín, Arcos de la Frontera
A converted 17th-century farmhouse 3 km (2 miles) southeast of town. Surrounded by olive groves and walls covered in bougainvillea, the atmosphere is intimate. Facilities include a restaurant, pool, horse-riding and a library.

► *Ctra del Algar km 3 • Map C5 • 956 23 13 96 • www.cortijofain.en.eresmas • €€*

4 La Casa Grande, Arcos de la Frontera
In 1729 the Nuñez de Prado family erected this mansion, which has preserved its original structure. Perched over the cliff of La Peña, terracotta floors, wood beams, stone columns, ceramic tiles, hand-woven bedspreads and antiques are among the many details.

► *C/Maldonado 10 • Map C5 • 956 70 39 30 • www.lacasagrande.net • Closed 6 Jan–6 Feb • €€*

5 Amanhavis Hotel, Benahavis
In the hills just outside Marbella, this place is like an Andalucía theme park, albeit very tasteful. Gardens and pools set off the nine rooms with names like “The Christopher Columbus Berth” and “The Spice Trader’s Caravan” – all decorated accordingly.

► *C/del Pilar 3 • Map D5 • 952 85 60 26/61 51 • www.amanhavis.com • Closed mid-Jan–mid-Feb • €€€*

6 Hotel González, Córdoba
This charming hotel typifies the old houses of the Jewish Quarter, with a central patio and an elegant marble entrance replete with antiques and high ceilings. The building was a 16th-century palace, recently converted. Many rooms look onto the patio.

► *C/Manriquez 3 • Map D3 • 957 47 98 19 • €€*

7 NH Amistad Córdoba
Five minutes’ walk from La Mezquita and built into the old city walls. The large patio-cloisters are lovely, and there’s also a plunge pool and sun terrace.

► *Plaza de Maimónides 3 • Map D3 • 957 42 03 35 • www.nhhotels.com • Dis. access • €€€*

8 El Castillo, Castillo de Monda
If you’re in the mood for Moorish opulence, this castle high above the town fits the bill. Elegant and rich furnishings, and a gourmet restaurant too.

► *Avda de Castillo • Map D5 • 952 45 71 42 • www.costadelsol.spa.es/hotel/monda • €€€*

9 Hotel Palacete Santa Ana, Baeza
This hotel occupies a 16th-century palace, beautifully restored and set off with priceless antiques and paintings.

► *C/Santa Ana Vieja 9 • Map F2 • 953 74 16 57 • www.palacetesantana.com • €€*



10 María de Molina, Ubeda
The central courtyard, with its antique marble columns is exquisite, and the location is ideal. A gorgeous staircase leads to the upper floors.

► *Plaza del Ayuntamiento • Map F2 • 953 79 53 56 • www.hotel-maria-demolina.com • €€*

Granada Sojourns

1 Parador de San Francisco
You’ll need to book about a year in advance to stay here, but it’s the premier stay in town. Housed in a meticulously restored 15th-century monastery, with a wisteria-covered patio, it is utterly beautiful. For the maximum experience, get a room with a view over the Albaicín on one side and the cloister on the other.

► *C/Real de la Alhambra • Map R2 • 958 22 14 40 • www.parador.es • €€€€€*

2 Alhambra Palace
The style of this belle époque extravaganza is neo-Moorish. Located just steps away from the Nasrid

palace, it offers great views from every room, terrace and balcony. The public rooms are palatial.

► *C/Peña Partida 2–4 • Map R3 • 958 22 14 68 • www.h-alhambrapalace.es • €€€€*

3 Hotel Casa Morisca
This 15th-century mansion makes a peaceful choice in a central location. The original features have been wonderfully preserved, such as the Mudéjar ceiling. Every room is decorated with period accents according to modern standards, with views of the Albaicín, the Alhambra or the courtyard.

► *Cuesta de la Victoria 9 • Map S2 • 958 22 11 00 • www.hotelcasamorisca.com • €€€*

4 Carmen de Santa Inés
This Moorish mansion has been remodelled over the centuries, in particular the wonderful big patio. The decor is elegant, although some rooms may be small, and you will find antiques everywhere.

► *Placeta Porras 7 • Map Q2 • 958 22 63 80 • €€€*

5 Hotel Reina Cristina
Everything has been kept more or less the same as when the poet Garcia Lorca was forced to hide out here – this is the last place the poet stayed, before his untimely end (see Federico Garcia Lorca). Each room has unique style and there are patios and fountains in the public areas.

► *C/Tablas 4 • Map F4 • 958 25 32 11 • www.hotelreina Cristina.com • €€€*

6 Casa del Aljarife
In this delightful 17th-century house you will find tiled bathrooms, wooden floors, beamed ceilings, a charming patio and a sun-terrace. Ask for a room with a balcony and view over the rooftops.

► *Placita de la Cruz Verde 2 • Map R2 • 958 22 24 25 • www.granadainfo.com/most • €€*

7 Cuevas El Abanico
In this “cave” hotel, the whitewashed interiors are immaculate and loaded with rustic charm. No need for air conditioning – you have an entire hill of earth overhead to keep out the heat. A picturesque and uniquely Andalusian choice.

► *Verea de Enmedio • Map F4 • www.el-abanico.com • €€*

8 Hostal Suecia
In a leafy cul-de-sac, this is every inch a traditional Spanish house, with terracotta tiles, arched windows and a large patio. The rooftop terrace is perfect for admiring the nearby Alhambra.

► *C/Molinos (Huerta de los Angeles) 8 • Map R3 • 958 22 50 44 • No air conditioning • €*

9 Posada Doña Lupe
For the price, this is unbeatable, if basic. There’s a pool on the roof with great views of the Alhambra. Note that it closes at midnight.

► *Paseo del Generalife (C/Alhambra) • Map S3 • 958 22 14 73 • No en-suite bathrooms • No air conditioning • €*

10 Instalación Juvenil Granada

This youth hostel is clean, although it is quite far away from the city centre. Its advantage, however, is that there are only two to a room and the bathrooms are all en-suite.

► *C/Ramón y Cajal 2 • Map F4 • 958 00 29 00 • www.inturjoven.com • Dis. access • No credit cards • No air conditioning • €*

Hostals and Camping

1 Hostel La Malagueña, Estepona

Although it isn't an official hostel or even aimed at backpackers, the price doesn't get any better than this. The airy rooms have balconies facing the square. You can stroll along the sandy beaches or wander around the shops of this old and still authentic fishing village.

► *C/Castillo 1 • Map D5 • 952 80 00 11 • No air-conditioning • €*

2 Pensión La Purisma, Ronda

Bright, clean, family-run and friendly, this old-fashioned place offers basic comfort. As with all of the cheaper accommodations in Ronda, it's in the newer part of town, but it's a rewarding walk over the Puente Nuevo to get to the historic old part.

► *C/Sevilla 10 • Map D5 • 952 87 10 50 • No credit cards • No air-conditioning • €*

3 Hostel, Marbella

Double rooms, some with adjoining bath, a pool, and lots of recreational options make this an excellent find. It's just north of the lovely old quarter, where you can see the real Marbella and not just the glitz. Walk through it to get to the beach and the port.

► *C/Trapiche 2 • Map D5 • 952 77 14 91 • www.inturjoven.com • Dis. access • No credit cards • No air-conditioning • €*



4 Hostel Séneca, Córdoba

Friendly and delightful, as well as excellent value. Stained-glass windows on the first floor and a patio with Moorish touches add to the grace. Book ahead.

► *C/Conde y Luque • Map D3 • 957 47 32 34 • No credit cards • No en-suite bathrooms • No air-conditioning • €*

5 Hostel, Málaga

Modern double rooms and a sun-terrace make this an acceptable option. Although it is not particularly near to the centre, it's well connected by public transport.

► *Plaza Pio XII 6 • Map E5 • 952 30 85 00 • www.inturjoven.com • Dis. access • No credit cards • No en-suite bathrooms • No air-conditioning • €*

6 Instalación Juvenil, Solynieve, Sierra Nevada

Located near the top of the ski station, with rooms holding two to six, ideal for skiers in the winter or trekkers in the summer. They will also rent skis and other equipment.

► *C/Peñones 22 • Map F4 • 958 48 03 05 • www.inturjoven.com • Dis. access • No credit cards • No air-conditioning • €*

7 Instalación Campamento Juvenil Mazagón

Here you'll find four-person cabins with private bathroom, as well as a campsite. It's handy for the beach, there's a TV room, dining room and various sports facilities.

► *Ctra A-494 km 27.5 • Map B4 • 959 53 62 62 • www.inturjoven.com • Closed Sep-Mar, May-Jun • No credit cards • No air-conditioning • €*

8 Camping El Sur, Ronda

Camping and bungalows are available here. It's a chance to take beautiful walks or horse-ride in the countryside around Ronda.

► *Ctra RondaAlgeciras km1.5 • Map D5 • 952 87 59 39 • www.campingelsur.com • No credit cards • No en-suite facilities • Dis. access • No air-conditioning • €*

9 Camping Embalse Conde de Guadalhorce, Ardales

This campsite offers a shady area for tents, trailers and RV hookups, as well as apartments. The area is known for its Cuevas de Ardales, containing Paleolithic paintings and carvings.

► *Map D4 • 952 11 24 01 • No credit cards • €*

10 Camping Sierra Nevada, Granada

One of the most convenient camping choices in the region. There are big, clean bathrooms, a pool and a laundry.

► *Avda de Madrid 107 • Map F4 • 958 15 00 62 • Closed Nov-Feb • No credit cards • Dis. access • €*

Self-Catering Options

1 Casas Rurales Los Gallos, Almonaster la Real

Whitewashed cottages are set amid woods, patios, arcades, pools and flowers. Each one has a different feel and colour scheme, and all are loaded with rustic charm and antiques as well as modern conveniences.

► *Finca Los Gallos, Estación de Almonaster • Map B3 • 959 50 11 67 • www.usuarios.lycos.es/losgallos • No credit cards • No air-conditioning • Dis. access • €€*

2 Villa Turística Grazelema

Despite the price, this is a fairly luxurious choice for those who want their own apartment. The property includes a hotel, the homes, a pool, parking and a bar-café. The terrace, offering views of the mountains, is surrounded by gardens.

► *Ctra Olivar • Map C5 • 956 13 21 36 • No air-conditioning • www.tugasa.com • €€*

3 Casas Karen, Costa de la Luz
Typical Andalusian houses and apartments, and native-style straw roof bungalows, nestle between pinewoods and the beach. Follow signs to Faro de Trafalgar.

► *Fuente del Madroño 6, nr Cabo Trafalgar* • **Map C6** • 956 43 70 67 • www.casaskaren.com • No air-conditioning • €€

4 Apartamentos Murillo, Seville
These lovely apartments are named after the Baroque painter who hailed from the Barrio de Santa Cruz, right in the middle of this flower-decked old quarter.

► *C/Reinosa 6* • **Map M4** • 954 21 60 95 • www.hotelmurillo.com • €€

5 Villa Turística de Cazalla
For easy access to, and views of, the Sierra Norte de Sevilla, this is the spot. Facilities include a tennis court, a pool and a restaurant. The management organizes nature hikes, horse-riding and tours.

► *Ctra CazallaConstantina, km3* • **Map C3** • 954 88 33 10 (954 88 39 08 Fax) • €€

6 Hostal La Posada, Mijas
A great opportunity to rent a fully equipped apartment in this attractive town and to sample a bit of the real Andalucía.

► *C/Coin 47 & 49* • **Map D5** • 952 48 53 10 • No credit cards • No air-conditioning • €

7 Hacienda La Colorá, Montoro
You can go for a studio, an apartment or a grand suite in this 18th-century country mansion. It's a garden of loveliness, cultivating olives and honey, and there's a beautiful pool. If you like, you can take painting classes.

► *9 km (6 miles) NW of Montoro along the CO414* • **Map E2** • 957 33 60 77 • www.lacolora.com • No air-conditioning • €€

8 Cantueso, Periana
Wood-beam ceilings and rustic comfort in a gorgeous setting. Outdoor barbecues and a pool will complement your bungalow.

► *The Axarquía* • **Map E4** • 699 94 62 13 • www.cantueso.net • No credit cards • No air-conditioning • €€

9 Casa La Piedra, Cómputa
This romantic house is a good choice for tranquillity combined with easy access to the coast. The rooms are inviting, most with terracotta floors and wood-beam ceilings. One week minimum stay.

► *Plazoleta 17, the Axarquía* • **Map E4** • 952 51 63 29 • www.2sandra.com • No credit cards • No air-conditioning • €€

10 Santa Ana Apartamentos Turísticos, Granada
Situated just above the river, these apartments come with views of the Albaicín quarter. Each apartment has large, comfortable rooms, which are decorated with style. Minimum two nights stay.

► *Puente Cabrera 9* • **Map F4** • 958 22 81 30 • www.apartamentos-santaana.com • €€

5

Shopping

Shops and Markets

1 El Corte Inglés

Although you're unlikely to find any bargains here, the range of merchandise is impressive. Spain's main department store chain carries not only clothes and accessories, but also perfume, housewares, decorative items, CDs and sporting goods. There's also a food hall and supermarket, which stock gourmet foods.

► *Plaza del Duque de la Victoria 10 • Map L2*

2 Mango

For the latest in younger women's fashion trends, this is the place to come.

► *C/Velazquez 7-9 • Map L2*

3 Zara

Here you'll find hip, affordable clothing for the entire family. In summer, the linen blends and light cottons are just right for the Andalusian climate. Scents and sunglasses too.

► *Plaza del Duque de la Victoria • Map L2*

4 Angeles Méndez

This is a good spot to load up on all the flouncy dresses, mantillas, shawls and so forth that you will need to participate in the various festivals that abound in the region (see Religious Festivals).

► *C/Alcaicería de la Loza 24 • Map M2*

5 Compás Sur

For music lovers there are CDs, DVDs and books covering a variety of genres from Fúción to Flamenco.

► *C/Cuesta del Rosario 7-E • 954 21 56 62 • Map M2*

6 Sargadelos

Household items with an artful twist are the speciality here. Complete dinner and tea or coffee services are traditional but at the same time inventive.

► *C/Albareda 17 • 954 21 67 08 • Map L3*

7 El Mercadillo

Just off the Alameda de Hércules, El Jueves flea market, held every Thursday, consists mostly of old junk, books and posters. Still, it's fun to look for the occasional treasure. But beware of pick-pockets.

► *C/de la Feria • Map M1*

8 Crafts Market

This is the place to find handmade jewellery, leather goods and cheap clothes. Thursday to Saturday.

► *Plaza del Duque de la Victoria • Map L2*

9 Old Train Station Shopping Centre

The old Córdoba train station has been restored to its former beauty and is now home to a shopping centre and entertainment complex.

► *Antigua Estación de Córdoba, Plaza de Armas • Map K2*

10 Cerámica Santa Ana

The place to buy the famous Triana pottery. In operation since 1870, this shop sells everything from replicas of 16th-century tiles to ashtrays. Similar workshops can be found on Calle Covadonga.

► *C/San Jorge 31, Barrio de Triana • 954 33 81 76 • Map K4*

Traditional Handicrafts

1 La Alcaicería, Granada

In Moorish times this was the silk market, although the horseshoe arches and stucco work are a modern re-creation. The narrow alleyways are bursting with colourful wares of every description. Silver jewellery, embroidered silk shawls and ceramics are top buys.

► *Map Q2*

2 Albaicín, Granada

The authentic Moroccan shops in this ancient quarter are all concentrated on two sloping streets off Calle Elvira – Calderería Vieja and Calderería Nueva (see Moorish Granada: Albaicín).

3 La Alacena, Granada

This is a tempting place to come for regional foodstuffs. You'll find some of the finest olive oils, local and national wines and ham from the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

► *C/San Jerónimo 3 • 958 20 68 90 • Map F4*

4 Artesanía Carazo Ortiz E, Granada

In this mystical place you can find the likes of handmade ceramics and natural stones, and you may even stumble upon some archeological items for sale.

► *C/Zacatin 11, • 958 22 62 60 • Map R2*

5 Manuel Morillo Castillo, Granada

Arab-style furniture and taracea (marquetry) boxes are made and sold here (see Granada Taracea).

► *Cuesta de Gómez 20, • 958 22 97 57 • Map R2*

6 El Rocío, Granada

The complete outfitter for romería and festival-going gear. All the frills, polka dots and bright colours will dazzle your eye, and it all comes in every size, so even babies can have a flounce or two.

► *C/Capuchinas 8 • Map Q2*

7 Artesanía Kandossi, Granada

Classic Granada pottery, ranging from plates and bowls to jars and crockery as well colourful Moroccan items.

► *Oficios 4 • Map Q4*

8 Artesanía El Suspiro, Granada

A good array of all the traditional crafts that have survived in this city. Particularly appealing are the glazed tiles and the carpets in multicoloured designs.

► *Plaza Santa Ana 1, • 958 22 99 96 • Map R2*

9 Alpujarras Crafts
The hill towns of this zone are rich in traditional crafts, including ceramics and weaving. Local jarapas (rugs) are particularly prized. Bags, ponchos and blankets, too, are hand-loomed in age-old patterns. They're all offered at weekly markets throughout the area.

► **Map G4**

10 Nijar, Almería Province
This coastal town is known for its distinctive pottery and jarapas. Head for Calle Las Eras, in the Barrio Alfáreo, just off the principal street, where you'll find the genuine article.

► **Map H4**

Provincial Shopping

1 Aroche Markets
Thursday is the day the market stalls arrive in this Huelvan town. The market in Plaza de Abastos is a traditional produce spread, featuring the strong-flavoured goat's cheese favoured by the locals.

2 Souvenirs
In Arcena, head for the Calle Pozo de la Nieve, a cobbled street lined with souvenir shops. In El Rocío, souvenir stalls flank the church, hawking paraphernalia associated with the famous Romería (see El Rocío's Romería).

3 Crafts
In addition to leather, Valverde del Camino is known for furniture and fine wooden boxes. Embroidery work from Arcena and Bollullos del Condado is worth seeking out, as well as linen tablecloths from Cortegana and Moguer. Nearer the coast it is also common to see Moroccan goods for sale.

4 Pottery
Pottery in this area has traditional patterns influenced by Moorish art. Items include jars, plates and water jugs, decorated in blue, green and white glazes.

5 Leather
The most notable leather goods come from Valverde del Camino. Choose botos camperos (cowboy boots) or the longer botos rocieros (Spanish riding boots). Many shops produce these items and other footwear, and a number of craftsmen make custom boots to order, taking three to four days to make a pair.

6 Huelva City
The provincial capital boasts its own El Corte Inglés department store on Plaza de España, while the area around it and just off Plaza 12 de Octubre constitutes the main shopping district. The Mercadillo (open-air market) is held every Friday on the Recinto Colombino.

7 El Condado Wine District
The name refers to an area noted for its reliable white wine. Local finos include Condado Pálido and Condado Viejo.

8 Anise Liqueur
The liqueur of choice around this zone is anise-based. One of the best is Anis Cazalla from the eponymous town (see Cazalla de la Sierra).

9 Ham
The Mesón Sánchez Romero Carvajal in Jabugo is one of the top producers of the local jamón ibérico (see Jabugo).

10 Cured Fish
Considered a great delicacy and priced accordingly, raw wind-cured tuna (mojama) is an acquired taste. Isla Cristina is the main centre of production, but you can buy it in the Mercado del Carmen in Huelva City.

6

Eating and nightlife

Places to Eat

1 Tene2Ores, Córdoba
This restaurant is part of a hotel complex in the heart of Cazorla. Regional fare is served, with samplings of local game and fish.

► *Magistrado Ruiz Rico 3, Cazorla (Jaen) • Map D3 • 953 72 40 34 • €*

2 Taberna Sociedad de Plateros, Córdoba
Housed in a former convent, this taberna has a skylit patio decorated with azulejos (glazed tiles) and hanging plants.

► *C/San Francisco 6 • Map D3 • 957 47 00 42 • Closed Sun (summer), Mon (winter) • No credit cards • €*

3 Taberna Salinas, Córdoba
A bustling place, with dining rooms around a patio. Try the bacalao (cod) with orange and olive oil.

► *C/Tundidores 3 • Map D3 • 957 48 01 35 • Closed Sun, Aug • €*

4 Casa Rubio, Córdoba
Built into the old city wall, just inside the Judería, with Moorish arches and a stone floor, this atmospheric bar offers a good range of tapas.

► *Puerto Almodóvar 5 • Map D3 • 957 42 08 53 • No credit cards • €*

5 El Churrasco, Córdoba
One of the city's smartest eateries, serving traditional fare in a sumptuous setting. Try the eponymous churrasco (grilled pork loin with spicy red pepper sauce).

► *C/Romero 16 • Map D3 • 957 29 08 19 • Closed Aug • €€*

6 Almudaina, Córdoba
Set in a 16th-century mansion, this is another great place to try traditional dishes, such as pechuga de pernil en salsa (part-ridge breasts in sauce).

► *Plaza Campo Santo de los Martires 1 • Map D3 • 957 47 43 42 • Closed Sun D • €€€*

7 Las Camachas, Montilla
Fish dishes are a speciality here, such as pez spada (sword-fish) with Montilla sauce. Wash it all down with a bottle of the delightful local wine.

► *Ctra Madrid-Málaga, Avda de Europa 3 • Map D3 • 957 65 00 04 • €€€*

8 Taberna La Manchega, Jaén
An animated and authentic tapas bar. Downstairs they serve full meals, highlighting local meats.

► *C/Bernardo López 8 & Arco de Consuelo • Map F3 • 953 23 21 92 • Closed Tue • No credit cards • €*

9 Restaurante Andrés de Vandelvira, Baeza
Housed in a section of the eponymous architect's 16th-century Convento de San Francisco, dishes include trucha escabechada (marinated trout).

► *C/San Francisco 14 • Map F2 • 953 74 81 72 • Closed Mon • €€*

10 Mesón Navarro, Úbeda
Something of a local institution. Free tapas come with each glass of fino.

► *Plaza Ayuntamiento 2 • Map F2 • 953 79 06 38 • €*

Costa del Sol Places to Eat

1 La Posá Dos, Estepona
Great Spanish food is featured here, with specialities such as roast lamb and the chef's own special creations. A romantic dinner choice.

► *C/Caridad 95 • Map D5 • 952 80 00 29 • Closed L, Wed • €€*



2 Bar Altamirano, Marbella

Despite Marbella's glitzy image there are several affordable and traditional tapas bars. This is one of them, just southeast of Plaza Naranjos; it even has its seafood specialities listed on ceramic menus.

► *Plaza Altamirano 4 • Map D5 • 952 82 49 32 • Closed Wed, mid-Jan–mid-Feb • €*

3 El Estrecho, Marbella
Another winning tapas bar and a local favourite. There's a pleasant terrace, fish and seafood treats and nice fino. Try the Boqueron al Limon (Anchovies in Lemon).

► *C/San Lázaro • Map D5 • 952 77 00 04 • Closed Sun, first 2 weeks in Jun & Christmas • €*

4 La Sirena, Benalmádena Costa
On the beachfront, and the paella is one of the best in the area.

► *Paseo Marítimo • Map D5 • 952 56 02 39 • Dis.access • €€*

5 Bodegas Quitapenas, Torremolinos
An excellent seafood tapas bar amid all the fast-food joints. Spanish seafood, including pulpo (octopus).

► *C/Cuesta del Tajo 3 • Map E5 • 952 38 62 44 • No credit cards • €*

6 Restaurante La Escalera, Torremolinos
A great little choice, with dreamy views from its terrace. The inventive international menu includes curry soup with green peas.

► *C/Cuesta del Tajo 12 • Map E5 • 952 05 80 24 • Closed Sun • Dis.access • €€*

7 Las Acacias, Málaga
This open-air beach café serves the coast speciality – sardinas ensartadas (sardines grilled on a skewer).

► *Paseo Marítimo, El Pedregal 90 • Map E5 • 952 29 89 46 • €*

8 El Tintero II, Málaga
Another open-air restaurant on the beach. There's no menu, so the waiter will tell you what's on offer – all fish, of course.

► *Ctra Almería 99, Playa Del Dedo • Map E5 • 952 20 44 64 • Dis.access • €*

9 Café Carabeo, Nerja
This café has been cut into the cliff, so you have views of the sea while protected under palm frond umbrellas.

► *Beneath Plaza Cueva del Bendito • Map E5*

10 El Ancladero, Nerja
With another superb location on the cliff affording panoramic views of the sea, this place is a popular spot with photographers. The menu is eclectic, with the emphasis on steak and seafood.

► *Capistrano Playa • Map E5 • 952 52 19 55 • Dis.access • Closed 21 Nov–7 Dec, 1–15 Jan • €*

Restaurants

1 Restaurante San Fernando, Carmona
Carmona's classiest choice occupies an old mansion and overlooks the eponymous plaza. Expect fine service and a well thought out menu that features a range of local game, lamb, duck and fresh fish. Great desserts.

► *C/Sacramento 3 • Map C3 • 954 14 35 56 • Closed Sun D, Mon • €€*

2 Restaurante Las Ninfas, Écija
Housed in the historic Palacio de Benameji this is a memorable restaurant. The cuisine is equally refined and light, with special dishes highlighting fresh fish.

► *C/Elvira 1 • Map D3 • 955 90 45 92 • Closed Mon • €*

3 Restaurante Doña Guadalupe, Osuna
A place to try rabo de toro (stewed bull's tail), game, or Perdiz con Arroz, (Partridge with Rice). Homemade desserts are a treat.

► *Plaza Guadalupe 6–8 • Map D4 • 954 81 05 58 • Closed Tue, 1–15 Aug • €*

4 Cambio de Tercio, Cazalla
This place is popular with devotees of rural cookery. Specialities include somillo de cerdo ibérico en salsa de setas (Iberian pork chops in wild mushroom sauce) and for dessert tarta de castañas (chestnut tart).

► *C/Virgen del Robledo 53 bajo, Constantina • Map C3 • 955 88 10 80 • Closed Tue, last week Sep • €*

5 Mesón Las Candelas, Aljaraque
This attractive restaurant is the best for perfect seafood and fish.

► *Ctra Punta Umbria, Avda de Huelva • Map A4 • 959 31 83 01 • Closed Sun • €€*

6 El Rinconcito, Huelva City

A neighbourhood establishment that serves honest regional dishes centring on seafood, fish and ham. Occasional flamenco performances.

► *C/Marina 4 • Map A4 • 959 24 66 38 • No credit cards • €*

7 Casa Luciano, Ayamonte
The place for tempting seafood and fish stews. Try the mouthwatering atún al horno (baked tuna).

► *Avda La Palma 1 • Map A4 • 959 47 10 71 • €€*

8 Aires de Doñana, El Rocio
French windows provide panoramic views of the marshes here. The Pato con Arroz (Duck with Rice) is a treat.

► *Avda La Canaleja, 1 • Map B4 • 959 44 27 19 • Closed Mon, 20 days in July • €€€*

9 Asador Marisquería Picos de Aroche, Aroche
A wide variety of meat (try the local Iberian pig!) and seafood is on offer at this lovely grillhouse.

► *N433, km 127 Aroche • Map A2 • 959 14 01 87 • €*

10 Casa El Padrino, Aljajar
This rustic favourite is known for its tasty regional cuisine.

► *Plaza Miguel Moya 2 • Map B3 • 959 12 56 01 • Closed Mon–Thu (except Aug) • €*

Cafés & Tapas Bars



1 Cervecería Giralda
This elegant establishment is built inside an ancient Moorish hammam (baths). It's a pleasant stop, with an excellent view of La Giralda (see Seville Cathedral & La Giralda).

► *C/Mateos Gago 1; • 954 22 74 35 • Map M3*

2 Barbacoa Coloniales
On a pleasant square, between the Iglesia San Salvador and the Convento de Santa Paula, lies this old-fashioned bar. The walls are decorated with faded photos of Seville in an earlier era.

► *Plaza del Cristo de Burgos 19; • 954 21 41 91 • Map M2*



3 Patio San Eloy
Large and noisy, this place captures the genuine feel of old Seville, everyone drinking and snacking with animation.

► *C/San Eloy 9; • 954 22 11 48 • Map L2*

4 Gran Tino
This enjoyable square's best-known bar offers outside seating and an interesting range of refreshments.

It's particularly appealing on Sunday mornings, when there's a colourful pet market here.

► *Plaza de la Alfalfa 2*; • 954 21 08 83 • **Map M2**

5 Bar San Lorenzo
Virtually the same since it opened in 1893; expect a littered floor, old wood, lots of regulars and some choice comestibles. An Alameda district institution.

► *Plaza de San Lorenzo 7*; • 954 38 15 58 • **Map L1** • *No credit cards*

6 La Ilustre Víctima
The name, "The Illustrious Victim", refers, of course, to the bull. Murals on the walls and a laidback ambience make it a favourite hangout for writers who frequent the Alameda district.

► *C/Correduría 35*; • 954 38 94 90 • **Map M1**

7 La Alicantina
Great outdoor seating on the terrace and some delectable seafood delicacies to savour as you watch the hubbub on this busy square.

► *Plaza del Salvador 2-3*; • 954 22 61 22 • **Map M3**

8 Plata
La Macarena district's modern choice for breakfast. It's right next to the equally modern basilica, where the revered La Macarena holds court.

► *C/Resolana 2*; • 954 37 10 30 • *Bus No. 34*

9 El Tejar
This tile-covered café is a fine vantage point in the Barrio de Triana from which to watch the world go by. In the evenings, the owners sometimes mount flamenco shows, and often display the works of local artists.

► *C/San Jacinto 68* • 954 34 44 87 • **Map J4**

10 Bar Bistec
The "Steak Bar" is another characteristic Triana venue, traditional and full of local colour. It stays open late, as does almost everything in Andalucía.

► *C/Relay Correa 34*; • 954 27 47 59 • **Map K4**

Costa del Sol Nightlife



1 Olivia Valere, Marbella
This club is the Costa hot spot of the moment. Designed by the same creative genius who did Paris's famous Buddha Bar, it attracts the rich and beautiful like moths to the

flame. Very exclusive and expensive.

► *Crta de Istán, km0.8* • **Map D5**

2 La Comedia, Marbella
Puerto Banús's party palace is where the young and beautiful dance into the early hours. It gets going at around 3am.

► *Plaza de la Comedia, Local 2* • **Map D5**

3 Dreamers, Marbella
Another choice with a youthful atmosphere, this disco features go-go dancers and live acts. Summer nights are brightened up by international DJs who come to spin the latest sounds.

► *Ctra N-340 km175, Rio Verde, Nueva Andalucía* • **Map D5**

4 Kiu, Benalmádena
This is the largest of the discos on this busy square. The Atlantis room is the best area for banging club tunes.

► *Plaza Sol y Mar* • **Map D5**

5 Casino Torrequebrada, Benalmádena Costa
Located in the Hotel Torrequebrada, the casino has tables for blackjack, chemin de fer, punto y banco and roulette. The nightclub offers a flamenco show. Smart dress.

► *Ctra de Cádiz* • **Map D5**

6 Aqua, Torremolinos
Top spot in the port. A large club with a spacious outdoor terrace and tropical ambience. Smart dress.

► *Pueblo Marinero s/n* • **Map E5**

7 Mango, Benalmadena
Popular with the younger crowds, this club has an electric atmosphere. Most of its bars have a small dance floor and throbbing music.

► *Plaza Solymar* • **Map D5**

8 The Palladium, Torremolinos
This popular disco is on two floors and boasts a huge indoor swimming pool. Strobes, a great sound system, and go-go dancers complete the scene.

► *Avda Palma de Mallorca 36* • **Map E5**

9 La Taberna de Pepe Lopez, Torremolinos
This flamenco venue is highly touristy, but fun. Shows take place here between 10pm and midnight every night.

► *Plaza de la Gamba* • **Map E5**

10 Gay Torremolinos
One of the most popular gay spots is Abadía (No. 521). Tensión (No. 524) is good too, although names are always shifting along this gay-orientated street. Another venue of interest is Minogues (in Montemar, near Benalmadena Marina), which hosts live drag shows.

► *All along C/La Nogalera* • **Map E5**

Nightlife

1 El Camborio, Granada
This is a popular disco in the caves of Sacromonte (see Moorish Granada: Albaicín). Music echoes from four dance floors to the rooftop terraces, offering a striking

view of the Alhambra at sunrise. Weekends are the time to go, unless you want the place to yourself.

► *Camino del Sacromonte 48* • **Map S1**

2 Granada 10, Granada
An opulent disco set in a 1930s theatre whose decor has been preserved. You can dance under crystal chandeliers, Neo-Classical-style plasterwork and plush private boxes. The music consists mainly of chart hits that attract people of all ages and styles.

► *C/Carcel Baja 3* • **Map Q2**



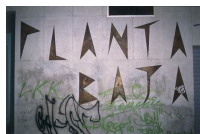
3 Babylon, Granada
If you're looking for somewhere basic and relaxed, this place might be for you. The music is reggae, hip-hop, rap, funk and R&B, and the only concession to design is a Bob Marley

poster or two and a few coloured lights. If it's your birthday, two bottles of bubbly are on the house.

► *C/Sillería 5* • **Map F4**

4 Sala Principe, Granada
In this two-storey disco the music consists mainly of Spanish pop and salsa but the DJ takes requests. It's a popular place, decorated in rather vulgar imitation of the Nasrid palaces on the hill above.

► *Campo del Principe 7* • **Map R3**



5 Planta Baja, Granada
A two-storey venue: the upper floor is a quiet bar; downstairs, the DJs play chart hits and everyone dances.

► *C/Horno de Abad 11* •

Map F4

6 Pie de la Vela, Granada
The crowd here is mostly male, young and cruisy, but it isn't exclusively gay, drawing a mixed crowd of locals and foreigners.

► *C/del Darro 35* • **Map R2**

7 El Ángel Azul, Granada
This gay bar has a basement dance floor and curtained booths, as well as monthly drag shows and striptease contests.

► *C/Lavadero de las Tablas 15* • **Map F4**

8 Jardines Neptuno, Granada
You can see a spectacular show of flamenco and Andalusian folk music here at the same time as dining on typical local dishes.

► *C/Arabial* • **Map F4**

9 Eshavira, Granada
This atmospheric club hosts flamenco, jazz and ethnic music concerts on Thursdays and Sundays.

Decorated in Moorish style, the centuries-old water cistern has been transformed into a stage.

► *Postigo de la Cuna 2* • **Map Q1**

10 Peña El Taranto, Almería
For lovers of real flamenco without tourist kitsch, this is the best place in the city.

7

Top 10

Sights

1 The Sierra Nevada

Spain's tallest peaks – and, after the Alps, Europe's second loftiest chain – make Andalucía home to some excellent skiing in winter, robust trekking in spring and summer, and a favourite with naturalists who come to marvel at the abundant wild-flowers and wildlife. For the more culturally inclined, the historic villages of the Alpujarras, on the dramatic southern slopes, are a fascinating study in an age-old way of life.



the traditional home of cave-dwelling gypsies (see Moorish Granada: The Alhambra).

2 Moorish Granada

The fairytales “Arabian Nights” palace of the Alhambra, together with its equally evocative gardens, constitute one of Spain's principal attractions, drawing millions of visitors each year. In the city down below, the ancient Albaicín district embodies a microcosm of a North African village, a “Little Morocco”, with colourful market streets and tearooms. Above and behind the area stands Sacromonte,

3 Cathedral & Capilla Real, Granada

To unequivocally establish Christian rule, these triumphalist structures were built by some of the greatest architects of the age and adorned with important works of sculpture and painting, much of it Renaissance. The towering, light-suffused interior of Granada's cathedral is one of the most spectacular achievements of the period, while the façade, by Alonso Cano, echoes the ancient triple arch favoured by Roman emperors. The Capilla Real (Royal Chapel) is Granada's finest Christian building and a repository of rare treasures, including a reja (gilded grille) by Bartolomé de Jaén, priceless crown jewels, and paintings by Roger van der Weyden and Sandro Botticelli (see Capilla Real and Cathedral, Granada).

► **Map Q2** • *Catedral*: C/Gran Vía de Colón 5; • *Open* 10am–1pm, 4–8pm Mon–Sat, 4–8pm Sun (until 7pm Nov–Mar); • *Adm* €3.00

4 Monasterio de la Cartuja, Granada

Don't let the austere exterior fool you – inside the church and sacristy of this Carthusian monastery lurk some of the most flamboyant Spanish Baroque architecture and detailing you'll ever encounter. So busy are the arabesques, flourishes and excrescences of gilded and polychromed stucco that the architectural lines are all but swallowed up in ravishing visual commotion.

► *Paseo de la Cartuja* • **Map F4** • *Open* Apr–Oct: 10am–1pm, 4–8pm Mon–Sat, 10am–noon, 4–8pm Sun; Nov–Mar: 10am–1pm, 3:30–6pm Sun, 10am–noon, 3:30–6pm Sun • *Adm* €3.00

5 Museo-Casa Natal Federico García Lorca

Sadly, the many depths of Granada's talented native son – playwright, poet, artist, musician, impresario – were denied to the world when he was murdered at the age of 38 by Fascists at the beginning of the Spanish

Civil War. His birthplace, in a village near Granada, has been turned into a museum devoted to his memory (see Federico García Lorca).

► *C/Poeta García Lorca* 4, Fuente Vaqueros • **Map F4** • *Open* Apr–Jun & Sep: 10am–1pm, 5–7pm Tue–Sun; Jul–Aug 10am–2pm Tue–Sun; Oct–Mar: 10am–1pm, 4–6pm Tue–Sun • www.museogarcia/orca.org • *Adm*

6 Alhama de Granada

Clinging precariously to the edge of a breathtaking gorge, this whitewashed village has been known since Moorish times for its beauty and natural thermal waters (al-hamma means “hot spring” in Arabic). The Hotel Balneario preserves the 11th-century aljibe (cistern), graced by Caliph arches. In the 16th-century Iglesia de la Encarnación some of the priestly vestments on display are said to have been embroidered by Queen Isabel the Catholic.

► **Map E4**

7 Almuñécar & Around

The Costa Tropical is perhaps Spain's most spectacular coast, where towering mountains rise from the shore. Almuñécar is the chief town along this stretch and it is now given over almost entirely to resort life. Yet it has an ancient heritage, dating back to the Phoenicians, and was an important port under the Moors. The intriguing Museo Arqueológico Cueva de Siete Palacios has a unique Egyptian vase dating from the 7th century BC (see Museo Arqueológico Cueva de Siete Palacios, Almuñécar).

► **Map F5** • *Museo Arqueológico Cueva de Siete Palacios*: Barrio de San Miguel; • *Open* 10:30am–1:30pm, 6:30–9pm Tue–Sat, 10:30am–1:30pm Sun; • 958 63 37 46 • *Adm*

8 Guadix

This ancient town is famous for its cave dwellings, inhabited for centuries. They were developed after the reconquista by local Moors who had been cast out of society by the Christians. The Barrio de las Cuevas is a surreal zone of brown hills with rounded whitewashed chimneys sprouting up here and there. To learn more, visit the Cueva-Museo or instead stay in a cave hotel (see Cuevas Pedro Antonio de Alarcón, Guadix).

► **Map F4** • *Cueva-Museo*: Plaza Padre Poveda, • 958 66 90 02; • *Open* 10am–2pm, 6–8pm Mon–Sat, 10am–2pm Sun (summer); 10am–2pm, 4–6pm Mon–Sat, 10am–2pm Sun (winter); • *Adm*

9 Almería City & Around

Notwithstanding its poetic Arabic name (al-mariyat means “mirror of the sea”), this town has lost much of its appeal due to modern development. Still, it does have a most impressive 10th-century Alcazaba, one of the most massive of the extant Moorish fortresses, and an engaging old quarter that still seems North African in essence.

► **Map G4** • *Alcazaba*: C/Almanzor • *Open* Apr–Oct: 9am–8:30pm Tue–Sun; Nov–Mar: 9am–6:30pm Tue–Sun; • *Adm*

10 “Wild West” Towns

The interior of Almería Province resembles the deserts and canyons of the American Southwest: it was the perfect spot for filming the Wild West epics known

as “Spaghetti Westerns” in the 1960s and 1970s. Three of the sets are now theme parks: Mini Hollywood, Almería, Texas Hollywood and Western Leone offer stunt shows and memorabilia.

► **Mini Hollywood:** Ctra N340 km 364, Tabernas • **Map G4**; • Open 10am–9pm daily (summer), 10am–6pm Sat–Sun & pub. hols (winter); • 950 36 52 36; • Adm

► **Texas Hollywood:** Ctra N340 km 468, Paraje de Lunhay, Tabernas; • **Map G4** • Open Nov–Feb: 10am–6pm daily (to 9pm Mar–Oct); • Adm

► **Western Leone:** Ctra A92, Tabernas; • **Map G4** • Open 9:30am–dusk daily (summer); 9:30am–dusk Sat–Sun (winter) • 950 16 54 05 • Adm

Beaches

1 Ayamonte

Andalucía’s westernmost town is located at the mouth of Río Guadiana, and just to the east are the beach resorts Isla Canela and Isla Cristina. Isla Canela has a long, broad beach and a laidback array of bars and bungalows, while Isla Cristina boasts a fine sandy stretch and an attractive harbour.

► **Map A4**



2 Mazagón

Huelva Province’s Costa de la Luz has several appealingly remote beaches, and Mazagón is one of them. Located 23 km (14 miles) southeast of Huelva City, this low-key resort is surrounded

by pines and has lovely dune beaches. Deserted in winter, it comes alive in summer, mostly with Spanish families, but there’s plenty of empty expanse to find solitude.

► **Map B4**

3 Chipiona

Cádiz Province has some very special beach resorts that lack the high tourism of further along the coast, and Chipiona is one of the nicest. The beaches are excellent and, as an added plus, the town has retained its age-old traditions. It’s still a thriving fishing port, for example, as well as a renowned producer of the local sweet muscatel wine. In addition, historic attractions include the longest jetty in the Guadalquivir estuary, known as Turris Caepionis to the Romans and these days as Torre Scipio.

4 Tarifa

Cádiz Province’s – and Europe’s – southernmost point is one of the best spots in the world for devotees of the West Wind. The fact is that the wind practically never ceases blowing here, which makes it a top beach for windsurfers and the like, but something of a misery for sun-bathers. Still, it is possible to find protected niches that protect you from the wind, and the nightlife and sense of fun here are second to none.



5 Marbella

The Costa del Sol’s smartest town naturally has several fine beaches to recommend. To the east there are Cabo Pino, a nudist beach, and Las Dunas, sand dunes beside a modern marina. To the west you’ll find a string of party beaches, good for barbecues and dancing, including Victor’s Beach and Don Carlos, perhaps Marbella’s best.

6 Torremolinos

Given the fact that they are in the number one Costa del Sol nightlife magnet, Torremolinos’s beaches come as a pleasant surprise. Because of the steep streets, most of the action gets left up above as you make your way down to the sand.

7 Torre del Mar

Very much off the beaten Costa del Sol track, this area – frequented mostly by local Spanish families – has quite a bit going for it if you want a more low-key time.



8 Nerja

This little town is a perennial favourite for those who want an alternative to the brash Costa del Sol. It’s a welcoming spot, with a wonderful position on top of an imposing cliff and palm-fringed beaches down below.

9 Almuñécar

The main resort on the Costa Tropical of Granada Province is a more relaxed alternative to the intensity of the Costa del Sol. The two central beaches are the Playa San Cristóbal and the Playa Puerto del Mar, separated by a headland. Good diving and wind-surfing spots can be found along here (see Almuñécar & Around).

10 Cabo de Gata

Almería Province offers some of the finest unspoilt beaches in the region, centred on this natural park. The main resort town is San José, and from here you can walk to a number of perfect finds, including the Cala de la Media Luna and the Playa de Mónsul (see Cabo de Gata-Nijar).

Top 10 Ferías and other Festivals

1 Flamenco Festivals
These take place during the summer months all around the region.

2 Moros y Cristianos
Festivals centre on re-enactments of Christian take-overs of various towns throughout the year.

3 Feria de Abril
Held in Seville two weeks after Easter, this is the largest fair in Spain (see Seville).

4 Feria del Caballo
This fair in Jerez de la Frontera centres on Andalusian horses.

► *May*

5 Music & Dance Festivals
The most famous of these takes place in Granada from late June to early July.

6 Wine Festivals
Celebrations of the fruit of the vine occur from April to September, when La Vendimia (grape harvest) takes place.

7 Sherry Festivals
The “Sherry Triangle” (see Málaga and Cádiz Provinces) celebrates their fortified wines at various times, notably in Jerez.

► *Sep–Oct*

8 Feria de Jamón
Late summer and autumn sees the traditional matanza (slaughter) of pigs and several celebrations of ham, notably in Trevélez.

► *15 Aug*

9 Fiesta de la Aceituna
The olive is celebrated in the Jaén province town of Martos.

► *1st week Dec*

10 Fiesta de los Verdiales
In Málaga Province at Puerta de la Torre, this is a day for practical jokers and a chance to wear funny hats. It dates back to Moorish times.

► *28 Dec*

Top 10 Sherries and Wines

1 Fino
Clear, crisp and dry, with an aroma of almonds, fino is served chilled as an aperitif.

2 Manzanilla
The fino sherry made in Sanlúcar de Barrameda. It is dry, pale and slightly salty.

3 Oloroso
The layer of flor yeast is thin, or absent, as a fino ages, allowing partial oxidation. Oloroso is a rich amber, with an aroma of hazelnuts.

4 Amontillado
Midway between a fino and an oloroso. The layer of flor yeast is allowed to die off, so it gets darker in colour.

5 Palo Cortado
This has an aroma reminiscent of an amontillado, while its colour is closer to oloroso.

6 Cream Sherry
This international favourite results when you take an oloroso and sweeten it by mixing in a measure of Pedro Ximenez wine.

7 Pedro Ximénez
This naturally sweet wine, when aged with care, is elegant and velvety.

8 Brandy de Jerez
This brandy is made by ageing wine spirits in casks that have previously been used to age sherry. It is sweeter and more caramelized than French brandy.

9 Málaga
Málaga's famous sweet wines are made from the Moscatel and Pedro Ximénez grape varieties.

10 Raigal
This recent addition, the region's only sparkling wine, is refreshing on the palate.

Outdoor Activities and Sports

1 Diving
Off Gibraltar you can check out the many sunken ships, while the wilds around Cabo de Gata offer the most profuse underwater life. The Costa de la Luz also has some good spots, including watersport heaven, Tarifa.

► *Centro de Buceo Isub: C/Babor, San José; • Map H5; • 950 38 00 04; • www.isubsanjose.com*

► *Tarifa Diving: C/Alcalde Juan Nuñez 8, Tarifa; • Map C6; • 956 68 19 25*

2 Windsurfing and Surfing
Thanks to the constant winds, Tarifa is one of the world magnets for windsurfing, while good possibilities also can be found along the Costa Tropical. For board surfing, the Costa de la Luz provides sufficiently high waves. Mediterranean waves are only good for body-surfing.

► *Club Mistral: Hurricane Hotel, Ctra N340 km 78, Tarifa; • Map C6; • 956 68 49 19*

► *Wind-surf La Herradura: Paseo Marítimo 34, La Herradura; • Map F5; • 958 64 01 43*

3 Horse-riding
Andalucía is renowned for breeding some of the finest horses in the world, so one would expect to find a range of riding options. There are trails and schools in every province.

► *Camino Verde, Cortijo El Sabuco 18416, Busquistar* • **Map F4**; • 958 76 62 35

► *Rancho Los Lobos: Estación de Jimena, nr Jimena de la Frontera*; • **Map C5** • 956 64 04 29

4 Hiking
Andalucía is blessed with sierras in which to hike, from verdant, to desert-like, to rocky (see Nature Reserves). If mountaineering appeals, head for the Sierra Nevada. Maps and lists of refuges are available from the Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña (FEDME).

► *FEDME 958 29 13 40* • www.fedme.es

5 Spelunking
The region is home to some of the world's most interesting caves, many of them commercially developed. For information and organized jaunts, contact Safari Shop.

► *Safari Shop: Avda Naciones Unidas Centro Commercial Cristamar B61, Puerto Banús, Marbella* • **Map D5** • 952 90 50 82;

6 Skiing
The resort near Granada, Solynieve, is the only possibility in Andalucía. Although a little too sleek compared to its Alpine cousins, it offers a variety of runs and, best of all, skiing fairly late in the season.

7 Boating and Fishing
With so many marinas along the coast, sailing is big here. For deep-sea fishing, you need to obtain a five-year licence; for freshwater fishing, you'll need a two-week licence. Contact the Spanish Fishing Federation for details.

► *Spanish Fishing Federation: Navas de Tolosa 3, Madrid* • 915 32 83 52

8 Golf
So copious are the golf courses that the Costa del Sol has often been dubbed the "Costa del Golf". Courses include everything from world masterpieces, designed by top golfers, to putting greens (see Costa del Sol Golf Courses).

9 Fútbol
Football (soccer) is a national obsession, stirring up the deepest of passions. In season, you'll encounter it in every bar, blaring out from the TV.

10 Bullfighting
In the Spanish view, this is not really a sport, but an art form, and to many Andalusians, it embodies the soul of the region. The fight season runs from April to October and tickets are available from bullrings.

These include black and umbrella pine, holm oak, hazel, olive, citrus, cypress, juniper, ash and the rare Spanish fir.

2 Shrubs
Along the coast you'll see agave, brought here from America in the 18th century. Also prickly pear, bullrush, club rush, oleander and arbutus.

3 Wildflowers
Look for the Cazorla violet, bubil lily, Nevada daffodil and white celandine.

4 Raptors
Birds of prey include the Spanish imperial eagle and the peregrine falcon.

5 Songbirds
Warblers include the red-legged partridge, collared pratincole and hoopoe.

6 Marsh birds
Watery areas abound in cranes, flamingo, gull-billed terns, purple gallinules, stilts, glossy ibis and redshanks.

7 Mammals
Wild creatures include wolves, lynxes, boar, genets, civets, mongoose, monk seal, dolphins, whales and the Barbary macaques of Gibraltar.

8 Reptiles and Amphibians
This group includes the Mont-pellier snake, the Spanish lizard and the natterjack toad.

9 Fish
Local catch includes black perch, eel, gambusia, tuna, monkfish, sardines, anchovies and cephalopods.

10 Insects and Arachnids
Most of Europe's butterflies are found here, along with mosquitoes, scorpions and tarantulas.

Museums and Galleries

1 Museo de Bellas Artes, Seville
Housed in an exquisite former convent, this art museum is second only to Madrid's famed Prado. Paintings include early works by Velázquez, important works by Zurbarán, Ribera, El Greco, Murillo, Valdés Leal and Vásquez.

2 Archivo de Indias, La Lonja, Seville
This museum is a vast archive given over to the discovery and conquest of the New World; four centuries of Spanish empire are painstakingly catalogued. The museum is housed in an 18th-century edifice that was built as the merchants' exchange (see La Lonja). It has been closed for five years but is expected to open in the summer of 2005.

3 Museo de la Maestranza, Seville
One of the corridors of what is perhaps Spain's most famous bullring is devoted to a Museo Taurino

Top 10 Flora and Fauna

1 Trees

(Museum of the Bullfight). In addition to stacks of posters and other memorabilia, you can see the *trajes de luces* (suits of lights) – brightly coloured silk outfits embroidered with gold sequins – worn by many a celebrated toreador, along with portraits of some of the greats. There are also the inevitable stuffed remains of various noble animals (see La Maestranza).

4 Museo de Cádiz

A Neo-Classical mansion houses Cádiz's main museum, a rich juxtaposition of archaeological treasures and fine art. In Europe's oldest city there are naturally artifacts from ancient cultures, including jewellery, pottery and small bronzes, but most notably a pair of 5th-century BC marble sarcophagi. Among the art are works by Zurbarán, Rubens, Murillo and Cano. An ethnological collection features artisanal pieces that highlight aspects of the city's culture.



5 Museo del Bandolero, Ronda

This offbeat museum celebrates the story and legend of the Serranía's famous bandits and highwaymen. They were mostly active in the 19th century and managed to capture the imagination of many writers of the period, who portrayed them as romantic figures living a devil-may-care life in communion with nature. As the exhibits here will attest,

they were anything but "diamonds in the rough".

6 Museo Arqueológico, Córdoba

A small 16th-century Renaissance mansion is home to this excellent collection, essential for understanding the city's importance in Roman times. In fact, the mansion was built over a Roman structure and there is an ancient patio to prove it. A sculpture of the Persian god Mithras, from a mithraeum found at Cabra, is particularly fine. Other parts of the collection focus on Iberian finds and Moorish artifacts.

7 Museo Municipal, Antequera

This museum is located in a striking 18th-century ducal palace, which means that many of the exhibits simply cannot compete with the context. Two that do, however, are the life-size 1st-century AD Roman bronze representing a naked young man, possibly Ganymede, cupbearer to the gods, and a life-like carving of St Francis of Assisi, executed in wood by Pedro de Mena, a 17th-century Andalusian master (see Antequera).

8 Museo Picasso, Málaga

Newly opened, after years of planning and several setbacks, this is the world's third largest museum dedicated to the modern master. It was endowed by his daughter-in-law, Christine Ruiz-Picasso, and her son Bernard with some 187 paintings, including some major canvases, that give an idea of the breadth and depth of his career (see Málaga).



9 Museo Arqueológico Cueva de Siete Palacios, Almuñécar

This space was built into the side of the hill in the 1st century. The small collection includes artifacts from Phoenician, Roman and Moorish periods (see Almuñécar & Around).

10 Museo Provincial y de Bellas Artes, Jaén

The archaeological lower floor has an interesting assortment of finds, but the 5th-century BC Iberian stone sculptures are truly extraordinary. Found near the town of Porcuna, in the western part of the province, they show clear influences from Greek works. Upstairs, the fine arts museum has some fine medieval wood sculpture and a Picasso drawing (see Jaén City).

Parks, Paseos and Plazas

1 Real Alcázar, Seville

These gardens are a blend of Moorish and Italian Renaissance styles.

2 Parque de María Luisa

This huge park dominates the southern end of the city. Its present design was laid out for the 1929 Exposition. Keep an eye out for peacocks perched in the trees.

► *Map M6*

3 Plaza de San Francisco and Plaza Nueva

These squares represent the heart of the city. Plaza de San Francisco (also called Plaza Mayor) is Seville's oldest and the focal point of public spectacles. Plaza Nueva is a pleasant park with a monument to King Fernando the Saint.

► *Map L3 & M3*

4 Jardines de Murillo

These formal gardens used to be the orchards and vegetable plots for the Alcázar. Donated to the city in 1911, they are named after Seville painter Bartolomé Esteban Murillo. A monument to Columbus features the bronze prow of the Santa María, the caravel that bore him to the New World in 1492.

► *Map N4*

5 Plaza de Santa Cruz

This square was opened up when Napoleon's soldiers destroyed the church that once stood here. The square is now adorned by an ornate iron cross, La Cruz de la Cerrajería.

► *Map N4*

6 Calle Sierpes
This pedestrianized promenade is the principal shopping street of old Seville. Here's the place to window-shop for all the traditional flamenco and feria gear, and certainly the place to be seen during the early evening paseo.

► **Map L2**

7 Alameda de Hércules
Set off by pairs of columns at either end – the southern set are ancient Roman and are surmounted by 16th-century sculptures of Hercules and Julius Caesar – this once fashionable promenade is now a rather dusty affair, but is very popular for its nightlife.

► **Map M1**

8 Plaza de la Alfalfa
Once the location of the hay market, but now home to a Sunday morning pet market. Birds, puppies, exotic fish, lizards, mice and even silkworms have been known to turn up here. Also good for bars and restaurants.

► **Map M2**

9 Paseo Alcalde Marqués de Contadero
With the Torre del Oro at one end (see Torre del Oro & Torre de Plata), this tree-lined riverfront promenade makes for a pleasant stroll.

► **Map L4**

10 Jardines de San Telmo
The park of this Churrigueresque palace is one of the city's largest. The palace, built in 1682, is the headquarters of the regional government.

► **Map M5**

Paseos, Plazas, Parks and Gardens

1 Parque de María Luísa, Seville
Seville's glorious main park was a gift to the city from a Bourbon duchess in 1893. A few decades later it was redesigned and embellished for the 1929 Ibero-American Exhibition. Numerous lavish structures have been left behind, including the stunning Plaza de España and several other fine buildings, now used mostly as cultural centres. The grounds are largely the creation of Jean-Claude Nicolas Forestier, the French landscape gardener who also designed the Bois de Boulogne in Paris.



2 Paseo Alcalde Marqués de Contadero, Seville
This central promenade is one of Seville's loveliest. Stretching along the riverfront, within sight of most of the major

monuments, its tree-lined walkways make a pleasant break from the crowded city streets. The paseo is also pedestrianized so you don't have to worry about traffic.

3 Parque Zoológico, Jerez
Jerez's small zoo, set in botanical gardens, is also an active centre for the rehabilitation of regional endangered species or any injured animals. The star turns are a pair of white tigers. This is also the only chance you may get to see the elusive and extremely rare Iberian lynx, of which only an estimated 1,000 remain in the wild.

► **C/Taxidirt • Map B5 • Open Oct–May: 10am–6pm Tue–Sun; Jun–Sep: 10am–8pm daily; • 956 18 23 97 • Adm**



4 Parque Genovés, Cádiz

Lying along the west side of Cádiz, this swathe of landscaped greenery facing the seafront has paths for strolling along, some civic sculpture and interesting flora, including an ancient dragon tree originally from the Canary Islands. This is one leg of a two-part park, the other half curving around along the northern seafront.

► **Map B5**

5 Plaza San Juan de Dios, Cádiz
This is one of Cádiz's busiest hubs of commercial and social life. Lined with cafés, bars and palm trees, its chief adornment is the monumental Neo-Classical façade of the Ayuntamiento (town hall), along with several handsome towers. The square opens out onto the port, ensuring a constant stream of pedestrians and opportunities for people-watching.

► **Map B5**

6 Jardín Botánico La Concepción, Málaga
Just north of Málaga City lies this impressive botanical garden, the work of a 19th-century English woman, Amalia Livermore, and her Spanish husband, Jorge Loring Oyarzábal. The garden is composed of a collection of palms and exotic plants from around the world. The grounds are also embellished with charming touches here and there, such as a domed gazebo decorated with tiles and columns.

► **Carretera N-331, km 166, Málaga • Map E5 • Open 10am–4pm Tue–Sun (until 6:30pm Apr–May & 7:30pm Jun–Sep); • 952 25 21 48 • Adm**

7 Plaza de la Corredera, Córdoba
Córdoba gave this 17th-century arcaded square a long overdue sprucing up for the tourist onslaught of 1992 (see Seville Expo '92), even putting in an underground car park. But it still retains some of its customary functions, including an open-air market on Saturday morning, in addition to the regular covered market in the building with the clock-tower. The arches provide shade for a number of cafés and tapas bars, where you can sit and admire the brick façades with their wrought-iron balconies.

► **Map D3**

8 Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos, Córdoba
Another of the major delights of Córdoba are the grounds of this palace. The gardens are lavishly done in Moorish style, indulging in a profusion of colour – wisteria, bougainvillea, calla lilies and geraniums, to name

only a few – gorgeously setting off the sun-bleached stone walls and ancient carvings.

► **Campo Santo de los Mártires** • **Map D3** • *Open Tue–Sun* • *Adm €4.00 (free Fri)*



9 Plaza Nueva, Granada

Located at the base of both the Alhambra hill and the Albaicín (see Moorish Granada: The Alhambra), and providing views along the banks of the river that runs beneath the city, this is a

great place to while away the time. There are street performers, an endless stream of people and plenty of cafés with tables on terraces.

► **Map Q2**

10 Paseo de la Constitución, Baeza

Baeza's hub for strollers and café-goers is all along this oblong central promenade. Fountains grace its tree-lined length, and there are bars with open-air seating in the shade. Interesting buildings facing the square include La Alhóndiga, the old corn exchange, with its triple-tiered arches.

Alcázares, Palacios and Castillos

1 Real Alcázar, Seville

This sumptuous palace and extensive gardens constitute a world of royal luxury. The architectural styles are a blend of mainly Moorish traditions – note the lavish use of the horseshoe arch, glazed tilework and wood ceilings.

2 Casa de Pilatos, Seville

Few palaces are more opulent than this 15th–16th-century mansion. A mix of Mudéjar (Christian-Islamic), Flamboyant Gothic and Renaissance styles, it is also adorned with Classical sculptures, including a 5th-century BC Greek Athena and important Roman works. A noble residence to this day, it is filled with family portraits and antiques from the last 500 years.

3 Ayuntamiento, Seville

Seville's town hall dates from the 16th century, with later modifications added in the 19th century. The original sections are in Plateresque style, begun by architect Diego de Riaño in 1526 – note the mix of motifs used on the main façade (on Plaza de San Francisco). Inside, a collection of art features paintings by Zurbarán and Velázquez.

4 Palacio del Marqués de la Gomera, Osuna

This 18th-century palace is a striking example of the Spanish Baroque style. The cornice is composed of waves and volutes, lending it a sense of movement. The family escutcheon crowns the carved stone doorway, which also has elaborate pillars. The palace has now been converted into a hotel and restaurant.

► *C/San Pedro 20*, • *954 81 22 23* • **Map D4**

5 Fortaleza de la Mota, Alcalá la Real

This Moorish castle, crowning the hill above the town, is the chief attraction here. Created by Granada's rulers in the 14th century, it incorporates 12th-century structures and earlier elements, since the strategically situated town dates from prehistoric times. After the Christian reconquest in 1341 (see The Sierra Nevada), additions to the fortress continued until the 16th century. The castle keep houses an archaeological museum (see Alcalá La Real).

6 Castillo de Santa Catalina, Jaén City

Restored by the Christians, this 13th-century castle towers above the town and affords spectacular views.

► **Map F3** • *Open 10am–2pm, 5–9pm Tue–Sun (summer); 10am–2pm, 3:30–7:30pm Tue–Sun (winter)* • *953 12 07 33* • *Adm*

7 Castillo de Buralgimar, Baños de la Encina

This Moorish castle is one of the best preserved in Andalucía. Its horseshoe-arched main gate bears an inscription dating its construction to AD 967. Some 14 square towers provide vistas far and wide.

► **Map F2** • *Visit by appt, 953 61 44 34* • *Free*

8 Palacio de Jabalquinto, Baeza

This splendid 15th-century palace is a study in originality. The façade's columns defy categorization, while the gallery evokes the Renaissance style, as does the double-tiered patio. The latter also sports a monumental Baroque staircase.

9 Castillo de Lacañahorra

One of the few castles newly built after the Christian reconquest, this was also one of the first in Spain to be built according to Italian Renaissance tenets. Despite its forbidding situation and exterior, its inner courtyard is exquisite, with staircases, pillars and arches carved from Carrara marble.

► **Map F4** • *Open 10am–1pm, 4–6pm Wed* • *958 67 70 98* • *Free*

10 Castillo de Vélez Blanco

Also in Italian Renaissance style, this structure has the soaring grace of a fairytale castle. Unfortunately, it was gutted in the early 1900s, but a reconstruction of one of the patios gives you some idea of its original splendour.

► **Map H3** • *Open 11am–2pm, 4–6pm Sat & Sun; Mon, Thu & Fri by appt*, • *607 41 50 55* • *Adm €1.00*

Hikes and Drives

1 Hike from Alájar to Linares de la Sierra

The Sierra de Aracena is defined by soaring cliffs, wooded valleys and whitewashed villages. A good hike along the marked trails is the 6-km (4-mile) route from Alájar to Linares, via the hamlet of Los Madroñeros. It begins at the main square in Alájar and follows the old road, with only one steep section.

► **Map B3**

2 Río Borosa Hike
From the visitors' centre at the village of Torre del Vinagre, near Cazorla, this hike takes you along the narrow rock walls of the Cerrada de Elías gorge above the Río Borosa, criss-crossed by wooden bridges.

► **Map G3**

3 Hike around the Villages of the Southern Tahá
This hike begins in Pitres and descends south, to enjoy first at Mecinilla, then along a ravine to Mecina-Fondales. From here, you take the short or long route to Ferreirola, climb up to Atalbéitar and then back to Pitres.

► **Map F4**

4 Hike from Rute to Iznájar
Leave Rute on the A331 south, veer left at the fork and then take the trail on the right about 500 m (550 yd) further on. This leads down to the reservoir; turn right and continue to a rocky promontory. Enjoy the views, then go up the hill and cross the bridge to the scenic village of Iznájar.

► **Map E4**

5 Serranía de Ronda Hike
An easy, picturesque hike connects the village of Benaolán Estación with Jimera de Líbar Estación. Begin at the Molino del Santo hotel, walk down the hill and left along the railway and then over at the second crossing. Across the river is the path; when it divides, take the left fork and continue on to Vía Pecuaría and into the town.

► **Map D5**



Around).

► **Map E5 • Rte N340**

7 Drive from Ronda to Jerez
The attraction of this drive is the pueblos blancos (see Pueblos Blancos) along the way, in particular Grazalema, Zahara and Arcos de la Frontera. You can also include the Roman ruins at Ronda la Vieja, and a sidetrip to Ólvera.

► **Map C5 • Rte N342**

8 Drive from Tarifa to Cádiz
This wild sweep of the Costa de la Luz is the best of the Atlantic shore. Expect immense cliffs, mammoth sand dunes and a scattering of rather subdued resorts. The villages of Bolonia, with its ancient Roman sites, and Vejer de la Frontera, which is steeped in Moorish heritage, both make excellent sidetrips.

► **Map C6 • Rte N340**

9 Drive from Guadalquivir Valley through Córdoba Province

Starting to the east of Córdoba, in the attractive hill town of Montoro, this drive follows the river downstream. West of Córdoba, visit the once-fabulous Medina Azahara, enjoy the view from the castle walls at Almodóvar del Río, and end at Palma del Río.

► **Map D3**

10 Drive in Las Alpujarras, Sierra Nevada
This zone comprises scores of villages and hamlets, many perched on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Begin at Lanjarón, then head for the market town of Órgiva. Continuing eastward, the landscape becomes more arid; eventually you'll come to Yegen, made famous by Gerald Brenan's autobiographical *South from Granada*.

► **Map F4**

Top 10 Town and City Walks

1 Sevilla
Once you've done the main city-centre sights, head across the Puente de Isabel II and into the old gypsy quarter of Triana.

2 Granada
Lose yourself in the maze of hilly streets in the Albaicín district (see Moorish Granada: Albaicín).

3 Córdoba
Have a free-form wander around the ancient Jewish quarter and then make for the Puente Romano for sunset views (see Córdoba City).

4 Cádiz
Start at the northeast corner of Plaza de España and circumbulate the city, taking in the seascapes and gardens.

5 Jerez
Stroll through the Barrio de Santiago, the town's gypsy quarter (see Jerez de la Frontera).

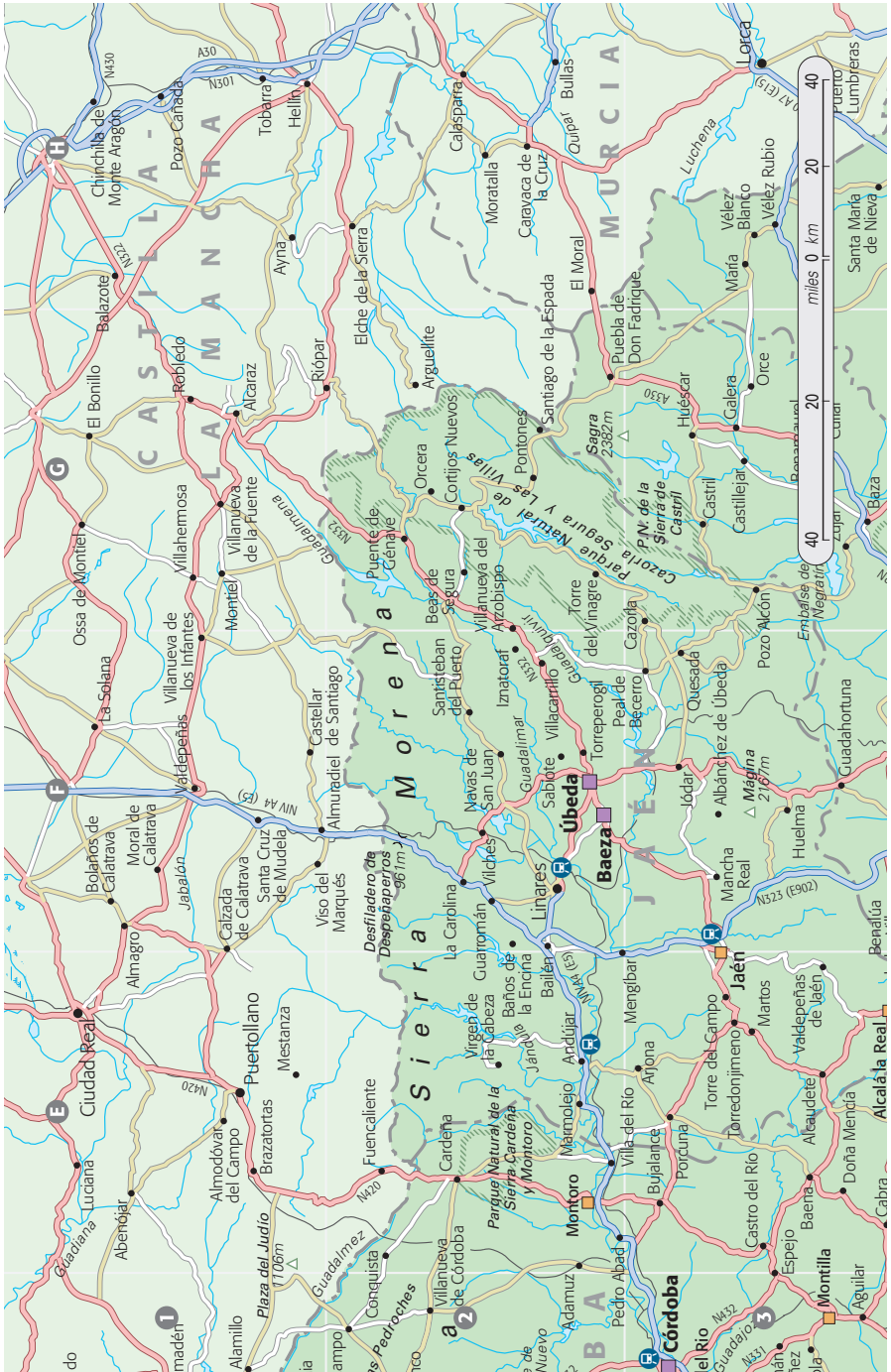
6 Ronda
Cross the Puente Nuevo, turn left and follow the town clockwise, being sure to pass the main church.

7 Baeza
From Plaza del Pópulo most of the main sights are found in a counterclockwise direction (see Baeza and Úbeda).

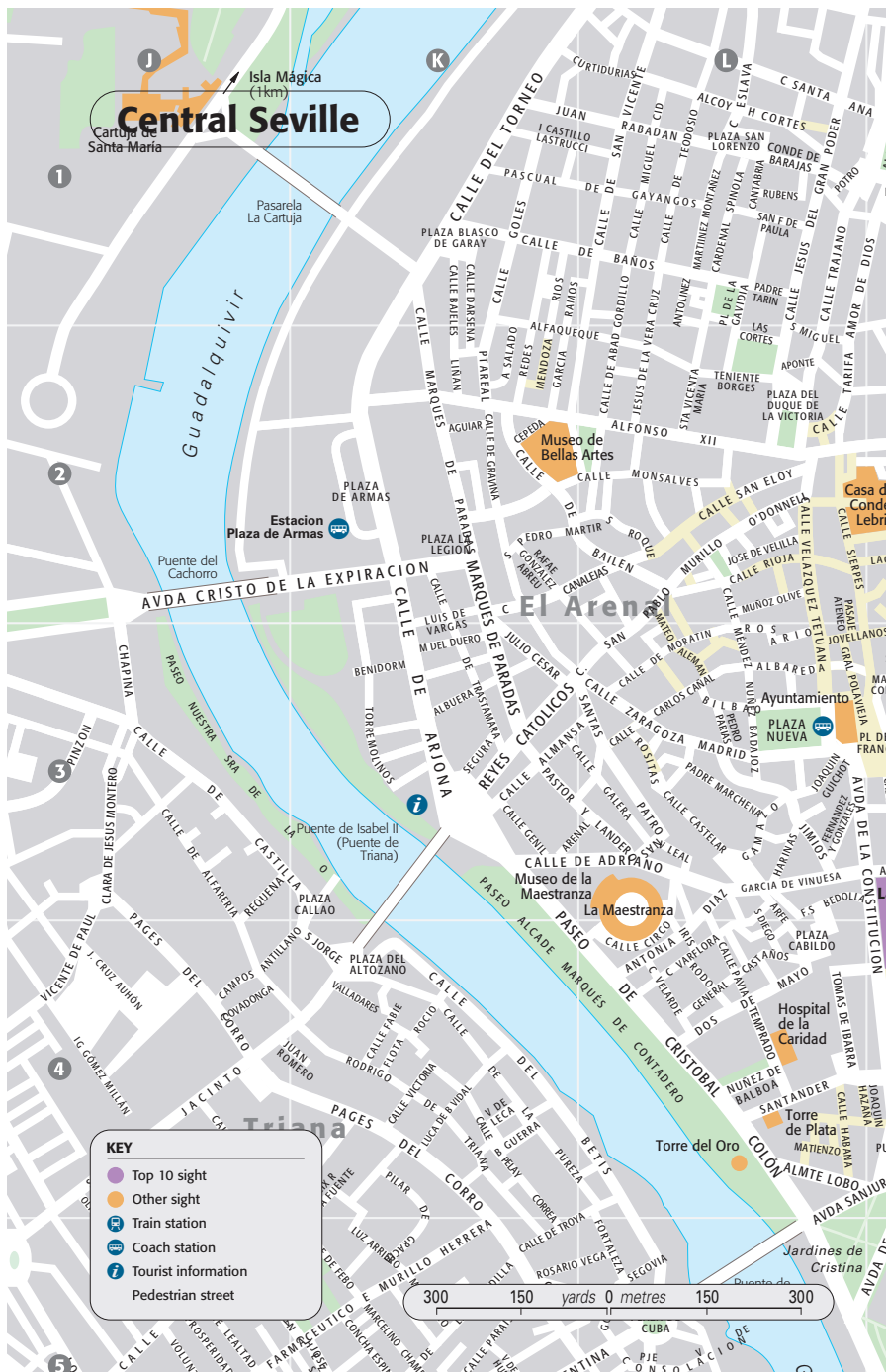
8 Úbeda
Take a westerly walk to the monumental Hospital de Santiago and the Plaza de Toros (see Baeza and Úbeda).

9 Málaga
Málaga's historic sights are on the north side of the Paseo del Parque.

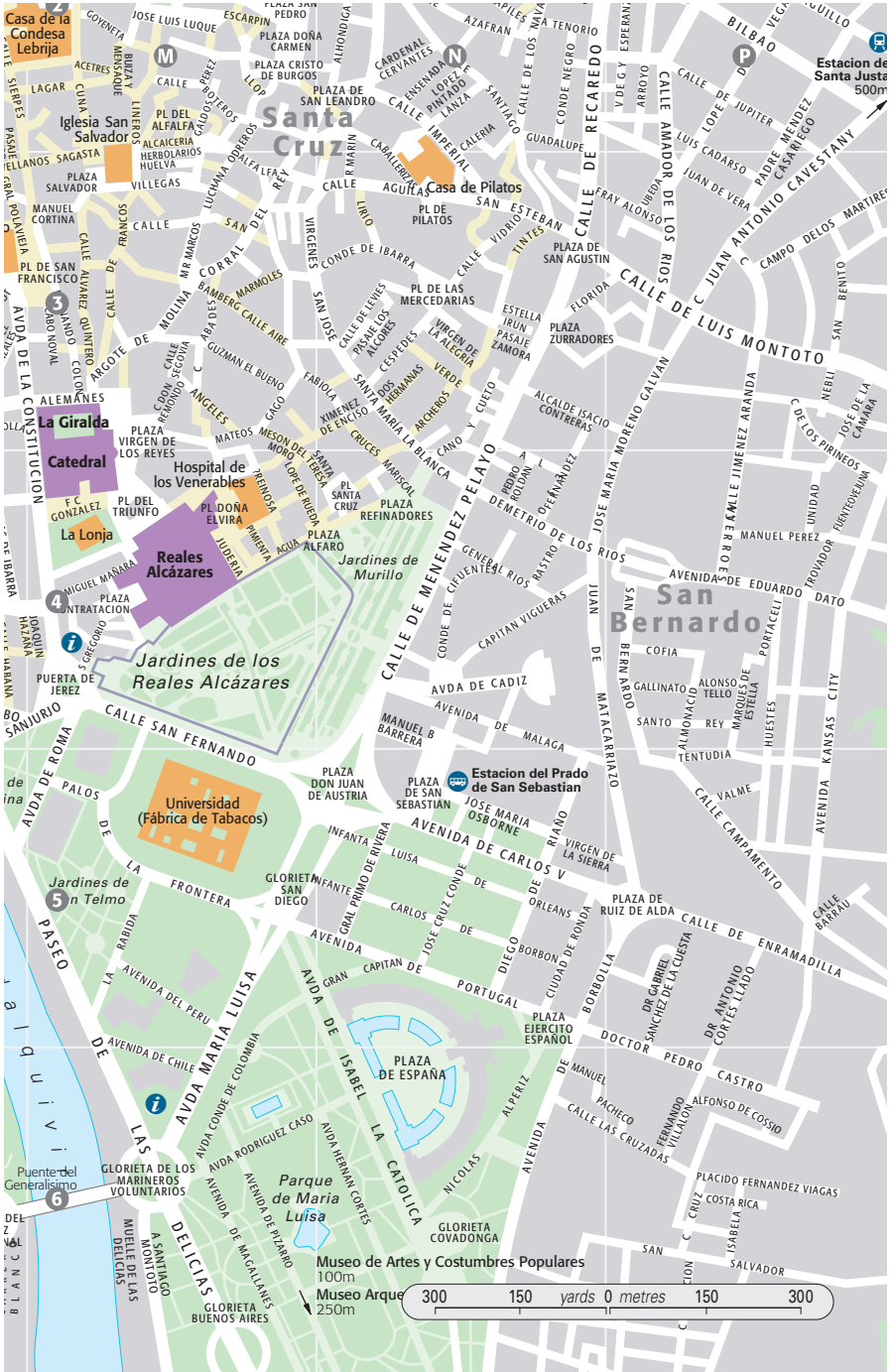
10 Antequera
This ancient town's main attractions are located at the foot of the Alcazaba.













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