



Spain

Andalusia

SECRETARÍA DE
ESTADO DE TURISMO
Y COMERCIO
SECRETARÍA
GENERAL DE TURISMO
TURESPAÑA

Spain

Andalusia

Almería
Cádiz
Córdoba
Granada
Huelva
Jaén
Málaga
Seville



C O N T E N T S

Introduction	1
Getting to Know Andalusia	2
The Land, Climate and Services	2
History	4
The Legado Andalusi	6
Artistic Legacy	6
Natural Wealth	9
A Journey through the Capital	
Cities and Provinces of Andalusia	10
Almería	10
Cádiz	15
Córdoba	21
Granada	26
Huelva	33
Jaén	38
Málaga	43
Seville	49
Recreation and Events	54
Useful Information	61



Front cover:
A street in Zuheros. Córdoba
Back cover:
Sea view. El Rompido. Huelva

Text:
Manuel Pérez Rodríguez

Translation:
J. West

Printed by:
EGRAF, S.A.
D.L. M. 35551-2006

NIPO: 704-06-008-0

Photographs:
TURESPAÑA Archives

Graphic Design:
P&L MARÍN

Printed in Spain

6th edition

Introduction

History, art and nature. These three words summarize the essence of the region with the warmest winter temperatures on the European mainland. Andalusia (Andalucía in Spanish) has always held an irresistible attraction for travelers. The second largest autonomous community in Spain in area but the most populous population, it brings together two continents at its vertex. Africa and Europe seem to merge in this land of contrasts, mild temperatures, long golden beaches, craggy mountains and vast plains, where the cities and towns boast historically rich monuments.

Andalusia is bathed by both Atlantic and Mediterranean waters. Five of its eight provinces have outlets to the ocean or sea. Seville is the capital of a region with more than 7,300,000 inhabitants. The Giralda is the symbol of this city embraced by the Guadalquivir, a river which traverses the lands of Andalusia from east to west.

The Alhambra palace, one of the most visited monuments in the world, is proudly perched on a hill in Granada. The Great Mosque known as the Mezquita is Córdoba's landmark. The Moorish fortresses help define



Almería and Málaga. Cádiz has its bay and Huelva, the marshlands. Olive trees are the symbols of Jaén.

But the charm of Andalusia does not radiate solely from its capital cities. The outlying regions house a good part of the attractions many travelers prefer. Sunbathing on beaches of fine sand, enjoying winter sports at the southernmost ski resort in the Old Continent or discovering the attraction of the history surrounding the ancient churches and palaces scattered throughout this southern land are only a few of the many possibilities Andalusia has to offer.

The region is endowed with a wide-range of high-quality, modern facilities for tourists. Satisfying the wishes of the most demanding visitors is not a difficult task in a land steeped in traditions which never cease to amaze, such as bullfighting, flamenco music and dance, and cuisine from the mountains and the sea.

Getting to Know Andalusia

The Land, Climate and Services

Andalusia extends along the southern part of Spain. It is the second largest autonomous community in the country with eight provinces occupying 87,268 square kilometers. An ocean and sea embrace its southern coast; the wild Atlantic breaks upon the coasts of Huelva and Cádiz, while the calm Mediterranean partially bathes Cádiz, Málaga, Granada and Almería. The regions of Extremadura, Castilla-La Mancha and Murcia form the northern border and Portugal lies to the west.

The rugged mountain pass of Despeñaperros joins the plateau to the Guadalquivir

Valley. The long mountainous strip of Sierra Morena extends from here and runs along the northern edge of the provinces of Jaén, Córdoba, Seville and Huelva. Below it is the basin of the longest and mightiest river in Andalusia, the Guadalquivir, which is navigable from Seville. The Andalusian lowlands form an area of marshes that are ideal for growing crops requiring a lot of water.

Sierra Nevada is the most important range in the Penibético massif. This majestic mountain range boasts two of the highest peaks in the Iberian peninsula: Mulhacén (3,481 meters) and Veleta (3,398 meters). The range extends its rolling flanks until reaching the Serranía de Ronda, giving way to La Axarquía in Málaga.

In Granada rise the high plateaus of Baza and Huéscar, while Almería is occupied largely by the Tabernas desert, the only one in Europe. Furthermore, Andalusia is sprinkled with areas boasting different microclimates.

The coast of Andalusia receives more than three thousand hours of sunshine



Cabo de Gata-Nijar Nature Park. Almería

a year. It is not surprising that this region is one of the warmest in Europe. The temperate Mediterranean climate boasts hot dry summers and winters with mild temperatures. Rainfall is irregular. Andalusia is a land of contrasts, even with regards to the climate. The almost nonexistent rainfall in regions such as the Tabernas desert in Almería contrasts sharply with the high annual rainfall recorded in the Sierra de Grazalema in Cádiz, one of the rainiest areas in Spain. And there's more, the mountain cold in Sierra Nevada contrasts sharply with the mild climate found on the Tropical Coast. In a distance of only 33 kilometers, you can go from 10 degrees below zero to 22 above zero Centigrade, all in the same province of Granada.

Andalusia has a dense network of highways, motorways and toll roads. The Autovía de Andalusia, also called the N-IV, crosses Despeñaperros and connects the plateau called the Meseta with the capital cities of Córdoba, Seville and Cádiz, passing through important cities along the banks of the Guadalquivir. The A-92 links Seville and Granada with the region of Murcia, while the Autopista del Quinto Centenario starts out in Seville and ends in Huelva. The National road N-630 starts out in Seville and leads to the region of Extremadura. The Autovía Bailén-Granada traverses Jaén and the Autovía del Mediterraneo runs along a large part of the coast.

The extensive transportation network is also reflected in the railroads. The high-speed

Cazorla in Jaén

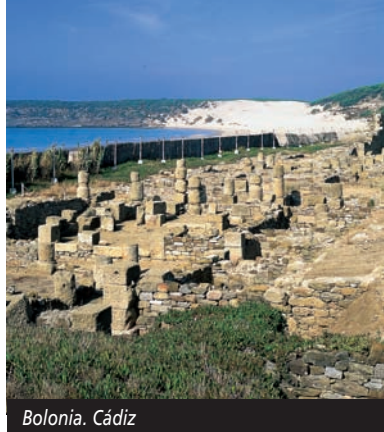


train called the AVE connects Seville with Madrid. Two international airports, Pablo Ruiz Picasso in Málaga and San Pablo in Seville, welcome the majority of travelers arriving by plane. The airports in Córdoba, Almería, Granada and Jerez de la Frontera link these cities with the leading Spanish capitals.

Algeciras is the most important seaport in Andalusia. The ports at Almería, Motril, Cádiz, Huelva, Málaga and Seville must also be added. There are 38 marinas along the Andalusian coast.

History

Legends say that the Greek god Hercules separated Europe from Africa at the Strait of Gibraltar, creating the Mediterranean Sea. Hercules, son of Zeus, became a special symbol and his image can be seen today on the coat of arms of the green and white Andalusian flag along with the two legendary columns. But Andalusia had already awakened a special interest among the most primitive peoples. It is believed that the earliest settlers from the **Neolithic** period came into Europe from



Bolonia. Cádiz

Africa through the Andalusian lands. The **Tartessians** inhabited the region from the Bronze Age. Later came the **Iberians**. In 1100 B.C. the **Phoenicians** founded Gadir, present-day Cádiz, considered the oldest city in Europe. Greeks and Carthaginians arrived later. But it would be in the third century B.C. when **Rome** incorporated this land, called Baetica, into its empire. During seven centuries, this province provided metals, oil, wheat and wine. In exchange, it received a language and a solid infrastructure. Furthermore, Trajan and Adrian, two of the most illustrious emperors, were born here. The decline of Rome would bring the **Vandals** from the other side of the Rhine river to settle in the Guadalquivir Valley. But their presence did not last long.

In 711 the **Moors** crossed over from Africa and the new culture flourished throughout these lands. For eight centuries the Arab civilization caused Al-Andalus (the Arabic name for Islamic Spain) to become the most prosperous, advanced and refined region in the Western world.

The Caliphate of Córdoba radiated riches and knowledge. This legacy still pervades the eight Andalusian provinces.

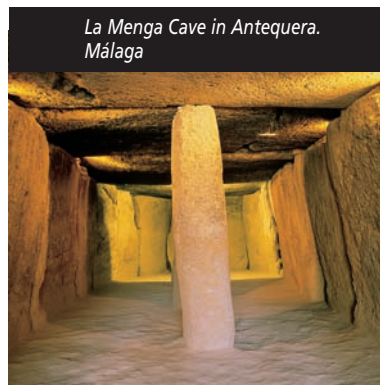
The political breakdown of the Arab empire encouraged the Christian kings to complete what is known as the Christian Reconquest. In the year 1212, Christian troops were victorious at **Las Navas de Tolosa**, north of Jaén.

In 1236 Córdoba fell and in 1248 Seville. But Castile would have to wait more than two centuries until definitively ending the Muslim presence on the Iberian Peninsula. In 1492 the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, entered into Granada

and expelled the last Moorish king, Boabdil. That same year at the port of Palos de la Frontera, three ships set sail captained by Christopher Columbus. It was the beginning of the **discovery of America**.

The 16th century was the most profitable one for Seville. For 150 years Seville was the economic center of the world. Ships laden with gold and silver arrived at its port. These riches helped build the imposing buildings, churches and monuments that still remain for all to see. The ensuing centuries would fill Andalusia with chiaroscuro. Romantic travelers at the beginning of the 19th century would gather up all these contradictions in their writings.

The 19th century began with the **Peninsular War**, called the War of Independence in Spain. The Andalusians thwarted the Napoleonic



La Menga Cave in Antequera. Málaga



Caravel at La Rabida. Huelva

invasion in **Cádiz** with heroic feats. In the year 1808, Spanish troops crushed the French at the Battle of Bailén. From this upheaval, the first Spanish Constitution emerged in 1812.

Present-day Andalusia is a prosperous region which bases its economy on industry, agriculture and tourism. In 1981 the Statute of Autonomy was approved. The Andalusian Parliament is the institution which represents the will of the people, and the Junta de Andalucía is the governing autonomous body.

■ The Legado Andalusi

The Legado Andalusi is a touristic and cultural project to recover and promote the historic legacies of a civilization which endured for more than eight centuries in the southern Iberian peninsula. Headquartered in Granada at the Corral del Carbón, the Legado Andalusi has designed seven tourist routes crisscrossing the eight provinces of Andalusia. These routes include: the **Caliphate Route**, linking Córdoba and Granada, which travels

through towns of white architecture and protected natural spaces such as the Sierra Subbética; the **Washington Irving Route**, in honor of the 19th century American writer and traveler, which connects Seville and Granada and journeys through towns with an important Arab past including Carmona, Antequera and Loja; and the **Route of the Nasrids**, which begins in Navas de Tolosa in the province of Jaén and continues south to Granada passing through monumental cities such as Úbeda and Baeza.

www.legadoandalusi.es

■ Artistic Legacy

The archeological sites preserved in Andalusia are a testimonial to the importance this region had for its first settlers. Neolithic tribes settled in the Guadalquivir Valley. In other areas, such as Antequera (Málaga), there are important dolmen, similar to the ones in Valencina de la Concepción (Seville) or Trigueros (Huelva). The Phoenicians founded Gadir, present-day Cádiz. From this culture, splendid sarcophagi have been recovered which

today can be seen in the museum of Cádiz. In Jaén the Iberians settled. The Iberians were a pre-Roman people which had a very organized commercial activity. The museum of Jaén houses sculptures of extraordinary value. In addition, the Roman world can be admired in the archeological settlements of Itálica and Carmona in Seville.

The **Islamic legacy** is scattered throughout Andalusia, but it is in the cities of Granada and Córdoba where it has left the most abundant inheritance. The Alhambra palace and the Mezquita or Great Mosque, both declared World Heritage Sites, are two of the most visited historic and artistic sites in the world. Mosques,

castles and watchtowers are sprinkled throughout the Andalusian lands, justifying the eight centuries of riches of Al-Andalus, a place of encounter and clashing of Muslim and Christian cultures.

The arrival of the Castilian kings in Andalusia brought with it the proliferation of buildings and monuments in the **Gothic** style. Jaén, gateway of the Christian troops, would be the first to embrace this new artistic style. In cities such as Úbeda and Baeza, churches and palaces abound, as well as mansions and civil buildings which would take

Seville's Cathedral

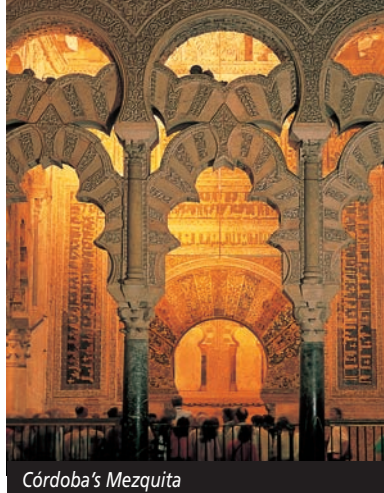


on Renaissance airs with the passing years. But it would be in Seville where the Gothic style would acquire all of its grandeur. The finest example is the Cathedral, the grandest construction from the end of the Middle Ages.

The **Renaissance** is represented in the main squares of numerous towns in the provinces of Jaén and Granada. The Palace of Charles V in Granada, within the Alhambra complex, and Jaén's Cathedral are the best examples of this style of architecture.

As to the **baroque**, we must call attention to the richness of this style in towns in the province of Seville, especially Écija and Carmona. Dozens of temples, convents and monasteries were built in the baroque style throughout the Andalusian territory. The Cartuja in Granada is one of the most significant examples, but it is not the only one. In towns in the province of Córdoba such as Priego and Lucena, we find the ornately decorated shrines of La Asunción and San Mateo, respectively.

Colonial architecture which proliferated in Andalusia because of the wealth



Córdoba's Mezquita

brought back from the Americas is evident in buildings such as the Archivo de Indias in Seville, the Monastery of La Rábida in Huelva, and the Cathedral in Cádiz.

Popular architecture has influenced the white farmhouses sprinkled throughout the Andalusian countryside. On the other hand, the bullrings in cities such as Ronda have helped shape the so-called **Romantic architecture**.

In the 20th century, Andalusia was caught up in the new European **architectural trends**. Industrial, modernist, historicist and modern buildings are found throughout the region. The 1992 Universal Exposition left an abundant legacy in Seville.

Natural Wealth

Seventeen percent of the area of Andalusia is classified as a protected natural area. The region has two national parks, **Doñana** and **Sierra Nevada**, and twenty-two nature reserves, chiefly occupying wetlands that are ideal for the preservation of the rich flora and fauna. The ecological map of Andalusia is completed with over thirty natural environments, a more general classification which basically includes areas of geological wealth.

Doñana and Sierra Nevada were declared **Biosphere Reserves** by the UNESCO, a title which has also been bestowed upon five other natural areas: Sierra de las Nieves in Málaga, Sierra de

Grazalema in Cádiz, Cabo de Gata in Almería, Marismas del Odiel in Huelva, and Cazorla, Segura y las Villas in Jaén. This latter park is the largest in Spain and the second largest in Europe.

The coast encompasses a good part of Andalusia's natural wealth. Along the coast we find Cabo de Gata-Níjar Nature Park in Almería, the Bay of Cádiz, and the Doñana National Park, among others. The Andalusian coast is divided into four sections; the Almería Coast occupies the province of the same name, the Tropical Coast is located in the province of Granada, the Costa del Sol (Sun Coast) is in Málaga, and last but not least, Cádiz and Huelva share the Costa de la Luz (Coast of Light).

Sierra Nevada National Park. Granada



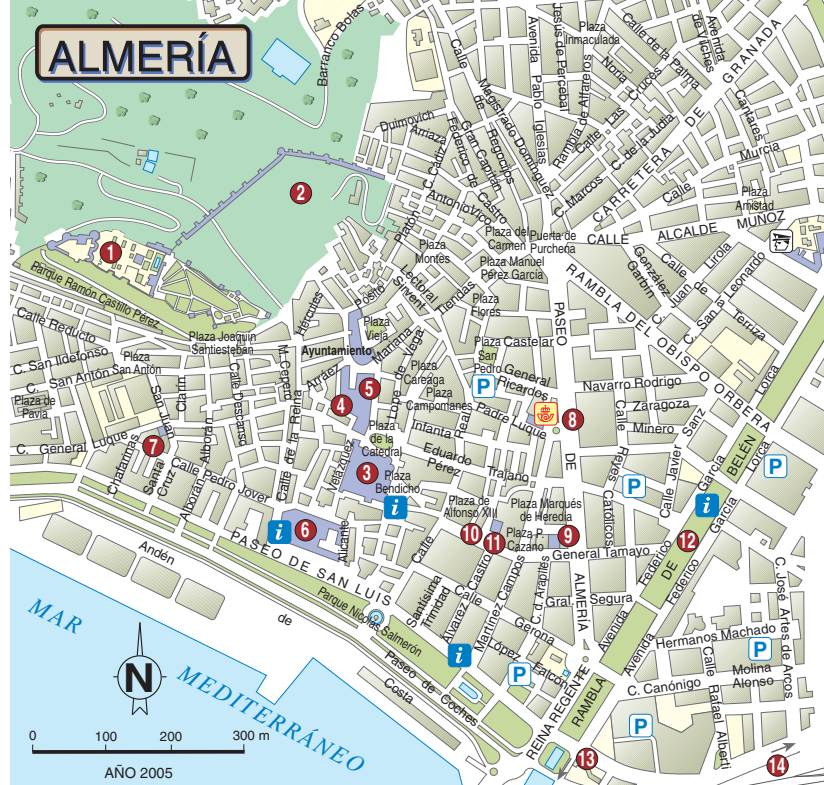
A Journey through the Capital Cities and Provinces of Andalusia

Almería

Al-Mariyat, which means "mirror of the sea" in Arabic, was one of the most important Islamic ports during the period of the Caliphate of Córdoba. The **Alcazaba** (1), a fortress built on the crest of a hill is mute testimony to the grandeur once enjoyed by Almería (population 169,509). The fortress continues to dominate the capital where styles and influence from the nearby African coast still persist. The 10th century fortification is the largest built by the Arabs on the Iberian Peninsula. The ramparts enclose lovely landscaped gardens and spacious outbuildings crowned by high towers, including an impressive keep. From the adjoining hill of **San Cristóbal** (2) a sweeping view of the city can be

admired. At the foot of the fortress lies the town; its Arab character reflected in the older neighborhoods.

The **Cathedral** (3) was initially conceived as a fortress, thus its robust exterior, the four massive towers and tiny windows. The main altar is Gothic, the choir is Plateresque (a Renaissance style in Spain noted for its lavish decoration) and the chapel altarpieces are baroque in style. Next to the Cathedral is the **Convent of Las Puras** (4) and the **Palacio Episcopal** (5) (Bishop's Palace). A short distance away near the port is the **Hospital Real** (6) (Royal Hospital) with a fine 18th century neoclassical doorway. Almería's artistic wealth can also be admired in churches such as **San Juan** (7), built over the remains of an Arab mosque. Inside, the mihrab is of interest, a sacred niche for praying facing in the direction of Mecca. Next to the **Paseo de Almería** (8) is the **Cervantes Theater** (9) and the **Círculo Mercantil**. One street



further up in the **Plaza de Alfonso XIII** (10) rises the **Basilica of Nuestra Señora del Mar** (11), a historic artistic monument which houses an image of the patroness of Almería. The street of **La Rambla de Belén** (12) divides the old quarter of the city from the new. At the end of the tree-lined boulevard is the port. It is here where singular industrial architecture can be seen, including a **ship loader** (13), an engineering structure made of iron. The **Playa del Zapillo** (14) is the most popular beach

- 1 Alcazaba
- 2 San Cristóbal hill
- 3 Cathedral
- 4 Convent of Las Puras
- 5 Bishop's Palace
- 6 Royal Hospital
- 7 Church of San Juan
- 8 Paseo de Almería
- 9 Cervantes Theater
- 10 Plaza de Alfonso XIII
- 11 Basilica of Nuestra Señora del Mar
- 12 La Rambla de Belén
- 13 Ship loader
- 14 Zapillo beach

- Tourist Information
- Parking
- Post Office
- Police

Alcazaba





Ramla de Belén

Cathedral

Zapillo beach

in the city within the most populated neighborhood in Almería.

www.dipalme.org
www.almeria-turismo.org

CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR NATURE PARK

The Cabo de Gata-Níjar Nature Park is located at the eastern end of the gulf of Almería. Its 45 kilometers of nearly deserted coastline presides over a volcanic landscape which records its highest points in the **Sierra de Gata**, a mountainous strip serving as a parapet to the rain. In this semi-desert

landscape, traveling dunes, salt marshes and hidden coves can be found. The most famous beaches are *Genoveses* and *Mónsul*, as well as *Arco* in the town of **Los Escullos** and *Peñón Blanco*, next to **La Isleta del Moro**. The Cabo de Gata lighthouse, next to the lookout called *Mirador de las Sirenas*, rises over the southernmost promontory of the park. From here there is a road leading to **San Jose**, a small seaside village within the nature park that serves as the starting point for numerous itineraries. At **Las Amoladeras**, in the midst of steppe vegetation, there is a visitor and exhibit center.



Los Escullos

Agudulce. Almería

A road starts out in **San Miguel de Cabo de Gata** and leads to the fishing village of **La Almadraba de Monteleva**. Huge mounds of salt are piled up on the outskirts of the town. Nearby at the bird-watching observatory, it is possible to see a large variety of birds using the vast body of water on their migratory route.

THE COAST

A vast landscape of greenhouses growing fruits and vegetables dots the length of the Almería Coast. In the **Campo de Dalías** in western Almería, there are

towns such as **Adra** with a marina which attracts many visitors in the summer. Fine beaches including *Balanegra* and *Balerma* take us to tourist resorts such as Almerimar, south of **El Ejido**. A landscape of salt works leads to **Roquetas de Mar**, a town which proudly shows its visitors the tower of *Santa Ana* castle. Skirting the coast, the fishing town of **Agudulce** has exchanged its desert-like landscape for a white sea of greenhouses.

The eastern coast is less populated. It is here where the Cabo de Gata Nature Park interrupts the coastal strip with nearly deserted beaches



Mojácar



and secluded coves. Outside the protected area lies **Carboneras**, sprinkled with buildings inspired by North African architecture. The town enjoys beaches such as *Torre Vieja*, *Martinicas* and *Algarrobo*. The proximity of the **Tabernas desert** creates a curious contrast, accentuated by a vegetation consisting of prickly pears, agave and palm trees. Perched on a mountain, **Mojácar** is a picturesque town which has shown much respect for the popular architecture of whitewashed houses. At its foot, residential developments have grown up by the sea, a sea which also bathes the fishing and water sports-oriented towns of **Garrucha** and **Vera**, site of some well-known nudist beach centers.

TABERNAS DESERT

The **Sierra de los Filabres**, site of the famed **Calar Alto** Observatory opens the way to the Tabernas desert, the only one with these characteristics in Europe. The natural area has been the location of dozens of films inspired by the American Far West. In the heart of this area, there are still towns such as **Far-West** that have served as sets for many westerns filmed by talented directors. Within this arid region there are other spots of great environmental value, such as **Sierra de Alhamilla**, the last mountainous obstacle before reaching the sea, and the **Karst** in **Yesos de Sorbas**, a geological formation carved by nature.

Tabernas desert



Cádiz

Cádiz (population 154,511) is popularly known as "the silver bowl". A large spit of land connects the city to the mainland. This ancient Phoenician city known as *Gadir* is surrounded by water on three sides serving as entrance to the bay.

Puerta de Tierra (1), a 17th century gate, provides access to the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Western world. The **Cathedral** (2), with its back to the Atlantic, is baroque and neoclassical in style. Its tall dome, built at the beginning of the 19th century, is covered with glazed yellow tiles. In the crypt, the mortal remains of the world famous Cádiz-born composer, Manuel de Falla are buried.

A good part of the city's charm lies in its busy squares. In the Plaza de **San Juan de Dios** (3) stands the **Ayuntamiento** (4) (Town Hall), a white neoclassical building that looks out on the port. Other squares, especially the Plaza de las Flores (5) and

Plaza de la **Candelaria** (6), merit an unhurried visit. In the **Plaza de España** (7), next to the **Diputacion Provincial** (County Council) (8), rises the **monument to the Cortes Liberales** (9). Cádiz also has churches of artistic interest. In the interior of the **Church of El Rosario** (10), there are sculptures of *San Servando* and *San Germán*, patrons of the city. Very nearby is the **Plaza de la Mina** (11) and to one side is the baroque **Church of San Francisco** (12). The tree-lined avenues of **Apodaca** (13) and **Marqués de Comillas** (14) lead to the **Church of El Carmen** (15), colonial in style. From the **Batería de la Candelaria** (16), in back of the temple, a beautiful view is afforded of the Bay of Cádiz, sprinkled with boats going in and out of the harbor.

San Felipe Neri (17), declared a national monument, was the site of the declaration of Spain's Constitution of 1812, establishing Spanish liberties and equality.

Plaza de España





La Caleta beach



Puerto Sherry. El Puerto de Santa María

The city also has traditional quarters including **Pópulo**, **Santa María** and **La Viña**. Precisely in this latter area, close to **Genovés Park**, the small beach of **La Caleta** (18) is found, flanked by the castles of **Santa Catalina** (19) and **San Sebastián** (20). Cádiz's other beaches include **Santa María del Mar** (21) and **La Victoria** (22), a long sandy shore located at the entrance to the city.

www.dipucadiz.es

THE BAY AND COAST

The shores of the Bay of Cádiz boast millenary towns, the most important one being **El Puerto de Santa María** at the mouth of the Guadalete river. In the old quarter of this attractive town rises the 18th century **San Marcos Castle**. A landscape of dunes, marshes and pine trees leads travelers to **Puerto Real**. The old quarter has been declared a historic artistic complex. Along the bay, other towns include **San Fernando** and **Chiclana de la Frontera** which proudly displays the baroque **Church of Jesús Nazareno**.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Puerta de Tierra | 14 Alameda del Marqués de Comillas |
| 2 Cathedral | 15 Church of El Carmen |
| 3 Plaza de San Juan de Dios | 16 Bateria de la Candelaria |
| 4 Ayuntamiento (Town Hall) | 17 Church of San Felipe Neri |
| 5 Plaza de las Flores | 18 La Caleta beach |
| 6 Plaza de la Candelaria | 19 Santa Catalina Castle |
| 7 Plaza de España | 20 San Sebastián Castle |
| 8 Diputación Provincial (County Council) | 21 Santa María del Mar beach |
| 9 Monument of the Cortes Liberales | 22 La Victoria beach |
| 10 Church of El Rosario |  Tourist Information |
| 11 Plaza de la Mina |  Parking |
| 12 Church of San Francisco |  Post Office |
| 13 Alameda de Apodaca |  Bus Station |
| |  Train Station |



The coast of Cádiz begins at the fishing town of **Sanlúcar de Barrameda**, at the mouth of the Guadalquivir river, opposite the **Doñana National Park**. In addition to the renowned wineries, the old fishing quarter of *Bajo de Guía* has a ferry to the opposite bank of the Guadalquivir in the province of Huelva. The seaside resort of **Chipiona** is also a pilgrimage center venerating the Virgin Mary. Near the beach stands the Sanctuary of *Nuestra Señora de Regla*.

A long strip runs along the coast to the seaside village of **Rota**, situated at the entrance to the Bay of Cádiz. **Sancti Petri**, founded by the Phoenicians, has one of the most modern tourist resorts in the region. Further down are other villages including **Conil**, **Caños de Meca** and **Barbate**. Close to **Zahara de los Atunes**, there are golden beaches such as *Bolonia*, next to the Roman ruins of *Baelo Claudia*.

Tarifa is the southernmost point in mainland Spain. Looking out on the North African Coast, the town has wide beaches with strong winds from the east. In the old quarter rises *Califal* castle built during the Arab occupation.

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

The province of Cádiz is a land of sherry wines and horses. One of the best examples is **Jerez de la Frontera**, the largest city in the province. Numerous wineries are open to the public, and it is possible to taste the different wines produced in this area. Furthermore, Jerez is the home of the Real Escuela Andaluza de Arte Ecuestre (*Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art*). One day a week, generally Thursdays, the prestigious school puts on a show with Cartujano horses (a cross between the Andalusian and Arabian horse) and their skilled riders.

The artistic wealth of the city is represented by *El Salvador Cathedral*. In the interior, paintings by artists such as Zurbarán can be admired. Next to the Cathedral stands the 11th century *Alcázar*, guardian of an Arab mosque inside that was later transformed into

the *Church of Santa María* after the Christian conquest. Near the *Plaza del Arenal*, one of the busiest squares in the city, stands the *Church of San Miguel* with its notable main altarpiece.

The *Cabildo Municipal* (former Town Hall) is Mudejar in style. Mudejar is a term which refers to Muslim craftsman working under Christian rule as well as their style of architecture. Next door is the *Church of San Dionisio*, built in honor of the patron of the city.

Jerez de la Frontera boasts elegant mansions of local aristocratic families. Next to one of these ancestral homes rises the Church Convent of *Santo Domingo*. In the interior, spacious 13th century cloisters house diverse exhibits throughout the year.

The *Barrio de Santiago* is one of the most important quarters in the city of Jerez. Still preserved in this part of the city are important sections of the Moorish walls. Of interest in the quarter is the *Plaza de San Juan* where the *Palace of Pemartín* stands, site of the Centro Andaluz de Flamenco (*Andalusian Flamenco Center*) and the *Church of Santiago* with its graceful tower. The *Basílica of Nuestra Señora de la Merced* has an exquisite shrine of silver where the patroness of Jerez is venerated.

www.webjerez.com

THE ROUTE OF THE "WHITE TOWNS"

About thirty municipalities form one of the most interesting routes in Andalusia. The "White Towns" are situated in the northern part of the province of Cádiz and also extend into the northwestern part of Málaga province to the **Serranía de Ronda**.

Zahara de los Atunes



School of Equestrian Art
in Jerez de la Frontera



These picturesque hamlets are often Arab in origin, and many are perched on high hills.

The **Grazalema Nature Park** is noted for the remarkable Spanish fir called the "pinsapo", found in the heart of the route. The vast **Nature Park of Los Alcornocales** is located to the south.

The route begins at the cliff-top setting of **Arcos de la Frontera**. Of interest is the Gothic *Church of La Asunción*, as well as the view of the rolling *valley of the Guadalete* river. Starting out from here is a succession of white-washed houses, steep streets and squares fragrant with flowers. Such are the villages of **Bornos**, **Villamartín**, **Pardo del Rey**, **El Bosque** and **Benamahoma**. The town of **Ubrique** has become particularly famous for its hand-crafted leather goods. The charming village of **Grazalema** is set at the foot of the *Sierra del Pinar*, near dense patches of cork and holm oak. A road leads up to the *Puerto de las Palomas*, a mountain pass where a grove of *Spanish fir* can be admired. **Zahara de la Sierra** is a diminutive town set on a cliff overlooking a reservoir.

The route continues on through the villages of **Algodonales**, **El Gástor** and

Olvera. The latter is considered one of the most enchanting villages in the region.

Of interest is the *Church of San José* with two graceful towers, along with a *Moorish castle*. Nestled in the province of Málaga are other small villages, including **Montejaque**, **Benaolán** and **Cortes de la Frontera** which display the same picture-postcard white architecture found in the province of Cádiz.

Medina Sidonia to the south of the Route of the White Towns is well-known for numerous ranches that raise fighting bulls in the vicinity. The *Church of the Santísima Virgen Coronada* is one of the most significant examples of Late Gothic architecture in Cádiz province.

Vejer de la Frontera, perched on a hill, is only a few kilometers from the coast. The old quarter boasts numerous monuments including a *Moorish castle*, the *Church of the Divino Pastor*, as well as the *Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de la Oliva* with an interesting 16th image at the altar.



Vejer de la Frontera

Córdoba

Córdoba (population 318,030) is a World Heritage Site and a must-see destination in Andalusia. In the 10th century it was proclaimed the capital of the Islamic world in the West. Such was its grandeur that it competed in power and wealth with far-away Bagdad. Watered by the "Great River", the Guadalquivir, the city's most outstanding monument is the **Mezquita-Catedral** (1) (Great Mosque-Cathedral). Nearly one thousand columns comprise this unique ancient mosque. After the Christian Reconquest a Gothic cathedral was built within the mosque which as years went by was adorned with Plateresque and baroque ornamentation. Surrounded by a battlemented wall, the Mosque-Cathedral creates a rectangle of 23,000 square meters, making it the third largest in the world. The **Patio de los Naranjos** (2) (Orange Tree Courtyard) with its lovely gardens forms part of this grand Islamic monument.

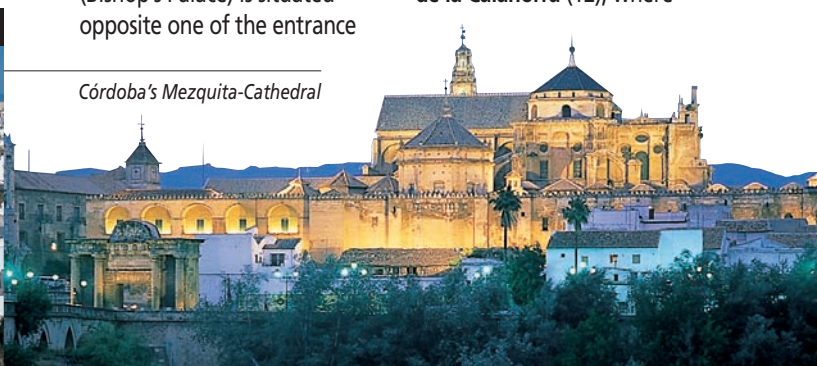
The **Palacio Episcopal** (3) (Bishop's Palace) is situated opposite one of the entrance

doors to the Mosque-Cathedral. This building with its spacious courtyard, includes the Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones, an exhibit center. In the direction of the river, next to the Roman archway called **Puerta del Puente** (4), rises the **Triunfo** (5), a monument to the Archangel Raphael, dearly-loved by the Cordobans.

The **Synagogue** (6), the Museo Taurino (**Bullfighting Museum**), the **Zoco** (7), an Arab marketplace, and the Chapel of **San Bartolomé** (8) comprise part of a monumental ensemble which lies within the **Judería** (9) (Jewish Quarter), the loveliest district in the city.

The **Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos** (10) was built by order of Alfonso XI. In the interior, lovely well-kept gardens with fountains and pools are found. In the rooms, Roman mosaics are exhibited which recall the grandeur the city also enjoyed under Roman rule. The bridge known as **Puente Romano** (11) spans the Guadalquivir river. At the far end of the bridge is the **Torre de la Calahorra** (12), where

Córdoba's Mezquita-Cathedral





- 1 Mezquita-Catedral (Great Mosque-Cathedral)
- 2 Orange Tree Courtyard
- 3 Bishop's Palace
- 4 Puerta del Puente
- 5 Triunfo, monument to Archangel Raphael
- 6 Synagogue
- 7 Zoco
- 8 Chapel of San Bartolomé
- 9 Judería (Jewish Quarter)
- 10 Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos
- 11 Roman bridge
- 12 Calahorra Tower
- 13 Plaza del Potro
- 14 Posada del Potro
- 15 Plaza de la Corredera
- 16 Church of San Pablo
- 17 Palace of La Merced
- 18 Plaza de la Dolores
- 19 Cristo de los Faroles
- 20 Ronda de la Victoria
- 21 Ronda de los Tejares
- 22 Avenida del Gran Capitán

- Tourist Information
- Parking
- Police
- Bus Station
- Train Station
- AVE

CÓRDOBA

Córdoba displays its tolerance in the Museo de las Tres Culturas (Museum of Three Cultures - Islamic, Hebrew and Christian).

Córdoba has numerous ancestral homes with resplendent indoor courtyards. The city has made the care of its buildings almost an art. Brightly-colored tiles, wrought iron, flower pots of geraniums and jasmine, and lemon and orange trees are artfully mixed together.

Around the Plaza del Potro (13) there are important buildings such as the Museo Provincial de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Museum) and the Museo Julio Romero de Torres (a museum of the famous painter). Opposite it is the Posada del Potro (14) (Colt Inn), mentioned in Cervantes' Don Quixote.

Nearby is the Plaza de la Corredera (15), an arcaded square which was once used as a bullring. Gothic churches, such as San Pablo (16) abound throughout the city, as well as baroque-style buildings,

including the Palace of La Merced (17), currently the site of the County Council. But in the midst of the city is the well-known square called the Plaza de la Dolores (18), one of the typical sights in Córdoba with the handsome crucifix of Cristo de los Faroles (19) (Christ of the Lampposts).

Córdoba is graced with wide boulevards where the pulse of a modern city beats vibrantly. Of particular interest are Victoria (20), Ronda de los Tejares (21) and Gran Capitán (22). Approximately eight kilometers west of Córdoba is Medina Azahara, a palace complex built in the 10th century by the Caliph Abderrahman III in honor of his favorite wife. At the beginning of the 11th century it was destroyed by Berbers, although the grandeur of times past can still be felt here. Meticulously reconstructed is a throne room in which it is still possible to admire the wooden coffered ceiling and reliefs.

www.turiscordoba.es
www.ayuncordoba.es

Triunfo, monument to Archangel Raphael



Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos



Roman bridge and Calahorra tower





Belalcázar



Pedroche



Montoro

LOS PEDROCHES VALLEY

In the northern part of the province of Córdoba, the long wide mountainous band formed by Sierra Morena opens up. Here we find **Los Pedroches**, an area presided over by a landscape of meadows and holm oak. The Iberian pig can be found in this area. In the midst of nature's bounty are towns rich with history, such as **Hinojosa del Duque**. Of interest is the *Church of San Juan Bautista*, as large in size as many cathedrals.

In **Belalcázar** stands a *medieval castle* which served as a feudal lookout in ancient times. **Santa Eufemia** is a small hamlet from where the remains can be seen of the old Moorish castle of *Miramontes* which formerly acted as a kind of boundary. Further south lies **El Viso** with its *Church of La Encarnación*. **Pozoblanco** is found at a crossroads. In this white town is the *Parish Church of Santa Catalina* where Ginés de Sepúlveda is buried, the chronicler of emperor Charles V and his son Philip II.

Finally, **Pedroche** is a town devoted to agriculture and pig-raising. In the old quarter, the *Church of the Transfiguración del Señor* with a 60 meter tower can be admired from various points in the area.

LA VEGA AND LA CAMPIÑA

Located on the banks of the Guadalquivir are attractive towns with interesting histories. This is the case of **Montoro** with the *Tower of San Bartolomé* and the *Plaza de España*. Following the course of the river leads to **Córdoba** and a few kilometers further is **Almodóvar del Río**, famous for its impregnable Moorish castle. In the town of **Palma del Río**, of interest is the walled quarter and the *Convent of San Francisco* with its luminous 15th century cloister.

To the south of Córdoba extends a region where grapevines and olive trees flourish. **Montilla** is the capital of Cordoban wine production and **Baena** of olive oil, considered one of the best in the world. In the middle is **Lucena**, the second largest city in the province. Here stands the *Church of San Mateo* which has one of the most

imposing baroque shrines in Andalusia. Only five kilometers from Lucena is the *Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Araceli*. From the hillock, in the heart of the *Sierra de Aras*, it is possible to see five of the eight Andalusian provinces. In fact, Lucena is considered the geographical center of Andalusia.

The road travels through a landscape of holm oak until reaching the *Sierra Subbética* where the baroque city of **Priego de Córdoba** is located. Nearby are the towns of **Luque** and **Carcabuey**. A few kilometers further is the pretty village of **Zuheros**, site of the caves called *Cueva de los Murciélagos*.

Almodóvar del Río



Granada

Granada (population 272,738) is one of the most spectacular capital cities in Spain. Its history and monuments are a testimony to this fact. It was the meeting point of Islamic and Christian cultures. In 1492, the same year America was discovered, the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella entered the last Arab bastion on the Iberian Peninsula. Undoubtedly, the most emblematic monument in the city is the **Alhambra** (1), declared a World Heritage Site. This sumptuous palace is a must-see destination for all travelers visiting Andalusia.

The city has many other places of interest meriting an unhurried visit. The itinerary begins in the quarter called **Albaicín** (2), a network of streets and squares, such as **San Nicolás** (3), from whose

lookout one of the most beautiful views of the Alhambra and Sierra Nevada can be admired. In this old quarter, of special interest are the *carmenes*, charming houses with lovely gardens. The **Monastery of Santa Isabel la Real (4)**, near the old walls that once enclosed the Arab city, stands out from among the network of narrow streets.

The gypsy quarter of **Santomonte** (5), famous for its cave-dwellings, rests on a broad hill commanding a beautiful view of the city. The **Cuesta del Chapiz** (6), location of the **School of Arabic Studies** (7) and the **Palace of Los Córdoba** (8), descends to the **Carrera del Darro** (9), which runs parallel to the **Paseo de los Tristes** (10). On the journey down the street, historic buildings are located, such as **El Bañuelo** (11), a complex of Moorish



- 1 Alhambra
 - 2 Albaicín
 - 3 Plaza de San Nicolás
 - 4 Monastery of Santa Isabel la Real
 - 5 Sacromonte
 - 6 Casas de "El Chapiz"
 - 7 School of Arabic Studies
 - 8 Palace of Los Córdoba
 - 9 Carrera del Darro
 - 10 Paseo de los Tristes
 - 11 El Bañuelo (Moorish baths)
 - 12 Plaza Nueva
 - 13 Royal Chancery
 - 14 Church of Santa Ana
 - 15 Gran Vía de Colón
 - 16 Corral del Carbón
 - 17 Plaza de Bib-rambla
 - 18 Alcaicería
 - 19 Palace of La Madraza
 - 20 Capilla Real (Royal Chapel)
 - 21 Cathedral
 - 22 Hospital Real
 - 23 Monastery of La Cartuja
 - 24 Generalife
-  Tourist Information
-  Parking
-  Post Office
-  Police
-  Parador / State Hotel

A View of the Albaicín





Sacromonte

baths where the vaults have vents in the shape of stars. At the end of this tangle of streets is the **Plaza Nueva** (12), flanked by the **Real Chancillería** (13) (Royal Chancery) and the **Church of Santa Ana** (14).

The Arab city becomes Christian upon crossing the street called **Gran Vía de Colón** (15). The **Ayuntamiento** (Town Hall) and the **Corral del Carbón** (16), site of the **Legado Andalusi Foundation**, show the changes in architectural styles. Nearby is the **Plaza de Bib-rambla** (17), famous for its flower market. Behind it is the **Alcaicería** (18), the old Zoco or Arab market, a perfect place to purchase a souvenir.

The **Palace of La Madraza** (19), another example of Islamic architecture, is situated opposite the **Capilla Real** (20) (Royal Chapel), burial place of the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella. This Late Gothic monument is attached to the **Cathedral** (21), a masterpiece of Spanish Renaissance commissioned by Isabella, the Catholic. The Gothic ground plan was begun in 1523 by Enrique de Egas but was continued by Diego de Siloé, the Renaissance master who built a large number of the monuments found in this region.

Granada has other monuments of singular beauty, including the imposing **Hospital Real** (22), headquarters of the University, and the **Monastery of La Cartuja** (23) of the Carthusian order in the outskirts of the city at the site called Aynadamar. In the main building the purest of the baroque styles can be observed more than in any other part. The sacristy is richly adorned. The images housed in the church were made by the most important Andalusian sculptors from the 18th century.



Plaza Nueva

Approximately 10 kilometers from Granada is the **Huerta de San Vicente** a park surrounded by fertile plains where the House-Museum of Federico Garcia Lorca is located. Personal memorabilia of the Granada-born poet is displayed, as well as manuscripts.

Granada has become a part of art history because of the world-famous **Alhambra**, a unique complex of palaces, fortresses and royal quarters, making it one of the most fascinating monuments in the world. The Nasrid dynasty inhabited these lavish dwellings. Boabdil, the last Moorish king of Granada, departed in sorrow after the Christian conquest at the hands of Ferdinand and Isabella. The complex is



Royal Chapel

divided into the administrative and government area, the Palacio de Comares, official residence of the sultan, and the private apartments or harem with the Patio de los Leones (Courtyard of the Lions). Of interest in the interior are the various towers, particularly the Torre de la **Vela** in the fortress area, as well as the Renaissance Palace of Charles V, which presently houses the Alhambra and Fine Arts Museums. Close by is the **Generalife** (24), summer residence of the Nasrid kings. Meriting special attention are the courtyards called Patio de la Acequia and the Patio de la Sultana.

www.dipgra.es
www.granada.org



Alhambra palace



SIERRA NEVADA

Sierra Nevada, the highest mountain range in Spain, is situated in the provinces of Granada and Almería, although the largest portion is found in Granada. The second largest **National Park** in Andalusia embraces the *Mulhácen* peak (3,481 meters) and *Veleta* peak (3,398 meters). It is here where visitors can find the southernmost winter resort in Spain. The GR-420, which starts out in Granada, is Europe's highest road. The road leads to the **El Dornajo** Information Center, the beginning of the protected reserve. Several kilometers earlier, travelers can stop at the lookout point called **Mirador de Canales** to enjoy the beautiful view of the **Genil Valley** with its villages of popular architecture, such as **Güejar-Sierra**.

The **Sierra Nevada Winter Resort** has excellent hotel and service facilities. In the shade of *Veleta* peak, different winter sports can be practiced from the end of autumn until the middle of spring. The resort has 62 kilometers of marked trails for alpine skiing.

During the summer months, visitors can take an excursion to *Mulhácen* peak. From the summit it is possible to see the coast of North Africa on a clear day. It is amazing how close the Mediterranean and Africa actually are. The tranquil beaches of the Tropical Coast are only thirty kilometers away as the crow flies.

Nature lovers can find a treasure house of flora and fauna in the Sierra Nevada. The Spanish ibex and the golden eagle can be found



here. The flora is represented by native species including the snow star, the Sierra Nevada violet and wild saffron.

www.cetursa.es

LAS ALPUJARRAS ROUTE

Las Alpujarras, one of the most famous and picturesque areas in Andalusia, offers visitors a dense history, original town designs and singular local color. The provinces of Granada and Almería share this territory of white towns which formed the last strongholds of the Moors before their final stand at the end of the 16th century.

Lanjarón, famous for its health spa and mineral waters, is the entry point to the area. The *Moorish castle* is a reminder of the importance the town once had as a frontier between

Muslims and Christians. Deep in the **valley of the Guadalfeo**, the river dividing the Sierra Nevada from the **Lújar** mountains and the **Contraviesa**, is **Órgiva**, the administrative and economic capital of the area. Among other monuments, the city boasts the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Expectación, a 16th century temple with twin towers.

From **Órgiva**, winding roads ascend to interesting towns on the mountain slopes. A regional road climbs to **Carataunas**, **Cañar** and **Soportújar**. Several kilometers further up is the ravine called **Barranco del Poqueira**, where three of the most famous towns in the area are





Trevélez



Capileira

located on green hillocks. The first is **Pampaneira**, where the cultural legacy left by the Moors is still preserved almost intact. Narrow streets, charming squares and houses built one over the other draw the traveler's attention. The road continues to **Bubión** and lastly to **Capileira**, where a track leads to the lookout at Trevélez, and then to Veleta peak.

A road leads to **Pitres** and **Pórtugos**, two other mountain hamlets. In the town of Pórtugos, travelers can stop at the *Fuente Agria*, a spring with five tubes spouting iron-rich water.

Chestnut, white mulberry and holm oak accompany the traveler to **Trevélez**, the highest village in Spain at 1,476 meters above sea level. Delicious Serrano ham is locally cured here by the winds from the Sierra Nevada. **Busquístar** and **Bérchules** are other villages to admire along

the way to **Puerto de la Ragua**, a mountain pass which marks the border between the provinces of Granada and Almería. At a height of two thousand meters, it is possible to practice long-distance skiing. The road descends now to the village of **Bayárcal**. Here the *Church of San Francisco* can be visited to see the 15th century image of San José at one of the altars, as well as another ancient figure of the Immaculate Conception.

Laujar de Andarax, capital of Las Alpujarras in Almería, comprises a landscape of terraced farmlands where fruits and vegetables are grown. In the old quarter, there are fifteen pillars, some of which date from before the 15th century. The Andarax river waters the fertile farmlands up until the **Tabernas Desert** which produces a radical change in the landscape.

www.alpujarras.com

Huelva

The "*Fe Descubridora*" **Monument to Columbus** (1) is Huelva's landmark (population 145,712). This huge statue, located on the Punta del Sebo, symbolizes the role the province of Huelva played in the discovery of the New World.

Huelva is located at the mouth of the Odiel river, an area of marshes where numerous itineraries depart leading to the protected reserves in the province. A visit to the city begins at the **Cathedral of La Merced** (2), built in the middle of the 18th century. Its elegant facade encloses an interior of chapels and baroque altarpieces.

The **Church of San Pedro** (3) was erected in the 16th century over the remains of a Mudejar mosque. Several streets below, in the district of **La Esperanza** (4), stands the **Parish Church of La Concepción** (5), rebuilt in 1755 after being damaged by the effects of the Lisbon earthquake. In the interior,

paintings by Zurbarán are displayed devoted to the Immaculate Conception.

The **Plaza de las Monjas** (6) is the center of the old quarter. Here the **Mirador del Conquero** (7) looks out upon a lovely view of the city and its surroundings. It is possible to see from here the Marismas del Odiel, a natural environment of marshes of great importance for migratory birds.

Huelva has an old quarter of narrow streets and small squares, such as the **Plaza del Alcalde Coto Mora** (8). Nearby is the **Gran Teatro** (9), a theater which has become the cultural center of the capital.

The **Museo Provincial de Huelva** (10) (Provincial Museum of Huelva) displays Roman artifacts showing the importance the city had in that period. Likewise, there is a room devoted to the province's connection with the discovery of America. In these

A View of Huelva





Church of San Pedro

Monument to Columbus

Cathedral



1 Monument to Columbus

2 Cathedral of La Merced

3 Church of San Pedro

4 La Esperanza

5 Parish Church of La Concepción

6 Plaza de las Monjas

7 Mirador del Conquero

8 Plaza del Alcalde Coto Mora

9 Gran Teatro (Theater)

10 Provincial Museum of Huelva

11 Reina Victoria District

Tourist Information

Parking

Post Office

Police

Bus Station

same buildings, the history is told of the nearby **Riotinto** mines where iron and copper are still extracted. Huelva has a curious quarter called **Reina Victoria** (11) (Queen Victoria), markedly English in character.

Several kilometers from Huelva is **Palos de la Frontera**. It was from here that Columbus's three ships set sail on their voyage to the New World. The **Monastery of La Rábida**, a Gothic-Mudejar temple, is one of the most important sites linked to Christopher Columbus. It was here that he spent the night before starting off on his journey to the "East Indies".

www.ayuntamientohuelva.es

DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK

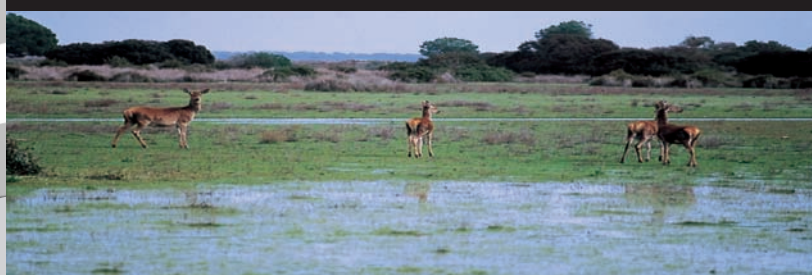
The Costa de la Luz (Coast of Light) extends between the mouths of the Guadiana and the Guadalquivir rivers. Along the 150 kilometers of shoreline, there are fifteen beaches with names as intriguing as **Isla Cristina**, **Isla**

Canela, **La Antilla**, **El Rompido**, **Punta Umbria**, **Mazagón** and **Matalascañas**.

In addition, Huelva has the most important ecological reserve in Europe, **Doñana**, a natural habitat considered a National Park, Biosphere and World Heritage Site. The reserve, which safeguards a treasure house of fauna and flora, is primarily located in the province of Huelva, although an important part lies in Seville province.

The *marshlands*, amounting to almost half of the 50,720 acres, are the dwelling place of dozens of aquatic species, some in danger of extinction. The traveling dunes, unspoiled beaches of fine white sand, pine forests and the area known as the vera, a land in transition between two ecosystems, form the remainder of this singular environmental complex. Ancient chronicles tell that the legendary reign of the Tartessians was established here, but there is no real evidence to prove this.

Marshlands of Doñana





The main reception center for visitors is *El Acebuche*, located halfway between the coastal town of **Matalascañas** and the village of **El Rocío**. Organized tours of the park can be reserved in

advance at *El Acebuche*. The other four information centers are in the outskirts of the National Park. From the center of *Bajo de Guía* in **Sanlúcar de Barrameda**, Doñana can be entered aboard a boat which makes the journey between both banks. At the visitor center of *Las Rocinas* in the town of *El Rocío*, there is a footpath which traverses the *Charco de la Boca*, a stream with four bird-watching sites.

SIERRA DE ARACENA

In Huelva, Sierra Morena is given another name. Here it is called **Sierra de Aracena** in honor of the capital of the region that borders the southern lands of Extremadura. In this gentle mountain massif, one of the best Iberian cured hams is produced. White villages follow in succession, displaying castles and fortresses from their Arab past. The rolling lands of holm and cork oaks, pine and chestnut trees of the Nature Park comprise 28 towns.

The town of **Aracena** is located in the heart of the protected nature reserve. In the old quarter a formidable castle built by the Knights Templar houses a 13th century church inside its walls. The main attraction nearby is the *Gruta de las Maravillas*, a cave of spectacular beauty. The large galleries with twelve caverns and six underground lakes are a fascinating sight.

The **Picos de Aroche** are a geological whim formed by nature. At the foot is an old Roman city of the same name, where a castle of the same period was reconstructed centuries later by the Arabs. On the way to **Almonaster la Real**, we come across the village

of **Cortegana** with the Mudejar Church of the *Divino Pastor*, declared a National Monument.

A succession of towns are found on the steep slopes. A regional road starts out in **Almonaster** and leads to **Santa Ana la Real**, a white town that embodies all the region's Arab character. Free-ranging Iberian pigs from these meadows produce the famous cured ham known as **Jabugo**, also called "pata negra" because of the black hooves. *Magical Spain* also has an interesting enclave here. **Alájar**, at the foot of the *Peña Arias Montano* pierced by numerous caves, is the site of many old legends full of mystery recounted by the townspeople. Atop a crag is the Hermitage of *Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles*, where pilgrims come to venerate a Gothic carving from the 13th century.

Other towns, including **Higuera de la Sierra**, **Zufre** and **Santa Olalla del Cala**, are living examples of traditional architecture in the region.

Sierra de Aracena



Isla Cristina beach



Alájar



Jaén

Vast olive groves provide Jaén's special identity. More than fifty million olive trees have been planted throughout the province. The olive oil obtained from the fruit is the main source of wealth in this frontier province. Jaén is not only a land of olive trees. The largest number of protected reserves in Spain is concentrated here.

The capital city of Jaén (population 113,141) is located in the foothills of the Sierra Mágina. High on a rocky crag, **Santa Catalina castle** (1) dramatically overlooks the capital. This Arab fortress is especially impressive because of the tall keep. A good part of the Guadalquivir Valley is visible from these heights, as well as the villages scattered below. In the shadow of the citadel are the old quarters of the city, including **Magdalena** (2), **San Juan** (3) and **La Merced** (4). Each of them boasts a church with a high bell tower.

The most important monument in the city is the massive **Cathedral** (5), a splendid Renaissance structure, designed primarily by Andres de Vandelvira. The ornate facade is from the 16th century. The most notable features of the interior are the choir stalls and the sacristy, as well as the chapels devoted to the Virgen de la Cabeza and Nuestro Padre Jesús, an anonymous sculpture venerated by local residents.

In the **Plaza de Santa María** (6), in addition to the Cathedral stands the **Ayuntamiento** (7) (Town Hall) as well as the **Obispado** (8) (Bishopric). From here, the street of **Carrera de Jesús** (9) departs and leads to the **Convent of Las Carmelitas** (10). In back of the Cathedral rises the **Palace of San Francisco** (11), today the County Council. The street of **Álamos** (12) is connected to the **Plaza de la Audiencia** (13), site of the **Darymelia Theater** (14). Here the oldest quarter of Jaén begins. The **Arch of San Lorenzo** (15) is the only remaining vestige of an ancient Gothic church.



- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Santa Catalina castle | 15 Arch of San Lorenzo |
| 2 Magdalena quarter | 16 Church of San Bartolomé |
| 3 San Juan quarter | 17 Convent of Santa Clara |
| 4 La Merced quarter | 18 Palace of Villardompardo |
| 5 Cathedral | 19 Church of San Ildefonso |
| 6 Plaza de Santa María | 20 Convent of Las Bernardas |
| 7 Ayuntamiento (Town Hall) | 21 Plaza de las Batallas |
| 8 Obispado (Bishopric) | |
| 9 Carrera de Jesús | |
| 10 Convent of Las Carmelitas | i Tourist Information |
| 11 Palace of San Francisco | P Parking |
| 12 Calle Álamos | Police |
| 13 Plaza de la Audiencia | Bus Station |
| 14 Darymelia Theater | H Hospital |
| | Parador / State Hotel |

Aerial View of Jaén





Santa Catalina castle



Cathedral



Cazorla

The **Church of San Bartolomé** (16) and the **Convent of Santa Clara** (17) lead to the **Palace of Villardompardo** (18), beneath which Arab Baths were discovered, unique in Spain. Also in this building the Museums of Naif Art and Folk Art and Customs are found.

The **Church of San Ildefonso** (19), situated in the district of the same name, is one of the oldest in the capital. Nearby is the **Convent of Las Bernardas** (20) and the **Alameda**, a green oasis affording a lovely view of the city.

Jaén was built on the uneven part of a broad hill and the modern quarter extends through the Paseo de la Estación and **Plaza de las Batallas** (21) where a monument stands commemorating the Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa against the Arabs, and the Battle of Bailén against Napoleon's troops.

www.promojaen.es

ÚBEDA Y BAEZA

Úbeda and Baeza preside over the region of La Loma, a wide expanse of olive groves set in the high valley of the Guadalquivir. These two cities are a showcase of the largest legacy of works from the Renaissance period in Andalusia. In fact, the *Plaza de Santa María* in Úbeda is considered one of the most outstanding historic artistic ensembles in the region. The Old Town houses seigniorial buildings, the finest being the *Chapel of El Salvador*, built by order of Francisco de los Cobos,

secretary and confidant to Emperor Charles V. On the same square stands the *Palace of the Condestable Dávalos* and the *Palace of Las Cadenas*, which currently houses the Town Hall. Opposite is situated the *Church of Santa María de los Reales Alcázares*, a Gothic temple built on the site of an old Arab mosque. The *Palace of the Marqués de Mancera*, a viceroy of Peru, and the *old communal granary* complete this noble area. The *Redonda de Miradores* backs up to the square. From here it is possible to enjoy a beautiful view of Sierra Mágina and the Guadalquivir Valley. Úbeda also has lively squares such as the *Plaza del Mercado*. To one side of the square is the Gothic *Church of San Pablo* and nearby, the *Oratorio de San Juan de la Cruz*. Located at the entrance of the city is the superb *Hospital of Santiago* with a luminous cloister and high chapel. The building is a cultural center in the city.

Eight kilometers away lies **Baeza**. Although smaller than Úbeda, Baeza has a rich array of religious monuments. The most important one is the splendid Gothic *Cathedral*. Surrounding it are elegant buildings, such as the old *Seminary*, currently the site of the International University of Andalusia. The *Palace of Jabalquinto*, with an original Isabelline-Gothic facade, is opposite the *Church of Santa Cruz*, built in the Romanesque style, an unusual style of architecture in southern Spain. The *Old University* adjoins the *Plaza de la Constitución* by the *Arch of El Barbudo*.

In the center of Baeza's harmonious square called *Plaza del Pópulo* stands the *Fuente de los Leones* (Lion's Fountain) and around it are the *Real Chacinería*, the *Puerta de Jaén*



Palace of Las Cadenas in Úbeda



Plaza del Pópulo and Lion's Fountain in Baeza



La Iruela



Segura de la Sierra

(Gateway of Jaén) and the *Arch of Villalar*. The Ayuntamiento (Town Hall) has an ornate Plateresque facade and formerly served as the jail. Opposite is the house where the famous Spanish poet, Antonio Machado lived during the period in which he taught French. Next to the Town Hall stand the *Church of La Purísima Concepción* and the *ruins of the Convent of San Francisco*.

CAZORLA, SEGURA Y LAS VILLAS

The Guadalquivir river originates in the mountains of **Cazorla** amid a green oasis. High peaks, extensive carpets of trees and mighty streams form the heart of the largest protected reserve in Spain. The **Cazorla, Segura y las Villas Nature Park** is located in the eastern part of the province of Jaén on 240,000 hectares of land. A refuge for golden eagles and tawny vultures, it is also home to wild boar, deer, fallow deer and the Spanish ibex. This mountain wilderness paradise boasts native plants, including the *viola cazorlensis*.

Twenty-three municipalities form part of the nature park. One of the entrances to the park is at the town of **Cazorla**, which has an impressive castle built by the Knights Templar as was the *castle* in the neighboring town of **La Iruela**. The road leading to the park crowns the **Puerto de las Palomas**. A panoramic view of the valley is afforded from the overlook. The road descends to **Arroyo Frio** and several kilometers further to **Coto-Ríos**, not far from the *Visitor Center of Torre del Vinagre*. A hunting museum, a botanical garden and a trout hatchery are found nearby.

The Segura mountains are the largest in the area. *El Tranco reservoir* marks the way to towns with deep-rooted Arab influence, such as **Hornos de Segura** and **Segura de la Sierra**. Both towns are crowned by Moorish castles. In *Fuente Segura*, in the township of Santiago-Pontones, the Segura river originates and flows into the region of Murcia.

Málaga

Málaga (population 532,425) is the second largest city in Andalusia. Looking out on a busy **port** (1), the capital has one of the largest Moorish fortresses in the area, the **Alcazaba** (2). Built between the 8th and 11th centuries, the palace currently houses an Archeological Museum and exhibits remains from the Phoenician and Roman periods. A circuit of walls connects the fortress with **Gibralfaro castle** (3), affording an excellent view of the city. A partially excavated **Roman amphitheater** (4) is found at the entrance to the fortress. A step away is the luxuriant **Avenida de Cervantes** (5). At the end of the avenue is the bullring, popularly known as the **Malagueta** (6). The **Ayuntamiento** (7) (Town Hall) and the **Old Customhouse** (8) are found very near the **Cathedral** (9). Because it only has one tower and another half-finished, it has been called *La Manquita* (the one-armed lady). This religious temple is a splendid example of the Spanish Renaissance style. The interior houses a

rich array of chapels with interesting religious figures. The choir stalls merit special attention, as well as the paintings hanging on the ancient walls.

The **Church of Santiago** (10) is on the route leading to the **Plaza de la Merced** (11), one of the meeting centers for the local malagueños. The **Monument to Torrijos** (12) presides over the area. To one side of the square is the world-famous painter **Pablo Picasso's birthplace** (13), now the site of the Picasso Foundation.

The city also boasts other museums such as the **Fine Arts Museum** (14) which exhibits paintings by Murillo and Zurbarán, as well as young Picasso. A visit to the old Phoenician *Malaca* is completed with the **Churches of Los Mártires** (15), the **Sagrado Corazón** (16) and **Santo Cristo de la Salud** (17), all three in the old town.

The most tranquil part of the city can be found along the maritime promenade of **La Farola** (18) next to the port.

A View of Málaga





Town Hall



La Alameda



Cathedral

In contrast, a vibrant Málaga can be visited along the **Calle Larios** (19) to the **Plaza de la Constitución** (20). The **statue of the Marquis of Larios** (21) is located next to the main traffic artery, **Alameda Principal** (22) which extends to the **Puente Tetuán** (23), a bridge spanning the Guadalmedina river. On this side of the city are the districts of **Trinidad** (24), with its popular **Church of San Pablo** (25) and **El Perchel** (26), with an undeniable maritime flavor. The **Parish Church of the Virgen del Carmen** (27), patroness of the fishermen, is a testimony to this.

www.malagaturismo.com

COSTA DEL SOL

The **Costa del Sol**, the most well-known stretch of Andalusian shore, is a world-famous vacation destination. The reason lies in the mild climate, thousands of hours of sunshine a year, and

calm temperate waters which have earned it the coveted blue EU flag, indicating the water meets European Union standards. The Costa del Sol extends like an arch along the coastal strip between the provinces of Cádiz and Granada, from the cliffs of Tarifa to the beaches of Nerja. The colorful landscapes in this Andalusian region boast scenic coastlines sheltered by dramatic mountain slopes. The Mediterranean coast of Tarifa is studded with rugged cliffs bordering on the region of Campo de Gibraltar. The capital of the bay is Algeciras, one of the busiest ports in Europe. There is regular ferry service running between Algeciras and North Africa. Standing in the Plaza Alta is the 18th century Church of Nuestra Señora de la Palma.

Manilva



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Port | 17 Church of Santo Cristo de la Salud |
| 2 Alcazaba / Archeological Museum | 18 Maritime promenade of La Farola |
| 3 Gibralfaro castle | 19 Calle Larios |
| 4 Roman amphitheater | 20 Plaza de la Constitución |
| 5 Avenida de Cervantes | 21 Statue of the Marquis of Larios |
| 6 La Malagueta bullring | 22 Alameda Principal |
| 7 Ayuntamiento (Town Hall) | 23 Tetuán bridge |
| 8 Old Customhouse | 24 Trinidad district |
| 9 Cathedral | 25 Church of San Pablo |
| 10 Church of Santiago | 26 El Perchel district |
| 11 Plaza de la Merced | 27 Parish Church of the Virgen del Carmen |
| 12 Monument to Torrijos | |
| 13 Pablo Picasso's birthplace | |
| 14 Fine Arts Museum | |
| 15 Church of Los Mártires | |
| 16 Church of the Sagrado Corazón | |

- Tourist Information
- Parking
- Train Station
- Hospital

Sailing and scuba diving competitions are held here at El Rinconcillo beach. Opposite Algeciras is La Línea de la Concepción. Bordering on Gibraltar, La Línea is a town of museums with two extensive beaches. Poniente beach faces Algeciras bay while Levante beach opens on to the Mediterranean. Nearby is San Roque. The town's old quarter has been declared a Historic Artistic Monument. San Roque has various resort complexes adorned with golf courses and marinas. Sotogrande is the largest and most exclusive one. The Costa del Sol continues on to Manilva to the beaches of *Chullera* and *Sabinillas*. A short distance away lie the resorts of *Estepona*, *Cancelada*

and *San Pedro de Alcántara*. *Puerto Banús* nearby is one of the most famous marinas in the world, attracting luxury yachts from halfway around the world.

Marbella is the capital of the Costa del Sol. The charming old quarter displays its local color with an array of white churches and ancestral homes with spacious courtyards. But not far from this tranquil spot, another area abounds with opulence and wealth occupied by luxury hotels, resort developments and sports facilities. The stretch of golden beach called the *Milla de Oro* (Golden Mile) includes some of the finest hotels and restaurants in Spain, as well as casinos and modern recreational complexes.

The Costa del Sol is protected by a string of mountains dotted with white villages, such as **Ojén**, **Coín** and **Casares**. Located on a hill is the picturesque little village of **Mijas** with its burro-taxis. The spacious beaches nearby of *Calahonda*, *La Cala* and *La Campana* are an added attraction. The resort of **Fuengirola** boasts the lively beaches of *Torreblanca* and *Los Boliches*. **Benalmádena**, has become one of the most important resorts on the Costa del Sol, thanks to its amusement park, one of the many attractions found on Málaga's coast.

Torremolinos was the pioneer of fun in the sun. The *Carihuela* district has beaches of fine sand with typical seaside "chiringuitos" that serve sardines, paellas and a medley of fried fish called "pescaito frito". Torremolinos also offers a fast-paced nightlife along *Bajondillo* beach where dozens of nightspots feature all types of music.

On the other side of Málaga in the direction of the Granadan Tropical Coast lie the fishing villages of **El Rincón de la Victoria** and **Torre del Mar**, which lately have built up their tourist

facilities. Well-known beaches of *Cala del Moral*, *Benagalbón*, *Benajárafe* and *Valle Niza* are characterized by transparent waters. Nearby is the historic town of **Vélez-Málaga**, famous for its medieval quarter and Mudejar churches. **Algarrobo** and **Torrox** help complete the seaside resorts on the eastern portion of the Costa del Sol. Finally, there is the resort of **Nerja**, one of the loveliest in the region. The beaches of *Torrecilla*, *Burriana* and *Maro* are a temptation to sun-seekers. The Arab-inspired old town of Nerja still preserves much of its charm. Nerja's highlight is the *Balcón de Europa* terrace, overlooking the coves and cliffs of the Mediterranean.

www.costadelsol.net

LA AXARQUÍA, RONDA AND ANTEQUERA

The White Villages in the Málaga mountains dot an area called **La Axarquía**. Villages devoted to agriculture, such as **Frigiliana**, next to Nerja, **Cómpeta**, **Sayalonga** and **Salares**, have old quarters with Moorish profiles crowned by Mudejar churches.

Fuengirola



The Málaga mountains extend to the picturesque town of **Ronda**, origin of romantic legends that have brought fame to Andalusia. The breathtaking ravine known as the *Tajo*, spanned by an 18th century bridge, divides the city in two. To one side is the old town and on the other, the new. The old Moorish quarter boasts the most notable monuments in the town. In the *Plaza de la Duquesa de Parcent* stands the *Church of Santa María la Mayor* and the *Ayuntamiento* (Town Hall). The *Mondragón Palace*, former residence of Moorish kings and governors, embodies the architectural spirit of the town. Surrounded by old ramparts is the *Church of the Espíritu Santo*, built in the year 1505 during the reign of Ferdinand, the Catholic. Next to the church are the gates of *Almocábar* and *Carlos V*, which long ago provided access to the town. Very close by is a road descending to the ravine from

where the waterfall of the *Guadalevín* can be observed. The main sight in modern Ronda is the handsome *Plaza de Toros*, the oldest *bullring* in Spain, considered the spiritual birthplace of bullfighting.

Another monumental city located in the northern part of the province of Málaga in a flat agricultural area is **Antequera**. The fantastic geological formations of *El Torcal* and the complex of prehistoric dolmen in *Menga*, *Viera* and *El Romeral* are of particular interest. In the *Municipal Archeological Museum*, the bronze statue of a boy called *Efebo*, dating from the first century, is considered one of the most important treasures from the Roman period. In the shadow of a Moorish castle stands the *Church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen* with a fine baroque altarpiece.

www.ronda.net

El Torcal in Antequera



Seville

Seville (population 719,588), the capital of Andalusia, is world-renowned for its history, culture and monuments. The **Giralda** (1), the oldest Arab minaret, is the symbol of this fascinating city bathed by the Guadalquivir. The tour begins at the Giralda, now the Christian belfry of Seville's Cathedral. From the top, a beautiful view of the city and the surroundings can be admired. In the vast Gothic Cathedral, particularly notable is the main altarpiece, along with the tomb of Christopher Columbus and the Patio de los Naranjos (Courtyard of the Orange Trees), especially fragrant in springtime.

Next to the Cathedral are the **Reales Alcázares** (2) rebuilt by Pedro I, the Cruel over the ruins of a lavish Arab palace. The impressive Salón de Embajadores (Ambassador's Hall) has a superb dome of intricate woodwork built at the beginning of the 15th century. The fortress is surrounded by extensive gardens and tranquil courtyards, such as the Patio de

Montería, Patio de las Doncellas, Patio del Crucero and Patio de Troya. There are various chambers with an interesting collection of tapestries, including one depicting Charles V.

Next-door to the Reales Alcázares is the **Archivo de las Indias** (3), today one of the most important document centers on the discovery of the New World. The **Hospital de los Venerables** (4) and **Jardines de Murillo** (5), a park with a monument to Columbus, embrace the heart of the city where the colorful area called **Barrio de Santa Cruz** (6) is found.

Casa de Pilatos (7) (Pilate's House), between the **Convent of San Leandro** (8) and the **Church of San Esteban** (9), embodies the Renaissance spirit of this city. Of special interest in this palace are the sculptural group and the splendid Mudejar courtyard.

The district of **La Macarena** (10) is sprinkled with Churches including the **Church of Santa**

Reales Alcázares



SEVILLA



- 1 Cathedral and Giralda
- 2 Reales Alcázares
- 3 Archivo de las Indias
- 4 Hospital de los Venerables
- 5 Jardines de Murillo park
- 6 Barrio de Santa Cruz
- 7 Casa de Pilatos (Pilate's House)
- 8 Convent of San Leandro
- 9 Church of San Esteban
- 10 La Macarena district
- 11 Church of Santa Isabel
- 12 Jesús del Gran Poder
- 13 Basilica of La Macarena
- 14 Hospital de las Cinco Llagas
- 15 Alameda de Hércules
- 16 Plaza del Duque de la Victoria

- 17 Calle Sierpes
- 18 Museum of Fine Arts
- 19 District of El Arenal
- 20 Real Maestranza bullring
- 21 Torre del Oro
- 22 María Luisa Park
- 23 Plaza de España
- 24 Triana quarter

- 25 La Cartuja Island
- 26 Isla Mágica theme park

- Tourist Information
- Parking
- Post Office
- Police
- Bus Station

Archivo de Indias

Basilica de la Macarena

Real Maestranza

Torre del Oro

Plaza de España

Isla de la Cartuja



Isabel (11), San Lorenzo and Jesús del Gran Poder (12), where one of the most dearly-loved images in the capital can be admired.

The **Basilica of la Macarena** (13) is a center of pilgrimages venerating the Virgin Mary. Nearby, opposite the old Arab walls, stands the **Hospital de las Cinco Llagas** (14), current headquarters of the **Andalusian Parliament**. The **Alameda de Hércules** (15), with its marble columns brought from a Roman temple, leads to the central area with the busy **Plaza del Duque de la Victoria** (16) and the pedestrian shopping street of **Calle Sierpes** (17).

The **Museum of Fine Arts** (18), in the former Convent of La Merced Descalza, has a fine collection of paintings by the grand masters from the School of Seville, featuring Juan de Valdés Leal, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo and Francisco de Zurbarán.

The district of **El Arenal** (19) has an undeniable bullfighting flavor. Here stands the **Real Maestranza** (20), Seville's bullring. Another great landmark nearby is the

Torre del Oro (21) (Gold Tower), the ancient Arab fortress which received the gold and silver from America.

María Luisa Park (22) is a tranquil green oasis in the midst of the city. Crossing the Avenida de Isabel la Católica is the **Plaza de España** (23). The semi-circular pavilion was part of the 1929 World' Fair. The plaza is adorned with ceramic tile benches representing the 52 Spanish provinces.

Above all Seville is famous for its popular neighborhoods, such as **Triana** (24) on the other side of the river, where visitors can admire houses and courtyards decorated with colorful ceramic tiles.

Modern Seville is exemplified at **La Cartuja** (25), an island in the middle of the Guadalquivir. The architectural legacy from the Universal Exhibition Expo '92 still remains at the site, now converted into **Isla Mágica** (26), a theme park with attractions inspired by the exploration of the New World.

Archaeological Museum



www.turismosevilla.org
www.andalunet.com
www.sol.com

CARMONA AND ÉCIJA

Carmona and **Écija** are considered two of the most monumental cities in the province of Seville.

In Carmona, with its solid Roman and Arab past, the two entrance gates to the city of Puerta de Córdoba and Puerta de Sevilla can be admired. Within the ancient walls is the old quarter with the *Church of Santa María la Mayor*, a temple erected in the 15th century over a former mosque. Surrounding it are stately buildings, including the *Palace of Los Rueda*, *Palace of Los Aguilar*, *Convent of Las Descalzas* and the *Casa del Marqués de las Torres* which currently houses

the *Archeological and Ethnographical Museum*.

The *Alcázar of Pedro I the Cruel* crowns the city, and the Roman necropolis, filled with impressive tombs and mausoleums, is found at the far end of the town.

The neighboring baroque town of **Écija** is located just off the Autovía de Andalucía. Its eleven baroque churches, studded by tall steeples, distinguish the hottest town in Andalusia during the summer. The churches of *Santa María* facing the *Plaza de España*, and *San Juan* with its rich altarpieces and chapels are the most visited. Among the most notable mansions in Écija is the *Palace of Peñaflor*, famous for its facade with a large balcony decorated with paintings.





Guadalcanal

SIERRA NORTE

Cazalla de la Sierra is the most important town in Seville's Sierra Norte. In its *Plaza Mayor* stands the *Church of Nuestra Señora de la Consolación*, a monument from the 14th century where diverse architectural styles can be appreciated. The Mudejar tower commands a splendid view of the nature park, a wide stretch of the Andalusian Sierra Morena. The nature reserve is the setting of towns such as **Constantina**, noted for its *Morería* quarter and for the *Church of Santa María de la Encarnación*, a temple with a graceful Renaissance facade. **Guadalcanal**, a town bordering the Extremadura lowlands, is brimming with local color including white houses punctuated with flower pots of colorful geraniums and jasmine. The area is divided by the Huéznar and Vía rivers. Holm and cork oak are the most common trees. Through these lands of moderate height roam deer and wild boar, an attraction for hunters.

Recreation and Events

Sports

Andalusia offers the possibility of practicing almost any type of sport in areas as diverse as the high mountains or the sea. Modern facilities are available for the most demanding sports enthusiasts. The eight Andalusian provinces boast a wide variety of facilities for practicing all types of sports, including equestrian, snow and water sports, etc. Sailing and scuba diving schools can be found all along the coast. There are 75 marinas in Andalusia open all year round. In natural areas such as **Cabo de Gata**, scuba diving is particularly popular. Windsurfers come to **Tarifa** from all over attracted by the constant winds. The Centro de Actividades Náuticas of **Almería** and **Huelva** offers nautical activities with expert instructors. Other disciplines, including rowing and kayaking, can be enjoyed on the navigable Guadalquivir. But water sports only represent a part of the many opportunities Andalusia has to offer.

The winter resort of **Sierra Nevada** has 62 kilometers of runs for snow sports.



Hiking in the Sierra de Cazorla

In addition, the Granadan mountain range is a destination of the first order for mountaineers who climb in the summer and autumn before the first snow.

The large number of nature parks make this region an ideal election for hikers and mountain-bikers. The parks of **Cazorla, Segura y las Villas** (Jaén), **Grazalema** (Cádiz and Málaga), **Aracena** (Huelva) or the **Subbética** (Córdoba) have dozens of trails and routes. Mountaineering and cave exploring throughout Andalusia are an attraction for adventure-seekers.

Seville has an Olympic stadium, **Granada**, a sports center for top sports figures, **Cádiz**, a speedway, **Málaga**, numerous sailing schools and **Córdoba** and **Jaén**, air clubs for those wishing to try their hand at aerial sports. Areas for parapente and hang-gliding can be found in most of the nature reserves in the region.

There are more than 60 golf courses in Andalusia, primarily



Surfing in Tarifa. Cádiz

clustered in the coastal provinces of **Málaga** and **Cádiz**. There is a course to please every golfer, from tourist courses to championship ones, where prestigious tournaments are held. The Valderrama Golf Club at **San Roque** was the host to the recent Ryder Cup.

Sports competitions represent another tourist attraction. The speedway in **Jerez de la Frontera** attracts car racing enthusiasts and features the leading drivers in the world. The International Chess Tournament in **Linares** has received the maximum professional classification. The Granada-Dakar rally, the World Cup of Equestrian Jumping in Seville, and the Horse Races on the beach of **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** are other events on the Andalusian sports calendar.

Hunting is also possible in Andalusia at numerous reserves for big and small game found throughout the region. Fishing draws many visitors to river and coastal areas.

www.deporteandaluz.com

Fairs and festivals

Andalusia has been the birthplace of famous painters such as Velázquez and Picasso, of poets including Antonio Machado and Federico García Lorca, and of musicians of the caliber of Manuel de Falla and Andrés Segovia. The list is endless and affirms the international character of Andalusian culture. This legacy is also manifest at the cultural events which take place each year in the region. For example, Huelva organizes the **Ibero-American Film Festival**; Cádiz, the **Ibero-American Theater Festival**. Málaga is host to the **Festival of Spanish Cinema**. The **Biennial Flamenco Festival** is held in Seville. Córdoba hosts a **Guitar Festival** and Granada, the **Festival of Music and Dance** and the **International Tango Festival**. In Huelva, a **Festival of Music and Dance** is held, and in Almería, a **Traditional Music Contest**.

It is the fairs and festivals which best characterize leisure activities in Andalusia. Throughout the year myriad events are celebrated, including the week-long "**Carnavales**" (Mardi Gras) in Cádiz, a festival imported from the merchants of Venice of the 16th and 17th centuries which is celebrated in the oldest quarters of the city.

Contests of carnival groups, choirs, quartets and jokes are held at the Gran Teatro Falla. "**Carnavales**" are also held in Isla Cristina (Huelva), Cuevas del Almanzora (Almería) and La Carolina (Jaén).

Seville's colorful "**Feria de Abril**" (April Fair) is another outstanding annual event on Andalusia's calendar. At midday, the fairgrounds are taken over by handsome horses and their riders, along with horse-drawn carriages for the traditional parade. During the evening, large tents are filled with music and dancing. Many of them require an invitation, but others are open to the public. This event in Seville opens the season of fairs and festivals in Andalusia which ends in October with the festival of **San Lucas** in Jaén.

The "**Cruces de Mayo**" (Crosses of May Festival) followed by the **Patio Contest** are held in Córdoba, the procession of **Corpus Christi** in Granada, and the *romería* or pilgrimage in honor of the Virgen del Mar in Almería. Málaga venerates the Virgen del Carmen in the middle of the month of June with typical *romerías* on the water by boat.

Romería del Rocío (pilgrimage) in Almonte. Huelva



April Fair in Seville

Holy Week

Higuera de la Sierra, a small village in the province of Huelva, celebrates the oldest procession or "**Cabalgata de Reyes Magos**" of the Three Wise Men, but not the only one. This Christmas tradition is also kept in Sanlúcar de Barrameda in Cádiz and Lucena in Córdoba.

"**Semana Santa**" or Holy Week is one of the most significant times of the year. Of special interest are the religious celebrations in Seville with the *pasos* (floats) bearing the most revered images of Jesús El Gran Poder, Triana and La Macarena. In Málaga, these *pasos* are even larger. In other province capitals, including Jaén, there are processions in the early morning hours of Good Friday with the image of Jesus Our Father "El Abuelo".

There are two multitudinous *romerías* in praise of the Virgin Mary. The oldest one in Spain is "**Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza**" held in Andújar in the heart of the Sierra Morena in Jaén. The other pilgrimage is called

the "**Virgen del Rocío**", near the Huelvan town of Almonte. Each year in the middle of May, around a million persons gather in this town near Doñana National Park to participate in the procession of the "Blanca Paloma". In the weeks prior to this, Andalusian brotherhoods make the journey alongside the carts which carry the "Simpecado", the banner they will present to the patroness of the Huelvan marshes when they reach the town.

Bulls are associated with some of the festivals of Andalusia. Small towns, such as Grazalema (Cádiz) and Beas de Segura (Jaén), during the morning organize **runnings of the bulls** which hours later will be fought in the bullrings.

Bullfighting and Flamenco

The **Real Maestranza** bullring in Seville is considered the cathedral of bullfighting, one of the most deep-rooted traditions

in Andalusia. In the eight provinces bullfighting is a favorite sport, but in Seville, Córdoba and Málaga, this art has become a passion. Andalusia has given bullfighting many important figures. Some of them, such as Curro Romero, Espartaco and Finito de Córdoba, are still active today. Others such as Manolete, killed in 1947 in the bullring at Linares, and the master of Ronda, Antonio Ordóñez, have become a part of bullfighting history. Some of the most important ranches where fighting bulls are raised are found in Sierra Morena in the townships of Baños de la Encina and Andújar. The bullfighting season begins on Easter Sunday and ends in the month of October in **La Alameda** bullring in the province of Jaén.

The music and dance called **flamenco** is another identifying symbol, as well as an artistic expression of the most deeply rooted Andalusian culture. The Schools of Seville and Cádiz have contributed some of the most singular figures of this art. Although the exact origin of flamenco is uncertain, it has been the gypsies who have performed it the most. Deceased **flamenco singers**, such as Camarón de la Isla, have helped make this type of music known worldwide. The most

popular song forms are the *bulería*, *soleá*, *alegría* and *fandango*. **Flamenco guitarists**, such as Paco de Lucía, Vicente Amigo and Tomatito, are acclaimed concert guitarists. Well-known **flamenco dancers** Antonio Canales and Joaquín Cortés delight their fans worldwide.

www.torosensevilla.com

Cuisine

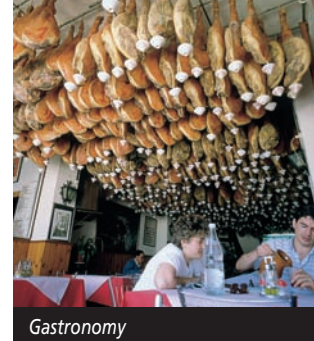
Andalusian cuisine is almost a ritual. Gastronomic diversity mirrors the multiple cultures that have settled in this land. In any case, all of them dip into the *Andalusi* tradition which has already shown in the past a high degree of refinement as regards to cuisine. The basis of Andalusian cooking is **olive oil**, primarily produced in the province of Jaén in places such as the sierras of Segura and Mágina and in the Cordoban towns of Baena and Priego. The so-called **Mediterranean diet**, considered by many experts to be the healthiest in the world, has its origin in Andalusia.

In the province of Huelva, **Iberian Jabugo** hams are produced. **Sausages** from Sierra Morena are also famous, as well as sheep and

goat cheeses. The best stretch of fertile **farmland** is found in the Guadalquivir Valley, as well as other areas such as the Granadan plains and Cordoban countryside. **Strawberries** from Huelva are consumed in half the world. From the greenhouses in Almería come tasty fruits and vegetables, and **exotic crops** from the Tropical Coast accompany original salads. **Gazpacho**, a cold soup made with tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, bread and garlic, is one of the most popular dishes in this area.

There is a clear difference between mountain cooking and cuisine from the sea. In the mountains, **game dishes** include partridge, rabbit, venison and wild boar, accompanied by the classic **migas pastoriles** (fried bread crumbs flavored with garlic). Along the Andalusian coast, one of the most popular dishes is *pescaito frito* (mixed fried fish), one of the great culinary delights in the region, in addition to sardines on skewers, seafood or fishermen stews such as *cazuela de arroz caldoso*.

Tortilla de patatas (potato omelet) competes in flavor with the *tortilla Sacromonte* (an omelet made with sweetbreads, peppers, potatoes), a specialty in Granada. Spinach and

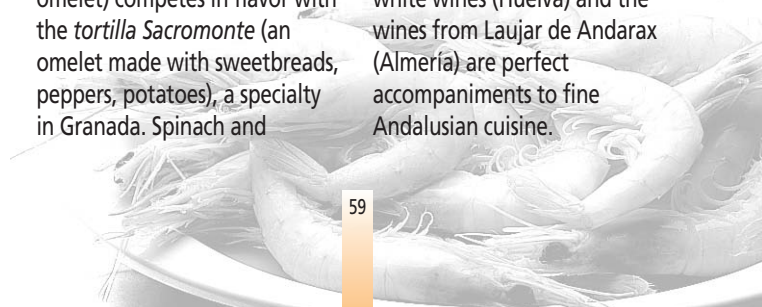


Gastronomy

flamenquines (deep-fried rolled-up ham and cheese) are famous in Jaén. From the stoves of Córdoba come dishes such as **oxtail stew**. **Urta a la roteña** (bream cooked in a sauce of caramelized onions and tomatoes) is enjoyed in Cádiz, and red shrimp from Garruch in Almería are famous.

Many **desserts** have a distinct Arab character. *Bizcochos borrachos* ('drunken' sugary cakes soaked in wine or syrup), *torrijas* (bread dipped in milk then fried and sugared) during Holy (Easter) Week, *dulce de membrillo* (quince) and *tocinillo de cielo* (small squares made from syrup and egg yolks) are some delicious examples.

Sherry from Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz), sherry-like white wine called Montilla-Moriles (Córdoba), Dulces, sweet desert wines from Málaga, Condado white wines (Huelva) and the wines from Laujar de Andarax (Almería) are perfect accompaniments to fine Andalusian cuisine.



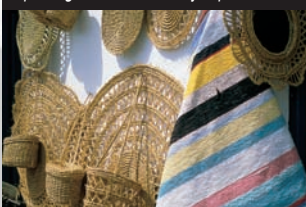
Folk Traditions and Handicrafts

Along with flamenco, **sevillanas** are also ever-present at the festivals of Andalusia. Their music and dance are related to the flamenco culture, but they have a life all their own at the fairs and festivals in Andalusia. Their origin is in Seville, although today it represents the most exported musical and dance tradition.

Each province has its own folk traditions. In the Málaga mountains, for example, they sing to music of medieval origin called **verdiales**. In the sierras, they sing or dance **jotas** and **boleros**, while in the towns in the Guadalquivir valley, they perform regional dances. Each province also has its own traditional costume taken from dress used in the past.

Andalusia is an ideal place for **shopping**. Almería is justly famous for the marble from Macael, as well as **pottery** of Islamic origin. In Níjar handmade **jarapas** (blankets) are sold. In the province of Cádiz, the town of Ubrique merits a visit for its famous **leather goods**. Here they produce articles sold by prestigious international firms.

Esparto grass articles and "jarapa" blankets



In cities such as San Fernando and Sanlúcar de Barrameda, they manufacture mahogany **furniture** following century-old traditions. **Wrought iron** and **blankets** from Grazalema are another example of the hand-crafted items from the province of Cádiz.

Cordoban jewelry is the best exponent of the handicrafts in the province, although they also make leather articles and rich **embroidery** on velvet with gold and silver threads to adorn religious images. The Alcaicería of Granada is the best place to purchase **taracea**, marquetry of Arab origin. Pottery and **cabinet-making** are also a source of interesting products. In Granada, Spanish guitarmakers are world-renowned. **Jarapas** from Alpujarras are also an attraction for tourists.

In Huelva, Andalusian **horse gear** and outdoor footwear are sold. Green ceramics from Úbeda and wrought iron help identify the province of Jaén. In Málaga, locksmith and weaving products are featured, in addition to guitars and original ceramics. Seville is especially famous for its religious embroidery. There are also other typical souvenirs, such as decorative **fans** and **mantillas** which can be purchased at many local shops.

USEFUL INFORMATION

International prefix ☎ 34

Tourist Information
Turespaña
www.spain.info

ANDALUSIAN TOURISM

International Tourism Center
of Andalusia
Compañía, 40. Málaga
☎ 901 200 020
☎ 951 299 300
www.turismoandaluz.com

Tourism and Sports Council
www.andalucia.org
e-mail: info@andalucia.org

TOURIST OFFICES

Almería
Parque Nicolás Salmerón
☎ 950 175 220
Cádiz
Avenida Ramón de Carranza, s/n
☎ 956 203 191
Córdoba. Torrijos, 10
☎ 957 355 179
Granada
Plaza de Santa Ana, 4
☎ 958 575 202

Huelva
Alcalde de Coto Mora, 2
☎ 959 650 200
Jaén. Maestra, 13
☎ 953 313 281
Málaga
Pasaje de Chinitas, 4
☎ 951 308 911
Seville
Avenida de la Constitución, 21B
☎ 954 787 578 / 954 787 580

RESERVATION CENTERS

Andalusian Tourism
☎ 952 129 310
www.seneca.es

Andalusian Network of Rural
Lodgings ☎ 902 442 233
www.raar.es

TOURIST PARADOR HOTELS

Reservation Center
Calle Requena, 3. 28013 Madrid
☎ 902 547 979
☎ 902 525 432
www.parador.es

Antequera (Málaga)
☎ 952 840 261
Arcos de la Frontera (Cádiz)
☎ 956 700 500
Ayamonte (Huelva)
☎ 959 320 700
Cádiz ☎ 956 226 905
Carmona (Sevilla) ☎ 954 141 010

Cazorla (Jaén) ☎ 953 727 075
Córdoba ☎ 957 275 900
Granada ☎ 958 221 440
Jaén ☎ 953 230 000
Málaga-Gibralfaro ☎ 952 221 902
Málaga-Golf ☎ 952 381 255
Mazagón (Huelva)
☎ 959 536 300
Mojácar (Almería) ☎ 950 478 250
Nerja (Málaga) ☎ 952 520 050
Ronda (Málaga)
☎ 952 877 500
Úbeda (Jaén) ☎ 953 750 345

TRANSPORTS

AENA (Spanish Airports and Air Navigation)

☎ 902 404 704
www.aena.es

Renfe

(Spanish National Railways)

☎ 902 240 202

International information

☎ 902 242 402
www.renfe.es

BUSES

Almería ☎ 950 273 706
Cádiz ☎ 956 285 852
Córdoba ☎ 957 404 040
Granada ☎ 958 185 010
Huelva ☎ 959 256 900
Jaén ☎ 953 250 106
Málaga ☎ 952 350 061
Seville ☎ 954 417 111/
954 908 040

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergencies ☎ 112
Medical Emergencies ☎ 061
Civil Guard ☎ 062
National Police ☎ 091
Municipal Police ☎ 092

Highway Information
☎ 900 123 505 www.dgt.es
Citizen Information ☎ 010
Post Office ☎ 902 197 197
www.correos.es

SPANISH TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES ABROAD

CANADA. Toronto

Tourist Office of Spain
2 Bloor Street West Suite 3402
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3E2
☎ 1416/961 31 31
☎ 1416/961 19 92
www.tourspain.toronto.on.ca
e-mail: toronto@tourspain.es

JAPAN. Tokyo

Tourist Office of Spain
Daini Toranomon Denki Bldg.6F.
3-1-10 Toranomon. Minato-Ku
TOKYO-105-0001
☎ 813/34 32 61 42
☎ 813/34 32 61 44
www.spaintour.com
e-mail: tokio@tourspain.es

RUSSIA. Moscow

Spanish Tourist Office
Tverskaya – 16/2, 6°
Moscow 125009
☎ 7495/935 83 99
☎ 7495/935 83 96
www.tourspain.ru
e-mail: moscu@tourspain.es

SINGAPORE. Singapore

Spanish Tourist Office
541 Orchard Road
Liat Tower # 09-04
238881 Singapore
☎ 65/67 37 30 08
☎ 65/67 37 31 73
e-mail: singapore@tourspain.es

UNITED KINGDOM. London

Spanish Tourist Office
2nd floor, 79 Cavendish Street
London W1A 6XB
☎ 44207/ 486 80 77
☎ 44207/486 80 34
www.tourspain.co.uk
e-mail: londres@tourspain.es

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Los Angeles

Tourist Office of Spain
8383 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 960
Beverly Hills, California 90211
☎ 1323/658 71 95
☎ 1323/658 10 61
www.okspain.org
e-mail: losangeles@tourspain.es

Chicago

Tourist Office of Spain
Water Tower Place, Suite 915 East
845 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
☎ 1312/642 19 92
☎ 1312/642 98 17
www.okspain.org
e-mail: chicago@tourspain.es

Miami

Tourist Office of Spain
1395 Brickell Avenue
Miami, Florida 33131
☎ 1305/358 19 92
☎ 1305/358 82 23
www.okspain.org
e-mail: miami@tourspain.es

New York

Tourist Office of Spain
666 Fifth Avenue 35th floor
New York, New York 10103
☎ 1212/265 88 22
☎ 1212/265 88 64
www.okspain.org
e-mail: nuevayork@tourspain.es

EMBASSIES IN MADRID

Canada. Núñez de Balboa, 35 - 3°

☎ 914 233 250 ☎ 914 233 251

Japan. Serrano, 109

☎ 915 907 600 ☎ 915 901 321

Republic of Ireland. Claudio

Coello, 73
☎ 915 763 500 ☎ 914 351 677

Russia. Velázquez, 155

☎ 915 622 264 ☎ 915 629 712

United Kingdom.

Fernando El Santo, 16
☎ 913 190 200 ☎ 913 081 033

United States of America.

Serrano, 75
☎ 915 872 200 ☎ 915 872 303



