



www.turgranada.es

PATRONATO PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO DE GRANADA DIPUTACIÓN DE GRANADA

turismo@dipgra.es
T +34 958 24 71 46 · F +34 958 24 71 29
Plaza de Mariana Pineda, 10, 2* · 18009 Granada · España

Guía Turística Provincial de Granada

granada















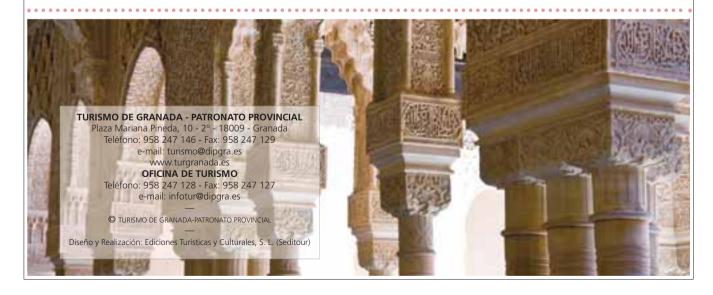
ovincial guide to Granada – Table of Contents

- 2 Meeting point of East and West
- 4 Granada and province, a suggestive offer
- Granada, a monumental province
- 8 The Legado Andalusí
- 10 Sun and sand
- 12 For snow lovers
- 14 Rural tourism
- 16 Nature and active tourism
- 18 Healthy tourism
- 20 The province's cuisine
- 22 Holidays and traditions
- 24 Congresses, incentives and events
- 26 The Alhambra and Generalife
- 28 Granada, a historical heritage
- 30 Granada, a monumental city
- 32 García Lorca and the Granada Vega
- Along side the mountains and in the lee of Granada
- 36 Sierra Nevada all year long
- 38 Valley of Lecrín and the Guájares
- 40 The High Alpujarra
- 42 The Low Alpujarra and the Contraviesa Mountains
- 44 Western Costa Tropical
- 46 Costa Tropical, from Motril to la Rábita
- 48 North of Western Granada Province
 - Southern border of Western Granada Province
- 52 Guadix and El Marguesado
- El Marquesado, at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains
- 56 In the Altiplano (high plateau) between Baza and Cúllar
- 58 The northern Altiplano: primitive Granada
- 60 Practical information
- 88 Map of Granada Province

Granada 100% sensation

Welcome to the land of Al-Andalus, where the seacoast meets the snow, to the subtropical farmland that has been the love of so many Mediterranean cultures. Welcome to a modern land that knows how to hold on to its past.





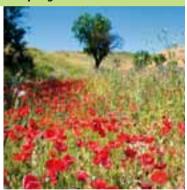
Bridge between

The Province of Granada is in Southeast Andalusia, a meeting point of East and West. bridge between Europe and Africa. An airport with international connections and a nearby high-speed railway line (AVE) bring you to us.

A network of motorways and modern highways connects the four cardinal points to help you get to know the furthest corner of our province.

Spring

When spring arrives. the snowmelt comes to the Sierra Nevada. Life flows into the entire province, the vallevs and the countryside are tinted green, speckled with the colour of flowers. The province's mountains invite you to take walks down its paths and enjoy the fullest expression of nature.



Summer

The Costa Tropical is the centre of attention for the multitude of visitors seeking relaxation on its beaches, its rich provincial cuisine and sports. The many towns in the province welcome visitors to the entertainment as they celebrate local holidays.



East and West



Autumn



The province is coloured yellow and ochre. The forests invite you to walks and contemplation as the first snows fall in the mountains, prelude to winter. The Sierra Nevada Ski

Resort is preparing to





The Sierra Nevada dresses in white and is now the meeting point of the large numbers of visitors who long to be able to slide down its snowy slopes. It is also time to enjoy the fine provincial cuisine next to a comfortable fireplace.

Granada and province, a suggestive offer

Granada has five well-defined products: monuments, snow, sun and sand, rural and congresses. All of them and others that supplement them, Andalusí (Moorish) legacy, health tourism, nature and active tourism, festivals and traditions are geographically distributed over seven districts.



- Granada and surroundings
- The Sierra Nevada Mountains
- Alpujarra and Valley of Lecrín
- Costa Tropical
- Guadix and El Marquesado
- The Altiplano (High Plateau) Baza and Huéscar

A fifth of its towns have been declared Historical Sites for their heritage.

As the last redoubt of Al-Andalus, it had to fight many battles against the Christian forces to defend Its frontiers. Its









les and watchtowers are spread in all four directions of the province, today forming part of its landscape.

A series of circums-

tances coincide in the Province of Granada to make it special. The difference in altitudes from one zone to another has modelled the most variegated landscapes, from sea level on the Costa Tropical to 3482 m at the peak of the Mulhacén in the Sierra Nevada Mountains



Granada,

a monumental province

Granada, ancient capital of the Nazarid Kingdom, still preserves its many architectural treasures, some of them declared Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO: The Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin are only a sample of the plentiful heritage spreading over the entire city.

For thousands of years, the diversity of peoples who settled around the province left an impressive cultural inheritance that delights lovers of art.

Almunécar Castle
 Guadix Cathedral
 Alhambra in Granada
 Church of the Incarnation in Alhama
 Arah paths in Baza

6 Lanjarón Castle





All over the territory, there are many examples of civil, military and religious architecture, such as the Muslim fortresses (alcazabas), castles and towers and Arab baths that alternate with Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings and temples.

Guadix, Alhama de Granada, Loja, Montefrío, Baza, Orce, Huéscar, Almuñécar Salobreña and a long etc. are clear examples of the extensive monumental heritage in the Province of Granada.







6



La Puebla de

Don Fadrique

Orce

9

Yehuda

Ibn Tibon

Torre de Roma in Chauchina

Guadahortuna

Guadix

Huéneja

The Route of the Caliphate

It begins in the city of Cordoba and covers the Province of Granada passing through Moclin, Colomera, Pinos Puente, Güevéjar, Cogollos-Vega, Alfacar, Viznar and Granada

The Route of **Washington Irving**

This route starts out in Seville and enters from the west passing through Loia. Huétor-Taiar, Moraleda de Zafayona, Alhama de Granada, Montefrío. Íllora, Fuente Vagueros, Chauchina, Santa Fe and Granada.

The Route of Ibn al-Jatib

Originating in Murcia, it penetrates in the province passing through Puebla de Don Fadrique, Huéscar, Castril, Galera, Orce, Cúllar, Huércal Overa Arboleas. Albox, Cantoria, Fines, Olula del Río, Macael, Purchena.

Tíjola, Serón, Caniles, Baza, Gor, Guadix, Purullena, Lopera, Diezma, Huétor Santillán Granada

meet in the city of Granada, last redoubt of the Moorish culture.

Route of the **Almoravides**

From Tarifa, the route enters the province passing through Zafarraya, La Malahá, Las Gabias, Granada.

Route of the **Nazarids**

Guadahortuna, Píñar, Iznalloz, Deifontes, Albolote, Maracena and Granada.

Route of the **Alpujarras**

This route begins in Almería and penetrates the Alpujarra passing through Ugijar, Válor, Juviles, Trevélez, Pitres, Capileira, Pamapaneira, Bubión, Cádiar, Torvizcón, Órgiva, Lanjarón, Dúrcal, Otura, Dílar, Góiar, La Zubia, Cájar, Huétor Vega, Granada

Route of Münzer

It starts out in Almería and covers the Granada localities of Huéneja, Dólar, Ferreira, La Calahorra, Aldeire, Alguife, Lancearía, Jérez del Marquesado, Cogollos de Guadix. Alcudia de Guadix, Guadix, Cortes and Graena. La Peza. Ouéntar, Dúdar, Cenes de la Vega, Granada.

Route of Al-Idrisi

Alhama

Zafarraya

at Almuñécar, passing through Salobreña, Motril.

El Valle de Lecrin and

Granada

This begins in Malaga Montefrío

Loja

Santa Fe Víznar Cortes y Graena Las Gabias Ouéntar GRANADA de Granada Ugíjar Dúrcal and enters the province Órgiva

Motril

Iznalloz

Pinos Puente

Moclin

Íllora

The Route of the Caliphate The Route of Ibn al-Jatib Route of the Almoravides Route of the Nazarids Route of the Alpujarras Route of Münzer

Route of Al-Idrisi

Castril

Huéscar

The Route of Washington Irving



Almuñécar Salobreña

Sun and sand

he Province of Granada has a wide strip of coastline which is called the Costa Tropical because of its special microclimate.

All along its coast, wide beaches alternate with little

coves framed by high cliffs, historical localities with little fishing villages and mountains with large tropical crop plantations. All of this confers it a special attraction that yearly brings thousands of visitors who choose it as their destination.

2

3

Tropical crops

La Rijana beach

Sports activities

Its benign climate, with a yearly average of 20°C (68°F) and its wide offer services delight its many visitors.

Two marinas, a golf course and over 73 km of coastline punctuated with beaches, cover the expectations of the most demanding.

Its warm Mediterranean water is the perfect scene for practicing

numerous sea sports such as kitesurfing, windsurfing, sailing, diving, fishing, etc.

In addition to all of this, the Costa Tropical offers the possibility of tasting its exquisite cuisine based largely on seafood and tropical fruit.





11







Sierra Nevada is the southernmost winter ski resort in Europe and many snow sports, such as Alpine skiing, parallel slalom, snowboarding, carving, cross-country, telemark, com-

skiing and even night-time skiing are available on its 103 km of ski runs.

Its 115 ski runs give it a skiable surface of over 3.5 million square meters and its lifts have capacity for 30,000 people an hour.

The height of its peaks, twenty over 3000 m high, provide it with a long ski season that spans from the beginning of December through spring.

1 Ski bike
2 Ski school

3 Pradollano

Sled Ski lift

6 Ski competition

7 : Snowboard

Panoramic view of Sierra Nevada



Its 24 hotels and many services available to the visitor - skating rinks, magic carpet, sleds, ski chairs and ski bikes, and snow shoes, with snowshoeing routes that vary from two hours to a whole day, high and low mountain cross-country guides, etc., make the Sierra Nevada the ideal vacation spot.















Rural

l Tourism

Inland Granada Province has many areas where time seems to have stopped, with simple towns where the days pass without complications, peaceful places that take you back to a yesterday you long for.

Scattered throughout the province, they still conserve the customs of bygone years, as reflected in the architecture, cuisine and daily activity.

The large demand for these havens of peace has led to the

creation in recent years of many accommodations, from the most luxurious hotels to the simple rural houses or comfortable cave houses.

Lodging in a cave is another way to understand rural tourism. Inside, its special microclimate offers stable temperatures all year long.

The caves, located in settings of great natural beauty, are equipped with all the modern comforts and are prepared to make your days there unforgettable.

Most of the caves are located in the Altiplano and Marquesado districts, but the rest of the rural districts

14





in Granada also have many.

Picturesque villages in the Alpujarra and Valley of Lecrín hold a multitude of enchanting corners, not forgetting other marvellous towns in places like Guájares or Western Granada.







17

Any of these places could be the scene for many of the sports that are the passion of the most active.

Rappelling down ravines or climbing is reserved for the most



Active Tourism

daring, but there are also less risky activities, like hiking, cycling or horseback riding, that allow you to enjoy the beautiful land-scapes whilst burning off calories.

There is no doubt that to enjoy the landscape from another point of view, there is nothing better than paragliding or flying

over it in a delta wing. There are many starting points in the province for this high-flying sport.

Golf, hunting, fishing, speleology or the many nautical sports are also a part of the diversity of activities offered by active tourism operators in the province.











Already in Roman times, this territory enjoyed thermal waters in the baths at Alhama de Granada. Later it was the Arabs who, in their cult to water, created many Arab baths from the ruins of Roman *thermae*, reservoirs, fountains, natural pools and irrigation channels. Many of them are still preserved in the Province of Granada.

Today there are four thermal baths in Alhama de Granada, Alicún de las Torres, Graena and Lanjarón, seven modern Arab



baths, and a dozen spas.



All of this goes to show how Granada is committed to making tourism and health compatible.

All of the thermal baths are near a mineral-medicinal spring and have an ideal team of health-care professionals and suitable facilities for water-therapy techniques.

The frenetic rhythm of city life has led to the creation of urban



spas that provide aesthetic and relaxation treatments designed to fight the stress of modern life.

19





The Provincial

he mixture of cultures that has settled in Granada over the centuries has left not only architecture. Phoenicians, Romans, Muslims, Jews and Christians, have also left their stamp on local cooking.

All over the territory, this inheritance is present in its local adaptations.

In the centre and north of the province, cold winters necessitate hearty meals in the form of stews. The *olla de San Antón*, *gachas* (stew in piecrust), *migas* (fried breadcrumbs with garlic), cod stew, fennel stew, fried kid with garlic or lamb from the Segura Mountains, are only a few of the delicious dishes in the inland cuisine.

20



The fertile Granada Vega, rich in garden vegetables, provides ingredients for creating a simple, but tasty popular cuisine: *pipirranas* (tomato and cucumber salads) "Poor man's" potatoes, Sacromonte omelette, *ajo blanco* (garlic and almond soup) and Andalusian *gazpacho* (cold tomato soup) are sure to delight whoever tries them.

The excellent caviar from Riofrío in the west of the province should be highlighted and also the quality of the fish from its rivers, such as trout.

On the slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and in the nearby valleys, the cuisine is also built on local products. The Alpujarra platter, chestnut stew, rabbit stew, garlic *gachas*, and pickled partridge are some of the examples, not to forget the mountain



cuisine





ham, especially from Trevélez, and the fine wines from the Contraviesa Mountains are always the ideal complement to a good meal.

In the south, on the Costa Tropical, seafood and tropical fruit are the main ingredients in a cuisine that does not omit the products from the coast's

gardens. Tasty fish, prepared alone or in rice, pickled fish, squid, stuffed or stewed, salted fish, and skewered sardines are some samples from a long list of good eating on the coast, not to mention the wide variety of salads where tropical fruit is always present.

If anything conserves the Moorish influence, it is without doubt the many pastry recipes. Worth mentioning are the pastry rings from Loja, soplillos (almond merengues), pan de higo (fig and

almond cakes) from the Alpujarra, torta real (royal cake) from Motril, tocinillos de cielo (individual, "heavenly" rich custards) from Guadix and the exquisite sweets from the convents with tasty jams, mantecadas (pastries made with lard), batatines (made of sweet potatoes and almonds), etc.







23

Festivals

and traditions

5

he mark of a people, imprinted on it since ancient times, is handed down over the centuries from generation to generation, in its traditions.

The Province of Granada is rich in these experiences that are reflected in its festivals.

The festivals of Christians and Moors recall the ancient battles between the two factions. These celebrations are most deeply rooted in the people of the Alpujarra.

Easter Week is the most religious of all holidays, and the celebration of Corpus Christi goes back to the times of the Catholic Kings.

22

- 1 Festival of the Cascamorrras
- 2 Day of the Cross
- 3 Ceramics in Guadix
 - Marquetry in the streets of Granada
- 5 Easter Week in Guadix
- 6 Working with esparto grass
- 7 Making marguetry
 - Ceramics

4

8

9 Festival of Christians and Moors









Both have a long tradition throughout Andalusia.

The Day of the Cross, the Virgen del Carmen or the Cascamorras are other celebrations tourists find of enormously interesting.



Tradition is also present in the handcrafts of Granada. Before the Muslim domination, esparto grass was already being worked and ceramics were being made in Guadix. It was during the age of the Moors when marquetry began as well as other types of ceramics.







25

Congresses,

incentives and events

anada, as a member of the European Federation of Congress Cities, has been preparing itself as a centre of congresses, incentives and events for many years. It has a large number of venues, in hotels, historic palaces, chapels, carmens (typical villas) and even caves, all equipped with the latest technologies.

But without doubt, the *Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones* (**Conference and Exhibition Hall**) is the main venue for this type of event.

It is a modern, functional building located in the heart of the Granada city centre that offers services employing the most advanced technologies: satellite videoconferencing, digital telephone PBX with various communications



There is also a wide variety of centres with capacity for conventions, workshops and symposiums throughout the province. Among them are the facilities of the Fermasa Trade Fair in Armilla, the Manuel de Falla Auditorium, the Convention Centre in Sierra Nevada, the Salobreña Auditorium and Casa de la



4





24

protocols, over three thousand voice and data connections, closedcircuit television and simultaneous translation among many others.



Celebration

Panoramic view of the Conference and Exhibition Hall

Carmen de los Mártires

Main auditorium in the Palacio de Congresos y Exhibiciones

Architectural detail of the Palacio de Congresos

Cultura or cultural centre, in Almuñécar.

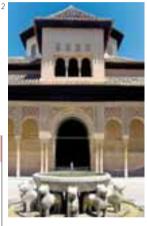
The many operators organising congresses provide secretarial, protocol, hostess, translation and press services.

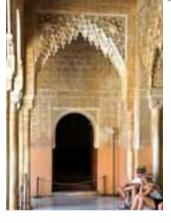
The Alhambra

he **Alhambra** rises on red Sabika Hill, declared, along with the **Generalife**, Heritage of the Humanity by the UNESCO in 1984.

The **Alhambra**, originally a watch post, was later converted into palaces and







court, and has come down to our

times as the supreme example of

Muslim art in Al-Andalus, and as

the culmination of Muslim art in

Europe. Over two million people

The palaces, with their halls richly

ornamented with tiles and plaster

visit it every year.

Palace of Carlos VFountain of Lions

3 Patio of Lions

3 Patio of Lions

4 La Alhambra from San Nicolás

5 Abencerrajes Room

6 Comares Palace

The Generalife

and Generalife



reliefs, the towers and walls, the gardens and squares tell the visitor their history and legends.

Although it dates back to the 9th century, most of it was built in the 14th century by the Nazarid kings Yusud I and Muhammad V.

Among its palaces, the Mexuar, the Comares Palace with its Patio de los Arrayanes (Myrtle Court) and Hall of Ambassadors are outstanding, and so is the Patio of the Lions, with its forest of columns and splendid rooms like the Abencerrajes, the Mocárabes. the Two Sisters or the Kings'.



The Renaissance palace of Carlos V which now houses the Museum of Fine Arts and Museum of Muslim Art, was built after the Christian conquest.

The **Generalife**, created for the enjoyment of the Nazarid monarchs, even today is a breath of peace as you walk through its gardens and listen to the sound of the water that flows unceasingly from fountains and channels.

The views of the Alhambra and Generalife from the Mirador de San Nicolás lookout in the Albayzin are spectacular.





26

29

Granada, historical legacy

Granada is a city where the crucible of the years has fused different cultures and yet given each its place.

It may be surprising to find a Renaissance jewel like the Cathedral along side the ancient Arab Alcaicería market or the Muslim 1 Alcaicería
2 Capilla Real

Interior of the Cathedral

Parque de la Ciencias Santa Ana Church

6 Gran Vía

7 San Jerónimo

Madraza in front of the Royal Chapel, but Granada has integrated all of them and enjoys having them so close.

The passage of time has made Granada a modern city with an

ancient past. This is especially reflected in its historical city centre, particularly around the Cathedral.

Granada's Cathedral was built in the 16th century by Diego de Siloé and its interior is a jewel of Renaissance art. The main façade is a Baroque masterpiece made by Alonso Cano in 1667. Along side it is the **Royal Chapel**, which is arrived at through the ancient Lonja de Mercaderes (Merchants' Market). This Flamboyant Gothic jewel was ordered built by the Catholic Kings as the resting place for their

mortal remains. Behind the beautiful Plateresque façade is a splendid grille in the same style, and Gothic main reredos, the royal tombs sculpted in

28







Carrara marble and the Chapel Museum.

Close to it is the **Alcaicería**, with narrow, clearly Moorish streets, where many shops continue displaying their wares as they did in years gone by.



The **Madraza Palace** is also nearby, ancient Muslim school of Koran Law and the **Corral del Carbón**, an ancient Arab inn.



The new Granada lives along side the old in pure harmony, wide avenues, like **Reyes Católicos** or the **Gran Vía** pass within a few meters of isolated streets.

Following the Gran Vía, you come to the **Plaza Nueva**, with buildings like the **Real Chancillería** and **Santa Ana** Church, whose silhouette is cut out against the background of the **Alhambra**.

Near the plazas that surround the Cathedral are the **Basilica of San Juan de Dios**, dated 1737 and the **Church and**

Monastery of San Jerónimo, a genuine jewel of the Renaissance.

The best example of the new Granada is in the recently enlarged Parque de las Ciencias.





31

he Carrera del Darro, which separates the Alhambra from the Albaizín. starts out from the Plaza Nue**va**. This narrow, picturesque street follows the Darro River to the Paseo de los Tristes (Sad People's Walk), where there is a beautiful view of the Alhambra.

The Archaeological Museum and 9th century Bañuelo, the most important Muslim baths in Spain, are in this street.

The Abaizín quarter, possibly of Muslim origin, has been declared Heritage of Humanity. Its steep narrow streets, its carmenes (typical villas) with their gardens, their plazas,

their cisterns and bay windows looking out over the Alhambra are a pleasure to behold.

The Mirador de San Cristóbal offers a delightful view of the wall of the Albaiziin. Dar al-Horra Palace and the Alhambra.



- Archaeological Museum
- Carrera del Darro
- Zambra in Sacromonte
- Cartuja Sacristy
- Albaizín, Mirador de San Cristóbal
- Dar al-Horra Palace
- Cartuja Monastery

Other emblematic quarters of Granada are the **Realeio**, the Jewish quarter in the Muslim Granada and Sacromonte, picturesque neighbourhood where Gypsy zambras (song and dance) give life to the cave houses there.



In the north of the city is the Cartuja Monastery. It was begun in 1506 and its interior is a marvellous example of a mixture of Gothic, Renaissance, and especially, Baroque styles, all represented here in their highest expression. The Sacristy, declared "property













Granada and province

García Lorca

Federico García Lorca

Huer ta de San Vicente

Auditorium in Atarfe

Armilla City Centre

Chauchina landscape

Las Gabias

Santa Fe

3

5

7

Federico García Lorca Park

Birthplace in Fuente Vaqueros

he poetry of **García Lorca**, the poet of Fuente Vaqueros, has been translated into over 50 languages.

A walk through the places where he was born, lived and died, takes you to the place of his birth in **Fuente Vaqueros**, faithfully restored and converted into a museum, to **Casa de Val**-

derrubio, in the small suburb of Pinos Puente, where his father had a farmhouse, a place of great importance in the life of the poet before moving to the capital city, and source of inspiration for some of his works like La Casa de Bernarda Alba (House of Bernarda Alba) or Yerma.

The **Huerta de San Vicente** in Granada, was his summer residence until the time of his death, a place where works like Bodas de Sangre (Blood Wedding) were written. Even the furniture has been kept the same

in this museum, in the middle of Federico García Lorca Park.

Near the Barranco de Viznar (Viznar Ravine), where he was buried, is **Federico García Lorca Park**, dedicated to his memory and all of the victims of the Spanish Civil War.







and the Granada Vega (Plain)

he **Genil River**, where it passes through Granada, forms a wide plain among fertile fields in a geometric array with scattered popular stands. The tobacco drying sheds, the old farmsteads and fields splash across the landscape, conferring it with its own special identity.

This is the land where García Lorca was born and lived and also where, in **Santa Fe**, Christopher Columbus signed the

Capitulations which allowed him to discover America.

A multitude of towns in constant development are distributed all around the territory. Atarfe, Armilla, Santa Fe, Las Gabias, Cúllar Vega, Churriana de la Vega, Maracena, Chauchina, Albolote, Fuente Vaqueros, Pinos Puente, Vegas del Genil, and a long list of others, extend eastward from the capital city within its metropolitan area.













Along side the mountains

he city of Granada is flanked by

The **Huétor Mountains** to the north are home to several towns that settle on its slopes and even hang over its ravines, such as **Víz-**





To the south of the Huétor Mountains, on the northern slope of the Sierra Nevada, **Güéjar Sierra** is the first town receiving the cold waters of the Genil, product of the moun-

- 1 : Güevéjar
- 2 A corner of Güéjar Sierra
- 3 Route of los Cahorros (Monachil)
- 4 : Canales Reservoir near Güéiar
- Vereda de la Estrella
- 5 🚦 Huétor Vega
- 7 : Suspiro del Moro
- Suspiro del Moro







tain snowmelt. La Vereda de la Estrella (Star Path), is a lovely route that runs from Güéjar to the foot of the peaks. **Pinos Genil** and **Cenes de la Vega** are other towns that accompany the Genil River as it runs down to meet **Granada**

and in the lee of Granada





On the southern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, **Monachil**, in whose municipal limits the ski resorts are located, is a starting point for many routes that enter the zone, the Route of los Cahorros, with its hanging bridge, is one of the best known.

On a wide slope a little further down are the little towns in the southern metropolitan area of Granada, which have practically grown together forming an urban area that illuminates the southern slope of the mountains at nightfall. Huétor Vega, La Zubia, Cájar, Ogíjares, Gójar, Otura and Dilar spread southward and upward to the Suspiro del Moro (The Moor's Sigh), the place where Boabdil wept as he bid farewell to Granada on his march into exile.







Granada and province

Sierra Nevada

he **Sierra Nevada** is the backbone of the Province of Granada. Its **National park** contains the great peaks of over 3000 meters and its landscape is typical of high mountains, with white peaks in winter becoming the grey of bare rock in summer. In this crude habitat lives a variety of protected fauna and flora which is the pride of the people

Any time of the year, this marvellous setting welcomes thousands of visitors who come to enjoy its beauty and the large numbers of activities available.

of Granada

Under the direction of professionals in the Trek Area, it is possible to climb to the top of the **Mulhacén** or the **Alcazaba** and spend three days cresting. Climbing is also an adventure, and there are bicycles for hire by the visitor.

The **Montebajo Sports Club** has large areas for sports, relaxation and exercise with professional supervision.

The **Mirlo Blanco** recreational area also has many summer activities, such as the Russian sled ride (Wiegan), bike slalom, sleds,

Cycling up to Monachil

Indoor pool

Bridle paths

4 Activities at Mirlo Blanco

Trekking in winter

6 : Fauna in Sierra Nevada

7 A rest on the way

Winter begins in the mountains

Gym at the sports club

10 Hiking in spring





all year long

children's playground with inflated castles, trampolines, zip line, etc., which are fun for young and old.

In July and August a gondola lift (adapted for carrying bicycles) goes up to the **Borreguiles** zone.

















36

Granada and province

Valley of Lecrin

n the road down from Granada to the coast is the Valley of Lecrin. This fertile plain of oranges and lemons, perfumed by orange flowers in springtime, has a past dating back to prehistory. In the Granada Archaeological Museum there is a mammoth tusk found there

Traces of Romans and Moors who dwelled there may still be found in Mondújar Castle, Murchas, Restábal and the Nazarid **Ízbor** Tower.





Old Arab watermills are scattered around the area, as well as other monuments, such as Zayas Palace in **Nigüelas** and many churches.



- Restabal
- Albuñuelas, wash house and tower.
 - Orange trees in the Valley of Lecrín
- Dúrcal
- Los Guájares
- Béznar Reservoir in the background
- Museo en Nigüelas

and Los Guájares



Large towns, such as Albuñuelas, Dúrcal, El **Padul**. El **Pinar**. El **Valle** (which is made up of six villages, like **Béznar**, next to the reservoir which bears its name), Lecrín, Nigüelas, Vélez de Benaudalla and so forth.



opens onto the Guájares (Guajar-Fondón, Guajar Faragüit and Guajar-Alto), which are spread over the slopes.

> Again, the fertile fruit plantations enter this beautiful narrow valley

> surrounded by peaks where peace prevails.





The high

he southern slope of the Sierra Nevada is occupied by a region called the Alpujarra.

Time seems to have stopped here long ago. Traditions of hundreds of years are still present in its architecture, its cuisine, its terraced crops, and in the tranquillity of life in the Alpujarra.

At the top of its slopes, a series of small towns, some literally hanging over ravines, are strung out across the lands of the Sierra Nevada Natural Park



inhabited by the Arabs for over 800 vears, the architecture is the common denominator in all of these towns. The narrow layout of their steep streets, inherited from their Moorish past, and

the abrupt terrain have configured the construction of their two-story houses, piled one atop the other around small plazas. The terraos (flat roofs made of wood

and slate), the tinaos (tunnel-like porches) and their characteristic hat-like chimney tops identify

the zone.

The **Poqueira Ravine**, which descends from the peak of the Veleta, holds three towns declared Historical-Artistic Groups, Pampa-



Museum and house in Bubión

- Capileira with Veleta Peak in the background
- Hand-woven rugs
- Pitres, a rural detail
- Detail of tinaos in Pampaneira
- Ham in Trevélez
- Trevélez and its river







Alpujarra



neira. Bubión and Capileira. These three are clear examples of the typical Alpuiarra town. and along with Trevélez. which at an altitude of 14776 m is the highest town in Spain. are the focus of visitors.

Between these two nuclei is **Pitres** also an example of cleanliness and traditional values, as is **Busquístar**, which is also located before the Trevélez Ravine

From there on, a series of towns along the road all have gorgeous views of the Contraviesa Mountains. Juviles. Bérchules Mecina Bombarón, Yegen, Válor, Nevada, and others appear one by one

along the meandering road until you arrive at the access to the Puerto de la Raqua and the northern slope of the mountains.









Granada and province

The low Alpujarra

he Guadalfeo River and its affluent, the Chico River, flow together in the verdant plain where Órgiva, the gateway to the Alpuiarra and regional hub is located. The Church of Nuestra Señora de la Expectación and the Palace of the Counts of Sástago are its most significant monuments. In the surrounding area are the ruins of 11th-century Castillejo, and in front of them the path up to the Mining Information Centre.

The towns of the low Alpujarra follow along the Guadalfeo River, although at different heights. Their layout, architecture and traditions are not much different from those

in the high Alpuiarra, as they all have the same Muslim past.

A turnoff to the right shows the way to the towns of the Contraviesa Mountains, such as

Rubite, Polopos and Sorvilán. Following the road we see, La **Tahá**, a village on the river.

Torvizcón is boxed in by a narrow ravine, and the white cubes





- Rural detail of Albondón
- Órgiva
- Torvizcón
- Órgiva, Mining Information Centre.
- Cádiar
- Contraviesa Mountains
- Winemaker in Albondón
- Sierra Nevada from the Contraviesa



and Contraviesa Mountains











climb up the sides of it.

The road continues along, penetrating the valley showing more of its lovely towns like Almegijar, Cástaras and Lobras, where another turnoff enters the **Contraviesa** Mountains leading to Albondón and the Costa Tropical.

Next to Lobras comes Cádiar, and a bit further on







Ugijar.

Granada and province

Western

he Granada coastline with its subtropical climate that keeps temperatures at an average of 20°C and 320 days of sunshine a year has special characteristics that differentiate it from the rest of the Peninsula and Europe. Enjoy a relaxing day

bathing in view of the splendid panoramic view of the Sierra Nevada and subtropical crops like mangos, cherimoya, avocado and papaya.

Of the 73 km of **Costa Tropical** coastline, 25% are along the strip from La Herradura in Almuñécar to the border of Motril. Most of the hotels and services on the coast are in the two municipalities, **Almuñécar** (plus **La Herradura**) and **Salobreña**. Such activities as fishing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, kayaking, diving and water park fun are available in all of them

Costa Tropical



- 1 . Almuñécar beach
- Cuisine
- 3 Aquatic activities
- 4 🗜 East Marina
- Panoramic of Salobreña.
- Archaeological museum
- 7 Sailing
- Roman salting works and castle
- 9 A day at the beach in Salobreña

Cultural activities are also within reach on the **Costa Tropical**. In **Almuñécar**, the ancient Roman Sexi, and only a few meters away, the restored castle which rises above the strand and the ruins of the **Roman fish salting works** in the **Botanical Gardens at Majuelo** next to the **El Loro Sexi Ornithological Centre**.

Salobreña Castle atop the rocky mount that supports it and the whitewashed houses of the town in the middle of the tropical crops that grow along the Mediterranean shore make a beautiful architectural grouping.











2







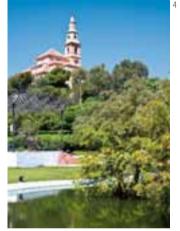
Granada and province

Costa Tropical,

he wide coastline occupied by beaches from Motril to the Almería border, makes up 75% of the **Costa Tropical**. Here, the landscapes vary constantly, wide beaches like the ones at **Torrenueva**, **Carchuna** and **Calahonda**









alternating with little coves like **Rijana Beach**.

To protect themselves from Beriberi pirate attacks, a large number of watchtowers were built in addition to the fortifications that already existed all along the coast.

Baños Castle Golf course in Motril

Marina
 Pueblos de América Park

View of Calahonda

Castle and tower in La Rábita
Castell de Ferro Beach

Dawn in Castell de Ferro
Carchuna Beach



from Motril to la Rábita





Motril, the Moorish Mu-Tra-Yil, is the main town in this zone and the entrance from Granada. The Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza, located in the Pueblos de America Park and the Caña de Azúcar (Sugarcane) Information Centre, among others, are required visits in this town.



To combat leisure time, nothing better than a day on the **golf course** or any of the aquatic sports available in the Marina.

Castell de Ferro, with its bay crowned by the tower, **Castillo de Baños**, with its well-conserved castle, **La Mamola** and **La Rábita** with its castle and watchtower are some of the attractions in the eastern part of the **Costa Tropical**.







46

Granada

he West of the Province of Granada was the last frontier of Al-Andalus. All the towns located north of the A-92 motorway were heavily fortified and many of these medieval defensive structures have lasted down to our days.

1 🕴 Íllora, Church

Moclín Castle Group

Panoramic view of LojaDolmen in Peña de los Gitanos

• Western Granada landscape

Montefrío

Trout in Riofrío

But the beginnings of human

settlement goes back much further. The **Megalithic dolmens** in **Peña de los Gitanos** are a clear example of the attraction of

these fertile lands irrigated by the Genil. The diversity of landscapes of **Western Granada** Province goes

from plains and pastureland to the high summits in the Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Mountains Natural Park.

The defensive task of the isolated towns that inhabit it led to the present-day

structure of its white villages with steep narrow streets that grew up around the castle walls.

Loja, located in the delicious narrow valley of the Genil River









and province

where it cuts through to the Sierra Gorda and Monte Hacho, is the zone's capital. Among the enormous legacy of monuments are the Alcazaba and its history museum, the Churches of the Encarnación, Santa Catalina, and San Gabriel, and the Narváez Mausoleum.

In the north of the territory, **Montefrío**, amazing urban grouping made up of it's Arab fortress and Church of the Villa, which in a spectacular architectural display, is attached to a vertical rock at whose foot lies a blanket of white houses. The Church of the Encarnación, the pósito (granary) or the Casa de Oficios (House of Trades) are other monuments that must be seen.

The Castle at **illora**, built on a hill in the Serra de Parapanda, was called "Granada's right eye" because it was so strategically important. Something similar occurred in **Moclin** and its imposing fortress, which along with the many watchtowers deployed in the area kept the Granada plain safe. Many prehistoric caves populate its municipal limits.

Riofrío is famous for the quality of its

caviar and for its fish farms, especially trout.







48

Granada and province

Southern border

he area in the south of Western Granada is a vast area of pastureland limited on the west by the Sierra de Baza and on the south by the Alhama and Tejeda Mountains, forming a natural frontier.

With the passage of time, the Alhama River produced a leafy ravine looked over by Alhama de Granada. Inhabited from Neolithic times, as the remains in the Muier (Woman's) caves testify, it was greatly developed during the Roman Era thanks to the qualities of its springs and baths. The remains of the Roman road, a bridge, and some villas remain from this period. Under the Muslim





of Western Granada

domination, it became what is today the Alhama of meandering streets and labyrinthine layout. Among its monuments, the Nazarid Castle, the Encarnación and Carmen Churches, the Pósito, the Casa de la Inquisición, Caño Wamba Fountain, etc. are all worth mentioning, but the greatest attraction in Alhama is without doubt the town itself, overlooking the picturesque Tagus River.

Near Alhama is the **Bermeiales Reservoir**, surrounded by such towns as Arenas del Rey and Javena.

The guardian of the only way south through the mountains is the town of **Zafarraya**, near the A-92 motorway. Somewhat

further south are the small towns of Santa Cruz del Comercio. Cacin and Ventas de Huelma.









7 Sierra Tejeda Natural Park

Los Bermejales Reservoir Hermitage in Arenas del Rey Alhama, Nazarid castle Panoramic view of Alhama Alhama, Encarnación Church



Guadix,

rossroads since the most remote antiquity in its territory are dolmens, Iberian ruins and the Roman city of Acci (Guadix).

In this land of contrast, there are large forests such as the one on the northern slope of the Sierra Nevada or in the valleys irrigated by the rivers, next to the reddish abstract shapes of the land surrounding Guadix. The ease with which this land may be excavated has led to the appearance since time immemorial of that special habitat, the cave house.







El Marquesado





includes the Alcazaba the Cathedral, Palaces of Peñaflor and Villalegre, many churches and two museums, the ceramic and the cathedral museums. The new Guadix has grown up next to these two zones.

On the other side of the A-92 motorway, near the Sierra de Arana, are the towns of Darro, Diezma, Huélago, Benalúa, Pedro Martínez, etc.

Following the A-92 motorway northward, you come to Gor, a small town settled on the slope of the Sierra de Baza, and its ravine. In the same ravine, on the other side of the motorway, is Gorafe. Nearby is the largest concentration of prehistoric burial mounds in Spain, 198 Neolithic dolmens distributed in 10 necropolises.

Guadix, the district capital, has three clearly differentiated zones, the high, medieval and new. The first is where the cave houses are. The profusion of monuments in the medieval part

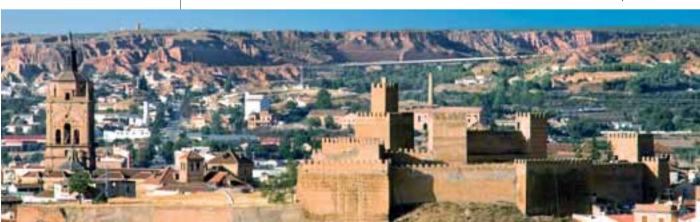


- Dolmen in Gorafe
 - Huélago
- Guadix: Alcazaba and Catedral
- Palace of Peñaflor
- Guadix, cave guarter
- Guadix Cathedral









El Marguesado, at the foot

South of Guadix, near the Sierra Nevada Mountains. is another series of small towns

La Calahorra, at the bottom of the way up to the **Puerto de** la Raqua, was the capital of the domains of Rodrigo de Mendoza. Marguis of Zenete, who gave his

name to the district. Its imposing Castle, built at the beginning of the 16th century to protect the area and the entrance to the Al-

pujarra, rises majestically over the only hill in the wide plains of the Marguesado. Also 16th century is the Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, which has a beautiful Mudejar coffered ceilina inside.

In the surrounding area are small towns like Ferreira. Dólar.



Cave houses in el Marchal

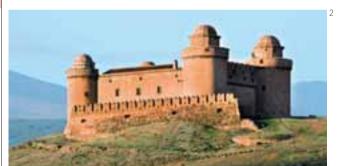
Rural detail of Lanteira

Alguife. Monument to the Miner.

Ceramics in Purullena

Cogollos de Guadix





of Sierra Nevada Mountains

Huéneja, Aldeire, Alguife, Lanteira, Jérez del Marquesado, Albuñán, and Cogollos de Guadix, which has an old Arab cistern. West of Guadix, only a few kilometres

away, is the town of Purullena. Inhabited since prehistory, it was the Roman Purul-

> lius, and later an Arab farmstead. Its ceramics of cobalt blue are highly valued ornaments.

The green Alhama and Fardes Valley opens out from this point, flanked on either side by the "badlands", arriving at the town of Lugros where it meets the Camarate Forest.









Granada and province

The Altiplano (high plateau)

he Altiplano, at an altitude of over 1000 m., occupies the flatlands in the northwest of the Province of Granada

It is surrounded by two Natural Parks, the Sierra de Castril to the West and the Sierra de Baza to the South, and to the East is bordered by the Sierra de Orce Mountains.

Along with Guadix and El Marquesado, this district offers tourist accommodations in caves, one of the most unique products of the Province.

Baza, the ancient Basti, founded in the 4th Century B.C. by the Iberian people, the Bastetanos, is the largest and most monumental in the district. Large numbers of remains of these early eras have been found at nearby sites, such as the Dama de Baza, which dates from the 4th century B.C.

56

Its heritage includes many monuments, especially the unconquerable ancient fortress, the Alcazaba, and the 8th century Almohad baths of Marzuela, the 16th century Church of Nuestra Señora de

- 1 . Baza Arab baths in Marzuela
- 2 Alcazaba de Baza
- 3 Baza, Castillian balconies
- 4 Baza, Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación Church
- 5 Arab tower and Hermitage in Cúllar
- 6 Cúllar Church of Santa María de la Anunciación
- 7 Cúllar . Palace of the Marquises of Cadimo
- 8 Negratin Reservoir









between Baza and Cúllar

la Encarnación, Enríquez Palace, Santo Domingo Convent, etc.

Cúllar is located in a luxuriant plain of fruit trees. The Arab tower is a medieval watchtower built in the 11th century which was the town's defence. Today it is attached to the Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza Hermitage.

In Constitution Square is the Palace of the Marquises of Cadimo, built in 1878 in late Renaissance style. On one side of the square is the Church of Santa María de la Anunciación, built in 1535 over a mosque.



Near Cúllar are **Benamaurel** and **Caniles**

A little further west, in the surroundings of the **Negratín Reservoir**, where such nautical sports as kayaking are available, are the towns of **Cortes de Baza**, **Cuevas del Campo**, **Freila** and **Zúiar**.







Granada and province

North of the Altiplano

orth of the **Altiplano** plateau, is a large zone that rises as it nears the surrounding mountains.

The Sierra de Castril
Natural Park is to the
northwest and the Castril
River crosses it from north
to South among the varied
fauna and flora. On the edge
of the Park, rises the town of Castril, typical mountain town in the
lee of a rock outcrop with the ruins
of a medieval fortress.

Nearby, 2383-m-high the Sierra de la **Sagra Mountains** shelter such rare species on the Peninsula as giant **sequoias**.

The **Puebla de Don Fadrique** is the northernmost town in the province, where many tourist routes start out from. A little further south, the noble houses of **Huéscar**, which still bear the coats of arms of noble families on their façades, stand out. The 16th-century Collegiatte Church of Santa María, the House of Penalva, the Santo Domingo Convent and the Church of Santiago, are the most significant monuments.

In nearby **Galera**, in addition to the Arab watchtower, are the Church of the Anunciación, the Archaeological Museum and the Tútugi necropolis, and many cave houses are scattered over the surrounding slopes, many of them tourist lodgings.

- 1 * Seguoia and the Sierra de la Sagra Mountains
- 2 Orce Archaeological Museum
- Panoramic view of Castril
 "Badlands" landscape
- + Dadiarius iariuscape
- 5 Cathedral in Huéscar
- 6 Cave houses in Galera
- 7 Castril River
- 8 Orce Castle





Some of the most important paleontological sites in Europe and Asia are in Orce, where evidence of human presence from one million four hundred thousand vears ago has been found. Many of these findings can be visited in the Archaeological Museum in the Palace of Los Segura. The Alcazaba de Siete Torres is an imposing 11th-century Arab fortress which has been declared a national monument.

The Church of Santa María and the Palace of los Belmonte, complete a rich heritage.







58

