



Diputación
de Granada



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Andalucía



Andalucía

Ediciones Turísticas y Culturales
Guía Turística Provincial de Granada



Guía Turística Provincial de Granada

granada

100%
sensación

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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.



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Bridge between East and West

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 valleys 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.



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 star.



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.



Winter

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.

- Western Granada
- 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



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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

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

A series of circumstances 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.



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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.

- 1 • Almuñécar Castle
- 2 • Guadix Cathedral
- 3 • Alhambra in Granada
- 4 • Church of the Incarnation in Alhama
- 5 • Arab baths 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.

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The Legado

Andalusí

The *Legado Andalusí* (Moorish Legacy) Foundation was created for the basic purpose of spreading its heritage and promoting the villages and little corners along the path it traced. It has created a number of routes, but their common denominator is that all of them meet in the city of Granada, last redoubt of the Moorish culture.

The Route of the Caliphate

It begins in the city of Córdoba and covers the Province of Granada, passing through Moclin, Colomera, Pinos Puente, Guevéjar, Cogollos-Vega, Alfacer, Viznar and Granada

The Route of Washington Irving

This route starts out in Seville and enters from the west passing through Loja, Huétor-Tajara, Moraleda de Zafayona, Alhama de Granada, Montefrío, Illora, Fuente Vaqueros, 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, Castriil, Galera, Orce, Cullar, Huércal Overa, Arboleas, Albos, Cantoria, Fines, Olula del Río, Macael, Purchena,

Tijola, Serón, Caniles, Baza, Gor, Guadix, Purullena, Lopera, Díezma, Huétor Santillán, Granada.

Route of the Almoravides

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

Route of the Nazarids

This begins in Málaga, Guadahortuna, Piñar, 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, Bubián, Cádiar, Torvizcón, Órgiva, Lanjarón, Dúrcal, Otura, Dílar, Gójar, La Zubia, Cájara, Huétor Vega, Granada

Route of Münzer

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

Route of Al-Idrisi

This begins in Málaga



and enters the province at Almuñécar, passing through Salobreña, Motril, El Valle de Lecrín and Granada.



Torre de Roma in Chauchina

La Puebla de Don Fadrique

Castriil Huéscar Orce

Baza

Yéhuda Ibn Tibon

- The Route of the Caliphate
- The Route of Washington Irving
- 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



Sun and sand

The 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.

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.

- 1 La Herradura beach
- 2 Panoramic view of Salobreña and Motril
- 3 Tropical crops
- 4 La Rijana beach
- 5 Sports activities



For snow lovers

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, competitions, ski jumps, extreme 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
- 4 • Sled
- 5 • Ski lift
- 6 • Ski competition
- 7 • Snowboard
- 8 • Panoramic view of Sierra Nevada



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Draco - Cultura

Rural

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



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.

Nature and

Active Tourism

20% of the Province of Granada is occupied by protected natural spaces, among which are five natural parks and one national park. Sierra Nevada National Park and adjacent natural park top the list, followed by others like the Sierra de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Natural Park, Sierra de Huétor Natural park, Sierra de Castril Natural Park and the Sierra de Baza Natural Park, not to forget such places as the Sagra, Orce or Contraviesa Mountains.

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



daring, but there are also less risky activities, like hiking, cycling or horseback riding, that allow you to enjoy the beautiful landscapes 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.



Health Tourism

Since antiquity, water has been the symbol of the fountain of youth because of its purifying and regenerative power which was associated with the gods.

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.



The Provincial cuisine

The 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.

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

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.



Festivals and traditions

The 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.

- 1 Festival of the Cascamorras
- 2 Day of the Cross
- 3 Ceramics in Guadix
- 4 Marquetry in the streets of Granada
- 5 Easter Week in Guadix
- 6 Working with esparto grass
- 7 Making marquetry
- 8 Ceramics
- 9 Festival of Christians and Moors



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Jesus David Forero

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.



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Congresses, incentives and events

Granada, 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



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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**



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



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- 1 • Celebration
- 2 • Panoramic view of the Conference and Exhibition Hall
- 3 • Carmen de los Mártires
- 4 • Main auditorium in the Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones
- 5 • 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.

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The Alhambra and Generalife

The **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



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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 Arra-yanes (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'.



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- 1 Palace of Carlos V
- 2 Fountain of Lions
- 3 Patio of Lions
- 4 La Alhambra from San Nicolás
- 5 Abencerrajes Room
- 6 Comares Palace
- 7 The Generalife

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 visit it every year.

The palaces, with their halls richly ornamented with tiles and plaster

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.



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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 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

- 1 ● Alcaicería
- 2 ● Capilla Real
- 3 ● Interior of the Cathedral
- 4 ● Parque de la Ciencias
- 5 ● Santa Ana Church
- 6 ● Gran Vía
- 7 ● San Jerónimo



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**.



Granada, monumental city

The **Carrera del Darro**, which separates the Alhambra from the Albaizín, starts out from the **Plaza Nueva**. 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 Albaiziín**, **Dar al-Horra Palace** and the **Alhambra**.



Other emblematic quarters of Granada are the **Realejo**, 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 of cultural interest", shines with a light of its own. It is considered the culmination of the end of the Spanish Baroque.



- 1 : Archaeological Museum
- 2 : Carrera del Darro
- 3 : Zambra in Sacromonte
- 4 : Cartuja Sacristy
- 5 : Albaizín, Mirador de San Cristóbal
- 6 : Dar al-Horra Palace
- 7 : Cartuja Monastery



García Lorca

and the Granada Vega (Plain)

The 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 Valderrubio**, 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.

- 1 Federico García Lorca
- 2 Federico García Lorca Park
- 3 Birthplace in Fuente Vaqueros
- 4 Huerta de San Vicente
- 5 Las Gabias
- 6 Santa Fe
- 7 Auditorium in Atarfe
- 8 Armilla City Centre
- 9 Chauchina landscape



The **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

and in the lee of Granada

The city of Granada is flanked by mountains in beautiful scenes.

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



nar. Others like **Huétor Santillán, Beas de Granada, Alfacar, Cogollos Vega, Güevéjar**, etc., spread over its hills, enjoying beautiful views of the capital and the plain.

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 Güéjar
- 5 • Vereda de la Estrella
- 6 • Huétor Vega
- 7 • Suspiro del Moro
- 8 • La Zubia

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**.



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, Ogijares, Gójar, Otura** and **Dílar** 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.



Sierra Nevada

all year long

The **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 of Granada.

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

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,

- 1 • Cycling up to Monachil
- 2 • Indoor pool
- 3 • Bridle paths
- 4 • Activities at Mirlo Blanco
- 5 • Trekking in winter
- 6 • Fauna in Sierra Nevada
- 7 • A rest on the way
- 8 • Winter begins in the mountains
- 9 • Gym at the sports club
- 10 • Hiking in spring



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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 **Borrequeiles** zone.

Valley of Lecrín and Los Guájares

On the road down from Granada to the coast is the **Valley of Lecrín**. 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.



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.



Before arriving at the coast, to the west, the valley 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.



- 1 • Restabal
- 2 • Albuñuelas, wash house and tower.
- 3 • Orange trees in the Valley of Lecrín
- 4 • Dúrcal
- 5 • Los Guájares
- 6 • Béznar Reservoir in the background
- 7 • Museo en Nigüelas



The high

Alpujarra

The 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**.

Because it was

inhabited by the Arabs for over 800 years, 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-**

neira, Bubi6n and Capileira. These three are clear examples of the typical Alpujarra town, and along with **Trev6lez**, 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 **Busquistar**, which is also located before the **Trev6lez Ravine**.

From there on, a series of towns along the road all have gorgeous views of the Contraviesa Mountains. **Ju6viles, B6rchules, Mecina Bombar6n, Yegen, V6lor, Nevada**, and others appear one by one

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



- 1 Chimneys in the Alpujarra
- 2 Museum and house in Bubi6n
- 3 Capileira with Veleta Peak in the background
- 4 Hand-woven rugs
- 5 Pitres, a rural detail
- 6 Detail of tinaos in Pampaneira
- 7 Ham in Trev6lez
- 8 Trev6lez and its river



The low Alpujarra

and Contraviesa Mountains

The Guadalfeo River and its affluent, the Chico River, flow together in the verdant plain where **Órgiva**, the gateway to the **Alpujarra** 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 Alpujarra, 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



- 1 • Ugijar
- 2 • Rural detail of Albondón
- 3 • Órgiva
- 4 • Torvizcón
- 5 • Órgiva, Mining Information Centre.
- 6 • Cádíar
- 7 • Contraviesa Mountains
- 8 • Winemaker in Albondón
- 9 • Sierra Nevada from the Contraviesa Mountains



of its Alpujarra houses climb up the sides of it.

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

Next to Lobras comes **Cádíar**, and a bit further on

Ugijar.



Western

Costa Tropical

The 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.



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- 1 • Almuñécar beach
- 2 • Cuisine
- 3 • Aquatic activities
- 4 • East Marina
- 5 • Panoramic of Salobreña
- 6 • Archaeological museum
- 7 • Sailing
- 8 • 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.

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Costa Tropical, from Motril to la Rábita

The 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**



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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.

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- 1 • Baños Castle
- 2 • Golf course in Motril
- 3 • Marina
- 4 • Pueblos de América Park
- 5 • View of Calahonda
- 6 • Castle and tower in La Rábita
- 7 • Castell de Ferro Beach
- 8 • Dawn in Castell de Ferro
- 9 • Carchuna Beach

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.

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**.



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North of Werstern

Granada

The 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.

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

- 1 • Illora, Church
- 2 • Moclin Castle Group
- 3 • Panoramic view of Loja
- 4 • Dolmen in Peña de los Gitanos
- 5 • Western Granada landscape
- 6 • Montefrío
- 7 • Trout in Riofrío



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 its 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.



Southern border

of Western Granada

The area in the south of **Western Granada** is a vast area of pasture-land 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 Mujer (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



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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 **Bermejales 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**, **Cacín** and **Ventas de Huelma**.



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- 1 • Los Bermejales Reservoir
- 2 • Hermitage in Arenas del Rey
- 3 • Alhama, Nazarid castle
- 4 • Panoramic view of Alhama
- 5 • Alhama, Encarnación Church
- 6 • Church in Jayena
- 7 • Sierra Tejeda Natural Park



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Guadix, El Marquesado

Crossroads 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.

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



includes the Alcazaba, the Cathedral, Palaces of Peñafior 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, Díezma, 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.

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- 1 • Dolmen in Gorafe
- 2 • Huélago
- 3 • Guadix: Alcazaba and Cathedral
- 4 • Palace of Peñafior
- 5 • Guadix, cave quarter
- 6 • Guadix Cathedral



El Marquesado, at the foot of Sierra Nevada Mountains

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 Ragua**, was the capital of the domains of Rodrigo de Mendoza, Marquis 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 Alpujarra, rises majestically over the only hill in the wide plains of the Marquesado. Also 16th century is the Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, which has a beautiful Mudejar coffered ceiling inside.

In the surrounding area are small towns like **Ferreira**, **Dólar**,

- 1 The town of La Calahorra
- 2 La Calahorra Castle
- 3 Cave houses in el Marchal
- 4 Rural detail of Lanteira
- 5 Alquife, Monument to the Miner.
- 6 Ceramics in Purullena
- 7 Cogollos de Guadix



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Huéneja, **Aldeire**, **Alquife**, **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 Purullius, 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.

Cortes and **Graena**, with its spas, Marchal with its cave houses and the Palace of los Gallardo, **Beas de Guadix** and **Policar** are other towns in this marvellous valley tinged with ochre and yellow with the arrival of autumn.

The Altiplano (high plateau)

The **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.

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, Castilian 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 Negratín Reservoir



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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 **Jújar**.



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North of the Altiplano

North 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 **Huércar**, which still bear the coats of arms of noble families on their façades, stand out. The 16th-century Collegiate 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 Sequoia and the Sierra de la Sagra Mountains
- 2 Orce Archaeological Museum
- 3 Panoramic view of Castril
- 4 "Badlands" landscape
- 5 Cathedral in Huércar
- 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 years 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.

