



Granada (1h drive) - Centuries ago it was the capital of the former kingdom of Granada and the Moorish Al - Andalus . In Granada you can find one of the most famous monuments in Spain , the Alhambra , a gigantic historic palace full of remnants of both Moorish and Catholic culture and UNESCO World Heritage Site . The Cathedral of Granada with the tomb chapel of the Catholic Monarchs (Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella of Castile) is one of the largest churches in Spain . The cultural wealth of the city , with influences from the Moors , Jews and Catholics make Granada one of the most important cultural centers of Spain . ATTENTION! If you wish to visit the Alhambra, book your tickets well in advance through the official website.

Cordoba (1h drive) - In the 10th century it was the second largest city in the world , with a population of 500,000 as unprecedented . Cordoba was the capital of the medieval Caliphate of Córdoba . From this glorious time numerous monuments remain, the most famous example is the Mezquita . Since 1984, the historical center of the city as a whole, is protected through the World Heritage List of UNESCO . The Mezquita is a unique architectural monument . It was built in the eighth century as a mosque , but partly , after the Christian takeover of Córdoba in the thirteenth century , converted into a cathedral of the Diocese of Córdoba. Over the centuries, several renovations took place , so now both Moorish and Christian influences are clearly recognizable . The nearby Alcazar palace of Cordoba , a fortress that was built under the orders of King Alfonso XI of Castile in 1328 , is also worth a visit.

Malaga (1h drive) - Taste the authentic atmosphere among the many attractions in Malaga . A few highlights include the recently redeveloped harbor , the Roman theater , the Gibralfaro Castle , Alcazaba , Plaza de Toros and the cathedral. The covered market is equally worth visiting ! And of course, the Picasso Museum and his birth house.

Seville (1.5 hours drive) - Seville is the capital of Andalusia , a beautiful , historic city and an extremely versatile travel destination . You'll find sun, light , hot weather , culture, history , folklore , and a sparkling outdoor and nightlife . The most important monuments of Seville Cathedral , the Giralda Tower, Alcazar Palace and Los Archivos de Indias . They are located on the same square and jointly declared World Heritage by UNESCO. Directly behind this group of monuments is the most characteristic and popular district of Seville; Santa Cruz . Known and popular is the Plaza de España (Spanish Square) in the lush María Luisa Park.

The Flamenco was born here , bullfighting is still practiced and experienced here , and with some regularity , there are processions to see, also beyond the famous Semana Santa and Feria de Seville.

Ronda (1.5 hours drive) - Ronda is situated in a mountainous region in central Andalusia, approximately 750 meters above sea level . The Guadalevín river splits the town in two and has a deep gorge known as El Tajo and across the three famous bridges of Ronda. During the Moorish domination, Ronda was the capital of the province Takurunna and later became an independent 'taifa '. Especially in this period, the historical center was shaped and the Baños Arabes ("Arab baths ") were built.

Archidona (25 minutes drive) - At the foothills of the **Sierra de Gracia**, is the welcoming village of Archidona.

MONUMENTS & PLACES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Plaza Ochavada

The most important place to visit in Archidona is the Plaza Ochavada. This is an octagonal plaza built between 1786 and 1789, the most important building constructed in the 18th century. Its style is the Spanish Baroque. The builders were the local master builders Francisco Astorga Frias and Antonio Gonzalez Sevillano. The plaza is totally enclosed and has three arches that allow communication with the outside world. Each of the eight facades is different but harmonic with the whole. The walls of the buildings are whitewashed, but there is red brick that gives a contrast. This structure is considered one of the

most important Baroque buildings in Andalusia, and one of the most beautiful. The plaza was used for bullfights until 1960. Today it contains the Town Hall and the Tourism Office beside it.

The Moorish Castle

At the time of the Moorish occupation it was impenetrable, with its three layers of ramparts protecting it and with an imposing rock face behind it.

The Hermitage of La Virgen de Gracia

This hermitage (ermita) and sanctuary is dedicated to the devotion of the patron saint, La Virgen de la Gracia. This is a unique site in Andalusia because it has been built on the original site of the Arabic Mosque, while all others were destroyed.

Antequera (30 minutes) - Antequera lies at the foot of the mountain range of El Torcal and El Arco Calizo chimenea , 575 m above sea level. The town overlooks a fertile valley on the south side adjacent to the Sierra de los Torcales and on the north side of the river Guadalhorce . The location of the city is impressive, with many remains of ancient walls and a Moorish castle, which towers on a rocky spur above the city .

In the immediate vicinity of the city lies the saltwater lagoon Fuente de Piedra , one of the few breeding grounds of the Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) in Europe . On the other side of the river Guadalhorce is remarkable Peña de los Enamorados (' Rock of Lovers ') , named after the legend of a young Christian and Moorish lover who together rock jumps while they were being chased by Moorish soldiers.

The nature reserve El Torcal de Antequera on July 18, 1989 declared a natural park , which enjoys special protection. The curious rock formations of the mountains were once seabed caused by the upward pressure of volcanic activity in combination with wind erosion . The area has a unique flora and fauna . The relatively small area (11.7 km ² within the nature reserve) is one of the most impressive limestone landscapes in Europe . Geologically speaking , the area can be divided into different zones : Sierra Pelada , Torcal Alto , Torcal Bajo , Tajos and Laderas.

The Nacimiento del Río de la Villa : in this valley rises the river that flows through Antequera , at the foot of the El Torcal de Antequera nature . This place is for Antequera very important , because here the water bubbles up from the ground, which is used by the city. For its drinking water supply In addition, the place appointed as a recreation place with benches , an artificial lake and a campground .

Important buildings include the many beautiful churches , the 18th- century Palace of Nájera , now the Municipal Museum and the Real Colegiata de Santa María la Mayor in the early 16th century , a national monument that overlooks the whole town. Another church , the Iglesia del Carmen , was completely renovated in 2008 . The church is a fine example of Baroque architecture which many churches in Antequera are characterized and now serves as a museum .

The arena , dating from 1848 , is from 1984 rebuilt in a style different architectural influences of the city reflects and is widely regarded as one of the finest arenas in Spain .

Antequera holds valuable archaeological heritage dating back to 2500 BC . In the neighborhoods east of the city is one of the largest burial mounds in Spain , the Dolmen de Menga dating from the Bronze Age , with underground chambers to a depth of 20 m have been excavated . In addition, one can still see two mounds : Dolmen de Viera Dolmen del Romeral .

Was by chance the existence of the Roman baths discovered at the foot of the Real Colegiata de Santa María la Mayor , on a steep slope of the land in 1998. It is a public bath complex with some structures that are dated around the middle of the 1st century AD . Also on the outskirts of the city , when one enters from the direction of Antequera Malaga , there are remains of a thermal complex found . From the road you can see the remains of a 53 -meter pool .

On a hill in the historic part of the city rises a Moorish fortress . This is from 2006 to 2008 and renovated in late 2008 opened again to the public. The wall system of the Islamic medina consists of two parts : the " Alcazaba " itself , which took the entire hilltop seized , and a second ring , which runs down from the Puerta de la Villa , went to the Postigo del Agua and ' Puerta de Málaga ' (Gate of Málaga) , and then return to the Alcazabe , near the " Torre Blanca " (White Tower) , which served as a residential tower back. The main tower is

the ' Torre del Homenaje " , square in design and which was used by the soldiers . Mainly One enters the tower through a portcullis flanked by two massive pillars smooth . The tower has several floors . Atop the tower is in the year 1582 , after Antequera was recaptured from the Moors , a bell tower built. The bell tower houses the largest bell of the city .

Near the entrance of the Alcazaba , the Arco de los gigantes. This impressive triumphal arch , designed by the architect Francisco de Azurriolawerd , was built in the year 1585.