



Granada Province

POP 918,072

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Best Places to Eat

- » Oliver (p246)
- » Ruta del Azafrán (p243)
- » Bodegas Castañeda (p247)
- » Baraka (p257)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Posada del Toro (p305)
- » Santa Isabel la Real (p306)
- » Apartamentos Turísticos San Matías (p305)

Why Go?

Granada has it all: the looks, the jewels, the sense of fun, a streetwise edge and, while the magnificent Alhambra continues to count among the country's 'do before you die' sights, there is so much more to this Andalusian star city. The old Islamic quarter of the Albayzín is another of Granada's gems; its whitewashed houses and steep narrow streets wind up the hill of the former Islamic quarter like a tangled string of pearls. City-wide, discover evocative architecture, traditional (and innovative) bars and restaurants and the youthful vivacity of a university city, along with some of the best nightlife in the province.

And the province of Granada offers more surprises; there's skiing and climbing in the snowy Sierra Nevada, and walking in the amazing Las Alpujarras. You can check out cave life on the Altiplano (high plain) or forget it all and go swimming and sunbathing on the Costa Tropical on Granada's Mediterranean coastline.

Driving Distances (km)

Guadix	52			
Almuñécar	80	132		
Treveléz	74	76	65	
Pampaneira	58	92	49	16
	Granada	Guadix	Almuñécar	Treveléz

DON'T MISS

The Palacios Nazaríes, the stunning highlight of the city's fabled Alhambra.

Best Flamenco Venues

- » Le Chien Andalou (p249)
- » Eshavira (p249)
- » Al Sur de Granada (p248)

Best for Quality Souvenirs

- » Tienda Librería de la Alhambra (p249)
- » Artesanías González (p249)
- » Nade Taller del Telar (p259)

Resources

- » **Turismo de Granada** (www.turismodegranada.org) Provincial tourist office.
- » **Walking in the Alpujarras** (www.walking.demon.co.uk) Invaluable guide to trails.
- » **Ayuntamiento de Granada** (www.granada.org) Government website with good maps; click on 'La Ciudad.'
- » **Granada Information** (www.granadainfo.com/english) General guide to Granada.

Getting Around

Buses connect even the tiniest villages with the city of Granada, but a car enables flexibility and some dramatic drives. Yet a car can be a liability in the city, with its gnarled mess of unsigned streets, many closed to all but taxis and buses. Ideally, plan your trip so you're car-free for your Granada stay, or leave your car in a (costly) underground car park for the duration. Trains are of limited help – the only stops are Granada and Guadix.

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Day 1: Granada's Islamic Heritage

Start your sightseeing early, with a morning visit to the Moorish palaces of the Alhambra. For lunch, sample Spanish–Middle East fusion at **Ruta del Azafrán**, then retire for a well-deserved siesta. In the late afternoon, head uphill again, this time to the winding streets of the Albayzín district and the fantastic sunset vistas from the **Mirador San Nicolás**, followed by tapas at **El Aji** and other bars on this plaza.

Day 2: City Pleasures

Pay your respects to Fernando and Isabel at their final resting place in Granada's **Capilla Real**, then treat yourself to ice cream at **Los Italianos** and a bit of shoe shopping around Plaza Bib-Rambla. Elbow up to the bar for a seafood lunch at **Oliver** or **Los Diamantes**. After a siesta, you might need just one more small ice cream... Later, it's off for tapas at iconic bars such as **Bodegas Castañeda**. If you're still feeling lively, drop by **Eshavira** for a late-night flamenco session.

Day 3: Alpujarran Idyll

In the mountains south of Granada, get into the slow groove of village life in Pitres, then set out on foot for the villages just downhill, descending all the way to a centuries-old bridge over a rushing river. After your hike back up, you'll have an appetite for the delectable food at **L'Atelier**. Crawl into bed and enjoy the silence, broken only by the occasional goat bell.

Accommodation

Unsurprisingly, Granada has no shortage of hotels, as well as a good range in all categories, including less expensive options. Elsewhere, Las Alpujarras has a solid choice of rustic-style small hotels and apartments which get booked up fast at holiday time, particularly Easter. Read all about hotel choices in our dedicated Accommodation chapter (p288).