



Practical Provincial Guide / Map

Andalucía



# Granada



## Art and Culture Handicrafts Festivals and Traditions Gastronomy

Andalucía

The **Alhambra and the Generalife**, which together with the Moorish quarter of **El Albaicín** have been declared **World Heritage Sites** by UNESCO, are just a part of Granada's impressive **wealth of monuments**. This is shown by the fact that as many as **15 towns and villages** in the province have been designated **Sites of Historic Interest**.



As is demonstrated by the **198 dolmens** found in **Gorafe**, Granada has been inhabited since **prehistoric times**, and ancient peoples such as the **Phoenicians and the Carthaginians** found its **coast** the ideal place to develop their commercial activities. A good example of this is the **Punic-Roman fish salting factory** in **Almuñécar**. Throughout their seven centuries of occupation, the **Moors** constructed **fortresses, baths, and watchtowers**, and during their period of rule, Granada, which was then the capital of the **Nasrid Kingdom**, was the most advanced cultural centre in the western world. In 1492 the city finally fell to the **Catholic Monarchs**, after the capitulation of King Boabdil.



The **Christians** brought new artistic trends which were used in constructions like the **Castle of La Calahorra**, which contains a renaissance palace inside its walls. Numerous artistic treasures dating from this period can be seen in the **55 provincial museums** or by following the cultural **routes** which feature **Granada's Andalusí legacy**.



Granada's **crafts** are the result of the **assimilation of the skills and traditions** of the ancient **cultures** which have settled in the area throughout the centuries, giving them a uniquely distinctive style and personality. This can be seen in the production of **pottery and ceramics**, which is based on diverse **techniques and materials** such as those used by the Phoenicians to make their **earthenware pots** or the spectacular **ceramic pieces** created by the Muslims during the **Nasrid period**. The **taracea**, which combines the art of fine carpentry with the incrustation of metals and other elements, and the manufacturing of hand-crafted **guitars** by **luthiers** are two of the traditional crafts for which Granada's artisans are widely renowned. Granada's **metal craftsmen** produce a variety of wrought iron objects including the typical **lantern** and there is a thriving **textile industry**, particularly in the Alpujarras, where the traditional colourful **jarapas** are woven on looms, using a range of off-cuts from other materials. Other types of crafts which continue to be important throughout the province include **leatherwork and saddlery, esparto work, jewellery, and glass making**.



Used as the setting for films such as *Al sur de Granada* or *Tirante el Blanco*, Granada boasts a rich and **varied festive calendar** which offers a whole range of interesting **cultural events**. As well as the **Easter Week** celebrations, the **May Crosses** and the festivity dedicated to the **Virgen del Carmen** (which is celebrated in coastal areas with a picturesque maritime procession), there are two other kinds of festivals which are particularly popular in the province: the **Moors and Christians festivals**, which in places like Válor are especially colourful and deeply rooted, and the **"Cascamorras" festival** held in **Guadix**, in which a scruffy looking figure tries to steal the image of the Virgen de la Piedad which is kept in Baza. Granada's wide-ranging programme of cultural and artistic events includes the highly prestigious **International Festival of Music and Dance**, whose origins date back to 1883, featuring prestigious orchestras and dance companies and attracting more than 3,000 spectators every year. Other events of interest include the **Hocus Pocus Festival of Magic** and the **International Jazz Festival** (both in Granada itself), the **Jazz on the Costa Festival** in Almuñécar, the **Andrés Segovia Classical Guitar Competition** in La Herradura, and the **Parapanda Folk Festival** in Illoira, amongst many others.

Granada's varied gastronomy, with its uniquely distinctive range of **tapas**, is equally influenced by its rich **cultural legacy**, its **unique topography**, and its **climate**. Thus, whilst the **Vega** provides the vegetables and pulses which are used to prepare **salads** and a variety of **cold soups**, inland the cold



temperatures make hearty **stews, potages and broths** more popular and these are cooked with various types of **meat** including the exquisite **segureño lamb**. The cuisine of the **Alpujarras** area, with its rich variety of **cured meats** (particularly the renowned **Jamón produced in Trevélez**) is in stark contrast to that of the **Costa Tropical**, which is based on **tropical fruits and fresh seafood**. The province's most emblematic products are protected by **five Denominations of Origin** ("Montes de Granada" and "Poniente de Granada" olive oils, "Miel de Granada" honey, "Chirimoya de la Costa Tropical de Granada-Málaga" cherimoyas, and "Espárrago de Huétor Tájar" asparagus). There is also the prestigious **caviar from Riofrío**, the only one produced from Spanish beluga sturgeon. Also typical of Granada are the wines from the four zones recognised under the **Vino de la Tierra** designation, and the **traditional cakes and pastries** produced in the province's convents.

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# Routes

## Granada

### Granada and its surroundings

This route covers a series of towns historically linked to the capital and birthplace of poet **Federico García Lorca**. It starts in the floodplains and passes through: **Santa Fe**, once the military headquarters of the Catholic Monarchs; **Vegas del Genil**; **Las Gabias**; **La Malahá**, with its medicinal waters; and **Otura**, which is close to the famous spot **Suspiro del Moro**. Along the banks of the River Genil, are the towns of **Atarfe** and **Pinos Puente**, which both have important **archaeological sites**. Near to the **Cubillas Reservoir** are the villages of **Peligros**, **Calicasas**, **Pulianas**, and **Jun**, and the area makes up part of the **Sierra de Huétor nature park**.



### Las Alpujarras and Lecrín Valley Route

Picturesque **white villages** nestling into the hillsides tell us that we are in the **Las Alpujarras**, a mountainous area with a uniquely distinctive **popular architecture**. The breathtaking **landscapes** include sites such



explore the **Sierra de Baza** and **Sierra de Castril nature parks** on the well marked network of paths, or perhaps try **paragliding** from the **Pico Jabalcón peak**, or fishing in the **Negratín reservoir**.

### The Costa Tropical Route

This was the initial landing point of powerful civilisations such as the Phoenicians, who founded **Sexí** (Almuñécar) and



as the **Barranco del Poqueira gorge**, where the villages of **Pampaneira**, **Bubión**, and **Capileira** are situated. Passing through **Lanjarón**, famous for its healthy **spa waters**, we climb to **Trevélez**, the highest village in Spain, and a place which is widely renowned for its exquisite **hams**.

**Salambina** (Salobreña), and its rich historic legacy includes **Moorish castles and towers**, Roman **aqueducts**, and the **Cave of Los Murciélagos** in Albuñol, as well as the **Puente de Noy Phoenician Necropolis** and the **Punic-Roman Fish Salting Factory**, both of which are in **Almuñécar**. The **subtropical climate**, which permits the cultivation of delicious **tropical fruits**, makes the **beaches of Castell de Ferro**, **Calahonda**, **Castillo de Baños**, **La Mamola**, **La Rábita**, **Motril**, or **Polopos** the perfect destination for lovers of **water sports and diving**.

### The Guadix and El Marquesado Route

A crossroads of civilisations and cultures since the earliest of times, the municipalities of Guadix and El Marquesado contain the remains of what was Roman **Acci** (Guadix) as well as the largest concentration of **dolmens** in the whole of Andalusia, in **Gorafe**, now a **Megalithic Theme Park**. The impressive Cathedral in **Gua-**



**dix**, the **La Calahorra Palace-Castle**, and the **Baths of Alicún** are all well worth a visit. In an area of contrasting landscapes, a feature of great interest are the **cave dwellings**, hewn out of the rock.

### The El Poniente Route

Situated right on the west of the province, El Poniente is notable for its **rich and varied landscapes** and the **Sieras de Tejeda**, **Almijara y Alhama nature park**. Forming the frontier between the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada and the territories controlled by the Christians, it is notable for the Arabic **fortresses of Illoira**, **Moclin**, **Zagra** and **Montefrío**, as well as the **Alcazaba** in **Loja**, and the **Thermal Baths of Alhama de Granada**. Also of interest are the **megalithic burial area in the Peña de los Gitanos** and the **dolmens of Sierra Martilla**.



### The Sierra Nevada Route

With the highest peaks in the Iberian Peninsula, those of **Mulhacén** and **Veleta**, the Sierra Nevada is characterised by small villages with a **Morisco**



**flavour**, surrounded by spectacular **countryside**. Apart from its outstanding **gastronomy**, the area offers a range of options for **active tourism** which would be difficult to match. There are a number of walking routes beginning in **Güéjar Sierra** including that of **Vereda de la Estrella** which takes in the **Quéntar** and **Canales reservoirs**, near to Cenes de la Vega and Pinos Genil, whilst in **Huétor Vega** it is still possible to follow the picturesque **Camino de los Neveros**. The **Sierra Nevada National Park** and the **Mountain Ski Station** in Monachil, are places that should definitely not be missed.

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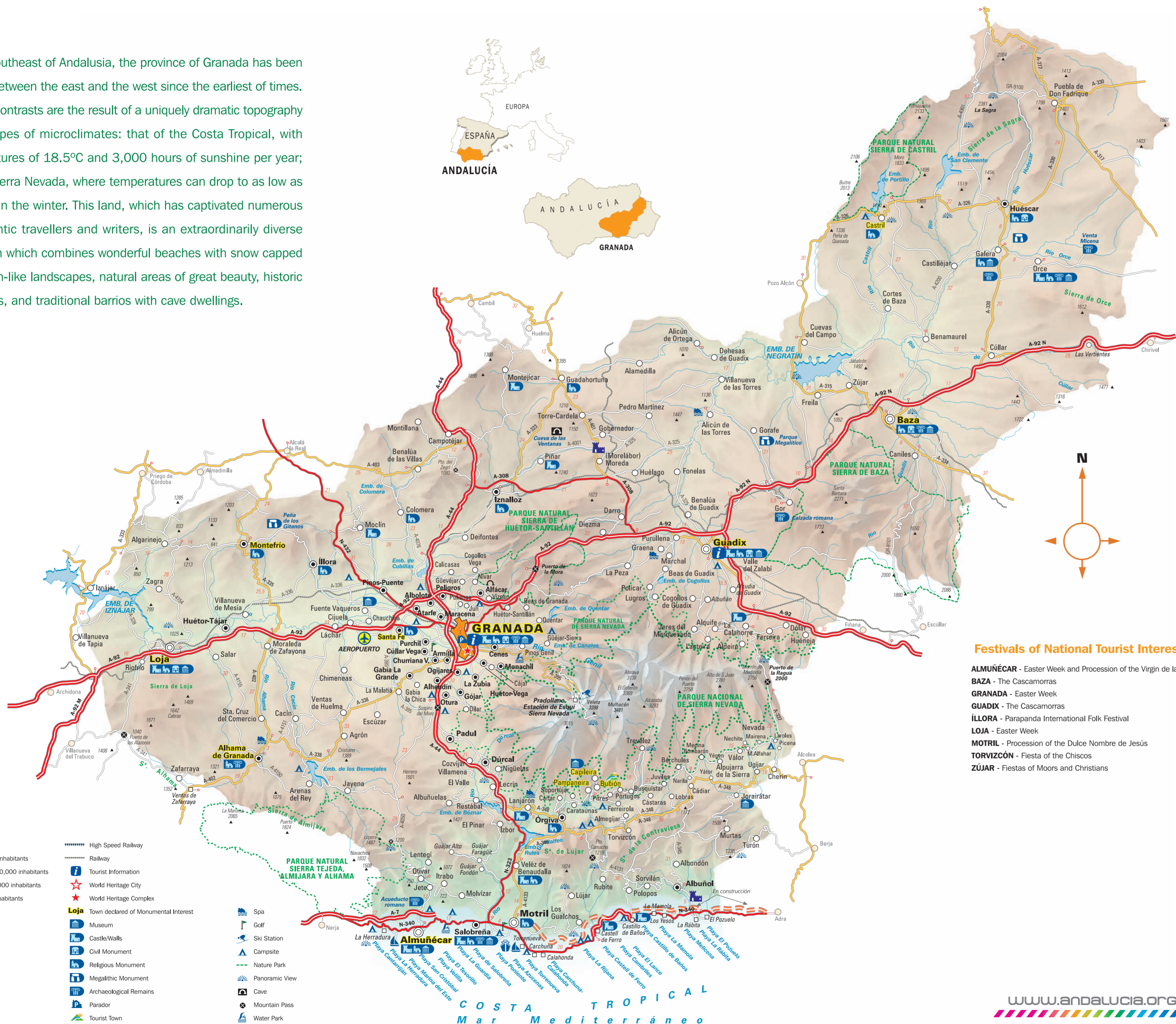
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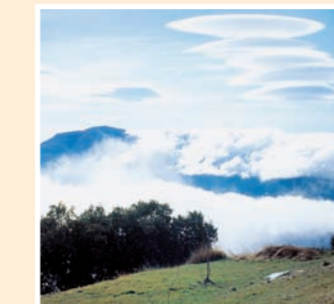
# Granada



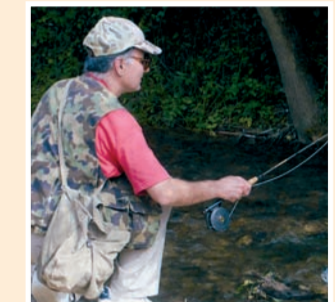
Situated to the southeast of Andalusia, the province of Granada has been a meeting point between the east and the west since the earliest of times. Its stark climatic contrasts are the result of a uniquely dramatic topography which has two types of microclimates: that of the Costa Tropical, with average temperatures of 18.5°C and 3,000 hours of sunshine per year; and that of the Sierra Nevada, where temperatures can drop to as low as 35°C below zero in the winter. This land, which has captivated numerous celebrated romantic travellers and writers, is an extraordinarily diverse tourist destination which combines wonderful beaches with snow capped mountains, dream-like landscapes, natural areas of great beauty, historic towns and villages, and traditional barrios with cave dwellings.



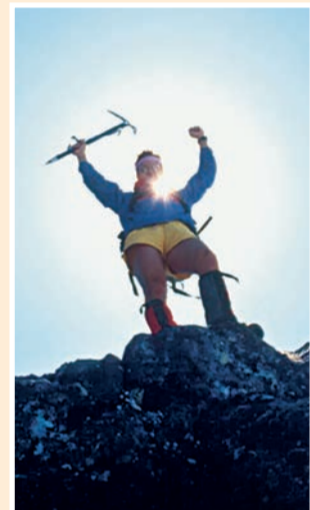
## Nature and Active Tourism



The province's huge variety of landscapes range from the snow topped peaks of the Sierra Nevada and the sea of clouds you can often see beneath you in the Alpujarras, to the idyllic coves and inlets on the Costa Tropical or the clay hillsides of the Altiplano or high plateau. Granada's 73 km of coastline is dotted with numerous beaches which have been awarded the EU Blue Flag, as well as a number of marinas (in Motril and Almuñécar) and splendid seabed locations (La Herradura, Acanalados de Maro-Cerro Gordo, and Calahonda) which are a true paradise for divers. has an impressive natural heritage, the most important



area being the Sierra Nevada, which was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1986, and then acquired the status of Nature Park in 1989, and National Park in 1999. This mountain range is home to the highest summits in the Iberian Peninsula (Mulhacén and Veleta) and provides a habitat for more than 60 indigenous



plant species as well as the Spanish ibex. The province has four other nature parks (Sierra de Castril, Sierra de Baza, Sierra de Huétor and Sierras de Tejada, Almiraja y Alhama) and numerous areas of outstanding natural beauty (La Sagra, Sierra de Orce, Sierra de Lújar...), all of which are ideal for walking, horse riding, or mountain biking. For lovers of alpine sports the Sierra Nevada Ski Station offers 84 km of slopes, which the La Ragua pass, which is situated at more than 2,000 metres in altitude, is ideal for cross country skiing. Other places for outdoor activities include the Riofrio Intensive Fishing Reserve; the peaks and grottoes of the Sierra de Castril, with good potholing locations; the Del Negratín and De los Bermejales reservoirs; golf courses (De Las Gabias and Motril); the River Verde, which is ideal for abseiling; and areas with good landing and take off sites for free flying such as the Sierra de Loja, the area surrounding Almuñécar, and the Pico Jabalcón peak.

## Festivals of National Tourist Interest

- ALMUÑÉCAR - Easter Week and Procession of the Virgin of la Antigua
- BAZA - The Cascamorras
- GRANADA - Easter Week
- GUADIX - The Cascamorras
- ILLORA - Parapanda International Folk Festival
- LOJA - Easter Week
- MOTRIL - Procession of the Dulce Nombre de Jesús
- TORVIZCÓN - Fiesta of the Chiscos
- ZÚJAR - Fiestas of Moors and Christians

## Tourist Offices

<b>ALHAMA DE GRANADA</b> OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Palacete de la Najara, Avda. de Europa, s/n ☎ 958 300 696	<b>OFICINA DE TURISMO DE LA JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA</b> Avda. del Generalife, s/n La Alhambra ☎ 958 544 002	<b>LANJARÓN</b> OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Avda. de la Alpujarra, s/n ☎ 958 770 462	<b>ORCE</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Tendas, 18 ☎ 958 746 171
<b>ALMUÑÉCAR</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Palacete de la Najara, Avda. de Europa, s/n ☎ 958 631 125	<b>OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA</b> Plza. Mariana Pineda, 10 bajo ☎ 958 247 128	<b>LOJA</b> OFICINA TURISMO ESPACIO JOVEN Comedias, s/n ☎ 958 323 949	<b>SALOBREÑA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza de Goya, s/n ☎ 958 610 314
<b>BAZA</b> OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Plaza Mayor, 2 ☎ 958 861 325	<b>OFICINA DE TURISMO DEL AEROPUERTO</b> ☎ 958 245 269	<b>MONTEFRÍO</b> OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Plaza de España, 1 ☎ 958 336 004	<b>SANTA FE</b> OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Puerta de Sevilla- Isabel La Católica, 7 ☎ 958 513 110
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