

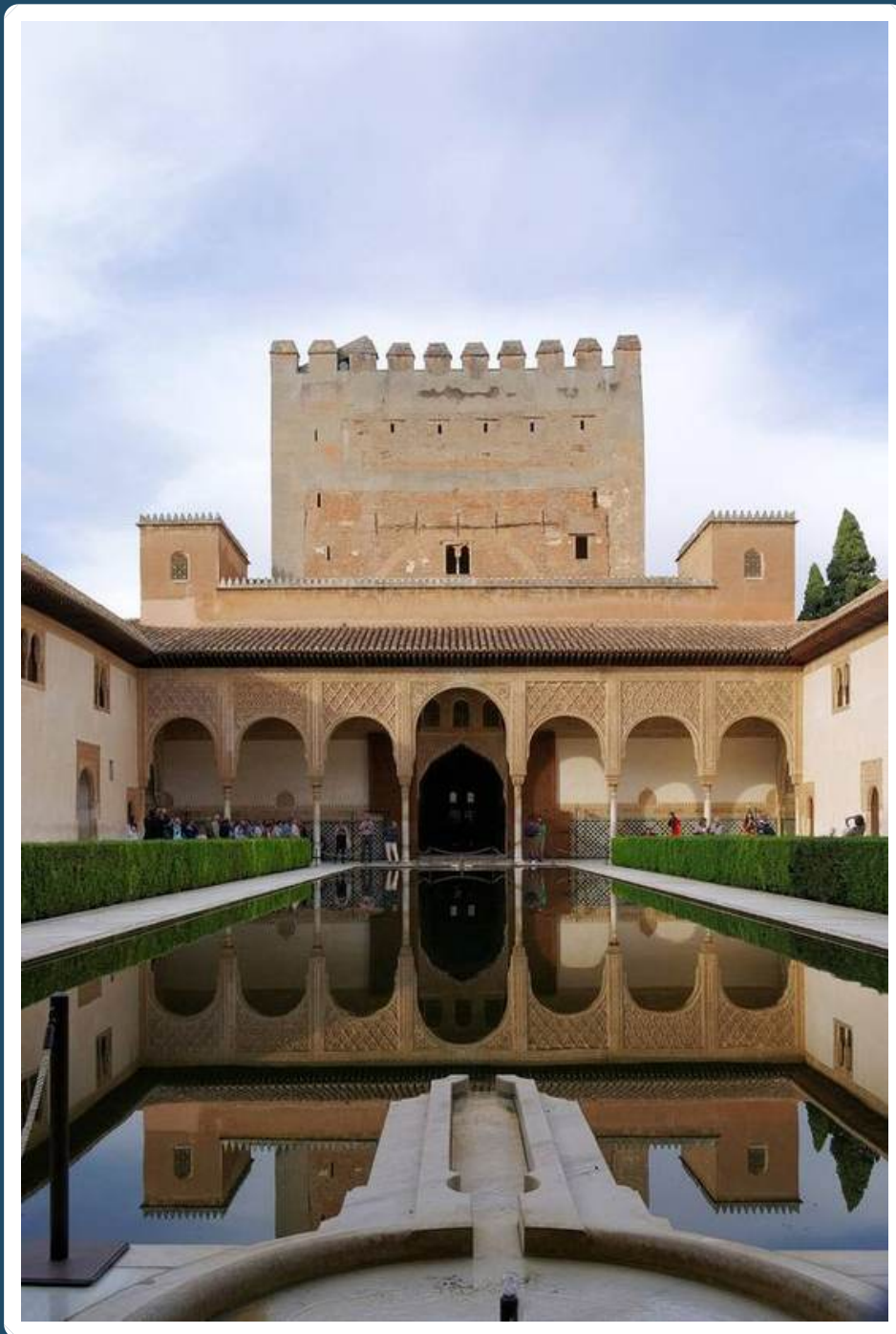


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FREE GUIDE · GRANADA

The Alhambra

The Nasrid Palaces, the Alcazaba and the Generalife — the 7 must-see stops of the Nasrid palace-city, explained one by one



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Your visit at a glance

The Alhambra is no ordinary monument: it's a Nasrid palace-city raised on the red hill of the Sabika, with a fortress, palaces and gardens that make up the best-preserved complex of Islamic architecture in the West and one of the most visited places in Spain. It's so vast and there's so much to take in that trying to see it all in a rush is the perfect recipe for walking out exhausted without having enjoyed a thing. The trick: go straight for the essentials. This tour brings together the seven must-see stops—from the Alcazaba to the Generalife by way of the Nasrid Palaces—, with the context to understand why they're a marvel of plaster, water and light, and 1, 2 and 3-hour routes according to the time you have. **KEY WARNING:** entry to the Nasrid Palaces carries an assigned **TIME** printed on your ticket; be punctual, because if you're more than 30 minutes late they can turn you away with no refund.

At a glance

PRICE

€22.27 general · €14.85 reduced

HOURS

08:30-20:00 (summer) · until 18:00 (winter)

STOPS

The 7 must-sees

BOOKING

Compulsory online · fixed time for the Nasrid Palaces

TIME

About 3 h for the full tour

GETTING THERE

C30/C32 minibus or on foot



Part of Tickets Visit

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With this free guide you already do a great visit: the essentials, with a route. If you want to make the most of it, at the end I'll show you the complete version.

Before you go in: book your skip-the-line ticket

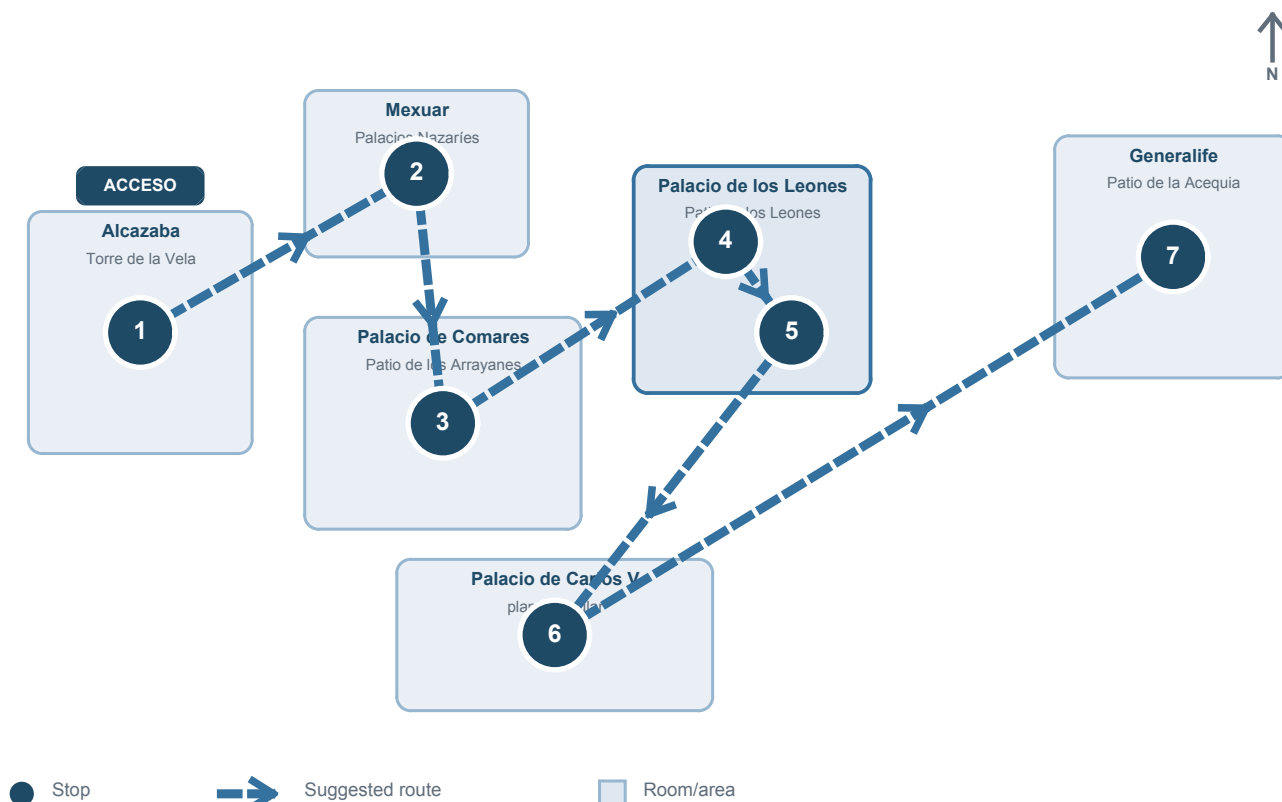
On Civitatis, with free cancellation. Skip the ticket-office queue.

» **Buy your ticket**

The map and the route

The grounds are large and almost all uphill, so reckon on about 3 hours and organise yourself around your Nasrid Palaces time slot, the only thing with a fixed hour. Start at the ALCAZABA (1) and climb the Torre de la Vela for the views. Then enter the NASRID PALACES at your time, in order: the Mexuar (2), the Court of the Myrtles and the Hall of the Ambassadors (3), the Court of the Lions (4) and the Halls of the Abencerrajes and the Two Sisters (5). On the way out you have the Palace of Charles V (6) and, across the grounds, the GENERALIFE (7). If your Nasrid time is in the afternoon, do the Alcazaba and the Generalife first. Bring water, comfortable shoes and your ID or passport.

LA ALHAMBRA · RECINTO DE OESTE A ESTE (ESQUEMA, NO A ESCALA)



El conjunto se lee de oeste (la Alcazaba militar) a este. En el centro, los Palacios Nazaríes; el Palacio de Carlos V queda adosado por el sur, y el Generalife, al este, separado por un barranco. No a escala.

Visiting order: ALCAZABA: 1 Torre de la Vela — NASRID PALACES (your time): 2 The Mexuar › 3 Court of the Myrtles and Hall of the Ambassadors › 4 Court of the Lions › 5 Abencerrajes and Two Sisters — 6 Palace of Charles V — GENERALIFE: 7 Court of the Water Channel

Schematic layout by area; the number shows the visiting order. Not to scale: follow the museum's own floor plans and signs on the day.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

1

The Alcazaba and the Torre de la Vela

Western end of the grounds · 30 min

A 13th-century red fortress, the oldest area. Climb the Torre de la Vela: the best viewpoint in Granada, with the Albaicín, the Sacromonte and the Sierra Nevada in the background.



The Torre de la Vela, in the Alcazaba, with Granada and the Sierra Nevada behind.

Photo: Jebulon · CC0 · Wikimedia Commons



CLIMB TO THE TOP

The 360° views from the Torre de la Vela, the Plaza de Armas and the foundations of the military quarter.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

The bell of this tower rings only on one very special day of the year, and an old Granada legend promises something very specific to whoever makes it sound. In the full guide we tell you the date, the promise and what was celebrated here in 1492.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

3

The Court of the Myrtles and the Hall of the Ambassadors

Palace of Comares · 25 min

The Myrtle pool reflects the Comares Tower in the most iconic image. Inside, the Hall of the Ambassadors was the throne room, crowned by a cedar dome with more than 8,000 pieces.



The Court of the Myrtles reflecting the Comares Tower.

Photo: Benjamin Smith · CC BY-SA 4.0 ·
Wikimedia Commons



FIND THE REFLECTION

The reflection in the pool; the cedarwood dome of the hall (the seven heavens); the plasterwork and inscriptions on the walls.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

Under the dome of this hall, tradition has it, one of the most dramatic decisions in Spain's history was taken. In the full guide we tell you what it was and where the sultan sat so the ambassadors could see only his silhouette against the light.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

4

The Court of the Lions

Palace of the Lions · 25 min

The monument's most famous image: 124 marble columns and the fountain on twelve lions. The four channels running from the centre represent the rivers of paradise.



The fountain of the twelve lions, in the Palace of the Lions.

Photo: Jebulon · CC0 · Wikimedia Commons



DON'T MISS THIS

The fountain of the twelve lions, the forest of columns and the muqarnas arches that ring the courtyard.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

The ingenious hydraulic system of the fountain and the legends surrounding its twelve lions, told in detail in the full guide.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

7

The Generalife and the Court of the Water Channel

Hill of the Sun, to the east · 30 min

The sultans' pleasure estate, on the other side of the grounds. Its jewel is the Court of the Water Channel, with jets that cross over a channel. It offers the best views of the complex.



*The Court of the Water Channel,
in the gardens of the Generalife.*

Photo: Andrew Dunn · CC BY-SA 2.0 ·
Wikimedia Commons



THE FINAL SYNTHESIS

The crossed jets of the Court of the Water Channel, the terraced gardens and the views of the Alhambra from the belvederes.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

The full story of this stop (twice the text), its «ONE FACT» box and all 7 stops of the route, one by one.

Practical tips

Buy your ticket in advance

The Alhambra is one of the most visited monuments in Spain and sells out days or weeks ahead, especially in summer and on long weekends. Book online as soon as you can: the Nasrid Palaces carry an exact TIME printed on the ticket. Arrive at the grounds with time to spare and don't miss your slot, because if you're more than 30 minutes late they can turn you away with no refund.

Best times

Choose the first slot in the morning (from 08:30) or the last of the afternoon: fewer people and better light. In summer, avoid the middle of the day, when the heat and lack of shade really bite. The night visit to the Palaces is an experience in itself, highly recommended.

Accessibility and services

The grounds are large, cobbled and full of slopes and steps, but there's an adapted itinerary that avoids much of the unevenness and reaches many of the key points; it's worth checking beforehand with the Board of Trustees. There are toilets, water points and a café, but few and widely spread out: use them when you see them.

With children

The Generalife, with its fountains and gardens, and the courtyards are what most captivates the little ones; turn the twelve lions and the muqarnas into a game of spotting details. It's a lot of ground and all uphill, so bring water, a hat and comfortable shoes, and don't set it up as a marathon.

What to bring (and not forget)

Comfortable shoes for the cobbles, water, a hat and sun protection in summer. And most important: your ID or passport, because the ticket is nominative and they ask for it at the entrance to the Nasrid Palaces. Without the document, even with your ticket, you can be left outside.

Combine it

Devote another half day to the Albaicín and its Mirador de San Nicolás —the best view of the Alhambra—, to the Sacromonte of the flamenco caves and to the centre (Cathedral and Royal Chapel, where the Catholic Monarchs rest). And don't leave Granada without going for tapas.

Practical info

Getting there: the Alhambra sits at the top of a demanding hill. From the centre (Plaza Nueva) the C30 and C32 minibuses go up; on foot, via the Cuesta de Gómelez. There's paid parking next to the entrance. Booking: buying online in advance is COMPULSORY for the Nasrid Palaces, which have an assigned TIME; it sells out days or weeks ahead. Guide prices (August 2026, check with the Board of Trustees): Alhambra General (Nasrid Palaces + Alcazaba + Generalife) around €22.27 online; Gardens, Generalife and Alcazaba (without the Palaces) around €12.73; night visit to the Palaces around €12.73; reduced (over-65s, 12-15 year-olds, large families) around €14.85; under-12s free (but they still need a ticket). Hours: daytime visit 08:30-18:00 (winter) and 08:30-20:00 (summer). Documentation: an ID or passport is essential at the entrance (nominative ticket). Confirm hours and fares on the official website before you travel.

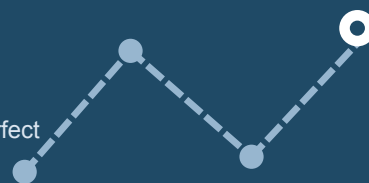
Official website: www.alhambra-patronato.es

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Build your day-by-day route, discover what to see nearby and plan the perfect itinerary around the city. Free, no sign-up.

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THE COMPLETE VERSION

Take the complete visit

With this free guide you already cover the essentials. The PREMIUM is your complete visit to The Alhambra: every work with its story, a 3-step looking guide for every painting, the cheat-sheet for your phone and the tips to skip the queues. For less than the price of a coffee.

In the free guide you miss out on:

- 2 The Mexuar**
Entrance to the Nasrid Palaces · 10 min
- 5 Hall of the Abencerrajes and Hall of the Two Sisters**
Palace of the Lions · 20 min
- 6 The Palace of Charles V**
Next to the Nasrid Palaces · 20 min

PREMIUM Guide · The Alhambra

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For comparison: a guided tour costs €30-60 per person. This guide walks you through with the same detail, everyone travelling with you can use it, and it's yours forever.

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» **Check availability and prices**

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