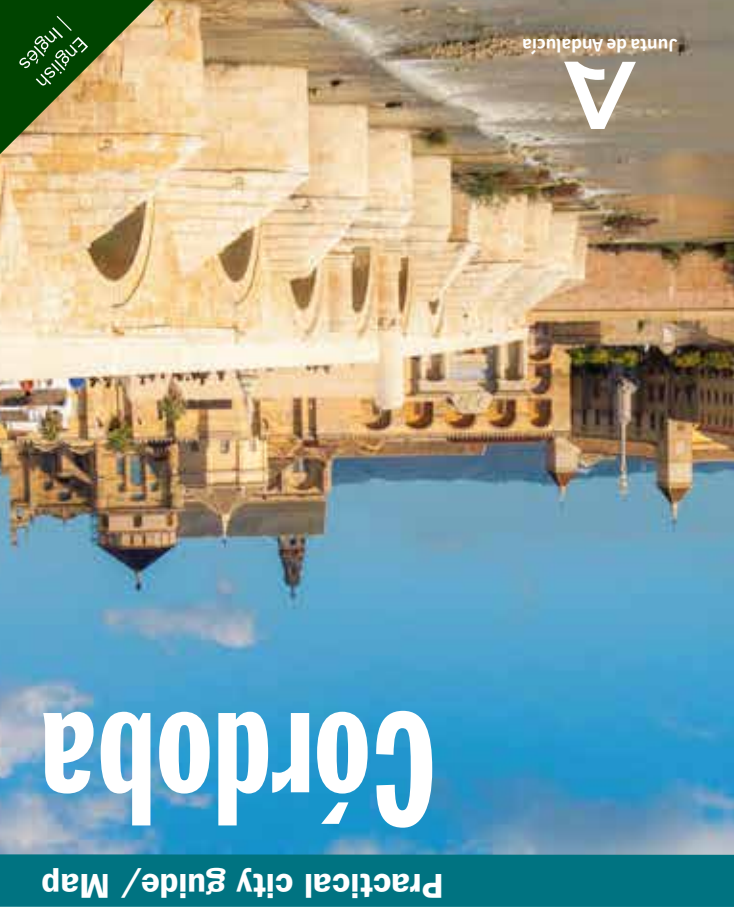




Practical city guide / Map



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Córdoba

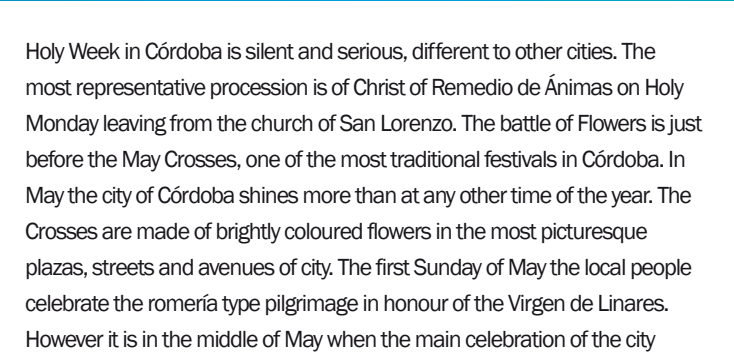
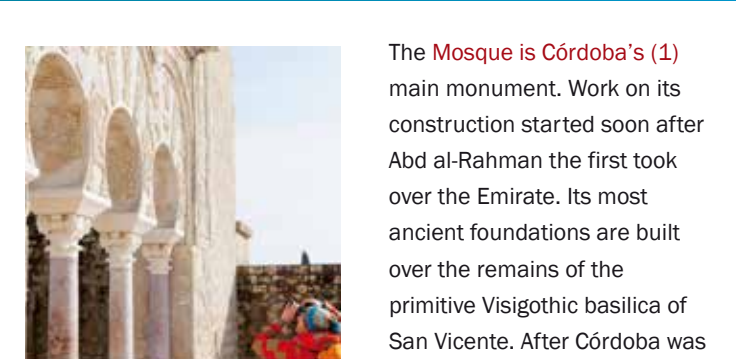
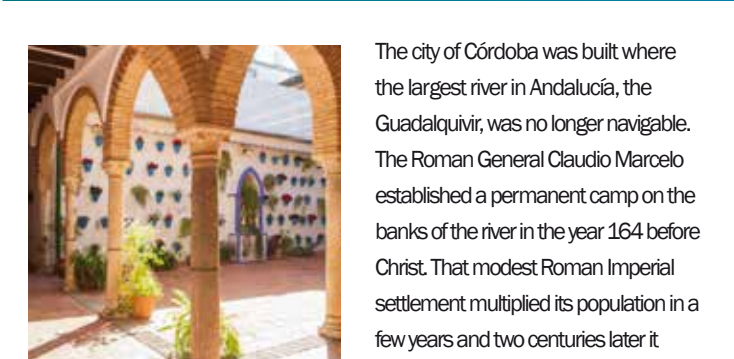


Geography and history

Monuments and museums

Festivals and traditions

Gastronomy and crafts



The city of Córdoba was built where the largest river in Andalucía, the Guadalquivir, was no longer navigable. The Roman General Claudio Marcelo established a permanent camp on the banks of the river in the year 164 before Christ. That modest Roman Imperial settlement multiplied its population in a few years and two centuries later it competed in beauty, importance and magnificent with the Imperial capital. The capital of Andalucía or Bética: Córdoba, birth place of Séneca and his nephew Lucano, with a Roman Theatre almost as big and a circus as big as the ones in Rome. The fall of the Roman Empire coincided with the height of the Visigothic culture. The arrival of the Moors to Spain in 711 made Córdoba the headquarters of the Emirate founded by the Omniad leader Abd al-Rahman the first. His descendants made Moorish Córdoba the richest and most sumptuous city in the known world, so much so that in the first third of the tenth century, in 929, Abd al-Rahman the third proclaimed an independent Caliphate and made Córdoba the capital of al-Andalus. A few decades later, after the death of the son of the first Caliph al-Hakam the second and the leader Almanzor, Córdoba became the object of a bloody civil war between different Moorish factions and its immense power was relegated to a modest and weakened Moorish kingdom. Finally in 1236, the Christian army led by the King of Castile, Fernando the third the Saint, took Córdoba and the Mosque, the most emblematic monument of the Spanish-Moslem culture, was consecrated as a Christian temple. Later a Cathedral was built in the centre of the great building. The following centuries saw the great metropolis develop in keeping with the aesthetics dictated by the Christians. Afterwards, the city became an agricultural and artisan centre. It was a crossroads when the nineteenth century writers and travellers rediscovered the city through curious eyes and with poetry. Under the dictates of baroque churches and palaces were built in the Jewish quarter or in suburbs like the Ajerquía, in the shadows of the churches built by King Fernando. Today, Córdoba is a modern city, the seat of one of the most powerful universities in Andalucía and a centre of communications between the higher and lower parts of Andalucía. Córdoba has over three thousand hours of sunshine a year and an average temperature of 21° C.

The beginning of the sixteenth century, the city council decided to build a Cathedral in the heart of the Mosque, which at present stands in the middle of an impressive forest of Moorish arches. The river Guadalquivir is opposite the Mosque. The Roman bridge takes you to the Torre de la Calahorra (4), the seat of the Roger Garaudy foundation. The Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos (8), situated by the Campo de la Verdad, is an area of terraced gardens. Some of the gateways to the Jewish quarter are opposite here. The part of Córdoba outside the city walls was called the Ajerquía, with churches in the style of Fernando the seventh like San Pedro, Santiago, La Magdalena, Santa Marina or San Lorenzo. In the middle of all this is the plaza de la Corredera, with its powerful baroque air. The columns of the ancient Roman temple dedicated to Diana are situated beside the Town Hall and the church of San Pablo. The archaeological site of the city Medina Azahara is just eight kilometres from the city, it was built by the first Caliph Abd al-Rahman the third as the seat of his new power.

Holy Week in Córdoba is silent and serious, different to other cities. The most representative procession is of Christ of Remedio de Ánimas on Holy Monday leaving from the church of San Lorenzo. The battle of Flowers is just before the May Crosses, one of the most traditional festivals in Córdoba. In May the city of Córdoba shines more than at any other time of the year. The Crosses are made of brightly coloured flowers in the most picturesque plazas, streets and avenues of city. The first Sunday of May the local people celebrate the romería type pilgrimage in honour of the Virgen de Linares. However it is in the middle of May when the main celebration of the city takes place. The Córdoba Festival of Patios, Windows and Balconies makes the city a showcase of colour, atmosphere and lovely aromas. The Córdoba fair is held in honour of Our Lady of Health Nuestra Señora de la Salud. It takes place the last week of May on the fairground in el Arenal. During the fair top matadors head the programme of bullfights in los Califas bullring which used to be the ancient plaza de los Tejares. The month of July comes round bringing with it many cultural activities. The International Festival of Sephardic Music is held in the middle of the month just before the Guitar Festival, one of the most important flamenco events of the year in Andalucía. This competition attracts new flamenco guitarists and is the starting pistol for the cycle of Flamenco Nights in the Old Part of the City, a series of night concerts that carry on until the end of November, bringing together promising young flamenco artists and established artists in the Caballerizas Reales, at the Casa de las Campanas and in the Plaza del Potro. The festival of San Rafael is on the 24th October, custodian of the city of Córdoba. According to tradition you visit the church of San Rafael, close to the church of San Lorenzo, for the religious services. At midday thousands of cordobeses head for nature areas in the mountains, especially the forest park of Los Villares, to eat their "perol" which is a kind of paella, washed down with wine from Montilla-Moriles.

There is a lot of art and tradition in the gastronomy of Córdoba. The weight of history and tradition is in the dishes that have been passed down from the Moorish and Jewish past, they are put on the table today with innovating touches and a fusion of tastes. There are dishes that have Córdoba's own special mark like salmorejo (a kind of thick gazpacho), flamenquín (rolled meat, cheese and ham deep fried) made with serrano ham, oxtail (from fighting bulls), lamb in honey sauce or perfumed artichokes with a touch of Montilla wine. With regard to desserts, there is a wide legacy the Spanish Moors left. The list of recipes also includes substantial dishes of game, hams and Iberian pork products that come from the valley of Los Pedroches. In Córdoba the typical custom of going for a few tapas has gained fame and popularity. There are bars around the plaza de La Corredera in the la Ajerquía suburb or in the area around the plaza de Las Tendillas where you can try an endless list of bite-sized dishes that summarise perfectly the exquisite Mediterranean cuisine. Silversmiths and jewellers make up most of the craft activities in Córdoba and they are the main source of income in the city. The silversmiths' and jewellers' workshops are spread all over the city, many of them in private houses. The Córdoba wholesalers distribute the craft worked jewellery all over Europe. The cordovans are also famous, embossed leatherwork evoking the traditional craft work of the Spanish Moors. Córdoba also has important classical and flamenco guitar makers.

Routes Córdoba

Different cultures have marked the city of Córdoba that was the Roman and Moorish capital city, the centre of Western Europe. Situated on the banks of the river Guadalquivir it welcomed great philosophers like the Roman Séneca, Averroes, Maimónides the Jew, writers like Luis de Góngora, or painters like Julio Romero de Torres. It has great monuments like the Mosque, the ruins of Medina Azahara and a beautiful Jewish quarter have all added to it being declared by the UNESCO to be a World Heritage Site.

A trip through the mountains and the Hermitages

Out of the beautiful mountain landscapes, the mysterious and famous hermitages are worth mentioning. To get there, take the road towards Arruzafa, past the

shortly after taking the city. It is made up of three naves, with an interesting wood panelled ceiling in mudéjar style a Gothic chapel, and beside the vestry a n impressive Moorish doom, the only feature remaining from the original Moorish mosque. Córdoba has an important number of Fernandina style churches like San Andrés (44), San Hipólito (25), San Miguel (26) and San Pedro (37), one that



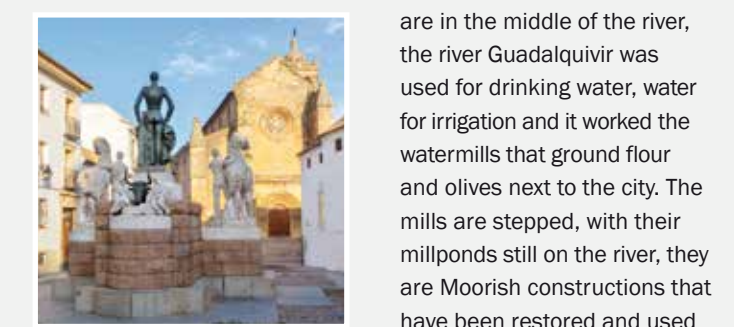
Parador hotel and then take the Co.110 road. Made up of a small, curious cluster of buildings, that are taken care of at present by the Carmelites, after the Congregation of the Hermits of Bethlehem disappeared in 1957. The different hermitages are joined together round a small bend with a very modest dwelling where each of the hermits lived. These buildings are mentioned as far back as in the fifteenth century, although there are references to them even further back. These hermitages are associated with the Christian anchorites who lived in the mountains of Córdoba during the first centuries of the Omeyan Caliphate, with the arrival of the almohades and almorávides tribes, much more intolerant with other religions.

stands out is San Lorenzo (55) because of its fillgree rose window in stone, similar to the Romanic-Gothic churches in the North. The Santa Marina church (50) is also original, with large buttresses on the main façade giving it an air of a castle rather than a church, in its central nave, which is higher than the lateral naves, you can see beautiful Gothic style windows. The church Santiago (36) has kept the minaret of the ancient mosque as its belltower and the church of San Nicolás (24), in beautiful Renaissance Gothic style, one of the most beautiful and original towers in Córdoba with an octagonal ground plan, and with Mudejar style decorations.

especially the valuable works of Roman Iberian and Visigoth art that have been found in the city and the province, as well as Moorish art with exhibit sfrom the Mosque and from Medina Azahara.

From the Plaza del Potro to the Archaeological Museum

The Plaza de las Tendillas, in the area around the statue of the Gran Capitán, is the shopping centre of the old city of Córdoba, although it is made up of a mixture of new buildings today. From here walk down the calle de Claudio Marcelo, which soon takes us to the Roman temple (39), it sheight makes us think that it must have been a great building. At the back of the Town Hall, the church of San Pablo is situated, built in the thirteenth century, in Romantic and Gothic style, founded by Fernando third



the river. The Museum of Fine Arts (34) is situated in the same plaza del Potro, housed in the ancient Hospital de la Caridad, that the Christiina Monarchs founded. It still has beautiful wood panelled ceilings and magnificent patios. It also has a collection of Renaissance panels, three paintings of Zurbaran and several canvases from the School of Murillo and the workshop of Ribera. At a short distance from the plaza del Potro you come to the rectangular plaza de la Corredera (38), with brick houses all of the same height, with three floors of balconies over arcades. It used to be the Plaza Mayor and the Plaza del Mercado or market place. It is a beautiful example of civil architecture from the seventeenth century, where plays were staged, bullfights held as well as autos-da-fe. Between the plaza de la Corredera and the Mosque you will find the Archaeological Museum (30), housed in the lovely Renaissance palace of the Páez. It is a compulsory visit for you tog et to know the prehistric past of the area and



largest of the waterwheels that transported water. This reached behind the alcázares and watered the gardens there.

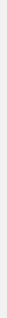
The Jewish Quarter, the oldest suburb in the city

Situated beside the Jewish Quarter the Mosque is the most peaceful suburb in the city, the oldest and perhaps the most beautiful. It is not very different from what would have been the rest of the urban Moorish city, with its patios full of flowers and its narrow and white streets. One of the few Synagogues that have been preserved to date is here, without alterations. Built in the fourteenth century, when Córdoba was under Christian rule, this small composition has the charm and discretion of places made to the requirements of man. Women were separated from the ordinary service, and they were situated on the upper floor, which was converted after the Jews were expelled and practising their religion was prohibited, in time it was made into a church. The synagogue has a Gothic style ceiling, with walls decorated with Moorish plaster work which were fashionable when Isaac Moheb had it built, his name still appears in the writing on the walls.

A stroll along the river past the watermills

On the opposite bank of the Roman bridge you can see the impressive construction of the Moorish tower of Calahorra (4), which was reformed in 1630 and today it houses a museum dedicated to the three cultures that lived together in the city of Córdoba: Christian, Moorish and Jewish. In front of this tower, in the Campo de la Verdad, there was a suburb that Al Hakem I razed to the ground after its inhabitants revolted in 818. The watermills

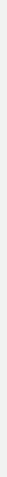
are in the middle of the river, the river Guadalquivir was used for drinking water, water for irrigation and it worked the watermills that ground flour and olives next to the city. The mills are stepped, with their millponds still on the river, they are Moorish constructions that have been restored and used to present days. By the city walls the foundations of the great waterwheel of the Abolafia, the



largest of the waterwheels that transported water. This reached behind the alcázares and watered the gardens there.

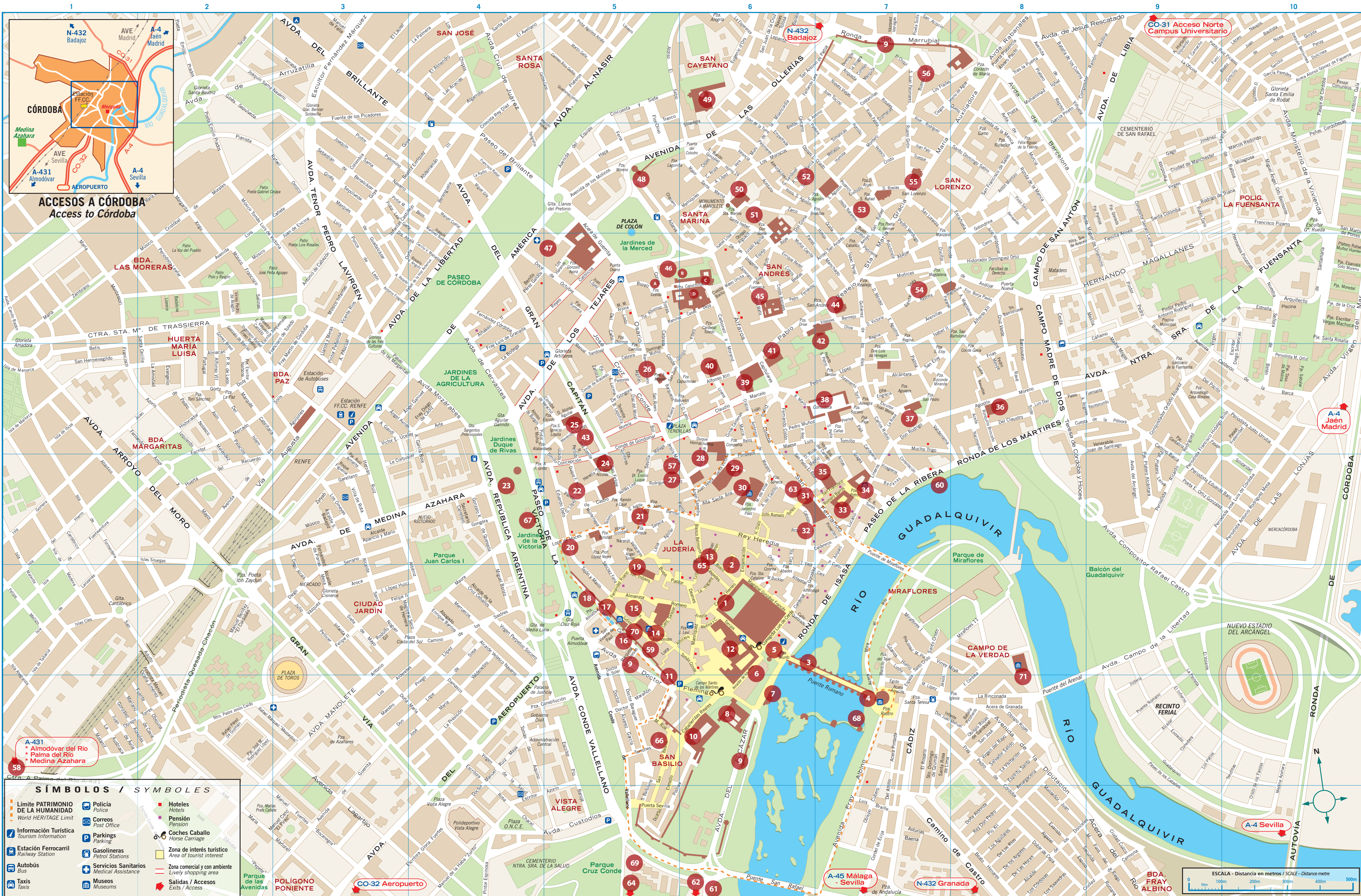
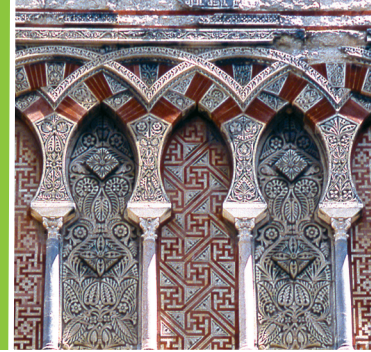
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Córdoba



- Mezquita-Catedral
- Calleja y Plaza de las Flores
- Puente Romano
- Torre de la Calahorra - Museo de las Tres Culturas
- Puerta del Puente
- Triunfo de San Rafael
- Noria de la Albolafia y molinos de río
- Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos
- Murallas árabes
- Caballerizas Reales
- Baños Califales
- Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones
- Casa Árabe
- Museo Taurino
- Capilla de San Bartolomé
- Sinagoga
- Museo de la Casa Andalusí
- Puerta de Almodóvar
- Casa del Indiano
- Iglesia de la Trinidad
- Alminar de la Plaza de San Juan
- Casa de los Venegas de Henestrosa (Gobierno Militar)
- Mausoleo Romano
- Iglesia de San Nicolás de la Villa
- Real Colegiata de San Hipólito
- Iglesia de San Miguel
- Conservatorio de Música
- Iglesia de la Compañía
- Iglesia de Santa Victoria
- Museo Arqueológico
- Arco del Portillo
- Patios de Leyenda Museo Casa de las Cabezas
- Posada del Potro
- Museo de Bellas Artes y Museo Julio Romero de Torres
- Iglesia y Claustro de San Francisco
- Iglesia Parroquial de Santiago
- Iglesia Parroquial de San Pedro
- Plaza de la Corredera
- Templo Romano
- Círculo de la Amistad
- Real Convento de San Pablo
- Casa de los Villalones
- Gran Teatro
- Iglesia de San Andrés
- Convento de Santa Marta
- Plaza de Capuchinos
A Cristo de los Faroles
B Iglesia Convento de Capuchinos
C Cuesta del Bailío
D Hospital de San Jacinto. Iglesia de los Dolores
- Antiguo Convento de la Merced. Diputación Provincial
- Torre de la Malmuerta
- Iglesia conventual de San José (San Cayetano)
- Iglesia de Santa Marina
- Palacio de Viana
- Iglesia de San Agustín
- Iglesia de San Rafael
- Iglesia de la Magdalena
- Iglesia Parroquial de San Lorenzo
- Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Gracia. Convento de los Trinitarios
- Teatro Góngora
- Conjunto Arqueológico de Medina-Azahara
- Casa de Sefarad
- Molino de Martos
- Jardín Botánico
- Zoológico
- Casa del Agua
- Ciudad de los Niños
- Casa del Guadalmequí Omeya
- Casa Patio San Basilio
- Mercado Victoria
- Molino de San Antonio
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