Geography and history

Ronda is one of the most ancient cities in Spain. Throughout its history it has had different names, Ronda was the Celtic Arunda, the Roman Acinipo and the Moorish Izn-Rand Onda. The river Guadalevin cuts the town in two and time has cut its deep Tajo or gorge, 120 metres deep and the town’s identifying mark. On one side, new Ronda, wide and happy, with its historical building; on the other, ancient and intimate Ronda, full of monuments that are the living proof of its ancestral past. Both sides are joined by the Puente Nuevo or new bridge, built between 1751 and 1793, living proof of its ancestral past. Both sides are joined by the ancient and intimate Ronda, full of monuments that are the living proof of its ancestral past. Both sides are joined by the ancient and intimate Ronda, full of monuments that are the living proof of its ancestral past.

Monuments and Museums

The archaeological site of Acinipo is just 12 kilometres from Ronda, from Roman times, there is still a theatre with its seats carved out of the rock and almost completely intact along with the front part of the stage. You can find marks from all the cultures that have passed through Ronda in every street. The Moors enriched Ronda with city walls, of which the gates of the city like the Arco del Ojal, the Puerta de las Imágenes, the Puerta de Almocábar (part of the ancient Alcazaba) (3) and the Laurel castle are still standing, according to King Alfonso XI the castle was “the best jewel of my Kingdom”. There are also Moorish baths (23) situated by the axe half built by alcazar deposits, however the three main halls have been conserved. The Christian population added the collegiate church of Santa María la Encarnación, built over an ancient mosque. We have to add many other monuments to the aforementioned ones, like the Mineral tower of San Sebastián (16), the Casa del Gigante (10), the Casa del Jalifa, the Puerta de Almocábar (part of the ancient Alcazaba) (3) and the Laurel castle are still standing, according to King Alfonso XI the castle was “the best jewel of my Kingdom”.

Festivals and traditions

The most important festival in Ronda has its origins in the San Francisco suburb. In 1828 the first Stock Market of the September fair was held there. At this time, the May fair was the most significant in Ronda but then the September fair began to increase in popularity and from 1954, when it was called the Pedro Romero fair, it took over and became the most important celebration in Ronda. The Goyesque style bullfight has its own personality that makes it different from the rest. It combines the unique spectacle of this bullfight with the setting in the bicentennial Plaza de la Real Maestranza de Caballería de Ronda bullring.

Gastronomy and crafts

Out of the many typical dishes served in Ronda, those based on game, which is plentiful here, have a special place in the local gastronomy. The traditional cuisine includes pumpkin Ronda style, fried broad beans with chorizo sausage, oat cakes, broad beans with tomato, garlic and ham, beans with black pudding, almond soup and artichoke soup, gazpacho from the mountains, mojarrete Ronda style and lamb casarrón.

Some of the popular specialties are rabbit Ronda style, co-tail, pork loin stuffed with pine nuts, lamb “cochinillo”, pork stew and 'pigs' trotters. Local wines include the most from the mountains and all the new wines that are produced in the Serranía de Ronda.

Deserts include sweets and cakes made in the convents and the yemas del Tajo made from egg yolks that visitors come especially to buy. Home, chestnuts, different mushrooms from the mountains and olive oil are other quality products to try in Ronda. Craft activities in the Serranía de Ronda cover a long tradition and a wide range of different skills, from wooden furniture, ceramics, wrought iron work, saddlery (including utensils for farm work), leather goods, corn articles, work in esparto grass and cane.
Ronda