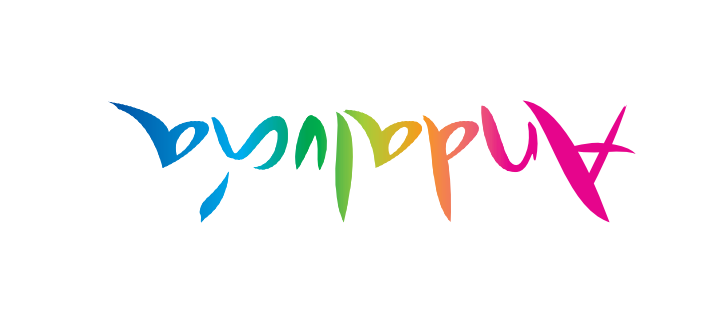


# Córdoba

Practical Provincial Guide / Map



# Routes

## Córdoba

### The Upper Guadalquivir

This route covers the eastern part of the province, following the course of the upper Guadalquivir through the Cardena-Montoro Nature Park (with its numerous reserves of big and small game) and visiting the reservoirs on the



rivers Yeguas, El Salto, and Martín Gonzalo, which are ideal for water sports and bird watching. Lovers of culture should not miss the opportunity to visit the historic town of Montoro as well as the Roman bridge over the Porcuna stream and the Muslim Castle, both of which are in Villa del Río.

### The Southern Campiña

Set between the Sierras Subbéticas and the Valley of the Guadalquivir, the area covered in the route has protected wetlands of great ecological value. There are also a number of white villages whose past is closely linked to the large estate belonging to the aristocratic Fernández de Córdoba family. The rich and fascinating historic heritage includes sites such as the Roman remains of Monturque, and the fortresses of Puente-Genil, Montemayor,



and Aguilar de la Fra., amongst others. The area's wines, protected by the Montilla Moriles Denomination of Origin, are internationally renowned.

### The Guadajoz-Eastern Campiña

The Cordoban Campiña, which lies between the Sierras del Sur in Jaén and the Subbética and is irrigated by the river Guadajoz, is very much defined by its main product - olive oil. Protected by the 'Baena' Denomination of Origin, it is also the central theme of a thriving local tourist industry



with museums and pressing plants. There is also a specific Olive Oil Route which passes through Baena, Castro del Río, Espejo, Nueva Carteya and Valenzuela.

### The Subbética

This covers the southern part of the province of Córdoba and is very much a combination of culture and nature. Interesting features include: the Sierras Subbéticas Nature Park; the Baroque route



(centred very much on Priego de Córdoba, Lucena, and Cabra); the Los Murciélagos Cave in Zuheros, which is of great archaeological interest and is also ideal for potholing; and the Via Verde de la Subbética green route.

### The Los Pedroches

Situated on the border between Andalusia, Extremadura, and Castilla la Mancha, this is the largest region in the province of Córdoba. Grazing on its hillsides is an animal which is emblematic of the region - the Iberian pig. It is the source of the famous ham with the Los Pedroches Denomination of Origin, and is the subject of the Ruta del Ibérico. Also of great interest are the Moorish castles, the grand manor houses with their coats of arms,

environment, the range of wildlife, the wide choice of active tourism possibilities, and the traditional architecture, all combine to make it a unique destination for rural tourism.

### The Guadiato Valley

Situated to the north west of the province, it takes its name from the river which passes through it, the Guadiato. The beauty of the natural surroundings, the typical architecture (with cobbled streets which are still frequently used by herds of sheep), the traditional lifestyle, and the historical legacy (some 14 Castles have been declared Sites of Cultural Interest) have made this a favourite area for



rural tourism in Andalusia. Mining, which has gone on here since ancient times has also become a tourist attraction and the Bémez Mining Museum is well worth a visit.

### The Guadaquivir Floodplain

Covering the area surrounding the middle course of the Guadalquivir, this route is characterised by a great diversity of landscapes, including the campiña, the floodplain, and the sierra. As well as the Sierra de Hornachuelos Nature Park (part of the "Dehesas de Sierra Morena" biosphere reserve), which is an ideal area for those interested in hunting, there are sites of great historical interest such as the castle in Almodóvar del Río. Its origins go back to the Iberian period, although the castle we see today dates from the 14th century. Also of great interest are the Palace and Gardens of Moratalla (Homachuelos), the Natural Science Museum in Guadalcazar, and the walled precinct of Palma del Río.



and the Church of San Juan Bautista de Hinojosa del Duque, known as the "Cathedral of the Sierra".

### The Sierra Morena

This covers the centre of the province from east to west, and features two nature parks: the Sierra de Hornachuelos and the Cardena-Montoro. The rich mining legacy, the natural



## Art and Culture

## Handicrafts

## Festivals and Traditions

## Gastronomy

Córdoba's rich natural and mining resources have, over the centuries, attracted numerous different peoples including the Phoenicians, Carthaginians and Romans. Roman Cordoba was a thriving and prosperous city and proof of this are the numerous remains found in the



capital of Muslim Spain and this period bequeathed the city the two great monuments which have made it one of the most important cultural tourism destinations in the world: the Mosque, which together with the historic centre of the city has been designated a World Heritage Site; and the palatial city of Medina Azahara. With the Christian conquest old mosques were replaced by churches, shrines, and convents, and castles like that of Almodóvar del Río started to populate the landscape. The baroque period left its mark particularly in the towns of Priego de Córdoba, Cabra, and Lucena, and notable buildings including a number of grand mansions and small palaces as well as the Sacarium of the Church of La Asunción in Priego.

Two traditional crafts inherited from Córdoba's rich historical and artistic legacy continue to thrive in the province: leather and silver work. Leather continues to be worked using the traditional cordobán technique: untanned leather in its natural colour; and the guadamecil style of polychromed leather engraved with decorative silver patterns, both of which have brought much fame to Cordoban craftsmen.



Other craft activities which continue to thrive include: caliph-style pottery and ceramics, particularly in La Rambla; furniture production, notably in Lucena, Castro del Río (specialising in the use of olive wood), Villa del Río, and Palma del Río; barrel making, mainly in Montilla; and guitar making.

The festive calendar of Córdoba is rich and varied. The Easter celebrations take place in some of the most dramatic and unusual settings in the province. In May there are fiestas throughout the province as people celebrate the traditional May Crosses, which are particularly colourful in Añoora. This festivity is also celebrated in the city of Córdoba itself, which during May opens its plant-filled patios to visitors for a festival and competition which marks the high point of the province's festive period.



Romerías (local pilgrimages) such as that of Los Gitanos, in Cabra, or that celebrated during the Fiestas Aracelitanas, in Lucena, attract pilgrims from far and wide, and throughout the summer most of Córdoba's towns and villages celebrate ferias, verbenas, and veladas. The Harvest Festival in Montilla or the traditional Baile de los Locos y Baile del Oso in Fuente Palmera and Fuente Carretero, are amongst the more picturesque events of the festive calendar. The province also offers a wide range of cultural activities and prestigious festivals of great renown such as the International Piano Music Festival in Lucena, the Teatro en el Sur season, in Palma del Río, the International Festival of Music, Theatre, and Dance in Priego de Córdoba, and the Guitar Festival in the city of Córdoba itself, amongst many others.



Prepared with products sourced from both the Sierra and the Campiña, Córdoba's cuisine boasts a rich mixture of exotic flavours and aromas inherited from the Romans, the Arabs, and the Jews. The province produces a range of olive oils whose exceptional quality is demonstrated by the fact that there are two denominations of origin which protect the produce of the olive groves surrounding the towns of Baena and Priego de Córdoba. This "golden liquid" is the main ingredient of a variety of typical dishes such as salmorejo and gazpacho. The Valley of Los Pedroches is the source of beef and lamb of exceptional quality, as well as the magnificent hams produced from the pigs reared in the meadows and fed exclusively with acorns. Both the hams and a range of cured meats are protected under the Los Pedroches Denomination of Origin. Thanks to the numerous hunting reserves there are also a wide range of other meats such as venison, wild boar, mouflon, rabbit, or partridge. The



Montilla-Moriles wines, which also have their own denomination of origin, are perfect for accompanying typical Cordoban dishes such as flamenquín and oxtail stew. Finally, the anises from Rute and the sweet pastries of Arabic and Jewish origin go to complete this range of culinary delights.



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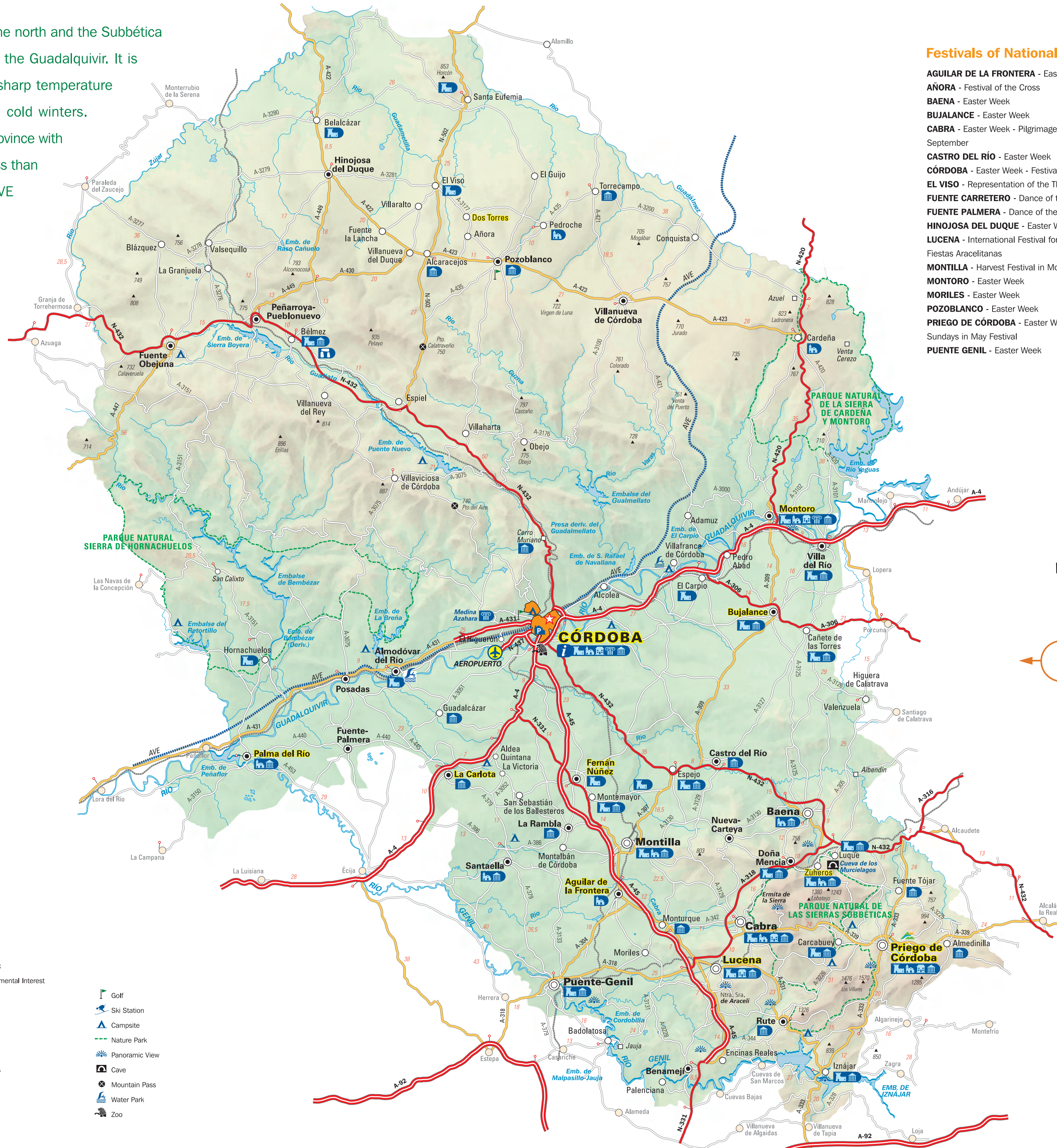
# Córdoba



Cordoba lies between the Sierra Morena to the north and the Subbética to the south, and is divided by the valley of the Guadalquivir. It is blessed with a Mediterranean climate with sharp temperature contrasts between the warm summers and cold winters.

An excellent network of roads connects the province with any form of transport (air, rail, maritime) in less than two hours, and the capital city is on the AVE high speed rail network.

A wealth of historic towns and cities, a rich natural environment, a huge range of activities to suit all tastes, colourful fiestas, and numerous gastronomic delights are just some of the many attractions which never fail to captivate those who visit Cordoba.



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- Provincial Capital
- Town/city of over 100,000 inhabitants
- Town of from 20,000 to 100,000 inhabitants
- Town of from 5,000 to 20,000 inhabitants
- Town of less than 5,000 inhabitants
- Tourist area
- Airport
- Yachting Harbour
- Trading Port
- Dual Carriageway
- Motorway
- "A" road
- "B" road
- Local road
- High Speed Railway
- Railway
- Tourist Information
- World Heritage City
- World Heritage Complex
- Town declared of Monumental Interest
- Museum
- Castle/Walls
- Civil Monument
- Religious Monument
- Megalthic Monument
- Archaeological Remains
- Parador
- Tourist Town
- Spa
- Golf
- Ski Station
- Campsite
- Nature Park
- Panoramic View
- Cave
- Mountain Pass
- Water Park
- Zoo

## Festivals of National Tourist Interest

- AGUILAR DE LA FRONTERA** - Easter Week
- AÑORA** - Festival of the Cross
- BAENA** - Easter Week
- BUJALANCE** - Easter Week
- CABRA** - Easter Week - Pilgrimage of the Gypsies - Fiestas in September
- CASTRO DEL RÍO** - Easter Week
- CÓRDOBA** - Easter Week - Festival of Cordoban patios
- EL VISO** - Representation of the Three Wise Men
- FUENTE CARRERERO** - Dance of the Madmen and the Bear
- FUENTE PALMERA** - Dance of the Madmen
- HINOJOSA DEL DUQUE** - Easter Week
- LUCENA** - International Festival for Piano Music - Fiestas Aracelitanas
- MONTILLA** - Harvest Festival in Montilla-Moriles
- MONTORO** - Easter Week
- MORILES** - Easter Week
- POZOBLANCO** - Easter Week
- PRIEGO DE CÓRDOBA** - Easter Week - Sundays in May Festival
- PUENTE GENIL** - Easter Week

## Nature and Active Tourism

The Sierra de Cardena y Montoro, Sierras Subbéticas and Sierra de Hornachuelos nature parks (the latter being part of the "Dehesas de Sierra Morena" Biosphere Reserve) give Cordoba a wide variety of landscapes from meadows and Mediterranean woodlands populated by holm and cork oaks to steep mountainous areas with deep narrow valleys irrigated by rivers like the Yeguas, the Bembézar, the Retortillo or the Guadiato.

species of game such as wild boar, deer, and fallow deer, makes Cordoba's countryside an ideal destination for hunters. Wolves, lynxes, wild cats, foxes, and otters are just some of the other species which are commonly seen in these areas, which also provide a home to a number of birds of prey such as the golden and Spanish imperial eagle, black and griffon vultures, little and eagle owls, etc. The nature reserves of Laguna Amarga, Laguna de Laguna de Zóñar, Laguna del Rincón, Laguna de los Jarales and Laguna



Salobral, make up an area of wetlands known as the Zonas Húmedas del Sur de Córdoba. These Endoreic zones are used as wintering and nesting areas by numerous migratory birds amongst which is the rare white-headed duck.



The river Guadalquivir, which forms the backbone of the province, acts as a green corridor and habitat for numerous plant and animal species. In addition to offering many opportunities to those who enjoy outdoor activities in natural surroundings, particularly water sports such as rowing, canoeing, and sailing, the river is ideal for

bird watching. Other forms of active tourism in the province include walking and cycle-tourism (for which the Campiña and Subbética green routes are particularly suitable), horse riding, balloon trips, climbing and potholing (particularly in the fascinating Cave of Los Murciélagos in Zuheros), and many other

## Tourist Offices

<b>ADAMUZ</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Libertad, 3 ☎ 957 166 496	<b>CABRA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Santa Rosa, 2 ☎ 957 520 110	<b>HINOJOSA DEL DUQUE</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza San Juan, s/n ☎ 957 141 831	<b>PALMA DEL RÍO</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Cardenal Portocarrero, s/n ☎ 957 644 370
<b>AGUILAR DE LA FRONTERA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Cuesta de Jesús, 2 ☎ 957 661 567	<b>CARCABUEY</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Majada, 1 ☎ 957 704 140	<b>HORNACHUELOS</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Ctra. San Calixto, s/n ☎ 957 640 786	<b>POSADAS</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza de los Pósitos, 3 ☎ 957 630 378
<b>ALCARACEJOS</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza de Andalucía, s/n ☎ 957 156 102	<b>CARDEÑA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Miguel Gallo, 33 ☎ 957 174 370	<b>JAUA (LUCENA)</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Ronda, 2 ☎ 957 519 051	<b>POZOBLANCO</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Camra de las Monjas, 2 ☎ 957 700 625
<b>ALMEDINILLA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Centro de Recepción Pza. del Trunfo, s/n ☎ 957 703 317	<b>CÓRDOBA</b> OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE LA JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA Pza. del Trunfo, s/n ☎ 957 355 179	<b>LA CARLOTA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Avda. Carlos III, 50 ☎ 957 682 755	<b>PRIEGO DE CÓRDOBA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Pº Antonio Fernández Díaz, s/n ☎ 957 609 161
<b>ALMODOVAR DEL RÍO</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Vicente Alejandro, 3 ☎ 957 635 014	<b>BAENA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Virro del Pino, 5 ☎ 957 671 757	<b>LA RAMBLA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Arco de la Villa, s/n ☎ 957 513 282	<b>PUENTE GENIL</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Pº Antonio Fernández Díaz, s/n ☎ 957 695 161
<b>BAENA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Vicente Alejandro, 3 ☎ 957 635 014	<b>BUJALANCE</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza Mayor, 1 ☎ 957 171 289	<b>RUTE</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Castillo del Moral, s/n ☎ 957 671 757	<b>RUTE</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Parque Ntra. Sra. del Camen, s/n ☎ 957 532 929
<b>BAENA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Vicente Alejandro, 3 ☎ 957 635 014	<b>BUJALANCE</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza Mayor, 1 ☎ 957 171 289	<b>DOS TORRES</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza de la Villa, 11 ☎ 957 134 372	<b>VILLANUEVA DE CÓRDOBA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza de España, 10 ☎ 957 121 511
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