



# Granada



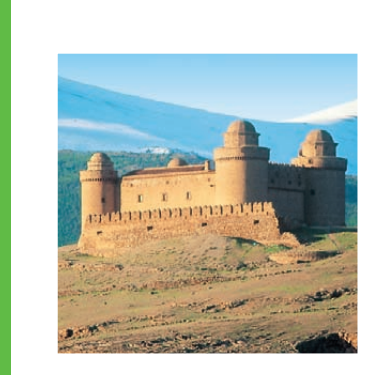
## Art and Culture      Handicrafts      Festivals and Traditions      Gastronomy

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**.



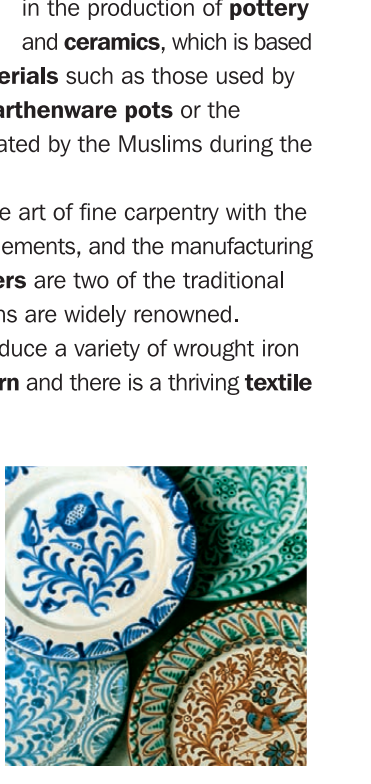
As is demonstrated by the **198 dolmens** found in **Gorafe**, Granada has been inhabited since **prehistoric times**, and ancient peoples such as the **Phoenicians and the Carthaginians** found its **coast** the ideal place to develop their commercial activities. A good example of this is the **Punic-Roman 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**.



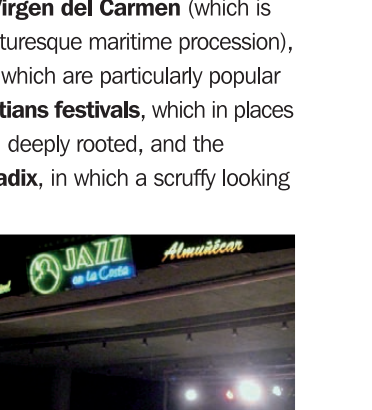
Granada's **crafts** are the result of the **assimilation of the skills and traditions** of the ancient **cultures** which have settled in the area throughout the centuries, giving them a uniquely distinctive style and personality. This can be seen in the production of **pottery and ceramics**, which 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**.

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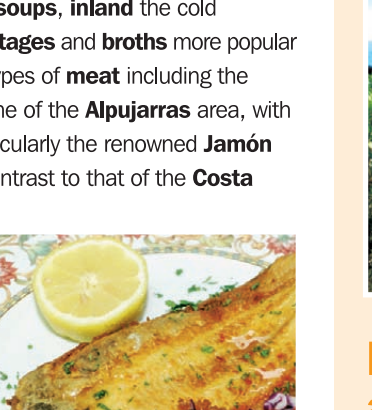
Used as the setting for films such as *Al sur de Granada* or *Tirante el Blanco*, Granada boasts a rich and **varied festive calendar** which offers a whole range of interesting **cultural events**. As well as the **Easter Week** celebrations, the **May Crosses** and the festivity dedicated to the **Virgen 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 Ilora, amongst many others.

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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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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

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**.



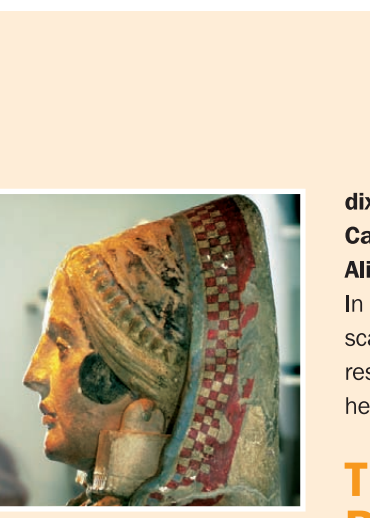
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explore the **Sierra de Baza** and **Sierra de Castril** nature parks on the well marked network of paths, or perhaps try **paragliding** from the **Pico Jabalcón peak**, or **fishing** in the **Negratín reservoir**.

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



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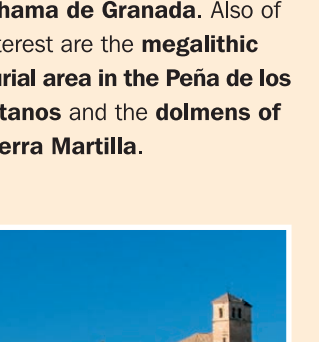
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dix, the **La Calahorra Palace-Castle**, and the **Baths of Alicún** are all well worth a visit. In an area of contrasting landscapes, a feature of great interest are the **cave dwellings**, hewn out of the rock.

Situated right on the west of the province, **El Poniente** is notable for its **rich and varied landscapes** and the **Sierras 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 **Ilora, Moclín, 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**.

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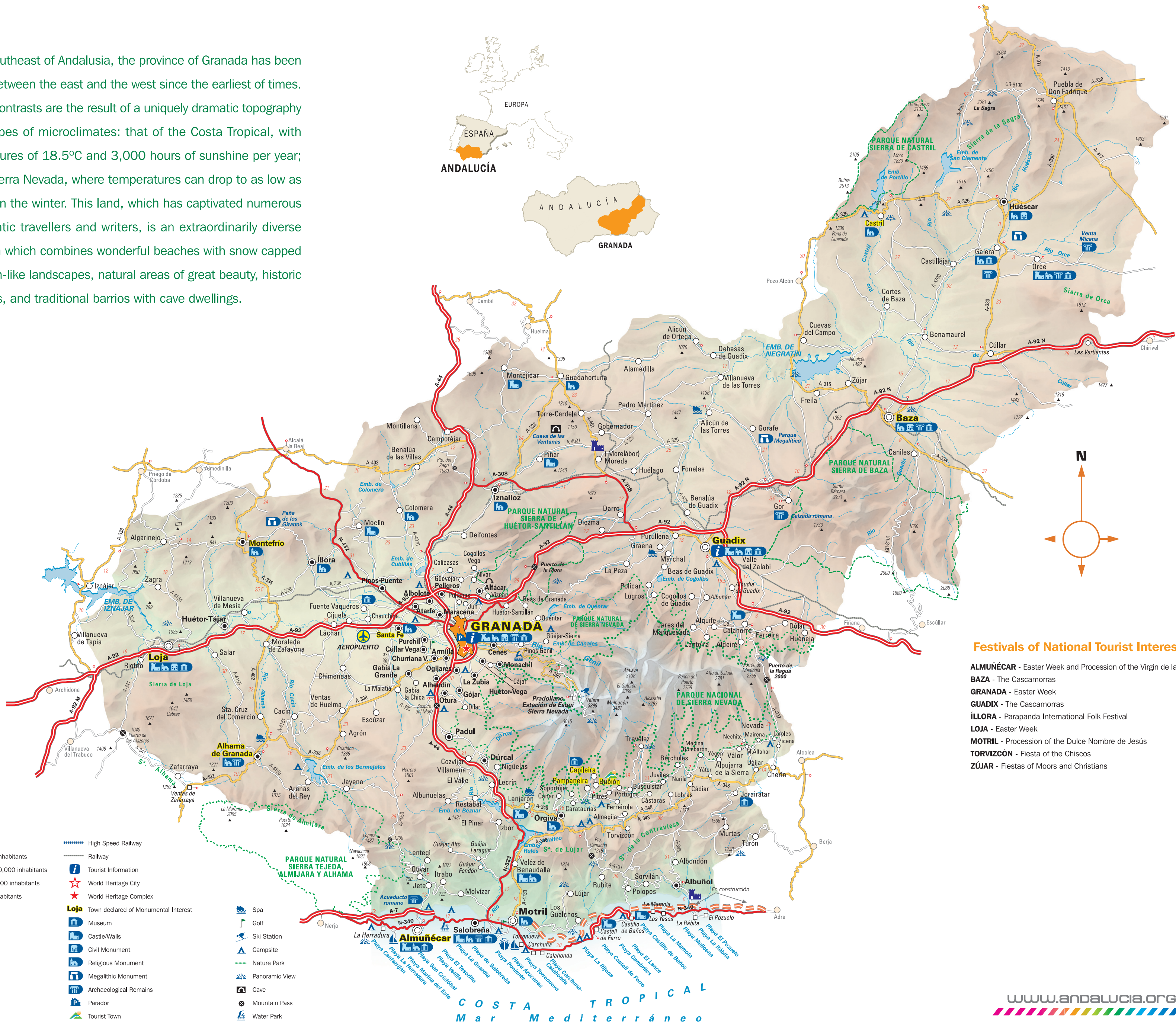


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# Granada



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



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**

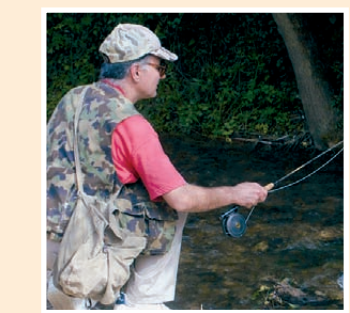


The province's huge variety of **landscapes** range from the **snow topped peaks of the Sierra Nevada** and the **sea of clouds** you can often see beneath you in the **Alpujarras**, to the **idyllic coves** and inlets on the **Costa Tropical** or the **clay hillsides of the Altiplano** or high plateau.

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** and splendid **seabed** locations (La Herradura, Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo, and Calahonda) which are a true paradise for **divers**.

has an impressive **natural heritage**, the most important

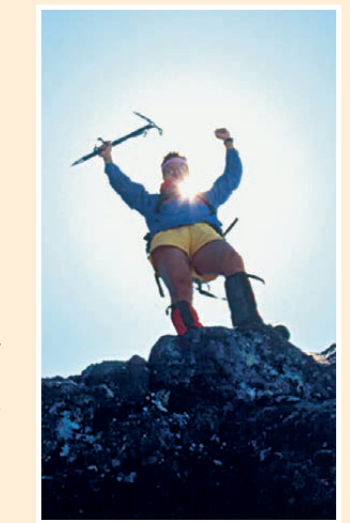
**plant species** as well as the **Spanish ibex**. The province has four other **nature parks** (Sierra de Castril, Sierra de Baza, Sierra de Huétor and Sierras de Tejada, Almjara y Alhama) and numerous



**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**, whilst 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 de 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 Pasos Montes Jovellar, 6 ☎ 958 360 686	<b>OFICINA DE TURISMO DE LA JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA</b> Avda. del Generalife, s/n La Alhambra ☎ 958 544 002	<b>LANIARÓN</b> OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Avda. de la Alpujarra, s/n ☎ 958 770 462	<b>ORCE</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Tendidas, 18 ☎ 958 746 171
<b>ALMUÑÉCAR</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Palacete de la Najera, Avda. de Europa, s/n ☎ 958 631 125	<b>OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA</b> Pza. Mariana Pineda, 10 bajo ☎ 958 247 129	<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> Virgen Blanca, s/n ☎ 958 409 045	<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
<b>GRANADA</b> OFICINA DE TURISMO DE LA JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA Santa Ana, 4 bajo ☎ 958 575 202	<b>GUADIX</b> OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE LA JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA Avda. de la Constitución, entrada Parque de los Pueblos de América ☎ 958 699 574	<b>MOTRIL</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Avda. de la Constitución, entrada Parque de los Pueblos de América ☎ 958 629 481	

