

CÁDIZ

Cádiz, considered by some to be the oldest city in Europe, is a mix of historical buildings and plazas and ample, golden beaches. Located on a peninsula in the province of the same name, Cádiz has one of the highest unemployment rates in Spain. However, the recent boom in tourism, especially surrounding the 10 days of Carnival in February, has begun to improve the economic conditions in the city and province.

Location: Cádiz is located on the north-western coast of Cádiz province. Part of the city faces the Atlantic Ocean, and other part faces the Bay of Cádiz.

Population: 135,000

History: Founded by the Phoenicians around 1100 BC, the port city of Cádiz has served as a Roman naval base, Columbus' launch site for his second and fourth voyages, and a French port during the Napoleonic Wars. In the 18th century Cádiz was the wealthiest and most sophisticated city in Spain, but the 19th century economic decline in Spain ended the city's golden age.

Climate: The climate in Cádiz reflects its unique position between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The average yearly temperature is 18° Celsius (65° Fahrenheit), with hot summers and mild winters. On average, it rains 74 days a year. The most distinctive feature of the weather in Cádiz is the wind, *el viento de Levante*. Rumor has it that the wind in Cádiz makes sailors go crazy, and the legend has carried over to apply to the natives of the province (*gaditanos*) as well.

Geography: As a peninsula, Cádiz is surrounded entirely by water, except for its southeast point that connects it to the province. There are no natural resources to be found, only ports and 7km of beaches.



Local Industries: Tourism, Ship-building, fishing.

Famous Monuments: The Cathedral of Cádiz and City Hall, built in the 19th century, are impressive examples of the architecture of the era. The two main beaches, *Playas de la Victoria y la Caleta*, are also popular destinations.

Local Highlights: Carnival, one of the most legendary *fiestas* in Spain, occurs for 10 days in February.

Cultural Insight: Climb the *Torre Tavira*, the highest of the city's watchtowers, and see live images of the city projected by an old camera obscura.

More Information:

- <http://www.andalucia.com/cities/cadiz.htm>
- <http://www.cadizayto.es/> (Spanish)
- <http://www.carnavaldecadiz.com/> (Spanish)