

# CÓRDOBA

*Córdoba, once the capital of Muslim Al-Andalus, is a charming small city that has maintained elements of its tri-cultural history. Muslim, Jewish, and Christian influences can be seen throughout the city- most notably in the Judería, the old Jewish quarter, and the famous mosque-turned-cathedral, the Mezquita.*

**Location:** Córdoba is located in the province of the same name in the northern part of Andalucía. The river Guadalquivir runs through the city, where it continues on to Seville and the coast of Cadíz.



**Population:** 310,000

**History:** Córdoba was founded by the Romans in 152 BC and served as the capital of Baetica province. In the 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD Córdoba, ruled by the Muslim Caliph Abd ar-Rahman III, was the largest city in Western Europe. During this era, the city served as a pilgrimage for Muslims who could not reach Mecca or Jerusalem. In 1236, Fernando III conquered the city and incorporated into the Spanish kingdom.

**Climate:** Córdoba's climate is hot and dry. The nicest time of year is spring, when the skies are blue and the temperatures are warm, but not unbearable. The summers are extremely hot, with maximum temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius.

**Geography:** Córdoba province is very rural. The northern part of the province, the *Sierra Morena*, is characterized by green hills and tiny towns, and the southern part of the province is dotted with mountains, canyons, valleys, and castles. The capital city is the only urban center in the province, due to its strategic location in the Guadalquivir river valley.

**Local Industries:** Tourism, Agriculture

**Famous Monuments:** The Mezquita, a magnificent mosque that was converted into a cathedral, is the most famous site in Córdoba. The Judería, home to the medieval synagogue and "Flower Alley," was once the home of the city's thriving Jewish community. The Alcázar, a former fortress and royal residence, is also worth a visit.

**Local Highlights:** Semana Santa (Holy Week), Patio Week (first half of May), International Guitar Festival (June/July).

**Cultural Insight:** The most famous dish in Córdoba is the *salmorejo cordobés*, a thick gazpacho, is typically garnished with bits of cured ham and hard-boiled egg.

**More Information:**

- <http://www.andalucia.com/cities/cordoba.htm>
- <http://www.cordoba.es/portal/web/index.jsp> (Spanish)
- <http://www.travelinginspain.com/cordoba.html>

