

GRANADA

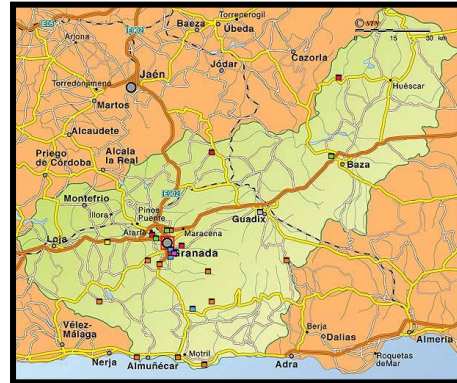
One of the most visited cities in Andalucía, Granada is famous for its mixture of three cultures: Christian, Muslim, and Jewish. Set against the magnificent backdrop of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Granada possesses a unique mix of past and present.

Location: The province of Granada is located in Andalucía, bordered by Málaga, Córdoba, Jaen, Almería, and touching the provinces of Albacete and Murcia. The city of Granada is located in the center of the province, relatively close to both the beach and the mountains.

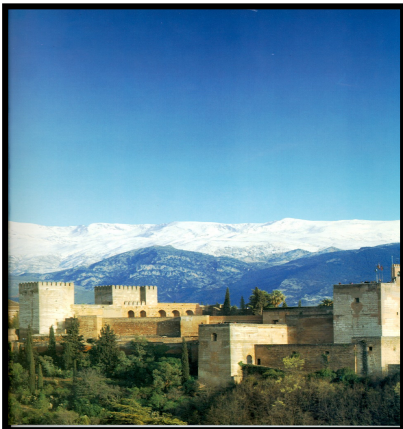
Population: Province – 800,000; City of Granada – 240,000

Area: Province – 12,600 km² ; City of Granada – 88 km²

History: Granada was first settled by native tribes in the prehistoric period and was known as Ilbyr. When the Romans colonized southern Spain, they built their own city here and called it Illibris. When the Arabs invaded the Iberian Peninsula in the 8th century, they gave the city its current name of Granada. It was the last Muslim city to fall to the Christians in 1492 at the hands of Queen Isabel of Castile and her husband Ferdinand of Aragon.



Climate: Granada has four seasons, with cold winters and hot summers. Because of its location near the mountains the evenings are almost always cool, even in the summer months. The city averages 250 sunny days a year. The summers are very dry, but the winter months can average more than 4 cm of precipitation.



Geography: Bordered by the Sierra Nevada mountains and fertile valleys that lead to the Mediterranean Sea.

Local Industries: Tourism, University

Famous Monuments: The Alhambra, a former Moorish palace; the Catedral of Santa María de la Encarnación that contains the tombs of the famous king and queen Ferdinand and Isabella; the Albacín, the old Moorish quarter of the city that faces the Alhambra.

Local Highlights: Semana Santa (Holy Week) and Corpus Christi (9 weeks after Holy Week)

Cultural Insight: In the *tapas* bars in Granada, with every drink you receive a free *tapa*.

More Information:

- <http://www.andalucia.com/cities/granada.htm>
- <http://www.granada.org/inicio.htm#> (Spanish)
- <http://goeurope.about.com/od/granada/>