

SPAIN

espana

A Brief Guide To The Spanish Language/ Espagnol

Spanish is sometimes referred to as Castilian after Castile the reS- panish is sometimes referred to as Castilian after Castile the region

where the language originated from. Latin and Arabic had a big influence on this language. Spanish is the world's second language spoken as a first language with about 329 million native speakers. It is the most popular foreign language to learn in Europe.

Approximately 100 million people speak Spanish as a second language. It is one of the world's most phonetic languages so if you know how a Spanish word is spelt you will know how it is pronounced. Spanish is the fourth most geographically widely spoken language spanning 44 countries. It is an official language of the UN, EU and other international organisations. Spanish is the official language of Spain, where it is mainly spoken, and can be found spoken in certain areas of the UK, Andorra and France.

Profile

Capital: Madrid

Currency: Euro

Estimated Population: 47, 042, 984

Famous Landmark: Sagrada Familia

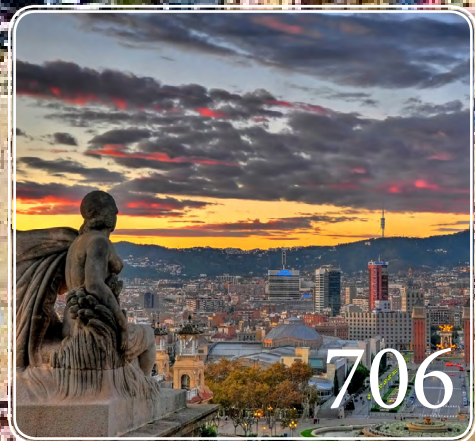
National Dish: Paella - rice dish with meat and vegetables

Commonly used Spanish words and phrases

Hola	Hello
Cómo estás	How are you
Estoy bien	I'm fine
No se	I don't know
Perdon	Sorry
No entiendo	I don't understand
Desculpe	Excuse me
Gracias	Thank you
Donde esta	Where is
El dinero	Money
Si/No	Yes/No
Adios	Goodbye

SPAIN

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All About Spain

Madrid

With its wealth of architectural delights—from the stunning Royal Palace to the exquisite medieval finery of its many churches—Madrid is rightly proud of a generous cultural heritage. But the old and the new go hand-in-hand in this cosmopolitan city which boasts some of the world's most vibrant nightlife.

Art for art's sake...

If you're an art lover, the El Prado Museum houses one of the finest collections of European art to be found anywhere, with nearly 20,000 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures. Works by old masters like Goya, Titian, Velázquez and Rubens are on display and regular exhibitions are held throughout the year. Modern art is well represented too, with the Reina Sofía Museum hosting many great 20th century works, including Picasso's famous masterpiece *Guernica*. You can soak up the flavour of Madrid's intriguing past with visits to the 2000-year-old Debod Temple, the beautiful Retiro Park and the truly opulent Royal Palace.



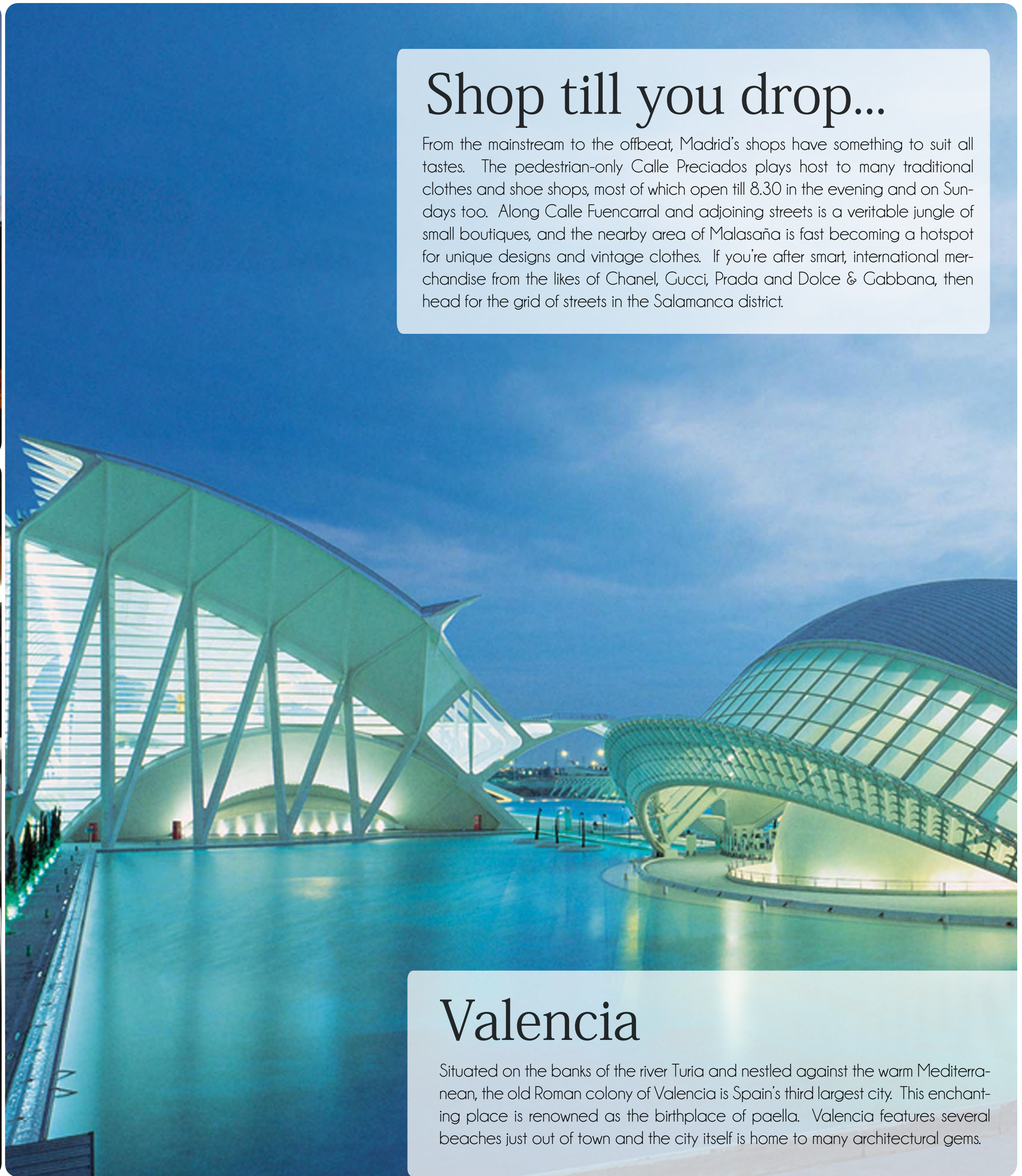
When the sun goes down...

Interested in the nightlife? Madrid doesn't disappoint, offering a scintillating array of cafes, tapas bars, clubs and restaurants. Being a night owl is very much in Madrid's style and those partying into the small hours will find themselves in good company. The locals don't hit the streets until well after dark, and when they do the city becomes alive with the unmistakable ambience of a good night out. Here too, Spain effortlessly blends young and old, traditional and modern. Whether you're after hardcore clubbing or open air flamenco, a light bite or a hearty meal, Madrid has plenty to offer.



Shop till you drop...

From the mainstream to the offbeat, Madrid's shops have something to suit all tastes. The pedestrian-only Calle Preciados plays host to many traditional clothes and shoe shops, most of which open till 8.30 in the evening and on Sundays too. Along Calle Fuencarral and adjoining streets is a veritable jungle of small boutiques, and the nearby area of Malasaña is fast becoming a hotspot for unique designs and vintage clothes. If you're after smart, international merchandise from the likes of Chanel, Gucci, Prada and Dolce & Gabbana, then head for the grid of streets in the Salamanca district.



Valencia

Situated on the banks of the river Turia and nestled against the warm Mediterranean, the old Roman colony of Valencia is Spain's third largest city. This enchanting place is renowned as the birthplace of paella. Valencia features several beaches just out of town and the city itself is home to many architectural gems.



Good Fallas...

If you're after a hot night in Spain, then put 19th March in your diary. Valencia lights up as the city's neighbourhoods come together to burn ceremonial monuments in honour of Saint Joseph. These fallas, or torches, are constructed by community groups throughout the year, before being spectacularly ignited in a ceremony known as la cremà, which means "burning". This fascinating and ancient festival begins on March 15th and continues through five days of wall-to-wall partying, with processions, music, and fireworks throughout the city. See the fallas, watch the parades and dance all night long.

Dishy Valencia...

Being the birthplace of Spain's iconic dish, paella, means Valencia is the perfect place to eat one. Authentic Valencian paella is made with only fresh ingredients and cooked in a special iron pan over a wood fire. Many different versions of the dish exist, with chicken, rabbit, fish and other seafood. For a good paella experience, book early, as it is traditionally eaten from lunch to late afternoon and may not be served later in the evening. A good place to try real paella is at the beach area in Malvarrosa, where there are several excellent restaurants.

Sightseeing...

Sightseers are spoilt for choice in this beautiful city. Valencia Cathedral, with its Gothic-led fusion of styles, may just be the final resting place of the Holy Grail. The parish churches of Saint John the Baptist and Evangelist contain some of the finest frescos in Spain. Following severe flooding in the 1950s, the river Turia was diverted from the city's centre; its original bed is now the Turia gardens, featuring fountains, playgrounds and sports fields. Valencia has a plethora of museums covering many subjects, from prehistory to fine arts via oceanography and pottery.

Best of the Rest

La Rioja

The northern region bearing the name of Spain's most famous wine is situated just below Basque country, at the far western end of the Ebro Valley. Wine making is centred in the town of Haro, where you can visit most of the vineyards as well as a wine museum. If you're not averse to getting a little wet then visit Haro on 29th June for its annual "wine battle", when two sides drench each other in thousands of litres of the red stuff; otherwise, stand well back for some great photo opportunities.

Mallorca

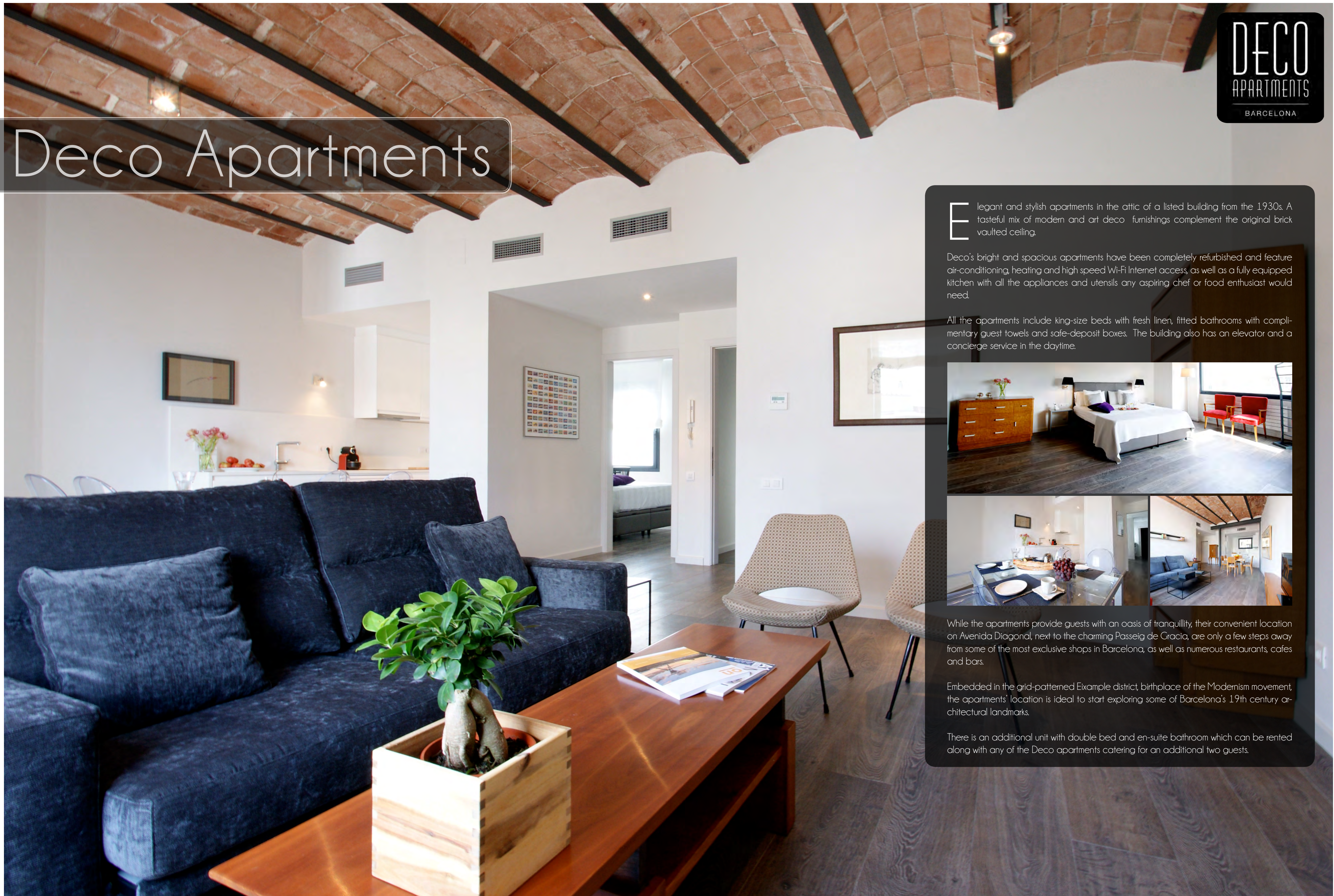
Mallorca is the largest of the Balearic Islands, an archipelago in the Mediterranean off Spain's eastern coast. Offering plentiful sunshine, a busy nightlife and copious shops and restaurants, this ever-popular destination has been home to several notables, including Michael Douglas, Claudia Schiffer and tennis superstar Rafael Nadal. It's no surprise that olives form a staple part of the Mallorcan diet, as the island is covered in millions of olive and almond trees. Islanders are especially proud of their traditional cuisine of sobrasada—a sausage made with pork, paprika and other spices—and the sweet pastry ensaïmada.

Gran Canaria

Called "Land of the Brave" by the Canarii settlers of over 2000 years ago, Gran Canaria is jam-packed with things to see and do—especially if you're the outdoors type. Relax on the glittering sands of its endless beaches; enjoy the ambience of its friendly seaside resorts; stroll the sleepy streets of its whitewashed mountainside villages. Its stupendous range of "micro-climates" has led to this fascinating island being labelled a "miniature continent", where dunes of bright white sand and deep, verdant ravines live side-by-side. Almost half of the island is a protected area and there are several nature reserves and natural parks.

Tenerife

Once a poor banana-growing island, Tenerife—the largest of the Canaries—has been transformed by the air tourism that began in the 1960s. The sheer variety of its landscape is astonishing, encompassing dense forests, scenic coastlines, deserts, mountains, volcanoes and magnificent beaches. The 12,000-foot peak of Mount Teide, Spain's highest mountain, forms a dramatic division between the island's north and south. Drivers up for a challenge will appreciate the many winding mountain routes accompanied by breathtaking scenery at every turn. There is a large zoo and animal park outside of Puerto de la Cruz, and the island is popular with go-karters, cyclists and scuba divers.

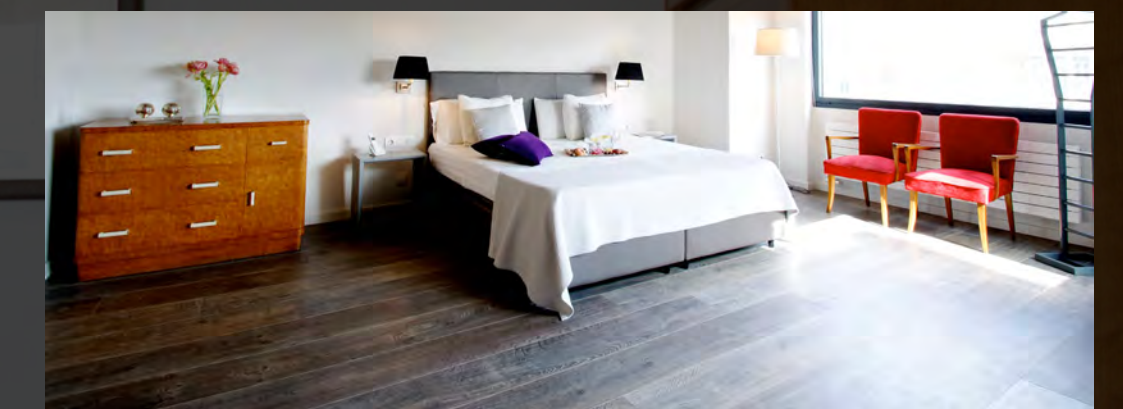


Deco Apartments

Elegant and stylish apartments in the attic of a listed building from the 1930s. A tasteful mix of modern and art deco furnishings complement the original brick vaulted ceiling.

Deco's bright and spacious apartments have been completely refurbished and feature air-conditioning, heating and high speed Wi-Fi Internet access, as well as a fully equipped kitchen with all the appliances and utensils any aspiring chef or food enthusiast would need.

All the apartments include king-size beds with fresh linen, fitted bathrooms with complimentary guest towels and safe-deposit boxes. The building also has an elevator and a concierge service in the daytime.



While the apartments provide guests with an oasis of tranquility, their convenient location on Avenida Diagonal, next to the charming Passeig de Gracia, are only a few steps away from some of the most exclusive shops in Barcelona, as well as numerous restaurants, cafes and bars.

Embedded in the grid-patterned Eixample district, birthplace of the Modernism movement, the apartments' location is ideal to start exploring some of Barcelona's 19th century architectural landmarks.

There is an additional unit with double bed and en-suite bathroom which can be rented along with any of the Deco apartments catering for an additional two guests.

*“The stylish loft
apartments’ location is
ideal to start exploring
some of Barcelona’s 19th
century architectural
landmarks.”*



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Hi. This is Barcelona

Barcelona is often put on the map as the home to one of the greatest football teams of all-time. Aside from sports it is also home to one of the greatest cities and friendliest people in the world. Come to Barcelona and embark upon your very own Catalanian adventure.



Jordan Susselman

Owner, Hi. This is
Barcelona

Jordan took the brave step to move to Barcelona over a decade ago from San Diego, California, without a work visa, home, nor friends in that city. Since then, he has lived in many of its diverse 'barrios', learned its unique language, enjoyed its delicious cuisine, attended its festivals, traipsed through its museums and monuments, studied its past and politics, shopped in its open markets and neighbourhood stores, sipped wine in its most charming courtyards and smokiest bars and, of course, befriended, fallen in love with, and been adopted by more than a few of its locals along the way. In short, he has lived a true Catalanian experience, and now he wants to share it with you.

In 2006, Jordan created Hi. This is Barcelona... in order to share his unique experience of this extraordinary city with travellers from all over the world, promising to offer private tours of a distinct, lively and personal nature. He assembled a team of passionate and knowledgeable expert guides and together they have become Barcelona's top private touring company, offering uniquely authentic customised tours and activities in Barcelona, and around Spain.

Expert
Bio

La Boqueria

A visit to la Boqueria is a feast on the senses and a sprawling shrine to fresh produce. Even if you are travelling all inclusive we would still recommend visiting the most famous market in Europe. As you arrive at the large arched entrance you will be overcome with awe. The scent of food from all nationalities will leave you salivating, the vibrant colours of the fresh and candied fruits will dazzle and amaze, while the lively sounds of the noisy stallholders add to the charm of the overall experience. That is without even mentioning the succulent flavours of the tasty produce on offer.

Many visitors mistake la Boqueria as being just another tourist spectacle due to its gathering crowds and its prime location on Las Ramblas, but that is not the case. Everyone from gourmet chefs to the local residents do their shopping here as many of the specialist produce can only be found in this market place. After a few visits you will no longer be bemused by shoppers carrying entire pigs or spotting the weird and wonderful items on display such as black eels and bull's tails. It will become part and parcel of the day-to-day life.



"No visit to Barcelona is complete without a visit to this market, by far my favourite place in the entire city of Barcelona. Though Barcelona has 44 open markets, none is quite as beautiful or quite as unique as la Boqueria. Spend some quality time in this market and be sure to explore all the different areas - not just the centre aisle - and tasting the different foods along the way."

Jordan Susselman

Local Non-Touristy Neighbourhoods

Get out of the tourist trap and experience some of the quaint local neighbourhoods that can be found around the outskirts of Barcelona. Walk through the narrow cobbled streets and gaze upon the characteristic architecture found throughout. Gracia is home to a bohemian crowd basking in the trendy main squares and is the destination for many striking art nouveau buildings.

Throughout these diverse districts you will encounter every type of shop: high-end designer, artsy boutique, centuries-old specialty, family-run, mainstream commercial and mom-n-pop hole-in-the-wall. Get some retail therapy by browsing the many fabulous shops or simply kick back and soak up the Mediterranean lifestyle in one of the cosy cafes or atmospheric bars.



In the evening, head to the resurgent district of Poble Nou, where the Barcelona skyline is pierced with the architectural masterpiece known as the Torre Agbar. As the headquarters of a water company, the 38-storey skyscraper may appear to be just another office space but at night time it is a marvellous light show for the city residents when 4,500 LED luminous devices provide a radiant and glowing sight for those all around.

“Gracia is a beautiful and quaint neighbourhood that most tourists don’t get to, mostly because they only spend a couple of days in Barcelona. Gracia is full of people from all over the world, but at the same time is a one of the hubs of local Catalan nationalism.”

Jordan Susselman

Moderniste Architecture

Barcelona is a very artsy city. It is rammed full of fascinating museums and aesthetically pleasing galleries. But the best exhibition on display is the vibrant and modern district of Eixample. Here you will find an explosion of colour and a series of wonderful buildings which look like they have been plucked straight out of a fairy-tale.

The fascinating mixture of medieval and art nouveau buildings often play second fiddle to the moderniste architecture and distinctive works of Antoni Gaudi – Barcelona’s most famous architect. The moderniste movement created an art form that was almost entirely unique to Catalonia. With curved lines and rounded features, dynamism of forms, and nature-based characteristics with flowers, plants and animals – this is certainly an art form which stands out from the crowd.



The whimsical Casa Batlló is one of the most eye-catching structures as much of the façade is decorated with a mosaic made of golden orange and greenish blue broken ceramic tiles while its roof has been likened to the back of a dragon or dinosaur. Another exquisite example of moderniste design is the stunningly beautiful interior at Colonia Güell. The church was designed by Gaudi, and the crypt is still considered to be one of his most spectacular works of all time.

“Stray from the main avenues such as Passeig de Gracia and allow yourself to get lost on some of the Eixample side streets and admire some of the fantastic “moderniste” architecture that doesn’t get mentioned in guidebooks. Try the streets of Enrique Granados, Aribau, and Calle Consell de Cent, Provenza.”

Jordan Susselman



Hi. This is Barcelona...

“Hi. This is Barcelona...” was born out of one American ex-pat’s desire to transmit onto other travellers his love of city exploration and his passion for the history, architecture, food and wine of Barcelona. Founded in 2006 with the goal of introducing travellers to the REAL Barcelona in an atypical way, they custom-design private touring experiences and other activities for culturally curious travellers. Their team includes some of the most gifted official licensed tour guides in Barcelona and an array of additional experts and specialists, who are selected not only for their knowledge and experience, but also for their passion for what they do.

The company has grown steadily since it was founded and they now arrange customised tours around Catalonia, and in other Spanish cities as well. However, the company remains small and dedicated to offering a unique product and highly personalised customer service. Hi. This is Barcelona spends time and energy to find the perfect tours and activities for each client, which includes pairing them with the guides they think will fit them best. They go far beyond their roles as tour guides and get to know each visitor, often keeping in touch with them for many years.

Hi. This is Barcelona is committed to helping you get the most out of your stay in Barcelona and to provide you with an experience that would be impossible to obtain on your own or with a standard, large-scale touring company.

WE

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Barcelona

Barcelona Bride Week

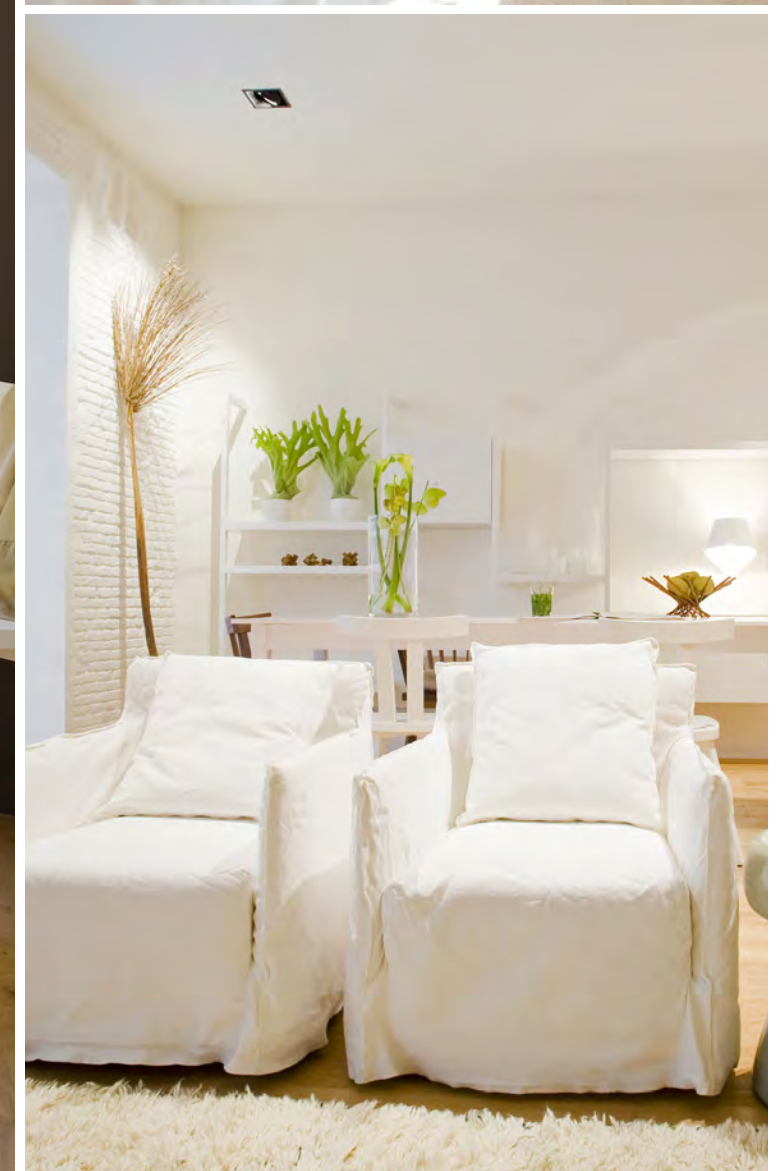
Feminine *and luxurious*

Designed for every blushing bride-to-be Barcelona Bride Week is now in its 22nd year and it's just getting started. Each year the event showcases the most stunning wedding and bridesmaids dresses that Spain has to offer and believe us the Spanish do wedding dresses better than anyone. Embellishment, whites and pinks, trails and veils are all shown off on an army of the most gorgeous models. Celebrated designers Rosa Clara, Jesus Peiro, Ana Torres, Hannibal Laguna and Carla Ruiz all feature at Bride Week showcasing their billowing dresses to the fashion world. The whole week includes feminine and luxurious shows that don't disappoint but Bride Week isn't afraid to make headlines. This year's show featured transgender model Andrej Pejic modelling for Rosa Clara.

Where: [Barcelona, Spain](#)
When: [May 2013](#)
Tel: [+34 932 093 639](#)
Email: info@barcelonabridalweek.com
Website: www.moda-barcelona.com

“functional spaces incorporate a Nordic charm with the lively soul of the Mediterranean, many of which have been featured on high-end design and architecture websites”

DESTINATIONBCN
apartments in barcelona



DestinationBCN Apartment Suites in Barcelona

DestinationBCN exudes sheer elegance with its impressive modernistic apartment suites that easily make one feel at home. Here, functional spaces incorporate a Nordic charm with the lively soul of the Mediterranean, many of which have been featured on high-end design and architecture websites. Rooftop terraces are decorated with plush pillows and sun loungers to create a haven that you can escape to after the hustle and bustle of the city. The kitchens are fully equipped with state-of-the-art appliances and the designer furniture has been carefully sourced to create a stylish environment.

The company prides themselves on exceptional customer service, which is personalised from the time of booking to the actual check-in. The team remain at the disposal of their guests with a friendly service at a round-the-clock disposition.

Complimentary cava, a list of recommended restaurants and delicious crunchy chocolate biscuits are just some of the special treats that one can expect when booking a DestinationBCN apartment suite.

With eleven apartments set in Ronda Universitat 11 by Plaça Catalunya, guests can expect to have an array of places to eat, drink and visit at just a stone's throw away.

Apartments: 11, including 2 penthouses.

Rates: €140–€350 for two people, with an extra €20–€40 a night for each extra person, excludes cleaning (€50–€90) and 10% tax.

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Basque Tours

basque country

Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao

The Basque Country is the name given to the home of the Basque people in the western Pyrenees that spans the border between France and Spain on the Atlantic coast.

Considered home of Europe's oldest culture and language, its world class gastronomy and attractions make this region unique and different.



Jon Galdos

Owner, Basque Tours

Expert Bio

Jon Galdos was born and raised in an inland town of the Basque Country. Since he was a child, he was fascinated by foreign travellers that he could see every time he was in San Sebastian. As an adult, he travelled extensively throughout the five continents, to acquire a first hand knowledge about the needs and preferences of travellers. Upon coming back from one of those trips he took the decision to try to make a living from his two great passions; travel and photography. He started delivering the first tours on weekends and on vacation, while still working as an engineer at a software company.

Basque Tours was born in 2007, offering private tours in the Basque Country making his dreams come true. For the last five years he showed people this wonderful and unique area, home of Europe's oldest culture and where every day brings a new experience. Over that time he had built up a first class knowledge of a lot of different places of interest both on and off the beaten track and it will be his pleasure to guide you to the sights and experiences that you most want from your holiday. Jon Galdos can deliver tours in his native Basque, Spanish and also in English.

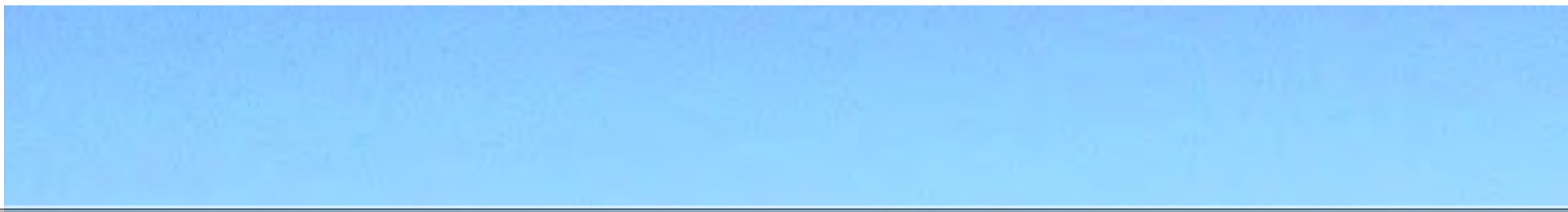
For The Art Lovers...

Out of the three Guggenheim Museums that are currently in operation you could easily group New York and Venice together. New York hosts Solomon R. Guggenheim's private collection while Venice hosts Peggy Guggenheim's treasure trove. Between them, they hold some of the greatest European and American art of the first half of the 1900s.

Bilbao on the other hand offers something unique and different. Its collection spans from the mid-twentieth century to the present day and includes some key works by the most significant artists of this period such as Willem de Kooning, Gerhard Richter and Andy Warhol. The museum concentrates on post-war painting and sculpture in America and Europe. As a result, it is always striving to remain contemporary and relevant.

Frank Gehry's spectacular twisting titanium-clad ultra-modern and unmistakable art building was hailed by architect Philip Johnson as "the greatest building of our time" and since its completion in 1997 it has become something of an emblem for the city of Bilbao.





San Sebastian

For The Food Lovers...

With more Michelin star chefs per head than any other city there is little surprise that San Sebastian is recognised as the culinary capital of Spain. Three of the five Michelin three star restaurants of Spain reside in San Sebastian, and they are complemented by a great selection of restaurants that hold a further 16 Michelin stars.

You do not necessarily have to seek out the gourmet and haute establishments as you will soon find that almost every gastronomic offering is both fancy and luxurious in equal measures. Saunter through the narrow streets of the historic Old Town and the colours, smells and tastes will tempt you into the tapas bars that line the streets on your way toward the small marina and San Sebastian castle.

The Basques are fishing folk by ancient tradition and their most famous dishes are pintxos which is the local version of Spanish tapas. This can include bite sized snacks of tiger mussels, foie gras with figs, sardines and grilled baby squid. All of which will have been caught fresh that day. Make sure you visit the main market where the fish counters are a pleasure to behold, and the fresh fruit and vegetables are mouth-wateringly good.

Once you have had your fill of San Sebastian's exquisite flavours there is no better way to spend the rest of your time than relaxing on La Concha Beach or taking in the views from Mount Igeldo. Even though it is most famous for its cuisine, San Sebastian also happens to be one of the most beautiful cities in all of Spain.



La Rioja

For The Wine Lovers...

If you believe the myth that the only Spanish dish worth eating is paella then you would probably believe that the only drink worth swilling is their sangria. In both instances you would be horribly mistaken.

The Spanish are equally familiar with producing a good bottle of red and their native Tempranillo grape is famous all around the world. Producing a full-bodied wine with full fruit flavoured characteristics; they are perhaps one of the most food friendly wines around. It is often referred to as Spain's noble grape and is the main varietal in Spain's Rioja wines.

Take a day trip to Rioja to visit the local cave-style wineries in Laguardia Village and learn about their fascinating wine making process. Also, be sure to visit the Marques del Riscal wine cellar for an exquisite sampling session. This building was designed by the very same architect that created the spectacular Guggenheim museum in Bilbao.



Biarritz and the French Basque Coast

For The Sun Seekers...

Basque culture meets Gascon chic in France's southernmost resorts. Along the Bay of Biscay you will find the French Basque Coast which is a stunning series of luxurious seaside towns and popular tourist resorts.

Many visitors enjoy a stroll along the longest beach of the Basque Country, in Hendaya, as well as a venture through the medieval fortified town of Hondarribia. But to us, the highlight of this excursion is the beautiful beach town of Biarritz.

Biarritz is a little wild and backed by unkempt cliffs but that just adds to its unique chic-shabby charm. For centuries now it has welcomed the rich and glamorous to its golden sandy beaches and continues to combine that elegant blend of Spanish and French appeal that made it ever popular.

If you are into surfing then you will not find a better spot to catch the waves than Cote des Basques. It was on this beach that surfing in Europe began. Nowadays it is more popular among longboarders but it is also ideal for beginners as the waves aren't as powerful as they are in other areas.



Basque Coast & Countryside

For The Basque Lovers...

Those of you that are yet to fall in love with the Basque Country, this one is for you. Combining an appealing mixture of quaint villages, fine wine and chic retreats with an abundance of greenery, those leg muscles are really going to get a workout because once you start hiking you will not want to stop.

Set in long stretches of rolling hillsides and clustered with picturesque mountain ranges abruptly giving way to the beautiful coast line teeming with cliffs that enclose million of years of Earth's history. Wherever you choose to begin your expedition you will undoubtedly be in for a treat.

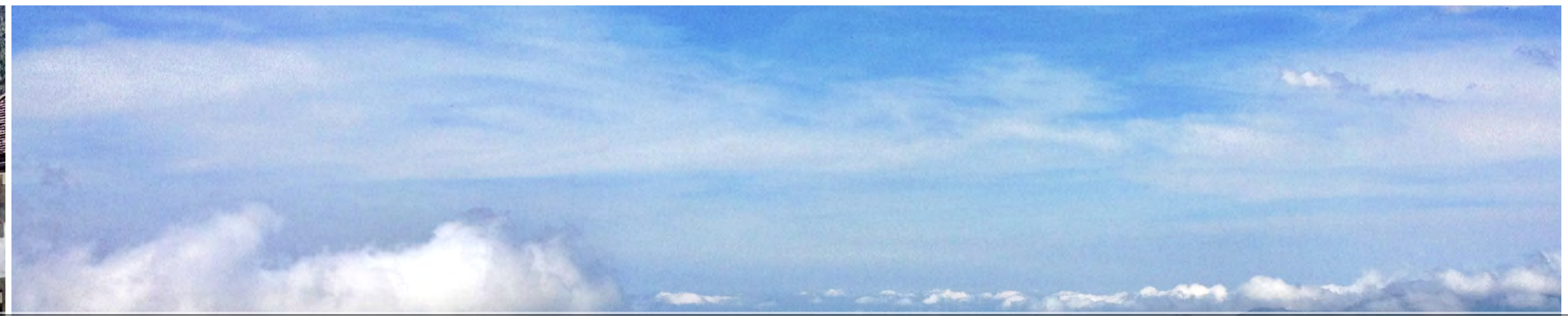
Start the day exploring the Basque mountains or even crossing the Pyrenees, enjoying the incredible panoramic views on offer and get to the coast afterwards, to stroll along mountain backed natural beaches in Zumaia and Zarautz and feel the strong marine tradition of the Basques in the charming village of Getaria, it is probably one of the most treasured medieval centres which best reflects the passing of time. Other points of interest include Guernica and Sain Jean Pied de Port and sailing tours through the glistening waters.



The Bay of Biscay provides the beautiful beaches that make Basque Country a stunning summer vacation while the fascinating artwork, scrumptious food and exquisite wine are a unique treat whatever time of year you visit.



Basque Tours



Basquetours is a specialist incoming company based in San Sebastian that offers you personal assistance to create authentic experiences in the Basque Country (Northern Spain and Southern France), with its world class attractions; the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, food lovers reference San Sebastian, amazing wineries in La Rioja area, beautiful beaches & cliffs in Biarritz and southern France, spectacular mountains in the Pyrenees...

Their aim is to create private and exclusive activities and services; from cultural and gastronomic to active tours. Customised packages based on your preferences and tastes, in order to discover and feel this exceptional region and its treasures, always accompanied by the best assistants, guides and local experts who will make the difference. The most professional and knowledgeable team of native multilingual guides are at your service to make your experience unforgettable and unique.



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Papa Serra – Culinary Adventures in Barcelona

Papa Serra fuses cooking classes, market tours and customised experiences that will open more than your eyes to the gastronomic heart of the city. Anthony Bourdain from No Reservations described Barcelona as “the most exciting place to eat in the Western world.”



Engage all your senses as you tour the city’s best markets including the world-renowned La Boqueria and experience the best that Spain has to offer. Enjoy artichokes from the fields of Andalucía, the creamiest Spanish cheeses, seafood straight from the Mediterranean, wild mushrooms from Girona’s forests, Spain’s famous Jamón Ibérico, oranges from Seville and almonds from the hills of Catalonia.

Learn how to transform these ingredients into delicious traditional and modern Spanish dishes and enjoy the fruits of your labour with a refreshing glass of Cava – Spain’s answer to champagne or a choose from a selection of Spain’s famous wines such as Tempranillo, Carancho, Syrah and Mazuelo, and Catalan Vichy – the world’s best mineral water.

Come on a culinary adventure in Barcelona and make your Spanish food dreams come true.

Papa Serra
Jr

PAPASERRA
culinary adventures
Barcelona





*“Engage all your senses as you tour
the city’s best markets and experience
the best that Spain has to offer.”*

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Breguet, the innovator.

Invention of the shock-protection device, 1790

Inspired by “subscription watches,” the Tradition 7027BR model daringly symbolizes the Breguet art of watchmaking through a subtle play on transparency effects and an eminent contemporary architectural design. It highlights one of Breguet’s most important inventions, the *pare-chute*, designed to protect the balance pivots in case of impact, it was the forerunner of all modern shock-absorbing devices. History is still being written...

www.breguet.com/inventions



BELLAGIO

Flagship Boutique

granada

Barcelona is often put on the map as the home to one of the greatest football teams of all-time. Aside from sports it is also home to one of the greatest cities and friendliest people in the world. Come to Barcelona and embark upon your very own Catalanian adventure.



Beatriz Peña



Juan Antonio Salcedo

Owners, Hi. Nhue Concierge

Beatriz Peña was born in Granada in 1980 and she graduated from the University of Granada in the study of Tourism. She has lived and worked in different parts of Spain, but the last seven years have been spent between Marbella, Ronda and Granada. These places are her area of influence and destinations where she has specialised in the maximum luxury services over the past two years. Helicopter transfers, driving private courses for professionals in Racing Circuit, live painting while enjoying a horse show and Flamenco... Its great virtue transform all requests that fall into their hands in unique experiences to share and live.

Juan Antonio Salcedo was born in Granada in 1972 and he graduated from the University of Granada in the School of Civil Engineering. He worked for years in the world of construction, but their passion for engineering and travel he wanted to take him to want to share their experience and wisdom. He formed the part of the department for seven years creating and developing specialist author Cultural trips to Europe. For the past two years he has worked alongside Beatriz creating a perfect tandem between exclusivity and culture in the cities where they display their passion.

Expert Bio

La Carrera del Darro

If you like your scenic walks then you will definitely love Carrera del Darro. It is one of the oldest streets in Granada and is full of authentic Spanish charm. The street dates back to the seventeenth century and many of the great buildings which stood here during that period still remain today.

Carrera del Darro is not just about the narrow cobbled paths and typically Spanish buildings. It is also a place to relax and enjoy the beautiful natural scenery. It runs between the River Darro and the forests of Alhambra and Almanzora, providing excellent landscapes whatever time of day you visit.

If you visit during the evenings your journey may be graced by the presence of street musicians jamming along. There are two brick and stone bridges along the walk which links you to the Churra district. Allow yourself the time to cross over and explore the chic and dilettante lifestyle held within.



“La Carrera del Darro and its extension, the Paseo de los Tristes, is one of the most delightful walks to discover an intimate Granada. With a bohemian and bucolic atmosphere and a historical tour it is considered to be one of the most beautiful streets in Europe.”

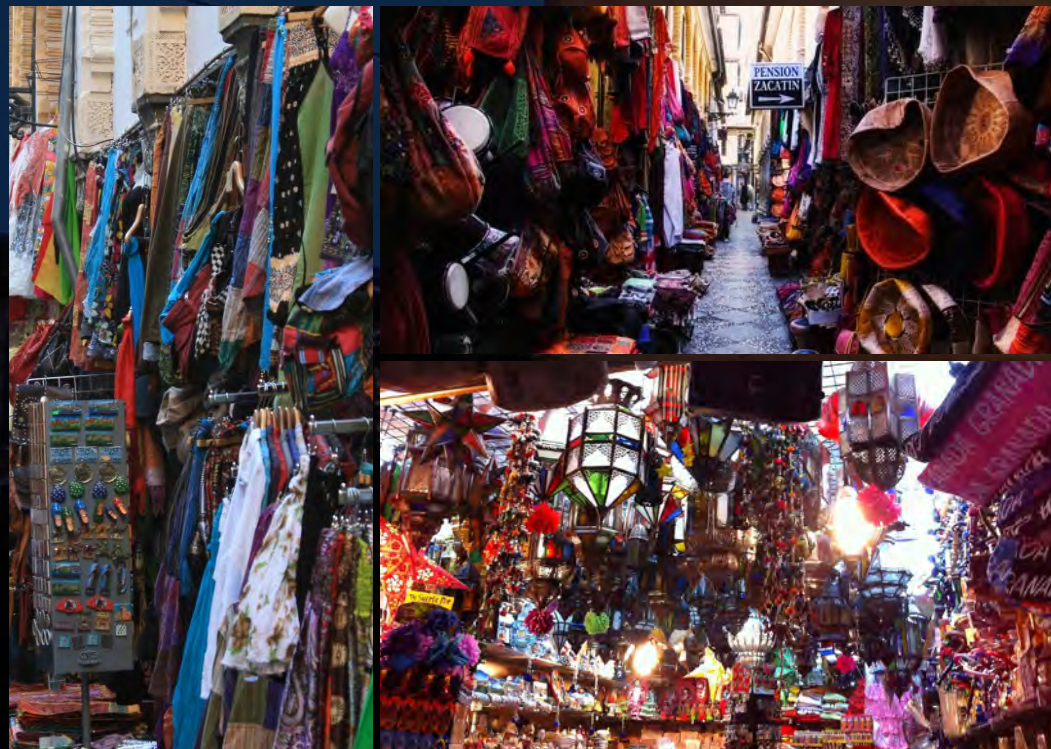
Beatriz Peña & Juan Antonio Salcedo

Alcaiceria

The name Alcaiceria literally means either the 'house of Caesar' or 'belonging to Caesar' in recognition of the fact that Emperor Justinian, of the ancient Byzantine Empire, granted the Moors permission to make and sell silk here.

Although the original market place was destroyed by a fire in 1843, it was considered too important to both trade and tourism to just let it lie and as a result the current market was rebuilt in the space of just two years.

Maintaining its links to ancient times, the Alcaiceria still preserves traces of the Arab souks along with some memories of the bustling market activity from the Nasrid Dynasty. While you will no longer find a mass collection of silk stores, Alcaiceria is still well worth a visit. The street runs from Plaza Alonso Cano and is full of souvenir shops and typical bric-a-brac.



"The Alcaiceria is one of the last Arab souks of Europe. It is located in the centre of Granada, between the Cathedral and the Zacatín Catholic Kings. In the late nineteenth century it suffered a major fire that left it burned to ashes. After being rebuilt in neo-Moorish style houses in narrow streets craft shops, traditional items, teas, incense, leather goods, spices."

Beatriz Peña & Juan Antonio Salcedo

Arch of Elvira

The Arch of Elvira – commonly referred to as the Elvira Gate – was originally one of the gates in the city's fortifications. While the walls have long been demolished, the Moorish-style archway still remains. There is evidence from a 17th century engraving that the gate dates back to the 11th century, and a guided tour by an expert will share all of the old tales and gruesome stories of how the gates allegedly displayed the rotting heads of executed criminals.

Try not to linger too long around the Arch of Elvira because this is not necessarily the main attraction. As you pass through the gateway, you will continue on to Calle Elvira. It is here that you will find the life and soul of Granada with its many shops and vast array of vibrant bars.



"The Arch of Elvira takes us back in time. Wander through centuries as you pass through hidden and inviting streets. Leading up to Plaza Nueva, the narrow streets widen to rediscover the sun and a square full of orange."

Beatriz Peña & Juan Antonio Salcedo



Plaza Nueva

Instead of heading northbound as you pass through the Arch of Elvira, venture towards the south where you will arrive at the Plaza Nueva. Despite the names translation as New Square, it is in fact the oldest square in Granada and lies between the modern centre and the Carrera del Darro.

Around the square are several important buildings such as the Royal Chancellery and the House of Pisa while it is also home to numerous monuments such as the Fountain of the Bull which features a bull in the centre spouting water and a young boy on either side. Those who know the history of the region may already be aware that this square was once one of the most important centres in Granada and supposedly held bullfights in its centre.

Visit the Plaza Nueva during the summer and you will be greeted with excellent terraces from which to observe the peaceful tranquillity of this historic region.



Jewish Quarter

The Realejo was the Jewish area during the Arabic kingdom of Granada and although the area has changed significantly throughout time it is still affectionately known as the Jewish Quarter. In 1501, all of the churches in Granada were converted into Christian places of worship and many visitors are still drawn in to browse the San Cecilio's Church, built on an old mosque, as well as the Convent of the Discoled Carmelitas.

The neighbourhood is now a heavily populated district and its streets are vibrant with a distinctive character. Walking down the streets of Realejo, you will see numerous examples of fascinating modernist architecture as well as the 16th century Palace of La Casa de los Tiros. A trip to the most famous square, El Campe del Principe comes highly recommended. Anybody who would like to get a real flavour of Granada should definitely sample the surrounding tapas and bars.

“El Campo del Principe is the social centre of the neighbourhood of Realejo (is the Jewish quarter of the city). The square is bustling and cheerful; a playground for people in their bars and terraces. Take the time to book a table and enjoy a magnificent home menu magnificently prepared by the nuns.”

Beatriz Peña & Juan Antonio Salcedo



Granada is a city best observed at a casual pace. Take your time to explore the monuments and attractions throughout the city while heading off-the-beaten-path to find the hidden gems along the backstreets and narrow cobbled roads.



Nhue Concierge



Nhue Concierge specialises in designing unusual stays in Granada, Ronda and Marbella, along with providing services across other Spanish cities. They know that each customer is unique; their tastes, preferences and needs. Therefore, they adapt and customise every trip, designing the character of its protagonists with its very own identity. They offer the opportunity to experience the destination exclusively, personally and uniquely.

Nhue Concierge are the passport to the best experiences and stays in selected cities. For the past two years, they have offered their luxurious and exclusive service to the most discerning traveller: an exclusive visit to the Alhambra, private parties, unique dining experiences, practices of elite sports, private access to art collections, wine routes inaccessible to the public warehouses, workshop visits to fashion designers and hidden artisans, intimate and exclusive routes through the city, and stays on Carmenes, villas or Andalusian farmhouses.

The company also design and organise unique events: exclusive weddings in Marbella and Granada, anniversaries or honeymoons and sailing trips through the Mediterranean on a private yacht. Whatever experience you require, each guest will be guided through every step of their plans and will be provided with a 24-hour telephone assistance offered on arrival.

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Jack Nicklaus Golf Trail



Jack Nicklaus Golf Trail

The 'Jack Nicklaus Golf Trail' is a golfing project based in the Murcia region of south-eastern Spain, all of which carries the signature of the most accomplished golfer of all time.

The complete experience allows visitors to play a round of golf at six of the most aesthetically pleasing, highly maintained, quality courses that continental Europe has to offer. Each course carries the brand name of 'Nicklaus Design', the design firm of Jack Nicklaus. The former American golfer commanded an unbridled winning mentality during his playing days, and he continues to possess the same mentality in his course design, driving 'Nicklaus Design' to become a global leader.

"The Golden Bear" won an unprecedented 18 major championships in his career, and currently has 365 courses open for play worldwide. The six that belong to the 'Golf Trail' are each located within a twenty-five kilometre radius of each other, allowing keen golf enthusiasts to travel from one to the next in a golfing experience like no other.

Alhama

Located in a luscious nature reserve is this 18-hole 72 par signature course. Alhama is a large and spacious course that perfectly incorporates the surrounding untouched natural landscape into its riveting design. Jack Nicklaus designed the course in the second half of the last decade and the venue opened in 2009. It opened to rave reviews, being popular with media and golfers alike. The strong praise given to the course culminated in its inclusion amongst 'Golf World' magazine's highest rated European courses of 2011.

Alhama itself carries an 'open parkland' layout, with a smoothly sloping surface. It is just shy of 7,000 metres long, but its strategic layout means that you cannot simply hit and hope. Each hole requires you to pick each shot carefully, or risk being halted by its major obstacles. Scattered around the course are five large lakes, a variation of bunkers and trees that line the courses' edge.



El Valle

Although all six of these exceptional courses carries Nicklaus' name, each one is carefully planned and designed to offer variation to anyone out to fully experience 'the trail'. This means that no two courses are the same in their layout, setting or obstacles. The most striking feature that sets El Valle apart from the rest is its surroundings. The par-71 course is located within a natural desert; form the links you will survey a sparse but beautiful landscape, filled with sloping sands, rocky regions and dessert greenery. Stretching just over 6,000 metres, El Valle is smaller than other courses on 'the trail', requiring greater precision and a more tactical approach.

The Course's 'core' layout means that it is a continuous part of the entire site. The challenge missing due to the lack of trees or bushes on the course, is made up by pot bunkers that are littered throughout.

The properties are generally equipped with two or three bedrooms, spacious air-conditioned rooms, swimming pools and balconies commanding excellent views of the blissful surroundings.

All available properties allow for full access to each course. Each resort offers excellent hospitality, but one of the most popular locations is certainly the apartments at Mar Menor. Mar Menor is a gated community, exclusively offering its excellently maintained facilities to the many full-time residents that occupy the resort. The villas and apartments in this vibrant community are colourful and unique. Other prime locations include both the resorts at El Torre and Alhama. So we suggest you settle in one of these exquisite settings, and fully take in each course of this unforgettable golfing experience.

Saurines

From the mid 1990's to the early 2000's, Jack Nicklaus expanded his course design empire to Las Vegas, which is characterised by its location beside the Nevada dessert. Nicklaus' three courses in Las Vegas form the inspiration behind Saurines, the next course in his Spanish project. Located in the Terrazas del Torre complex,

Saurines is an 18-hole, 72-par course which incorporates the natural features of its surrounding dessert into its design. Saurines compelling dessert aesthetic is visually known for its sand dunes rather than a filmic dessert scene, setting it aside from Nicklaus' El Valle course. The course has a gently undulating terrain, with greens that are surrounded by dunes and bunkers. However, Saurines trickiest obstacle comes in the form of a giant six acre lake that can be found in the centre of holes 9 and 18.

This mammoth water hazard can make even the most experienced golfer feel uneasy; ramping up the pressure in this truly thrilling round of golf.

The courses' close proximity to each other makes them easily accessible via a free shuttle bus. During your stay, why not rent or buy one of Polaris World's readily available apartments and villas, which are both reasonably priced and extravagant.

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Toursevilla seville

If you are looking for a Spanish city to unwind and relax then this is it. Seville is the region's capital and biggest city but it never has that big city vibe. With a combination of peaceful walks and picturesque cruises you will feel that special Andalusian way of life.



Marta Casals
Manager, Toursevilla

Expert Bio

Marta Casals was born in Seville and has lived there all her life. She has been an official tour guide of Seville since 2000 and has a BA in History from the University of Seville. She is fluent in English, French and Italian.

After several years experience as a local guide, she created Toursevilla, a company specialising in cultural and private tours for groups, individual visitors and families.

Marta, passionate about meeting new people and enthusiasts of Seville will be pleased to share with you the stories, the architecture, the history and the art of this unique city.

Guadalquivir River

Although it is 80 kilometres away from the Atlantic Coast, this stretch of water had an important role to play. Back in the 16th century it was an important trade route. Now, it serves its purpose as a relaxing break and tranquil tourist attraction providing visitors and locals alike with the opportunity to cruise downstream whilst taking in the picturesque landscape.

As you sail along the pristine waters of the Guadalquivir River you will see a large portion of the sights in Seville such as the Torre del Oro and the Maestranza bullring. You will also pass through undulating countryside and get your fill of nature from the banks which are lined with beautiful greenery and forestation.

The Guadalquivir River flows straight through Seville separating the main city from the Triana district. Your boat will go under as many as nine bridges which connect the two regions. You will also pass by the quaint neighbourhood of Calle Betis in the Triana district opening your eyes to the magnificent Andalusian culture.



"In the 16th century all the wealth and new American products came up through the river and from here they were distributed throughout Europe. Sevilla became the port and the door of the Indies. Watching the river is the Tower of Gold, built in Moorish times."



The Real Alcazar

Together with the Seville Cathedral, the Real Alcazar has been registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987. The Real Alcazar is a beautiful palace built in Moorish style by Pedro I the Cruel in the 14th century. It is one of Seville's main tourist attractions and it is easy to see why.

At the time of construction it was built as a royal palace – hence the name 'Real' which translates as Royal, and not in any way suggesting that there is perhaps a 'fake' Alcazar – and the upper levels of the palace are in fact still used by the royal family as the official Seville residence.

The main attraction is the extravagant architecture, lavish gardens and luxurious rooms that can be found throughout the grounds. However, make sure you don't miss the opportunity to visit the room where Magellan planned his first journey around the world.



“1000 years of history can be found in a series of palaces and gardens at this UNESCO World Heritage site. Sultans poets, cruel and righteous kings, powerful queens as Isabel la Catolica, intrepid sailors as Magellan, have all walked through the halls of the Alcazar of Seville. It truly is one of the most beautiful palaces in Europe.”



Santa Maria Cathedral

As you arrive at the Santa Maria Cathedral you will likely be overcome with awe at the sheer size and grandeur of this striking building. It is the third biggest cathedral in Europe and in terms of volume it is the largest in the world. Although the intricate detailing on the Door of Conception and the Door of the Prince are impressive examples of Gothic architectural design, the real gems are preserved within.

The most famous attraction inside the cathedral is the large funeral monument near to the main entrance containing the body of the great explorer Christopher Columbus. DNA tests have confirmed the match using the bones of his brother Diego who was also buried in Seville.

Today this building houses an invaluable art collection. As you browse through the fascinating collection you will discover everything from royal relics and colourful stained glass artwork through to one of the finest altarpieces in the world courtesy of Pierre Dancart's Retablo Mayor. Taking 44 years to complete, this masterpiece consists of 36 gilded relief panels depicting scenes from the Old Testament and above all New Testament.





Giralda Tower

Although Spain is now predominantly Catholic, it is a country that has strong links to the Islamic faith, dating back to the 1100s when the country was under Arab rule. One of the greatest gifts that the Arabs left behind can be found in Seville with the Giralda Tower. The Giralda is a former minaret that was converted to a bell tower for the Santa Maria Cathedral.

In theory it is a part of the Santa Maria Cathedral and can be accessed as part of the cathedral tour, but we felt that it was worthy of a standalone mention. During your visit make sure you climb to the very top of the Giralda tower where you will enjoy panoramic vistas across the entire city and beyond.

“The ambitious construction of Santa Maria, the Cathedral of Seville, began in 1430. It is the former site of the Islamic mosque, currently conserve the old minaret, better known as the Giralda. Among its attractions, the real tomb of Christopher Columbus, whose remains after traveling between Spain and America for 400 years now rest here.”



Jewish Quarter

Seville is a melting pot of multicultural life and as a result it is not only Muslims and Catholics that have influenced this great city. You will find that the Cathedral and Giralda actually reside in the heart of Seville's Jewish Quarter, Barrio Santa Cruz.

Ever since the Jews were dispelled from Spain in 1492, the neighbourhood has undergone significant changes including the conversion of a former synagogue into the current Church of Saint Bartholomew. Yet the district is still known as the old juderia with many of its narrow winding streets still standing. The Jewish Quarter is one of the most charming districts in the whole of Seville and attracts a large number of visitors during their venture to the Cathedral.



Take a peaceful cruise along the Guadalquivir River followed by a stroll through the narrow, winding medieval lanes of the Jewish Quarter and by the time you arrive at the Santa Maria Cathedral – you may be thinking of other church bells. The subtlety of Seville makes it one of the most romantic cities in Europe.

Lemon Valley Holidays

Lemon Valley Holidays was created out of a passion for Andalusia and to help the more discerning and curious traveller explore the cultural and rural areas of this beautiful and dramatic part of Spain. At the end of their holiday each visitor will feel like they had an "authentic" experience, enhanced by perfectly located and welcoming hotels, meeting up with knowledgeable and friendly local guides and using insider knowledge of the best places to visit to get a true taste of the "real" Andalusia.

We all know the joy of finding a gem of a family owned hotel tucked away in a side street or a cosy local restaurant where the food and the wine is beaten only by the charm and hospitality of the host. These are moments which create memories that will stay with you forever and Andalusia is full of them if you know where to look.

Over the years Lemon Valley have built up an excellent reputation and working relationship with all of their trusted hotels. As well as working with small, intimate, privately owned hotels they also work with many of the larger, luxurious hotels but choose those that still focus on maintaining a feeling of intimacy and offer an equal level of personal attention as the smaller hotels.



An in-depth local and specialised knowledge has proved invaluable to those who want to see what the guide books tell you and more, but also know that Andalusia is a vast and intricate province that requires careful planning to make your way around. There is heaps of information available but wading through it and finding exactly what you need can take months. Lemon Valley do not offer every possible type of activity, guided tour or excursion that you could take in Andalusia, but they do ensure that their holidays include only those activities that they know are good, worthwhile and where the providers have shown the care, service and professionalism that we all deserve and expect.

Lemon Valley are a small, family business that deals personally with each client and are available at any time for any queries or questions you have whether you are in the planning stages, are about to leave for your trip or already in Spain.

"Andalusia has a new breed of exceptional luxury boutique hotels set in buildings that are hundreds of years old. The preservation of their original features is paramount, making the hotel yet another piece of unique architecture to admire. One of our hotels in Cordoba even has a Roman excavation site below the dining room which can be seen through the glass floor as you dine – these small details are setting the hotels in Andalusia apart from the rest of Spain."

Nicola Wright

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All About The Canary Islands

The Canary Islands are a group of seven Spanish islands situated off the coast of North-Western Africa. Only decades ago this territory was practically an afterthought to the mainland and were among some of the poorest regions of Spain. Fast-forward to the present and the region is an extremely popular destination for sun-seekers from across Europe looking to take advantage of the islands idyllic beach resorts and quiet rural retreats.

Their tropical location blesses the islands with glorious weather all year round making them a prime getaway spot during the winter. Although all seven boast beautiful beaches it is the oldest of the Canaries which steals the headlines. Fuerteventura has the longest coastline – spanning 340 kilometres – and is known for its white sand beaches and shallow, clear waters.

The ever-growing popularity of this region has also resulted in a rise in luxury beachside resorts, Michelin star restaurants and a vibrant nightlife. But even with the islands' increasing tourism; it is still possible to explore unspoilt areas such as their wild beaches, mountainous regions, and national parks.

Fuerteventura is also notable for its dry climate, giant white sand dunes, and camels ready to give tourists a lift just a stone's throw from the beach. One is reminded of the island's close proximity to

Africa, especially when visiting the Dunes National Park, where the tranquillity of snaking dunes likens to a mini-Sahara.

However if you do wish to explore beyond your typical paradisiacal island vacation and experience much more of what the islands can offer you will find an astonishing range of diversity and landscapes unlike any other you will find in this part of the world.

The islands are a volcanic establishment and boast four of the highest peaks within Spanish territory. With more than 300 volcanoes on Lanzarote alone, the scenery can be described as nothing less than breath-taking. Be stunned by rugged, red, Mars-like panoramas or enjoy the unfamiliarity of the black, sandy beaches along with the unique atmosphere of petrified lava which has earned the National Park of Timanfaya and its Mountains of Fire status of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Which ever island you decide to visit you will be spoilt with endless possibilities for relaxation while you will never grow tired of venturing through the fascinating landscapes and gazing at incredible panoramas. The Canary Islands offers something unique and unlike anything you will find on a traditional island paradise.





Gran Hotel
Atlantis Bahía Real
FUERTEVENTURA

Combining Business & Pleasure in the Perfect Location

Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahía Real 5*GL
where holidays are a lifetime experience.

There are celebratory events and there CELEBRATORY EVENTS. You can hold your wedding, birthday or special event in the same old venues at the mercy of the British weather, or you can make sure sub-tropical surroundings and clear blue skies add a 'wow' factor to the special occasion. The choice is yours.



Located on the sugary white sands of Fuerteventura, an island lapped by turquoise waters, and bathed in glorious rays 365 days of the year, this multi-award-winning hotel boasts an unrivalled repeat guest ratio. And why? Because stylish elegance abounds; immaculate service is the norm; and a dedication to perfection is evident from the moment you step through the doors into its opulent reception area.

Check into your room to be mesmerised by the unique blend of beauty, luxury and comfort. The warm and welcoming décor and exquisite styling have been meticulously designed throughout the hotel in order to create a spacious and elegant set-up.

10th anniversary

5-star hotel is undoubtedly a favourite with all European visitors and Spanish Nationals.

Since its beginnings, the Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahía Real has received numerous distinctions that place value on the quality offered by the hotel. Coinciding with its tenth anniversary.



There is nothing like waking up in the morning and looking out of your window to the pleasant sight of scintillating turquoise waters and yet Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahia Real can go one better. Enjoy relaxing on your balcony or terrace over breakfast overlooking the incredible sea-views.

No less than five hotel restaurants provide a wide range of cuisine each with a different ambience for every occasion, all offering the same quality, service, creativity and dedication to gastronomic excellence.



For a little 'me' time, embark on a journey of rejuvenation in the sumptuous Spa Bahi. This 3,000m² concept spa is complete with top of the range amenities including a gorgeous indoor swimming pool, complemented by sauna, steam room, solarium and Jacuzzi, as well as a brace of outdoor pools. With a total of 17 treatment rooms it also offers a complete and exclusive health, wellness and pampering programmes for groups, as well as the possibility of reserving the facilities for private use.

The Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahia Real ticks every box when it comes to providing the ultimate sunshine escape for individual or corporate events. Now look at your watch, in little over four hours you, your friends and family could be there. Tempted?

Recent Awards

Awarded by the prestigious international mark of distinction Condé Nast Johansens. The hotel is awarded for its exclusivity and quality of services with the Award for Excellence as the best hotel in Europe in the category of MOST EXCELLENT EUROPEAN WATER-SIDE HOTEL 2013.

"BEST BEACH RESORT 2012"

Awarded by the prestigious International Wellness Magazine SENSES. The hotel is awarded for its exclusivity and quality of services as the EUROPE'S BEST BEACH RESORT 2012.

"TUI Holly 2012"

Awarded by TUI and credited as one of the top 100 hotels worldwide. The TUI Holly is the highest distinction and the most important symbol of quality for TUI Germany.

"CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012"

Winner of the Certificate of Excellence 2012 awarded by TripAdvisor as recognition by customers to high quality service standards of this establishment.

"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ZOOVER 2012"

Awarded by Zoover from the excellent travellers reviews. A tribute to the excellent quality and service offered.

"CERTIFICATE "QUALITY SELECTION 2012"

Awarded by HolidayCheck recognition by customers to quality and excellence in hotel services and facilities.

"CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012"

SPA BAHÍA VITAL Winner of the Certificate of Excellence 2012 awarded by TripAdvisor as recognition by customers to high quality standards of the Spa Bahía Vital.

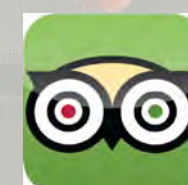
"The Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahia Real ticks every box when it comes to providing the ultimate sunshine escape for individual or corporate events."

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