

DESTINATIONS | THE ALHAMBRA





*The
Alhambra
Wonder of
the World*

*The most impressive vestige of
the Muslim presence in Spain,*

*Throughout its history,
the Alhambra has
experienced many
transformations.*

The Alhambra is a monumental complex created over six hundred years by cultures as diverse as Moorish and the Renacentiste. The view of the gardens of the Alhambra, the sound of the breeze in the trees attached to the sounds of water isolate us from everyday noise; and our walk becomes a unique experience. The Alhambra is a complex situated on a hill above the city of Granada, within which is one of the most important palaces of Islamic architecture. The name Alhambra comes from the red color of its walls, in Arabic Al-Hamra, built with ferruginous clay soil. Muhammad al-Ahmar I (1237-1273), first king of the Nasrid dynasty, began the urbanisation of the hill along the Darro River and built the citadel (al-qasab in Arabic), an impressive fortress, with capacity for a garrison of forty thousand men, that overlooks the city of Granada from a spur, Sabika hill. His successor Muhammad II (1273-1302) ended the walled enclosure, ensuring the security of the palace-fortress of Granada's Sultans. The royal palace was built by Yusuf I (1333-1354) and Muhammad V (1354-1358 and 1362-1391) and remains conserved to date.













The Alhambra was a palace, a fortress, a citadel and the residence of the Nasrid Sultans.

Heritage of the Humanity, the complex of the Alhambra and the Generalife is the most emblematic, known and visited monument of Granada. City, fortress and palace of the kings of the Nasrid dynasty, its halls and gardens are the epitome of Moorish art in Europe. The monumental complex is composed of the Alcazaba, fortified military town; Palaces, royal residence; and the palace and gardens of the Generalife, summer royal residence. Water, a scarce resource in North Africa, where it was originally the Nasrid dynasty, is present in the main rooms of the monument: the famous Patio de los Leones, and the no lesser known Patio of the Arrayanes, the Hall of Two Sisters, the hall of the Abencerrages, and the Real Baths. In later construction, but already integrated in the monument, is the Palacio de Carlos V, created in 1527 by architect Pedro Machuca in the purest Renaissance style. The Alhambra was a palace city, capital of the christian kingdom, Captaincy General of the Kingdom of Granada and military fortress until it reach its status as Monument in 1870. Throughout its history the Alhambra has been transformed, leaving a testimony of each of these stages. The Napoleonic occupation was a negative episode for the Alhambra, with explosive blasting in 1812 by the retreating French army. Only the courage of a Spanish soldier avoided almost total destruction. With the revolution of 1868, the Alhambra become independent of the Crown and fell into the domain of the State, declaring in 1870 "National Monument" status. In 1984 UNESCO inscribed the Alhambra and Generalife in the World Heritage List. The whole history of Granada has passed in front of the walls of the Alhambra. They say there was a garden where the monarchs, between flowers chased princesses. The walls of the House of Secrets tell that there is nothing hiding within his ears. The Medina tells of times of peace, and the citadel of times of war. The Door of the Wine tells that there was joy and the dungeons sadness.

There are a range of ticket options and the option to plan an individual visit to the Alhambra and the Generalife.

The Alhambra offers special programs to promote the historical, architectural and cultural value of the monument. Thanks to them you can approach the Alhambra from different perspectives. To fully enjoy your visit to the Alhambra, it is recommended to be accompanied by an expert guide. There is a popular saying "Give alms, woman, that nothing in life is like the pain of being blind in Granada". Carefully restored today, more than two million visitors each year come to marvel at the Alhambra. The vastness of the complex and its captivating beauty make the visit last at least three hours. It is almost essential to book entrance in advance, especially during peak season times. The night tour is a great alternative for those who already know the monument and wish to perceive previously unsensed irresistible aromas, sounds and images that at night awaken in Alhambra.

There are special programmes available for visiting the Alhambra in various ways.



