

# History

Andalucía stands where the Mediterranean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean and Europe gives way to Africa. From prehistoric times to the 17th century, this location put it at the forefront of Spanish history and at times made it a mover in world history. Then centuries of economic mismanagement turned Andalucía into a backwater, a condition from which it only started to emerge in the 1960s.

## IN THE BEGINNING

A bone fragment found in 1982 near Orce (Granada province) could be the oldest known human remnant in Europe. It is probably one to two million years old and is believed to be from the skull of an ancestor of the modern *Homo sapiens*.

The Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age, which lasted beyond the end of the last Ice Age to about 8000 BC, was not as cold in Andalucía as in more northerly regions, permitting hunter-gatherers to live here in reasonable numbers. They left impressive rock paintings at the Cueva de Ardales (p286), the Cueva de la Pileta (p284) near Ronda, and elsewhere.

The Neolithic or New Stone Age reached eastern Spain from Egypt and Mesopotamia around 6000 BC, bringing innovations such as the plough, crops, domesticated livestock, pottery, textiles and villages. Between 3000 and 2000 BC, metalworking culture arose at Los Millares (p407), near Almería. This Copper Age gave rise to a megalithic culture, during which tombs known as dolmens were built of large rocks. Spain's best dolmens are near Antequera (p289), Málaga province.

Around 1900 BC the people of El Argar in Almería province learned to make bronze, an alloy of copper and tin that is stronger than copper. El Argar was probably the first Bronze Age settlement on the Iberian Peninsula.

## TARTESSOS

By about 1000 BC, a flourishing culture rich in agriculture, animals and metals arose in western Andalucía. Phoenician traders, from present-day Lebanon, arrived to exchange perfumes, ivory, jewellery, oil, wine and textiles for Andalusian silver and bronze. They set up coastal trading settlements at Adra (west of Almería), Almuñécar (which they called Ex or Sex), Málaga (Malaca), Cádiz (Gadir) and Huelva (Onuba). In the 7th century BC the Greeks came too, trading much the same goods.

The Phoenician- and Greek-influenced culture of western Andalucía in the 8th and 7th centuries BC, with Phoenician-type gods and advanced methods of working gold, is known as the Tartessos culture. Iron replaced bronze as the most important metal. Tartessos was described centuries later by Greek, Roman and biblical writers as the source of fabulous riches. Whether Tartessos was a city, a state or just a region no-one knows. Some argue that it was a trading settlement near modern Huelva; others believe it may lie beneath the marshes near the mouth of the Río Guadalquivir.

The olive tree, the vine, the donkey and writing were all brought to Andalucía by the Phoenicians and the Greeks.

## CARTHAGINIAN & ROMAN ANDALUCÍA

From the 6th century BC the Phoenicians and Greeks were pushed out of the western Mediterranean by a former Phoenician colony in modern Tunisia – Carthage. Around the same time the people known as Iberians, from further north in Spain, set up a number of small, often one-village statelets in Andalucía.

The Carthaginians inevitably came into conflict with the next new Mediterranean power, Rome. After losing out to Rome in the First Punic War (264–241 BC), fought for control of Sicily, Carthage conquered southern Spain. The Second Punic War (218–201 BC) brought Roman legions to fight Carthage in Spain. Rome's victory at Ilipa, near modern Seville, in 206 BC, was conclusive. The first Roman town in Spain, Itálica (p130), was founded near the battlefield soon afterwards.

Andalucía quickly became one of the most civilised and wealthiest areas of the Roman Empire. Rome imported Andalusian wheat, vegetables, grapes, olives, copper, silver, lead, fish and *garum* (a spicy seasoning derived from fish, made in factories whose remains can be seen at Bolonia, p214, and Almuñécar, p394). Andalucía also gave Rome two emperors, Trajan and Hadrian, both from Itálica. Rome brought Spain aqueducts, temples, theatres, amphitheatres, baths, its main language (Spanish is basically colloquial Latin 2000 years on), a sizable Jewish population (Jews spread throughout the Mediterranean part of the Roman Empire) and, in the 3rd century AD, Christianity.

## THE VISIGOTHS

When the Huns arrived in Europe from Asia in the late 4th century AD, displaced Germanic peoples moved westwards across the weakening Roman Empire, some overrunning the Iberian Peninsula. One Germanic group, the Visigoths, eventually made it their own in the 6th century, with Toledo, in central Spain, as their capital.

The long-haired Visigoths, numbering about 200,000, had little culture of their own and their precarious rule over the relatively sophisticated Hispano-Romans was undermined by strife among their own nobility. But ties between the Visigothic monarchy and the Hispano-Romans were strengthened in 587 when King Reccared converted to Roman Christianity from the Visigoths' Arian version (which denied that Christ was God).

## AL-ANDALUS: ISLAMIC RULE

Following the death of the prophet Mohammed in 632, Arabs carried the religion he founded, Islam, through the Middle East and North Africa. If you believe the myth, they were ushered onto the Iberian Peninsula by the sexual exploits of the last Visigothic king, Roderic. Chronicles relate how Roderic seduced young Florinda, the daughter of Julian, the Visigothic governor of Ceuta in North Africa; Julian allegedly sought revenge by approaching the Muslims with a plan to invade Spain. In reality, Roderic's rivals probably just sought help in the ongoing struggle for the Visigothic throne.

In 711 Tariq ibn Ziyad, the Muslim governor of Tangier, landed at Gibraltar with around 10,000 men, mostly Berbers (indigenous North

'Andalucía quickly became one of the most civilised and wealthiest areas of the Roman Empire'

### TIMELINE 8th & 7th centuries BC

Phoenician- and Greek-influenced Tartessos culture flourishes in western Andalucía

### 206 BC

Itálica, first Roman town in Spain, founded near modern Seville

### 6th century AD

Visigoths, a Christian Germanic people, take control of the Iberian Peninsula

### AD 711

Muslim invaders land at Gibraltar and overrun the Iberian Peninsula within a few years

Africans). Roderic's army was decimated, probably near the Río Guadalete or Río Barbate in Cádiz province, and he is thought to have drowned as he fled. Within a few years, the Muslims had taken over the whole Iberian Peninsula except for small areas in the Asturian mountains in the far north. The Muslims (sometimes referred to as the Moors) were to be the dominant force on the Iberian Peninsula for nearly four centuries and a potent force for a further four. Between wars and rebellions, the Islamic areas of the peninsula developed the most cultured society in medieval Europe. The name given to these Muslim territories as a whole was Al-Andalus, which lives on today in the modern name of what was always the Muslim heartland – Andalucía.

Al-Andalus' frontiers were constantly shifting as the Christians strove to regain territory in the stuttering 800-year Reconquista (Christian reconquest), but up to the mid-11th century the small Christian states developing in northern Spain were too weak and quarrelsome to pose much of a threat to Al-Andalus, even though the Muslims had their internal conflicts too.

Islamic political power and culture centred first on Córdoba (756–1031), then Seville (c 1040–1248) and lastly Granada (1248–1492). In the main cities, the Muslims built beautiful palaces, mosques and gardens, established bustling *zocos* (markets) and public bathhouses (which most people attended about once a week), and opened universities.

Although military campaigns against the northern Christians could be bloodthirsty affairs, the rulers of Al-Andalus allowed freedom of worship to Jews and Christians under their rule. Jews, on the whole, flourished, but Christians in Muslim territory (Mozarabs; *mozárabes* in Spanish) had to pay a special tax, so most either converted to Islam (to become known as *muladíes*, or Muwallads) or left for the Christian north.

The Muslim ruling class was composed of various Arab groups prone to factional friction. Below them was a larger group of Berbers, living mostly on second-grade land, who rebelled on numerous occasions. Before long, Muslim and local blood merged in Spain and most Spaniards today are partly descended from the Muslims.

The Muslim period left a profound stamp on Andalucía, and not only in terms of architecture. The region's predilection for fountains, running water and decorative plants goes back to Muslim times, and many of the foods eaten in Andalucía today – and even their names, such as *arroz* (rice), *naranja* (orange) and *azúcar* (sugar) – were introduced by the Muslims. And they're still grown on irrigated terracing systems created in Muslim times.

### The Cordoban Emirate (756–929)

Initially, Muslim Spain was a province of the emirate of North Africa. In 750 the Omayyad dynasty of caliphs in Damascus, supreme rulers of the Muslim world, was overthrown by a group of non-Arab revolutionaries, the Abbasids, who shifted the caliphate to Baghdad. One of the Omayyad family, Abd ar-Rahman, escaped the slaughter and somehow made his way to Morocco and thence to Córdoba, where in 756 he set himself up as an independent ruler. Abd ar-Rahman I's Omayyad dynasty more or less unified Al-Andalus for 2½ centuries.

### The Cordoban Caliphate (929–1031)

In 929 Abd ar-Rahman III (r 912–61) gave himself the title caliph (meaning deputy to Mohammed and therefore supreme leader of the Muslim world) to assert his authority in the face of the Fatimids, a growing Muslim power in North Africa. Thus Abd ar-Rahman III launched the caliphate of Córdoba, which at its peak encompassed three-quarters of the Iberian Peninsula and some of North Africa. Córdoba became the biggest, most dazzling and most cultured city in Western Europe. Its Mezquita (Mosque; p301) is one of the wonders of Islamic architecture anywhere on the planet. Astronomy, medicine, mathematics, philosophy, history and botany flourished, and Abd ar-Rahman III's court was frequented by Jewish, Arabian and Christian scholars.

Later in the 10th century, the fearsome Cordoban general Al-Mansur (or Almanzor) terrorised the Christian north with 50-odd *razzias* (forays) in 20 years. In 997 he destroyed the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain – home of the cult of Santiago Matamoros (St James the Moor-Slayer), a crucial inspiration to Christian warriors. But after Al-Mansur's death, the caliphate disintegrated into dozens of *taifas* (small kingdoms), ruled by local potentates, who were often Berber generals.

### The Almoravids & Almohads

In the 1040s Seville, located in the wealthy lower Guadalquivir Valley, emerged as the strongest *taifa* in Andalucía. By 1078 the writ of its Abbasid dynasty ran all the way from southern Portugal to Murcia, restoring a measure of peace and prosperity to Andalucía.

Meanwhile, the northern Christian states were starting to threaten. When one of them, Castile, captured Toledo in 1085, a scared Seville begged for help from the Almoravids, a strict Muslim sect of Saharan Berbers who had conquered Morocco. The Almoravids came, defeated Castile's Alfonso VI, and ended up taking over Al-Andalus too, ruling it from Marrakesh as a colony and persecuting Jews and Christians. But the charms of Al-Andalus seemed to relax the Almoravids' austere grip: revolts spread across the territory from 1143 and within a few years it had again split into *taifas*.

In Morocco, the Almoravids were displaced by a new, strict Muslim Berber sect, the Almohads, who in turn invaded Al-Andalus in 1160, bringing it under full control by 1173. Al-Andalus was by now considerably reduced from its 10th-century heyday: the frontier now ran from south of Lisbon to north of Valencia. The Almohads made Seville capital of their whole realm and revived arts and learning in Al-Andalus.

In 1195, King Yusuf Yacub al-Mansur thrashed Castile's army at Alarcos, south of Toledo, but this only spurred the northern Christian states to join forces against him. In 1212 the combined armies of Castile, Aragón and Navarra routed a large Almohad force at Las Navas de Tolosa (p333) in northeastern Andalucía. Then, with the Almohad state riven by a succession dispute after 1224, the Christian kingdoms of Portugal, León and Aragón moved down the southwest, central west and east of the Iberian Peninsula respectively, and Castile's Fernando III (El Santo, the Saint) moved into Andalucía, taking strategic Baeza in 1227, Córdoba in 1236 and Seville, after a two-year siege, in 1248.

The famous 10th-century Córdoba caliph Abd ar-Rahman III had red hair and blue eyes; one of his grandmothers was a Basque princess.

*Moorish Spain* by Richard Fletcher is an excellent short history of Al-Andalus, concentrating to a large extent on Andalucía.

The 9th-century 'Andalucian Robin Hood', Omar ibn Hafsun, waged prolonged rebellion against the Cordoban emirate from his hilltop hideout, Bobastro.

## 756–929

Muslim Emirate of Córdoba rules most of the Iberian Peninsula

## 929–1031

Caliphate of Córdoba, the political and cultural apogee of Al-Andalus (Muslim-ruled parts of Spain and Portugal)

## 1212

Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa: northern Spanish Christian army defeats Almohad rulers of Al-Andalus

## 1248–1492

Emirate of Granada remains as last Muslim state on the Iberian Peninsula

### The Nasrid Emirate of Granada

The Granada emirate was a wedge of territory carved out of the disintegrating Almohad realm by Mohammed ibn Yusuf ibn Nasr, after whom it's known as the Nasrid emirate. Comprising primarily the modern provinces of Granada, Málaga and Almería, with a population of about 300,000, it held out for nearly 250 years as the last Muslim state on the Iberian Peninsula.

The Nasrids ruled from the lavish Alhambra palace (p359), which witnessed the final flowering of Islamic culture in Spain. The emirate reached its peak in the 14th century under Yusuf I and Mohammed V, creators of the greatest splendours of the Alhambra. Its final downfall was precipitated by two incidents. One was Emir Abu al-Hasan's refusal in 1476 to pay any further tribute to Castile; the other was the unification in 1479 of Castile and Aragón, the peninsula's biggest Christian states, through the marriage of their monarchs Isabel and Fernando (Isabella and Ferdinand). The Reyes Católicos (Catholic Monarchs), as the pair are known, launched the final crusade of the Reconquista, against Granada, in 1482.

Harem jealousies and other feuds between Granada's rulers degenerated into a civil war which allowed the Christians to push across the emirate, devastating the countryside. They captured Málaga in 1487, and Granada itself, after an eight-month siege, on 2 January 1492.

The surrender terms were fairly generous to the last emir, Boabdil (p356), who received Las Alpujarras valleys, south of Granada, as a personal fiefdom. He stayed only a year, however, before leaving for Africa. The Muslims were promised respect for their religion, culture and property, but this didn't last long.

Pious Isabel and Machiavellian Fernando succeeded in uniting Spain under one rule for the first time since the Visigothic days. Both are buried in Granada's Capilla Real (p365) – an indication of the importance they attached to their conquest of the city.

### CHRISTIAN CONTROL

In areas that fell under Christian control in the 13th century, many of the Muslim population fled to Granada or North Africa. Those who remained became known as Mudejars. The new Christian rulers handed large tracts of land to their nobility and knights who had played a vital part in the Reconquista. Muslim raids from Granada caused lesser Christian settlers to sell their smallholdings to the nobility and knightly orders, whose holdings thereby increased. The landowners turned much of their vast estates over to sheep, ruining former food-growing land, and by 1300, rural Christian Andalucía was almost empty.

Fernando III's son Alfonso X (El Sabio, the Learned; r 1252–84) made Seville one of Castile's capitals and launched something of a cultural revival there, gathering scholars around him, particularly Jews, who could translate ancient texts into Castilian Spanish. With the Castilian nobility content to sit back and count their profits from wool production, Jews and foreigners, especially Genoese, came to dominate Castilian commerce and finance.

### Persecution of the Jews

After the Black Death and a series of bad harvests in the 14th century, discontent found its scapegoat in the Jews, who were subjected to pogroms around the peninsula in the 1390s. As a result, some Jews converted to Christianity (they became known as *conversos*); others found refuge in Muslim Granada. In the 1480s the *conversos* became the main target of the Spanish Inquisition, founded by the Catholic Monarchs. Many *conversos* were accused of continuing to practise Judaism in secret. Of the estimated 12,000 deaths for which the Inquisition was responsible in its three centuries of existence, 2000 took place in the 1480s.

In 1492 Isabel and Fernando ordered the expulsion of every Jew who refused Christian baptism. Around 50,000 to 100,000 converted, but some 200,000, the first Sephardic Jews (Jews of Spanish origin), left for other Mediterranean destinations. A talented middle class was decimated.

### Morisco Revolts & Expulsion

The task of converting the Muslims of Granada to Christianity was handed to Cardinal Cisneros, overseer of the Inquisition. He carried out forced mass baptisms, burnt Islamic books and banned the Arabic language. As Muslims found their land being expropriated too, a revolt in Las Alpujarras in 1500 spread right across the former emirate, from Ronda to Almería. Afterwards, Muslims were ordered to convert to Christianity or leave. Most, an estimated 300,000, converted, becoming known as Moriscos (converted Muslims), but they never assimilated to Christian culture. When the fanatically Catholic King Felipe II (Philip II; r 1556–98) forbade them in 1567 to use the Arabic language, Arabic names or Morisco dress, a new revolt in Las Alpujarras spread across southern Andalucía and took two years to put down. The Moriscos were then deported to western Andalucía and more northerly parts of Spain, before being expelled altogether from Spain by Felipe III between 1609 and 1614.

### SEVILLE & THE AMERICAS: BOOM & BUST

In April 1492 the Catholic Monarchs granted the Genoese sailor Christopher Columbus (Cristóbal Colón to Spaniards) funds for a voyage across the Atlantic in search of a new trade route to the Orient. Columbus instead found the Americas (see p151) and opened up a whole new hemisphere of opportunity for Spain, especially the river port of Seville.

During the reign of Carlos I (Charles I; r 1516–56), the first of Spain's new Habsburg dynasty, the ruthless but brilliant conquerors Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro subdued the Aztec and Inca empires respectively with small bands of adventurers, and other Spanish conquerors and colonists occupied vast tracts of the American mainland. The new colonies sent huge quantities of silver, gold and other treasure back to Spain, where the crown was entitled to one-fifth of the bullion (the *quinto real*, or royal fifth).

Seville became the hub of world trade, a cosmopolitan melting pot of money-seekers, and remained the major city in Spain until late in the 17th century, even though a small country town called Madrid was named the national capital in 1561. New European ideas and artistic movements reached Seville and made it a focus of Spain's artistic Siglo

For a colourful and not overly long survey of the whole saga of Spanish history, read *The Story of Spain* by Mark Williams.

Spanish History Index (<http://vlib.iue.it/hist-spain/Index.html>) provides countless internet leads for those who want to dig deeper.

*Ghosts of Spain* (2006) by Giles Tremlett of the *Guardian* gets right under the skin of contemporary Spain, and its roots in the recent past. If you read only one book on Spain, make it this one.

#### 1481

First tribunal of the Spanish Inquisition, held in Seville

#### 1492

Spain's Catholic Monarchs, Isabel and Fernando, conquer Granada, expel Jews and fund Columbus' voyage to the Americas

#### 16th century

Most remaining Muslims convert to Christianity to avoid expulsion; Seville grows into one of Europe's biggest and richest cities

#### 17th century

Moriscos (Muslims converted to Christianity) expelled from Spain (1609–14); economic depression, epidemics and famines

de Oro (Golden Century; p49). The prosperity was shared to some extent by Cádiz, and less so by cities such as Jaén, Córdoba and Granada. But in rural Andalucía a small number of big landowners continued to do little with large tracts of territory except run sheep on them. Most Andalusians owned no land or property.

Spain never developed any strategy for absorbing the American wealth, spending too much on European wars and wasting any chance of becoming an early industrial power. Grain had to be imported while sheep and cattle roamed the countryside.

In the 17th century, silver shipments from the Americas shrank disastrously and epidemics and bad harvests killed some 300,000 people, including half of Seville in 1649. The lower Guadalquivir, Seville's lifeline to the Atlantic, became increasingly silted up and in 1717 control of commerce with the Americas was transferred to the seaport of Cádiz.

## THE BOURBONS

Felipe V's (Philip V's) accession to the throne in 1701 marked the beginning of the Spanish Bourbon dynasty, still in place today. In the 18th century Spain made a limited recovery from the social and economic ravages of the previous century. The monarchy financed incipient industries, such as Seville's tobacco factory (p108). A new road, the Carretera General de Andalucía, was built from Madrid to Seville and Cádiz. New land was opened up for wheat and barley, and trade through Cádiz (which was in its heyday) grew. New settlers from other parts of Spain boosted Andalucía's population to about 1.8 million by 1787.

## NAPOLEONIC INVASION

When Louis XVI of France (a cousin of Spain's Carlos IV) was guillotined in 1793, Spain declared war on France. Two years later, Spain switched sides, pledging military support for France against Britain in return for French withdrawal from northern Spain. In 1805 a combined Spanish-French navy was defeated by a British fleet under Admiral Nelson off Cape Trafalgar (p211), terminating Spanish sea power.

Two years later, France (under Napoleon Bonaparte) and Spain agreed to divide Portugal, Britain's ally, between the two of them. French forces poured into Spain, supposedly on the way to Portugal, but by 1808 this had become a French occupation of Spain. In the ensuing Spanish War of Independence, or Peninsular War, the Spanish populace took up arms guerrilla-style and, with help from British and Portuguese forces led by the Duke of Wellington, drove the French out by 1813. The city of Cádiz withstood a two-year siege from 1810 to 1812, during which a national parliament convening in the city adopted a new constitution for Spain, proclaiming sovereignty of the people and reducing the rights of the monarchy, nobility and church.

## SOCIAL POLARISATION

The Cádiz constitution set the scene for a century of struggle in Spain between liberals, who wanted vaguely democratic reforms, and conservatives who liked the old status quo. King Fernando VII (r 1814–33) revoked

the new constitution, persecuted opponents and even temporarily re-established the Inquisition. During his reign most of Spain's American colonies seized their independence – desperate news for Cádiz, which had been totally reliant on trade with the colonies.

The Disenfranchisement of 1836 and 1855, when liberal governments auctioned off church and municipal lands to reduce the national debt, were a disaster for the peasants, who lost municipal grazing lands. Andalucía declined into one of Europe's most backward, socially polarised areas. At one social extreme were the few bourgeoisie and rich aristocratic landowners; at the other, a very large number of impoverished *jornaleros* – landless agricultural day labourers who were without work for a good half of the year. Illiteracy, disease and hunger were rife.

In 1873 a liberal government proclaimed Spain a republic – a federal grouping of 17 states – but this 'First Republic' was totally unable to control its provinces and lasted only 11 months, with the army ultimately restoring the monarchy.

Andalusian peasants began to stage uprisings, always brutally quashed. The anarchist ideas of the Russian Mikhail Bakunin, who advocated strikes, sabotage and revolts as the path to spontaneous revolution and a free society governed by voluntary cooperation, gained a big following. The powerful anarchist union, the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT; National Labour Confederation), was founded in Seville in 1910. By 1919, it had 93,000 members in Andalucía.

In 1923 an eccentric Andalusian general from Jerez de la Frontera, Miguel Primo de Rivera, launched a comparatively moderate military dictatorship for Spain, which won the cooperation of the big socialist union the Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT; General Union of Workers), while the anarchists went underground. Primo was unseated in 1930 as a result of an economic downturn and discontent in the army.

## THE SECOND REPUBLIC

When the republican movement scored sweeping victories in Spain's municipal elections in April 1931, King Alfonso XIII departed to exile in Italy. The ensuing Second Republic (1931–36) was an idealistic, tumultuous period that ended in civil war. Leftists and the poor welcomed the republican system; conservatives were alarmed. Elections in 1931 brought in a mixed government, including socialists, centrists and Republicans, but anarchist disruption, an economic slump and disunity on the left all helped the right win new elections in 1933. The left, including the emerging Communists, called increasingly for revolution and by 1934 violence was spiralling out of control.

In the February 1936 elections a left-wing coalition narrowly defeated the right-wing National Front. Society polarised into left and right and violence continued on both sides of the political divide. The anarchist CNT had over one million members and the peasants were on the verge of revolution.

On 17 July 1936 the Spanish garrison at Melilla in North Africa revolted against the leftist government, followed the next day by some garrisons on the mainland. The leaders of the plot were five generals. The Spanish Civil War had begun.

The Cádiz constitution is nicknamed La Pepa because it was proclaimed (in 1812) on 19 March, the Día de San José (St Joseph's Day). Pepa is the feminine form of Pepe, which is the familiar form of José.

### 1717

Control of commerce with the Americas transferred from Seville to Cádiz

### 1810–12

Cortes de Cádiz: Spanish parliament meets in Cádiz, holding out under French siege

### 1891–1918

Impoverished Andalusian rural workers launch waves of anarchist strikes

### 1936–39

Spanish Civil War: right-wing Nationalists led by General Franco rebel against left-wing Republican government and win control

'Spain never developed any strategy for absorbing the American wealth, spending too much on European wars'

## THE CIVIL WAR

The civil war split communities, families and friends. Both sides committed atrocious massacres and reprisals, especially in the early weeks. The rebels, who called themselves Nationalists, shot or hanged tens of thousands of supporters of the Republic. Republicans did likewise to those they considered Nationalist sympathisers, including some 7000 priests,

### FERNANDA LA POTAJA *Susan Forsyth & Antonio Luque*

Like most Andalucians, Fernanda Navas Arroyo is known by her nickname. Everyone in her village of C6mpeta knows her as La Potaja ('po-ta-ha'), a nickname acquired via her husband, who loved the type of stew known as *potaje*. A woman with bright eyes, the hands of a worker and a ready smile, she was born in 1939, just weeks after the end of the civil war.

Since the 1990s C6mpeta, in M6laga province's Axarquía district, has garnered previously unimaginable wealth from building houses for foreigners who choose to live or buy holiday homes in what is a very picturesque corner of the hills. But back in the *años de hambre* (years of hunger) after the civil war, C6mpeta was just another poor, isolated hill village.

Back then, Fernanda's family – Fernanda, her mother, father and four brothers and sisters – all lived in one room. Quarrels broke out every other day with so many hungry people in such a constricted space. Fernanda has early recollections of her father being locked up by the Guardia Civil, accused of taking some sacks of flour.

Then in 1948 her father died. One day soon afterwards, Fernanda remembers, she went to gather some potatoes from a *banca* (irrigated terrace) near the village. ('To steal to eat is not theft,' she comments.) A man looking after the *banca* caught her, knocked her to the ground and left her there.

From another incident those in authority don't emerge so badly. When the provincial governor visited C6mpeta in 1950, Fernanda's mother took her badly-dressed, shoeless children out to see him and tugged at his sleeve, asking 'What is going to become of us?' He pulled out 200 pesetas for her – a fortune for the family at that time, and Fernanda recalls that they had food for a month.

Fernanda was sent to live with a family who kept their own goatherd and were able to spare some food for her. 'I ceased to be hungry and my health problems disappeared. Everyone worked. I carried water, washed plates and clothes: there are always things to do in a house. I never went to school: I can't read but I can spell some things.'

At 18 she left the village to work two summers with an aunt in hotels in Galicia, and she was paid well. Each week, she sent her mother an envelope containing 100 pesetas.

She married at 21, after five years' courtship, at six in the morning (at that early hour because she didn't have the required white dress). She soon bore children. Two of the five died. Today two work in construction and the third is a dance teacher. Fernanda was widowed at 35, two months after she and her husband had bought a small *finca* (rural property) for 200,000 pesetas. She went to work, and finished paying off the *finca* in 1993. Fernanda shows us her hands and tells us with pride that in 1999 they collected 7000kg of olives from the *finca's* trees.

We asked her how life was for women in the 1960s and '70s.

'Women were discriminated against and had little freedom. Few clothes, not much furniture and less freedom. We couldn't talk with men, much less kiss them for fear of being treated as a whore. And a woman go into a bar? Never ever!'

Today Fernanda is happy: happy with her three children and five grandchildren, and very happy with her home, an attic apartment from which she can see the blue sea, and which speaks of work, much work and happiness.

monks and nuns. Political affiliation often provided a convenient cover for settling old scores. Altogether, an estimated 350,000 Spaniards died in the war (some writers put the figure as high as 500,000).

In Republican-controlled areas, anarchists, Communists or socialists ended up running many towns and cities. Social revolution followed. In Andalucía this tended to be anarchic, with private property abolished and churches and convents often burned and wrecked. Large estates were occupied by the peasants and around 100 agrarian communes were established. The Nationalist campaign, meanwhile, quickly took on overtones of a holy crusade against the enemies of God.

The basic battle lines were drawn very early. Cities whose garrisons backed the rebels (most did) and were strong enough to overcome any resistance fell immediately into Nationalist hands – as happened at Cádiz, Córdoba and Jerez. Seville was in Nationalist hands within three days and Granada within a few more. The Nationalists executed an estimated 4000 people in and around Granada after they took the city, including the great writer Federico García Lorca (see p48). There was slaughter in Republican-controlled areas, too. An estimated 2500 were murdered in a few months in anarchic M6laga. But the Nationalists executed thousands there in reprisals when they and their Fascist Italian allies took the city in February 1937. Much of eastern Andalucía – Almería and Jaén provinces, eastern Granada province and northern Córdoba province – remained in Republican hands until the end of the war.

By late 1936 General Francisco Franco emerged as the undisputed Nationalist leader, styling himself as the Generalísimo (Supreme General). Before long, he also adopted the title Caudillo, roughly equivalent to the German Führer. The scales of the war were tipped in the Nationalists' favour by support from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in the form of weapons, planes and 92,000 men (mostly from Italy). The Republicans had some Soviet planes, tanks, artillery and advisers, and 25,000 or so French soldiers fought with them, along with a similar number of other foreigners in the International Brigades.

The Republican government moved from besieged Madrid to Valencia in late 1936, then to Barcelona in autumn 1937. In 1938 Franco swept eastwards, isolating Barcelona, and the USSR withdrew from the war. The Nationalists took Barcelona in January 1939 and Madrid in March. Franco declared the war won on 1 April 1939.

## FRANCO'S SPAIN

After the civil war, instead of reconciliation, more blood-letting ensued and the jails filled up with political prisoners. An estimated 100,000 Spaniards were killed, or died in prison, after the war. A few Communists and Republicans continued their hopeless struggle in small guerrilla units in the Andalusian mountains and elsewhere until the 1950s.

Spain stayed out of WWII, but was afterwards excluded from the UN until 1955 and suffered a UN-sponsored trade boycott which helped turn the late 1940s into the *años de hambre* (years of hunger) – particularly in poor areas such as Andalucía where, at times, peasants subsisted on soup made from wild herbs.

*25 Años sin Franco* (25 Years without Franco; www.elmundo.es/nacional/XXV\_aniversario) is a special 2000 supplement of *El Mundo* newspaper published online – in Spanish, but the photos and graphics tell their own story.

### 1939–75

Spain under Franco's dictatorship; civil war followed by the 'years of hunger'; mass tourism launched on Costa del Sol

### 1975–78

Transition to democracy following Franco's death

### 1982–96

Sevillian Felipe González, of the left-of-centre Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) party, is Spain's prime minister

### 1982

Under Spain's new regional autonomy system, Andalucía gets its own regional parliament, dominated ever since by PSOE

## COSTA DEL CRIME

The Costa del Sol west of Málaga was long ago nicknamed the Costa del Crime for the fact that crooks from the UK could find refuge there thanks to cumbersome extradition agreements between Spain and Britain. Extradition improved when Spain and Britain signed a Fast Track Judicial Surrender treaty in 2001, but other breeds of criminal continue to find the Costa a happy hunting ground – chiefly thanks to its tourism-based building boom.

The crux of the problem is that Spanish town halls charge fees for granting building permits, and many town halls, especially along the tourism-dominated coast, have become addicted to this income, which can amount to 50% or more of their revenue. Town halls are also keen to encourage construction because it boosts local economies. At the same time, the temptation to municipal corruption is high since developers are so keen to obtain building permits and open up new land for building.

Town halls thus face strong temptations to grant illegal building permits that contravene planning laws by, for example, being within environmentally protected rural areas or green zones within towns, or by cramming too many dwellings into a small area. The consequences of half a century of such development are that huge stretches of Andalusian coast have become ugly concrete jungles, unsightly development has sprawled inland, a culture of corruption has developed in many town halls, and the construction lobby has become almost all-powerful.

A perfect scenario for heavier crime to move into. The Costa del Sol resort town of Marbella has become a byword not only for glitzy ostentation but also for overdevelopment, municipal corruption and international Mafia activity. In 2005, in the so-called Ballena Blanca (White Whale) case, 41 people were arrested in Marbella on suspicion of organising Europe's biggest money-laundering network, worth at least €250 million. Proceeds from drug dealing, contract murders, kidnappings, arms trafficking, prostitution and more had allegedly been 'laundered' and reinvested in Costa del Sol property, via a Marbella law firm.

Then in spring 2006 Marbella's mayor, deputy mayor and several other town-hall officials and associates were among over 50 people arrested in connection with a web of bribery and illegal building permits. They were accused of offences ranging from bribery and misappropriation of public funds to collusion to profit from inflating land prices. Among the property worth €2.4 billion seized by police were 275 works of art, 103 thoroughbred horses, a helicopter and 200 fighting bulls. A caretaking committee appointed to run the town's affairs immediately started sealing off building sites that had been ordered to stop work by Andalusia's supreme court. Up to 30,000 of Marbella's 80,000 homes may have been built illegally, and as many as 5000 of them could face demolition.

Marbella's problems had really begun in the 1990s during the mayoralty of Jesús Gil y Gil, a populist, right-wing construction magnate who perfected the art of running a town for the benefit of himself and his henchmen. He died in 2004.

Marbella is only the worst case. A former mayor of nearby Estepona is doing a five-year jail term for helping a Turkish heroin-trafficking syndicate launder its ill-gotten gains. In another operation in 2005, police arrested 28 alleged Mafia bosses from former Soviet republics on the Costa del Sol and in other Mediterranean Spanish towns. According to police, the mobsters laundered the proceeds of crimes committed back home through a network of property, restaurants and bars in Spain.

The Junta de Andalucía (Andalusia's regional government) at last made some effort to bring construction and corruption under control in 2005 and 2006 by negotiating a series of district plans to control future development and by putting a stop to the worst cases such as Marbella. Files on alleged illegal planning permissions in numerous Andalusian towns and villages were in the hands of public prosecutors at the time of writing. The Junta also plans to dynamite a hotel built on Playa Algarrobo, within the Cabo de Gata natural park in Almería province – a sign that the days of uncontrolled development along Andalusia's coasts may at last be drawing to a close.

Franco ruled absolutely. He was commander of the army and leader of the sole political party, the Movimiento Nacional (National Movement). Army garrisons were maintained outside every large city, strikes and divorce were banned and church weddings became compulsory.

In Andalucía, some new industries were founded and mass foreign tourism was launched on the Costa del Sol in the late 1950s, but by the 1970s many villages still lacked electricity, reliable water supplies and paved roads – and the education system was pathetically inadequate: today many Andalusians over 50, especially in rural areas, are illiterate.

## NEW DEMOCRACY

Franco's chosen successor, Alfonso XIII's grandson Prince Juan Carlos, took the throne, aged 37, two days after Franco's death in 1975. Much of the credit for Spain's ensuing transition to democracy goes to the king. The man he appointed prime minister, Adolfo Suárez, pushed through the Cortes (Spain's parliament) a proposal for a new, two-chamber parliamentary system. In 1977 political parties, trade unions and strikes were legalised and Suárez' centrist party won nearly half the seats in elections to the new Cortes. The left-of-centre Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE; Spanish Socialist Workers' Party), led by a young lawyer from Seville, Felipe González, came second.

Spain enjoyed a sudden social liberation after Franco. Contraceptives, homosexuality, adultery and divorce were legalised, and a vein of hedonism was unleashed that still looms large today.

In 1982 Spain made a final break with the past by voting the PSOE into power. Felipe González was to be prime minister for 14 years, and his party's young, educated leadership included several other Andalusians. The PSOE made big improvements in education, launched a national health system and basked in an economic boom after Spain joined the European Community (now the EU) in 1986.

The PSOE has also dominated Andalucía's regional government in Seville ever since it was inaugurated in 1982, as part of a devolution of limited autonomy to the 17 Spanish regions. Manuel Chaves of the PSOE has headed the Andalusian executive, known as the Junta de Andalucía, since 1990. The PSOE government at the national and regional level eradicated the worst of Andalusian poverty in the 1980s and early 1990s with grants, community works schemes and a generous dole system. Education and health provision have steadily improved and the PSOE government has given Andalucía Spain's biggest network of environmentally protected areas (see p66).

The PSOE lost power nationally in 1996 to the centre-right Partido Popular (PP; People's Party), led by former tax inspector José María Aznar, who presided over eight years of steady economic progress for Spain. Registered unemployment in Andalucía remains the highest in Spain (14% in 2006), but the rate almost halved in the PP years. The Andalusian economy benefited from steady growth in tourism and industry, massive EU subsidies for agriculture (which still provides one job in eight), and a decade-long construction boom.

The early years of the 21st century also saw an important shift in Andalucía's ethnic balance with the arrival of not just more northern

Between 1950 and 1970, 1.5 million Andalusians left to find work in other Spanish regions or other European countries.

You can find Juan Carlos I and the Spanish royal family on the web at [www.lacasareal.es](http://www.lacasareal.es).

The Junta de Andalucía has its site at [www.juntadeandalucia.es](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es) in Spanish, and the Spanish national government at [www.la-moncloa.es](http://www.la-moncloa.es).

## 1992

Expo '92 world fair in Seville; high-speed AVE Madrid–Seville rail link opens

## 1996–2004

Spain governed by right-of-centre Partido Popular (PP) party; Andalucía enjoys economic progress fuelled by construction boom

## 2004

Andalusians stage massive peace marches following Madrid train bombings; PSOE wins national and Andalusian regional elections

## 2005

Spain legalises gay marriage, with the same adoption and inheritance rights as heterosexual couples

European sun-seekers but also economic migrants, legal and illegal, from Latin America, Morocco, sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe. See p39 for more on this phenomenon.

José María Aznar's high-handed style of governing did not go down well with a lot of Spaniards. His support for the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq was unpopular, as was his decision to send 1300 Spanish troops to Iraq after the war. The PP was unseated by the PSOE in the 2004 national election, which took place three days after the Madrid train bombings of 11 March in which 191 people were killed and 1755 injured. The new PSOE government pulled Spain's troops out of Iraq within two weeks of taking office. In April 2006, 29 accused, many of them Moroccan, were ordered to stand trial for involvement in the bombings. A two-year investigation by Judge Juan del Olmo had concluded that Islamic extremists inspired by, but not directed by, Osama bin Laden, were responsible for the attacks.

The PSOE's national victory in 2004 was good news for the Junta de Andalucía, still controlled by the PSOE, for which working with Madrid suddenly became a lot easier. Perhaps emboldened by this, the Junta and the police at last took some steps to rein in the rampant overdevelopment of the Andalusian coast and some of the corruption, crime and environmental degradation that went with it (see p34).

In *The British on the Costa del Sol* (2000), Karen O'Reilly takes an anthropologist's approach to this unusual community (if it can be called that) that hangs between two cultures.

## 2006

Smoking banned in many public places throughout Spain

## 2006

Mayor, deputy mayor and police chief of Marbella and over 50 others arrested over bribery, corruption and illegal building permits

# The Culture

## REGIONAL IDENTITY

Andalucians have a huge capacity for enjoying themselves, but that doesn't mean they don't like to work. As someone put it, they work but they don't have a work ethic. Work simply takes its allotted place alongside other equally important aspects of life, such as socialising, entertainment and relaxation. Timetables and organisation are a little less important than in many other Western cultures, but things that Andalucians consider important do get done, and if anything really needs a fixed time (eg trains, cinemas, weddings, sporting events), it gets one.

These are enormously gregarious people, to whom the family is of paramount importance (children are always a good talking point). Andalucians who live away from home – students, people with jobs in other cities – make frequent visits back home at weekends and for the numerous fiestas and public holidays scattered generously through the calendar. Local fairs, religious festivals and family fiestas such as baptisms, first communions and weddings are all important opportunities for families and communities to get together and mark the rhythms of the seasons and of their lives. Andalucians get high on fun, noise, colour, movement, music, emotion and each other's company, and can turn even the most casual of meetings into a party.

With some exceptions – think of the elaborate dress donned by Sevillian society for its fiestas and bullfights – Andalucians are fairly informal in both dress and etiquette, the more so as you move away from the cultured classes of the cities. The Spanish '*gracias*' for example is heard far less than 'thank you' in English-speaking countries. While warm smiles and greetings are the norm to visitors and friends alike, and much as Andalucians welcome the fact that millions of foreigners come to spend their money in Andalucía each year, you can't expect the average local to display too much personal interest in the average tourist stuttering out a few syllables of Spanish. Invitations to Andalusian homes are something special.

In terms of its identity within Spain, Andalucía has no serious yearnings for independence or greater autonomy as some Basques and Catalans do. Andalucians are aware of what makes them different within the broader Spanish community – including particularly strong Islamic, Arabic and African influences from their history, yielding perhaps a more instinctive understanding of the north African cultures on their doorstep today, and a greater *gitano* (Roma) influence too, yielding flamenco music and dance – but they still consider themselves very much part of the Castilian nation whose capital is Madrid.

## LIFESTYLE

Home for most Andalucians is an apartment in a city or town, furnished in the most modern style its occupants can afford. Many middle-class families live in modern terraced or detached houses in the suburbs or in dormitory towns. Lifestyle progress is generally considered to be a matter of getting away from the rural backwardness of parents and grandparents, even though people maintain personal ties to villages or country towns, and often a small *finca* (country property) where they go for weekends. It's only in the last decade or so that rural tourism has taken off, as city-dwellers rediscover the pleasures of fresh air, greenery and open space.

The underside of Andalusian society is vividly portrayed in Sevillian Alberto Rodríguez's 2005 film *7 Virgenes* (7 Virgins), about a teenager living 48 hours of intense freedom on leave from a juvenile reform centre. The film has the realism of a documentary and an evocative hip-hop/techno soundtrack.



Andalucians – not, as a rule, great travellers – typically opt for a week or so at a seaside resort for their annual holiday.

Though they still attach great importance to their extended families, Andalucians increasingly live in small nuclear groups. The birth rate has fallen dramatically in the last 30 years, and divorces, illegal under Franco, exceeded 14,000 in Andalucía in 2005.

Social life is vitally important to any Andalusian, and especially to those in their teens and 20s, for most of whom it's *de rigueur* to stay out partying deep into the *madrugada* (early hours) on weekends. Teenagers like to gather in large groups in squares and plazas, bringing their own booze to avoid age restrictions and the high cost of drinks in bars – a phenomenon known as the *botellón* (literally, 'big bottle').

Gender roles tend to be more traditionally defined here than in northern Europe and North America. Though many women have paid jobs, their wages are only around 70% of men's and they tend to do most of the domestic work, too. In the villages it's still unusual to see men shopping for food or women standing at bars.

Openly gay and lesbian life is easier in the bigger cities where gay scenes are bigger and attitudes more cosmopolitan. Spain legalised gay marriage in 2005, giving gay couples the same adoption and inheritance rights as heterosexuals, despite strong opposition from the Catholic church.

## POPULATION

Andalucía's population of 7.9 million comprises 18% of the Spanish total. The population is very much weighted to the provincial capitals. Seville (population 710,000), Málaga (558,000), Córdoba (319,000), Granada (238,000) and Huelva (145,000) are all five times as big as any other town in their provinces. About one-fifth of Andalucians live in villages or small towns.

Andalucians have an incredibly diverse bunch of ancestors, including prehistoric hunters from Africa; Phoenicians, Jews and Arabs from the Middle East; Carthaginians and Berbers from North Africa; Visigoths from the Balkans; Celts from central Europe; Romans; and northern Spaniards, themselves descended from a similar mix of ancient peoples. All these influences were deeply intermingled by late medieval times. The *gitanos* probably reached Spain in the 15th century, having headed west from India in about the 9th century. Spain has around 600,000 *gitanos* – more than any other country in Western Europe – and about half of them live in Andalucía, where they have made a distinctive contribution to the culture, notably through flamenco.

The late 20th century brought the first big wave of migration into Andalucía for many centuries and by 2005 Andalucía had a record 420,000 foreign residents, about 11% of the foreign population in Spain (see the boxed text, opposite).

## SPORT Football

Every weekend from September to May, millions follow the national Primera División (First Division) on TV, which devotes acres of airtime to every game.

Andalucía's top clubs are Sevilla and Real Betis (both of Seville; see p127), both usually found around the middle of the Primera División table. Sevilla won the UEFA Cup in 2006. Málaga were relegated from the Primera División in 2006, to be replaced by another Andalusian club (and

the oldest in Spain), Recreativo de Huelva (p148). The Segunda División (Second Division) usually has a further half-dozen Andalusian teams. League games are mostly played on Sunday, with a few on Saturday.

## Bullfighting

Incomprehensibly cruel though it seems to many, the *corrida de toros* (bullfight) is also a pageant with a long history and many rules, considered a sport-cum-art-cum-fiesta by its aficionados. Many people feel ill at the sight of the kill, and the preceding few minutes' torture is undoubtedly cruel, but aficionados will say that fighting bulls have been bred for conflict and that before the fateful day they are treated like kings. The *corrida* is also about many other things – bravery, skill, performance and a direct confrontation with death. So deeply ingrained in Spanish culture

It was in Huelva, Andalucía, that soccer was introduced to Spain in the 1870s by British sailors; Recreativo de Huelva (founded in 1899) is the oldest club in the country.

## THE NEW ANDALUCIANS

British expats are not the only ones trying to forge new lives in Andalucía today. Far from it. Andalucía has undergone an amazing about-face in population movements in just a few decades. The impoverished 1950s and '60s saw 1.5 million hungry Andalucians leave home for Madrid, northern Spain and other European countries in search of work. Today Andalucía has become an importer of people from almost all continents as its growing economy offers the hope of a better life to people of multiple religions, nationalities, aspirations and languages. By 2005, Andalucía had a record 420,000 foreign residents according to official figures. The real figure may be 50% or 100% higher but one thing is certain: the numbers are growing ever faster, and the 2005 total was 30% up on 2004.

About one-third of the foreigners in Andalucía are from Western Europe (principally Britain, Germany, Scandinavia, France and Italy). Those from the north – with Britons the most numerous – are no longer only retired folk seeking a quiet, sunny bolt hole on the coast. Many new arrivals from these countries today are in their 20s, 30s or 40s, often families with children, looking for new opportunities in a sunnier, less expensive environment, encouraged by TV programmes such as *A Place in the Sun*. They'll often settle in villages and towns inland, where property prices are lower than on the coast. They may start off working as builders or in estate agents' offices, or set up small businesses or trades serving other foreigners – shops, restaurants, bakeries, building, decorating or plumbing businesses, tourism services, looking after holiday homes, new estate agencies. Such newcomers are generally welcomed by the local populace for the money and economic activity they bring to an area, even though social integration is erratic. Their kids will usually go to local Spanish schools, speak fluent Spanish with a strong Andalusian accent, and integrate more easily than their parents. Some villages have gained a new lease of life from the construction and property boom engendered by the numbers of northern Europeans moving in (as well as a rash of unsightly and/or illegal housing scattered across the countryside).

Not everyone manages to carve out a living in their place in the sun, of course; plenty return whence they came after a year or two, a pattern that may accelerate if the recent slowdown of the Andalusian property market continues.

At the same time Andalucía is attracting more and more economic migrants of a different kind – Moroccans and sub-Saharan Africans (Africans comprise a quarter of the foreigners living in Andalucía), Latin Americans (another quarter, chiefly from Argentina, Bolivia and Ecuador) and Eastern Europeans (about 15%, mainly from Romania, Bulgaria, the Ukraine and Russia), all desperate to earn higher wages than they can get back home. These migrants flock to fill gaps in the Spanish labour force by doing low-paid jobs such as building and agricultural labour and restaurant work.

So don't be surprised if your Andalusian holiday guesthouse is owned by a Scot, your room is cleaned by a Bolivian chambermaid, your meal is served by an Argentine waiter, the stalls in the local market are run by Bulgarians and Moroccans, and the voices at the building site along the street are Arabic and Russian.

In 1975 the average Andalusian woman would give birth to 3.1 children; today she has just 1.4 (slightly above Spain's national average).

To find out more about Spanish *gitanos*, start with the trilingual (English, Spanish and Romany) website, Unión Romani (www.unionromani.org).

Upcoming soccer fixtures can be found in the local press or the sports papers *AS* or *Marca*, or on websites such as BBC Sport (news.bbc.co.uk/sport) and Planet Fútbol (planetfutbol.diariosur.es).

is bullfighting that the question of whether it's cruel just doesn't frame itself to many people. Plenty of people are uninterested in the activity, but relatively few actively oppose it, especially in southern Spain. The anti-bullfighting lobby is bigger and more influential in parts of northern Spain: in Catalonia, stop-bullfighting petitions signed by 549,000 people were presented to the regional president in 2005. Spanish anti-bullfighting organisations include the Barcelona-based **Asociación para la Defensa de los Derechos del Animal** (ADDA; Association for the Defence of Animal Rights; www.addaong.org). The London-based **World Society for the Protection of Animals** (www.wspa.org.uk) also campaigns against bullfighting.

It was probably the Romans who staged Spain's first bullfights. *La lidia*, as the modern art of bullfighting on foot is known, took off in an organised fashion in the 18th century. The Romero family from Ronda, in Málaga province, established most of the basics of bullfighting on foot, and Andalucía has been one of its hotbeds ever since. Previously, bullfighting had been done on horseback, as a kind of cavalry-training-cum-sport for the gentry.

### THE FIGHT

If you're interested in exploring Andalusian culture, attending a *corrida* (bullfight) will certainly display one side of this – though it's not for the squeamish, and you may leave little wiser as to why some people get so excited about it all.

Bullfights usually begin at about 6pm and, as a rule, three different matadors will fight two bulls each. Each fight takes about 15 minutes.

After entering the arena, the bull is first moved about by junior bullfighters known as *peones*, wielding great capes. The colourfully attired matador (killer) then puts in an initial appearance and makes *faenas* (moves) with the bull, such as pivoting before its horns. The more closely and calmly the matador works with the bull, the greater the crowd's approbation. The matador leaves the stage to the *banderilleros*, who attempt to goad the bull into action by plunging a pair of *banderillas* (short prods with harpoon-style ends) into his withers. Next, the horseback *picadors* take over, to shove a lance into the withers, greatly weakening the bull. The matador then returns for the final session. When the bull seems tired out and unlikely to give a lot more, the matador chooses the moment for the kill. Facing the animal head-on, the matador aims to sink a sword cleanly into its neck for an instant kill – the *estocada*.

A skilful, daring performance followed by a clean kill will have the crowd on its feet waving handkerchiefs in appeal to the fight president to award the matador an ear of the animal. The president usually waits to gauge the crowd's enthusiasm before finally flopping a white handkerchief onto his balcony.

If you're spoiling for a fight, it's worth looking out for the big names among the matadors. They are no guarantee you'll see an exciting *corrida*, as that also depends on the animals themselves. But names to look for include: Enrique Ponce, a class act from Valnecia; Julián 'El Juli' López, born in Madrid in 1982 (who graduated to senior matador status at the extraordinarily early age of 15); David 'El Fandi' Fandila from Granada, who topped the 2005 *escalafón* (matadors' league table) with 210 ears; Rivera Ordóñez, the son and grandson of celebrated matadors; Manuel Díaz 'El Cordobés', son of Manuel Benítez 'El Cordobés', an internationally famous bullfighter of the 1960s; and macho sex symbol Jesulín de Urbique.

### WHEN & WHERE

The main bullfighting season in Andalucía runs from Easter Sunday to October. Most *corridas* are held as part of a city or town fiesta. A few bullrings (Seville's is one) have regular fights right through the season.

The big bang that launches Andalucía's bullfighting year is Seville's Feria de Abril (April Fair; p114), with fights almost daily during the week of the fair and the week before it. It's Seville, too, where the year ends with a *corrida* on 12 October, Spain's National Day. Here are some of the other major fight seasons on the Andalusian bullfight calendar:

**Feria de Nuestra Señora de la Salud** Held in Córdoba, a big bullfighting stronghold, in late May/early June (see p310).

**Feria de Corpus Christi** In Granada in early June 2007, mid-May 2008 (see p372).

**Bullfight Season in El Puerto de Santa María** Held on most Sundays June to August.

**Fiestas Colombinas** In Huelva, 3 to 9 August (see p145)

**Feria de Málaga** Nine-day fair in Málaga, held in mid-August (see p257).

**Feria de la Virgen del Mar** In Almería in the last week of August (see p403).

**Corrida Goyesca** Held in Ronda in early September (see p281), with select matadors fighting in costumes such as those shown in bullfight engravings by Francisco de Goya.

Bullfighting magazines such as the weekly *6 Toros 6* carry details of who's fighting where and when, and posters advertise upcoming fights locally. In addition to the top *corridas*, there are plenty of lesser ones in cities, towns and villages. Some of these are *novilladas*, fought by *novilleros* (junior matadors).

### Other Sports

The annual motorcycle Grand Prix at Jerez de la Frontera, in May, is one of Spain's biggest sporting events, attracting around 150,000 spectators (see p199).

*Baloncesto* (basketball) is also popular. Andalucía's best teams in the national professional Liga ACB are Unicaja of Málaga and Caja San Fernando of Seville.

Andalucía's excellent golf courses stage several major professional tournaments each year. The Volvo Masters, played in November in recent years at Valderrama, near Sotogrande (northeast of Gibraltar), is traditionally the final tournament of the season on the European circuit.

### MULTICULTURALISM

As elsewhere in Spain, Andalucía's *gitanos* were victims of discrimination and official persecution until at least the 18th century and have always been on the fringes of society – a position that inspired them to invent flamenco music and dance (see p43). Today, most *gitanos* lead a settled life in cities, towns and villages, but often in the poorest parts of town. *Gitanos* rub along all right with other Spaniards, but still tend to keep to themselves.

The number of more recent immigrants in Andalucía, from other European countries and from the developing world, is rising rapidly (see p38 and the boxed text, p39). A few isolated incidents aside, Andalucía has risen successfully to the challenges presented by this wave of migration. The worst outbreak of ethnic conflict occurred in 2000 in the El Ejido area of Almería province, when tensions between Moroccan workers and local residents boiled over in a wave of violent attacks on Moroccans after three Spaniards were murdered by Moroccans. An estimated 30,000 migrants, chiefly North African males in their 20s, work in Almería province's plastic-sheeted greenhouses, often in extremely

For the latest information on the next bullfight near you, biographies of toreros and more, check out www.portaltaurino.com.

The best bullfighting book for a long time, Edward Lewine's *Death and the Sun* (2005) follows matador Rivera Ordóñez and his supporting team through a whole season, revealing much about why bullfighting evokes such passion and also about the mundane reality behind the moments of high drama.

poor conditions and for wages for which most Spaniards wouldn't get out of bed.

Immigration also raises serious humanitarian problems. Despite an amnesty in 2005, in which some 500,000 non-EU citizens in Spain had their situation legalised, around 40% of non-EU citizens in the country are still there illegally. Many illegal migrants take huge risks to get to Spain: every year dozens, some years hundreds, of people drown attempting to cross the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco to Andalucía, or the Atlantic Ocean to the Canary Islands, in small boats to gain clandestine entry to Spain. Thousands more each year are intercepted by coastguards or police and sent back. Almost certainly, even higher numbers escape capture. In Andalucía the beaches of Cádiz province, near towns such as Tarifa and Algeciras, are favoured drop-off points. In 2005 desperate sub-Saharan Africans made a series of attempts to breach the fences surrounding Ceuta and Melilla, Spain's enclaves on the Moroccan coast. Many who got across were deported back to Morocco, which then dumped them on its border with Algeria in the Sahara Desert.

If they reach Spain, illegal migrants are particularly vulnerable to exploitation such as low wages, poor living conditions, enforced prostitution, and debt slavery to the criminal organisations that brought them to the country.

## RELIGION

Medieval Andalucía under Islamic rule is renowned for its 'three cultures' tolerance in which Muslims, Christians and Jews supposedly lived together in harmony. In reality, Christians and Jews did at times suffer persecution or discriminatory taxes and Christian rebellions were not unknown. But there's no doubt that different religions were able to coexist and that fruitful cooperation took place under such rulers as Abd ar-Rahman III of Córdoba. The 13th-century Christian king Alfonso X kept this going, albeit briefly, but later Christian rulers subjected Muslims and Jews to forced conversions, persecutions and eventually mass expulsions. By the 17th century Spain had been turned into a one-religion state. The Protestant version of Christianity, too, was firmly stamped on before it could get a toehold in the 16th century.

Today 90% of Andalusians say they are Catholics but only 20% consider themselves churchgoers. Andalucía also has a deep-rooted anticlerical tradition. Anarchists and other 19th-century revolutionaries considered the church one of their main enemies. This hostility reached a bloody crescendo in the Spanish Civil War (1936–39), when some 7000 priests, nuns and monks were killed in Spain. Today, people appear ever more irreligious, yet the great majority of Andalusians still have church baptisms, weddings and funerals, and families spend an average of €2000 on special clothes and festivities for a child's first communion. As the 20th-century philosopher Miguel de Unamuno quipped: 'Here in Spain we are all Catholics, even the atheists.'

The number of Muslims in Spain is growing fast and now numbers around 600,000, of whom perhaps 100,000 are in Andalucía – predominantly Moroccan migrant workers. Apart from the El Ejido area in Almería province, where many Moroccans work in agriculture, Andalucía's largest Muslim community, about 20,000 strong, is in Granada.

The Jewish community numbers a few thousand people, many of them from Morocco.

'Today, people appear ever more irreligious, yet the great majority of Andalusians still have church baptisms, weddings and funerals'

## ARTS Flamenco

The constellation of intense singing, dancing and instrumental arts that forms flamenco is Andalucía's most unique gift to the world. It's not one that's appreciated by everybody – to the unsympathetic ear flamenco song can sound like someone suffering from unbearable toothache. But a flamenco performer who successfully communicates their passion will have you unwittingly on the edge of your seat, oblivious to all else. The gift of sparking this kind of response is known as *duende* (spirit).

Flamenco's origins may go back to songs brought to Spain by the *gitanos*, to music and verses of medieval Muslim Andalucía, and even to the Byzantine chant used in Visigothic churches, but flamenco first took recognisable form in the late 18th and early 19th centuries among *gitanos* in the lower Guadalquivir Valley in western Andalucía. The Seville–Jerez de la Frontera–Cádiz axis is still the heartland of flamenco. Early flamenco was *cante jondo* (deep song), an anguished form of expression for a people on the margins of society. *Jondura* (depth) is still the essence of flamenco.

A flamenco singer is known as a *cantaor* (male) or *cantaora* (female); a dancer is a *bailaor/a*. Most songs and dances are performed to a blood-rush of guitar from the *tocaor/a*. Percussion is provided by tapping feet, clapping hands and sometimes castanets. Flamenco songs come in many different styles, from the anguished *soleá* and the despairing *siguiriyá* to the livelier *alegría* or the upbeat *bulería*. The traditional flamenco costume – shawl, fan and long, frilly *bata de cola* (tail gown) for women; flat Cordoban hats and tight black trousers for men – dates from Andalusian fashions in the late 19th century.

The *sevillana*, a popular dance with high, twirling arm movements, is not, despite superficial appearances, flamenco at all. Consisting of four parts, each coming to an abrupt halt, the *sevillana* is probably an Andalusian version of a Castilian dance, the *seguidilla*.

## FLAMENCO LEGENDS

The great singers of the early 20th century were Seville's La Niña de los Peines, and Manuel Torre from Jerez, whose singing, legend has it, could drive people to rip their shirts open and overturn tables – real *duende*.

La Macarrona, from Jerez, and Pastora Imperio, from Seville, took flamenco dance to Paris and South America. Their successors, La Argentina and La Argentinita, formed dance troupes and turned flamenco dance into a theatrical show. The fast, dynamic, unfeminine dancing and wild lifestyle of Carmen Amaya (1913–63), from Barcelona, made her the flamenco dance legend of all time. Her long-time partner Sabicas was the father of the modern solo flamenco guitar.

In the mid-20th century it seemed that the lightweight flamenco of the *tablaos* – touristy shows emphasising the sexy and the jolly – was at risk of taking over the real thing, but *flamenco puro* got a new lease of life in the 1970s through singers such as Terremoto and La Paquera from Jerez, Enrique Morente from Granada and, above all, El Camarón de la Isla from San Fernando near Cádiz. Camarón's incredible vocal range and his wayward lifestyle made him a legend well before his tragically early death in 1992.

Paco de Lucía (1947–), from Algeciras, has transformed the guitar, formerly the junior partner of the flamenco trinity, into an instrument of solo expression far beyond traditional limits. De Lucía can sound like two or three people playing together. The double album *Paco de Lucía Antología* is a great introduction to his work. He vowed that his 2004 world tour would be his last tour, but he still performs.

In the hard-to-put-down *Duende* (2003), young author Jason Webster immerses his body and soul for two years in Spain's passionate and dangerous flamenco world in search of the true flamenco spirit.

Catalan actor Óscar Jaenada won the best actor award at Spain's top film awards, the Goyas, in 2006 for his portrayal of legendary Andalusian flamenco singer El Camarón de la Isla in the 2005 movie *Camarón*.

### FLAMENCO TODAY

Flamenco is as popular as it has ever been and probably more innovative. While established singers such as Enrique Morente, José Menese, Chano Lobato and Carmen Linares (see p339) remain at the top of the profession, new generations continue to broaden flamenco's audience. Perhaps most popular is José Mercé from Jerez, whose exciting albums *Del Amanecer* (Of the Dawn; 1999), *Aire* (Air; 2000) and *Lío* (Entanglement; 2002) were all big sellers. El Barrio, a 21st-century urban poet from Cádiz, Estrella Morente from Granada (Enrique's daughter), Arcángel from Huelva and La Tana from Seville have carved out big followings among the young.

Flamenco dance has reached its most adventurous horizons in the person of Joaquín Cortés, born in Córdoba in 1969. Cortés fuses flamenco with contemporary dance, ballet and jazz, to music at rock-concert amplification. He tours frequently both in Spain and all over the world with spectacular solo or ensemble shows. The most exciting young dance talent is Farruquito from Seville (b 1983), grandson of the late legendary flamenco dancer Farruco.

On the guitar, keep an ear open for Manolo Sanlúcar from Cádiz, Tomatito from Almería (who used to accompany El Camarón de la Isla), and Vicente Amigo from Córdoba and Moraíto Chico from Jerez who both accompany today's top singers.

### FLAMENCO FUSION

In the 1970s musicians began mixing flamenco with jazz, rock, blues, rap and other genres. This *nuevo flamenco* (new flamenco) greatly broadened flamenco's appeal. The seminal recording was a 1977 flamenco-folk-rock album, *Veneno* (Poison), by the group of the same name centred on Kiko Veneno (see opposite) and Raimundo Amador, both from Seville. Amador and his brother Rafael then formed Pata Negra, which produced four fine flamenco-jazz-blues albums culminating in *Blues de la Frontera* (1986). Amador is now a solo artist. The group Ketama, whose key members are all from Granada's Montoya flamenco family, mix flamenco with African, Cuban, Brazilian and other rhythms. Two of their best albums are *Songhai* (1987) and *Songhai 2* (1995).

The latest generation is headed up by artists such as Cádiz's Niña Pastori, who arrived in the late 1990s singing jazz- and Latin-influenced flamenco. All her albums, such as *Entre dos Puertos* (Between Two Ports; 1997), *María* (2002) and *Joyas Prestadas* (Borrowed Jewels; 2006) are great listening. The Málaga group Chambao successfully combines flamenco with electronic beats on *Flamenco Chill* (2002), *Endorfinas en la*

Flamenco World (www.flamenco-world.com), Flama (www.guiaflama.com), Centro Andaluz de Flamenco (caf.cica.es), esflamenco.com (www.esflamenco.com) and Deflamenco.com (www.deflamenco.com) are all great resources on flamenco, with calendars of upcoming concerts and festivals, background on artists and much more.

### 10 TO EXCITE

For the most exciting flamenco dance, keep an eye open for performances by any of these 10 top stars. Some lead dance companies named after them, others perform solo:

- Joaquín Cortés
- Antonio Gades
- Manuela Carrasco
- Belén Maya
- Cristina Hoyos
- Eva La Hierbabuena
- Sara Baras
- Israel Galván
- Antonia Canales

For an interview with Sara Baras, see the boxed text, p112.

### BIRTHPLACE OF THE GUITAR

The 9th-century Córdoba court musician Ziryab added a fifth string to the four-string Arab lute, producing an instrument that was widespread in Spain for centuries. Around the 1790s a sixth string was added, probably by a Cádiz guitar maker called Pagés. In the 1870s Antonio de Torres of Almería brought the guitar to its modern shape by enlarging its two bulges and placing the bridge centrally over the lower one to give the instrument its acoustic power.

*Mente* (Endorphins in the Mind; 2004) and *Pokito a Poko* (Little by Little; 2005). Another big crossover triumph was the collaboration between flamenco singer Diego El Cigala and the octogenarian Cuban pianist Bebo Valdés on *Lágrimas Negras* (Black Tears; 2003).

### SEEING FLAMENCO

Flamenco is easiest to catch in the summer when many fiestas include flamenco performances, and some places stage special flamenco festivals (see the boxed text, p46). The rest of the year there are intermittent big-name performances in theatres, occasional seasons of concerts, and regular flamenco nights at some bars and clubs for the price of your drinks. Flamenco fans also band together in clubs called *peñas*, which stage performance nights – most will welcome interested visitors and the atmosphere here can be very intimate. Seville, Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz and Granada are flamenco hotbeds, but you'll often be able to find something in Málaga, Córdoba or Almería – and, erratically, in other places too.

*Tablaos* are regular shows put on for largely indiscriminating tourist audiences, usually with high prices. Tourist offices may steer you towards these unless asked otherwise.

### Other Music

In this intensely musical land all the major cities have full calendars of musical events from classical to jazz to rock to pop to electronic, and there's usually quite a choice of musical entertainment at weekends. Live music of many types is also an essential ingredient of many Andalusian fiestas.

Few Andalusian performers of any genre are completely untouched by the flamenco tradition. One of the most interesting characters is singer-songwriter Kiko Veneno, who has spent most of his life around Seville and Cádiz. Though also a practitioner of flamenco fusion (see opposite), he's more in a rock-R&B camp now, mixing rock, blues, African and flamenco rhythms with lyrics that range from humorous, simpático snatches of everyday life to Lorca poems. His compilations *Puro Veneno* (Pure Poison; 1997) and *Un Ratito de Gloria* (A Moment of Glory; 2001) are excellent introductions to his music.

Another evergreen is the iconoclastic Joaquín Sabina from Úbeda (Jaén province), a prolific producer of protest rock-folk for more than two decades. 'I'll always be against those in power' and 'I feel like vomiting every time I sit in front of a telly', he has observed. *Nos Sobran Los Motivos* (More Reasons Than We Need) is a good album to start with.

In the realm of *canción española* (Spanish song), a melodic, romantic genre most popular with an older generation, the undoubted rising star is Pasión Vega from Málaga, whose beguiling voice may draw you in even if you don't normally go for this kind of thing. Vega incorporates

For all the gigs and festivals, log on to Indy Rock (www.indyrock.es). Clubbing Spain (www.clubbingpain.com) has the knowledge on house and techno events.

## 10 TOP ANDALUCIAN MUSIC FESTIVALS

Andalucía hosts some great music events, especially in summer. These are some of the best regular happenings:

**Festival de Jerez** ([www.festivaldejerez.com](http://www.festivaldejerez.com)) Two-week flamenco bash in Jerez de la Frontera in late February/early March (see p195).

**Festival Internacional de Música y Danza Ciudad de Úbeda** ([www.festivaldeubeda.com](http://www.festivaldeubeda.com)) Mainly classical music performed in Úbeda's beautiful historic buildings in May and the first half of June (see p343).

**Potaje Gitano** ([www.potajegitano.com](http://www.potajegitano.com)) Big Saturday-night flamenco fest held in June in Útrera, Sevilla province.

**Festival Internacional de la Guitarra** ([www.guitarracordoba.com](http://www.guitarracordoba.com)) Two-week celebration of the guitar in late June and early July in Córdoba (see p310).

**Festival Internacional de Música y Danza** ([www.granadafestival.org](http://www.granadafestival.org)) A 2½-week international festival of mainly classical music and dance held in Granada in late June to early July (see p372).

**Caracolá Lebrijana** Another big Saturday-night flamenco festival held in Lebrija, Sevilla province, in June/July.

**Noches en los Jardines del Real Alcázar** ([www.actidea.com](http://www.actidea.com)) Eclectic concert season in Seville's beautiful Alcázar gardens, held in July and August.

**Bienal de Flamenco** Month-long Seville megafest held in September in even-numbered years featuring just about every big star of the flamenco world (see p113).

**Festival Internacional de Jazz** Jazz festival held in November in several Andalusian cities including Almería, Granada, Jaén and Málaga.

**Fiesta Mayor de Verdiales** Celebration of an exhilarating brand of folk music unique to the Málaga area, at Puerto de la Torre on 28 December (see p257).

influences including flamenco, pop, blues, Portuguese *fado*, jazz and bossa nova. Her two 2005 albums, *Flaca de Amor* and the live *Pasión Vega en el Maestranza*, are both well worth hearing.

Other original Andalusian performers to listen for include female rapper La Mala Rodríguez and combative rock band Reincidentes, from Seville; Tabletom, a hippy band that has been mixing blues, jazz, Frank Zappa influences and Málaga hedonism since the 1970s; Granada techno-punks Lagartija Nick, purveyors of 'a tyrannical storm of sound'; and everlasting Córdoba heavy rockers Medina Azahara.

On the classical front, arguably the finest Spanish composer of all, Manuel de Falla, was born in Cádiz in 1876. He grew up in Andalucía before heading off to Madrid and Paris, then returned to live in Granada until the end of the civil war, when he left for Argentina. De Falla's three major works, all intended as ballet scores, have deep Andalusian roots: *Noches en los Jardines de España* (Nights in the Gardens of Spain) evokes the Muslim past and the sounds and sensations of a hot Andalusian night, while *El Amor Brujo* (Love, the Magician) and *El Sombrero de Tres Picos* (The Three-Cornered Hat) are rooted in flamenco. Andrés Segovia from Jaén province was one of the major classical guitarists of the 20th century, and Málaga's Carlos Álvarez ranks among the top baritones of the opera world today.

## Literature

### ISLAMIC PERIOD

The 11th century saw a flowering of both Arabic and Hebrew poetry in Andalucía. The Arabic was chiefly love poetry, by the likes of Ibn Hazm and Ibn Zaydun from Córdoba, and Ibn Ammar and Al-Mutamid, a king, from Seville. Jewish poet Judah Ha-Levi, one of the greatest of all postbiblical writers in Hebrew, divided his life between Granada, Seville, Toledo and Córdoba, before deciding that a return to Palestine was the only solution for Spanish Jews.

The philosopher Averroës, or Ibn Rushd (1126–98), from Córdoba, wrote commentaries on Aristotle that tried to reconcile science with religious faith, and had enormous influence on European Christian thought in the 13th and 14th centuries. This remarkable polymath was also a judge, astronomer, mathematician and personal physician and adviser to two Almohad rulers.

### SIGLO DE ORO

Spain's literary Siglo de Oro (Golden Century) lasted from the mid-16th to the mid-17th centuries. In Andalucía things got moving with the circle that gathered in Seville around Christopher Columbus' great-grandson Álvaro Colón. This group included the playwrights Juan de la Cueva and Lope de Rueda.

Córdoba's Luis de Góngora (1561–1627) is considered by many the greatest Spanish poet. His metaphorical, descriptive verses, some of them celebrating the more idyllic aspects of the Guadalquivir Valley, are above all intended as a source of sensuous pleasure.

Miguel de Cervantes (1547–1616) was no Andalusian but he did spend 10 troubled years in Andalucía collecting unpaid taxes and procuring oil and wheat for the Spanish navy, as well as several lawsuits, spells in jail and even excommunications – no doubt grist to the mill of one of the inventors of the novel. His *Don Quijote* appeared in 1605. The comically insane knight Quijote and his comically dim companion, Sancho Panza, conducted most of their deranged ramblings on the plains of La Mancha, but some of Cervantes' short *Novelas Ejemplares* (Exemplary Novels) chronicle turbulent 16th-century Seville.

### THE GENERATIONS OF '98 & '27

Andalusian literary creativity didn't seriously flower again until the late 19th century. The Generation of '98 was a loose grouping of Spanish intellectuals who shared a deep disturbance about national decline. Antonio Machado (1875–1939), the group's leading poet, was born in Seville and later spent some years as a teacher in Baeza, where he completed *Campos de Castilla* (Fields of Castilla), a set of melancholy poems evoking the landscape of Castilla. Juan Ramón Jiménez (1881–1958), the 1956 Nobel literature laureate from Moguer near Huelva (see p151), touchingly and amusingly brought to life his home town in *Platero y Yo* (Platero and I), a prose poem that tells of his childhood wanderings with his donkey and confidant, Platero.

The loose-knit Generation of '27 included the poets Rafael Alberti, from El Puerto de Santa María (see p184), and Vicente Aleixandre (the 1977 Nobel literature laureate) and Luis Cernuda, both from Seville. Artist Salvador Dalí, film-maker Luis Buñuel and composer Manuel de Falla were also associated with them, but the outstanding literary figure was Federico García Lorca, from Granada (see the boxed text, p48).

### RECENT WRITING

Antonio Muñoz Molina (born in Úbeda, Jaén province, in 1956) is one of Spain's leading contemporary novelists, a writer of depth, imagination, social concern and great storytelling ability. One of his best novels is *El Jinete Polaco* (The Polish Jockey; 1991), set in 'Mágina', a fictionalised Úbeda, in the mid-20th century. *Sefarad* (Sepharad; 2003) weaves 17 separate stories into a multilayered exploration of themes raised by the expulsion of Spain's Jews in the 15th century, the Soviet gulag and the Nazi holocaust.

Ian Gibson's *Federico García Lorca* (1990) is an excellent biography of Andalucía's most celebrated writer. Gibson also penned *The Assassination of Federico García Lorca* (1979), revealing the murky story of Lorca's murder near Granada during the civil war.

**FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA**

For many the most important Spanish writer since Cervantes, Federico García Lorca (1898–1936) was a poet, playwright, musician, artist, theatre director and much more. Though charming and popular, he felt alienated – by his homosexuality, his leftish outlook and, probably, his talent itself – from his home town of Granada (which he called ‘a wasteland populated by the worst bourgeoisie in Spain’) and from Spanish society at large. Lorca identified with Andalucía’s marginalised *gitanos* and empathised with women stifled by conventional mores. He longed for spontaneity and vivacity and eulogised both Granada’s Islamic past and what he considered the ‘authentic’ Andalucía (to be found in Málaga, Córdoba, Cádiz – anywhere except Granada).

Lorca first won major popularity with *El Romancero Gitano* (Gypsy Ballads), a colourful 1928 collection of verses on *gitano* themes, full of startling metaphors and with the simplicity of flamenco song. Between 1933 and 1936 he wrote the three tragic plays for which he is best known: *Bodas de Sangre* (Blood Wedding), *Yerma* (Barren) and *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* (The House of Bernarda Alba) – brooding, dark but dramatic works dealing with themes of entrapment and liberation, passion and repression. Lorca was executed by the Nationalists early in the civil war, but his passionate, free, genial and troubled spirit lives on in the many productions of his plays and other creative work he still inspires. Travellers can gain a sense of the man by visiting his summer home in Granada, Huerta de San Vicente (p371) and his birthplace outside the city (p380). For those who want to follow the Lorca trail to the bitter end, the place he was killed outside Granada is now a memorial park (p380).

Antonio Soler (b 1956) from Málaga is building a reputation as a perceptive drawer of character and atmosphere and weaver of good plots. His *El Camino de los Ingleses* (The Way of the English; 2004), tracking a group of friends’ summer of transition from adolescence to adulthood, has been filmed by Antonio Banderas (see p50).

Poet, novelist and essayist José Manuel Caballero Bonald was born in Jerez de la Frontera in 1926. His *Ágata Ojo de Gato* (Agate, Cat’s Eye; 1974) is an almost magical-realist work that’s set in Andalucía although not in any recognisable time or place.

The highly popular playwright, poet and novelist Antonio Gala (b 1930), from Córdoba, sets much of his work in the past, which he uses to illuminate the present. *La Pasión Turca* (Turkish Passion; 1993) is his best-known novel.

**Painting & Sculpture**

Andalucians have been artists since the Stone Age and the region reached its greatest peaks of creativity during the 17th century.

**PRE-CHRISTIAN ART**

Stone Age hunter-gatherers left impressive rock paintings of animals, people and mythical figures in caves such as the Cueva de la Pileta (p284) and Cueva de Los Letreros (p422). The later Iberians carved stone sculptures of animals, deities and other figures, often with Carthaginian or Greek influence. The archaeological museums in Seville (p108) and Córdoba (p301), and Jaén’s Museo Provincial (p327) all have good Iberian collections.

The Romans’ artistic legacy is at its most exciting in mosaics and sculpture, with some wonderful examples in Itálica (p130), Écija (p135) and Carmona (p132), and in Seville’s Palacio de la Condesa de Lebrija (p107) and the archaeological museums in Córdoba and Seville.

In Andalucía’s Islamic era (AD 711–1492) the decorative arts reached marvellous heights in the service of architecture – see p52.

**GOthic & RENAISSANCE ART**

Seville has been Andalucía’s artistic epicentre ever since the Reconquista (Christian reconquest). Seville cathedral’s huge main retable (1482), designed by a Flemish sculptor, Pieter Dancart, is carved with more than 1000 biblical figures and is one of the finest pieces of Gothic sculpture in Spain (see p98). Then Seville’s 16th-century boom threw it open to the humanist and classical trends of the Renaissance. Alejo Fernández (1470–1545) ushered in the Renaissance in painting; the Italian Pietro Torrigiano (1472–1528) did the same for sculpture.

A 16th-century master artisan known as Maestro Bartolomé created some of Spain’s loveliest *rejas* (wrought-iron grilles) in churches such as Granada’s Capilla Real (p365) and Baeza cathedral (p335).

**SIGLO DE ORO**

Early in the 17th century Sevillian artists such as Francisco Pacheco (1564–1644) and Juan de Roelas (1560–1625) began to paint in a more naturalistic style, heralding the baroque. Pacheco’s studio was the centre of a humanist circle that influenced most significant Andalusian artists of the century. He advised his pupils to ‘go to nature for everything’.

Though the greatest Spanish artist of the era, Diego Velázquez (1599–1660), left Seville in his 20s to become a court painter in Madrid, Andalucía and especially Seville still played a full and vital part in the country’s Siglo de Oro (Golden Century). Seville’s Museo de Bellas Artes (p106) has a particularly fine collection from this era.

Velázquez’ friend Alonso Cano (1601–77), a gifted painter, sculptor and architect, did some of his best work at Granada and Málaga cathedrals. Mystical Francisco de Zurbarán (1598–1664) lived most of his life in and around Seville. His clear, spiritual paintings of saints, churchmen and monastic life often utilise strong chiaroscuro as did two Italy-based contemporaries, Caravaggio and José de Ribera.

**THE ROMANCE OF ANDALUCÍA**

Chris ‘Driving Over Lemons’ Stewart was not the first foreigner inspired to successful literary endeavours by Andalucía. Back in the 19th century, the picturesque decay of Andalucía’s cities, its flamenco music and dance, its legend-filled past, its people’s love of fiesta, fun and bullfighting, its rugged, brigand-haunted mountains, its heat, its dark-haired, dark-eyed people – all this inspired writers to conjure up a romantic image of Andalucía that will probably never die.

One of the first Romantic writings set in Andalucía (Seville, in this case) was Lord Byron’s *Don Juan*. Byron visited Andalucía in 1809 and wrote the mock-epic poetic masterpiece in the early 1820s. In 1826 France’s Viscount Chateaubriand published an influential melancholic novella, *Les Aventures du Dernier Abencerrage* (The Adventures of the Last Abencerraj), in which a Muslim prince returns to Granada after the Christian reconquest. The Alhambra (p359) was then established as the quintessential symbol of exotic Andalucía by *Les Orientales* (1829) by Victor Hugo (who didn’t visit Granada), and *Tales of the Alhambra* (1832) by the American Washington Irving (who lived there for a few months). *Carmen*, a violent novella of *gitano* love and revenge, written in the 1840s by Frenchman Prosper Mérimée, added subtropical sensuality to the Andalusian mystique.

Composers, too, felt the pull of Andalusian images. The Don Juan story (originally a play by 17th-century Spaniard Tirso de Molina) inspired an operatic version, *Don Giovanni*, by Mozart in the 18th century. Then Georges Bizet’s 1875 opera *Carmen* finally fixed the stereotype of Andalusian women as full of fire, guile and flashing beauty.

Alexandre Dumas came close to summing it up when he characterised Andalucía as a ‘gay, lovely land with castanets in her hand and a garland on her brow’. The spell has hardly faded with the passing of more than a century.

Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–82) and his friend Juan de Valdés Leal (1622–94), both Seville-born, led the way to full-blown baroque art. With its large, colourful, accessible images, the baroque movement took deep root in Andalucía. Murillo's soft-focus children and religious scenes emphasising the optimism of biblical stories made him highly popular in a time of economic decline. Valdés Leal could be both humorous and bitterly pessimistic. His greatest works hang alongside several Murillos in Seville's Hospital de la Caridad (p105).

Sevillian sculptor Juan Martínez Montañés (1568–1649) carved such dramatic and lifelike wooden images that contemporaries called him 'El Dios de la Madera' (The God of Wood). You'll find his carvings in many Andalusian churches, and many of the statues still carried in Seville's Semana Santa (Holy Week) processions are his work. The leading Sevillian sculptor of the later 17th century was Pedro Roldán (1624–99), whose best work is also in the Hospital de la Caridad.

### 18TH & 19TH CENTURIES

An impoverished Spain in this period produced just one outstanding artist – Francisco de Goya (1746–1828), from Aragón in northern Spain. Goya recorded Andalusian bullfights at Ronda, and tradition has it that he painted his famous *La Maja Vestida* and *La Maja Desnuda* – near-identical portraits of one woman, clothed and unclothed – at a royal hunting lodge in what is now the Parque Nacional de Doñana. A few Goyas are on view in Andalucía including in Seville's cathedral and Cádiz's Oratorio de la Santa Cueva (p178).

### 20TH CENTURY

Maverick genius Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) was born in Málaga, but moved to northern Spain when he was nine. Picasso's career involved many abrupt changes. His sombre Blue Period (1901–04) was followed by the cheerier Pink Period; later, with Georges Braque, Picasso pioneered cubism. Since 2003 the city of his birth has at last had a fine Picasso museum (see p245), with a large collection of his works donated by his family.

Granada-born abstract expressionist José Guerrero (1914–91; see p365) followed Picasso's footsteps out of Andalucía, finding fame in New York in the 1950s. Seville-born Luis Gordillo (b 1934) spent time in Paris, Madrid and elsewhere, becoming Spain's leading exponent of pop art. Later he veered towards postmodern abstraction.

Top artists who worked primarily in Andalucía were Córdoba's Julio Romero de Torres (1880–1930), a painter of dark, sensual female nudes – not to everyone's liking (see p309) – and portraitist Daniel Vázquez Díaz (1882–1969) from Huelva.

### Cinema

Spain's creative but short-of-funds cinema industry is heavily concentrated in Madrid, but a few good films are still coming out of Andalucía even if they're not generally reaching vast international audiences. One of the most successful Andalusian productions has been Pablo Carbonell's comic *Atún y Chocolate* (Tuna and Chocolate; 2004), filmed in the fishing town of Barbate (p212), with a plot revolving around weddings, tuna fishing and hashish smuggling.

Non-Andalusian productions with Andalusian themes have included Fernando Colomo's charming *Al Sur de Granada* (South from Granada; 2003), a version of English writer Gerald Brenan's life in an Andalu-

cian village in the 1920s. Look out for Agustín Díaz Yanes' *Alatriste*, the biggest-budget Spanish movie ever, shot on several Andalusian locations with Viggo Mortensen playing the hero of the title, a soldier-cum-mercenary from Spain's 17th-century imperial wars.

The one Andalusian movie name that everyone today knows is Antonio Banderas. Born in Málaga in 1960, the dashing and talented Banderas made his name with some very challenging parts under the doyen of modern Spanish cinema, Pedro Almodóvar, including in *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!*, before moving to Hollywood and a string of hits such as *Philadelphia*, *The Mask of Zorro* and *Spy Kids*. Banderas turned to directing with *Crazy in Alabama* (1999), a successful comedy starring his wife Melanie Griffith. He remains devoted to his home city, where he is setting up a drama school. He filmed much of his second directing venture, the Spanish-language *El Camino de los Ingleses* (The Way of the English; 2006), in and around Málaga. This tale of transition from adolescence to adulthood has a largely Andalusian cast including stars Juan Diego and Fran Perea.

The rising Andalusian acting star is highly versatile Paz Vega, from Seville, Cannes' best new actress of 2001 for her lead in the steamy but serious *Lucía y el Sexo* (Sex and Lucía). She made a Hollywood mark in the American-Mexican culture-clash comedy *Spanglish* (2004), and was back on Spanish soil to play the 16th-century religious mystic Santa Teresa de Ávila in Ray Loriga's *Teresa, Vida y Muerte* (Teresa, Life and Death; 2006).

Andalusian director Benito Zambrano, from Lebrija (Sevilla province), has won acclaim with two highly contrasting films: *Solas* (Alone; 1999), about a country woman surviving in a city; and *Habana Blues* (Havana Blues; 2005), a comedy of relationships and musical careers with a great Cuban music soundtrack. In between, Zambrano directed a terrific TV miniseries, *Padre Coraje* (Father Courage), about a father (Juan Diego) tracking down his son's murderer among the druggies, winos and prostitutes of the marginal suburbs of Jerez de la Frontera.

Andalucía's greatest claim to cinematic fame used to be – and maybe still is – spaghetti Westerns. It was in the early 1960s that movie-makers realised that the desert landscape around Tabernas, Almería, provided them with a perfect Wild West location and that filming there was much cheaper than in Hollywood. The Clint Eastwood trilogy of *A Fistful of Dollars*, *For a Few Dollars More* and *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, directed by Italian Sergio Leone (hence the 'spaghetti' label), were the most celebrated of over 150 films made in 10 years in Almería. Three Wild West town sets remain today as tourist attractions (see the boxed text, p407).

The 1960s saw several other celebrated films shot, or partly shot, in Andalucía – notably *Lawrence of Arabia*, in which Seville buildings such as the Casa de Pilatos (p108) and Plaza de España (p108) were used for scenes set in Cairo, Jerusalem and Damascus. The Tabernas desert and Almería's Cabo de Gata provided the backdrop for parts of such classics as *Cleopatra*, *Dr Zhivago* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Andalucía stages several film festivals every year, the most important being Málaga's **Festival de Cine Español** ([www.festivaldemalaga.com](http://www.festivaldemalaga.com) in Spanish) in late April/early May. Launched in 1998, this event grows in size and importance each year.

Andalucía's supreme representation of the grieving mother of Christ, the sculpture *La Macarena* which takes pride of place in Seville's Easter processions, is believed to have been created by the hand of a woman – Pedro Roldán's daughter María Luisa, known as La Roldana.

Picasso revisited Málaga for annual holidays from 1891 to 1900, but never returned thereafter, settling in France for good in 1904.

For Lawrence of Arabia's movie attack on Aqaba, a whole fake town was built on the Almería coast near Carboneras.

# Andalucian Architecture

One of the great highlights of travelling in Andalucía is the chance to set eyes on so many beautiful and unusual buildings. The many cultures that have passed through Andalucía have yielded a fabulous diversity of constructions, from Granada's Islamic palace-fortress, the Alhambra, and Córdoba's Mezquita (Mosque) to beautiful Christian churches like Granada's Capilla Real and gaudy 20th-century confections like Seville's Plaza de España. Equally beguiling are some of the less monumental aspects of Andalucian building: the tangled street plans and impossibly mountainous settings of the white villages, the beautifully cool, tranquil patios hidden behind the façades of city houses, the gorgeous gardens filled with scents and the sound of water, and the castles sitting precariously atop almost every defensible elevation that comes into view.

Traces of some of the earliest dwellings in Andalucía can be seen at the Copper Age site Los Millares (p407), near Almería. The oldest surviving monuments are the 2nd-millennium-BC dolmens (large rock-built tombs) at places like Antequera (p289). But it was the Romans who left us the most impressive structures from before the Islamic architectural golden age. At Itálica (p130), near Seville, is the third biggest of all Roman amphitheatres in the world; at Baelo Claudia (p214) in Bolonia village, you can see an impressively intact Roman theatre; and at Carmona (p133), a necropolis with tombs the size of temples. The Romans also bequeathed Andalucía the happy invention of the interior patio, an idea later taken up by the Muslims.

## ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Spain's Islamic centuries (AD 711–1492) left a particularly rich heritage of exotic and beautiful palaces, mosques, minarets and fortresses in Andalucía, which was always the heartland of Al-Andalus (as the Muslim-ruled areas of the Iberian Peninsula were known). These buildings make Andalucía visually unique in Europe and have to be classed as its greatest architectural glory. Nor is the legacy of the Islamic era just a matter of the big, eye-catching monuments: after the Christian reconquest of Andalucía (1227–1492), many Islamic buildings were simply repurposed for Christian ends. As a result, many of today's Andalucian churches are simply converted mosques (most famously at Córdoba), many church towers began life as minarets, and the zig-zagging streets of many an old town – Granada's Albayzín district (p367) is just one famous example – originated in labyrinthine Islamic-era street plans.

### THE OMAYYADS

Islam – the word means 'Surrender' or 'Acceptance' (to the will of Allah, the Arabic name for God) – was founded by the prophet Mohammed in the Arabian city of Mecca in the 7th century AD. It spread rapidly to the north, east and west, reaching Spain in 711. In 750 the Damascus-based Omayyad dynasty of caliphs, rulers of the Muslim world, were overthrown by the revolutionary Abbasids, who shifted the caliphate to Baghdad. Just one of the Omayyad family, Abu'l-Mutarrif Abd ar-Rahman bin Muawiya, escaped. Aged only 20, he made for Morocco and thence Spain. In 756 he managed to set himself up as an independent emir, Abd

### THE HORSESHOE ARCH

Omayyad architecture in Spain was enriched by styles and techniques taken up from the Christian Visigoths, whom the Omayyads replaced as rulers of the Iberian Peninsula. Chief among these was what became almost the hallmark of Spanish Islamic architecture – the horseshoe arch – so called because it narrows at the bottom like a horseshoe, rather than being a simple semicircle.

ar-Rahman I, in Córdoba, launching a dynasty based in that city that lasted until 1009 and made Al-Andalus, at the western extremity of the Islamic world, the last outpost of Omayyad culture.

### The Mezquita of Córdoba

The oldest significant surviving Spanish Islamic building is also arguably the most magnificent and the most influential. The great Mezquita (p301) of Córdoba was founded by Abd ar-Rahman I in AD 785 and underwent major extensions under his successors Abd ar-Rahman II in the first half of the 9th century, Al-Hakim II in the 960s and Al-Mansur in the 970s.

Abd ar-Rahman I's initial mosque was a square split into two rectangular halves: a covered prayer hall, and an open ablutions courtyard where the faithful would wash before entering the prayer hall. The Mezquita's prayer hall broke away from the verticality of earlier great Islamic buildings such as the Great Mosque of Damascus and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Instead it created a broad horizontal space recalling the yards of desert homes that formed the original Islamic prayer spaces, and conjured up visions of palm groves with mesmerising lines of two-tier, red-and-white-striped arches in the prayer hall. The prayer hall maintained a reminder of the 'basilical' plan of some early Islamic buildings in having a central 'nave' of arches, broader than the others, leading to the mihrab, the niche indicating the direction of Mecca (and thus of prayer) that is key to the layout of any mosque.

The Mezquita's later enlargements extended the lines of arches to cover an area of nearly 120 sq metres, making it one of the biggest of all mosques. These arcades afford ever-changing perspectives, vistas disappearing into infinity and plays of light and rhythm that rank among the Mezquita's most mesmerising and unique features. The most important enlargement was carried out in the 960s by Al-Hakim II, who created a magnificent new mihrab, decorated with superb Byzantine mosaics imitating those of the Great Mosque of Damascus, one of the outstanding 8th-century Syrian Omayyad buildings. In front of the mihrab Al-Hakim II added a new royal prayer enclosure, the *maksura*. The *maksura*'s multiple interwoven arches and lavishly decorated domes were much more intricate and technically advanced than anything previously seen in Europe. The *maksura* formed part of a second axis to the building, an aisle running along in front of the wall containing the mihrab – known as the qibla wall because it indicates the qibla, the direction of Mecca. This transverse axis, at right angles to the central nave, creates the T-plan that features strongly in many mosques.

Al-Hakim's Mezquita is the high point of the splendid 10th-century 'caliphal' phase of Spanish Islamic architecture – so called because this was the era of the Cordoban caliphate founded by Al-Hakim's father, Abd ar-Rahman III. The plan of Al-Hakim II's building is obscured by the Christian cathedral that was plonked right in the middle of the mosque in the 16th century, but when you are in the Mezquita it is still quite possible to work out the dimensions of each phase of its construction.

The wonderfully illustrated *Moorish Architecture in Andalusia* by Marianne Barrucand and Achim Bednorz, with a learned but readable text, will whet your appetite for the region's Islamic heritage.

In its final 10th-century form the Córdoba Mezquita's roof was supported by 1293 columns.



**ISLAMIC DECORATIVE MOTIFS**

The mosaic decoration around Al-Hakim II's 10th-century mihrab portal exhibits all three of the decorative types permissible in Islamic holy places: stylised inscriptions in classical Arabic, geometric patterns, and stylised plant and floral patterns.

At this early stage of Hispano-Islamic art, the plant and floral decorations were still relatively naturalistic: later they become more stylised, more geometrical and more repetitive, adopting the mathematically conceived patterns known as arabesques. By the time Granada's Alhambra was built in the 14th century, vegetal and geometric decorative forms had become almost indistinguishable.

**Other Omayyad Buildings**

In AD 936 Abd ar-Rahman III built himself a new capital just west of Córdoba. Medina Azahara (see the boxed text *Pleasure Dome & Powerhouse*, p306), named after his favourite wife, Az-Zahra, was planned as a royal residence, palace and seat of government, set away from the hubbub of the city in the same manner as the Abbasid royal city of Samarra, north of Baghdad. Its chief architect was Abd ar-Rahman III's son, Al-Hakim II, who later embellished the Córdoba Mezquita so superbly. In contrast to Middle Eastern palaces, whose typical reception hall was a domed *iwān* (hall opening to a forecourt), Medina Azahara's reception halls had a 'basilical' plan, each with three or more parallel naves – similar to mosque architecture.

Though Medina Azahara was wrecked during the collapse of the Córdoba caliphate less than a century after it was built, it has now been partly reconstructed. From its imposing horseshoe arches, exquisite stucco work and extensive gardens, it's easy to see that it was a large and lavish place.

Relatively few other buildings survive from the Omayyad era in Spain, but the little 10th-century *mezquita* in remote Almonaster la Real (p172) is one of the loveliest Islamic buildings in the country. Though later converted into a church, the mosque remains more or less intact. It's like a miniature version of the Córdoba Mezquita, with rows of arches forming five naves, the central one leading to a semi-circular mihrab.

**11TH-CENTURY PALACES**

Most of the 'petty kings' of the turbulent *taifa* (small kingdoms) period lived in palaces of some kind, but only a few of these remain. The Alcazaba (p247) at Málaga, though rebuilt later, still has a group of 11th-century rooms with a caliphate-style row of horseshoe arches. Within Almería's Alcazaba (p401) is the Palacio de Almotacín, constructed by the city's strongest *taifa* ruler.

**THE ALMORAVIDS & ALMOHADS**

The rule of the Berber Almoravids from Morocco, from the late 11th to mid-12th centuries, yielded few notable buildings in Spain, but the second wave of Moroccan Berbers to conquer Al-Andalus, the Almohads, constructed huge Friday mosques in the main cities of their empire, among them Seville. The design of the mosques was simple and purist, with large prayer halls conforming to the T-plan of the Córdoba Mezquita, but the Almohads introduced some important and beautiful decorative innovations. The bays where the naves meet the qibla wall were surmounted by cupolas or stucco *muqarnas* (stalactite

*Houses and Palaces of Andalucía* by Patricia Espinosa De Los Monteros and Francesco Ventura is a coffee-table tome full of beautiful photography that just might inspire some design ideas for your own palace.

or honeycomb vaulting composed of hundreds or thousands of tiny cells or niches). On walls, large brick panels with designs of interwoven lozenges were created.

From the late 12th century, tall, square, richly decorated minarets started to appear. The Giralda (p97), the minaret of the Seville mosque, is the masterpiece of surviving Almohad buildings in Spain, with its beautiful brick panels. The Seville mosque's prayer hall was demolished in the 15th century to make way for the city's cathedral, but its ablutions courtyard, Patio de los Naranjos (p99), and its northern gate, the handsome Puerta del Perdón (p99), survive.

Another Almohad mosque, more palace-chapel than large congregational affair, stands inside the Alcázar (p193) at Jerez de la Frontera. This tall, austere brick building is based on an unusual octagonal plan inscribed within a square.

Many rooms and patios in Seville's Alcázar palace-fortress (p99) date from Almohad times, but only the Patio del Yeso, with its superbly delicate trelliswork of multiple interlocking arches, still has substantial Almohad remains.

**THE NASRIDS**

The Nasrid emirate of Granada, named after its founder, Mohammed ibn Yusuf ibn Nasr, was the last Muslim redoubt on the Iberian Peninsula, enduring for 2½ centuries (1249–1492) after all the rest of Spain had been taken by the Christians. The Nasrid rulers lavished most of their art-and-architecture budget on one single palace complex of their very own – but what a palace complex it is.

**BATHHOUSES**

Cleanliness and the public *hammam* (bathhouse) were such features of life in Al-Andalus – Córdoba had 60 public baths – that the Muslims' Christian enemies believed bathhouses to be dens of wild orgies and came to view even simple washing with huge suspicion. To make their point, some Spanish monks took pride in wearing the same woollen habit uninterrupted for a whole year, and the phrase 'Olor de Santidad' (Odour of Sanctity) became a euphemism for the stench of the unwashed. After the Christian reconquest of Andalucía, the Moriscos (Muslims who converted to Christianity) were expressly forbidden to take baths.

Nevertheless medieval Islamic bathhouses have managed to survive in some Andalusian towns to this day. Their layout generally comprises a changing room, cold room, temperate room and hot room, in succession, with the heat in the hot rooms being provided by underfloor systems called hypocausts. Beautiful original bathhouses that you can admire today, their rooms lined by arched galleries and lit by star-shaped skylights, include the following:

- Baño de Comares (p364) Alhambra, Granada
- Baños Árabes El Bañuelo (p368) Albayzín, Granada
- Baños Árabes (p193) Alcázar, Jerez de la Frontera
- Baños Árabes (p327) Palacio de Villardompardo, Jaén
- Baños Árabes (p280) Ronda
- Baño Moro (p350) Segura de la Sierra
- Hammam Baños Árabes (p310) Córdoba

The Córdoba baths have been restored so you can luxuriate in the *hammam* experience there yourself – as you can at modern medieval-style bathhouses that have opened in several other Andalusian cities in recent years (see p78 for more information).

*Muqarnas* (honeycomb or stalactite vaulting) originated in Syria or Iran: the Almoravid mosque at Tlemcen, Morocco, was the first western Islamic building to feature it.

Robert Irwin's *The Alhambra* rubbishes the myths that have gathered around this most famous of Spanish buildings and brings the place to life in a genuine way.

The marquetry ceiling of the Alhambra's Salón de Comares employs more than 8000 tiny wooden panels.

## The Alhambra

Granada's magnificent palace-fortress, the Alhambra (p359), is the only surviving large medieval Islamic palace complex in the world. It's a palace-city in the tradition of Medina Azahara but is also a fortress, with 2km of walls, 23 towers and a fort-within-a-fort, the Alcazaba. Within the Alhambra's walls were seven separate palaces, mosques, garrisons, houses, offices, baths, a summer residence (the Generalife) and exquisite gardens.

The Alhambra's designers were supremely gifted landscape architects, integrating nature and buildings through the use of pools, running water, meticulously clipped trees and bushes, windows framing vistas, carefully placed lookout points, interplay between light and dark, and contrasts between heat and cool. The juxtaposition of fountains, pools and gardens with domed reception halls reached a degree of perfection suggestive of the paradise described in the Quran. In keeping with the Alhambra's partial role as a sybarite's delight, many of its defensive towers also functioned as miniature summer palaces.

A huge variety of densely ornamented arches adorns the Alhambra. The Nasrid architects refined existing decorative techniques to new peaks of delicacy, elegance and harmony. Their media included sculptured stucco, marble panels, carved and inlaid wood, epigraphy (with endlessly repeated inscriptions of 'There is no conqueror but Allah') and colourful tiles. Plaited star patterns in tile mosaic have since covered walls the length and breadth of the Islamic world, and Nasrid Granada is the dominant artistic influence in the Maghreb (Northwest Africa) even today.

Granada's splendour reached its peak under emirs Yusuf I (r 1333–54) and Mohammed V (r 1354–59 and 1362–91). Each was responsible for one of the Alhambra's two main palaces. Yusuf created the Palacio de Comares (Comares Palace). The brilliant marquetry ceiling of the Salón de Comares (Comares Hall) here, representing the seven levels of the Islamic heavens and capped by a cupola representing the throne of Allah, served as the model for Islamic-style ceilings in state rooms for centuries afterwards. Mohammed V takes credit for the Palacio de los Leones (Palace of the Lions), focused on the famed Patio de los Leones (Patio of the Lions), with its colonnaded gallery and pavilions and a central fountain channelling water through the mouths of 12 stone lions. This palace's Sala de Dos Hermanas (Hall of Two Sisters) features a fantastic *muqarnas* dome of 5000 tiny cells, recalling the constellations.

## MUDEJAR & MOZARABIC ARCHITECTURE

The label Mudéjar – from Arabic *mudayan* (domesticated) – was given to Muslims who stayed on in areas reconquered by the Christians, who often employed the talents of gifted Muslim artisans. Mudéjar buildings are effectively part of Spain's Islamic heritage. You'll find Mudéjar or part-Mudéjar churches and monasteries all over Andalucía (Mudéjar is often found side by side with the Christian Gothic style), but the classic Mudéjar building is the exotic Palacio de Don Pedro (p100), built in the 14th century inside the Alcázar of Seville for the Christian King Pedro I of Castile. Pedro's friend Mohammed V, the Muslim emir of Granada, sent many of his best artisans to work on Pedro's palace, and as a result the Palacio de Don Pedro is effectively a Nasrid building, and one of the best of its kind – especially the beautiful Patio de las Doncellas at its heart, with a sunken garden surrounded by exquisite arches, tiling and plasterwork.

## ISLAMIC FORTIFICATIONS

With its borders constantly under threat and its subjects often rebellious, it's hardly surprising that Al-Andalus boasts more Islamic castles and forts than any comparably sized territory in the world.

### Caliphate Era

The 10th century saw heaps of forts built in Al-Andalus' border regions, and many fortified garrisons constructed in the interior. Designs were fairly simple, with low, rectangular towers and no outer rings of walls. Two of the finest caliphate-era forts are the oval one at Baños de la Encina (p334) in Jaén province and the hilltop Alcazaba (p401) dominating Almería.

### Taifa Period

In this 11th-century era of internal strife, many towns bolstered their defences. A fine example is Niebla (p159) in Huelva province, which was enclosed by walls with massive round and rectangular towers. So was the Albayzín area of Granada (p367). Niebla's gates show a new sophistication, with barbicans (double towers defending the gates) and bends in their passageways to impede attackers.

### Almohad Fortifications

In the 12th and early 13th centuries the Almohads rebuilt many city defences, such as those at Córdoba, Seville and Jerez de la Frontera. Córdoba's Torre de la Calahorra (p307) and Seville's Torre del Oro (p105) are both well-constructed bridgehead towers from this era.

### Nasrid Fortifications

Many defensive fortifications – as at Antequera (p289) and Ronda (p278), and Málaga's Castillo de Gibralfaro (p245) – were restored as the Granada emirate strove to survive in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. Big rectangular corner towers such as those at Málaga and Antequera suggest the influence of the Christian enemy. The most spectacular fort of the era – though better known as a palace – is Granada's Alhambra (p359).

One hallmark of Mudéjar style is geometric decorative designs in brick or stucco, often further embellished with tiles. Elaborately carved timber ceilings are also a mark of the Mudéjar hand. *Artesonado* is the word used to describe ceilings with interlaced beams leaving regular spaces for decorative insertions. True Mudéjar *artesonados* generally bear floral or simple geometric patterns.

The term Mozarabic, from *musta'rib* (Arabised), refers to Christians who lived, or had lived, in Muslim-controlled territories in the Iberian Peninsula. Mozarabic architecture was, unsurprisingly, much influenced by Islamic styles. It includes, for instance, the horseshoe arch. The majority of Mozarabic architecture is found in northern Spain: the only significant remaining Mozarabic structure in Andalucía – but well worth seeking out for its picturesque setting and poignant history – is the rock-cut church at Bobastro (p288).

## POST-ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Though less world-famous than the celebrated creations of Andalucía's Muslim-era architects and builders, the region's buildings from later eras – notably the churches and monasteries built by the Christian conquerors and the palaces and mansions of their nobility – are a superb part of Andalucía's heritage.

**ANDALUCÍA'S TOP FIVE FORMAL GARDENS**

Some of Andalucía's loveliest buildings are greatly enhanced by the gorgeous gardens around them, full of colour, fragrances and the tinkle of water.

- Generalife gardens, Alhambra, Granada (p364)
- Alcázar gardens, Seville (p101)
- Gardens of the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos, Córdoba (p307)
- Parque de María Luisa, Seville (p108)
- Palacio de Viana gardens, Córdoba (p309)

**GOthic**

Christian architecture reached northern and western Andalucía with the Reconquista (Christian reconquest) during the 13th century. The prevailing architectural style at the time was Gothic, with its distinctive pointed arches, ribbed ceilings, flying buttresses and fancy window tracery. Seville's enormous, five-naved cathedral (p97), the biggest in Spain, is almost entirely Gothic. Dozens of Gothic or part-Gothic churches, castles and mansions are dotted throughout Andalucía. Some of these buildings combine Gothic with Mudéjar style (see p56), others have mixed Gothic with later styles and ended up as a stylistic hotch-potch. Such are the cathedrals at Jerez de la Frontera (Gothic, Mudéjar, baroque and neoclassical; p193) and Málaga (Gothic, Renaissance and baroque; p244).

The final flourish of Spanish Gothic was Isabelline Gothic, from the time of Queen Isabel la Católica, whose own burial chapel – the beautiful Capilla Real (p365) in Granada – is the supreme work in this style. Isabelline Gothic features sinuously curved arches and tracery, and façades with lacelike ornament and low-relief sculptures (including lots of heraldic shields). Another lovely Isabelline building is the Palacio de Jabalquinto (p337) in Baeza.

**RENAISSANCE**

The Renaissance in architecture was an Italian-originated return to classical ideals of harmony and proportion, dominated by columns and shapes such as the square, circle and triangle. Many Andalusian Renaissance buildings feature elegant interior courtyards lined by two tiers of wide, rounded arcades.

Spanish Renaissance architecture had three phases. First came plateresque, taking its name from the Spanish for silversmith, *platero*, because it was primarily a decorative genre, with effects resembling those of silverware. Round-arched portals were framed by classical columns and stone sculpture.

Next came a more purist style whose ultimate expression is the Palacio de Carlos V (p364) inside Granada's Alhambra, designed by the Rome-trained Pedro Machuca.

The last and plainest phase was Herreresque, after Juan de Herrera (1530–97), creator of the austere palace-monastery complex of El Escorial, near Madrid, and Seville's Archivo de Indias (p105).

All three phases of Renaissance architecture were spanned in Jaén province by the legendary master architect Andrés de Vandelvira (1509–75), who gave the town of Úbeda one of the finest ensembles of Renaissance buildings in Spain (see p342). Vandelvira was much

The 16th-century white-marble Renaissance patio of the Castillo de los Fajardo in Vélez Blanco (p422) was sold whole to an American millionaire and now resides in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

influenced by Burgos-born Diego de Siloé (1495–1563), who was primarily responsible for the cathedrals of Granada (p365), Málaga (p244) and Guadix (p381).

This was an era in which the gentry could build themselves gorgeous urban palaces with delightful patios surrounded by harmonious arched galleries – don't miss the Palacio de la Condesa de Lebrija (p107) and Casa de Pilatos (p108) in Seville, or Úbeda's Palacio de Vázquez de Molina (p341).

**BAROQUE**

The reaction to Renaissance sobriety came in the colours and dramatic sense of motion of baroque. This style really seemed to catch the Andalusian imagination, and this was one of the places where baroque blossomed most brilliantly, reaching its peak of elaboration in the 18th century.

Baroque style was at root classical, but it crammed a great deal of ornament onto façades and stuffed interiors full of ornate stucco sculpture and gilt paint. Retables – the large, sculptural altarpieces that adorn many Spanish churches to illustrate Christian stories and teachings – reached extremes of gilded extravagance. The most hyperbolic baroque work is termed Churrigueresque after a Barcelona family of sculptors and architects named Churriguera.

Before full-blown baroque there was a kind of transitional stage, exemplified by more sober works such as Alonso Cano's 17th-century façade for Granada's cathedral (p365).

Seville has probably as many baroque churches per square kilometre as any city in the world. However, the church at Granada's Monasterio de La Cartuja (p370), by Francisco Hurtado Izquierdo (1669–1728), is one of the most lavish baroque creations in all Spain with its multicoloured marble, golden capitals and profuse sculpture. Hurtado's followers also adorned the small town of Priego de Córdoba (p320) with seven or eight baroque churches.

**NEOCLASSICISM**

The cleaner, restrained lines of neoclassicism came into fashion throughout Europe in the mid-18th century – another return to Greek and Roman ideals, expressing the Enlightenment philosophy of the era. Cádiz, whose golden age this was, has the biggest collection of neoclassical buildings in Andalucía, but the single grandest neoclassical building is Seville's enormous, almost monastic Antigua Fábrica de Tabacos (Old Tobacco Factory; p108), built to house an early state-supported industry.

**HIDDEN GEMS**

These off-the-beaten-track architectural highlights will have you exploring some of Andalucía's most intriguing back country as you hunt them down.

- Mezquita, Almonaster la Real (p172)
- Castillo de La Calahorra (p382)
- Baroque churches, Priego de Córdoba (p320)
- La Cartuja de Cazalla (p140)
- Castillo de Burguilimar, Baños de la Encina (p334)

Seville's Casa de Pilatos and Plaza de España both featured as Middle Eastern palaces in *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962). The Casa de Pilatos reappeared, along with the Seville Alcázar, in the medieval-Jerusalem sequences in *The Kingdom of Heaven* (2005).

## 19TH & 20TH CENTURIES

The 19th century spawned revivals of a plethora of earlier styles: Andalucía acquired some neo-Gothic, even a bit of neobaroque, but most prevalent were neo-Mudejar and neo-Islamic, harking back to an age that was now catching the fancy of the Romantic movement. Mansions such as the Palacio de Orleans y Borbón (p189), in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, and public buildings ranging from train stations in Seville to markets in Málaga and Tarifa, were constructed in colourful and pleasing imitation of past Islamic architectural styles. For the 1929 Exposición Iberoamericana, fancy buildings in almost every past Andalusian style were concocted in Seville – chief among them the Hotel Alfonso XIII (p116), built to lodge visiting heads of state, and the gaudy Plaza de España ensemble (p108) by local architect Aníbal González.

Since then, sad to say, Andalusian architects and builders have displayed an uncharacteristic lack of imagination. During the Franco dictatorship, drab, Soviet-style blocks of workers' housing were erected in many cities. Andalucía's tourism boom, which began under Franco and is still going strong, has engendered more new building than any other period in its history. Unfortunately the hotels, villas and holiday apartment blocks have been thrown up with an eye primarily to speed and profit, and their impact on the landscape is often plain awful. Where architects and builders have demonstrated greater flair is in restoring older edifices to serve as hotels, museums or other public buildings. Projects like Málaga's Museo Picasso (p245) and Jaén's Palacio de Villardompardo (p327), are both 16th-century urban palaces turned into top-class modern museums. Las Casas del Rey de Baeza (p117), a hotel created out of 18th-century communal housing in Seville, and the Alquería de Morayma at Cádiar (p392), a country hotel developed from an old farmstead, have been carried out with great flair and sensitivity to the values of the old as well as the needs of the present. See p16 for our list of Top 10 Andalusian hotel conversions.

The most positive impetus to brand-new building in the past 20 years was Expo '92 in Seville, which brought a sea of avant-garde exhibition pavilions and several spectacular new bridges over the Guadalquivir.

# Environment

## THE LAND

Andalucía has four main geographic regions, all running roughly east-west across it: the Sierra Morena, the Guadalquivir Valley, the mountains and the coastal plain.

The Sierra Morena, a range of hills that rarely tops 1000m, rolls across the north of Andalucía. It's a beautiful area divided between evergreen oak woodlands, scrub, rough grazing pasture and scattered old stone villages.

The fertile valley of the 660km-long Río Guadalquivir, Andalucía's longest river, stretches across Andalucía south of the Sierra Morena. The Guadalquivir rises in the Cazorla mountains of Jaén province, flows westward through Córdoba and Seville and enters the Atlantic at Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Its lower reaches are straddled by a broad plain, and before entering the ocean the river splits into a marshy delta known as Las Marismas del Guadalquivir, which includes the Parque Nacional de Doñana. The Guadalquivir is navigable as far upstream as Seville.

Between the Guadalquivir Valley and the Mediterranean coast rises the Cordillera Bética, a band of rugged mountains that widens out from its beginnings in southwest Andalucía to a breadth of 125km or so in the east. The Cordillera Bética continues east from Andalucía across Spain's Murcia and Valencia regions, then re-emerges from the Mediterranean as the Balearic Islands of Ibiza and Mallorca. It was pushed up by pressure of the African tectonic plate on the Iberian subplate 15 to 20 million years ago. Much of it is composed of limestone, yielding some wonderful karstic rock formations.

In Andalucía, the Cordillera Bética divides into two main chains: the more northerly Sistema Subbético and the southerly Sistema Penibético, separated by a series of valleys, plains and basins. The Sistema Penibético includes the 75km-long Sierra Nevada southeast of Granada, with a series of 3000m-plus peaks, including Mulhacén (3479m), the highest mountain on mainland Spain.

Andalucía's coastal plain varies in width from 50km in the far west to virtually nothing in parts of Granada and Almería provinces, where the Sierra de la Contraviesa and Sierra de Cabo de Gata drop away in sheer cliffs to the Mediterranean.

## WILDLIFE

Andalucía's wildlife is among the most diverse in Europe, thanks to its varied, often untamed terrain, which has allowed the survival of several species that have died out elsewhere.

### Animals

Many animals are nocturnal but if you want to see wildlife, and know where to look, you're unlikely to go home disappointed (see Top 10 Wildlife-Spotting Sites, p62).

### MAMMALS

Andalucía has an estimated 15,000 ibex (*cabra montés*), a stocky wild mountain goat whose males have distinctive long horns. The ibex spends its summer hopping with amazing agility around high-altitude precipices

The name Guadalquivir derives from the Arabic Wadi al-Kabir (Great River). The Romans called it the Betis and the ancient Greeks the Tartessos.

and descends to lower elevations in winter. The largest numbers are found in the Sierra Nevada, Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas, Sierras de Tejeda y Almijara and Sierra de las Nieves.

An estimated 60 to 80 wolves (*lobos*) survive in the Sierra Morena, mostly in Jaén province's Parque Natural Sierra de Andújar. In 1986 the wolf was declared in danger of extinction in Andalucía and, in an effort to protect it from hunters and farmers, farmers are now awarded compensation if their animals are attacked by wolves. But the wolf population has still sunk to levels that are probably fatally low. Around 1500 to 2000 wolves survive in northern Spain. Andalucía's other famously endangered mammal is the Iberian lynx – see the boxed text Missing Lynx? (p64).

The mouflon (*muflón*), a wild sheep, has been introduced to the Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas and a couple of other areas to help satisfy rural Andalusians' passion for hunting. Gibraltar is famous for its colony of Barbary apes (see p233), the only wild primates in Europe. More common beasts (or at least signs of them) that you may come across include the following:

- wild boar (*jabali*) – mainly nocturnal and mostly found in thick woods and marshes; likes farmers' root crops
- red deer (*ciervo*), roe deer (*corzo*) and fallow deer (*gamo*) – in forests and woodlands
- genet (*gineta*) – rather like a nocturnal, short-legged cat with a black-spotted white coat and a long, striped tail; inhabits woodland and scrub
- Egyptian mongoose (*meloncillo*) – another mainly nocturnal animal, found in woods, scrub and marshes, especially in southwestern Andalucía
- red squirrel (*ardilla*) – inhabits mountain forests
- badger (*tejón*) – nocturnal animal found in woods with thick undergrowth,
- otter (*nutria*) – along some rivers.

The Bahía de Algeciras and Strait of Gibraltar harbour plenty of dolphins (*delfines*; common, striped and bottlenose) as well as some whales (*ballenas*; pilot, killer and even sperm) – see p236 and p219 for more information.

Wolves have killed over 1500 head of livestock in Andalucía since 1990; farmers complain that compensation from the regional government is insufficient and takes years to be paid.

#### TOP 10 WILDLIFE-SPOTTING SITES

- Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas (p347) – Andalucía's greatest numbers of visible large mammals: red and fallow deer, wild boar, mouflon and ibex
- Parque Nacional de Doñana (p154) – deer, boar, millions of birds
- Gibraltar (p228) – apes on the rock, dolphins in the bay
- Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema (p203) – a spectacular griffon vulture colony, plus ibex
- Tarifa (p219) – dolphin- and whale-watching
- Reserva Natural Laguna de Fuente de Piedra (p291) – the glorious greater flamingo
- Parque Nacional Sierra Nevada (p382) – 5000 ibex
- Dehesa de Abajo (p131) – large woodland colony of white storks
- Paraje Natural Marismas del Odiel (p149) – wetlands alive with water birds
- Strait of Gibraltar (p220) – big spring and autumn bird migrations

#### BIRDS

Andalucía is a magnet for bird-watchers. The forests, rugged mountain ranges and many coastal wetlands provide ideal habitats for many species.

#### Raptors

Andalucía has 13 resident raptor (bird-of-prey) species and several other summer visitors from Africa. You'll see some of them circling or hovering over the hills in many areas.

Europe's biggest bird, the rare and endangered black vulture (*buitre negro*), has a stronghold in the Sierra Morena, with around 230 pairs scattered from Huelva's Sierra Pelada to Jaén's Sierra de Andújar. The several hundred pairs in Spain are probably the world's biggest population.

Another emblematic and extremely rare bird is the Spanish imperial eagle (*águila imperial ibérica*), found in no other country. Its white shoulders distinguish it from other imperial eagles. Its total numbers have increased from about 50 pairs in the 1960s to some 200 pairs today, helped by an active government protection plan operative since 2001. About 50 pairs are in Andalucía – most of them in the Sierra Morena and about eight pairs in the Doñana area. Poisoned bait put out by farmers or hunters is the imperial's greatest enemy.

Another breeding centre based in the Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas aims to reintroduce the bearded vulture or lammergeier (*quebrantahuesos*), with its majestic 2m-plus wingspan, to this area, from which it disappeared in 1986 (its last redoubt in Spain except the Pyrenees). Three young bearded vultures were released into the wild in 2006.

Other large birds of prey in Andalucía include the golden eagle (*águila real*) and several other eagles, the griffon vulture (*buitre leonado*) and the Egyptian vulture (*alimoche*), all found in mountain regions.

#### Storks

The large, ungainly white stork (*cigüeña blanca*), actually black and white, nests from spring to summer on electricity pylons, trees and towers – sometimes right in the middle of towns – in western Andalucía. Your attention will be drawn by the loud clacking of beaks from these lofty perches. A few pairs of the much rarer black stork (*cigüeña negra*), which is actually all black, also nest in western Andalucía, typically on cliff ledges. In spring both types of stork migrate north from Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar (see p220).

#### Water Birds

Andalucía is a haven for water birds, mainly thanks to extensive wetlands along the Atlantic coast, such as those at the mouths of the Guadalquivir and Odiel rivers. Hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, including an estimated 80% of Western Europe's wild ducks, winter in the Doñana wetlands at the mouth of the Guadalquivir, and many more call in during spring and autumn migrations.

Laguna de Fuente de Piedra, near Antequera, is Europe's main breeding site for the greater flamingo (*flamenco*), with as many as 20,000 pairs rearing chicks in spring and summer. This beautiful pink bird can also be seen in several other places, including Cabo de Gata, Doñana and the Marismas del Odiel.

#### Other Birds

Among the more common and visible of Andalucía's many other colourful birds are the golden oriole (*oropéndola*), seen in orchards and deciduous

*Birdwatching on Spain's Southern Coast* by John R Butler and *Where to Watch Birds in Southern & Western Spain* by Ernest García and Andrew Paterson are invaluable bird-watching guides, with plenty of recommended viewing spots.

Bird-watchers will also need a field guide such as the *Collins Field Guide: Birds of Britain and Europe* by Roger Tory Peterson, Guy Mountfort and PAD Hollom, or the slimmer *Collins Pocket Guide: Birds of Britain & Europe*.

## MISSING LYNX?

The Iberian (or pardel) lynx (*lynx ibérico* to Spaniards, *Lynx pardina* to scientists) is a beautiful feline unique to the Iberian Peninsula. It's twice the size of a domestic cat, with a black-spotted brown coat, a short, black-tipped tail, and ears with distinctively pointed black tufts. It lives for up to 15 years and eats little but rabbit, which it catches with great agility and a burst of lightning speed. The lynx likes to inhabit thick Mediterranean woodland interspersed with patches of scrub and open ground; however, it's on the verge of becoming the first extinct feline since the sabre-toothed tiger.

The lynx was still common enough to be legally hunted until 1966, but by the late 1980s its numbers were down to around 1000. Today, most estimates put the lynx population at less than 200. The only proven breeding populations are in two areas of Andalucía: one is the eastern Sierra Morena, with perhaps 100 lynxes; the other is the Parque Nacional de Doñana and adjoining Parque Natural de Doñana, with 30 to 50 lynxes.

The reasons for this sad decline are several:

- epidemics that have decimated the rabbit population
- loss of habitat due to new farmland, roads, dams and pine or eucalyptus plantations
- illegal traps and snares set for other animals
- road accidents.

It took Spain's politicians an extremely long time to face up to the emergency at hand. Research, conferences and strategy proposals abounded, but on the ground action was palpably scarce and uncoordinated. From 1996 to 2004 the national environment ministry in Madrid and the Andalusian environment department in Seville were in the hands of opposing political parties – the Partido Popular (PP; People's Party) and the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE; Spanish Socialist Workers' Party) respectively – which seemed to be incapable of cooperating on anything.

Special facilities for an in-captivity breeding programme were built at El Acebuche in Parque Nacional de Doñana back in 1992, but not until 2003 did Seville and Madrid sign a coordination agreement and decide to accelerate the captive-breeding programme – jolted into action by a shock announcement from Nicolás Guzmán, coordinator of the National Lynx Conservation Strategy, that recent studies indicated there were only 160 lynxes left.

By mid-2006 five adult males and five adult females had been gathered at the El Acebuche breeding centre, and nine cubs had been born, of which six survived – four of them mothered by a Sierra Morena lynx named Saliega and two by a Doñana lynx named Esperanza (Hope). The father of all the surviving cubs was a lusty Sierra Morena lynx by the name of Garfío (Hook). Live film of lynxes in the breeding programme is displayed on a screen at the Parque Nacional de Doñana's El Acebuche visitors centre (p155), though the breeding centre itself is closed to the public.

Meanwhile efforts continue to try to help the wild lynx population re-establish itself. Since most lynxes live on privately owned land, the national and regional governments and some conservation organisations have signed over 100 agreements with landowners to improve lynx habitat and to allow the local rabbit populations to grow. Further good news came in 2005 and 2006 with several reports of lynxes present in four areas of Spain where they were not known to have survived: Andalucía's Sierra Norte (Sevilla province) and Sierra de Aracena (Huelva province), and the Montes de Toledo and the Comunidad de Madrid, both in central Spain.

The captive breeding programme aims to create a pool of up to 80 breeding lynxes in captivity, with lynxes being released into the wild from 2010 on. Experts are sounding the alarm however over the number of unnatural deaths still being suffered by wild lynxes – especially in road accidents in the Doñana area, where at least 30 lynxes have been run over in the past decade. Despite Doñana's fame and history as a lynx habitat, some experts are suggesting that reintroduction should focus on other areas.

woodlands in summer (the male has an unmistakable bright-yellow body); the orange-and-black hoopoe (*abubilla*), with its distinctive crest, common in open woodlands, on farmland and golf courses; and the gold, brown and turquoise bee-eater (*abejaruco*), which nests in sandy banks in summer.

## Plants

The variety of Andalusian flora is astonishing, as anyone who witnesses the spectacular wild-flower displays in spring and early summer can easily testify. Andalucía has around 5000 plant species, some 150 of them unique. This abundance is largely due to the fact that during the last Ice Age many plants that died out further north were able to survive at this southerly latitude.

## HIGH-ALTITUDE PLANTS

The Sierra Nevada, southeast of Granada, with several 3000m-plus peaks, is home to 2100 plant species. About 60 of these are unique to the Sierra Nevada. The mountainous Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas in northeast Andalucía has 2300 plant species, 24 of them found nowhere else. When the snows melt, the alpine and subalpine zones above the tree line bloom with small, rock-clinging plants and high pastures full of gentians, orchids, crocuses and narcissi.

## FOREST & WOODLANDS

Many mountain slopes are clothed in pine forests, often commercially grown. The tall black pine (*pino laricio*), with its horizontally spreading branches clustering near the top, likes terrain above 1300m. The maritime pine (*pino resinero* or *pino marítimo*), with a rounded top, can grow all the way up to elevations of 1500m. The Aleppo pine (*pino carrasco*), with a bushy top and separated, often bare branches, flourishes below 1000m. The lovely umbrella pine (*pino piñonero*), with its broad, umbrella-like top and edible kernels, prefers low-lying and coastal areas – it's characteristic of the Doñana area.

The natural vegetation of many lower slopes and gentler hill country is Mediterranean woodland, with trees adapted to a warm, fairly dry climate, such as the wild olive (*acebuche*), carob (*algarrobo*), the holm or ilex oak (*encina*), the cork oak (*alcornoque*) and the gall oak (*quejigo*). These oaks are more gnarled, with smaller and pricklier leaves than the tall oaks of more temperate regions. The best surviving stands of Mediterranean woodland are in the Parques Naturales Sierra de Grazalema and Los Alcornocales in Cádiz province. Large expanses of woodland in these areas, and in the Sierra Morena, have been converted over the centuries into woodland pastures known as *dehesas*, which provide a great example of sustainable symbiosis between humans, plants and animals. The cork oak's thick outer bark is stripped every ninth summer for cork; you'll see the visible scars – a bright terracotta colour if they're new – on some trees. The holm oak can be pruned about every four years and the offcuts used for charcoal. Meanwhile, livestock can graze the pastures, and in autumn pigs are turned out to gobble up the fallen acorns, a diet considered to produce the tastiest ham of all.

The rare Spanish fir (*pinsapo*), a handsome, dark-green relic of the extensive fir forests around the Mediterranean in the Tertiary period (which ended approximately 2.5 million years ago), survives in significant numbers only in the Sierra de Grazalema, Sierra de las Nieves and Sierra Bermeja, all in southwest Andalucía, and in northern Morocco. It likes north-facing slopes up to 1800m, can grow to 30m high and lives for up to 500 years.

A great source of up-to-date information on Andalusian fauna and flora is the English-language Iberianature (www.iberianature.com).

At ground level Andalucía's forests sprout some 2000 species of fungi (*setas*) in autumn. Many are edible and appear in markets and restaurants; others are poisonous – and the decisions on which are which are best left to the local experts!

Definitely not wild but in some areas the dominant feature of the landscape – especially in Jaén and Córdoba provinces – are the lines upon lines of olive trees (*olivos*), rolling over the horizon and far beyond. Andalucía produces about 20% of the world's olive oil (see p330). Other food-bearing trees grown in many parts of Andalucía are the almond (*almendro*), with beautiful pink winter blossom, and the chestnut (*castaño*), with incredible star-bursts of catkins in midsummer. Also highly eye-catching are the unmistakable bright pink flowers of oleander (*adelfa*) bushes, which in summer line many watercourses. Widely cultivated for timber, though now unfashionable because of its insatiable thirst, is the eucalyptus (*eucalipto*).

#### SCRUB & STEPPE

Where there are no trees and no agriculture, the land is likely to be either scrub (*matorral*) or steppe (*estepa*). Typical scrub plants include gorse (*tojo*), juniper (*enebro*), shrubs of the cistus (*jara*) family, and herbs such as lavender (*lavanda*), rosemary (*romero*), fennel (*hinojo*) and thyme (*tomillo*). Orchids, gladioli and irises may flower beneath these shrubs.

Steppe is either produced by overgrazing or occurs naturally in hot, very dry areas such as the southeast of Almería province. Plant life here is sparse, often mostly cacti, but can explode in colourful bloom after rain.

#### PARKS & OTHER PROTECTED AREAS

Much of Andalucía remains wilderness barely touched by human hand, or countryside managed in traditional and sustainable ways. Its landscapes never cease to surprise with their beauty, and nearly all of the most spectacular and ecologically important country is under official protection.

Andalucía has the biggest environmental protection programme in Spain, possessing more than 90 protected areas covering some 17,000 sq km. This amounts to 20% of Andalusian territory and more than 60% of the total protected area in Spain.

Along with official protection (largely an achievement of the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía, since the 1980s) have come infinitely improved levels of public information and access to these often remote and challenging areas – visitors centres and information points, better maps, marked footpaths, more (and better) rural accommodation, and active-tourism firms that will take you walking, riding, wildlife watching, climbing, caving, canyoning and more.

Responsibility for most nature conservation in Spain is in the hands of the country's 17 regional governments such as the Junta de Andalucía. There are at least 17 different categories of protected area. All of them can be visited, but degrees of access vary. So does the reality of protection: some parks still lack a proper legal framework for their management, and environmentalists and dedicated officials wage an endless struggle against illicit building, quarrying and hunting in protected areas.

*Parques nacionales* (national parks), declared by the national government but managed by regional governments (since 2004), are areas of exceptional importance for their fauna, flora, geomorphology or landscape, whose conservation is considered to be in the national interest, and are the most strictly controlled protected areas. They tend to have

Flower lovers should carry Betty Molesworth Allen's *A Selection of Wildflowers of Southern Spain* and, if possible, the classic *Flowers of South-West Europe* by Oleg Polunin and BE Smythies.

*Spain*, by Teresa Farino and Mike Lockwood, in the Travellers' Nature Guides series, is an excellent practical guide to 200 sites for viewing flora and fauna, with good photos, drawings and information on species.

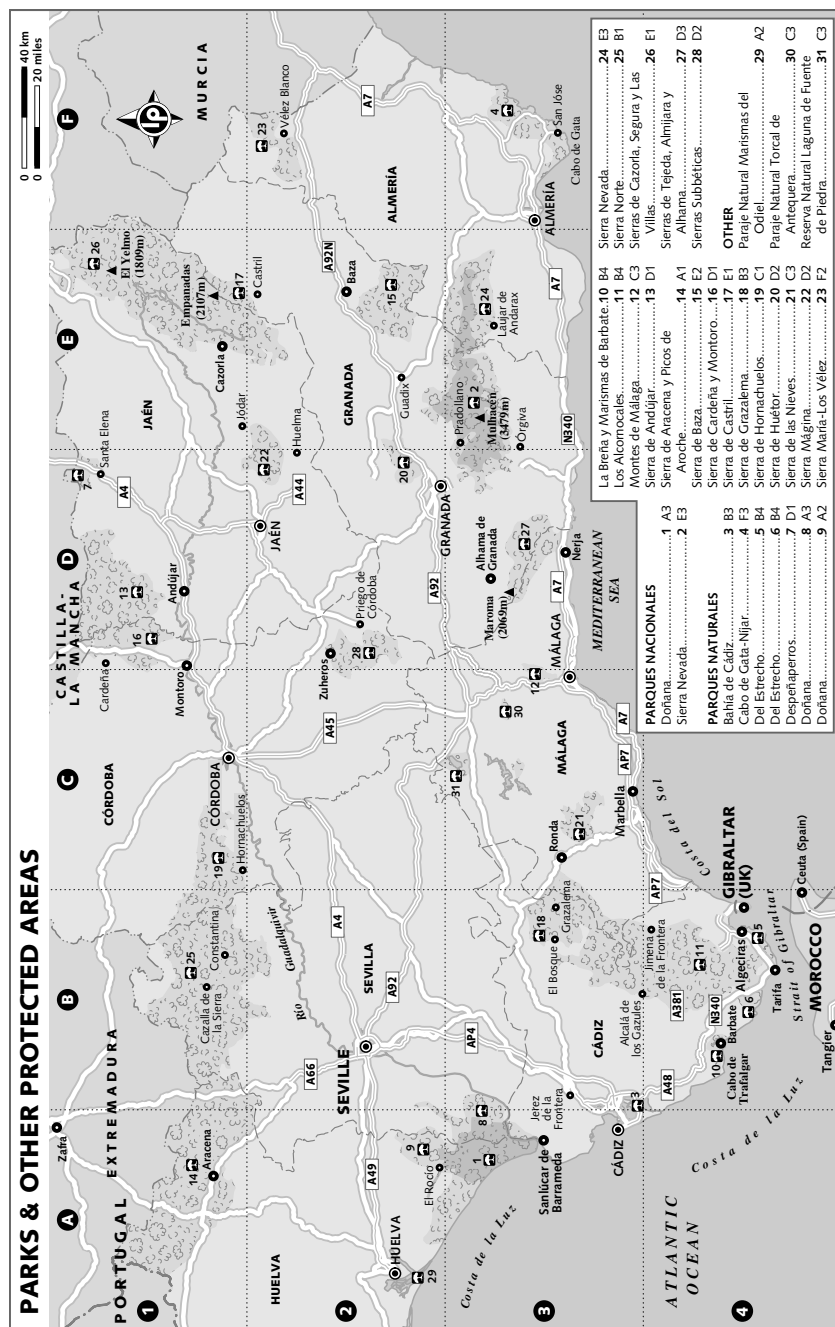
suffered little human impact, and may include reserve areas closed to the public, or restricted areas that can only be visited with permission. Some unscrupulous or ignorant tourism operators will make out that every little nature reserve on their doorstep is a 'national park'. Tell them they're wrong: Spain has just 13 *parques nacionales* (14 when Monfragüe in Extremadura is added to the list, by 2007), and only two of them – Doñana and Sierra Nevada – are in Andalucía.

*Parques naturales* (natural parks) are declared and administered by regional governments. Andalucía's 24 natural parks account for most of its protected territory and include nearly all of its most spectacular country.

#### ANDALUCÍA'S TOP PARKS & PROTECTED AREAS

Park	Features	Activities	Best Time to Visit	Page
Parque Nacional de Doñana	wetlands, dunes, beaches, woodlands; vital to birds & mammals	4WD tours & bird-watching	any	p154
Parque Natural de Doñana	buffer zone for Parque Nacional de Doñana with similar habitats & wildlife	wildlife watching, 4WD trips, horse riding & walking	any	p154
Parque Nacional Sierra Nevada	spectacular high-mountain wilderness with many ibex & endemic plants	walking	Jul-early Sep	p382
Parque Natural Sierra Nevada	Sierra Nevada's lower slopes; timeless villages & tumbling streams	walking, horse riding, mountain biking, skiing & climbing	depends on activity	p382, p386
Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Níjar	sandy beaches, volcanic cliffs, flamingo colony & semidesert vegetation	swimming, bird-watching, walking, horse riding, diving & snorkelling	any	p410
Parque Natural Los Alcornocales	rolling hills covered in great cork-oak forests	walking	Apr-Oct	p223
Parque Natural Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche	rolling, green Sierra Morena country with old stone villages	walking & horse riding	Apr-Oct	p167
Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema	beautiful, damp, hilly region with vultures, Mediterranean woodlands & Spanish firs	walking, wildlife watching, climbing, caving, canyoning & paragliding	Oct-Jun	p203
Parque Natural Sierra de las Nieves	mountain region with deep valleys, ibex, Spanish firs & spectacular vistas	walking	Apr-Jun, Sep-Nov	p285
Parque Natural Sierra Norte	rolling Sierra Morena country, ancient villages, long panoramas & gorgeous spring wild flowers	walking & horse riding	Mar-Oct	p139
Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas	craggy mountains, deep valleys, thick forests & abundant visible wildlife	walking, horse riding & 4WD tours	Mar-Nov	p347
Paraje Natural Torcal de Antequera	mountain covered in spectacular limestone formations	walking & climbing	Mar-Nov	p291
Reserva Natural Laguna de Fuente de Piedra	shallow lake with Spain's biggest flamingo population	bird-watching	Feb-Aug	p291





They are intended to protect cultural heritage as well as nature, and to promote economic development that's compatible with conservation. Many of them include roads, networks of walking trails, villages and even small towns, with accommodation often available within the park. Like national parks, they may include areas which can only be visited with permission.

Other types of protected areas in Andalusia include *parajes naturales* (natural areas; there are 31 of these), *reservas naturales* (nature reserves; numbering 29). These are generally smaller, little-inhabited areas, with much the same goals as natural parks. There are also 37 *monumentos naturales* (natural monuments), protecting specific features such as waterfalls, forests, dunes or forests. Some Spanish wilderness areas – about 900 sq km in Andalusia – are *reservas nacionales de caza* (national hunting reserves). Hunting, though subject to restrictions, is a deeply ingrained aspect of Spanish life. Hunting reserves are often located inside protected areas such as *parques naturales*, and you might walk or drive across one without even knowing it. If you hear gunshots, exercise caution!

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Andalusia's relative lack of industry and, until recently, its fairly traditional agriculture have left it with a pretty clean environment. Environmental awareness in Andalusia and Spain in general took a leap forward in the 1980s under the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE; Spanish Socialist Workers' Party) national government, which gave regional administrations responsibility for most environmental matters. In 1981 Spain had just 35 environmentally protected areas, covering 2200 sq km. Today there are over 400, covering more than 25,000 sq km, and Andalusia is the leader in this field (see p66).

There are problem areas nonetheless. Potentially, Andalusia's worst environmental problem is drought, which struck in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1990s, and is threatening again in the late 2000s. This is despite huge investment in reservoirs (which cover a higher proportion of Spain than of any other country in the world). The coastal building boom and the proliferation of golf courses increase demand for water, but inefficient irrigation methods and the very low price of water also lead to much waste.

The construction and property industries, as in so many places, present a variety of threats to the Andalusian environment. There's particular pressure near the coasts, where tourism multiplies the value of land and property. Slack controls on construction and widespread municipal corruption have led to unsightly, overcrowded and haphazard development, destruction of woodlands, wetlands and other coastal ecosystems, pressure on water supplies and pollution of the seas. An amazing 59% of Andalusia's coastline is already urbanised. The rampant overdevelopment of the Costa del Sol, which has been going on since the 1960s, is only the worst example. Vital wildernesses such as the Parque Nacional de Doñana and Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Nijar are under constant pressure from mainly tourism-related schemes. Town halls and the all-powerful building and property industry say, correctly, that construction and tourism bring jobs, but environmentalists and the Junta de Andalusia argue that development must take place in a controlled and sustainable manner. The Junta is at last starting to put its money where its mouth is, with, for example, its withdrawal of planning powers in 2005 from the scandalous Marbella town hall (see p34) and the decision in 2006 to dynamite a hotel built on a beach within the Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Nijar near Carboneras.

For official information on protected areas, visit the websites of the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Spain's environment ministry ([www.mma.es](http://www.mma.es)), or the Junta de Andalucía's environmental department ([www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/site/web](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/site/web)).

Andalusia aims to generate 15% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2015. Wind will be the biggest source of this, with thousands of new windmills being constructed at wind farms around the region.

The condition of Andalucía's beaches – so crucial to the tourism industry – is mixed. In 2005, 62 of them proudly flew the blue flag of the Foundation for Environmental Education, an international body that annually awards the flags to beaches that satisfy certain criteria of water quality, safety and services, including that 'no industrial or sewage-related discharges may affect the beach area'. On the other hand 34 Andalusian beaches, mainly in Almería and Cádiz provinces, were given *banderas negras* (black flags) by the Spanish environmental group Ecologistas en Acción, mainly for pollution by raw sewage entering the sea or for counter-ecological coastal building developments. According to Ecologistas en Acción, in Cádiz province, for example, there were no purification facilities for sewage entering the sea anywhere in the municipalities of Algeciras, Tarifa, Barbate, Vejer de la Frontera or Chipiona.

Air pollution by the petrochemical industry is a concern in the Huelva area. Intensive vegetable growing under enormous expanses (around 300 sq km) of ugly plastic greenhouses in the arid Almería region (see p410) is drying up the underground aquifers on which it depends, produces enormous quantities of nonbiodegradable rubbish and has sent hundreds of workers to hospital with pesticide poisoning.

Andalucía's largest and most active environmental organisation is **Ecologistas en Acción** ([www.ecologistasenaccion.org](http://www.ecologistasenaccion.org) in Spanish). **SEO/BirdLife** (Spanish Ornithological Society; [www.seo.org](http://www.seo.org) in Spanish) is also active in conservation. International organisations involved in Andalucía include **Greenpeace** ([www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)) and **WWF** ([www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)).

Visit Blue Flag ([www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org)) for the list of blue-flag beaches, and Ecologistas en Acción ([www.ecologistasenaccion.org](http://www.ecologistasenaccion.org) in Spanish) for the list of unsavoury black-flag beaches.

# Andalucía Outdoors

Andalucía's hugely varied terrain and long coastline beckon action-lovers with endless adventures. Here we introduce some of the most popular and exciting activities you can pursue in the region. You'll also find our Top 10 Andalucian adventures on p16, and further detail in destination sections.

## WALKING IN ANDALUCÍA

The thousands of kilometres of paths and tracks wending their way along Andalucía's verdant valleys and across its rugged hills provide marvellous walking of any length or difficulty you like. In some areas you can string together day walks into a trek of several days, sleeping along the way in a variety of hotels, *hostales* (budget hotels), camping grounds or occasionally mountain refuges or wild camping. For about half the year the climate is ideal, and in most areas the best months for walking are May, June, September and October. Walking in Andalucía is increasingly popular among both Spaniards and foreigners (and a growing number of specialist firms in northern Europe offer walking holidays here), but you'll rarely encounter anything like a crowd on any walk.

Trail marking is erratic: some routes are well signed with route numbers, on others just the odd dab of red paint might tell you you're heading in the right direction, and on yet others you're left entirely to your own devices. You certainly have opportunities to put your navigational skills to the test!

The two main categories of marked walking routes in Spain (even so, not always well marked) are *senderos de gran recorrido* (GRs, long-distance footpaths) and *senderos de pequeño recorrido* (PRs, shorter routes of a few hours or one or two days). The GR-7 long-distance path runs the length of Spain from Andorra in the north to Tarifa in the south, part of the European E-4 route from Greece to Andalucía. It enters Andalucía near Almaciles in northeast Granada province, then divides at Puebla de Don Fadrique, with one branch heading through Jaén and Córdoba provinces and the other through Las Alpujarras southeast of Granada before the two rejoin near Antequera in Málaga province. Signposting of this path throughout Andalucía is still in progress. There are also plenty of paths that are neither GRs nor PRs.

Further information on walks is given in this book's regional chapters. Tourist offices and visitors centres often have plenty of information on routes and conditions. The best in-depth walking guides to regions of Andalucía in English (and probably any language) are those published by **Discovery Walking Guides** ([www.walking.demon.co.uk](http://www.walking.demon.co.uk)) on Las Alpujarras, the Sierra de Aracena and La Axarquía – terrifically detailed but also entertaining. The first two are accompanied by excellent maps, which you can buy separately if you wish. Further walking guides to specific areas are often available locally. For information on maps, see p435.

## La Axarquía

Hill villages such as Cómpeta, Canillas de Albaida, Canillas de Aceituno and Alfarnate, in the eastern district of Málaga province known as La Axarquía (p292), give access to many good tracks and paths. You can choose from gentle valley strolls close to the villages or climbs to summits with majestic views.

*Walking in Andalucía* by Guy Hunter-Watts has detailed descriptions and maps of 34 good day walks.

Access cities, towns and villages: Málaga (p242), Vélez Málaga (p292), Cómpeta (p293), Nerja (p294).

### Las Alpujarras

One of the most picturesque corners of Andalucía, Las Alpujarras (p386) is a 70km-long jumble of valleys along the south flank of the Sierra Nevada, stretching from Granada province into neighbouring Almería. Arid hillsides split by deep ravines alternate with oasis-like white villages surrounded by vegetable gardens, orchards, rapid streams and woodlands. Ancient paths wind up and down through constantly changing scenery between labyrinthine, Berber-style villages. Many villages have hotels, *hostales* or camping grounds, enabling you to string together routes of several days or do a number of day walks from a single base.

Access cities and towns: Granada (p356), Órgiva (p388), Laujar de Andarax (p409).

### Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Níjar

The combination of a dry, desert climate with volcanic cliffs plunging into azure Mediterranean waters produces a landscape of stark grandeur around the Cabo de Gata promontory (p410), southeast of Almería. Between the cliffs and headlands are strung some of Spain's best and least crowded beaches, and by combining paths, dirt roads and occasional sections of paved road, you can walk right round the 60km coast in three or four days. There's plenty of accommodation, including four camping grounds, along the way. September and October are good months to walk here: the searing temperatures of July and August have abated, but the sea is still warm (it's warmer in October than in June).

Access city: Almería (p398).

### Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas

The Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas (p347) is the largest protected area in Spain (2143 sq km), a crinkled, pinnacled region of several complicated mountain ranges – not extraordinarily high, but memorably beautiful – divided by high plains and deep river valleys. Much of the park is thickly forested and wild animals are abundant and visible. The ideal way to explore it is with a vehicle to reach day walks in some of its more remote areas. Camping in wilderness areas is not permitted and with accommodation and camping grounds concentrated in certain areas, multiday walks are not really feasible.

Main access town: Cazorla (p345).

### Parque Natural Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche

This verdant, sometimes lush, sometimes severe region (p167), in Huelva province in far northwest Andalucía, is dotted with timeless stone villages and strung with an extensive network of well-maintained trails. It's a lovely area to spend a few days. Many villages have accommodation, enabling you to string together routes of several days. And the local food is notably scrumptious.

Main access town: Aracena (p164).

### Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema

The hills of the Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema (p203) in Cádiz province encompass a variety of beautiful landscapes, from pastoral river valleys and dense Mediterranean woodlands to rocky summits and precipitous gorges. Some of the best walks are within a reserve area for

which permits or guides are required: you may need to arrange these a few days ahead. There's plenty of accommodation in nearby villages.

Access villages: Grazalema (p204), El Bosque (p204), Zahara de la Sierra (p207), Villaluenga del Rosario (p208).

### Parque Natural Sierra de las Nieves

Southeast of the interesting old town of Ronda, the Sierra de las Nieves (p285) includes the highest peak in the western half of Andalucía, Torrecilla (1919m), climbable in a day trip from Ronda. Lower altitudes have extensive evergreen woodlands.

Access towns: Ronda (p277), Yunquera (p285), El Burgo (p285).

### Parque Natural Sierra Norte

The rolling Sierra Morena country (p139) in the north of Sevilla province presents ever-changing vistas of green valleys and hills, woodlands, rivers and atmospheric old towns and villages. The spring wild flowers are spectacular here. There are a variety of day and half-day walks marked around the region and, with a range of attractive accommodation, it's a delightful area to spend a few days.

Access towns: Cazalla de la Sierra (p140), Constantina (p142), El Pedroso (p140).

### Sierra Nevada

This snowcapped mountain range southeast of Granada includes mainland Spain's highest peak, Mulhacén (3479m), and many other summits over 3000m. The Sierra Nevada (p382) is Andalucía's ultimate walking experience in terms of altitude and climatic conditions and also for its forbidding, wild aspect: large tracts are a rugged wilderness of black rock and stones, with plenty of sheer faces and jagged crags. During July, August and early September – the best months for walking up here, though high-altitude weather is never predictable – a national park bus service gives walkers access to the upper reaches of the range from both the north and south sides. It's quite feasible to cap Mulhacén or the second-highest peak, Veleta (3395m), in a day trip. There are many other possible routes, plus a number of refuges if you want to stay the night in the mountains. Camping is allowed above 1600m, subject to certain conditions (see p385).

Main access towns: Granada (p356), Estación de Esquí Sierra Nevada (p383), Capileira (p388), Trevélez (p391).

## WATER SPORTS

### Windsurfing

Tarifa, a surfers' paradise on the Strait of Gibraltar (see the boxed text p218), is one of *the* top spots in Europe for windsurfing, thanks to the strong breezes blowing one way or the other through the strait almost year-round. The long, sandy beaches are an added attraction and there's a hip international scene to go with the boards and waves. Rental of a board, sail and wetsuit costs around €35 per hour or €75 per day, with a six-hour beginner's course at around €120.

### Kitesurfing

Kitesurfers (also known as flysurfers or kiteboarders) use boards like windsurfers but they catch the wind by means of a kitelike sail high in the air, to which they're attached by a harness and long strings. This fast-growing sport can be enjoyed in lighter winds than are needed for windsurfing. Experts reach high speeds and perform tricky manoeuvres

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'The combination of a dry, desert climate with volcanic cliffs plunging into azure Mediterranean waters produces a landscape of stark grandeur around the Cabo de Gata promontory'

**NOT JUST TARIFA: 10 MORE TOP ANDALUCIAN WINDSURFING SPOTS**

Some pretty good winds blow further up the Atlantic coast, too:

- Bolonia (p214)
- Los Caños de Meca (p211)
- Sancti Petri (p209)
- El Puerto de Santa María (p183)
- Punta Umbria (p159)
- Isla Cristina (p160)

Along the Mediterranean coast conditions are generally less exciting, though often better for beginners, and there are facilities at several Costa del Sol resorts and places further east:

- La Herradura (p395)
- Almerimar (p410)
- Almería (p402)
- Mojácar (p417)

while 'hanging' in the air. Tarifa is the hub (see the boxed text, p218), with equipment rental and sales, and classes available. Costs are a bit higher than for windsurfing. Beginners definitely need tuition, as out-of-control kitesurfers can be a danger to themselves and everyone else. A six-hour beginner's course should cost about €120. Punta Umbria (p159) is another place with good winds. On the Mediterranean coast there are facilities at places such as Marbella (p271) and La Herradura (p395).

**Surfing**

Andalucía's waves don't rival those of northern Spain, but the surf can be good in winter on the Atlantic coast of Cádiz province, especially at El Palmar (p210), where waves can reach 3m, and Los Caños de Meca (p211). Some of the Mediterranean beaches are good for beginners, and bodyboarding (boogie-boarding) is popular all along the Andalusian coasts, with boards for sale everywhere.

**Diving & Snorkelling**

Andalucía's coasts don't provide all the spectacular sights of tropical waters but there is still some interesting diving here and plenty of dive schools and shops in the coastal resorts to help you enjoy it. Most establishments offer courses under the aegis of international diving organisations such as **PADI** ([www.padi.com](http://www.padi.com)) or **NAUI** ([www.nauiww.org](http://www.nauiww.org)), as well as dives for qualified divers and 'baptism' dives. A single dive with full equipment costs around €40. Introductory 'baptism' and 'discover scuba diving' courses for up to three hours run from about €35 to €75. The five-day PADI open-water certification course will cost you around €400.

The following are Andalucía's best diving areas, from west to east: **Tarifa** (p218) Wrecks and varied marine fauna, but low temperatures and some strong currents – better for experienced divers.

**Gibraltar** (p236) Great for wrecks.

**Coast of Granada province** Especially La Herradura/Marina del Este (p395) and around the towns of Calahonda and Castell de Ferro (p392); steep cliffs, deep water, some caves.

**Cabo de Gata** (p413) Sea floors of seagrass, sand and rocks, often with caves, crevices or passages; grouper and conger or moray eels at some sites.

Andalucía ([www.andalucia.org](http://www.andalucia.org)) and Buceo XXI ([www.buceo21.com](http://www.buceo21.com) in Spanish) both list over 20 dive outfits.

Snorkelling is best along the rockier parts of the Mediterranean coast – between Nerja and Adra, and from Cabo de Gata to Mojácar.

**Sailing**

Some 40 marinas and mooring places are strung along Andalucía's coast from Ayamonte on the Portuguese border to Garrucha in Almería province. Voyages along the Mediterranean coast, through the Strait of Gibraltar to Costa de la Luz or Portugal, or across to Morocco, are all popular. The biggest marinas are the flashy Puerto Banús (p276) and Benalmádena (p264) on Costa del Sol, and Almerimar near Almería, each with over 900 moorings, but there are plenty of smaller, more relaxed ports such as San José (p413) on Cabo de Gata, Marina del Este (p395) near La Herradura and Mazagón (p152) near Huelva. Information on marinas, moorings and sailing clubs is available from Andalucía's official tourism website, **Andalucía te Quiere** (Andalusia Loves You; [www.andalucia.org](http://www.andalucia.org)) and the **Federación Andaluza de Vela** (Andalusian Sailing Federation; [www.fav.es](http://www.fav.es) in Spanish). Boat hire is possible at many marinas. For yacht charter, check **Costa del Sol Charter** ([www.costadelsolcharter.com](http://www.costadelsolcharter.com)), **Yachting Sotogrande** ([www.yachtingsotogrande.com](http://www.yachtingsotogrande.com)) or **Viento y Mar** ([www.vientoymar.com](http://www.vientoymar.com) in Spanish).

You can learn to sail too. Beginners' classes are offered at Isla Cristina (p160). Five-day courses approved by the UK's Royal Yachting Association are given by Yachting Sotogrande, in Sotogrande between Estepona and Gibraltar, and **Allabroad Sailing Academy** ([www.sailing.gi](http://www.sailing.gi)) and **Alfer Sea School** ([www.alferseaschool.com](http://www.alferseaschool.com)), both in Gibraltar. A 'competent crew', 'day skipper' or 'coastal skipper' course costs around €700 or UK£500.

**Canoeing & Kayaking**

Both coastal waters and inland reservoirs are good for flat-water canoeing and kayaking. For some recommended operators, see our sections on Zahara de la Sierra (p207) and Isla Cristina (p160) in western Andalucía, and La Herradura (p395), Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas (p351), Almería (p402) and Mojácar (p417), dotted around eastern Andalucía.

**HORSE RIDING**

Andalucía is steeped in equestrian tradition. The horse has been part of rural life since time immemorial and Andalucía is the home of the elegant and internationally esteemed Spanish thoroughbred horse, also known as the Cartujano or Andalusian. Countless good riding tracks crisscross the region's marvellous landscapes, and an ever-growing number of *picaderos* (stables) are ready to take you on a guided ride for any duration between an hour and a week, or give you classes. Many of the mounts are Andalusians or Andalusian-Arab crosses – medium-sized, intelligent, good in traffic and, as a rule, easy to handle and sure-footed.

Typical prices for a ride or lesson are €25 to €30 for one hour, €60 to €70 for a half day and around €100 for a full day. Most stables cater for all levels of experience, from lessons for beginners or children to trail rides for more competent riders. The ideal months to ride in Andalucía are May, June, September and October, when the weather is likely to be good but not too hot.

The provinces of Sevilla and Cádiz have perhaps the highest horse populations and concentrations of stables, but there are riding opportunities throughout the region. **Andalucía te Quiere** ([www.andalucia.org](http://www.andalucia.org)) has a directory of over 100 stables and other equestrian establishments.

Andalusian saddles are bigger than British ones, with high front and rear pieces, and a sheepskin cover for more comfort, while the stirrups are heavy and triangular, with room for the whole foot.

For a wry account of what long-distance riding across Andalucía was like not so long ago, dig out Penelope Chetwode's amusing *Two Middle-aged Ladies in Andalusia*.

Two of the many highlights of riding experiences in Andalucía are trail rides in the Alpujarras (p389) and Sierra Nevada (p383), and beach and dune riding just out of Tarifa on Cádiz's Costa de la Luz (p219). For recommended stables, see this book's sections on Alájar (p169), Aracena (p166), Arcos de la Frontera (p200), Castaño del Robledo (p169), Cazalla de la Sierra (p141), Cómpea (p293), El Rocio (p157), Galaroza (p170), Parque Natural de las Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas (p351 and p351), Parque Natural Sierra de Hornachuelos (p317), Ronda (p281) and San José (p413).

All horse-lovers should put Jerez de la Frontera (p191) high on their itinerary. The town stages several exciting annual equine events – especially its Feria del Caballo (Horse Fair) in May – and its famous Real Escuela Andaluz de Arte Ecuestre (Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art) and the nearby Yeguada de la Cartuja – Hierro del Bocado (p200) breeding centre are fascinating to visit at any time.

## CLIMBING

Mountainous Andalucía is full of crags, walls and slabs that invite *escalada* (climbing), now a popular sport here. Thanks to the southern Mediterranean climate, this is a good region for winter climbing. In fact there's good climbing year-round, though July and August temperatures are too high for some spots. Most of the climbing is on limestone and there's more sport climbing than classical.

The sheer walls of El Chorro gorge (p287), one of several great sites in the north of Málaga province, are the biggest magnet, with some 600 routes of almost every grade of difficulty. El Chorro presents a great variety of both classical and sport climbing, from slab climbs to towering walls to bolted multipitch routes. If this isn't enough, several nearby spots provide fine climbing too. There's accommodation for all budgets in the El Chorro area, and a climbers' scene at Bar Isabel at El Chorro train station. British publisher Rockfax's successful *Costa Blanca, Mallorca & El Chorro* climbing guide is now out of print (you might still find a few copies in bookshops) but you can obtain its El Chorro section online at [www.rockfax.com](http://www.rockfax.com).

The following are among Andalucía's other top climbing sites:

**El Torcal** (p291; Málaga province) Two hundred sport and classical pitches of grade V-8 in weird limestone landscape, best from spring to autumn.

**La Cueva de Archidona** (Archidona, northern Málaga province) Superb grade 7-9 sport climbing, spring and autumn.

**Loja** (Granada province) Has 175 grade 6-7 mainly sport routes, best in autumn and spring.

**Los Cahorros** (p386; near Monachil, Granada province) Over 250 sport and classical routes, grades V-8, climbable year-round.

**Mijas** (p269; Málaga province) Around 80 grade V-7 climbs, good for winter.

**Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema** (p204; Cádiz province) Fine classical climbs on Peñón Grande crag, spring to autumn.

**San Bartolo** (p214; near Bolonia, Cádiz province) Rare sandstone crag with 280 pitches up to grade 8, good for winter.

**Villanueva del Rosario** (Málaga province) Best boulder climbing in Andalucía; also sport and classical routes.

Short courses for beginners are available at **Finca La Campana** (p287; [www.el-chorro.com](http://www.el-chorro.com)) and **Girasol Outdoor Company** (p219; [www.girasol-adventure.com](http://www.girasol-adventure.com)) in Tarifa. You can also purchase climbing equipment at sports shops in most major cities; try **Deportes La Trucha** (Map p246; ☎ 952 21 22 03; Calle Carretería 100) in Málaga.

*Andalusian Rock Climbs* by Chris Craggs is still a useful guide, though published in 1992.

Desnivel ([www.esuelasdeescalada.com](http://www.esuelasdeescalada.com)) has comprehensive listings of Andalusian climbing sites with lots of detail in Spanish and automatic-translation English.

## SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

Andalucía's only ski station, the very popular Estación de Esquí Sierra Nevada (Sierra Nevada Ski Station; p383), 33km southeast of Granada, is the most southerly ski resort in Europe, and its runs and facilities are of championship quality. The season normally runs from December to April, and it gets pretty crowded (with a thriving nightlife) at weekends for most of that period and around the Christmas–New Year and Día de Andalucía (28 February) holidays.

The resort has over 70 marked downhill runs of varied difficulty, totaling over 80km, plus cross-country routes and a dedicated snowboarding area. Some runs start almost at the top of Veleta (3395m), the second highest peak in the Sierra Nevada.

A single-day pass plus rental of skis, boots and poles, or snowboard and boots, costs between €50 and €65, depending on when you go. Six hours of group classes at ski school are €63.

There's plenty of accommodation at the station, but reservations are always advisable: double rooms start at about €80. The best deals are ski packages, bookable through the station's website or phone number; they start at around €150 for two days and two nights with lift passes and half-board.

## CYCLING & MOUNTAIN BIKING

Andalucía's combination of plains, rolling hills and mountain ranges makes all kinds of cycling trips possible, from cruises along the *carriles de cicloturismo* (roads adapted for cycle touring) in the flat lands surrounding the Parque Nacional de Doñana (see p131 for more information about the Carril de Cicloturismo Pinares de Aznalcázar–La Puebla) to tough off-road mountain routes. Road cycling has always been popular in Spain, and mountain biking is ever more popular. Thousands of off-road kilometres await the adventurous, while the relatively little-trafficked country roads offer some great cycle touring. Spring and autumn, with their moderate temperatures, are the best seasons.

Many tourist offices have route information and **Andalucía te Quiere** ([www.andalucia.org](http://www.andalucia.org)) details up to 15 mountain-bike routes in each of Andalucía's eight provinces, with sketch maps. The same routes are covered in the *Mountain Bike* booklet sold by Junta de Andalucía tourist offices.

Plenty of places rent out mountain bikes for around €10 to €12 a day, and you can join guided group rides in a number of places.

Some recommended bike-hire and tour firms can be found in Monachil (p386), the Sierra Nevada (p383), Las Alpujarras (p389) and La Herradura (p395) in Granada province; Vejer de la Frontera (p209) and Tarifa (p219) in Cádiz province; Ronda (p281), Marbella (p271) and El Chorro (p287) in Málaga province; and San José (p413) in Almería.

## GOLF

Over 700,000 people a year come to Andalucía primarily to play golf, and more and more Andalusians are taking to the fairways. Andalucía has 84 golf courses (with more on the way). Over half the courses are dotted along the Costa del Sol between Málaga and Gibraltar. The fine climate and the many beautifully landscaped, well-kept courses designed by top golf-course designers are among the special pleasures of golf here. There's even one completely floodlit night-time course (mercifully without rough), La Dama de Noche at Marbella. Flat terrain is fairly rare in Andalucía, so most courses have a certain amount of slope to contend with. Green fees are comparable to Britain: between €50 and

Wild Spain ([www.wild-spain.com](http://www.wild-spain.com)) includes articles and lists of guides and companies for many outdoor activities.

**ESCAPE**

If you just feel like pampering yourself after a spot of exertion (or just feel like pampering yourself on holiday anyway), you can do so and at the same time get a feel for life in medieval Andalucía at one of the modern-day *Baños Árabes* (Arab Baths) that have opened in Granada (p371), Córdoba (p310), Jerez de la Frontera (p196) and Málaga (p248). These baths, in beautiful traditional style, re-create the experience and atmosphere of a key institution of old Islamic Andalucía (medieval Córdoba had 60 bathhouses). The scent of herbal oils and the sound of ethereal background music waft through the air as you move between pools of varied temperatures. For a full account of a visit to the Jerez baths, see the boxed text, p196.

€75 at most clubs. Top courses on the Costa del Sol, such as Valderrama (proud host to the Ryder Cup in 1997), Sotogrande, and Las Brisas and Aloha at Marbella, are more costly (€260 to €290 at Valderrama, the most expensive). Professional tuition (typically around €25 to €30 an hour) and hire of clubs (around €15 to €20 per round), trolleys (around €5, or €10 to €15 for an electric one) and buggies (around €30) are available at almost every course.

Useful information sources include **Andalucía te Quiere** ([www.andalucia.org](http://www.andalucia.org)) and the **Federación Andaluza de Golf** ([www.fga.org](http://www.fga.org)), both with directories of the region's courses, and the free paper *Andalucía Costa del Golf*, available from some tourist offices. Many golfers from other countries come on organised golf holidays, with tee times, accommodation and everything else booked in advance, but it's perfectly feasible to organise your own golf: English-speakers are available almost everywhere. **Golf Service** ([www.golf-service.com](http://www.golf-service.com)) offers discounted green fees and tee-off time reservations.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Andalucía's rugged limestone geology makes for some exciting caving, especially in the Ronda/Grazalema area around Villaluenga del Rosario (p208), Grazalema (p206), Zahara de la Sierra (p207) and Ronda (p281). There's some exhilarating canyoning to be had in the Garganta Verde (p207 and p206) and the hills behind La Herradura (p395). Or take to the skies in a paraglider from Zahara de la Sierra (p207), Valle de Abdalajis (p286) or La Herradura (p395). Tennis, fishing and paintball are some of the other fun things you can do in Andalucía. For introductory information on many activities see websites such as **Andalucía te Quiere** ([www.andalucia.org](http://www.andalucia.org)) and **Galería Marbella** ([www.galeriamarbella.com](http://www.galeriamarbella.com); go to 'Sports'). The region is also exciting for those who like watching birds and other wildlife – for information about wildlife and wildlife watching in Andalucía see p61.

For help with planning your golf holiday, consult *The Pocket Guide to Golf Courses: Spain & Portugal*, or David J Whyte's *Spain: Over 100 Courses & Facilities*.

# Food & Drink

One of Andalucía's most prominent draws is just this: food and drink. In the whole of Spain, and especially in the south, lunch and dinner times are holy hours, obeyed by all. Food here is a social occasion best experienced in the tradition of *tapear*, or eating tapas. This is one of the most wonderful ways to eat: sharing and tasting new dishes all the time, adoring some, detesting others and commenting how your mother's recipe might taste much better. In Granada, Jaén and Almería, the age-old tradition of free tapas with a drink still persists, and the citizens of those regions are proud and indeed feel superior for their generosity over places like Seville and Cádiz or Córdoba where you have to pay for each tapa.

Andalucian cuisine has many influences, such as Roman, Jewish, *gitano* (Roma) and New World, but like its history, much of its architecture and general aesthetic, it is the North African influence that is most present and potent. Delicious Mediterranean ingredients such as oranges, lemons, apricots, aubergines (eggplant) and spinach are mixed with beans, pulps and grains; many dishes have spices such as cinnamon or cumin and herbs like mint and coriander. A glass of icy *fino* sherry or a cool *caña* (beer) can be accompanied by simple things like *jamón y pan* (ham and bread), or *almendras con pimentón* (roast almonds with paprika), or more elaborate dishes like *garbanzos con espinacas* (chickpeas and spinach) spiced up with turmeric and cumin. There is, of course, a wealth of fish and seafood, eaten simply, like grilled sardines with sea salt, or fried king prawns that make anyone drool just at the thought.

Spanish food, like Spanish culture has two poles: the traditional and the modern, and in the last decade there has been a new wave of contemporary cuisine, spearheaded by top chefs like the wonderfully eccentric Catalan Ferrán Adrià, or the Basque Martín Berasategui and Juan Mari Arzak. They take traditional cuisine, blow it apart and put it back together to create a revolution in Spanish cooking. Although Andalucía has been slow to get into the groove of contemporary cuisine, restaurants that cook and serve traditional ingredients in a modern way are emerging like snails on a rainy day. Mr Adrià has honoured Andalucía by opening Hacienda Benazuza (p118) near Seville, and designing the menu in one of its three restaurants with his experimental dishes that may literally blow you away. Needless to say, the famed elBulli restaurant already has two Michelin stars, though you might need to wait three lifetimes to get a reservation to actually taste Adrià's legendary cuisine. And, in places such as Restaurante Tragabuches (p283) and Café de Paris (p261), both in Málaga province, regional dishes have been given a radical twist, breathing exciting new life into provincial cooking.

## STAPLES & SPECIALITIES

You'll find all things Mediterranean dominating the region's ingredient list: creamy olive oil, dynamite garlic, teary onions, smashing tomatoes and a variety of peppers, accompanied by chickpeas, beans and rice. It's what the Spanish have been eating for centuries, and what's cooked in traditional bars and restaurants is what will be simmering in any Andalucian family kitchen. But the kings of all kitchens, bars and restaurants are four things: *jamón*, chorizo, *queso* and *pan* – ham, spicy sausage, cheese and bread. The further you go into the mountainous regions, the more

Lonely Planet's *World Food Spain* by Richard Sterling is a trip into Spain's culinary soul, from tapas to *postres* (desserts), with a comprehensive culinary dictionary.



tasty game dishes and stews will abound, whereas by the sea, ravishing seafood predominates.

### Bread

No meal is eaten in Spain without *pan*. Every district has a *panadería* (bakery) where bread of all shapes and sizes is produced daily. For breakfast, *bollos* or *molletes* (small, soft rolls) are consumed as well as *tostadas* (toasted bread), served with a choice of finely chopped tomatoes, olive oil, *jamón* or foie gras. Simple country bread, *pan de campo*, is the perfect companion for any meal. What isn't eaten is then used to thicken soups and sauces.

### Cheese

Spain's most famous cheese, Manchego, originates from the central region of La Mancha. Traditionally made from ewe's milk, it is salty and full of flavour and is frequently served as a tapa. When still fresh, Manchego cheese has a creamy and mild consistency; semicured ones are firmer and have a stronger flavour, while those aged more than three months have a distinctive tang. Typical Andalusian cheeses include Grazalema, from the mountains of Cádiz, made from ewe's milk and similar to Manchego; Málaga, a goat's milk cheese preserved in olive oil; and Cádiz, a strong, fresh goat's milk cheese made in the countryside around Cádiz. Another cheese found throughout Spain is Burgos, a very mild ewe's milk cheese, delicious when served as a dessert with honey, nuts and fruit.

### Fish & Seafood

You'll be excused for feeling like a king or queen when presented with the incredible variety of fish and seafood in the coastal towns of Andalucía. Never be afraid to ask what something is, and use the tradition of eating tapas to work out what you like without overdosing on any one dish. *Boquerones* (anchovies) are the most popular. They are served either fried (*fritos*) or marinated in garlic, olive oil and vinegar. Sardines come grilled (*a la plancha*), and *gambas* (prawns) and *langostinos* (king prawns) are served grilled, fried or cold with a bowl of fresh mayonnaise. *Gambas* are also used in paellas or soups. The most bizarre are *camarones*, tiny shrimps that you can see in markets, sold while still alive and jumping around the bucket. They are used in *tortilla de camarones*, a delicious, crispy frittata embedded with the tiny prawns. Other Andalusian obsessions include *chipirones* or *chopitos* (baby squid), and in Málaga they would also add *chanquetes* (similar to whitebait and served deep-fried) to the list. *Ostras* (oysters) are plentiful in and around Cádiz.

### Fruit & Vegetables

Andalucía has arguably the finest fruits and vegetables in Spain due to its generous climate. And the good news is that this fantastic produce is eaten in season and generally bought fresh and in open-air morning markets.

Along the subtropical coastal plains you can find *plátanos* (bananas), *aguacates* (avocados), *mangos* (mangoes) and even *caña de azúcar* (sugar cane). Almería province, east of Málaga, is Europe's winter garden, with miles of plastic-covered hothouses of intensively grown vegetables. Fruit and almond trees cover the lower slopes of the sierras alongside the famous bitter *naranjas* (oranges) – used solely to produce marmalade – introduced by the Arabs. *Higos* (figs) and *granadas* (pomegranates – get those antioxidants!) abound in the summer and early autumn months.

One of the top books on Andalusian cooking is *Moro*, by Samuel and Samantha Clark, the cookbook of the renowned London-based restaurant of the same name. The book also explores North African influences on Spanish cooking.

Córdoba province is famous for its vegetable dishes such as *alcachofas con almejas* (artichokes with clams), *revueltos de espárragos trigueros* (wild asparagus with scrambled eggs), and lots of deep-purple *berenjenas* (aubergines).

### Jamón & Sausages

There is no more tastebud-teasing prospect than a few paper-thin, succulent slices of *jamón*. Most of these hams are *jamón serrano* (mountain-cured ham). *Jamón ibérico*, also called *pata negra* (black leg), comes from the black Iberian breed of pig. The outstanding *jamón ibérico de bellota* comes from pigs fed on *bellotas* (acorns). Considered to be the best *jamón* of all is the *jamón ibérico* of Jabugo, in Andalucía's Huelva province (see p170), which comes from pigs free-ranging in the Sierra Morena oak forests. The best Jabugo hams are graded from one to five *jotas* (Js), and *cinco jotas* (JJJJJ) hams come from pigs that have never eaten anything but acorns.

Don't confuse this with uncured ham, *jamón York*, which is the uninspiring, British supermarket ham variety.

*Morcilla* is a blood sausage with rice or onions, best eaten lightly grilled. Chorizo, another essential ingredient, is a spicy pork sausage with paprika, which can come *crudo* (raw) – good for cooking.

### Olive Oil

The endless olive groves of Córdoba, Jaén and Sevilla were originally planted by the Romans, but the production of *az-zait* (juice of the olive), from which the modern generic word for olive oil, *aceite*, is derived, was further developed by the Muslims. The three most olivy Andalusian provinces are among the main contributors to Spain's standing as the world's largest olive-oil producer, and both olives and olive oil continue to be a staple of the Andalusian kitchen. For quality-control purposes there are now six accredited Denominación de Origen (DO; a designation that indicates the unique geographic origins, production processes and quality of the product) labels in Spain and four of these are in Andalucía: Baena and Priego de Córdoba in Córdoba, and Sierra de Segura and Sierra Mágina in Jaén. The absolute finest of these, such as Núñez de Prado (see p318), have nearly zero acidity.

### Paella & Other Rice Dishes

Apart from olive oil and other crucial elements of the Spanish larder, the Arabs also brought *arroz* (rice), a staple that became the base for Spain's most famous dish, paella (pronounced *pa-eh-ya*). Although paella's home is out of Andalucía, in Valencia, this excellent dish is a Sunday-lunch must in most Andalusian restaurants.

Paella is prepared in a *paellera*, a wide, two-handled metal pan, and tastes best when cooked over a wood fire outdoors. The flavour of the *arroz* comes from the *sofrito* – a mix of softened onions, garlic and peppers – and the meat or fish it's cooked with. The yellow colour traditionally comes from saffron, although this is sometimes substituted by the cheaper *pimentón* (paprika). Andalusian versions of paella often include seafood and/or chicken. On the Costa del Sol, peas, clams, mussels and prawns, and a garnish of red peppers and lemon slices is a popular combination. In Sevilla and Cádiz provinces, big prawns and sometimes lobster are added.

You'll know a good paella when you taste one, but an indicator of whether it's done from scratch (and therefore hopefully good) is usually the preparation time: if you wait for five minutes, it's been warmed up

Spain is the world's largest producer of olive oil.

and probably won't taste that great; if you wait for 45 minutes and are already tipsy on wine by the time it arrives, prepare for a feast.

Other rice dishes are *arroz a la Sevillana*, a seafood rice from Sevilla with crab, sausage and ham; *arroz con almejas* (rice with clams); and *arroz negro* (rice cooked in squid ink).

www.spaingourmetour.com is the most authoritative and comprehensive periodical on Spanish gastronomy.

### Stews

In the past the *cocido*, a one-pot feast of meat, sausage, beans and vegetables, was a mainstay of the local diet. It's time-consuming to prepare, but in Andalusian villages the smell still wafts through the streets. A *cocido* can actually provide a three-course meal, with the broth eaten first, followed by the vegetables and then the meat.

More usual nowadays is a simpler kind of stew, the *guiso*, which comes in three traditional types – *las berzas*, with cabbage and either beef or pork; *el puchero*, chicken and bacon broth with turnips and mint; and *los potajes*, with dried beans and chorizo. Dishes that Granada is famous for include *habas con jamón* (broad beans with ham) and the ubiquitous *rabo de toro* (oxtail stew).

### Soups

Andalusia's most famous soup – the chilled gazpacho – is eaten around the world. A blended mix of tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, garlic, bread-crumbs, lemon and oil, it's a legacy of the New World, when Columbus brought back tomatoes and peppers from his travels. It is sometimes served in a jug with ice cubes, with side dishes of chopped raw vegetables such as cucumber and onion. The basis for gazpacho developed in Andalusia among the *jornaleros*, agricultural day labourers, who were given rations of oil and bread, which they soaked in water to form the basis of a soup, adding the oil, garlic and whatever fresh vegetables were at hand. All of the ingredients were pounded using a mortar and pestle and a refreshing and nourishing dish was made that would conquer the world.

A thicker version of gazpacho is *salmorejo cordobés*, from Córdoba, served with bits of *jamón* and crumbled egg. *Ajo blanco* is a white

#### ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES & MAKE YOUR OWN GAZPACHO

It should be piping hot outside for this recipe. It's easy enough to make on the road:

- 3 garlic cloves
- 1kg ripe, sweet tomatoes, diced
- 1 green pepper, seeded and sliced
- ¾ cucumber, peeled and sliced
- 1 tablespoon grated onion
- 2 handfuls of crumbled old-ish white bread, no crusts
- 1¾ tablespoons red-wine vinegar or sherry vinegar, the best you can get
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- pinch of sea salt and freshly cracked pepper

Crush the garlic with a pinch of salt in a mortar and pestle until you have a smooth paste. Stick the vegetables and bread into a food processor (or just pound hard) and blend until smooth. Season with the garlic, vinegar, olive oil, salt and pepper. To thin it down, add some ice cubes. Leave the soup in the fridge for a couple of hours and check for seasoning once more when the temperature is right. It should be cold enough to give you a tingle, but not that cold to make you shiver.

Serves 4

gazpacho, a North African legacy, with almonds, garlic and grapes used instead of tomatoes. Another tasty soup is *sopa de ajo* (garlic soup).

## DRINKS

### Wine

*Vino* (wine) production in Andalucía was introduced by the Phoenicians, possibly as early as 1100 BC. Nowadays, almost every village throughout Andalucía has its own simple wine, known simply as *mosto*. Eight areas in the region produce distinctive, good, non-DO wines that can be sampled locally: Aljarafe and Los Palacios (Sevilla province); Bailén, Lopera and Torreperogil (Jaén province); Costa Albondón (Granada province); Laujar de Andarax (Almería province); and Villaviciosa (Córdoba province).

The Montilla-Morales DO in southern Córdoba province produces a wine that is similar to sherry but, unlike sherry, is not fortified by the addition of brandy – the *fino* variety is the most acclaimed. Andalucía's other DO is in Málaga province: sweet, velvety Málaga Dulce pleased palates from Virgil to the ladies of Victorian England, until the vines were blighted around the beginning of the 20th century. Today the Málaga DO area is Andalucía's smallest. You can sample Málaga wine straight from the barrel in some of the city's numerous bars.

Wine not only accompanies meals but is also a popular bar drink – and it's cheap: a bottle costing €5 in a supermarket or €12 in a restaurant will be a decent wine. *Vino de mesa* (table wine) may cost less than €1.50 a litre in shops. You can order wine by the *copa* (glass) in bars and restaurants: the *vino de la casa* (house wine) may come from a barrel for about €1.

### Sherry

Sherry, Andalucía's celebrated fortified wine, is produced in the towns of Jerez de la Frontera, El Puerto de Santa María and Sanlúcar de Barrameda, which make up the 'sherry triangle' of Cádiz province (see p183). A combination of climate, chalky soils that soak up the sun but retain moisture, and a special maturing process called the *solera* process (see p195) produces these unique wines.

The main distinction in sherry is between *fino* (dry and straw-coloured) and *oloroso* (sweet and dark, with a strong bouquet). An *amontillado* is an amber, moderately dry *fino* with a nutty flavour and a higher alcohol content. An *oloroso* combined with a sweet wine results in a cream sherry. A *manzanilla* – officially not sherry – is a camomile-coloured, unfortified *fino* produced in Sanlúcar de Barrameda; its delicate flavour is reckoned to come from sea breezes wafting into the bodegas (wineries).

### Beer

The most common ways to order a *cerveza* (beer) is to ask for a *caña* (a small draught beer; 250mL), or a *tubo* (a larger draught beer; about 300mL), which come in a straight glass. If you just ask for a *cerveza* you may get bottled beer, which tends to be more expensive. A small bottle (250mL) is called a *botellín* or a *quinto*; a bigger one (330mL) is a *tercio*. San Miguel, Cruzcampo and Victoria are all decent Andalusian beers.

### Coffee

In Andalucía the coffee is good and strong. A *café con leche* is half-milk, half-coffee (something like café latte), a *cortado* is espresso with a dribble of milk (like an Italian *macchiato*), and *solo* is a straight, black espresso. Ask for a *grande* or *doble* if you want a large cup, *en vaso* if you want it in a glass and *sombra* or *manchado* if you want lots of milk.

Muslim rulers liked their ices to be made with snow from the mountains which was carried down perilous tracks in the panniers of donkeys.

A *Traveler's Wine Guide to Spain* by Desmond Begg (1998) is an authoritative and well-illustrated guide through the wine country of Spain.

The website [www.sherry.org](http://www.sherry.org) provides a good introduction to the subject of sherry and the firms that make it.

### Hot Chocolate (& Churros!)

OK, so it's not the world's healthiest, but there are few sweeter pleasures in life than a breakfast of fresh *churros* (coils of deep-fried doughnuts) dunked into thick, creamy *chocolate hecho* (hot chocolate). *Churros* are a Spanish institution and every town and village in Andalucía has a *churros* stand, where people chat and joke around while waiting in a queue.

Spaniards brought chocolate back from Mexico in the mid-16th century and adopted it enthusiastically. You can even find hot chocolate among *postres* (desserts) on menus.

### CELEBRATIONS

The Spanish celebrate better and more than anyone else – the word *fiesta* (party/celebration) has entered the vocabularies of many languages across the world (a bit like *la vida loca*, thanks to Ricky Martin). In fact, celebrating here is a bit like a national art. There are family celebrations with religious overtones, usually honouring a patron saint, or bigger celebrations such as *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) and Christmas. And that is when the kitchen plays a crucial role.

At Easter you will see *monas de Pascua* (figures made out of chocolate), *torrijas* (French toast) or *torta pascualina* (spinach-and-egg pie). All Saints' Day is when the *huesos de santo* (saints' bones; sweet breads) come out, and at Christmas all children devour a *roscón de Reyes* (spongy doughnut decorated with dried fruit and sugar), hiding a little present inside. But of all seasons, Christmas is the gastronomic timepiece calling for the famous *turrón* (nougat made of almonds, honey and egg whites) and a host of other *pasteles* (pastries or cakes). Christmas Eve and lunch is a wonderful mix of seafood, followed by *asado* (roasted) *cordero* (lamb), *cochinillo* (piglet) or *cabrito* (kid); or sometimes *merluza* (hake), *bacalao* (cod) or *besugo* (red bream).

### WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

If you want to live like the locals, you'll spend plenty of time in bars and cafés. Bars come in many guises, such as *bodegas* (traditional wine bars), *cervecerías* (beer bars), *tascas* (bars specialising in tapas), *tabernas* (taverns) and even *pubs* (pubs). In many of them you'll be able to eat tapas at the bar but there will usually be a *comedor* (diner) too, for a sit-down meal (or tapas). You'll often save 10% to 20% by eating at the bar rather than at a table.

The *restaurantes* (restaurants) are usually more formal places, where you sit down to eat. A *mesón* is a simple restaurant attached to a bar with home-style cooking. A *venta* is (or once was) a roadside inn – the food can be delectable and inexpensive. A *marisquería* is a seafood restaurant, while a *chiringuito* is a small open-air bar or kiosk, or sometimes a beachside restaurant.

### VEGETARIANS & VEGANS

Throughout Andalucía fruit and vegetables are delicious and fresh, and eaten in season, but unfortunately there are only a handful of avowedly vegetarian restaurants. A word of warning: 'vegetable' dishes may contain more than just vegetables (eg beans with bits of ham). Vegetarians will find that salads in most restaurants are a good bet, as are *gazpacho* and *ajo blanco*. Another reliable dish is *pisto* (ratatouille), especially good when eaten with bread dipped into the sauce; *espárragos trigueros* (thin wild asparagus) grilled or in *revueltos* (scrambled eggs) done with gorgeous slices of fried garlic. Tapas without meat are *pimientos asados*

(roasted red peppers), *alcachofas* (artichokes), *garbanzos con espinacas* (chickpeas with spinach) and, of course, cheese.

### EATING WITH KIDS

Your kids will probably have the best time ever in Spanish restaurants. Children play all over the shop, running back and forth and hooking up with all the other kids whose parents are happily eating and having a nice evening, being left in peace by the little ones. Few restaurants provide a special children's menu but are happy to downsize their portions to a *medio plato* (half plate) on request. Highchairs are available in many restaurants but it is advisable to ask in advance or even bring one along if you can.

### HABITS & CUSTOMS

The Spanish eating timetable is at its most extreme in Andalucía, so it's a good idea to reset your stomach clock unless you want to be left starving when all the bars close for the afternoon. Andalusians, like most Spaniards, often start the day with a light *desayuno* (breakfast), usually consisting of coffee with a *tostada* or *churros con chocolate*. If you're hungry, a *tortilla/revueltos* (omelette/scrambled eggs) is a good option. *Huevos* (eggs) also come *fritos* (fried) or *cocidos* (boiled). A great snack is a *bocadillo*, a sandwich of anything from cheese or *jamón* to *tortilla*, or the equally good *montadito* or *serranito*, a slice of toasted bread with meat, peppers, *jamón* and anything else mounted on top.

*Comida* or *almuerzo* (lunch) is usually the main meal of the day, eaten between 2pm and 4pm. It can consist of tapas or a several-course meal, starting with a soup or salad, continuing with a main course of meat or fish with vegetables, or a rice dish or bean stew, and ending with dessert. As well as ordering from *la carta* (the main menu), you nearly always have the option of the *menú del día* (set three-course meal). A *plato combinado* is a combination of eggs, chorizo, squid or any other thing you want to add, served on one plate. Note that prices for fish and seafood are sometimes given by weight, which can be misleading. Desserts are a simple, nonfussy affair – *helado* (ice cream), *arroz con leche* (rice pudding) and *flan* (crème caramel) are often the only choices.

*La cena* (dinner) is usually a combination of tapas and drink, and the Spaniards eat late, sometimes at 10pm or 11pm. Going out for dinner in a restaurant is also popular, but before about 9pm you're unlikely to see anyone but foreigners.

### COOKING COURSES

Cookery courses are now as popular as language or flamenco classes, and they are an excellent way to get down with the culture. The top five:

**All Ways Spain** (☎ 958 22 37 66; www.allwayspain.com) Perfect for dabblers: a half-day crash course in Spanish traditional cooking, as part of a three-day active weekend.

**Andalucian Adventure** (www.andalucian-adventures.co.uk) A UK-based company organising well-reputed cookery courses in the wonderful Sierra Nevada.

**Finca Buen Vino** (☎ 959 12 40 34; www.fincabuenvino.com) A wonderfully warm kitchen and an excellent course in the stunning rural setting of the Parque Natural Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche (see p170).

**On the Menu** (www.holidayonthemenu.com) Cookery courses in Seville, where you stay at the plush Las Casas de la Judería Hotel (p116) for a week or short break. Lots of wine tasting and eating well, as well as cooking.

**Turismo Rural Hidalgo** (☎ 954 88 35 81; www.turismoruralhidalgo.com) Want to get to grips with the new Spanish creative cuisine? Try this week-long course in the old-fashioned town of Cazalla de la Sierra (see p141).

## THE TAPAS TALE

Tapas are Spain's most popular export and a way of life that can bring much joy to food lovers. The word *tapa* means 'lid', originating from Cádiz province in the 19th century, when bar owners placed a saucer with a piece of bread on top of a sherry glass either to deter flies or prevent the punter from getting too tipsy. As years went by, the contents of the saucers became more elaborate, so olives, almonds, chorizo or *jamón* started to feature.

Tapas are as varied as can be: you can get little nibbles like olives or cheese, and progress onto a piece of tortilla or *charcutería* (cured meat). Go a bit further and you start getting more serious propositions like *garbanzos con espinacas* (chickpeas with spinach), pork *solomillo* (sirloin) or *lomo* (loin) with garnish, *pinchos morunos* (minikebabs on sticks), *flamenquines* (deep-fried, breaded veal or ham) or *boquerones* (anchovies), which might be marinated in vinegar or fried. Accompany them with a glass of cool beer or a *fino* sherry. Depending on where you are, you can get different twists on the basic tapa formula: in Seville you can sample courgettes (zucchini) with Roquefort cheese, or mushroom-filled artichoke hearts, and in Granada you can have North African tagine tapas, or a tapa of Brazilian *feijoada* (bean and rice stew).

The real luxury is seafood tapas: marinated, fried or fresh. The sherry triangle of Cádiz province (see p183) has some of the best seafood in Andalucía – from Atlantic *conchas finas* (Venus shell, the biggest of the clams) to *cangrejos* (tiny crabs, cooked whole) or *búsanos* (sea snails or whelks). A dish that makes a grown (wo)man weep with joy is *langostinos a la plancha*, grilled sweet, juicy king prawns sprinkled with flakes of sea salt.

Be brave and dip into *sesos* (brains), *callos* (tripe), *criadillas* (bull or sheep testicles), *riñones* (kidneys) and *hígado* (liver) served in small earthenware dishes, simmering in a tomato sauce or gravy. Or if you prefer salad tapas, there is *pipirrana* (based on diced tomatoes and red peppers), *salpicón* (the same with bits of seafood), *ensaladilla rusa* (Russian salad; a salad of cold diced vegetables mixed with Russian dressing) and *aliño* (any salad in a vinegar-and-oil dressing).

Bars sometimes display a range of tapas on the counter or have a menu or a blackboard listing what's available. If you don't see tapas or a menu, just ask what's available – tapas are always around.

## EAT YOUR WORDS

Andalucía has such a variety of foods and food names that you could travel for years and still find unfamiliar items on almost every menu. The following guide should help you sort out what's what.

### Useful Phrases

#### Table for ..., please.

*Una mesa para ..., por favor.*      *oo-na me-sa pa-ra ..., por fa-vor*

#### Can I see the menu please?

*¿Puedo ver el menú, por favor?*      *pw-do ver el me-noo, por fa-vor*

#### Do you have a menu in English?

*¿Tienen un menú en inglés?*      *tye-nen oon me-noo en een-gles*

#### I'm a vegetarian.

*Soy vegetariano/a.*      *soy ve-khe-ta-rya-no/a*

#### What would you recommend?

*¿Qué recomienda?*      *ke re-ko-myen-da*

#### What's the speciality here?

*¿Cuál es la especialidad de este restaurante?*      *kwal es la es-pe-sya-lee-dad de es-te res-to-ran-te*

#### I'd like the set lunch, please.

*¿Quisiera el menú del día, por favor.*      *kee-sye-ra el me-noo del dee-a, por fa-vor*

#### The bill, please.

*La cuenta, por favor.*      *la kwen-ta por fa-vor*

#### Do you accept credit cards?

*¿Aceptan tarjetas de crédito?*      *a-thep-tan tar-khe-tas de kre-dee-to*

## Food Glossary

### BASICS & STAPLES

*arroz*      *a-ros*  
*bocadillo*      *bo-ka-dee-jo*  
*bollo*      *bo-jo*  
*gazpacho*      *gas-pa-cho*

*huevo*      *we-vo*  
*media-ración*      *me-dya-ra-syon*  
*menú del día*      *me-noo del dee-a*  
*mollete*      *mo-je-te*  
*montadito*      *mon-ta-dee-to*  
*paella*      *pa-e-ja*

*pan*      *pan*  
*plato combinado*      *pla-to kom-bee-na-do*

*queso*      *ke-so*  
*ración*      *ra-syon*  
*revueltos*      *re-vwel-tos*  
*rosquilla*      *ros-kee-ja*  
*tapas*      *ta-pas*

*tortilla*      *tor-tee-ja*  
*tostada*      *tos-ta-da*

### CARNE (MEAT)

*ato*      *a-to*  
*cabra*      *ka-vra*  
*cabrito*      *ka-vree-to*  
*carne de monte*      *kar-ne de mon-te*

*carne de vaca*      *kar-ne de va-ka*  
*caza*      *ka-sa*  
*charcutería*      *char-koo-te-ree-a*  
*choto*      *cho-to*  
*chorizo*      *cho-ree-so*  
*codorniz*      *ko-dor-nees*  
*conejo*      *ko-ne-kho*  
*cordero*      *kor-de-ro*  
*hígado*      *ee-ga-do*  
*jamón*      *kha-mon*  
*jamón ibérico*      *kha-mon ee-ve-ree-ko*

*jamón ibérico de bellota*      *kha-mon ee-ve-ree-ko de be-jo-ta*  
*jamón serrano*      *kha-mon se-ra-no*  
*jamón York*      *kha-mon york*  
*liebre*      *lee-e-vre*  
*pavo*      *pa-vo*  
*pollo*      *po-jo*  
*riñón, riñones (pl)*      *ree-nyon, ree-nyo-nes*

*rice*  
*filled roll*  
*small soft roll; also mollete*  
*chilled soup of blended tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, garlic, bread-crumbs, lemon and oil*  
*egg*  
*half a ración*  
*fixed-price meal*  
*small soft roll; also bollo*  
*open sandwich*  
*rice dish with shellfish, chicken and vegetables*  
*bread*  
*'combined plate'; seafood, omelette, meat with trimmings*  
*cheese*  
*meal-sized serving of tapas*  
*scrambled eggs*  
*toasted roll*  
*light snacks, usually eaten with drinks*  
*omelette*  
*toasted bread often served with a variety of toppings such as tomatoes and olive oil*

*duck*  
*goat*  
*kid; also choto*  
*'meat of the mountain'; local game*  
*beef*  
*game*  
*cured meat*  
*kid; also cabrito*  
*spicy pork sausage*  
*quail*  
*rabbit*  
*lamb*  
*liver*  
*ham*  
*ham from the black Iberian breed*  
*of pig*  
*ham from Iberian pigs fed on acorns*  
*mountain-cured ham*  
*uncured ham*  
*hare*  
*turkey*  
*chicken*  
*kidney*

solomillo  
ternera

so-lo-mee-jo  
ter-ne-ra

sirloin; quality fillet of beef or pork  
veal

### FRUTAS & VERDURAS (FRUIT & VEGETABLES)

aceituna a-say-too-na  
aguacate a-gwa-ka-te  
ajo a-kho  
alcachofa al-ka-cho-fa  
apio a-pee-o  
berenjena be-ren-khe-na  
calabacín ka-la-va-sin  
calabaza ka-la-va-sa  
cebolla se-vo-ja  
cereza se-re-sa  
frambuesa fram-bwe-sa  
fresa fre-sa  
lima lee-ma  
limón lee-mon  
manzana man-sa-na  
manzanilla man-sa-nee-ja  
melocotón me-lo-ko-ton  
naranja na-ran-kha  
piña pee-nya  
plátano pla-ta-no  
sandía san-dee-a  
uva oo-va

olive  
avocado  
garlic  
artichoke  
celery  
aubergine (eggplant)  
courgette (zucchini)  
pumpkin  
onion  
cherry  
raspberry  
strawberry  
lime  
lemon  
apple  
camomile  
peach  
orange  
pineapple  
banana  
watermelon  
grape

### PESCADOS & MARISCOS (FISH & SEAFOOD)

almeja al-me-kha  
anochoa a-no-cho-a  
atún a-toon  
bacalao ba-ka-low  
bogavante bo-ga-van-te  
boquerón bo-ke-ron  
caballa ka-va-ja  
cangrejo kan-gre-kho  
chipirón, chipirones (pl) chee-pee-ron, chee-pee-ro-nes  
chopito cho-pee-to  
gamba gam-ba  
langosta lan-gos-ta  
langostino lan-gos-tee-no  
mejillón, mejillones (pl) me-khee-lyon, me-khee-lyo-nes  
merluza mer-loo-sa  
ostra os-tra  
sardina sar-dee-na  
trucha troo-cha

clam  
anchovy; also boquerón  
tuna  
cod  
lobster; also langosta  
anchovy; also anochoa  
mackerel  
crab  
baby squid; also chopito  
baby squid; also chipirón  
prawn  
lobster; also bogavante  
king prawn  
mussel  
hake  
oyster  
sardine  
trout

### TARTAS & POSTRES (CAKES & DESSERTS)

arroz con leche a-ros kon le-che  
churro chao-ro  
flan flan  
helado e-la-do  
pastel pas-tel  
torta tor-ta  
turrón too-ron

rice pudding  
long thin doughnut with sugar  
crème caramel  
ice cream  
pastry or cake  
pie or tart  
nougat

### TÉCNICAS (COOKING TECHNIQUES)

a la brasa a la bra-sa  
a la parrilla a la pa-ree-ja  
a la plancha a la plan-cha  
ahumado/a a-oo-ma-do/a  
al carbón al kar-bon  
asado a-sa-do  
cocido ko-see-do  
crudo croo-do  
frito/a free-to/a  
guiso gee-so  
rebozado/a re-vo-sa-do/a  
relleno/a re-je-no/a  
salado/a sa-la-do/a  
seco/a se-ko/a

grilled or barbecued  
grilled or barbecued  
grilled on a hotplate  
smoked  
char-grilled  
roast  
cooked or boiled; also hotpot/stew  
raw  
fried  
stew  
battered and fried  
stuffed  
salted, salty  
dry, dried

### Drinks Glossary

#### NONALCOHOLIC DRINKS

agua de grifo a-gwa de gree-fo  
agua mineral a-gwa mee-ne-ral  
agua potable a-gwa po-ta-vle  
café con leche ka-fe kon le-che  
café cortado ka-fe kor-ta-do  
café solo ka-fe so-lo  
chocolate hecho cho-ko-la-te he-cho  
con gas kon gas  
refresco re-fres-ko  
sin gas seen gas  
té te  
zumo soo-mo

tap water  
bottled water  
drinking water  
50% coffee, 50% hot milk  
short black with a dash of milk  
short black  
hot chocolate  
fizzy (bottled water)  
soft drink  
still (bottled water)  
tea  
fruit juice

#### CERVEZA (BEER)

botellín bo-te-jin  
caña ka-nya  
  
quinto keen-to  
tercio ter-syo  
tubo too-bo

bottled beer (250mL); also quinto  
draught beer (250mL) served in a  
small, wide glass  
bottled beer (250mL); also botellín  
bottled beer (330mL)  
draught beer (300mL) served in a  
straight glass

#### VINO (WINE)

blanco blan-ko  
rosado ro-sa-do  
tinto teen-to  
vino de la casa vee-no de la ka-sa  
vino de la mesa vee-no de la me-sa

white wine  
rosé wine  
red wine  
house wine  
table wine

#### OTHER ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

aguardiente a-gwar-dyen-te  
  
anís a-nees  
coñac ko-nyak  
sangría san-gree-a

grape-based spirit (similar to  
grappa)  
aniseed liqueur  
brandy  
wine and fruit punch

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