



# TOP 5 TIPS FOR VISITING GRANADA, SPAIN



...helping you figure out when, where and what to do...

Get it right the first time by knowing exactly when is the best time to travel to Granada, Spain and what to actually do when you get there! Here we tell you the Top 5 Tips for Visiting Granada so you make the most of your trip, see the most interesting things and experience local culture.

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## 1 WHEN TO VISIT

- An unbeatable time to visit Granada is during Semana Santa (Holy Week) in late March/April, i.e. the week before Easter. Witness spectacular processions throughout the city all week long - it's worth joining the crowds to see this bit of history happen before your eyes.
- Another great time is in the run up to Christmas and New Year. Christmas markets abound, festivity is in the air and New Year's celebrations are great fun!
- Early summer has great weather but avoid July for the heat and especially avoid August as the locals head to the mountains or beach for a break from the heat and so many shops and restaurants are closed for the entire month.

## 2 HOW TO GET THERE & AROUND

- **Personal transport:** What you'll quickly notice in Granada is the abundance of pedestrian streets, hills and cobblestones, and more mopeds than cars. It's not advisable to bring a car to Granada as there are restricted driving areas within the centre of town and parking garages are so tiny. Since it's such a small city, it's completely walkable so there's no need for a car anyway.
- **Flying in:** The easiest and fastest option is Granada Airport (GRX) being just a €3 & 30min bus ride to town. While Malaga (AGP) can have cheaper and more frequent flights available, it's a 2hr bus ride away (€12).

## 3 AVOID TOURIST TRAPS

- **Flamenco shows** - take care when booking a flamenco show as some are catered completely toward tourists and you won't find a local or Spaniard in sight. First try local theatre (such as Teatro Alhambra) for any shows that will really be spectacular.
- **Sacromonte Caves** - the joke in Granada is that these caves are free to enter but not free to exit! So take care when strolling through Sacromonte and being invited in 'for free' to view a cave.

## 4 EAT & DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Granadinos are certainly the biggest proponents of the tapas culture - a free small dish with every drink served - but they also enjoy their late evening meals with friends and family. In Granada, you won't find many restaurants open and willing to serve the evening meal until after 20:30h but typically it's better to wait until 22h or later when the Granadinos start their meals, including the children. Don't spend much more than €20/person incl. drinks.
- Enjoy your (invariably excellent) coffee in the morning standing up at the café counter or maybe alongside a tostada mixta (butter & jam).

## 5 WALK, EXPLORE AND RELAX

- Since Granada is so walkable, it can all be seen in a few days. If you find yourself with extra days, why not hire a car and drive to the coast, or up the mountains to the Alpujarras or a day skiing in the Sierra Nevada.
- Take the full morning or afternoon for your (pre-booked) visit to stroll around the Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens and really appreciate the view of Granada from above.
- Get lost in the Albaicín neighbourhood and find a café in the sun to have a few cervezas and tapas and ideally a view of the Alhambra.