PRACTICAL GUIDE TO GRANADA 2026

Instituto Mediterráneo Sol

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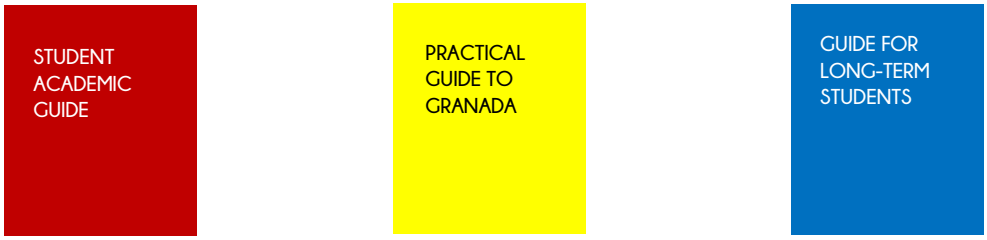
The Practical Guide to Granada It is one of the three volumes of the Student Manual of Instituto Mediterráneo Sol:



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1. THE CITY OF GRANADA

1.1. Information about the city

GRENADE

Granada is the capital of the province of the same name, and is one of the eight provinces that make up the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. It is located in southern Spain, at the foot of the Sierra Nevada (the highest mountain range in the Iberian Peninsula) and its ski resort.

Granada is a medium-sized city with around 234,000 inhabitants, making it an ideal place to live, and very affordable! It's also a fairly safe city.

You will discover a city of incredible historical richness: it was the last stronghold of the Islamic world on the Iberian Peninsula, leaving behind a unique architectural legacy, most notably the Alhambra and the Generalife. Its character and diversity are defined by a remarkable blend of elements:

***Granada, an Arab city**:It was the last Muslim kingdom on the Iberian Peninsula.*

***Granada, city of the Renaissance**:reference of this style since the 15th century thanks to its architecture.*

***Granada, city of Flamenco**:singers, dancers and guitarists born in the Sacromonte neighborhood.*

***Granada, university city**:one of the oldest universities in Spain with the largest student body.*

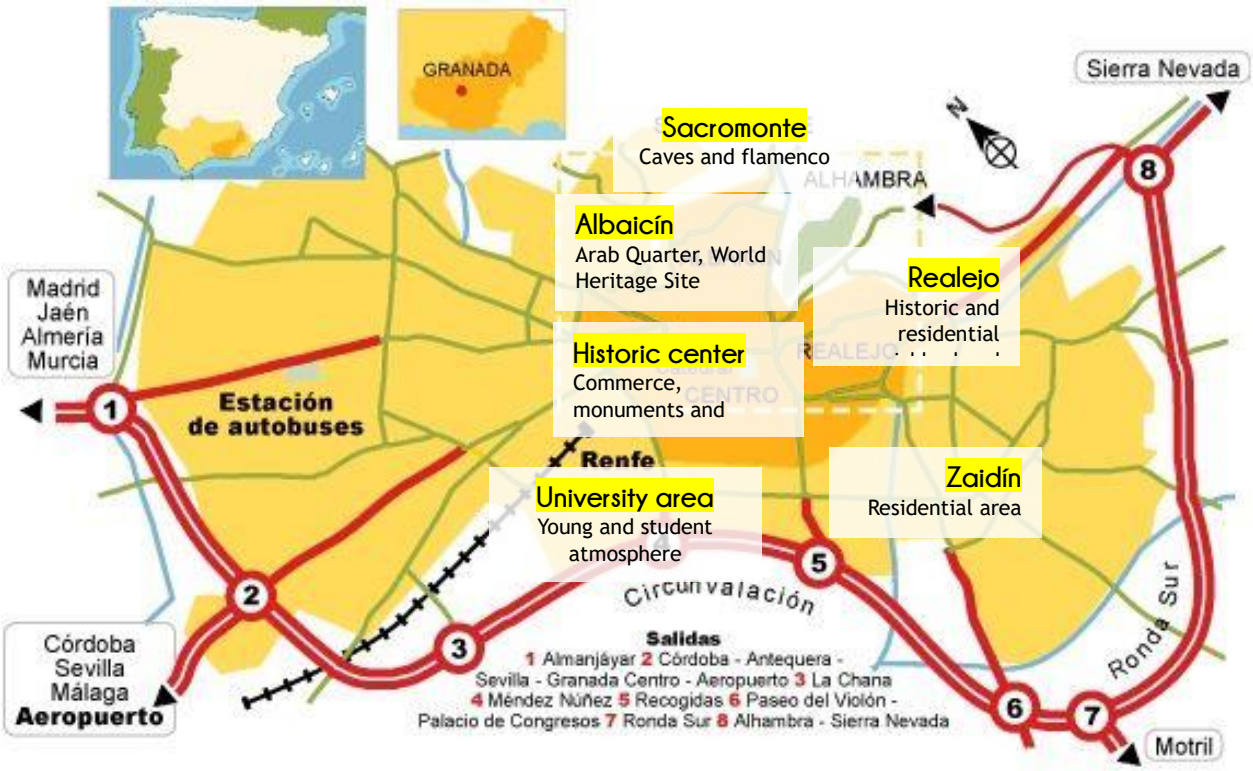
Granada is currently known as a university and cultural city: The mix of Spanish and international students with the cultural and musical scene of the capital makes Granada an ideal place to learn in every sense.

It's a small city, but a very popular tourist destination! The main monuments and points of interest are all within easy walking distance. Plus, there are good public transport connections.

On the other hand, it is located 70 km from the famous Costa Tropical with many beach towns, making it the ideal destination, both in summer and winter.

1.2. Main areas

The most emblematic neighborhoods of Granada are:



These are the most recommended areas to get around Granada, and also the neighborhoods where you can look for accommodation.

1.3. Must-see monuments

Granada's rich cultural heritage is evident in all the monuments throughout the city. Don't miss the most important sights!

The Alhambra and the Generalife

The Alhambra was a palace, citadel, and fortress, the residence of the Nasrid sultans and high-ranking officials, court servants, and elite soldiers (13th to 14th centuries). Today, it is a monument comprised of four distinct areas: the Palaces, the military zone or Alcazaba, the city or Medina, and the Generalife agricultural estate, all set within a landscape of woods, gardens, and orchards. It also includes outstanding buildings from different eras, such as the Renaissance Palace of Charles V, which houses the Alhambra Museum, with objects mainly from the Monument itself, and the Museum of Fine Arts.

General price: €23 (with audio guide)

Daytime visiting hours:
8:30-18:00 (winter) / until 20:00 (summer)

Access to Nasrid Palaces with assigned time

More info: https://www.alhambra-patronato.es/

The Cathedral of Granada

Located in the heart of Granada, with its entrance on the Gran Vía, it is considered the first Renaissance church in Spain. The building, planned alongside the Great Mosque, was begun in 1505. Highlights include the Main Chapel, the most important part of the church not only for its vastness but also for its consistent adherence to Renaissance ideals, the splendid dome, and the grand triumphal arch, which would have served as the monumental entrance to the emperor's tomb.

General admission: €7
Students: €5
Sunday afternoon: free (with reservation)

More info: https://catedraldegranada.com/

The Royal Chapel of Granada

Erected by order of the Catholic Monarchs, it was built by Enrique Egas in 1504 to house their tombs. Externally, the chapel presents a Plateresque-style façade, as its other three sides are joined to the Cathedral, the Sagrario (Tabernacle), and the Lonja (Exchange). The Royal Chapel also boasts valuable Flemish sculptures and paintings, including the famous Passion triptych by Dierick Bouts, which belonged to the collection of Queen Isabella II and, due to its size and quality, is the largest painting in Granada.

General admission: €7

More info: https://capillarealgranada.com/

Granada Science Park

The Science Park is a 70,000 m² science center and museum located just a few minutes' walk from Granada's historic center. Immerse yourself in science and nature through its interactive museum and planetarium, which house more than 200 exhibits spread across four permanent and two temporary exhibition halls.
It now also features a space dedicated to Education, Conservation, and Research on the planet's biodiversity. The BioDome recreates the climate of the tropical zone and is home to more than 250 species of animals and plants.

General admission: €10
Reduced price: €8
Planetarium and BioDome: supplements

More info: https://www.parqueciencias.com/

Sacromonte Abbey

Located on Mount Valparaíso, the Sacromonte Abbey, founded in the 17th century, reveals the city's cultural and religious past and is vital for understanding Granada during the Counter-Reformation. Beneath the church lie the catacombs where Saint Cecilius, the first bishop and now patron saint of Granada, was martyred. The main portal is a magnificent example of late 16th-century Andalusian Renaissance architecture.

General admission: €7

More info: https://abadiasacromonte.org/

Charterhouse Monastery

It is situated on a large expanse of orchards that were donated by the Great Captain for the founding of a Carthusian monastery, which was partially demolished after the confiscation of church property. The rooms - Refectory, Chapter House, and Chapter Houses for Monks and Lay Brothers - are of Gothic construction.

General admission: €7

More info: https://cartujadegranada.com/

Sacromonte Caves Museum

The Sacromonte Interpretation Centre offers a journey through the culture and history of this neighborhood. It features an ethnographic and environmental museum that introduces visitors to its traditional trades and its relationship with the environment, providing insight into its way of life. This museum is an art center situated on a large plot of land showcasing a wide variety of plants.

General admission: €6

More info: https://sacromontegranada.com/

San Vicente Orchard

The Huerta de San Vicente was a gift that García gave to his family in 1925. Located only two kilometers from the city, the property consisted of two adjoining houses - the main one and a more modest one for the caretakers - with almost two hectares of fertile land, the landscape of crops, fruit trees, irrigation ditches and paths typical of the Granada plain of the Genil River.

General admission: €3

More info: http://www.huertadesanvicente.com/

Manuel de Falla House Museum

What was once Manuel de Falla's home in Granada, a place of encounter and contemplation of his memory. Now, after a painstaking restoration, the Carmen de la Antequeruela Alta preserves the atmosphere where the greatest Spanish composer of the 20th century lived and composed.

More info here

General admission: €3

2. TRANSPORT IN GRANADA

2.1. Public transport

CITY BUSES (ALSA COMPANY)

There is a network of city buses that covers the entire city of Granada, and part of its surroundings, which you can consult on their website:

https://www.transportesrober.com/(operated by ALSA)

- ✓ **Single ticket: €1.60**
- ✓ **Free transfer up to 60 minutes**
- ✓ **Payment to the driver or with a transport card**

METROPOLITAN REGION OF GRANADA

The Granada Metro connects the town of Armilla with Albolote, passing through the center of Granada. All the information is available at:

https://metropolitanogranada.es/inicio

- ✓ **Approximate price: €1.40 per trip**

Granada Taxi

It's very easy to find taxi ranks in the city centre and near the main tourist attractions, but if you need to book in advance you can contact them through:

Granada Radio Taxi Telephone: +34 958 28 00 00

Web:https://www.granadataxi.com/

App: https://www.pidetaxigranada.es/

Fares may vary depending on the day of the week and the time. It would be as follows:

Rate 1(from 06:00 to 22:00, Monday-Friday). Rate 2 (from 22:00 to 06:00, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays).

Some approximate prices for taxi rides to the main tourist attractions are:

- ✓ **Taxi Bus Station - Alhambra: €12**
- ✓ **Taxi Bus Station - Granada City Centre: €15**
- ✓ **Taxi from Bus Station to Granada Airport: €30**
- ✓ **Taxi Bus Station - Sierra Nevada: €70**

2.2. Airport and connections

The airport is officially called Federico García Lorca Airport (GRX), and is located 18 km from the center of Granada. It can be accessed by:

- Bus (ALSA)
- Taxi

The following companies operate there:

- ✓ **Air Europa**(Palma de Mallorca)
- ✓ **Air Nostrum**(Melilla)
- ✓ **Binter**(Canary Islands-Gran Canaria-Tenerife)
- ✓ **Iberia**(Madrid)
- ✓ **Volotea**(Asturias, Nantes (France), Santander)
- ✓ **Vueling Airlines**(Barcelona, Bilbao, Gran Canaria, Palma de Mallorca, Tenerife)

Granada Airport is open from 5:30 a.m. to midnight. Overnight stays at the airport are not permitted.

Address: Old Malaga Road. Postal Code 18329 (Granada)
Telephone: +34 902 404 704 / (+34) 91 321 10 00
Web:http://www.aena.es/es/aeropuerto-federico-garcia-lorca-granada-jaen/index.html

3. DAILY LIFE

3.1. Spanish schedules

Typical schedules in Granada, and in Spain in general, are quite different from the rest of Europe:

FAMILY MEAL TIMES AND CUSTOMS

Family life in Granada is characterized by making the most of the day, with afternoons dedicated to children and weekends for family life and leisure:

The schedules are usually:

- ✓ **Breakfast 8:00-9:30 am**
- ✓ **Lunch 13:30-15:00 h**
- ✓ **Dinner 8:30-10:30 pm**

Tapas culture: On weekends, it's very common to go out for dinner or drinks with family. Going for tapas is one of the best ways to socialize. The bars are welcoming, and it's normal to go with children.

Families take advantage of the weekends to go on excursions to the beach (70 km away) or to Sierra Nevada (40 km away), stroll through the center, or go to eat at one of the many restaurants in the city or surroundings.

It's always very important to talk to families and ask about their customs, their home schedules... so that living together is much better.

BUSINESS HOURS

In Granada, business hours vary depending on the type of establishment and its location.

- ✓ **Shopping centers and large stores**They usually have longer, uninterrupted opening hours: from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Many neighborhood supermarkets also follow split schedules, but some chains, especially in the city center or in transit areas, offer uninterrupted hours, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and even open on Sundays.

- ✓ **Small traditional businesses**It has split hours (morning and afternoon): mornings from 9:30 to 14:00 approx., and afternoons from 17:00 to 21:00 approx., closing on Sundays.

Outside of the large shopping centers and the tourist center, commercial life in the neighborhoods of Granada follows a more leisurely and traditional pace.

3.2. School routine

CLASS SCHEDULES

iNMSOLIt has the following general hours of operation for students:

- Opening time: 9:00 a.m.
- Closing time: 6:00 PM

The school is open year-round, Monday to Friday, except on public holidays. iNMSOL will only close one day a week, even if there are two public holidays that week.

Each student will have a specific schedule, which will depend on several factors:

- ✓ Beginner level
- ✓ Type of course and number of classes
- ✓ Teacher availability

Classes can start at 9:00, 11:00, 12:45, 14:30, or 16:30. The end time will depend on the total number of classes in each course, keeping in mind that each class lasts 45 minutes, and there will be a break for courses with more than two classes per day. These times cannot be chosen.

These schedules are assigned weekly and may change from week to week. The assigned professors and classrooms where classes are held may also vary. All changes are communicated to students weekly.

VACATION

The courses do not include holiday periods, unless expressly requested by the students at the time of registration.

In the event that a student requests a vacation:

- The minimum duration is 1 week, from Monday to Friday, always full weeks.
- For group courses, the content covered during the holidays will not be repeated.
- The duration of the holidays may not exceed 15% of the Spanish course, for courses of up to 20 weeks, nor 20% for courses of 21 weeks or more.

3.3. Leisure time and events

In the city of Granada there are always cultural activities and events to do after classes, among others:

February - May:season of classical music cycles.

March - April: Easter week.

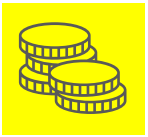
June - July: Granada International Festival of Music and Dance, which is the city's premier cultural event.

November: Granada Jazz Festival.

Contemporary music festivals:GRX The Fair; Granada Latina Festival; Taste Fest Armilla or Granada Sound.

Flamenco cycles and flamenco shows in Sacromonte.

3.4. Cost of living



APPROXIMATE COST OF LIVING

Eating out (approximate prices):

- ✓ Set menu (full meal during the week): €12-15 per person
- ✓ Coffee: €1.50-€2
- ✓ Informal dinner: €12
- ✓ Small beer (with free tapa): €3

Supermarket (approximate prices):

- ✓ Milk (1 liter): €0.98
- ✓ Dozen eggs: €4
- ✓ Tomatoes (1 kg): €1.7-2

Monthly expenses (approximate prices):

- ✓ Utilities (electricity, water, heating, garbage): €60-100
- ✓ Internet (60+ Mbps): €25-40
- ✓ Public transport (monthly pass): €40
- ✓ Gym: €30-60

RENT

Rent in Granada varies significantly depending on the area, but for a typical 90m² apartment, you can find prices ranging from €665 in more distant neighborhoods to over €1,000 in the city center or the Realejo district. Approximate prices by property type:

- **Room in shared apartment:**between €285 and €330 per month.
- **Study:**€750 per month.
- **Entire floor:**€800 per month.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

We generally recommend:

Bring your European Health Insurance Card: Citizens of the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, or Liechtenstein must bring their individual European Health Insurance Card. This card entitles them to receive free (or reduced-cost) public healthcare under the same conditions as a Spanish citizen.

Purchase Travel/Health Insurance: For students from outside the EU, travel insurance with medical coverage is essential. Even for Europeans, private insurance is a good idea to expedite processes (avoiding waiting lists) and provide easier access to private hospitals.

In cases of illness or incidents:

A) Serious emergencies(life-threatening danger, serious accident, loss of consciousness)

Single Emergency Number (24h): 112 It's the European emergency number. It's free and they answer calls in several languages.

Go to the Emergency Department of a Public Hospital. Granada's public hospitals have 24-hour emergency services, 365 days a year. The main ones are:

- ✓ University Hospital Virgen de las Nieves (Av. de las Fuerzas Armadas, 2. CP 18014 Granada)
- ✓ San Cecilio University Clinical Hospital (Av. del Conocimiento, s/n. CP 18007 Granada)

Go to the Emergency Department of a Private Hospital. If you have private insurance, go directly to a private hospital such as:

- ✓ Vithas Granada Hospital (Av. Santa María de la Alhambra, 6. CP 18008 Granada)
- ✓ San Juan de Dios Hospital (Calle San Juan de Dios, 19. CP 18001 Granada)

B) Sudden but not serious health problems(fever, earache, minor sprains)

Public Health Center. Go to your assigned health center (depends on the postal code of your accommodation).

C) Minor ailments or mild symptoms(cold, allergy, minor wound)

Visiting a pharmacy is the first and best option for minor problems. Spanish pharmacists are highly trained and can offer advice and recommend over-the-counter medications. They are located throughout the city and are identified by a large green sign with a cross (or sometimes a flashing green light). They usually have long opening hours, although they are closed in the evening and on Sundays, unless they are on call.

During your stay you can use the following emergency telephone numbers:

EMERGENCIES	112
FIREFIGHTERS	080 / 112
AMBULANCES	112 / 061 / 092
LOCAL POLICE	092
NATIONAL POLICE	091
Civil Guard	062

5. CLIMATE

SUN, MOUNTAINS AND CONTRASTS

Granada has an inland Mediterranean climate. This means it gets plenty of sunshine throughout the year, but temperatures vary considerably between day and night, and between seasons: winters are cold and summers are hot. Because the city is close to the Sierra Nevada mountains, winters are colder than on the coast.

There are four distinct seasons:

- **Winter (December to February).**It's the coldest season. In the mornings and evenings, temperatures drop significantly and frosts are common. During the day, however, the sun usually provides plenty of warmth.

- **Spring (March to May).**The weather is very pleasant and mild. The days are getting longer and the temperatures are gradually rising. Rainfall is becoming scarce.

- **Summer (June to September).**Summers are hot and very dry. It hardly ever rains, and the sun shines brightly. Daytime temperatures often exceed 30°C, and in July and August they can reach 35°C or more. Nights, however, are cooler than on the coast, allowing for a good night's sleep.

- **Autumn (October and November).**Temperatures are mild, similar to spring. It's the rainiest time of year, although the rain is usually not very heavy or prolonged.

6. ADVANTAGES WITH THE iNMSOL STUDENT CARD

Access numerous discounts and benefits using the iNMSOL student card:

ESTABLISHMENT	DISCOUNT	CONTACT
BABEL libros.com Babel Books Bookshop	5% discount	20 San Juan de Dios Street (Granada) Tel. +34 958201298
BICICLETAS La Estación GRANADA Bicycles The Station Bike rental	10% discountin the rental and a10% discountin the purchase of accessories.	C/ Molinos nº 49 (Granada) Tel. +34 958568020

Viper Room
Club / Disco

Weekends:for students who present their ID card =**€5**with a glass or two beers/soft drinks included.
During the week:free admissionpresenting the student ID.

C/ Santa Bárbara, 3 (Granada)

Mail Boxes 324
Parcel delivery service

15% discountin national or international parcel delivery.

C/ Adelfa, 2 - Urb. Jardín De La Reina (Local Camino De Ronda) – (Granada)
Tel.: +34 858128097

Mulhacén SKI
Ski equipment rental

15% discount on ski equipment. When booking online, select "pay in store" to apply the discount.

Plaza de Andalucía s/n, Sierra Nevada. CP 18196 (Granada)
Tel.: +34 620991000

Captain Bitter
Craft brewery

2 for 1 on Weihenstephaner beer
From 00:00 to 01:00 h, Monday-Saturday.

C/ Molinos 28. (Granada)
Tel.: +34958049444

Have a great experience at iNMSOL!