Cordoba

Location

Autonomous region: Andalusia
Province: Cordoba
Cordoba is situated in the interior of Andalusia where past and modernity blend in together. This thousand-year-old city, which has the World Heritage designation, is a living legacy of the different cultures that settled here throughout its history. Not many places in the world can say they have been the capital of Hispania Ulterior (Further Spain) under the Roman Empire, and capital of the Umayyad Caliphate. This splendour can also be seen because of the intellectualism of this city of knowledge, where figures like Seneca, Averroes or Maimonides were born. If you walk round the old quarter you will discover a beautiful network of alleyways, squares and white-washed courtyards surrounding the Great Mosque-Cathedral, which reflects the importance of the city in the Middle Ages, and is the symbol of the city.

Without disregarding its splendid past, Cordoba is definitely a modern city that has been able to adapt to the present day, offering the most modern infrastructures and services, as well as a large network of hotels. Very well connected to the other Andalusian capitals, Cordoba also has the high speed train (AVE) and a very extensive railway network linking it to all the big cities, like Madrid and Seville. Once inside the city, a large network of buses and taxis enable visitors to reach any destination in a few minutes. Cordoba is also synonymous with art, culture and leisure, thanks to a myriad of cultural events that are organised here throughout the year: Flamenco festivals, concerts, ballet and other activities that are complemented by a number of museums and an exciting nightlife. Meanwhile, the province is home to important buildings of the Andalusian heritage, whose highest expression is the Medina Azahara, located on the outskirts of the city. But there is great spectacle also for nature lovers. The parks of Sierra de Cardeña in Los Pedroches and Montoro, the Hornachuelos Sierra and Sierras Subbéticas offer the possibility of practising all kinds of open-air sports, while at the same time enjoying the natural wealth of this province.

**How to get there**

**By Car**
Get on A-7 from MA-3201 from Santillan (5.1 km)
Turn right to merge onto E-15/A-7 toward Málaga (180 m)
Take A-45 to N-437 and merge onto E-15/A-7 (18.5 km)
Take exit 241 to merge onto A-45 toward Córdoba/Granada/Sevilla (143 km)

**By Train**
A fast and very convenient way to get to Cordoba is on the **AVE high-speed train**. This connects the city with Malaga in around 60 minutes. This system is very practical. Price: Around 41 €

Place of departur: train station in Malaga Center
Adress: Paseo de los Tilos s/n, Malaga Tlf 902 320 320
Travel time taken: 1 hour. Price: around 41 €

**By Bus**
The company called Alsa has numerous buses that make this route.
Place of departur: bus station in Malaga Center
Adress: Paseo de los Tilos s/n, Malaga Tlf 952 350 061
Travel time taken: 3 hours. Price: around 12 €
The Great Mosque of Cordoba is a mixture of architectural styles superimposed on one another over the nine centuries its construction and renovations lasted.

Standing in the historic centre, it is one of the most beautiful examples of Muslim art in Spain. It was built in 785 by the Muslim emir Abdurrahman I, on the site of the ancient Visigoth church of San Vicente. The mosque underwent consecutive extensions over later centuries. Abdurrahman III had a new minaret built whilst in 961 Al-Hakam II extended the ground plan and decorated the "mihrab" (prayer niche). The last renovation was carried out by Al-Mansur in 987. As a result, the interior resembles a labyrinth of beautiful columns with double arcades and horseshoe arches. After the Christian conquest in 1523, the cathedral was built inside, and features highlights such as the main altarpiece, the Baroque altarpiece and the mahogany choir stalls. The "mihrab" is considered one of the most important in the Muslim world, and is the finest piece in the mosque. The decoration is Byzantine mosaic with crafted marble. The courtyard of the Orange Trees leads to the complex.

Construction: Mosque     Artistic period: Arab     Historic period: 8th century

Schedule

- From Nov 01 to Feb 28: From Monday to Saturday From 10:00 to 18:00
  Public holidays and Sunday From 08:30 to 11:30 From 15:00 to 18:00
- From Mar 01 to Oct 31: From Monday to Saturday From 10:00 to 19:00
  Public holidays and Sunday From 08:30 to 11:30 From 15:00 to 19:00
- From Jan 01 to Feb 28: From Friday to Saturday From 20:00 to 21:30
- From Mar 01 to Mar 31: From Monday to Saturday From 21:00 to 22:30
- From Apr 01 to May 31: From Monday to Saturday From 21:30 to 23:00
- From Jun 01 to Aug 31: From Monday to Saturday From 22:00 to 23:30
- From Sep 01 to Sep 30: From Monday to Saturday From 21:00 to 22:30
- From Oct 01 to Oct 31: From Monday to Saturday From 20:00 to 21:30
- From Nov 01 to Dec 31: From Friday to Saturday From 20:00 to 21:30

Prices:
- General: €8
- Admission free De lunes a sábado, de 8.30 a 10.00 h.
How to arrived by car

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Turn right to merge onto E-15/A-7 toward Málaga (180 m)
Take A-45 to N-437 and merge onto E-15/A-7 (18.5 km)
Take exit 241 to merge onto A-45 toward Córdoba/Granada/Sevilla (143 km)
Keep left to continue on CO-32
Continue on N-437. Take A-431, Paseo de la Victoria and Av. Ronda de los Tejares to Calle de la Grada Redonda/Calle del Mesón del Sol/Calle Magistral González Francés in Córdoba
At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto N-437 (800 m)
At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto A-431 (1.9 km)
Turn left onto Av. del Conde de Vallellano (94 m)
At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Glorieta Cruz Roja (140 m)
Continue onto Paseo de la Victoria (600 m)
Turn right onto Av. Ronda de los Tejares (550 m)
Av. Ronda de los Tejares turns slightly right and becomes Plaza de Colón (150 m)
Continue straight to stay on Plaza de Colón (130 m)
Turn right onto Plaza Puerta del Rincón (120 m)
Continue onto Calle Alfaros (250 m)
Turn left onto Calle Capitulares (110 m)
Turn right onto Calle Claudio Marcelo (86 m)
Turn left onto Calle Ambrosio de Morales (290 m)
Turn right onto Calle Antonio del Castillo (100 m)
Calle Antonio del Castillo turns slightly left and becomes Calle Horno del Cristo (88 m)
Turn right onto Calle Encarnación (160 m)
Calle Encarnación turns left and becomes Calle de la Grada Redonda/Calle del Mesón del Sol/Calle Magistral González Francés (51 m)
Cordoba City Walls

The Arab wall surrounded and fortified the town but today only a stretch of the wall and some of its entrances remain.
Gateways surviving in the wall are: Seville Gate, dating from the 10th century, located between Puerta de Sevilla street and Avenida del Corregidor; Almodóvar, or Jews’ Gate and Puente Gate, next to the Cathedral which was rebuilt in the 16th century. Two arches can still be seen in the old town – Portillo and Belén.

Roman Bridge and Gate

The scene of a great many historic battles.
This bridge links the city with Calahorra castle and it is believed that it was built by Julius Caesar.

It underwent several modifications in 918. It was extremely important in the battles that helped free the city against the armies of Peter I (known as Peter the Cruel). It has 16 arches that are supported by robust semicircular abutments. It was of Muslim design. It has a sculpture of San Rafael from 1651 in the middle.

Artistic period: Classical-Roman
Historic period: Romanisation (A.D.)
Setting: Cordoba Mosque and Calahorra castle.