## Granada

At the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains, between the rivers Darro and Genil, lies one of the most fascinating cities in Spain. In addition to its impressive Al-Andalus heritage, the city boasts Renaissance architectural gems and ultra-modern facilities, fit for the 21st century.

Granada has an unmistakably Moorish flavor, as it was the last city to be reconquered by the **Catholic Monarchs** in 1492. The gastronomy, craftwork, and urban planning are influenced by its glorious past.

Fountains, viewpoints, and "Cármenes", houses surrounded by typical gardens of this city, create unforgettable corners in the city. It is no surprise that one of its historic districts, Albaicín, is a World Heritage Site, together with the Alhambra and Generalife. It was an important cultural center for many centuries, under both Islamic and Christian rulers, and still boasts an admirable array of culture and leisure activities. Film, music, or theatre festivals are complemented with permanent or traveling exhibitions on all fields of knowledge. Renaissance palaces are home to seminars, conferences, and lectures, while the most innovative infrastructure is ready for larger-scale events.

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In addition to the provincial capital and the region of Granada, there are a number of towns historically linked to the city of Alhambra. These towns share the rich heritage and are located within the city's iconic green belt, an area filled with carefully tended parks and gardens. Some of these municipalities have played a crucial role in world history and culture, such as Santa Fe, a town created by the Catholic Kings to besiege Granada and where the Capitulations for the European discovery of the Americas were signed by Christopher Columbus. Another example is Fuente Vaqueros, the birthplace of Federico García Lorca, one of Spain's most famous poets and playwrights.

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