

Cádiz



Art and Culture Handicrafts Festivals and Traditions Gastronomy



Routes

Cádiz

The Route of the Bulls

The Route of the Bulls is an invitation to get to know something of the life of this noble animal in its natural environment, and to learn about the selection process which keeps the breed alive. The route begins in **Jerez de la Frontera**, passing through the **Campaña** and ending up in the **Campo de Gibraltar**. The villages and towns which go to make up the itinerary are **Paterna de Rivera, Medina Sidonia, Benalup-Casas Viejas, Alcalá de los Gazules, Los Barrios, Castellar, Jimena, San Roque** and **Tarifa** and along the way it is important to visit one of the many **bull breeding farms**. This is the perfect complement to witnessing one of the numerous **corridos** which are held in legendary **bullrings** such as that of **El Puerto de Santa María** or even in the **streets** of some of the villages.

architecture of the **bodegas**, and the **unique crianza system** which is used in the maturing process of the most important **wines: finos, amontillados, olorosos** and **manzanillas**. Other wine producing areas in the province include **Trebujena, Chipiona, Rota, and Chiclana**, as well as some of the towns in the sierras such as **Arcos** or **Prado del Rey**.



The Equestrian Route

Cádiz is possibly the Spanish province with the strongest link with the tradition of equestrianism. In fact, **Jerez de la Frontera** could justifiably call itself the **capital of the Spanish horse world** thanks to the huge number of **livestock breeders** and **stud farms** which are based there. It also hosts **numerous events** dedicated to the equestrian world including: the annual **Feria del Caballo**, which has been declared a **Fiesta of International Tourist Interest**; the Equestrian Parade; and the **Ancades International Show Jumping Competition**, which is part of the **Fiestas de Otoño**. Jerez is home to the **Royal Andalusian School for the Equestrian Arts** and in **2002** it hosted the World Equestrian



The Wine Route

On this route we pass through **Jerez de la Frontera, Sanlúcar de Barrameda** and **El Puerto de Santa María** focusing on the unusual landscape of the **vineyards**, the **monumental**

Games. Other places which play an important part in the equestrian world include: **Sanlúcar de Barrameda**, with its yearly **haces on the beach**; the **Dehesa Monteenmedio** complex in **Vejer**; and **Caños de Meca**.



The White Villages

History, culture, tradition, gastronomy, crafts and the natural environment all have their place in this **route** based in the **Sierra de Cádiz**. The picturesque **white painted** villages share the typical architecture of **steep, narrow, zigzagging streets** whose **fountains and flower-filled balconies** reflect their **Andalusian past**. Along the route it is also possible to see **vestiges of ancient prehistoric cultures** and various **Roman remains**. This route features the municipalities of **Alcalá del Valle, Algar, Algodonales, Arcos de la Frontera, Benamahoma, Benaocaz, Bornos, El Bosque, El Gaster, Espera, Grazalema, Olvera, Prado del Rey, Puerto Serrano, Setenil de las Bodegas, Torre Alháuquime, Ubrique, Villaluenga del Rosario, Villamartín, and Zahara de la Sierra**.

typical **fishing corrales**, and then reaching the **Bay of Cadiz**. Around the bay are fascinating **historic towns** and cities such as **El Puerto de Santa María** or **Cádiz** itself, and villages full of artistry and charm such as **Puerto Real** and **San Fernando**, birthplace of the celebrated flamenco artist **Camarón de la Isla**. Then on to **Chiclana** with its combination of salt flats and pine forests which continue to **Conil**, a pretty old fishing village. This is followed by **Vejer**, perched high on a hilltop, then **Barbate**, with the beautiful beaches of **Zahara de los Atunes**, and **Tarifa**, one of the **surfing** capitals of Europe. **Algeciras, La Línea** and finally **San Roque** mark the end of the route.



The Route of the Americas

Reminders of Spain's great adventure in South America are to be found in various parts of the province. **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** and **El Puerto de Santa María** for example offer the visitor a series of **palaces, fortresses, towers, and churches** which owe their origins to Columbus' voyages on the high seas, many of which began and ended in these ports. However, without doubt, it is the city of Cádiz itself that most reflects this South American influence. A stroll along the **seafront** from La Caleta to Campo del Sur, evokes the image of the famous **beachfront in Havana, Cuba**, and there are many similarities with other South American cities thanks to the constant to and fro of people between Cádiz and the New World. The **Cathedral** is a good example of this influence, as are the various **palatial houses** and the **look out towers** which were built in what was once the ancient **Gadir** during the Latin American expansion.



Founded by the **Tartessians** and the **Phoenicians** more than 3,000 years ago, Cádiz has seen the passing of numerous cultures including the Visigoths, Romans, and Moors. The legendary **Gadir** was founded around 1100 BC, making it the **oldest western city**. Although the **Romans** left their mark in places such as **Baelo Claudia** in **Tarifa**, and **Carteia** in **San Roque**, **cave paintings** such as those of the **"Tajo de las Figuras"** in Benalup or the **Phoenician sarcophagi** on display in the Museum of Cádiz are proof of the presence of much earlier cultures.



The **Moors** took Cádiz in **711** and it remained under their control until the second half of the 13th century, when **Alfonso X the Wise**, re-conquered the city and annexed it to the Kingdom of Castile. During this period the province was populated with numerous **castles, towers, and fortresses**, some of which can still be seen today on rocky crags, such as those in **Zahara de la Sierra** and **Olvera**, or scattered along the coast in towns like **Tarifa** or **Chiclana**. In terms of **religious architecture**, buildings which stand out



include the **La Cartuja monastery** and the **cathedrals** of Jerez and Cádiz. The important role which the province played in the **discovery and colonisation of South America** is reflected in the **grand mansions** and **palaces** in places such as **El Puerto, Sanlúcar, and Cádiz**.

The province of Cádiz can be said to be the **capital of Andalusian leatherwork**. **Ubrique**, along with the neighbouring towns of Prado del Rey and Villamartín, is justly proud of this heritage and its products carry the **"Legítimo Ubrique"** stamp of **quality**. Another type of craft which is becoming much scarcer is the art of textile making using a **traditional loom** but in **Grazalema** it is still possible to buy the famous **blankets and ponchos** which are made by hand using high quality wools. Other crafts which continue to be important, particularly in **Jerez**, are **coopering**, and **saddle making**. **Cane, reeds, and wicker** are still used by artisans in **Medina Sidonia, Setenil, Bornos and Vejer**, whilst in **Paterna** and **Torre Alháuquime palm leaves** and **esparto** are transformed into **baskets and shoes**.



Other craft products include the **handmade dolls** made in **Chiclana**, **country-style boots** in **Alcalá de los Gazules** and **Espera**, and wooden **chairs** and other **furniture** in **Benamahoma** and **Prado del Rey**.

The **festive calendar** of Cádiz has numerous events but there are three which are of particular importance and have been declared **Fiestas of International Tourist Interest**: the **Carnival** of Cádiz, the **Jerez Equestrian Fair**, and the **horse races on the beach** at Sanlúcar de Barrameda. These and all the other fiestas (**Easter Week**, the many **pilgrimages, Corpus Christi...**) reflect some of the essential characteristics of this land, such as the wine and the equestrian culture, whilst demonstrating the **generous hospitality** of its people.



As well as these typical fiestas the province hosts a wide range of prestigious cultural events throughout the year including the **Alcances Muestra Cinematográfica del Atlántico** in Cádiz, or the **African Cinema Festival** in Tarifa. Other art forms including **theatre, dance, and music** also have an important role to play and the **"A orillas del Guadalquivir"** classical music festival in Sanlúcar de Barrameda is just one example.



Flamenco has special relevance in Cádiz particularly since it was the **birthplace of important styles** such as **bulerías, tanguillos** or **peteneras**, as well as **leading figures** such as **Camarón de la Isla, José Mercé, and Manolo Sanlúcar**. As a result, the province offers a **whole range of festivals** where authentic flamenco styles can be appreciated to the full.



Cádiz' cuisine is heavily influenced by the famous **wines** which are produced in the province and is largely based on the **wide range of fish and shellfish** which are caught along its coast: **gilthead bream, red-banded bream, sea bass, dab, blacktail bream, prawns, lobsters, bocas, dye murex**, and the celebrated **king prawns from Sanlúcar**. Nevertheless, the **produce of the Sierra** also plays its part and notable products include the well-known **payoyo cheeses** and the **cured meats** such as the black pudding or the **choricitos** produced in El Bosque... The province's **most typical dishes** include: **caballa asada con piriñaca, urta a la roteaña, dorada a la sal, ajo caliente, berza con tagarinas, tortillitas de camarones...** Also worthy of mention is the **bienmesabe**, a special dressing prepared with vinegar which is used to marinate fish. The **Arabic tradition** combines with that of the **convents** in the typical **pastries**, with sweet delicacies such as the **tortas chiclaneras almendradas**, the **alfajores** produced in **Medina Sidonia** or the **turrón** from Cádiz. The famous local **wines**, which are protected by the **Jerez-Xeres-Sherry and Manzanilla de Sanlúcar Denominations of Origin**, include products such as **Fino, Amontillado, Oloroso, Moscatel**, and **Manzanilla**.



www.andalucia.org

Oficinas de Turismo de Cádiz de la Junta de Andalucía
Avda. Ramón de Carranza, s/n
11005 Cádiz
Tel.: 956 203 191, Fax: 956 203 192
Correo e.: otcadiz@andalucia.org

Algeciras
C/ Juan de la Cierva, s/n, 11207 Algeciras
Tel.: 956 784 131, Fax: 956 784 134
Correo e.: otalgeciras@andalucia.org

La Línea de la Concepción
Avda. del Ejército, Esquina 20 de abril
11300 La Línea de la Concepción
Tel.: 956 784 135, Fax: 956 784 136
Correo e.: otlinea@andalucia.org

JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA
Consejería de Turismo, Comercio y Deporte
Empresa Pública para la Gestión del Turismo y del Deporte de Andalucía. S. A.
C/ Compañía, 40,
29008 Málaga

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Cádiz

Cádiz is the southernmost province in Spain and borders the provinces of Huelva, Seville, and Malaga as well as overlooking the Straights of Gibraltar and the North of Africa. It has a mild climate, with an average annual temperature of 18°, and enjoys some 3,100 hours of sunshine per year. Strangely enough however, in the Sierra de Grazalema there is a microclimate which makes it the place with the highest amount of rainfall in Spain.

The province has good land communications with a first class rail and road network. In terms of air travel there is the airport of Jerez with daily flights to other parts of Spain as well as various European cities, and it also has the ports of Cadiz and Algeciras, the latter being one of the most important maritime passenger terminals in the world.

What was once the legendary Gadir has a wide range of different landscapes: mountainous sierras, a paradise for lovers of nature and fans of adventure sports; huge beaches of golden sand and charming coves and inlets, bathed by the transparent waters of the Atlantic; a huge range of historical sites with ancient noble cities and towns such as Jerez, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, and Cadiz itself; and the picturesque white villages of the Sierra. The province's mouth-watering cuisine and colourful traditions will also delight and captivate visitors.



Festivals of National Tourist Interest

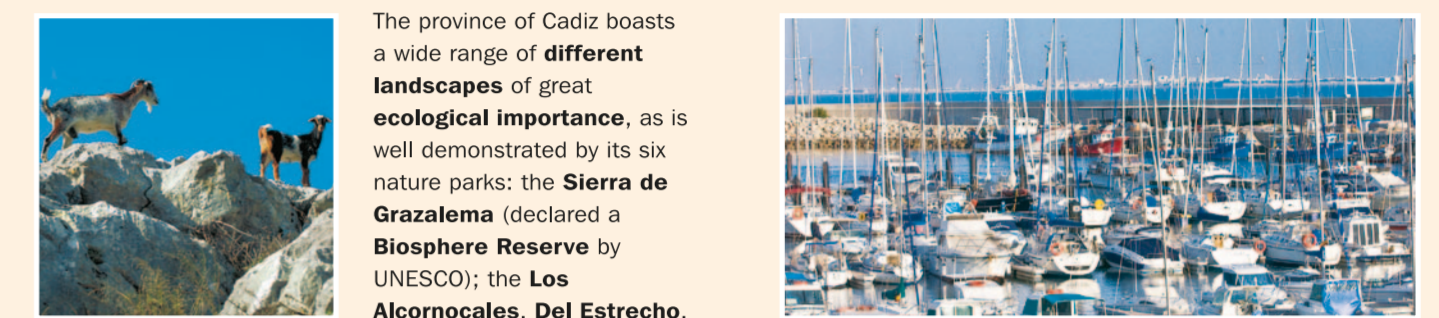
- ALCALÁ DEL VALLE** - Easter Week
- ALGECIRAS** - Feria Real
- ARCOS DE LA FRONTERA** - Easter Week
- CÁDIZ** - Carnival
- EL GASTOR** - Corpus Christi
- ESPERA** - Fiestas of the Patron Saint, Cristo de la Antigua - Easter Week
- JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA** - Easter Week - Equestrian Fair
- LA LÍNEA DE LA CONCEPCIÓN** - Veladas and Fiestas
- ROTA** - Fiesta de la Urtá
- SAN FERNANDO** - Easter Week - Feria del Carmen y de la Sal
- SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA** - Easter Week - Horse racing on the beach - Exaltación del Río Guadalquivir
- SAN ROQUE** - Easter Week
- SETENIL DE LAS BODEGAS** - Easter Week
- VEJER DE LA FRONTERA** - The De la Segur flamenco night
- VILLAMARTÍN** - Livestock fair and Fiestas in honour of San Mateo
- ZAHARA DE LA SIERRA** - Corpus Christi

- Provincial Capital
- Town/city of over 100,000 inhabitants
- Town of 20,000 to 100,000 inhabitants
- Town of 5,000 to 20,000 inhabitants
- Town of less than 5,000 inhabitants
- Tourist area
- Airport
- Yachting Harbour
- Trading Port
- Parador
- Tourist Town
- Spa
- Golf
- Ski Station
- Campsite
- Nature Park
- Panoramic View
- Cave
- Mountain Pass
- Water Park
- Zoo
- Museum
- Castle/Walls
- Civil Monument
- Religious Monument
- Megalthic Monument
- Archaeological Remains
- Tourist Information
- World Heritage City
- World Heritage Complex
- Arcos** Town declared of Monumental Interest



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Nature and Active Tourism



The province of Cadiz boasts a wide range of **different landscapes** of great **ecological importance**, as is well demonstrated by its six nature parks: the **Sierra de Grazalema** (declared a **Biosphere Reserve** by UNESCO); the **Los Alcornocales**, **Del Estrecho**, **Bay of Cadiz**, and **La Breña y Marismas del Barbate** parks; and last but not least, the **areas surrounding the Doñana nature park**. Woodland with **cork trees**, **pin**s and **Spanish firs** (the latter a survivor of the melting of the glaciers in the Tertiary Age to be found in the Sierra de Grazalema) are home to a rich variety of **wildlife**, including colonies of griffon vultures, storks, imperial and booted eagles, falcons, and eagle owls. There are also numerous animals such as **deer**, **roe deer**, **otters** and **mongoose**, and just off the coast it is common to see large marine species such as **whales** and **dolphins**. Despite all this there is no doubt that probably the most important natural resource of the province is its **beaches**. Along the **260 km of coastline** there are numerous **unspoilt beaches** of **fine golden sand**, **small coves**, and **dunes**, as well as **well-planned developed area**, all of which are bathed by the **transparent waters of the Atlantic**. Apart from the undoubted natural attractiveness of all these areas they also offer a whole range of **sports and open air activities** such as windsurfing, kite-surfing, diving, swimming, hang gliding, potholing, fishing, walking, horse riding...



Tourist Offices

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>ALCALÁ DE LOS GAZULES
OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO
Avda. José León de Camarza, s/n
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☎ 956 133 001 - 080</p> <p>ALGECIRAS
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Avda. de los Remedios, 2
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OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO
Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1
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