

SPAIN



WORLD HERITAGE CITY

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Index of Cordoba

2	Introduction
4	How to get there
5	Where to stay
5	Useful tips
6	Itineraries in the City
20	Museums and Arts Centres
26	Parks and Gardens
28	Cultural activities and Events
28	Spectator Sports
29	Participant Sports
29	Golf
30	Eating and Drinking
31	Shopping
32	Nightlife
32	Popular festivals of general interest
34	Trade Fairs
34.....	Getting around the city
36	Post office and telephone services
36	Emergency services
37	Excursions from Cordoba
44	Tourist Information
46	Map of the province
48	City map



CORDOBA

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Cordoba is the capital of the homonymous province, one of the eight under the Territorial Government of Andalusia. It has been in the heart of Western history: its colossal caliphal civilisation, in the Middle Ages, was the most magnificent in Europe and laid down a bridge between East and West.

The city of Cordoba is set in the geographical centre of the province and is washed by the Guadalquivir River, which splits the town and the province in two: to the north closely knit mountain ranges are plentiful in game; to the south there spreads a fruitful country, the Campiña, speckled with white villages and trimmed by another stretch of mountains belonging to the Southern Betica mountain range.

Cordoba, the capital, has 300,000 inhabitants, almost half of the population in the province. The average yearly temperature is 17.5 °C. It also stands out among the many Spanish cities attracting tourists, undoubtedly because of its marvellous historical legacy and monumental heritage.

Founded around 169 B.C. by the Roman praetor Claudius Marcellus, it was the birthplace of the philosopher Seneca and the poet Lucan, among others.

It was during the period of Islamic dominance when Cordoba reached its peak. Caliphal Cordoba became the most cultivated and magnificent city in 10th century Europe: it had around 1,000 mosques and 600 public baths, lighting in the streets (700 years earlier than London or Paris) and was the home of a numerous group of wise men, poets, doctors, philosophers, and mystics, some of whom achieved universal status such as the philosopher Averroës and the Jewish doctor Maimonides. Thanks to translations made by the Arabs, classical culture was rediscovered and made available to the West.

Equally important is the legacy accumulated in the city after the Christian conquest: churches, convents, hospitals, palaces, and many stately houses shelter the Islamic jewel of Cordoba, its mosque, which makes it one of the great monumental cities in Europe. UNESCO recently declared the old quarter and the mosque «World Heritage» sites.

How to get there



• By plane

Cordoba has an airport, but there are currently no commercial routes operating; the nearest airports are in Madrid, Seville, Jerez, Malaga, and Granada, each of them at a distance of no more than two hours.

Serviberia reservations

☎ 902 400 500

www.iberia.com

• By train

- The AVE (high-speed train) connects Cordoba with Madrid (1 hour and 45 minutes) and Seville (1 hour). There are 15 of these trains daily to both destinations.

- There are six Talgo (fast) trains daily to Malaga, Cadiz, and Huelva, in addition to connections on the high-speed line.

RENFE information.

☎ 902 240 202

www.renfe.es

Cordoba Station:

Avenida de América

• By road

- The N-IV motorway connects with Madrid and Seville.

- The N-432 highway connects Cordoba with Granada as well as with Badajoz and Portugal.

- The N-331 connects it with Malaga.

Road information:

☎ 900 123 505

RACE (Road Assistance)

☎ 900 200 093

www.race.es

There are regular bus lines to and from Madrid, Seville, Malaga and Granada as well as many of the towns in the province.

- Bus lines to Seville, Malaga, and Granada.

Information:

☎ 957 40 43 83

- Bus Station:

☎ 957 40 40 40

Where to stay



- Cordoba has an excellent range of accommodation.
 - It has about ten four-star hotels, among which is the **Parador de Córdoba**, located on the mountain slopes, with a magnificent view over the city and the countryside. There are three other four-star hotels north of the city, going up to the mountains.
 - In the old part of the city, near the main monuments, is where the rest of the four-star and several three-star hotels are located.
- Paradores de España. Reservation Centre. Calle Requena, 3. 28013 Madrid. ☎ 91 516 66 66. Fax 91 516 66 57*
www.parador.es
Parador de Córdoba. Avenida de la Arruzafa.
☎ 957 27 59 00, Fax 957 28 04 09

Useful tips

- The climate is mild and pleasant in the spring, autumn and even winter. In summer it is convenient to wear light clothing and comfortable shoes.
- During the summer months, after lunch, life comes to a halt for a couple of hours ('siesta time'); museum and shop opening hours are adapted to the demands of the climate.
- Banks open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are agencies that exchange foreign currency in the tourist areas which open every day of the week.

Itineraries in the City



Cordoba grew by the banks of the Guadalquivir River, in a valley sheltered from the north wind by the foothills. The old quarter spreads out north of the river, which can be crossed by means of a Roman bridge still in use. An important part of the walled enclosure still stands, with stretches of wall and mediaeval Arab fortified towers, especially in the southern and western parts; the ‘rondas’ generally mark out where the rest of the walls stood. The historic quarter contains practically all of the interesting sights for tourists. To the north, going towards the mountains, there is a residential area with many gardens, restaurants, and snack bars.

In the historic quarter there are some ‘centres of gravity’ that contain the most interesting tourist areas. These urban nuclei are: the Mosque-Cathedral and the Jewish quarter; the Christian Alcazar or fortress, gardens, Roman bridge and Tower of Calahorra; the Plaza del Potro and the Plaza de la Corredera, with several museums, churches and palaces in the surroundings; the Plaza de las Tendillas, which is the centre of the city, and the northern part of the city up to the Ronda de los Tejares; the large garden promenade going from Avenida de America to the river, comprising a pleasant park; and the northern zone, on both sides of the Avenida del Brillante, leading to the mountains, picnic areas, and several hermitages.

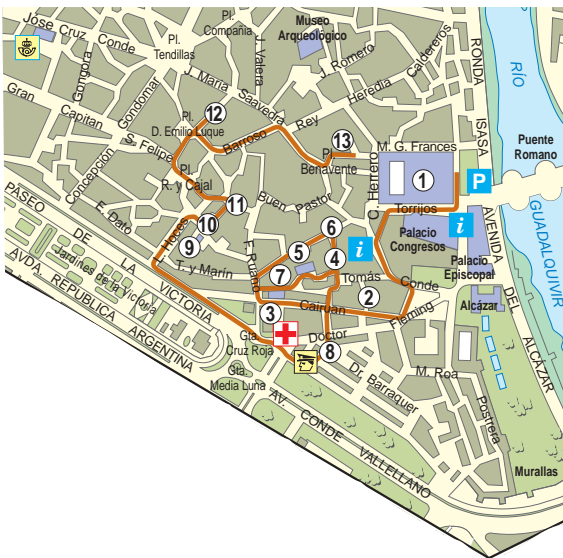
I. The Mosque-Cathedral and the Jewish Quarter

The **Mosque-Cathedral** (1) is the focal point of historic Cordoba and an obligatory reference point for tourists. It is also the first thing you visit.

It is one of the most relevant works of art of all times and has been declared a World Heritage site by

UNESCO. The **Mosque** was erected by the Muslim emir Abderrahman I in the year 785, over an ancient Visigothic basilica.

Enlargements were carried out in the two following centuries: in 848 Abderrahman III ordered the erection of a new minaret, and in 961 Alhaken II extended the ground plan, commissioning artists from the Orient to decorate its splendid *mihrab*. Finally, Almanzor carried out a





Mosque

second enlargement in the year 987.

Its ground plan consists of 19 naves divided by marble columns holding two levels of arches, the first level made up by horseshoe arches and the second one by semicircular arches. Alternate use of materials –brick and stone– and colours –red and white– in the voussoirs of the arches produces an impressive optical effect. The *mihrab*, a niche that holds the *kiblah* or sacred stone, is a sumptuously decorated hall with carved marble, stuccoes, mosaics, and plaster walls with Moorish drawings and motifs.

Within the central zone of the mosque the Christian kings erected the Greater chapel and the Royal chapel, in the 13th century, and afterwards, in the 16th century, a great **Cathedral** was built within the multiple columns. The baroque choir stalls and two richly ornamented pulpits are its most outstanding features.

The Patio de los Naranjos is an appropriate resting place after visiting the interior of this splendid monument.

From the northwestern angle of the mosque there begins a street, Judería, which leads

to the *call*, one of the most evocative Jewish quarters in Spain. The **Jewish quarter** (Judería) (2) spreads out from this point to the edge of the walls and the **Gate of Almodóvar** (3). The Cordoban Hebrews lived in this neighbourhood until the Catholic kings ordered their expulsion in 1492. The labyrinth of streets and little squares conserves its ancient flavour and it is mandatory to journey through them on foot.

Judería Street runs into the Plaza of Judá Leví, where the **Municipal Tourist Office** (4) is located. This square marks the beginning of Abucassis, a street featuring one of the most beautiful and well-known courtyards in town, at no. 6, leading to the Plaza de las Bulas or Plaza de Maimonides –a statue of the celebrated Jewish philosopher commemorates the site of the house where he lived. The **House of Bulas**, a 15th century building, is now the **Museo Municipal Taurino** (5),

dedicated to bullfighting. Behind the museum is the **Zoco Municipal de Artesanía** (6), a characteristic Cordoban flea-market.

Narrow street at Cordoba



From the Plaza de las Bulas, Judíos Street leads to the only **Synagogue** (7) that remains in Cordoba. This narrow street ends at the Gate of Almodóvar, a gate marking the limits of the Jewish quarter which was erected in the 14th century and restored in the 19th century; its outer side, next to a statue of the Cordoba-born Roman philosopher, **Seneca**,

affords a remarkable view of the city walls.

The Campo Santo de los Mártires has **Moorish baths** (8) –there were around 600 of these facilities when the city was flourishing (the interior may not be visited)–. Alongside the baths there is a little **temple** with marble columns sheltering two interlaced hands in remembrance of the Arab poet Ibn Zaydun and his love for Princess Dalia. There is also a seated **statue of Averroës**, the philosopher who is considered the ‘Aristotle’ of mediaeval Islamic culture (he was also born in Cordoba).

Between the Jewish quarter, the Plaza de las Tendillas and the Mosque we find another one of the typical areas in town, justifying the attribution of ‘*Quiet Cordoba*’ by the poet Antonio Machado. Its silent whitewashed streets open up to courtyards blooming with flowers and some noble houses, such as the **House of the Indiano** (9), on Calle Fernández Ruano,

or the **House of the Hoces** (10), on Lope de Hoces Street; on the right-hand side of the latter building one can see a **church with a minaret** (11) from a 10th century mosque attached to its portico.

On Jesús y María, a street going from Tendillas to the Mosque, one reaches the Conservatory of Music, inside the **Palace of the Marqués de la Fuensanta** (12), with a characteristically Cordoban frontispiece from 1551, most likely the work of Hernán Ruiz. Going down a bit farther one finds the Conservatory of Drama and Dance in the **Palace of the Condes de Quemada**, which has a beautiful 18th century frontispiece. Before arriving at the Mosque, at the end of Calle Blanco Belmonte, there are Moorish baths inside a commercial establishment. Nearby there is another one of the most evocative areas in Cordoba –the narrow and colourful **Calleja de las Flores** (13).

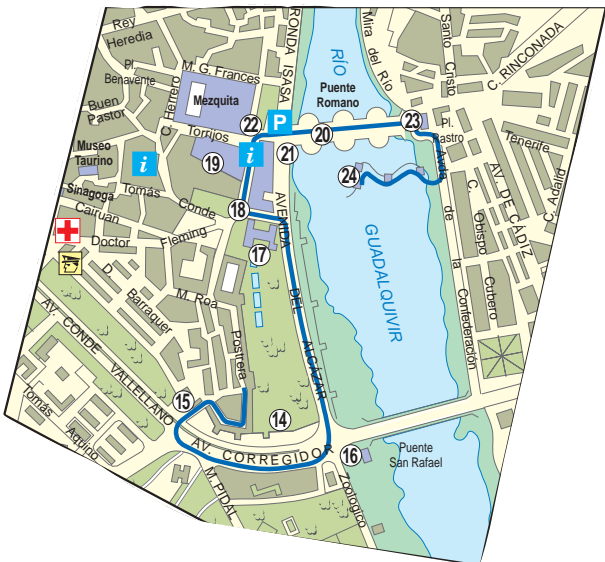
II. The River Surroundings

The walls that used to mark the boundaries of the Jewish quarter extend and almost touch the **Arab walls** (14); the latter enclose the Alcazar gardens and continue along the river bank. These stretches of walls are among the better-conserved in the city's fortified enclosure, although they are from a later period –the Roman and Arab walls crumbled and eventually, in the 15th



Tower of La Calahorra

century after the Christian conquest, several monarchs ordered their reconstruction.





City view

The **Gate of Seville** (15) is of interest and could be a fortified tower from the primitive entry gate to the alcazar or fortress. Alongside the gate rises the statue of the poet **Ibn Zaydun** (994-1064), the author of a treatise on love titled *The Dove's Necklace* (*El collar de la Paloma*), as well as the most modern of the many «**Triunfos**» or votive columns erected in **honour of St. Raphael** (16), the archangel who freed the city from a plague in the 13th century.

The **Alcazar of the Christian Kings** (fortress) (17) and its

delightful gardens take up one of the river banks. The Muslim Alcazar once stood where the **Episcopal Palace** (18) is today –this building was reformed in the baroque period and was recently reconditioned in order to house the **Diocesan Museum**. Alongside this museum, the **Exhibition Palace** (19) occupies what used to be the Church of San Jacinto and the Hospital of San Sebastián, an outstanding construction opposite the Mosque featuring a portico that stands out among the Gothic jewels in Córdoba. Inside, in the

Romero de Torres hall, one can admire interesting 16th century frescoes.

The **Roman bridge** (20), which according to the Arab geographer Al-Idrisi *'surpasses all other bridges in beauty and solidness'*, conserves very little of the Roman in it owing to frequent repairs. In the centre of one of its stone rails there rises an image of St. Raphael since 1651, at whose feet candles always burn and before whom many Cordobans remove their hats.

At the edge of the bridge that was used to enter the city enclosure there rises the **Gate del Puente** (21), completed in the days of Philip II; this arch of triumph is the work of Hernán Ruiz and takes the place of what was first a Roman gate and later on a Moorish gate. Along its side rises the most ostentatious of the **«Triunfo»** erected in **honour of St. Raphael** (22) –it was finished by Miguel Verdiguier, a Frenchman who

settled in Cordoba, in the 18th century and in the rococo style.

The Tower of La Calahorra (23) rises up at the other edge of the bridge; it was a part of the city's defensive system, protecting the bridge, and has now become an interesting museum.

The river-bed, wide enough for some garden areas and little islands inhabited by birds, was long ago used to move flour mills, of which some remains can still be seen. The so-called **Molino de la Albolafia** (24), which had a mill wheel that has appeared on Cordoban seals and other city emblems since the 13th century, must have been built by the Romans. Abd-al-Rahman II ordered a huge chain pump to be made in order to take water up to the palace gardens, but Isabella, the Catholic queen, had it taken down so as to avoid its annoying squeaking noise. What may be seen today is a reconstruction.

baroque façade of the **Palace of Medinaceli** (26).

Along Bataneros Street, in one of the quaintest and quietest corners, stands the **Palace of the Páez family**, which is now the **Provincial Archaeological Museum** (27). Nearby, on Cabezas Street, one can see the **House of the Marqueses de El Carpio** (28), erected upon Roman foundations.

San Fernando Street shows the place where the wall rose on its way to the river; it still conserves the **Arch of the Portillo**. This street runs into the **Plaza del Potro** (29), one of the centres of Cordoban tourist activity. The square is a delightful recess filled with terraces and owes its name to the young colt atop the 16th century fountain. One of its sides is enclosed by the Plateresque façade of the **Hospital of Caridad**, nowadays used as **Museum of Fine Arts** (30) and virtually attached to the **Museum of Julio Romero de Torres** (31). Opposite the hospital is the celebrated **Posada del Potro** (Inn of the Colt), mentioned by

Cervantes in *Don Quixote*, which currently serves as an exhibition hall.

Somewhat beyond, after passing the **Convent of Santa**



Museum of Julio Romero de Torres

Cruz, one arrives at the **Plaza de la Corredera** (32), a must for visitors due to its beautiful 18th century design. The nearby **Parish Church of San Pedro** (33) provides the name for the neighbourhood. Lovers of detail may pay a visit to the **Churches of Santiago** (34) and **La Magdalena** (35), erected by order of King Ferdinand the Saint, among other 'Ferdinandian' churches, after the city was won from the Moors –they are clear examples of the transition from the Romanesque to Gothic style.

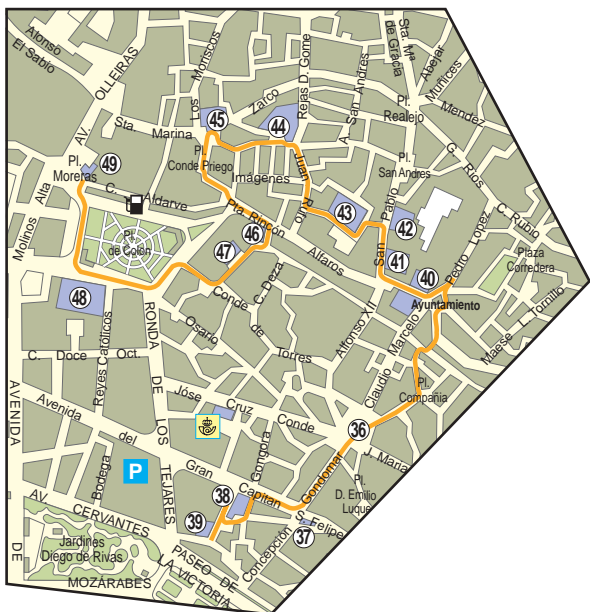
IV. Tendillas and the Northern Area

The **Plaza de las Tendillas** (36), a boisterous and crowded square, is the heart of Cordoba. The centre of gravity for modern business affairs spreads out between this point and the Ronda de los Tejares. Shops, banks, department stores, offices, and retail stores are concentrated here.

This higher part of the city also features noteworthy

monuments. On either side of the Avenida del Gran Capitán, a spacious promenade, are the **Church of San Nicolás de la Villa** (37), the **Royal Collegiate of San Hipólito** (38), and the **Gran Teatro** (39), a theatre that was restored and is now the scenario for musical and cultural events.

Another very interesting itinerary goes from the Plaza de las Tendillas to the **Town Hall** and the ruins of the





Palace of Viana

Roman temple (40). Opposite is the **Royal Church of San Pablo** (41) and, higher up, the **House of the Villalones** (42), the **Convent of Santa Marta** (43) and the **Palace of the Marqueses de Viana** (44). The Ferdinandian **Church of Santa Marina** (45) faces the picturesque **Monument to the Bullfighter Manolete**, the legendary matador born in Cordoba.

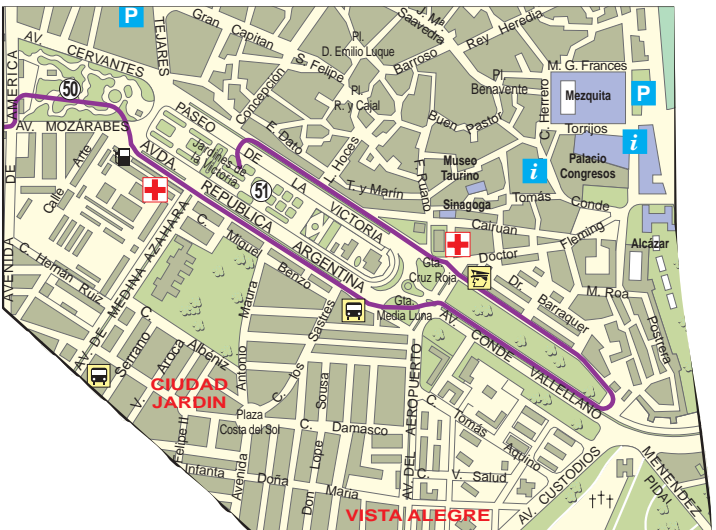
Nearby is the **Cuesta del Bailío** (46), virtually the only hill in a city that is mostly flat. Going up the hill one reaches the **stately home of the**

Fernández de Córdoba family and the Plaza de Capuchinos, featuring the famous **Cristo de los Faroles** (47) –this marble crucifix that presides over the square since 1794 is the obligated meeting point for those taking nocturnal rides in horse-drawn carriages. A short distance away, the spacious Plaza de Colón provides a garden-like setting for the colourful **Convent of La Merced** (48) (which is now the location of the **Provincial Government**) and the **Tower of la Malmuerta** (49), a tower which was part of the walled enclosure.

V. Paseo de la Victoria

Another well-defined city area is what is generically called the Paseo de la Victoria, which encompasses several avenues and gardens making up an urban park. This green artery begins at Avenida de América, opposite the Train Station (where the AVE trains arrive and leave from), with the **Diego de Rivas Gardens (50)**. It then goes on to the **Paseo**

de la Victoria (51) –parallel to the Avenida de la República Argentina– and then the Avenida del Conde de Vallellano.



Museums and Arts Centres

MOSQUE-CATHEDRAL

Erected over a Visigothic basilica in the year 786, it is a unique monument in Europe which has been declared World Heritage by UNESCO. The Christian Cathedral was built inside it in the 16th century. The Treasure House of the Cathedral may also be visited.

ALCAZAR OF THE CHRISTIAN KINGS

A military fortress built by order of Alfonso XI in the Gothic style. It was the residence of the Catholic Kings for several years and is one of the places where they received the visit of Columbus. It has outstanding gardens in the Moorish tradition as well as valuable archaeological findings.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Installed within the beautiful Renaissance palace of the Paéz family. It has Iberian,

The opening hours are for guideline purposes only. It is advisable to check at the Tourist Offices or at the monuments or museums.

Mosque-Cathedral

Calle Torrijos, 10.
Open every day of the week. Winter:
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Summer: 10 a.m.
to 7 p.m.
☎ 957 47 05 12

Alcazar of the Christian Kings

Calle Caballerizas Reales. Hours: Winter:
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.;
Sundays and holidays:
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Summer: 10 a.m. to
2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.;
Sundays and holidays:
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed on Mondays.
☎ 957 42 01 51

Archaeological Museum

Plaza de Jerónimo Páez, 7 (between the Mosque and the Plaza del Potro). Hours:

Roman, Visigothic, Muslim, Mudéjar, and Renaissance pieces. The Roman collection is particularly interesting.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

It occupies the Hospital de la Caridad, a building from the Renaissance period, and houses a good collection of works by artists from Cordoba, drawings by Valdés Leal, Zurbarán, Murillo, Palomino, Antonio del Castillo, and Juan de Peñalosa, among others, as well as sculptures by Juan de Mesa and Mateo Inurria.

DIOCESAN MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

This recently created museum is located at the old Episcopal Palace, a fine building having a cloister with several storeys, a chapel and the dining-room of the bishops. Besides a hall dedicated to artists from Cordoba, it has a

*Wednesday to Saturday:
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sundays and holidays:
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tuesdays: 3 p.m. to
8 p.m.
Closed on Mondays.
☎ 957 47 40 11*

Museum of Fine Arts

*Plaza del Potro, 1. Hours:
Wednesday to Saturday:
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sundays and holidays:
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesdays: 3 p.m. to
8 p.m.
Closed on Mondays.
☎ 957 47 33 45*

Diocesan Museum of Fine Arts

*Calle Torrijos, 12. Hours:
Winter: 9:30 a.m. to
1:30 p.m. and 3:30 to
5:30 p.m. Saturdays:
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Summer: 9:30 a.m. to
3 p.m. Saturdays:
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

remarkable hall dedicated to mediaeval art, as well as collections of psalm books from the Cathedral and tapestries.

BULLFIGHTING MUSEUM

Set in the House of Bulas, a stately building from the 16th century, it currently exhibits important collections related to bullfighting, which is a traditional feature of the city.

JULIO ROMERO DE TORRES MUSEUM

Located in the artist's home, it shares the courtyard with the Museum of Fine Arts. The museum houses the work of this Cordoban artist, who was renowned because of the popular symbolism in his paintings and the mysterious quality arising from them.

SYNAGOGUE

A Mudéjar construction from 1315, its inside has

Closed on Sundays and holidays.

 957 47 93 75


Bullfighting Museum

Plaza de Maimónides. (Jewish quarter). Hours: Winter: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.; Sundays and holidays: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Summer: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.; Sundays and holidays: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed on Mondays year round.

 957 20 10 56

Julio Romero de Torres Museum

Plaza del Potro, 1. Hours: Winter: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.; Sundays and holidays: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Summer: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.; Sundays and holidays: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed on Mondays year round.

 957 49 19 09

a gallery for women and plaster works with inscriptions from Hebrew psalms.

TORRE DE LA CALAHORRA

This Muslim military tower was built in order to protect the Roman bridge and the city. It currently houses the Institute for Dialogue between Cultures. Its museum is of a markedly educational nature and the visit includes audiovisual features creating various areas and atmospheres that give an idea of everyday life in 10th century Cordoba.

Synagogue

Calle Judíos (in the Jewish quarter). Opening hours year round: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sundays and holidays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Mondays.
☎ 957 20 29 28

Torre de Calahorra

*Puente Romano
Opening hours 7 days a week: Winter: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Summer: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.*
☎ 957 29 39 29

ART CENTRES:

PALACE OF VIANA

A 14th century building resulting from the joining of several houses, which gives it a somewhat anarchical appearance and explains why it has thirteen courtyards (it is

Palace of Viana

*Plaza de Don Gome, 2
Hours: Winter: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.
Sundays and holidays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

also known as the Museo de los Patios for this reason). Its halls, besides their rich display of furniture, also have important collections of paintings, tapestries, china, glazed tiles, and firearms. The palace has a splendid library.

PALACE OF LA MERCED

This is a 17th century convent that now houses the Provincial Government alongside the Church of La Merced.

Summer: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays and holidays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Wednesdays, and between 1 and 15 June (only the courtyards may be visited then).

☎ 957 48 01 34

Palace of la Merced

*Plaza de Colón, 15
Visits must be arranged beforehand.*

☎ 957 21 11 00



The main Exhibition Halls are the following:



Museum of Fine Arts

Centro Cultural Caja Sur

Calle Reyes Católicos.
Avenida del Gran
Capitán, 11

Posada del Potro

Plaza del Potro, 10

Sala Bartolomé Bermejo

Calle Angel de Saavedra
(opposite the
Conservatory)

Círculo de la Amistad

Calle de Alfonso XIII, 14

Sala Capitulares

Calle Capitulares
(Town Hall building)

Galería Alarife

Calle de los Reyes
Católicos, 5

Punteo

Calle Alfaros, 2

Galería Studio

Ronda de los Tejares, 15

Temporary Exhibits

Caja Sur
Ronda de los Tejares, 6

Parks and Gardens



- Gardens of the Alcazar

Although they were built by Christians, they conserve the tradition of Arab gardens, with ponds, fountains, hedges, and aromatic plants. They may be visited in the evening. Adjacent to these gardens, we find the Royal Stables. Outside the walls of the Alcazar, they are prolonged by the **Gardens of the Campo Santo de los Mártires**

- Paseo de la Victoria

Along with the Diego de Rivas Gardens, popularly known as the 'Duck Gardens', and the **Gardens of Vallellano**, they make up a long green stretch and a city park.

- Gardens of la Merced

Located in the old quarter.

- Gardens of la Ribera

Along the Guadalquivir riverbed, these gardens

feature little islands, oleanders, aquatic birds, and old mills.

- Botanical Gardens

Located along the right-hand river bank, they have an **Ethnobotanical Museum**, the only one of its kind in Spain, dedicated to the relation between man and plants. The majority are open-air gardens with plenty of trees. There is also a greenhouse divided into several different microclimates.

Avenida de Linneo.

Hours: winter: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sundays and

holidays: uninterrupted hours. Summer:

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Sundays and holidays:

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

☎ 957 20 00 18



Alcázar gardens

- Zoological Gardens

Located opposite the Botanical Gardens, the zoo is set up as a garden with plenty of vegetation and a generous representation of local wildlife.

Avenida de Linneo.

Open every day of the week. November,

December, and January:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

February and October:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.;

March, April, August and

September: 10 a.m. to

7 p.m.; *May, June and*

July: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

☎ 957 20 08 07

- Patios

Particularly Cordoban in flavour are the patios, small domestic courtyards where parties are set up in the spring. They can be visited following preestablished routes.

Cultural Activities and Events



- The **Gran Teatro** offers opera performances, classical music concerts, ballet, song recitals, etc. The Orchestra of Cordoba often performs there.

Avda. del Gran Capitán ☎ 957 48 02 37

- Throughout the year there are several **Flamenco festivals**. The National Flamenco Contest is held here every three years. Equally interesting is the Cata Flamenca de Montilla (wine tasting), and many other events take place in other towns in the province.

- Tablao Flamenco «El Cardenal»

Calle Torrijos, 10 ☎ 957 48 31 12

Spectator Sports



• Car racing

- International Rally of Sierra Morena, in May.

- International Race up to Santa María de Trassierra.

• Equestrian Sport

- Jumping tournaments, at the Club Hípico de Córdoba.
Carretera de Trassierra, km 9 ☎ 957 27 16 28
- Dressage and horse shows. *Caballerizas Reales, by the Alcázar of the Christian Kings.*
- Horseriding and dressage school. *Carretera de Palma del Río.*
☎ 957 32 91 20

Participant Sports

• Hunting

Córdoba boasts an extraordinary cynegetic wealth, especially in Sierra Morena. There are several areas for controlled hunting, over 200 private hunting grounds, and around 1,300 areas for small game hunting.

Information. Association of Rural Proprietors, Game Providers, and Environmental Preservationists (APROCA).

☎ 957 48 48 37 and 957 47 95 04

Provincial Hunting Federation. Calle Poeta García Lorca, 33.

☎ 957 60 25 08. *Puente Genil.*

• Fishing

The Guadalquivir river and its tributaries, as well as the dams, are ideal places for angling.



Golf

- **Los Villares Golf Club.** 18 holes.

Par 72; 4,920 metres.

Carretera de Córdoba a Obejo, km 9.

☎ 957 35 02 08

- **Pozoblanco Golf Club.** 9 holes, Par 72;

5,860 metres. *Ctra. Canalejas km. 3.5*

Eating and Drinking



Cordoban cuisine has taken in influences from the various civilisations that colonised the land.

The most popular dishes are **salmorejo** (a variety of gazpacho made with tomatoes and bread crumbs), almond gazpacho or **ajoblanco**, **rabo de toro** stew, **flamenquín**, olla cordobesa (made with plenty of vegetables), papas cortijeras (a potato based dish), Montillana artichokes, marinated fish, etc. Besides the typical dishes from the Campiña, there is also a specific cuisine from the mountain area, based on **meat and game**: caldereta de cordero (lamb), cochifrito de la sierra (goat or mutton stew), conejo campero (rabbit), chanfaina (offal stew), cordero pastoril (shepherd's lamb), pigeons and olives, rabbit sauce.

Among desserts, the cheese from the Pedroches Valley is renowned. The **pastel judío** or pastel cordobés (Jewish or Cordoban pastry), with citron preserve and orange-blossom aroma, is very popular. Arab

influence may also be noticed in desserts such as **pestiños** (honey-coated pancakes), **buñuelos** (fritters), puff pastries with sesame seeds, **garrotillos**, **perrunas**, **dulce de membrillo** (quince jell) from Puente Genil, **alfajores** from Montilla, and **turrones** (nougats) from Aguilar.

The **wines** of Cordoba are from the **Moriles-Montilla** wine-producing region. They are dry wines with a high alcoholic content (between 16° and 21°), and they are also very aromatic. The four main types are: **finos** (fine wines), **finos viejos** or **amontillados** (old fine wines), **olorosos** (aromatic wines), and **olorosos viejos** (old aromatic wines). They are appropriate with 'tapas', small portions of food served in bars.

Rute, a town in the Southern Betica region, is renowned for its **aguardientes** (dry and sweet anisettes), and has several liquor-producing cellars that can be visited as well as its **Museo del Anís**.

Shopping



Cordoba has a wide range of products to offer travellers:

foods and wines (wines, anisette, desserts, sausages, cheese, olive oil), **handicrafts** (leather, pottery, copper, wrought iron, carved wood), **jewelry and silverware** (typical Cordoban filigrees), etc.

• Cordoban Handicrafts

- Traditional Cordoban **pottery** from the caliphal period, with greenish hues, is still produced in the potteries of Lucena.

- The **cordobanes**, embossed Cordoban leathers, were so famous in ancient days that they came to have a particular marking of their own – a crowned lion and the name of the city. There are still traditional leather workshops on and around the Calleja de las Flores.

- The **silver filigrees** of Cordoba are another souvenir in demand. There are very few artisans left and most of the pieces are made using modern techniques. There are many shops and workshops near the Mosque and in the Jewish quarter.

- Lucena and Montoro have a great tradition of artistic metal objects and **wrought iron**.

There are several workshops in the towns.

- **Olive wood** is carved and used to make furniture in Espejo and Castro del Río.

- The busiest shopping area (large department stores, fashion shops) is in the northern part of the city, from Gondomar and the Plaza de las Tendillas to the Ronda de los Tejares.

- The Jewish quarter and the area around the mosque are full of souvenir, gift, and camera shops.

- The **Zoco Municipal de Artesanía** (the flea-market, featuring typical handicrafts) is near the Mosque, behind the Bullfighting Museum.

- There are **department stores** on Ronda de los Tejares.

- There are **shopping centres** on the N-IV motorway to Madrid, the road to the airport and by Avenida del Brillante.

Nightlife



Cordobans love the open-air. One of the things that many people do in the evening, when the weather is good (practically year-round) is take walks, sit at **terraces** or **ice-cream parlours** or do rounds in the traditional **taverns**.

Many of these taverns have a particular atmosphere, for instance the celebrated **Pepe el de la Judería**, which plays a vivid role in the popular history of the city.

Popular festivals of general interest

- **Holy Week** features 60 **pasos** (stages of the Cross) throughout the city in 32 processions, complete with nazarenos, penitents, singing of *saetas*, and incense and orange-blossom aromas. Elsewhere in the province of Cordoba, there are very interesting processions in Baena, Cabra and Puente Genil, declared of special interest to the tourist.

- The month of May is a continuous festivity in the city. During the first days of the month the public squares

and other strategic points are decorated with **May crosses**, featuring floral decorations. Each *peña* (circle of friends) prepares their own cross, and they sing and dance nearby and around it. The first fortnight in May has **courtyard contests**: neighbours compete in decorating their courtyards with flowers and plants, opening them to the public for people to come in and see them. The most traditional areas are Alcázar Viejo, San Lorenzo, and San Agustín. This is the

background for the
**Cordoban Courtyard
Festival.**

- Two of the most popular pilgrimages dedicated to the Virgin Mary are those of **Santo Domingo de Scala-Coeli**, in April, and **Linares**, in May; both of the sanctuaries are near Cordoba, on the mountainside.

- The Feast of Nuestra Señora de la Salud, known as the **Feria de Mayo** (May festival), takes place in the last week of the month. The 'peñas', associations, fraternities, families, and even political parties set up 'casetas' (stalls). Bullfights are held at the Plaza de los

Califas, the bullring in Cordoba.

- **Corpus Christi** is another traditional festivity. The magnificent monstrance of Arfe is taken out in a procession, and before it dance the *seises* from the cathedral, wearing 16th century outfits and playing castanets.

- The **Fiesta de la Fuensanta** is held on the first week in September.

- The **Festivity of St. Raphael**, the guardian archangel of Cordoba, is held on 24 October. People traditionally prepare a *perol* (a rice and meat dish) out in the countryside.

Trade Fairs



• **IFECO**, the Cordoba Trade Fair, organises several trade shows throughout the year:

- **Joyacor** (jewelry), in January and September.
- **Expocórdoba** (general), in May.
- **Expoalimentación** (foods), in October.
- **Expomadera** (wood, wooden products), in November.
- **Juventud** (youth), in December.

*Recinto Ferial San Carlos.
Carretera N-IV, km. 398.5*
☎ 957 21 67 00

The **Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones** (Exhibition Palace) is the scenario for many symposia, seminars, conferences, etc. It has two multiple-use halls, several committee rooms, an assembly hall, a press room, etc.

Calle Torrijos, 10
☎ 957 48 31 12

Getting around the city

• By bus

There are 12 regular bus lines in Cordoba and other bus lines that go to and from neighbourhoods on the outskirts.

Information:

☎ 957 47 20 00

• By taxi

There are taxi stops on the Avenida del Gran Capitán, Calle Cañero, Ciudad Jardín, Plaza de Colón, Red Cross, Plaza de las Tendillas, Acacias, Figueroa Park, Arcos de la Frontera, and Calle Agustín Moreno.

Radio-taxi service.

☎ 957 76 44 44



Carriage

- **Carriages**

Horse-drawn carriages are a pleasant way to move around, especially in the ancient quarter. There are carriage stops at: Camp Santo de los Mártires (next to the Alcazar), Calle Torrijos (by the Mosque), and by the Red Cross (opposite the Meliá Hotel).

- There is a **panoramic** bus service beginning at the Mosque at 11 a.m. and at 4 p.m.

Cordoba Vision.

Tourist Services Company.

☎ 957 23 17 34

Post office and telephone services

- **Post**

- Main Post Office

Calle Cruz Conde, 15

☎ 957 47 82 67

- Telegrammes by phone

☎ 957 47 03 45

- **Telephone**

- Local, intercity, and international phone calls may be made from the phone booths located in the streets and squares of the city. They accept coins and phonecards, which can be bought at tobacconists.

- For international calls, dial 00 followed by the country code and the number.

Emergency services

- **Health emergencies**

- Health emergencies

☎ 061

- University Hospital Reina Sofia

☎ 957 01 00 00

- **Police**

- Local Police

Campo Madre de Dios, 11

☎ 092

- National Police ☎ 091

- Guardia Civil: *Avenida de Medina Azahara, 2*

☎ 062

- **Firemen** ☎ 080

- **Consumer information**

- Local Consumer Information Office (OMIC)

☎ 957 49 99 93

Excursions from Cordoba

Natural Areas

The province of Cordoba has three vast Natural Parks, located at an hour's driving distance from the capital.

- **Parque Natural Sierra de Hornachuelos.** Located in the Cordoban part of the Sierra Morena mountain range, it may be accessed from Posadas or Palma del Río. Its total surface is 67,202 hectares, and it is a good example of Mediterranean forest, with pasturelands, evergreens and cork oak trees, and underbrush. Washed by the Bembézar River and several streams and dams, it is endowed with plenty of wildlife, including colonies of black vultures, plus imperial eagles, black storks, lynx, 'meloncillo' (related to the mongoose), and other species.

Road C-431 from Cordoba.

- **Parque Natural Sierra de Cardeña-Montoro.** It is located on the opposite side of the province and is

included in the district of Los Pedroches. It also has a typical Mediterranean forest landscape, with evergreens and cork oak trees. The course of the Yeguas River offers magnificent views of granite rock. Its rich wildlife includes lynxes, wolves, otters, and many birds of prey, as well as big game. There are also royal eagles and imperial eagles. Almost half of the province's sheep and cattle are concentrated in this natural park, where a lot of land is used by man.

Iberian lynx





Imperial eagle

Access via Montoro, taking the N-IV motorway from Cordoba.

• **Parque Natural de las Sierras Subbéticas.** Located in the southern part of the province, it includes important towns such as Luque, Zuheros, Priego, and Rute. The plentiful limestone favours rugged landscapes and karstic formations with a considerable value in geomorphological terms. The vegetation includes

evergreens predominantly on the slopes facing south, whereas gall oaks are plentiful on the northern sides. The **Cueva de los Murciélagos** (Cave of Bats), at a short distance from the picturesque village of Zuheros and its castle, is very appealing both for archaeological and speleological reasons, and may be visited in guided groups.

N-432 Road from Cordoba.

*R*outes and *E*xcursions

The excursions that can be made from Cordoba cover a wide variety of landscapes and interests. The most accessible would include visits to the nearest surroundings, for instance the ruins of Medina Azahara, the Monastery of San Jerónimo, the hermitages, and the mountain slopes that enclose the city on its northern side. Another possibility is a visit to the mountain areas in the

northern part of the province, the most interesting parts of which are located in two of the natural parks mentioned above (Hornachuelos and Cardeña-Montoro). A third alternative is to follow the Guadalquivir along the valley that divides the province in two. A fourth route would include the fertile lands and white lands of the Campiña, with the possibility of extending the excursion to the Southern Betica mountains and the third of the natural parks mentioned above (Sierras Subbéticas).

Medina Azahara



- **Outskirts of Cordoba.** Half a day is enough to see some of the points of interest in this route, but a whole day is needed to see all of the **hermitages**. It is a hill that was inhabited by ascetics between the 4th century and recent days. The inner part includes a visit to the church and some of the hermitages that were inhabited by monks. The outer esplanade affords a formidable view of the Guadalquivir river valley and the city of Cordoba.



Zuheros

Access via the road to Villaviciosa de Cordoba, km. 7. Open: 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. until sundown in winter and until 7:45 p.m. in summer. Closed on Mondays.

☎ 957 27 13 10

- **Ruins of Madinat al-Zahra and surroundings.** Medina Azahara is a palatine city that was erected in the same period of splendour as the Mosque, in the year 936, by Abderrahman III, and destroyed by the Almoravids a mere 70 years later. They are currently being reconstructed.

Its Grand Hall, terraces, living quarters, etc. allow one a rough picture of how splendid it must have been.

Access leaving Cordoba by the C-431 road (to Palma del Río), km. 5.5. Winter: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6:30 p.m. Summer: 1 May to 15 June: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 16 June to 30 September: 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; afternoons: 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Open Sunday mornings. Information:

☎ 957 32 91 30



Monastery of San Jerónimo

Scarcely one kilometre away rises the **Monastery of San Jerónimo de Valparaíso**, which reached its maximum splendour in the 15th and 16th centuries, when it was inhabited by kings. Although it is in private hands, permission may be granted to visit beautiful parts such as the Gothic cloister, the refectory, and some of the cells.

A small road leads to **Santa María de Trassierra**, the Gothic-Plateresque church where the poet Luis de Góngora was chaplain. Another road leads to a

residential complex, **Las Jaras**, and to **Los Villares**, an amusement park. Nearby is the **Sanctuary of Santo Domingo de Scala Coeli**, where Fray Luis de Granada lived, and the **Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Linares**, the image of whom presided the conquest of Cordoba by the Christians, according to tradition, thereby originating a popular pilgrimage.

- **The Guadalquivir river valley.** The stretch of lower land made by the Guadalquivir river, on the banks of which the capital

lies, includes some picturesque towns with a considerable monumental wealth, such as **Montoro** (artistic ensemble); **El Carpio** (a military tower and the ancient quarter), **Almodóvar del Río** (an impressive Arab fortress), **Posadas** (the Palace of Moratalla and its gardens), **Palma del Río** (the whole town, plus the Monastery of San Francisco).

Access leaving Cordoba along the N-IV motorway.

Palma del Río



- **The Campiña.** The Cordoban Campiña (countryside), which has the most fertile and populated land in the provinces, encompasses three well-differentiated zones. The eastern part or **Lower Campiña** is an area that is rich in olive trees and cereals, its most important towns being the monumental **Baena** and **Bujalance**. The **Upper Campiña** is where vineyards begin to appear, it also has plenty of olive trees, and features prosperous towns such as **Montilla** (renowned for its wines and wine cellars), **Lucena** (pottery and wrought iron), **Puente Genil** (desserts and sweets), **Aguilar** (a peculiar main square and its olive oil). Last of all, **the Colonies**, located in the western part of the Campiña, consists of several towns created in the 18th century by Charles III in order to colonise and repopulate the then-deserted areas of La Parrilla and La Carlota. Dutch and German citizens were invited for the purpose.

Access leaving Cordoba via the N-432 road. Tourist information in Montilla

☎ 957 65 24 62



Olive grove

• **The Southern Betica Mountains.** This can be an independent route or an extension of the Campiña, starting from Baena or Lucena. The Parque Natural de las Sierras Subbéticas is most interesting in terms of landscapes and wildlife, whereas towns such as **Cabra, Lucena,** and especially **Priego de**

Córdoba offer their splendid artistic and monumental heritage. **Zuheros** is a picturesque place and **Rute** is renowned for its anisettes and olive oils.

Access leaving Cordoba via the N-432 road.

Tourist information in Priego de Córdoba

☎ 957 70 06 25

Tourist Information

International Dialling Code: 34

• Tourist Information Telephone.

Turespaña:

☎ 901 300 600

www.tourspain.es

• Tourist Information Municipal Office (local)

Plaza de Judá Levi

☎ 957 20 05 22

• Tourist Office and the Junta de Andalucía

Palacio de Congresos

Calle Torrijos, 10

☎ 957 47 12 35

• Provincial Tourist Board

Plaza de las Tendillas

☎ 957 49 16 77

PARADORES DE ESPAÑA

Reservation Centre. Calle Requena,

3. 28013 Madrid

☎ 91 516 66 66

Fax 91 516 66 57

www.parador.es

Parador de Córdoba

Avenida de la Arruzafa

☎ 957 27 59 00

Fax 957 28 04 09

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Canada. Toronto. Tourist Office of Spain. 2 Bloor Street West 34 th floor.

TORONTO, Ontario M4W 3E2. ☎ 1416/ 961 31 31,

fax 1416/ 961 19 92. E-Mail: toronto@tourspain.es

Great Britain. London. Spanish Tourist Office. 22-23 Manchester Square.

LONDON W1M 5AP. ☎ 44207/ 486 80 77, fax 44207/ 486 80 34

E-Mail: londres@tourspain.es

Japan. Tokyo. Tourist Office of Spain. Daini Toranomon Denki Bldg.4F.

3-1-10 Toranomon. Minato-Ku. TOKYO-105. ☎ 813/ 34 32 61 41

fax 813/ 34 32 61 44. E-Mail: tokio@tourspain.es

Russia. Moscow. Spanish Tourist Office. Tverskaya-16/2 Business Center

"Galeria Aktor" 6th floor MOSCOW 103009. ☎ 70 95/ 935 83 97,

fax 70 95/ 935 83 96. E-Mail: moscu@tourspain.es

Singapore. Singapore. Spanish Tourist Office. 541 Orchard Road.

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fax 657/ 37 31 73. E-Mail: singapore@tourspain.es

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fax 1323/ 658 10 61. E-Mail: losangeles@tourspain.es

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North Michigan Avenue. CHICAGO, IL 60611. ☎ 1312/ 642 19 92,

fax 1312/ 642 98 17. E-Mail: chicago@tourspain.es

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Florida 33131. ☎ 1305/ 358 19 92, fax 1305/ 358 82 23

E-Mail: miami@tourspain.es

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Japan: Serrano, 109. ☎ 91 590 76 00, fax 91 590 13 21

Russia: Velázquez, 155. ☎ 91 562 22 64, fax 91 562 97 12

United States of America: Serrano, 75. ☎ 91 587 22 00, fax 91 587 23 03



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