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Alhambra

(and a general overview of Granada and Spain)

What is Alhambra?

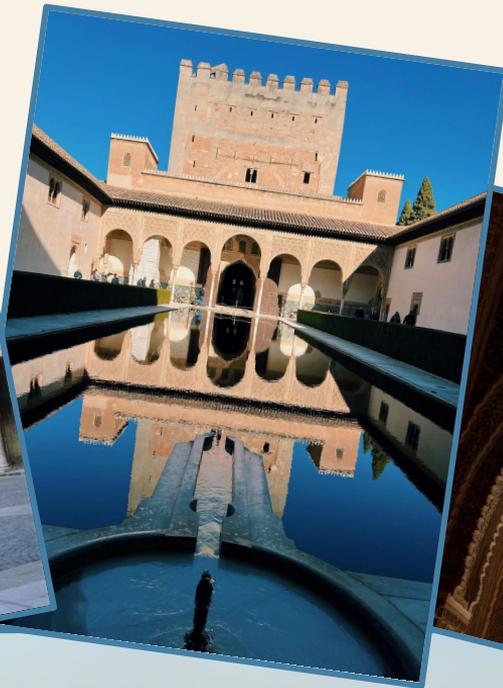
Alhambra is a palace and fortress complex, located in
Granada, Spain

It is one of, if not the most famous monuments of
Islamic culture and one of the best preserved palaces
of the Islamic world, and a notable example of **Spanish
renaissance architecture**

The name comes from its reddish walls, in Arabic,
qa'lat al-Hamra' means **Red Castle**

It is located on top of the **hill al-Sabika**, on the left
bank of the **river Darro**, to the west of the city of
Granada. The location is a strategic point, and it
boasts a view over the entire city

It is a **UNESCO World Heritage** site as of 1984 and it
also is part of **Spanish Cultural Heritage** as of 1870



The history of Alhambra in a nutshell

Origins and Early History (9th-13th Century)

9th Century: Initially constructed as a small fortress by Sawwar ben Hamdun during the rule of the Caliphate of Córdoba.

11th Century: Gains prominence when Granada becomes the capital of the Taifa of Granada after the fall of the Caliphate.

Nasrid Dynasty and Major Expansion (1238-1492)

1238: Transformed into a royal palace by the Nasrid dynasty.

13-14th Century: Expansion of the palace complex. Key structures like the Comares Palace, the Palace of the Lions, and the Generalife are constructed, showcasing Islamic art and architecture.

Christian Conquest and Renaissance Influence (1492-18th Century)

1492: Conquered by Ferdinand and Isabella, who make Alhambra their royal court.

16th Century: Charles V builds the Renaissance-style Palace of Charles V, reflecting Christian and Moorish influences.

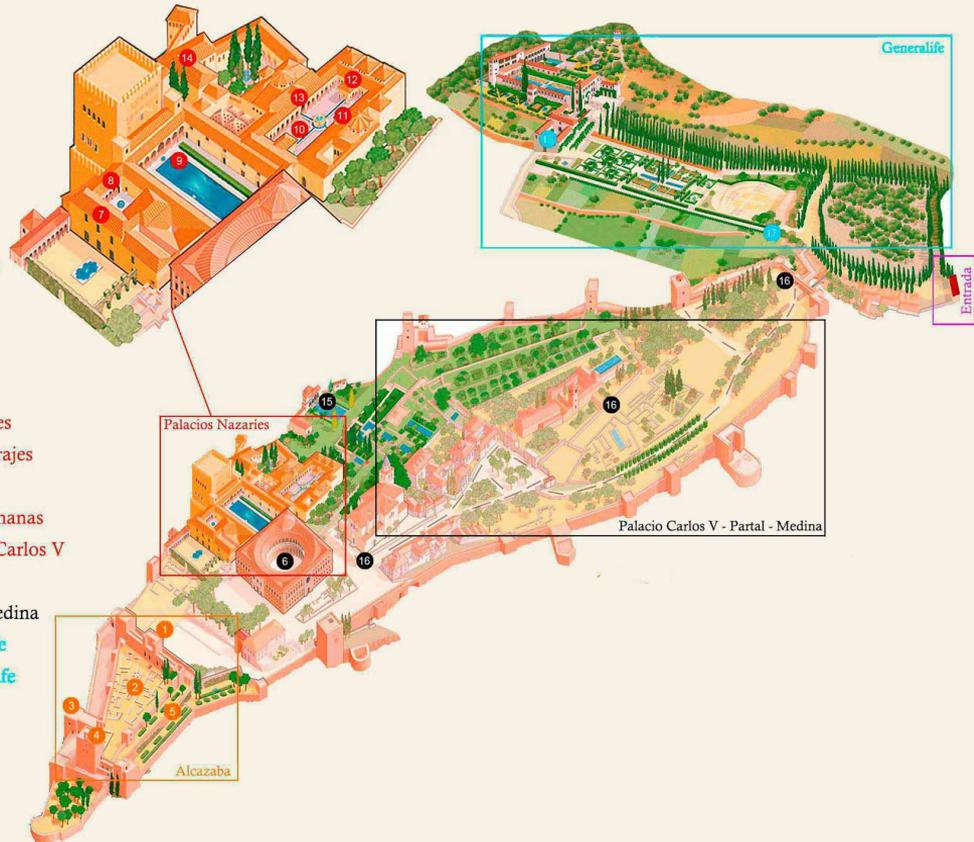
In the **18th and 19th century** Alhambra fell into neglect and despair, until it was discovered by European travellers and romantic writers, which helps spark restoration efforts

In the **20th century** extensive efforts took place to restore Alhambra to its former glory



Being a complex, Alhambra consists of several areas and places, pictured on this map:

- 1- Alcazaba
- 2- Plaza de Armas
- 3- Torre de las Armas
- 4- Torre de la Vela
- 5- Jardín de los Adarves
- 6- Palacio de Carlos V
- 7- Mexuar
- 8- Cuarto Dorado
- 9- Palacio de Comares
- 10- Palacio de los Leones
- 11- Sala de los Abencerrajes
- 12- Sala de los Reyes
- 13- Sala de las dos Hermanas
- 14- Corredor y Sala de Carlos V
- 15- Partal
- 16- Calle Real Alta - Medina
- 17- Jardín del Generalife
- 18- Palacio del Generalife



The city of Granada



Located in southern Spain's **Andalusia region**, in the foothills of the **Sierra Nevada mountains**

It's famous for the multitude of notable architectural and artistic monuments, mainly **Renaissance**, **Baroque**, and **Neoclassical churches, monasteries, hospitals, palaces, and mansions.**

It has a rich cultural background, the history of it being heavily influenced by many different **cultures, art and religion**

Home to one of the most **prestigious universities** in all of Spain, attracting students from all over the country and from abroad

It's a decently sized city, with the population of around **230,000**



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What to visit in Granada

*omitting Alhambra

The Cathedral of Granada



Built in **1561**, It's an impressive example of Spanish Renaissance architecture, located in the heart of the city.

Plaza Nueva



The **oldest square** in Granada, bustling with cafes, shops, and historical buildings, serving as a central meeting point for both locals and tourists.

Sacromonte



A traditional neighborhood famous for its **cave houses** and **vibrant flamenco shows**, offering a glimpse into the city's **Romani culture**.





A few quick words about Spain

Spain is located in southwestern Europe

It is the **largest** country in Southern Europe and the fourth-most populous European Union member state

Spanning across the majority of the **Iberian Peninsula**, its territory also includes the **Canary Islands**, the **Balearic Islands** and the autonomous cities of **Ceuta** and **Melilla** in Africa.

Throughout its history, Spain has developed a unique **Western European** culture that is influenced by both the **Old World** and the **New World**. Architecture in Spain reflects this, blending traditional structures with modernity.

It has an area of **505,990 square kilometers** and a population of nearly **49 million!**



Spain on the map (marked green)







The End

Thank you for your attention :)

