



joseillocdb

Historical Cordoba in 2 Days

Cordoba, 2 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description	2
Itinerary Overview	3
Daily Itineraries	4
Cordoba Snapshot	10

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Cordoba's rich and interesting history comes from its role as a prominent fortress during Roman, Muslim, and Christian rule. Once the intellectual capital of Europe, Cordoba is now a prominent Andalusian city and commercial metropolis with a wealth of monuments that make it a popular destination for Spanish and international tourists.

The Eurostars Maimonides hotel is conveniently located in the Jewish quarter, just a few steps away from the Mezquita. In this historical district, you'll find a number of other destinations on your journey, including the synagogue and the Alcazar.

Whether you're traveling with friends, kids, or on a romantic weekend, this guide covers the basics for a 2-day trip to Cordoba. Just don't go on a Monday-many of the attractions and some of the restaurants will be closed. Feature image: flydime/Flickr

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Cordoba

DAY NOTE: After you arrive at your home base in the Jewish quarter, Eurostars Maimonides, walk around the city a bit and sit down for a delicious lunch at Bar Moriles. Explore the Jewish quarter and take note of the beautiful patios throughout this area. The Alcazar is the fortress that Christopher Columbus visited to discuss his traveling ambitions with Ferdinand and Isabella, and you can visit it until 7:30pm. Later, take a romantic stroll down Calleja de las Flores, where you'll find Taller Meryan, a workshop that makes custom-made leather products. At El Churrasco, one of the most well-known restaurants in Cordoba, you'll appreciate a relaxing dinner and excellent service—the staff will even help you order if you don't speak Spanish or can't decide what to get. At night, go back over to the Alcazar for the lights show and then rest up for a big day tomorrow.

	Eurostars Maimonides Conveniently located
	Bar Moriles Exceptionally delicious homemade tapas
	Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos Moorish and Roman architecture
	Taller Meryan
	El Churrasco Delectable meals in a classic locale.

Day 2 - Cordoba

DAY NOTE: Once you're done ogling at the Mezquita from the window of your hotel room, start your day with breakfast at Café Gaudí, where you can sit on the outdoor patio if it's nice out. Head to the synagogue, a religious monument that was built in the early fourteenth century before the Spanish Inquisition. Midday, you have a few choices for lunch. You could grab some food that's popular with the locals—panaderías and pastelerías sell empanadas de atún and napolitanas de jamón y queso (baked pastries filled with tuna or ham and cheese). If you're a little hungrier, go for a doner kebab (pita filled with beef, chicken, or falafel, lettuce, tomato, and onion), or if you'd rather sit down and enjoy a nice meal, try Taberna Casa Pepe de la Judería. After having learned a bit about Cordoba's religious and political history at the Alcazar and Sinagoga, you're ready to visit the famous Mezquita-Catedral. El Caballo Rojo is a classy spot for

dinner, and afterward, check out Tablao Cardenal for some of the best flamenco in Cordoba.

	Café Gaudí Trendy spot for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.
	Sinagoga Synagogue
	Taberna Casa Pepe de la Judería
	La Mezquita-Catedral de Córdoba (The Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba) Muslim architecture with a vibrant history
	El Caballo Rojo
	Tablao Cardenal Flamenco Club

Day 1 - Cordoba

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: After you arrive at your home base in the Jewish quarter, Eurostars Maimonides, walk around the city a bit and sit down for a delicious lunch at Bar Moriles. Explore the Jewish quarter and take note of the beautiful patios throughout this area. The Alcazar is the fortress that Christopher Columbus visited to discuss his traveling ambitions with Ferdinand and Isabella, and you can visit it until 7:30pm. Later, take a romantic stroll down Calleja de las Flores, where you'll find Taller Meryan, a workshop that makes custom-made leather products. At El Churrasco, one of the most well-known restaurants in Cordoba, you'll appreciate a relaxing dinner and excellent service-the staff will even help you order if you don't speak Spanish or can't decide what to get. At night, go back over to the Alcazar for the lights show and then rest up for a big day tomorrow.

contact:

tel: (+34) 902 93 24 24
fax: (+34) 93 268 19 45
<http://www.eurostarsmaimonides.com>

location:

TORRIJOS 4
Cordoba Cordoba 14003

1 Eurostars Maimonides

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Nearby nightlife includes fantastic Flamenco shows at Tablao Cardenal, which is just down the block, across from the Mezquita.

DESCRIPTION: Eurostars Maimonides provides comfortable, three-star accommodation in the heart of Cordoba's Jewish Quarter. Most of its clean, luminous rooms enjoy views of the Mezquita, which is just under 100m away. The hotel is named after Maimonides, a medieval Jewish philosopher who was born in Cordoba. Its location is ideal for tourists planning to visit Cordoba's main attractions, such as the Jewish Quarter (World Heritage Site), synagogue, Arab baths, Roman bridge, and the Torre de Calahorra. The hotel's Patio Andaluz has an abundance of flowers and a relaxing fountain, which makes it a nice place to start or end the day with breakfast, lunch, or dinner. The restaurant's menu includes traditional Cordovan and Andalusian as well as international recipes, but if you want to get to know more of the city, there are a number of good restaurants down the street near the Palacio de Congresos, such as the well-known El Churrasco. Notable amenities include free Wi-Fi in all common areas and indoor parking. © NileGuide



Hotel Eurostars Maimonides

contact:

tel: +34 957 23 26 28
<http://barmoriles.com>

location:

Calle Antonio Maura 21 y 23
Cordoba Cordoba 14004

2 Bar Moriles

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

To try a little bit of everything, come around 2pm on weekdays and order the affordable Menú del Día. It includes a fixed first course, many choices for a tapa and second course, beverage, and dessert.

DESCRIPTION: Moriles is bustling with regulars at all hours of the day. This popular bar and restaurant serves superior quality traditional tapas in a relaxed environment. Everything is homemade and extremely flavorful, like the carne con tomate



Bar Moriles

(stewed meat in a savory tomato-based sauce) and rabo de toro (stewed oxtail with french fries). Córdoba is known for its salmorejo, which is made of puréed tomatoes, breadcrumbs, garlic, vinegar, and olive oil, and you have to try it at Moriles. The first floor has simple chairs and tables, a diner-style black and white floor, and busy bartenders behind a long bar. You'll be surprised to find an incredibly peaceful, elegant dining room downstairs, which is decorated with pale yellow walls and warm, modern, wooden accents. If it's nice out, relax on the outdoor patio, which is just across the street from the gardens Jardines de Juan Carlos I. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: 95-742-01-51

http://www.spain.info/es/conoce/monumentos/cordoba/alcazar_de_los_reyes_cristianos.html

location:

Calle Caballerizas Reales s/n
Cordoba Cordoba 14004

hours:

May-June Tues-Sat
10am-2pm and 5:30-7:30pm,
Sun 9:30am-2:30pm; Oct-
Apr Tues-Sat 10am-2pm
and 4:30-6:30pm, Sun
9:30am-2:30pm; July-Sept
Tues-Sat 8:30am-2:30pm.
gardens illuminated July-Sept
10pm-midnight

3 Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Come in the evening and take a romantic stroll through the beautiful gardens.

DESCRIPTION: Commissioned in 1328 by Alfonso XI, the Alcázar of the Christian monarchs is a fine example of military architecture. Ferdinand and Isabella governed Castile from this fortress on the Río Guadalquivir as they prepared to reconquer Granada, the last Moorish stronghold in Spain. Columbus journeyed here to fill Isabella's ears with his plans for discovery. And it was at the Alcázar that Ferdinand and Isabella bade Columbus farewell as he set out to chart unknown territory and discover what (for Europeans) was a new world. On a less happy note, the Alcázar was the headquarters of the dreaded Spanish Inquisition for 3 centuries. A former Arab bathhouse in the basement was turned into a Counter-Reformation interrogation center. Originally, the Alcázar (Fortress) was the abode of the Umayyad caliphs. Of their former palace, little remains except ruins. You can see some Moorish courtyards with ornamental basins and some cooling pools and baths. Also on view are some impressive **Roman mosaics** from the time of the Emperor Augustus. One of them has alternating geometrical motifs, and yet another depicts Polyphemus and Galatea. A **Roman sarcophagus** is representational of 2nd- and 3rd-century funereal art. If they are open, you can climb the towers, **Tower of the Lions (Torre de los Leones)** and **Tower of Homage (Torre de Homenaje)**. The Tower of the Lions contains intricately carved **ogival ceilings** that are some of the most notable examples of Gothic architecture in Andalusia. At the top a panoramic vista unfolds, taking in the Alcázar gardens, the river, Puente Romano, and Torre de la Calahorra. The **Gardens of the Alcázar** display their Arabic origins, complete with terraces, pools, and cooling fountains. Cypresses stud the earth, as do towering palms and orange trees. The Cordobeses themselves use these magnificent gardens on summer days to escape the unbearable heat that descends on their city. The centerpiece of the fortress, the **Patio Morisco (Court of the Moors)** is another lovely spot, with twin pools and an ivy-covered grotto, and pavement decorated with the coats of arms of León and Castile. © Frommer's



Carlos M Gonzalez

contact:
tel: 95-747-59-02

location:
Calleja de las Flores 2
Cordoba

4 Taller Meryan

DESCRIPTION: Alejandro and Carlos López Obrero operate out of this 250-year-old building. The street it's on is so enchanting you might want to come here even if you don't want to shop (check the information on Calleja de las Flores in "Seeing the Sights," earlier in this chapter, for details). This is the best store in Córdoba for embossed leather products. You can see artisans plying their trades; although most items must be custom-ordered, some ready-made pieces are for sale, including cigarette boxes, jewel cases, attaché cases, book and folio covers, and ottoman covers. It's open Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 2pm. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: +34 957 290819
fax: +34 957 294081
<http://www.elchurrasco.com/>

location:
Calle Romero 16
Cordoba Cordoba 14003

hours:
Mon-Sun 1pm-4pm,
8pm-12am. Closed Jan 1,
Passover, Good Friday, Oct
24, Dec 24, Dec 25, Dec 31

5 El Churrasco

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Vegetarian? No problem. While famous for its chops, El Churrasco caters to all diets and offers a number of egg and vegetable scrambles, salads, and sautéed vegetables.

DESCRIPTION: El Churrasco is an antique meson (inn) that has been converted into a wonderfully traditional restaurant adorned with cordobés paintings and decor throughout its interior arches indoor patios, and numerous dining rooms. Professional service and excellent food has been perfected over more than thirty-five years of service. Animated, informative waiters enthusiastically guide guests in choosing from a long menu and extensive wine list. Known for its high-quality chops and tenderloins cooked over an open fire, El Churrasco's signature meal is the churrasco cordobés (grilled pork tenderloin with Arab sauces). Fresh, in season ingredients add to the flavor of the gazpacho blanco de piñones (white gazpacho with pine nuts) and berenjenas crujientes con salmorejo cordobés (crunchy eggplant with a tasty tomato-based cream). The well-rounded menu also features a good selection of seafood, vegetarian mains, and desserts. Many consider this one of the best restaurants in Cordoba, and it's just a short walk from the Mezquita.

© NileGuide



El Churrasco

Day 2 - Cordoba

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Once you're done ogling at the Mezquita from the window of your hotel room, start your day with breakfast at Café Gaudí, where you can sit on the outdoor patio if it's nice out. Head to the synagogue, a religious monument that was built in the early fourteenth century before the Spanish Inquisition. Midday, you have a few choices for lunch. You could grab some food that's popular with the locals —panaderías and pastelerías sell empanadas de atún and napolitanas de jamón y queso (baked pastries filled with tuna or ham and cheese). If you're a little hungrier, go for a doner kebab (pita filled with beef, chicken, or falafel, lettuce, tomato, and onion), or if you'd rather sit down and enjoy a nice meal, try Taberna Casa Pepe de la Judería. After having learned a bit about Cordoba's religious and political history at the Alcazar and Sinagoga, you're ready to visit the famous Mezquita-Catedral. El Caballo Rojo is a classy spot for dinner, and afterward, check out Tablao Cardenal for some of the best flamenco in Cordoba.

contact:

tel: +34 957 471 736, +34 957 485 842
<http://cafegaudi.net>

location:

Avenida del Gran Capitán, 22
Cordoba Cordoba 14001

hours:

Mon-Sat opens 8am, Sunday
and holidays opens 10am

1 Café Gaudí

DESCRIPTION: They make good coffee. It may seem obvious that a café makes good coffee, but not all of them do. There is a care for good client service, but it is not cheap if compared with other places in town where one can have coffee. You will find a strong presence of art nouveau, as its name indicates.
<http://cafegaudi.net/> © Pedro Cano



Café Gaudí

contact:

tel: 95-720-29-28
<http://www.turismodecordoba.org/index2.cfm>

location:

Calle Judíos 20
Cordoba Cordoba 14004

hours:

Tues-Sat 9:30am-2pm
and 3:30-5:30pm; Sun
9:30am-1:30pm

2 Sinagoga

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The cheap entry price of 0,30€ makes the synagogue a great choice for anyone traveling on a budget.

DESCRIPTION: In Córdoba you'll find one of Spain's three remaining pre-Inquisition synagogues, built in 1315 in the Barrio de la Judería (Jewish Quarter), 2 blocks west of the northern wall of the Mezquita. The synagogue is noted particularly for its stuccowork; the east wall contains a large orifice where the Tabernacle was once placed (inside, the scrolls of the Pentateuch were kept). Note the various adornments of mozárabe patterns and Hebrew inscriptions. You can still see the balcony where women were sequestered during worship. After the Jews were expelled from Spain, the synagogue was turned into a hospital, until it became a Catholic chapel in 1588. Feature image: Samu73/Flickr
© Frommer's



Samu73

contact:
tel: 95-720-07-44

location:
Calle Romero 1
Cordoba

hours:
Sun-Thurs 1-4pm and
8:30-11:30pm; Fri-Sat 1-4pm
and 8:30pm-12:30am

3 Taberna Casa Pepe de la Judería

DESCRIPTION: Around the corner from the mosque and on the route to the Judería, this is one of the best-located restaurants in this ancient city. A series of little rooms, decorated in a typical Andalusian style, are spread over three floors. From May to October, tables are placed on the rooftop, meats such as chicken and pork are barbecued, and an Andalusian guitarist entertains. The hearty, regional fare includes combinations like cod cooked with raisins, pine nuts, and mussels that may date back to recipes from the days when the Arabs controlled Córdoba. The chef prepares excellent soups such as a typical Andalusian gazpacho or one made with fresh fish and shellfish. We are especially fond of the merluza (hake), prepared Cordobesa-style with sweet peppers, garlic, and onions, as well as the baked lamb, another specialty. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: +34 958-225-226, +34
677-417-790
fax: +34 958-994-612
<http://www.mezquitadecordoba.org>

location:
Calle Cardenal Herrero, 1
Cordoba Cordoba 14003

hours:
Nov and Feb daily 10am-6pm;
Dec-Jan daily 10am-5:30pm;
Apr-June daily 10am-7:30pm;
Mar and July-Oct Mon-Sat
10am-7pm, Sun 9-10:45am
and 1:30-6:30pm

4 La Mezquita-Catedral de Córdoba (The Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba)

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Want more? There's a guided walking tour that includes the Alcazar of the Christian Kings, The Mosque-Cathedral, and the Jewish Quarter and Synagogue. Tue-Sat 10:30am, 36.5€/person (includes entrance fees).

DESCRIPTION: The Mudéjar, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture of the Mezquita speaks of the rich history of Christian and Muslim rule in Andalucía. Its construction began in the year 600 as a Visigoth church. It was later divided between the Muslims and the Christians after the Islamic conquest, and eventually, the Muslims bought it from the Christians and spent two hundred years building it as a mosque. The Mezquita was completed in the year 987 and later reconquered by the Christians, who built a gothic cathedral in its center. Córdoba was one of the most important cities for Muslims during the reign of al-Andalus, and the Mezquita was a symbol of power for Córdoba's strong government and economy. Stroll through beautiful rows of arches and relax in the Patio de Naranjos, a beautiful outdoor courtyard decorated with orange trees. This World Heritage Site is now the home of the Roman-Catholic diocese of Córdoba. Adult: 8€; ages 10-14: 4€; 10 and under: Free.
© NileGuide



<http://www.mezquitadecordoba.org>

contact:
tel: 95-747-53-75

location:
Cardinal Herrero 28
Cordoba

hours:
Daily 1-4:30pm and 8pm-
midnight

El Caballo Rojo

DESCRIPTION: Within walking distance of the Mezquita in the Old Town, this restaurant is the most popular in Andalusia, and -- with the exception of La Almudaina -- the best in Córdoba. The place has a noise level no other restaurant here matches, but the skilled waiters manage to cope with all demands. Stop in the restaurant's popular bar for a predinner drink, then take the iron-railed stairs to the upper dining room, where a typical meal might include gazpacho, a main dish of chicken, then ice cream (often homemade pistachio), and sangria. An interesting variation on the typical gazpacho is an almond-flavored broth with apple pieces. In addition to Andalusian dishes, the chef offers both Sephardic and Mozarabic specialties, an example of the latter being monkfish

prepared with pine nuts, currants, carrots, and cream. A local favorite is rabo de toro (stew made with the tail of a bull). © Frommer's

contact:

tel: +34 95-748-31-12
http://www.tablaocardenal.com

location:

C/Torrijos 10
Cordoba Cordoba 14003

hours:

Shows are presented
Tuesday to Saturday at
10:30pm

5 Tablao Cardenal

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Walk to Tablao Cardenal through the Jewish Quarter to appreciate the surrounding architecture and some of the most beautiful patios in Cordoba.

DESCRIPTION: Córdoba's most prestigious flamenco club, Tablao Cardenal, hosts performances by internationally recognized flamenco artists including winners of the National Prize of the Art of Flamenco. Shows include many of the most traditional styles of Andalusian flamenco, including fandangos, soleás, bulerías, and alegrías. Even those who aren't flamenco fanatics will appreciate the superior talent and colorful, captivating performances of these outstanding singers, dancers, and guitar players. Entertainment is full of passion, and the service is friendly. Tablao Cardenal is located in the heart of the Jewish Quarter in a building with Mudéjar architecture built from 1512-1516, and it shouldn't be difficult to find, as it is next to the tourist office and just across from the Mezquita. This is an excellent choice for anyone in search of Spanish tradition and outstanding entertainment. Shows Tues-Sat 10:30pm. Price: 18€ (includes first drink). Feature image: StrudelMonkey/Flickr
© NileGuide



StrudelMonkey

Cordoba Snapshot

Local Info

Situated in the center of the Andalusian Autonomous Region, Cordoba is a great cultural reference point in Europe. This ancient city, which has been declared a World Heritage Site, is a mixture of the diverse cultures that settled it throughout history.

Very few places in the world can boast of having been the capital of a Roman province(Hispania Ulterior), the capital of an Arab State(Al-Andalus, a highly civilized state in Southern Europe) and a Caliphate. Such splendour is palpable in the intellectual wealth of this centre of wisdom and knowledge, that has seen the birth of figures like Seneca, Averroes, and Maimonides.

The historic quarter of Cordoba is a beautiful network of small streets, alleys, squares and whitewashed courtyards arranged around the Mosque-Cathedral, which reflects the city's prominent place in the Islamic world during medieval times.

Córdoba is also a modern city, well connected to other Andalusian cities by the high speed train(AVE) and a very extensive rail network linking it to the major Spanish cities such as Madrid and Seville. Inside the city, it is very easy and fast to reach your destination due to an efficient public transport system.

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. These events are complemented by a number of museums and an exciting nightlife.

Outside the city are very beautiful villages like Priego de Córdoba, an example of Spanish baroque; Zuheros, the typical white Andalusian village with an impressive castle built on a rock; and Montilla.'Parque Nacional de la Sierra de Hornachuelos' in Hornachuelos and'Parque Natural de las Sierras Subbéticas' in Cardeña are interesting nature reserves.

© Wikitravel

Hotel Insights

Hotels

At the peak of its summer season, Córdoba has too few hotels to meet the demand, so reserve as far in advance as possible.

© 2000-2010 by Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Restaurants Insights

Restaurants

Be sure to sit down for at least one meal a day in Córdoba. Some restaurants combine food with flamenco-- so make an evening of it.

Córdoba, incidentally, is well equipped to deal with caffeine addicts. Seek out local coffee-shop chain **Confitería Serrano**. The most central and convenient for most visitors is the branch at Calle Jesús María 8(tel. **95-747-14-00**), occupying the ground floor of the also-recommended Hotel Córdoba Centro, very close to the landmark Plaza Tendillas. The venue also includes a deli where take-away pastries are a popular item. There's a brightly lit counter area, as well as banquettes. Platters cost from 8€ to 18€(\$13-\$29).

Heladería Roldan, Paseo de la Victoria at Ronda de la Victoria(tel. **95-747-33-65**), is the most plush, elegant, and upscale pastry shop, bakery, and ice-cream shop in Córdoba, with an enviable position between two modern and monumental fountains. Rows of sidewalk tables ramble off toward the busy boulevard in a modern residential neighborhood north of the Mezquita. The cakes and pastries produced by this place are delicious and, in some cases, visually superb, and include confections that display an entire football(that is, soccer) field, replete with goalies, nets, and even some players. After dark on nice evenings, it doubles as one of the most popular cafes in a neighborhood loaded with contenders. Open Monday to Friday 7:30am to 10pm, Saturday 8am to 10pm, and Sunday 9am to 10pm.

A Moroccan Teahouse Salon-- Salon de Thé, Calle Buen Pastor 13(tel. **95-748-79-84**; daily 11am-11pm), is an idyllic spot. On a hot summer day, you might not immediately think of drinking tea, but the cool, Moroccan-style setting here

and the way it presents tea as refreshment for the senses might tempt you. The setting, in a labyrinth of impossibly narrow alleys near the Mezquita in the Judería, is a small-scale arcaded courtyard of a once-private home that was originally built in the 14th century, with low-slung(and somewhat uncomfortable) divans covered with Moroccan carpets, overstuffed cushions, and low tables. The menu lists more than 30 kinds of tea, as well as coffee and fruited drinks made, Moroccan-style, from condensed syrups mixed with crushed ice and water. A small fountain splashes fitfully in the courtyard's center, and the background music is rooted in the early Arabic roots of old Córdoba. The place, as you might expect, is busiest every day between 4 and 7pm. Pots of tea cost from 3€ to 5€(\$4.80-\$8) for one person or 4€ to 6€(\$6.40-\$9.60) for two people, with tapas and pastries ranging from 1.50€ to 6€(\$2.40-\$9.60).

© 2000-2010 by Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Nightlife Insights

Nightlife

You can certainly check out the flamenco clubs, but most Cordobeses roam around at night sampling the tapas and drinking regional wine in the various taverns. There are worst ways to spend an evening.

Tapas& Wine

You can begin your tapas-crawl at the previously recommended **Bodegas Campos**, which has some of the classiest tapas in town. But there are many other options, particularly if you find yourself wandering the streets of the Judería, which is particularly colorful in the evening. The best place to visit here, and one of the most authentic, is **Taberna Casa Pepe de la Judería**.

El Caballo Rojo is another first-class restaurant with a good supply of tapas, which it serves on a leafy Andalusian patio. One specialty we recently enjoyed here was alboronía, a cold salad of stewed vegetables with saffron, honey, and aniseed flavoring.

Cordoba Snapshot continued

Our other favorite *tascas* include those reviewed.

Flamenco Clubs and More

Tablao Cardenal, Calle Torrijos 10 (tel. 95-748-33-20), is Córdoba's most popular and dynamic flamenco club. Just across from the Mezquita, you can enjoy a show featuring international and award-winning flamenco artists. Some of the purest styles of Andalusian flamenco--soleá, bulerías, and alegrías-- are showcased here. Shows are presented Monday to Saturday at 10:30pm, with a cover of 20€(\$32) that includes your first drink.

For an even more authentic flamenco venue, head to **Mesón Flamenco La Bulería**, Pedro López 3 (tel. 95-748-38-39), close to the Plaza de la Corredera on the outskirts of the old part of town. This is one of the most reasonably priced flamenco shows in Andalusia, considering the class of its talent. The cover of 15€(\$24) includes your first drink. Most shows start nightly around 10:30pm. The club is generally closed from December to February.

For more formal entertainment, check out the listings at the city's theatrical grande dame, the early-20th-century **Gran Teatro de Córdoba**, Av. Gran Capitán 3 (tel. 95-748-02-37), site of most of the ballet, opera, chamber music, and symphony performances in town.

Hipster Joint in the Burbs-- Most of the antique *tascas* and *tapas* bars are in the Old City of Córdoba, but 20- and 30-somethings have migrated to the Vial Norte (aka Av. de la Libertad) district of the city's 19th and 20th-century neighborhoods. We suggest **MOMA**, Vial Norte (Av. de la Libertad) at the corner of Miguel Gila (tel. 95-727-19-12), whose designers emulated the international spirit and decor of a venue in Berlin, London, or Barcelona. Unless there's a live concert scheduled, music on conventional bar nights focuses on pop, rock'n' roll, and international hits from the '70s, '80s, and '90s. Cover charges apply only when there's live music. Otherwise, entrance is free. Cocktails begin at around

7€(\$11) each. Sunday to Thursday 9am to 3am, Friday to Saturday 10am to 4am.
© 2000-2010 by Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Things to Do Insights

Attractions

Córdoba Visión, Av. Doctor Marañón 1 (tel. 95-776-02-41), conducts the best English-language walking tours. These 3 1/2-hour-long guided tours are a great introduction to what can be a confusing maze of a city, with its treasures often hidden down narrow alleyways. Costing 30€(\$48) per person, tours are conducted Tuesday to Saturday at 10:30am.

Among Córdoba's many sights is the **Puente Romano (Roman bridge)**, dating from the time of Augustus and crossing the Guadalquivir River about 1 block south of the Mezquita. It's hardly Roman anymore because not one of its 16 supporting arches is original. The sculptor Bernabé Gómez del Río erected a statue of St. Raphael in the middle of the bridge in 1651.

Plaza de Toros, on Gran Vía del Parque, stages its major bullfights in May, although fights are also presented at other times of the year. Watch for local announcements. Most hotels will arrange tickets for you, ranging in price (in general) from 25€ to 115€(\$40-\$184). Call tel. 95-723-25-07 for information.

Judería (Jewish Quarter)

North and west of the Mezquita is one of the most intriguing medieval ghettos remaining in Europe. Two of the world's greatest thinkers, the Jewish philosopher Maimónides and the Arab philosopher and mathematician Averroès, once called the **Judería** home.

No longer Jewish or even Arab, the neighborhood has been restored and makes for one of the most fascinating strolls in Andalusia. (Don't forget to bring along a good pair of walking shoes.) The only physical evidence left of its former Jewish population is the synagogue. You can spend at least 2 hours here wandering about-- and be prepared to get lost. Many upper-middle-class Cordobeses now occupy these old whitewashed houses and

have restored them. You can enter the area through the Puerta de Almódovar, at the western frontier.

The Judería reached the zenith of its prosperity under the Moorish occupation (believe it or not), especially during the Caliphate (929-1031). A great Talmudic school was founded here in an era of tolerance.

If there is one street you should seek out, it's **Calleja de las Flores**, "little street of flowers." Actually, it's little more than an alleyway off Calle Victor Bosco and Calle Blanco Belmonte. Somehow the wrought-iron grilles, potted flowers, and window boxes filled with geraniums appear more adorable here than elsewhere. Certainly the patios of the various houses deserve some prize, and it's perfectly acceptable to walk along gazing into the courtyards. The citizens of Córdoba take pride in showing off their patios as part of the city's tradition.

The Judería is also filled with delightful little squares that you'll stumble into after wandering down a dark alleyway into the bright sunshine of Andalusia.

Reviving Moorish Customs:

Baños Arabes-- A popular Moorish custom survives at **Hammam Arabic Baths (Baños Arabes)**, Corregidor Luís de la Cerda 51 (tel. 95-748-47-46; www.hammamspain.com/cordoba), which is next to the Mezquita. Taking the baths here is (probably) as close as you'll come to experiencing life as the ancient sultans lived it. You need to bring a swimsuit and you cannot wear shoes or sandals inside. Every bath lasts 1 1/2 hours and includes a massage and Moroccan tea for 31€(\$50). Sometimes belly dancers perform. Hours are daily from 10am to 10pm; make a reservation and be sure to show up on time.

A Stately Pleasure Dome: The Moorish Versailles-- The **Conjunto Arqueológico Madinat Al-Zahra**, a kind of Moorish Versailles just outside Córdoba, was constructed in the 10th century by the first caliph of al-Andalus, Abd ar-Rahman III. Thousands of workers and animals slaved to build this mammoth pleasure palace, said to have contained 300 baths and 400

Cordoba Snapshot continued

houses. The Berbers sacked the place in 1013.

Over the years the site has been plundered for building materials. Some of these, it's said, went to build the Alcázar in Seville. The **Royal House**, today a rendezvous point for the ministers, has been reconstructed. The principal salon remains in fragments, so you have to imagine it in its majesty. Just beyond the Royal House are the ruins of a **mosque** constructed to face Mecca.

It's at Carretera Palma de Río Km 8 (tel. **95-735-55-06**; www.museosdeandalucia.es). Admission is 1.50€ (\$2.40). Hours are from May 1 to September 15, Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 8:30pm, Sunday 10am to 2pm; September 16 to April 30, Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6:30pm, Sunday 10am to 2pm. Buses leave from Paseo de la Rivera and Avenida de la Victoria (tel. **90-220-17-74**).

Shopping

In Moorish times Córdoba's leather workers were legendary. Highly valued in 15th-century Europe, their leather was studded with gold and silver ornaments, and then painted with embossed designs (guadameci). Large panels often took the place of tapestries. Although the industry has fallen into decline and the market is filled mostly with cheap imitations, you can still find excellently

crafted embossed leather as well as other Cordovan handicrafts at **Artesanía Andaluza**, Tomás Conde 3 (no phone), near the bullfight museum. Look also for filigree silver from the mines of Sierra Morena. The shop is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. **Taller Meryan** has perhaps the best embossed leather in the city.

Córdoba has a branch of Spain's major department store, **El Corte Inglés**, at Ronda de los Tejares 30 (tel. **95-722-28-81**; www.elcorteingles.es). Some of the staff speaks English. It's open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 10pm.

The other shops listed below can be reached via bus no. 1, 3, or 7. Most are open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 7pm; smaller establishments, however, often take a siesta, doing business from 9:30 or 10am to 1:30 or 2pm and again from 4:30 or 5 to 8pm. Exceptions are listed below.

© 2000-2010 by Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Travel Tips

The area with the most to see is around the Old City. Everything is in walking distance, (train station, bus station, shopping area, tourist sites, restaurants, bars, etc). The typical tourist can do with the standard tourist map which can be obtained from the tourist offices (one on the east side of the Mezquita-Cathedral and the other between the Alcázar and the city walls).

Orientation is provided by the river, Plaza de las Tendillas and Paseo de la Victoria. The area around the Mezquita-Cathedral is crammed with places to stay, eat and buy souvenirs. However, many visitors find it a bit too touristy, with more interesting things found wandering to the east of the Mezquita-Cathedral. On Sunday mornings you can watch a procession after the Catholic mass. Exercise caution when walking around the area near the Mezquita: Gypsies and beggars will try to sucker you for some money and they often work in teams. You may find yourself being charged 40 Euro for a palm reading, or having your money snatched by a little kid working together with the supposed palm reader. Just keep an eye on your things and don't get caught up with their scams.

By train

Hourly, very fast (but expensive) AVE trains run from Madrid (1 hour 45 minutes), Seville (45 minutes) and Málaga (50 mins). Additionally, there is a very cheap option from Seville (Andalucía express).

By bus

Regular buses from almost every city in Andalucía. Also regular bus services from Madrid departing from "Estación Sur" (around 6 buses per day). For bus schedule and price check the website: [1].

By plane

Fly to Sevilla, Málaga or Madrid and to Córdoba by train or bus in a few hours.

© Wikitravel