CONFEREENCE 2020

GRANADA

Thursday 26 March – Sunday 29 March 2020

8 CPD hours
Granada is a city in southern Spain’s Andalusia region, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. It’s known for grand examples of medieval architecture dating to the Moorish occupation, especially the Alhambra.

This sprawling hilltop fortress complex encompasses royal palaces, serene patios, and reflecting pools from the Nasrid dynasty, as well as the fountains and orchards of the Generalife gardens.

It was first settled by native tribes in the prehistoric period, and was known as Ilbyr. When the Romans colonised southern Spain, they built their own city here and called it Illibris. The Arabs, invading the peninsula in the 8th century, gave it its current name of Granada. It was the last Muslim city to fall to the Christians in 1492, at the hands of Queen Isabel of Castile and her husband Ferdinand of Aragon.

Many visitors head to Granada unsure what to expect often drawn by the allure of the Alhambra.

What they find is a compelling city where serene Islamic architecture and Arab-flavoured street life go hand in hand with monumental churches, old-school tapas bars and counterculture graffiti art.

The city was the last stronghold of the Spanish Moors and their legacy lies all around: it’s in the horseshoe arches, the spicy aromas emanating from street stalls, the teterías (teahouses) of the Albaicín, the historic Arab quarter. Most spectacularly, of course, it’s in the Alhambra, an astonishing palace complex whose Islamic decor and landscaped gardens are without peer in Europe.

There’s also an energy to Granada’s streets, packed as they are with bars, student dives, bohemian cafes and intimate flamenco clubs, and it’s this as much as the more traditional sights that leaves a lasting impression.
Top 5 things to do in Granada

The Alhambra may be Spain's most visited attraction year on year, but wandering the hills and the back streets of Granada's barrios will give you the real feel of this fascinating city, which has elegance and edginess in equal measure.

Granada’s fertile valley and sweeping hills have attracted many different civilisations through the centuries. Echoes of past occupiers, from the ancient Iberians to the Romans and Visigoths, can be found throughout the city and beyond. But, as befits a university town, there’s innovation amongst all the tradition – from street art to trendy food and a vibrant coffee scene.

1. Barrio stroll
Beneath the south side of the Alhambra is the lively, old Jewish quarter of Barrio Realejo. Wandering its streets and leafy plazas will reveal layers of history, but not just through its Arab and Romanesque buildings – a newer addition is its street art. The colourful murals by El Niño de las Pinturas continue the overlap of old and new, gracing crumbling brickwork with images of youth and, in his portrait of the Clash’s Joe Strummer, rebellion. There’s also a nod to a Moorish past, in the use of classically Arabic golds and turquoise-blues, patterns and motifs; lines of Spanish poetry also feature in a swirling, arabesque hand. Stick around until evening and head to the bustling Calle San-Matías/Calle Varela area where local favourite tapas joint Rosario Varela, with its charming retro interior, is one not to miss. Have a beer, glass of wine accompanied by incredible tapas, including mini burgers and pork buns. Should you need more food, the menu – a twist on classic Andalucian food – is extensive and delicious.

2. Real flamenco
For authentic flamenco, skip any venue giving out tourist leaflets, even those in the famous Sacromonte Caves. The Peña la Platería , which is eastwards down the hill toward Albaicín Bajo, showcases the flamenco that dancers go to see; public performances are on Thursday evenings only, from 10pm. It’s €10 for a ticket plus drink on arrival, and it’s a good idea to phone ahead and book; and arrive early to secure a good spot. Better still, don’t just watch; try lessons with Albaicín-born Chúa Alba. Having performed and taught flamenco all over the world, Chúa now holds classes in her studio on Calle Elvira (just behind Gran Via). And fret not: whatever your level of Spanish or dancing, this is truly immersive and you’ll find yourself picking up the steps in no time. escuelaflamencachuaalba.com, €10 for drop-ins.
3. **Craft beer bar**
Situated in the Plaza de Toros/San Lázaro area, El Fermentador is a must for those with a passion for craft beers. The eight taps serve an ever-changing variety of trendy beers priced around €2.60, plus their own easy-drinking brew. Glasses of wine cost from €2. Tapas are a welcome fusion of local dishes like carne y salsa (meat in sauce) and croquetas (breaded, deep-fried balls of bechamel sauce) alongside brie, deep-fried with a forest-fruit reduction. If you make it past the tapas, don’t miss the house special IPA burger made with Irish Angus beef with chunky hand-cut chips and, if you’ve still got space, the homemade cheesecake.

4. **Botanic Gardens**
For a quieter experience in the same area, the leafy, 19th-century Jardín Botánico forms a shady, city-centre oasis just next to Plaza de la Universidad. The plants grown here are wild species native to the Sierra Nevada, various herbs and 70 different large tree specimens. Head up the stone steps, through a deceptively understated doorway, and you’ll find yourself in the university’s law building, still used for its original purpose. It’s a grand and wonderful maze of marble corridors and interior courtyards, all dating back to its foundation by Carlos V in the 1500s. If you’re lucky you might be able to peep into one of the traditional lecture halls, which retain their original wooden-pew seating and parquet flooring. [botanica.ugr.es](http://botanica.ugr.es), open weekdays 8am-10pm

5. **View of the Alhambra**
Viewing this mighty structure from above may not be for the faint-hearted, but you’ll be rewarded with spectacular views. Head to the Ermita de San Miguel church, atop the Sacromonte hill above the barrios of Sacromonte and the Albaicín – go up the steps from the Albaicín’s Calle Cruz de la Rauda or walk from the Carril de San Miguel. Take a bottle of wine early evening and watch the sun set across the hills below, the Alhambra opposite and, beyond that, the Sierra Nevada mountains. At weekends the tower ruins of La Silla del Moro (the seat of the Moors) present a different view again, from directly above the eastern side of the Alhambra. Trek from Camino Fuente del Avellano by the River Darro and you’ll see the palace and gardens open out below, as well as the city and plains and peaks to its west. • Both viewpoints free; La Silla del Moro opening times at [alhambra-patronato.es](http://alhambra-patronato.es)
Hotel Alhambra Palace 5*

In the one hundred and nine years it has provided elegant hotel accommodation in Granada, Hotel Alhambra Palace has played host to a wide variety of luminaries. Everyone from Spanish royalty to Hollywood screen sirens to prominent politicians to music legends has graced the hotel.

Inspired by the beauty of the Alhambra, the hotel recreates a sense of culture and elegance. Dominating the hill of Sabika, and located in the surrounds of the citadel of the Alhambra, the Hotel Alhambra Palace is a 5 minutes walk from the palaces and from the Generalife gardens.

It takes only 10 minutes to walk to the main Historical Centre of the city. You can walk down the hill or enjoy an unforgettable ride through the forest of the Alhambra, or stroll through the typical Realejo neighbourhood.

Renovated and upgraded to five star status in October 2017, the Alhambra Palace has retained the original decoration, but offers the latest technological advances of the twenty first century.
Welcome Dinner
Huerta del Sello

This neoclassical house from the nineteenth century is an ideal space for any kind of event.

The house has different spaces, interior and exterior, which cater for 100 people up to 800 and a beautiful garden with capacity up to 2,000 people.

Upon arrival by coach, guests will enter the property along a long drive before enjoying a welcome drink and canapes in the beautiful gardens. The sounds of flamenco guitar will provide a taste of Spain before guests make their way into the Manor House for a sit down dinner.

Proposed Itinerary

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Friday 27 March

Private tour of Alhambra Palace

6pm - 8pm   £60pp

Brief History

THE 9th CENTURY
The Arabs respected the Roman cities and roads, making them bigger by adding new constructions. In the 9th century evidence from Arab texts points to new constructions inside the Alhambra, although it is thought that some kind of construction was built during the Roman period and even earlier.

THE 11th CENTURY
After the Caliphate of Cordova civil war, the capital of the Granada province was moved from Elvira to Granada in the 11th century, promoted by the Zirid Dynasty. The Ziries settled their court in the Alcazaba Cadima, or Old fortress, located in the Albaicín district and occupied in the 15th century with the construction of King Dar-al-Horra's Palace. At the slope foot there was an important Jewish settlement, around which the city of Granada started growing. Vizier Samuel ibn Nahgralla renovated and rebuilt the abandoned ruins located on the Sabikah Hill and built his palace there.

THE 12th CENTURY
The successive invasions of Almorávides and Almohades in Granada ended with fierce and bloody battles that took place in the Alcazaba del Albayzin and in the buildings of the Alhambra, which became the refuge for the local Andalusians and at times for the North African invaders.

THE 13th CENTURY
Al-Ahmar, the founder of the Nasrid Dynasty, took up residence at the Old Alcazaba of the Albayzin in 1238, though he felt attracted by the ruins on top of the Alhambra hill. Thus he embarked on the reconstruction of the building for the residence of his Court as we know it now.

The Alhambra was a palace, a fortress and a citadel; the residence of the Nasrid Sultans and top government officials, court servants and the royal guard.

The Nasrid Kingdom became the last Islamic sultanate on the Iberian Peninsula, and its capital Granada progressively received Muslim populations forced to retreat from the Christians. The city grew with the development of new suburbs and extended its walls nearly until it was conquered at the end of the 15th century.

TODAY
During these more than two and a half centuries, the relationship between the Alhambra and the city was that of a Medina and its Alcazaba (fortress). In Granada, besides the Alhambra, preserved as a symbolic mythic icon, we find many surviving testimonies and buildings of the Moorish period despite the unavoidable transformation that it has experienced since the Middle Ages.

It is currently an artistic-historical monumental group with four clearly distinguishable zones: the Palaces, the military zone or Alcazaba, the city or Medina, and the villa of the Generalife, all of them surrounded by woods, trees, gardens, parks and vegetable gardens.
The visit commences at the Alhambra Atrium and continues along a passageway by the walls, looking onto the Torre del Agua (Water Tower), Torre de Baltasar de la Cruz, Torre de los Siete Suelos (Seven-Storeyed Tower), Tower del Capitán, Torre de la Bruja (Tower of the Witch) and Torre de las Cabezas (Tower of Heads), arriving at the Palace of Charles V through the gates Puerta de la Justicia or the Puerta de los Carros.

The visit continues through the following areas:

- Patio de Machuca (organised visits).
- Mexuar.
- Patio Dorado and Cuarto Dorado.
- Court of the Myrtles (Patio de los Arrayanes).
- Sala de la Barca.
- Throne room.
- Mirador de la Reja.
- The Emperor’s chambers.
- Carlos V corridor.
- Sala de Dos Hermanas (including visit to the Sala de los Ajimeces and the Mirador de Lindaraja).
- Court of the Lions (Patio de los leones).
- Sala de los Mocárabes.
- Patio de los Arrayanes (south gallery).
- Exhibition of the lions.
- Puerta del Príncipe (exit gate).
Saturday 28 March

Visit the Albaicín with the 5 Senses Walking Tour

2pm - 5.30pm   £75pp

Discover Granada through your sense of touch, smell and hearing as you explore the peculiar and unique corners of this fantastic destination that even some residents of Granada aren’t aware of.

The tour will follow unusual paths which will lead you the Sacred Mount where you will find historic and symbolic features, with viewpoints of Alhambra that will leave you speechless. It is one of the most picturesque neighbourhoods of the city, with houses installed in whitewashed caves.

Explore the caves and experience first hand the magical wonder of flamenco.

As you continue your journey you will discover the wonders of Arabic art and writing, whilst exploring the labyrinth of roads reaching the Plaza Aliatar. Here the Al Yarrar family will open their home to provide a vision of the Nazari Pottery and explain how the manufacturing process has seen little change in centuries.

Onwards to the bakers and the historic Arco de las Pesas, where a sea of smells awaits, transporting you to past ages. It was once the place where merchandise was weighed and taxed on entry to the city and is one of many monuments that recall Granada’s Muslim origins.

Continuing on your way to the viewpoint of San Nicolás, a historical and beautiful location showcasing the traditional architecture of the Albaicín.
Cost for the weekend
£895 per person sharing
£925 single
£500 non-refundable deposit required per person.

To include:
• Dublin – Malaga return flight and transfers
• 3 nights bed and breakfast at Alhambra Palace Hotel
• Welcome Drinks Reception and Dinner – Thursday Night – Huerta Del Sella
• Conference Business Sessions – Friday and Saturday mornings, worth 8 CPD hours
• Gala Dinner and Reception – Saturday evening
• Organised optional tours are available for an additional fee. Please indicate your requirements on the Booking Form below.
• There will be an on-site hospitality desk in the hotel lobby throughout the trip where guests can book and pay for additional private tour options directly.

Reservation
Please reserve my place at Annual Conference, Thursday 26 March – Sunday 29 March 2020 (Please ensure all details are correct)

Full Name: (As shown exactly on passport*)

*Please note that any name changes made at a later date will incur the standard airline fee. This fee will be charged directly to the delegate.

Given or ‘called name’:

Firm:

Address:

Contact Number: Mobile Number:

Email:

Accompanying person(s):

Full Name(s)*: (As shown exactly in the passport)

*Please note that any name changes made at a later date will incur the standard airline fee. This fee will be charged directly to the delegate.

Given or ‘called name(s)’:

How many places do you require? Deposit payment made via: (please tick) BACS Cheque

I would like to book the following tour/s:

☐ Private Tour of Alhambra Palace - Friday 6pm to 8pm (£60pp). (Please indicate how many people here ……….)

☐ Visit the Albaicín with the 5 senses walking tour - Saturday 2pm to 5.30pm (£75pp). (Please indicate how many people here ……….)

☐ I have scanned and emailed a copy of my/our Passport/s along with this Form. (Alternatively you can post these to Libra Events)

Wednesday 28 March - Maldron Airport Hotel, Dublin. (Room only - includes parking) price TBC. Check box to book room

Closing date for receipt of deposits is Friday 23rd August 2019.

Payments for non-refundable deposits can be made with BACS or cheque using details below:

Sort Code: 95-06-79
Account Number: 70069469
Bic/Swift Code: DABAGB2B
IBAN: GB93 DABA 9506 7970 0694 69

Or - Cheques made payable to:
Libra Events Ltd and sent FAQ:
Ross Licence (028 9032 8887)
Libra Events Ltd, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT

Early booking is advised as places will be reserved on a first come first served basis.