



### **Where's Ronda?**

The picturesque city of Ronda (Spain) is located in the south of Andalusia in the province of Malaga. It is located inland and north of the Costa del Sol resorts of Marbella and Estepona and is surrounded by high mountains.

### **Information about Ronda**

Ronda was discovered by European tourists at the end of the 18th century, when the mountain bandits of Ronda inspired Merimee's Carmen. The city is regarded as one of the most beautiful in Andalusia and even in Spain. Ronda is completely whitewashed and has some beautiful examples of typical Andalusian architecture. The city is situated high above the River Guadalevin Gorge and has a beautiful view of the fertile landscape and the incomparable mountains, including peaks at almost 2,000 meters altitude.

The city is divided into two sections: Ronda la Vieja (Old Ronda) is the name given to the area south of the famous Puente Nuevo bridge, built in 1755 across the gorge; and Ronda la Nueva (New Ronda), which covers the rest of the city. Ronda la Vieja lives up to her name. You'll find some of Ronda's oldest monuments, as well as the Arab Baths and the Water Mine. There are many beautiful mansions with elegant terraces, delicate wrought iron windows and beautiful porticoes. Some have impressive views over the riverbanks and mountains.

Ronda la Nueva also has modern residential areas, but the area near the bridge dates back several centuries. You'll also find the Ronda Bullring, one of the oldest in Spain, as well as a bullfighting museum. The main shops and restaurants in Ronda can be found in this part of the city, as well as the train and bus stations.

### **How big is it?**

Although Ronda is the most important city in this part of Andalusia, it is not very big compared to the resorts of the Costa del Sol.

### **What is the population of Ronda?**

There are about 36,000 people living in Ronda, which makes it about half the size compared to Estepona (in terms of population numbers).

How many people of foreign origin live in Ronda?

Ronda has a small number of foreigners compared to the rest of the Costa del Sol - just under 1,150 foreigners live in Ronda.

### **What is the weather like in Ronda?**

The weather in Ronda is slightly different than in the Costa del Sol. It is warmer in Ronda in the summer with temperatures that can reach 40 degrees, although it is cooler at night. In winter it can be cold in Ronda, with occasional snow.

### **How can I reach Ronda?**

Ronda is easily accessible from Málaga airport, Marbella and the rest of the resorts of the Costa del Sol, and Seville. There is a good mountain road that allows you to easily reach Ronda from San Pedro and Marbella - the journey takes about an hour. From Malaga it takes about an hour and 20 minutes to get to Ronda. Seville is about an hour's drive away.

### **How far is it from Ronda to Malaga airport?**

Malaga Airport is 106km away from Ronda, a car ride that takes about an hour and 20 minutes.

How far is it from Ronda to Gibraltar airport?

Gibraltar Airport is a good alternative if you are travelling from the United Kingdom to Ronda. The airport is 111km away from Ronda and it will take an hour and 40 minutes to get there. Please allow extra travel time to cross the border between Gibraltar and Spain.

### **How far is it from Ronda to Marbella?**

Malaga is the nearest Costa del Sol resort from Ronda and is 64km south of the city. The drive takes about an hour.

### **What are the main attractions of Ronda?**

One of Ronda's biggest attractions is a walk through the city and admiring the panoramic views from the bridge. You can also enjoy the beautiful views from the parks and some monuments and hotels in Ronda (Ronda Parador and Hotel Montelirio in particular). In addition to the beautiful views, there is also another must-see in Ronda: the traditional architecture, which is perfectly preserved in the many beautiful mansions and residences in the cobbled streets.

Ronda also has interesting monuments to visit. Highlights include the Palacio de Mondragón, a 15th-century palace, and the Museum of Ronda; the main church with its Moorish minaret; Ronda Arena, where modern bullfighting was invented; and the Arab Baths.

### **What is there to do in Ronda?**

There is a lot to do and see in and around Ronda. Outside the city, the beautiful landscape a stone's throw from Ronda offers many opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, bird watching, climbing and paragliding. Some of the best hiking trails on the Costa del Sol can be found near Ronda. You can also go horseback riding and ballooning. The city is close to the Roman ruins of Acinipo and the famous Cueva de la Pileta caves whose paintings are more than 15,000 years old.

The wine of Ronda has made an important comeback over the past ten years. One of the most popular things to do in Ronda is to visit the local vineyards and taste the wine of Ronda. There are nearly 20 wine cellars in Ronda that produce delicious red and white wines, some of which have won international awards.

What cultural activities are there in Ronda?

Ronda has a year-round cultural programme with concerts and other events. The highlight of the year is the Ronda Fair, which takes place from late August to early September. The fair is held in honour of the 18th century bullfighter Pedro Romero and lasts a week. During the celebration you will find among others the nationally famous Goya-esque bullfights where bullfighters and visitors wear costumes of the painter Goya.

### **Eating out in Ronda**

There is a good selection of restaurants in Ronda, as well as excellent tapas bars. Ronda restaurants specialize mostly in local cuisine, where the emphasis is on game (venison, rabbit and boar in particular), oxtail and homemade cheese. The locally produced Payoyo is one of the best cheeses in Spain. Chestnuts grown in nearby Genal Valley can be found in many sauces and desserts served in restaurants and bars in Ronda.

### **What is a typical regional dish?**

There are several typical dishes of Ronda - a good tapas bar is one of the best ways to taste them. A particularly popular dish among locals is calabazas rondeñas (Ronda-style pumpkin) filled with cheese, almonds, breadcrumbs and spices, which are then baked in the oven. Another typical Ronda dish to eat is conejo a la rondeña, rabbit stewed in garlic and red wine.

### **Shopping in Ronda**

Ronda has a good selection of stores, including specialist food stores and stores selling other supplies. On the outskirts of the city you'll find large supermarkets like Supersol and Mercadona. In Marbella and Malaga you have a wider choice of shops, and it's only a short drive from Ronda.