



Ronda



Geography and history

Monuments and Museums

Festivals and traditions

Gastronomy and crafts



Ronda is one of the most ancient cities in Spain. Throughout its history it has had different names, Ronda was the Celtic Arunda, the Roman Acinipo and the Moorish Izn-Rand Onda. The river Guadalevín cuts the town in two and time has cut its deep Tajo or gorge, 120

metres deep and the town's identifying mark. On one side, new Ronda, wide and happy, with its historical bullring; on the other, ancient and intimate Ronda, full of monuments that are the living proof of its ancestral past. Both sides are joined by the Puente Nuevo or new bridge, built between 1751 and 1793, there are two other bridges as well, the Puente Romano or Roman bridge (from Moorish times) and the Puente Viejo or old bridge, built in the seventeenth century. Ronda is situated in the most north-west extreme of the province of Málaga, 54 kilometres from Marbella and 110 from Malaga airport in a basin encircled by medium high mountains, giving the place a magic character, which together with its climate, rainfall, vegetation and soil, have been a determining factor throughout its rich and diverse history. The average temperature in Ronda is 15° C, although winters tend to be cold. The city has an average of 2.700 hours of sun a year.



The archaeological site of Acinipo is just 12 kilometres from Ronda, from Roman times, there is still a theatre with its seats carved out of the rock and almost completely in tact along with the front part of the stage. You can find marks from all the cultures that have passed through Ronda in every street. The Moors enriched Ronda with city walls, of which the gates of the city like the Arco del Cristo, the Puerta de las Imágenes, the **Puerta de Almocábar** (part of the ancient Alcazaba) (3) and the Laurel castle are still standing, according to King Al Mutamid the castle was "the best jewel of my Kingdom". There are also **Moorish baths** (23) situated by the river, half buried by alluvium deposits, however the three main halls have been conserved. The Christian population added the Collegiate church of Santa María de la Encarnación, built over an ancient mosque. We have to add many other monuments to the aforementioned ones, like the **Minaret tower of San Sebastian** (16), the **Casa del Gigante** (10); the Casa del Jalifa,



ancient mansion of the 15th century; the **Joaquín Peinado Museum** (11), a contemporary of Picasso; the **Santo Domingo convent** (19), that offers courses as part of the Málaga University along with different exhibitions; the **house of the Rey Moro** (21); the Mondragón mansion house; the **municipal archaeological museum** (6) the **Salvatierra mansion house** (22); the **Renaissance Puerta de Carlos V** (22); the neoclassical **Puerta de Felipe V** (24); the **Ocho Caños fountain** (27); the Renaissance **church of the Espíritu Santo** (4); the **church of Nuestro Padre Jesús** (28), in Gothic-Mudejar style, the Renaissance **convent of San Francisco** (1) and the **Posada de las Ánimas inn** (29), dating from the sixteenth century, where Miguel de Cervantes stayed. A romantic land with a museum dedicated to Highwaymen that has a hall exclusively dedicated to the famous highwayman José María El Tempranillo. Ronda, cradle of bullfighting, with the **Real Maestranza** (33) de Ronda bullring, built in 1785, where Francisco Romero fought for the first time with a sword. The bullring is the stage of the famous Goyesque style bullfights every year.



Pedro Romero fair, it took over and became the most important celebration in Ronda. The Goyesque style bullfight has its own personality that makes it different from the rest. It combines the unique spectacle of this bullfight with the setting in the bicentennial Plaza de la Real Maestranza de Caballería de Ronda bullring. There is no doubt that the legendary name of Ronda became famous with the help of those adventurous Romantic travellers - Rainer Maria Rilke, Teófilo Gautier and Prosper Mérimée - who opened the way for other illustrious visitors like Orson Welles and Ernest Hemingway. Carnival has also become more and more popular on the festival calendar of Ronda. For over 25 years now Ronda has celebrated its



The most important festival in Ronda has its origins in the San Francisco suburb. In 1882 the first Stock Market of the September fair was held there. At this time, the May fair was the most significant in Ronda but then the September fair began to increase in popularity and from 1954, when it was called the



carnival in the month of February when the carnival groups and a cavalcade of fun add a note of colour. Gastronomy has its place at this festival and it is traditional to eat migas or fried bread crumbs in the Plaza de los Descalzaos. Finally, include Holy Week, declared of Tourist Interest and the May fair, which has become one of the main events in the province regarding agriculture and crafts.

Out of the many typical dishes served in Ronda, those based on game, which is plentiful here, have a special place in the local gastronomy. The traditional cuisine includes pumpkin Ronda style, fried breadcrumbs with chorizo sausage, oat cakes, broad beans with tomato, garlic and ham, beans with black pudding, almond soup and artichoke soup, gazpacho from the mountains, omelette Ronda style and lamb casserole.



Some of the popular specialities are rabbit Ronda style, ox-tail, pork loin stuffed with pine nuts, lamb "cochifrito", pork stew and pigs' trotters. Local wines include the must from the mountains and all the new wines that are produced in the Serranía de Ronda.

Desserts include sweets and cakes made in the convents and the yemas del Tajo made from egg yolks that visitors come especially to buy. Honey, chestnuts, different mushrooms from the mountains and olive oil are other quality products to try in Ronda. Craft activities in the Serranía de Ronda cover a long tradition and a wide range of different skills, from wooden furniture, ceramics, wrought iron work, saddlers (including utensils for farm work), leather goods, cork articles, work in esparto grass and cane.



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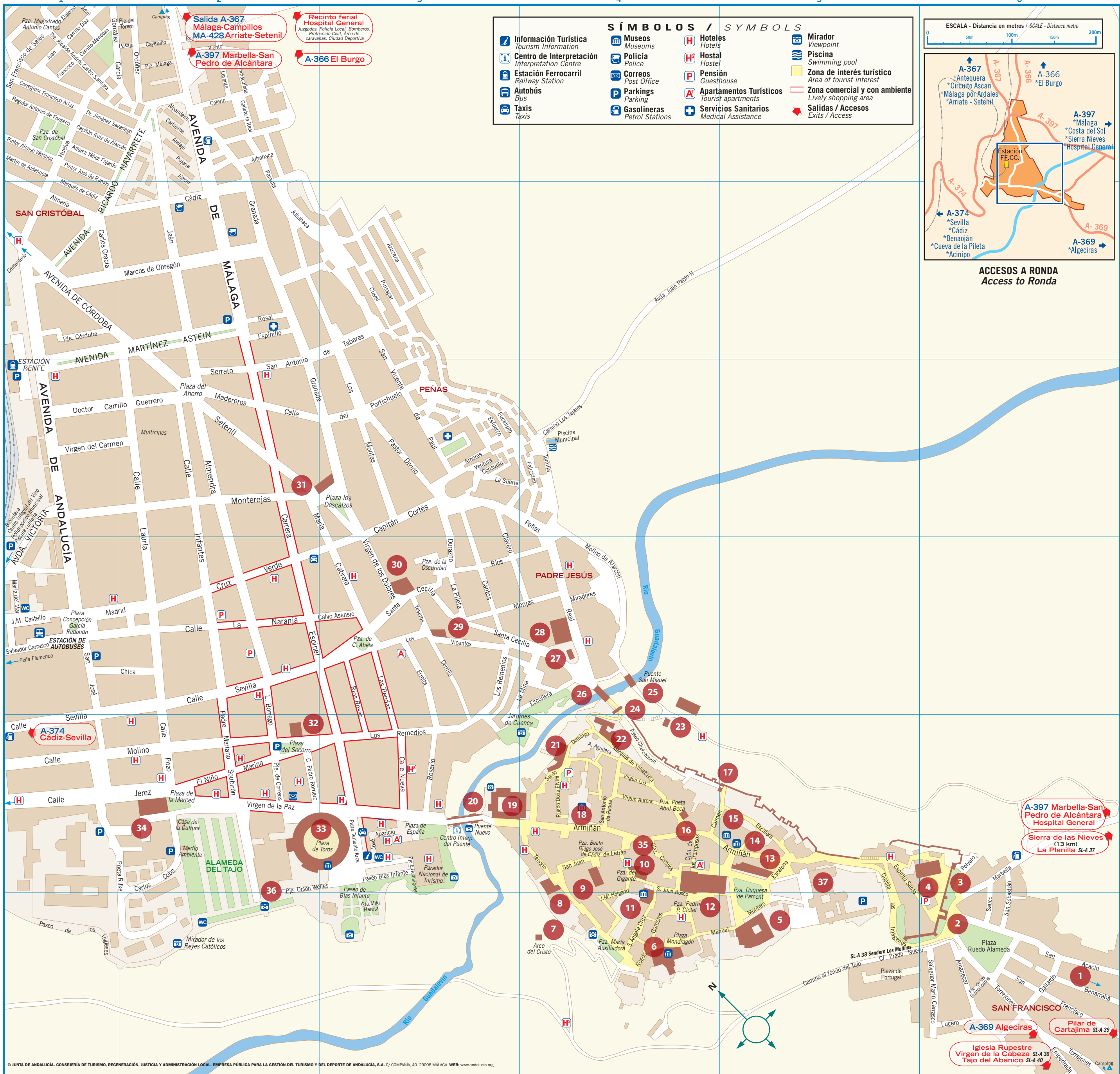
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Ronda



- 1 Convento de San Francisco
- 2 Puerta de Carlos V
- 3 Puerta de Almocábar
- 4 Iglesia del Espíritu Santo
- 5 Convento de Santa Isabel
- 6 Palacio de Mondragón. Museo Municipal
- 7 Arco del Cristo
- 8 Casa de San Juan Bosco
- 9 Iglesia Virgen de la Paz
- 10 Casa del Gigante
- 11 Museo Joaquín Peinado
- 12 Iglesia de Santa María la Mayor
- 13 Ayuntamiento
- 14 Museo del Bandalero
- 15 Exposición de Animales de Caza
- 16 Minarete de San Sebastián
- 17 Puerta y Murallas de la Xijara
- 18 Museo Lara
- 19 Convento de Santo Domingo - Palacio de Congresos
- 20 Puente Nuevo
- 21 Casa del Rey Moro
- 22 Palacio de los Marqueses de Salvatierra
- 23 Baños Árabes
- 24 Puerta de Felipe V
- 25 Puente Árabe o de San Miguel
- 26 Puente Viejo
- 27 Fuente de los Ocho Caños
- 28 Iglesia de Nuestro Padre Jesús
- 29 Posada de las Ánimas
- 30 Templo Virgen de los Dolores
- 31 Iglesia de Santa Cecilia
- 32 Iglesia del Socorro
- 33 Plaza de Toros. Museo Taurino
- 34 Convento de la Merced
- 35 Centro de Interpretación del Vino
- 36 Teatro Vicente Espinel
- 37 Iglesia Mª Auxiliadora