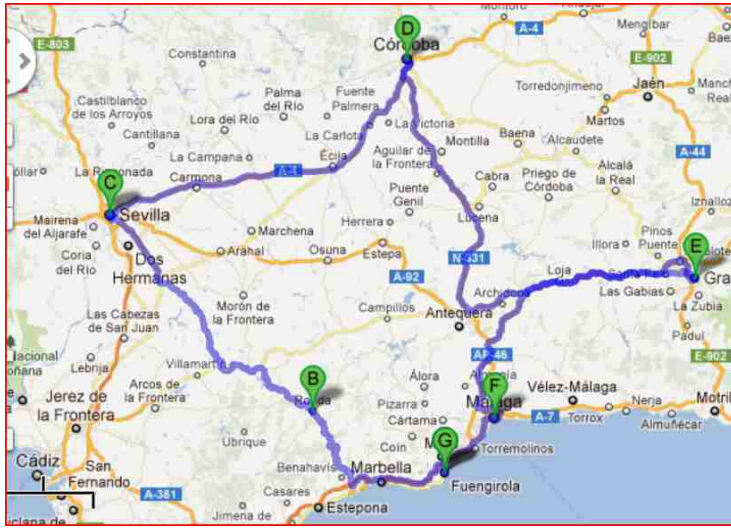


## ROUND TRIP: RONDA, SEVILLA, CORDOBA OG GRANADA GRANADA

After having visited Ronda, Seville and Cordoba, we continued to Granada the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. We ordered a taxi in the hotel resection. It was quick to come to the hotel, and after a few minutes we were at the railway station. The train left 11.10 and arrived in Granada 13.30. The train had one one stop on the way.

In the valley where Seville and Cordoba is situated, where the river Guadalquivir is flowing, we noticed the enormous agricultural areas with olive trees, vineyards and some vegetable cultivation. Everything looked very neat.



Granada is the capital in the province of Granada.

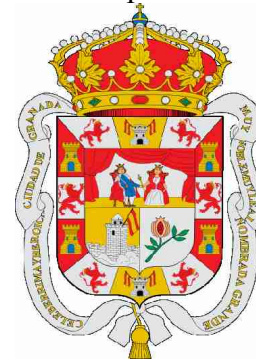
Already in the 600s BC there lived Phoenician, Carthaginian and Greek settlers in the area. In the 400s BC there lived Iberians in the town Ilturir, where Granada lies today. The Romans occupied the area in 193 BC. After the fall of the West Roman Empire in 476 AD the area was under the Visigoths with seat in Toledo and in 711 the area was invaded by the Moors, who gave the town the name Elvira. In the 1200s and 1300s the town was a center for science, culture and art. It was at those times, between 1248 and 1354, that Alhambra was built.

Granada was the Moor's last outpost in Spain. The 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1492 they had to surrender to King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I who expelled them from the city.

This was our travel route.



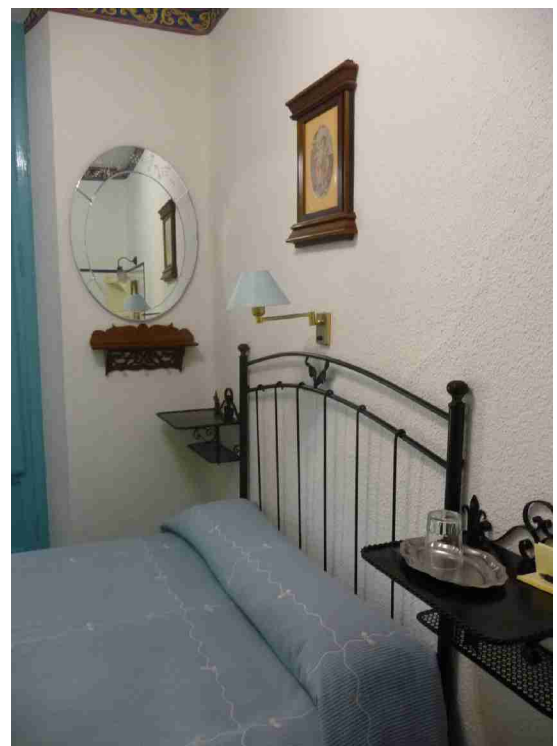
Flag



Coat of arms



We had made a reservation at a simple hotel named Hostal Venecia. It had shared bathrooms and showers, but that functioned quite OK.  
From the hall in the hotel.



From our room.



The hotel is situated very centrally at a square called Plaza St. Ana.



The square has got its name after the church [Santa Ana](#) that was built in 1501 at a place where there earlier was a mosque, Almanzra.



A view from the end of Plaza Santa Ana.

We had planned to order tickets to Alhambra on Internet the same evening as we arrived, but Internet that was promised, was not operational, so it was impossible to order.

We tried to speak with the hotel host, but he spoke only Spanish, and he was not interested to check anything. We asked him if he could do the order on his machine, but he would not do that.



Instead it was a walk through [Generalife](#), which lies above Alhambra.



Generalife (Arabic: Jannat al-'Arif – Architect's Garden) was the summer palace of the Nasrid Emirs in Granada.

The palace and the gardens was erected under Muhammed III's reign (1302-1309) and was redecorated shortly after by Ismail I (1313-1324).

Generalife is one of the oldest surviving Moorish gardens.

The present gardens were started in 1931 and was finished by Francisco Prieto Moreno in 1951.



The road up to the gardens from the ticket office.



View in direction of Granada and the the township of Albayzin.



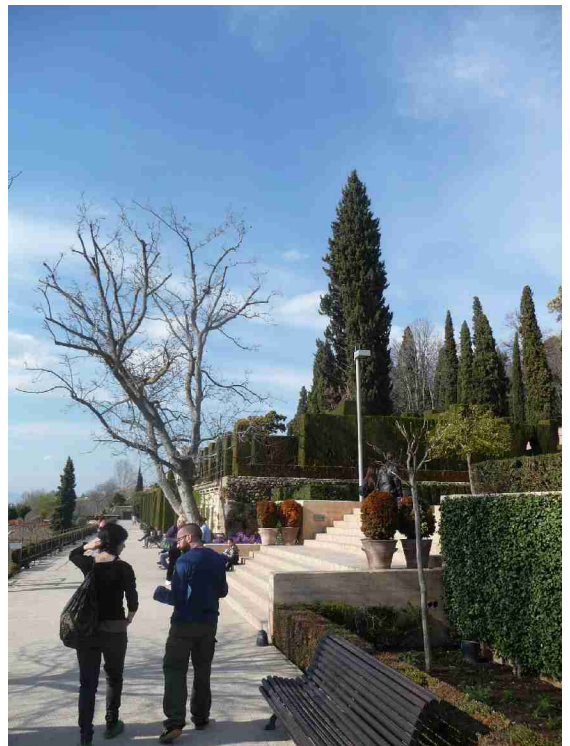
We can see the northern walls of Alhambra to the left.



Better view of Albayzin.

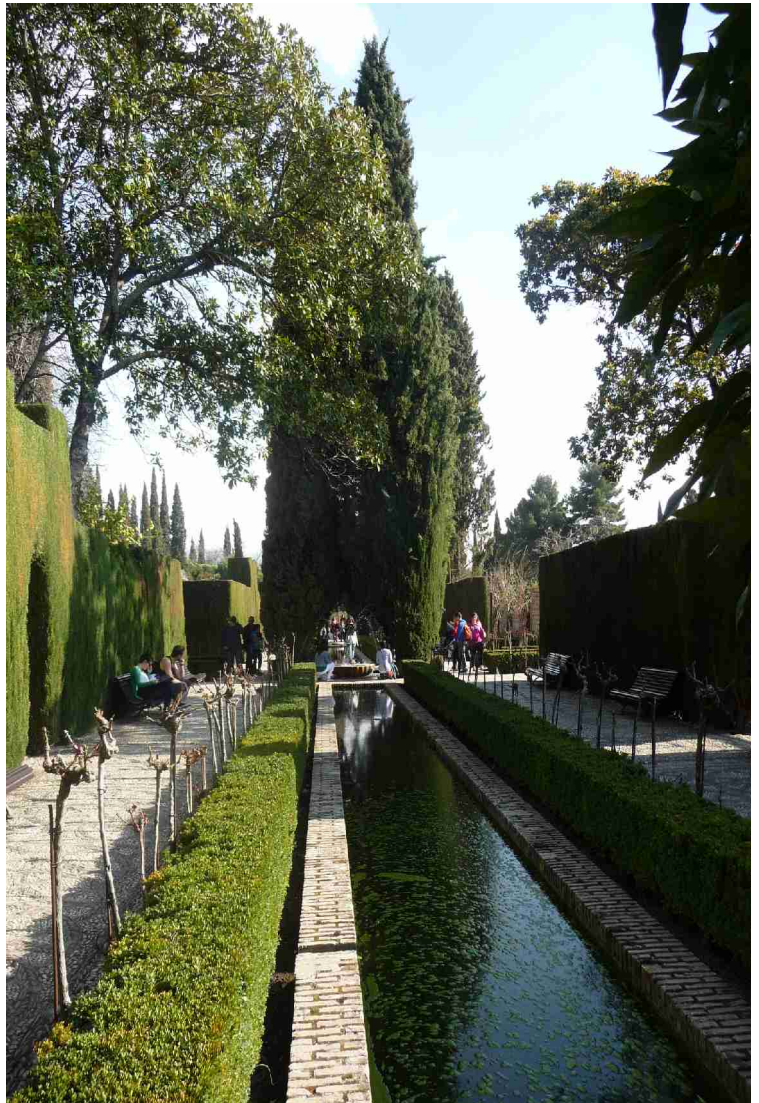
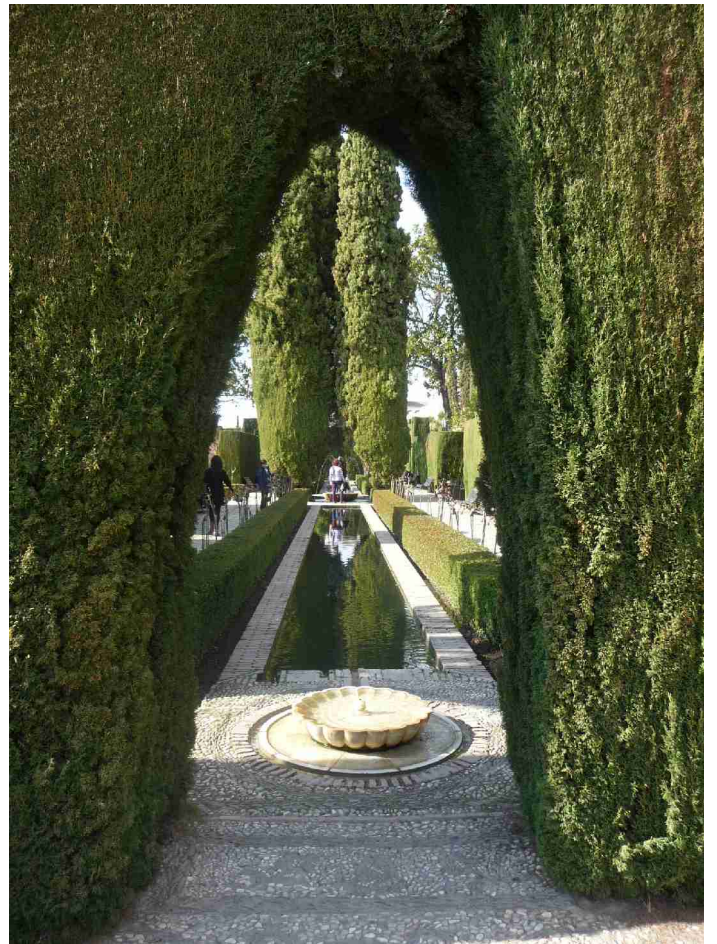


Passing a theater belonging to Generalife.





Arriving at [The Lower Gardens](#).





The entrance to Casa de los Amigos.



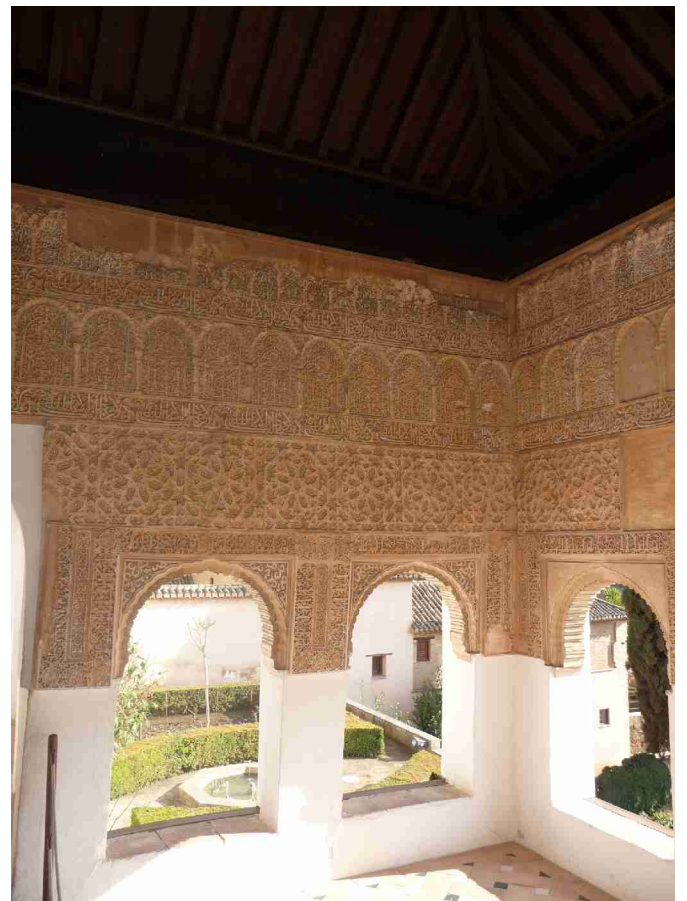
Patio de la Acequia.



View of Alhambra.

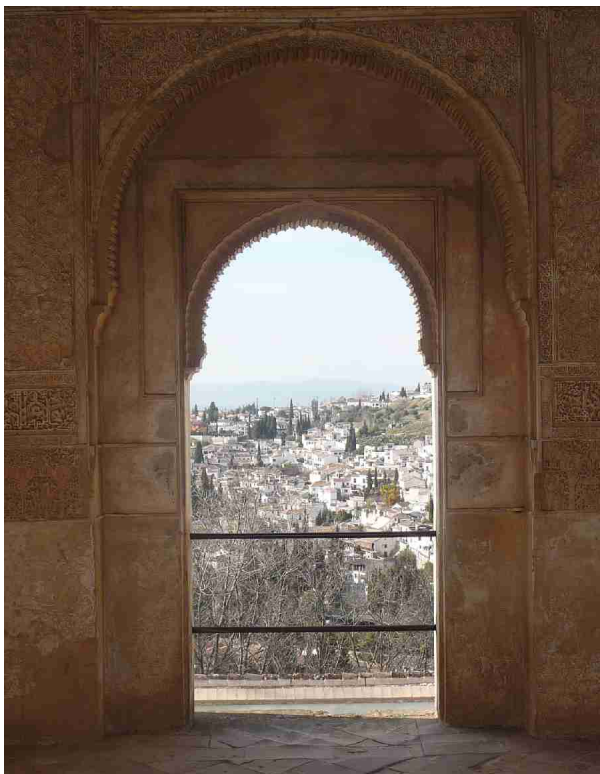


Daffodil.

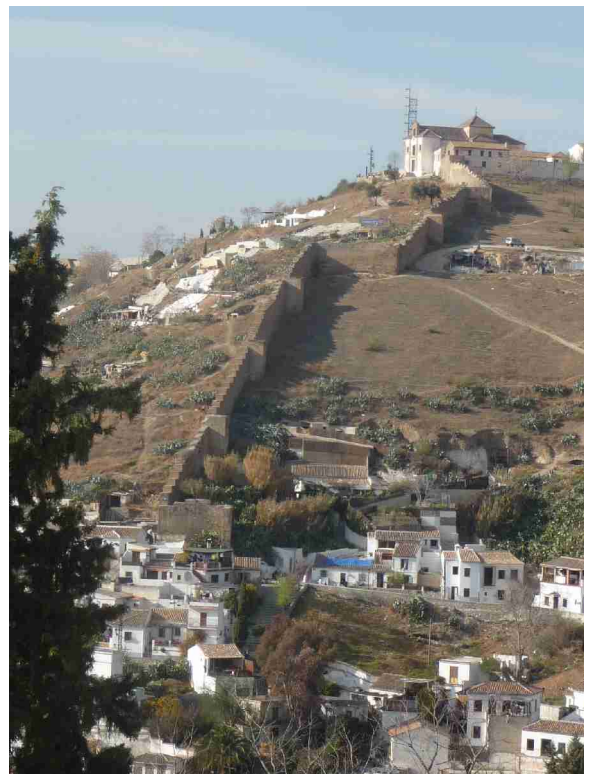




Still at Patio de la Acequia.



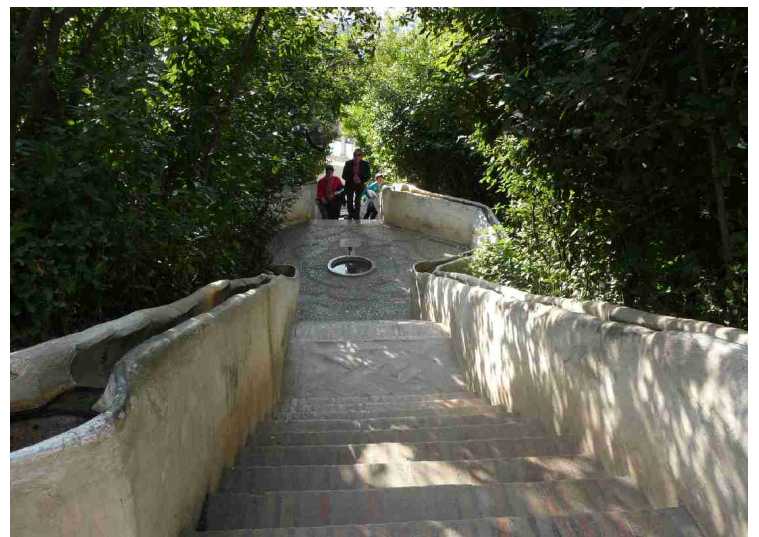
A view of El Albyzin.



Walls in El Albyzin from the 800s.



This area is called [Sultan's Cypress](#).



On our way down and out again.



Down in the city again at Plaza Santa Ana. A group playing swing-jazz.



She is in the band, dancing to the music and making a lot of fun.



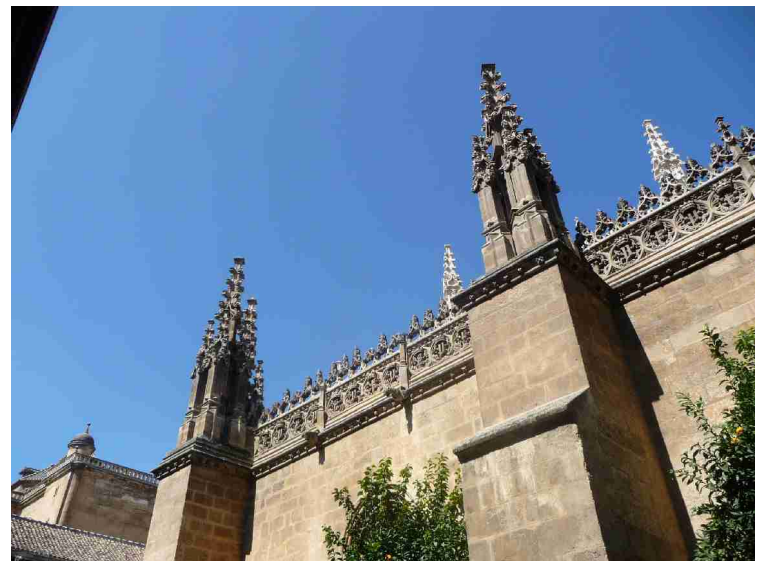
Finished.



A fountain at Plaza Isabel la Catolica.



Grand houses.



At the rear of the cathedral.



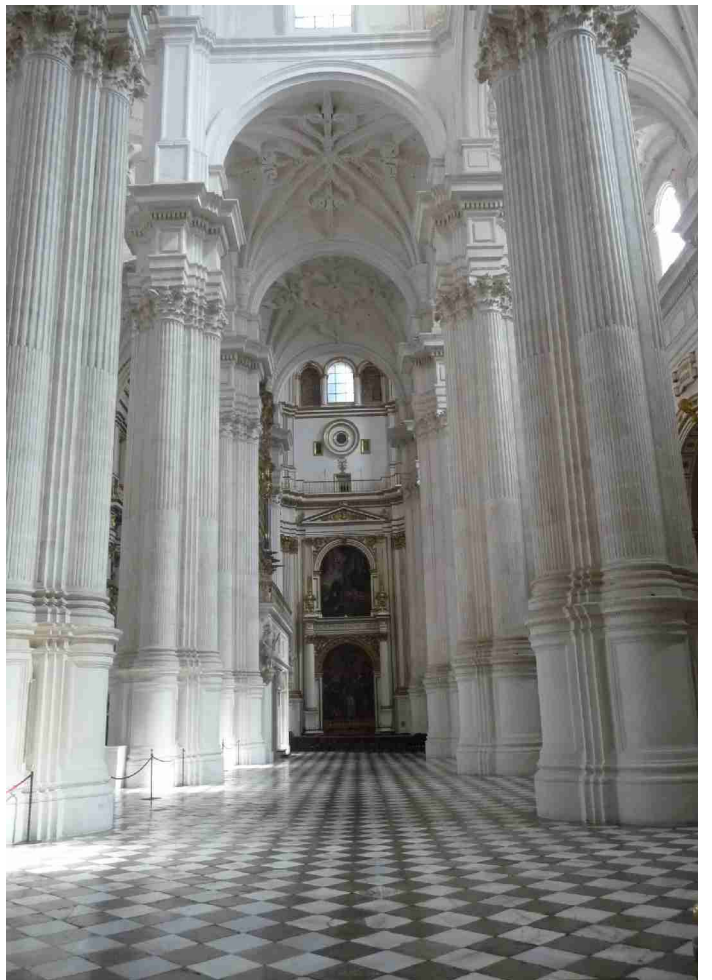
Another grand house, Palace Madraza, from 1349.  
Today a part of the university.



Still at the rear of the cathedral.



Inside one of the chapels in the cathedral.



The main chapel.



The main altar in the cathedral.





The Cathedral seen from the square in front of it.



A statue at Plaza Trinidad.

There were a lot of people in Granada this weekend and there were a lot of processions and various activities. Below a few pictures from one of the processions.





These guys formed the rear party. Heavy sound pressure from these drums.



One of the restaurants at the square.



Another procession. Quite a balance artist on the stilts.



Now we have entered a Hop-on-hop-off tourist bus. Looking down on another procession. Lot of people around.



All kinds of fantasy figures.





Looking forward in the bus.



Driving across the river [Genil](#).



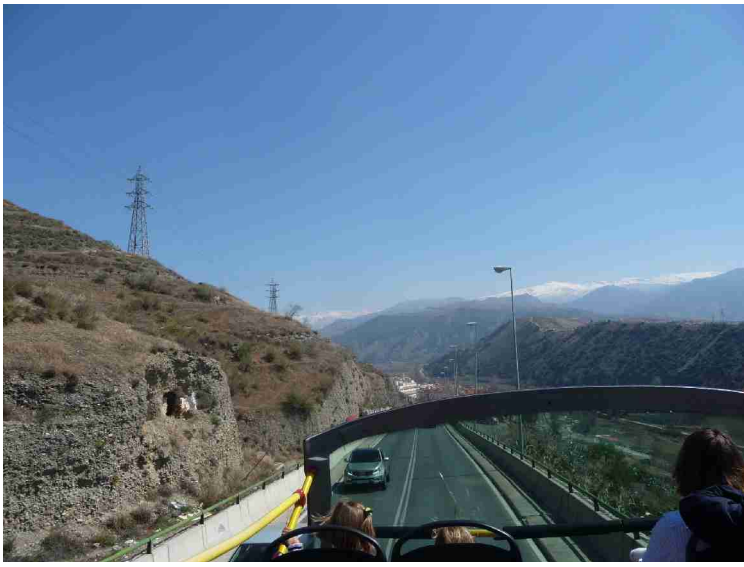
Driving up the valley to Alhambra. Sierra Nevada in the distance. The mountains here are the highest in mainland Spain. The highest is Mulhacén with 3479 meters.



Nice [almond tree](#) in bloom.



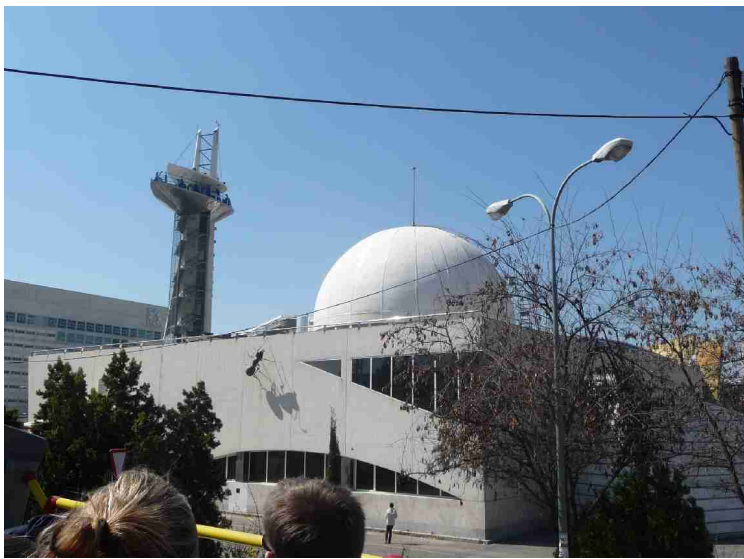
Looking up to [Sierra Nevada](#), where there still are a lot of snow.



Still Sierra Nevada in the distance.

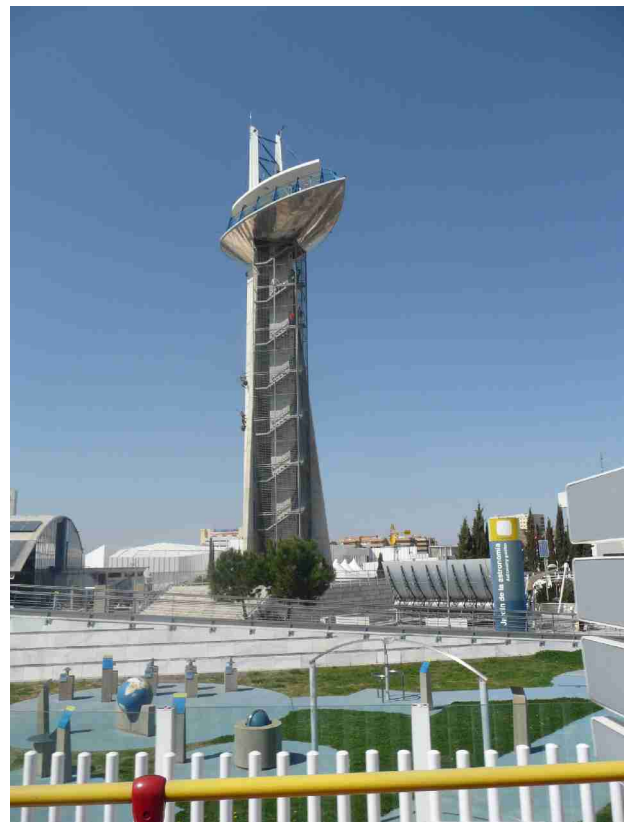


Up at the parking lot outside Alhambra.

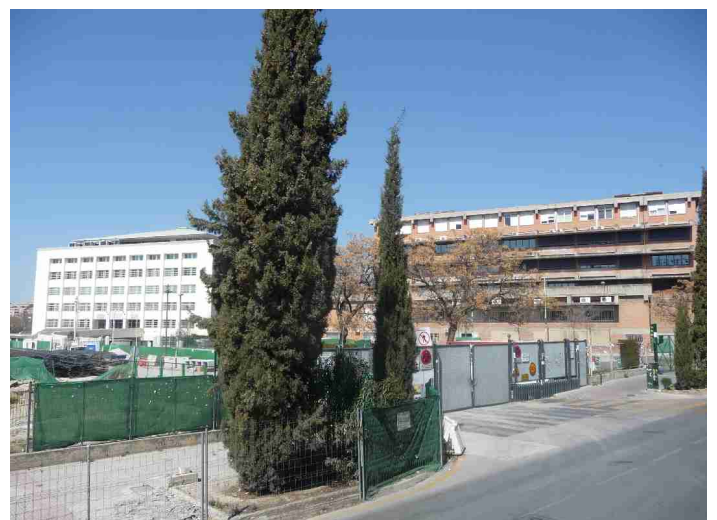


Down in the city again.  
This is an interactive technological museum,  
[Parque de las Ciencias](#).

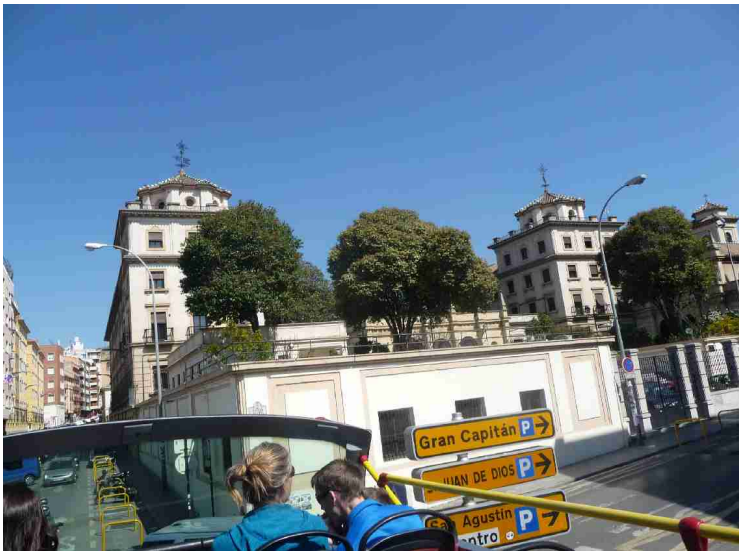
Notice the ant on the wall above and the ants that are crawling up the tower to the right.



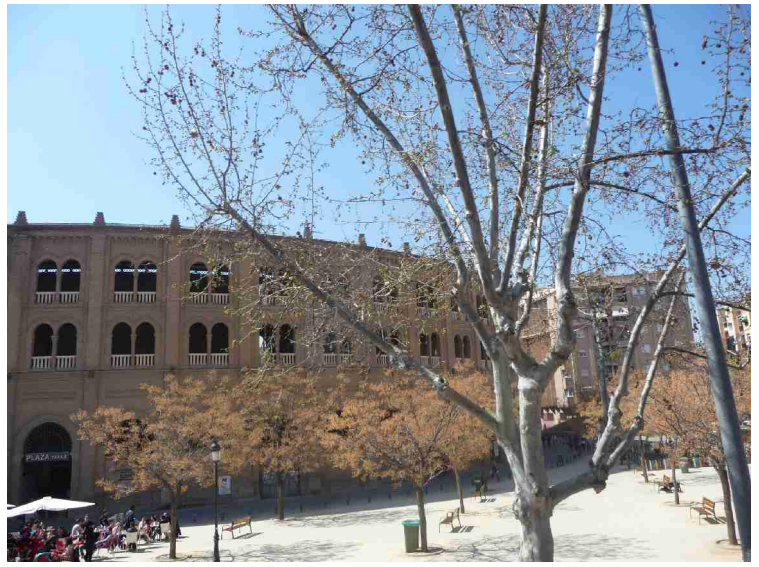
A propel airplane outside the museum.



A part of the [university](#) that was founded in 1531. It is one of Spain's best universities. It has over 60 000 students.



This is [Basilica de San Juan de Dios](#). It is here the founder of the Order of Knights Hospitallers is buried.



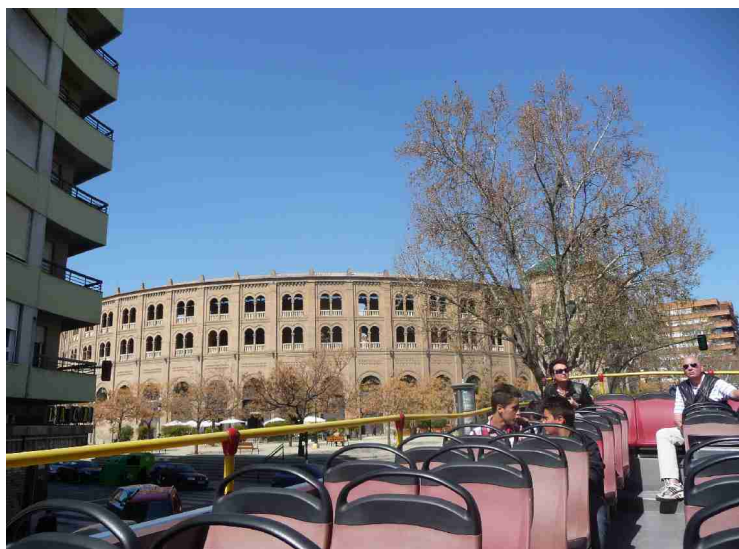
Plaza de Toros, the bullring in Granada.



The main entrance



Grand building.  
Of course a restaurant at one of the entrances.



Seen from a distance.



Then returning to the city center along the main street  
Gran via de Colon.



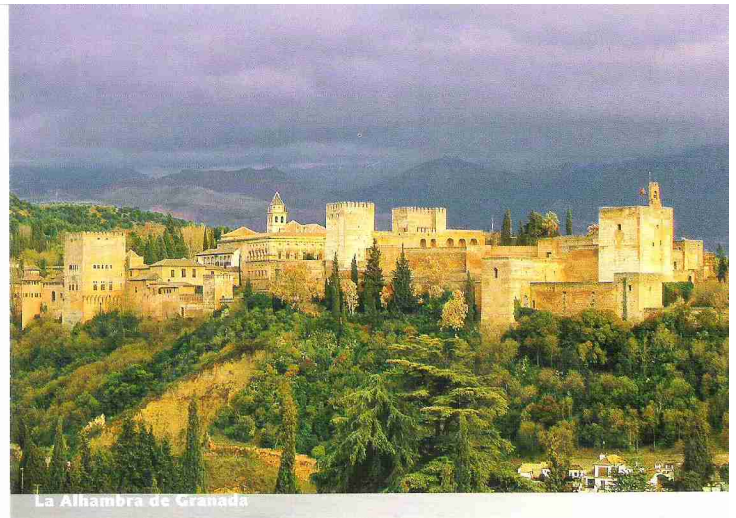
Looking up towards Albayzin.



Street lights along Gran via de Colon.



Nice houses along Gran via de Colon.



Granada is especially known for the castle [Alhambra](#) from the times when the moors ruled this part of Spain. Fthe castle is today on Unesco's list of World Heritage Sites and is one of Spain's biggest tourist attractions.

Since we didn't succeed to get in there, we are presenting a couple of post cards.

We had planned to return from Granada to Malaga by train. Because of not having access to Internet, we could not check bus and train schedules and traveling times. We took a taxi from the hotel to the train station. Here they recommend to take the bus. We therefore took a new taxi to the bus station.

There we bought tickets to the next bus, which went non-stop to Malaga shortly after.

From Malaga to Fuengirola we took the train.

