

TO DO

GRANADA

➤ ALHAMBRA

Obviously a MUST DO. It's one of the most famous attractions in Spain and you will THOROUGHLY regret it if you don't visit. Make sure you go in both palaces and the royal garden ("Generalife"). While you can totally enjoy the visit without any kind of guide just based on the purely aesthetic beauty of the Alhambra, I definitely recommend splurging for a guided tour. Try not to go to the last showing of the day because you do not want to be rushed out. Get tickets in advance and skip the always insane line!

➤ CATEDRAL DE GRANADA

*When traveling in Spain, it can seem like once you've seen one glorious cathedral, you've seen them all. While the interior is spectacular, the most unique part is the "Real Capilla", which houses the tombs of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel—the Catholic rulers who sent Christopher Columbus to America! **Pro tip: there are always women giving out rosemary – it is NOT a gift. You will have to pay if you take it.***

➤ ALCAHCEÍA

Granada is probably the closest you can get to Morocco without actually going to Morocco. There is even a hidden away Moroccan-style marketplace right off Plaza Bib-Rambla.

➤ MIRADOR DE SAN NICOLAS

Arguably one of the most beautiful views of Granada, this lookout point is definitely worth getting lost in the Albayzín (which you almost certainly will in your attempts to find it). It's a tourist hotspot so don't feel bad asking someone to take your picture with the Alhambra in the background!

➤ HAMMAM AL ÁNDALUS ARAB BATHS

*If you're looking for a way to relax, nothing beats an afternoon at the Hammam! Just remember—it's not like an actual Moroccan bathhouse: men & women go together and a swimsuit is ABSOLUTELY necessary! **Pro tip: see if you apply for the youth or student discounts—they are great deals and include massages!***

➤ PARQUE GARCÍA LORCA

Whether you're looking for a place to go running or to just soak up some southern Spanish sun, this park is the perfect place to spend a few hours. It's Granada's very own Eden!

➤ CARMEN DE LOS MARTIRES

Another beautiful park, this one is on the way to the Alhambra and has peacocks roaming around! FUN!

TAPAS

➤ POË

This personally one of my favorite tapas bars but it is admittedly not very authentic to the Spanish experience. The owner of the pub is British but lived in Portugal for many years and the tapas definitely reflect his international influences. I think this place has the most flavorful food in Granada!

Recommended tapa: Thai Chicken Pro tip: try a flaming absinthe shot!

➤ OM-KALSUM

Since Granada has such a strong Moroccan influence, it is only appropriate that there is a Moroccan tapas bar! I highly recommend the veggie couscous and the tajine!

➤ LOS DIAMANTES

If you like seafood, you MUST check this place out. It's a little pricier than is common in Granada, but the food is WELL worth it! Seating is communal so don't be afraid to make a friend while you're there!

➤ TABERNA LA TANA

For a more sophisticated vibe, check out this wine bar! The tapas are not big enough to be meals on their own, but it is a fantastic 2nd or 3rd stop of the night when the point is to have a nice glass of wine and enjoy a bit of good food.

➤ CHANTARELA

In classic Spanish style, this place serves big portions of rich food. Be warned: you don't get to choose the tapas, but you'll be so intrigued by what comes next that you'll end up staying for far too many rounds to find out when the options run out!

➤ LA BELLA CURVA

If you're in the mood for international food (including decent sushi) check this place out! They've got a fun vibe AND cute merch!

➤ EL TAPEO DE PILLÍN

If you want a glimpse into the student life, try this bar. It's always full of students for good reason—they give you two giant tapas and a "jar" of beer for the price of a normal sized tapa anywhere else. Be warned, it's definitely quantity over quality here, but you'll be so excited at the price you might not even care.

TAPAS CONT.

- **ITACARE**
For a more casual vibe, check out this bar. Good service and rich food—the only downside is the smaller portions.
- **CASA LOPEZ**
*Another British-owned pub, this place specializes in homemade British dishes, including (on SOME nights) a ribs tapa! The owner is super friendly and it can serve as a much needed English recluse. **Pro tip: try the Crabby's ginger beer!***
- **LEMON ROCK**
Perfect for tapas, drinks, or a good lunch, this hostel/bar has some of the best food in town (including healthier options like quinoa) and features live music on the weekends!
- **EL ASTURIANO**
If you can't make it up to the Asturias region of Spain, this is the next best thing! A region that specializes in cider, you can have the full Asturian experience at this bar, complete with the traditional cider pouring techniques!
- **LA BODEGA DE VINNY**
*When it comes to quality and quantity you simply CANNOT beat Vinny's. Be prepared to be blown away by the quantity of home cooked food you will receive here. Be warned: it is a very popular spot without much space, so you have to get there early to get a spot at the bar! **Pro tip: order a fancy cocktail and you get an Oreo cookie as your tapa!***
- **SPANGLISH CRAFT COCKTAIL BAR**
OK, I have to admit I haven't been here yet myself but I have heard AMAZING things and it is on the top of my list for the next time I'm back in Granada!

BREAKFAST

- **CAFÉ BARAKA**
I found it late in the game, but this place quickly became my favorite breakfast spot. They've got the Spanish classics (tostada, etc.) and some American favorites (French Toast, crepes, etc.) as well! Plus, they have delicious fruit smoothies and are dog friendly!
- **HOTEL PENSIÓN LANDAZURI**
This recommendation might seem random (and I certainly thought it was when a British couple recommended it to me at a bar one night) but they really do have the BEST greasy breakfast at unbelievably cheap prices.

DRINK

- **SAN MATIAS 30**
BEST COCKTAILS EVER. They specialize in flavored mojitos and they are AMAZING. Enough said.
- **COTTON CLUB**
If you enjoy a good gin & tonic (which is a specialty throughout Spain), this is the place for you! Complementary gummy bears included!
- **CHUPITERIA 69**
A bar that only serves shots! Granted, the quality of the shots is very low and almost all the shots are disgusting in reality, but it's a fun experience and the drinks are cheap so why not stop by for just one shot?
- **LOS PORRONES**
*If you want to try a truly new drinking experience, stop by this bar and order a porrón, which is basically a glass teapot with a long spout that you use pour directly into your mouth. It sounds crazy and it is but it's a fun time. **Pro tip: do NOT wear white. You WILL spill.***
- **CARMEN DE LA VICTORIA**
A hidden gem, this hotel's bar is the only place in town that can rival Mirador de San Nicolas's view of Granada. Plus, there's no tourist crowd. It's the perfect place to sneak away and enjoy a nice drink with an amazing view.

SWEETS

- **CUATRO GATOS**
This bakery is well worth the hike into the Albayzín. They have the MOST scrumptious treats in all of Granada.
- **CAFÉ BOHEMIA**
This place is a MUST do! It really feels like going back in time to a 1920s speakeasy, jazz bar that also offers alcoholic ice cream treats!
- **YSLA**
If you're looking for a classic dessert, try the piononos here. They may be small but they pack a punch of sugar!
- **LOS ITALIANOS**
If gelato is your jam, make sure you check out Los Italianos. Rumor has it the Obamas tried it one of their visits to Spain and LOVED it and if it's good enough for Barack and Michelle, well, who are we to judge otherwise!

SWEETS CONT.

➤ CAFÉ FUTBOL

*It wouldn't be a complete trip to Spain without trying churros con chocolate. This café is famous for their churros and is worth a visit! **Pro tip: it is a rite of passage to go out all night and to stay up until this place opens at 6 AM to go for churros after the club.***

PARTY

➤ MAE WEST

This is by far Granada's "hottest" club. It has multiple dance floors and plenty of space. Most nights you can count on hearing a combination of salsa music and the latest hits.

➤ LSCÁNDALO

If clubs aren't really your scene, this is a more manageable way to get your dancing in. This bar has a dance floor and oftentimes plays the reggaeton classics. Be warned: this place tends to attract a younger crowd.

➤ CAMBORIO

Known as the "gringo" club, this is where the international students tend to go. Don't let its reputation turn you off though—you will never feel cooler than catching your breath on the Camborio terrace, which directly looks across to the Alhambra.

➤ GRANERO

Not as popular with tourists, this club is quite tiny but it's absolutely perfect if you're looking to dance the night away in close quarters to classic Spanish jams.

➤ PLAYMOBILE CLUB

If you're more of the alternative persuasion, Granada can also cater to you! This bar rocks out to alternative rock and almost always ends the night with a bar-wide rendition of "Wonderwall"

SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

➤ SKIING IN SIERRA NEVADA

Thanks to Granada's proximity to the Sierra Nevadas, there are plenty of opportunities to immerse yourself in nature. Skiing in the Sierra Nevadas is a little expensive, but then again when isn't skiing expensive? You can rent all the equipment on site, no reservations necessary. I wouldn't say it was the best skiing I've ever done (Colorado holds that rank) but it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and the views of the green valleys from the snow-topped mountains are unbelievable.

➤ LAS ALPUJARRAS

*If you're looking to experience a true Spanish village, the Alpujarras are the perfect destination! You can easily spend an afternoon hiking through the natural landscape and enjoying the quaint village life. **Pro tip: there is a FANTASTIC chocolate shop in the village that gives out free samples. Make sure you check it out!***

➤ LOS CAHORROS (MONACHIL)

If you're someone you enjoys hiking, this is definitely worth a day trip! Beautiful views, waterfalls, suspension bridges—this park has it all!

➤ BEACHES

While Granada itself doesn't have any beach access, it is just a quick bus ride to the Mediterranean. Close beaches include: Nerja & Almuñécar.

COFFEE

➤ LA QARMITA

By far my favorite coffee shop of all time, this is an owner-proclaimed feminist coffee shop/bookstore. In addition to standard coffee fare, this place also has amazing alcoholic coffee drinks and AWESOME cake pops!

➤ TETERIAS

*Whether or not you are a big tea drinker, you have to try out one of Granada's teterías. There is a whole neighborhood of them off of Plaza Nueva and while they are pretty interchangeable some have cooler vibes than others. **Pro tip: make it a party and order a hookah for the table!***