

# Spain - The Grand Tour

## Part1- Cordoba to Cadiz



Joy & Andrew Lievesley







# Spain - The Grand Tour Part1- Cordoba to Cadiz



T	29/04/2014	Stay with Lionl	Bkng ref: 7XEFGU BA8753 Lon City to Madrid Barajas T4S Dep 09.20 Ar 12.45			
W	30/04/2014	London	Madrid... Ciudad Real ( 2:30Hrs)	Ciudad Real	Silken Alfonso X, Carlos Vázquez, 8. 13001 Ciudad Real	<a href="http://www.hoteles-silken.com">www.hoteles-silken.com</a>
T	01/05/2014	Ciudad Real	Cordoba - 3 Hrs	Cordoba	Hotel Albucahis, Buen Pastor, 11, 14003 Córdoba	<a href="http://www.hotelalbucahis.com">www.hotelalbucahis.com</a>
F	02/05/2014	Cordoba		Cordoba		
S	03/05/2014	Cordoba	Granada (2Hrs)	Granada	Carmen de la Alcubilla del Caracol. Hotel, C/Aire Alta, 12 18009 Granada	<a href="http://www.alcubilladelcaracol.com">www.alcubilladelcaracol.com</a>
S	04/05/2014	Granada		Granada		
M	05/05/2014	Granada		Granada		
T	06/05/2014	Granada	Ronda (2 Hrs)	Ronda	Hotel Ronda, Ruedo Doña Elvira, 12 (in front of La Casa del Rey Moro)	<a href="http://www.hotelronda.net">www.hotelronda.net</a>
W	07/05/2014	Ronda	Arcos de la Frontera (1Hr)	Arcos de la Fr	Hotel El Convento, Calle Maldonado, 2 Arcos de la Frontera, 11630 – Cádiz	<a href="http://www.hotelesconvento.es">www.hotelesconvento.es</a>
T	08/05/2014	Arcos d l Fr	Cadiz (0:45Hrs)	Cadiz	Hotel Monte Puertatierra, Avenida de Andalucía 34, 11008 Cadiz	<a href="http://www.hotelesmonte.com">www.hotelesmonte.com</a>
F	09/05/2014	Cadiz	Seville (1:30 Hrs)	Seville	Hotel Abanico, C/ Aguilas 17, 41003 Seville	<a href="http://www.hotelabanico.com">www.hotelabanico.com</a>
S	10/05/2014	Seville		Seville		
S	11/05/2014	Seville		Seville		
M	12/05/2014	Seville	Caceres (3 Hrs)	Caceres	HUSA GRAN HOTEL DON MANUEL San Justo, 15 10003 Cáceres	<a href="http://www.husa.es/en/hotel-husa-gran-hotel-don-manuel.htm">http://www.husa.es/en/hotel-husa-gran-hotel-don-manuel.htm</a>
T	13/05/2014	Caceres	Salamanca (2Hrs)	Salamanca	NH Puerta de la Catedral, Plaza Juan XXIII 5, 37008 Salamanca, Spain	<a href="http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/spain/salamanca/nh-puerta-de-la-catedral.html">www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/spain/salamanca/nh-puerta-de-la-catedral.html</a>
W	14/05/2014	Salamanca		Salamanca		
T	15/05/2014	Salamanca	Madrid Airport return car by 17:00 (2:30)	Madrid	C/ Atocha, 2, 28012 - Madrid	<a href="http://www.h-plazamayor.com">www.h-plazamayor.com</a>
F	16/05/2014	Madrid		Madrid		
S	17/05/2014	Madrid		Madrid		
S	18/05/2014	Madrid	Tolado	Madrid	Out Atocha: 08:50 Ar 09:23 / Retun Tolado 20:25 Ar 20:58	
M	19/05/2014	Madrid	London	Home	BA 463 Madrid Barajas T4S Dep 19.40 Ar 21.00 LHR T5	

This book is the photographic record of our journey through southern Spain in May 2014.

I think we agreed on a scale of 1 to 10, the holiday scored an exhausting 9.

The weather, booze and accommodation was good, food variable and the cities always interesting





After spending the night with Kathryn and Jon we had an exciting time getting to Madrid from London City airport. A mixture of tube strike, taxi dash then delayed flight due to mist at the airport we eventually collected our hire car (an underpowered 1.2ltr Corsa) at 3.30pm.

We then had a reasonably pleasant drive to Ciudad Real, which was always planned as just a stop off point between Madrid and Cordoba.

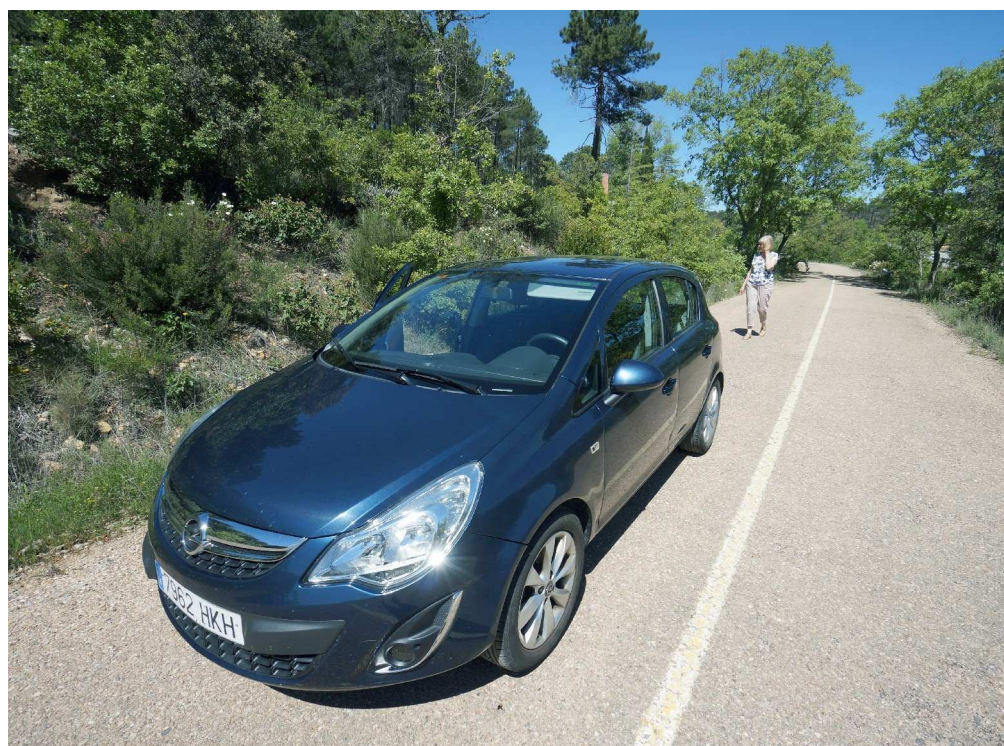
Because the hotel was in a pedestrian area our GPS refused to take us there. Eventually we found our way to its hidden access; behind a garage door and to the lift that took us down to the bijou car park. It was the cheapest hotel of our stay (due to being a non-tourist town).... It was also very good, a great room with view overlooking the pedestrian streets.

We ate in the town square at a place recommended by the hotel. The view was good, wine great, but the food questionable.....a series of dips.

The next morning we had a quick look round the town centre and after knocking off the cathedral we decided we had seen all there was to see.

Then on the road to Cordoba.









## Cordoba

Finding the hotel was once again exciting, as it was in the middle of a restricted area with a big festival taking place. We cracked the problem by paying a taxi driver to lead the way. Dumping our bags we grabbed an indifferent tapas lunch before going straight into a walking trip around the town via the Jewish quarter before collapsing in a cafe for water near the riding school. Onwards then to the river and bridge before calling time out for a well deserved beer by the river.

We booked a pleasant looking restaurant for the next night evening meal and ate at another tapas place which was good and went to bed having achieved the plan.

The next day we were up early for a free visit to the Mezquita, then back to the hotel for breakfast. Afterwards we walked to a large square used by the Romans as a circus etc.... more coffee. We then strolled on to a small local art gallery.

Exhausted by our efforts we had a beer, before moving seamlessly on to lunch of tortilla and chopped tomatoes. Suitably refreshed we walked the back streets to visit the Alcazar and gardens. Again we stopped near the riding school for water and shade.

After a break at the hotel to 'prepare my body' we went out for a drink followed by a tour of a local church which was preparing for a wedding .... we sat outside and watched. The evening meal was great and not too expensive, taken at a small restaurant with tables outside in the pedestrian area. I tried a sangria or two, wine would have been a better choice. The meal finished with complimentary desert wine. We later discovered that this restaurant was number 1 out of 435 in Cordoba according to Trip Advisor.



























































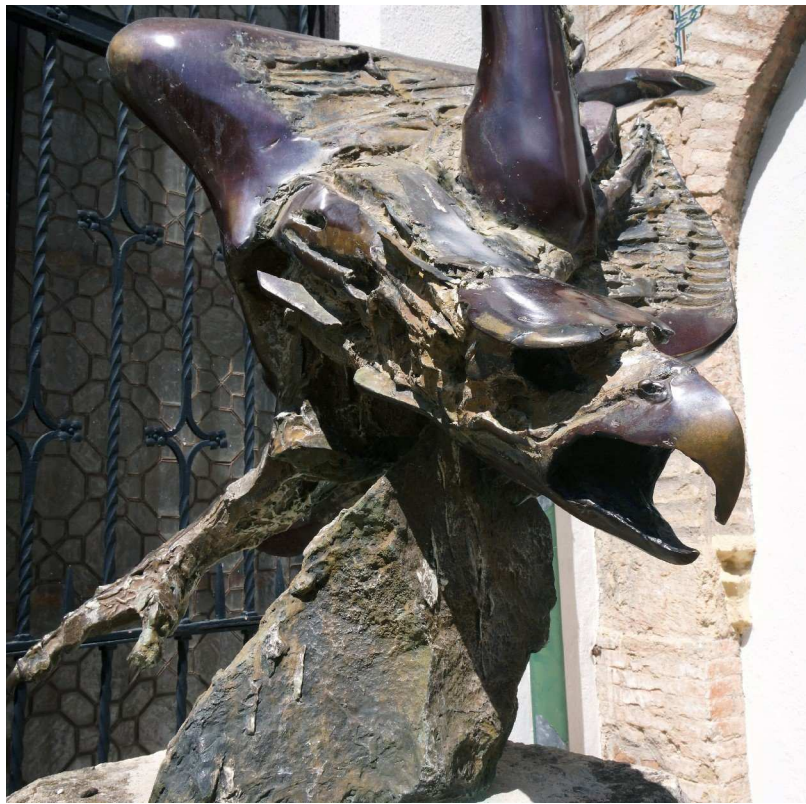
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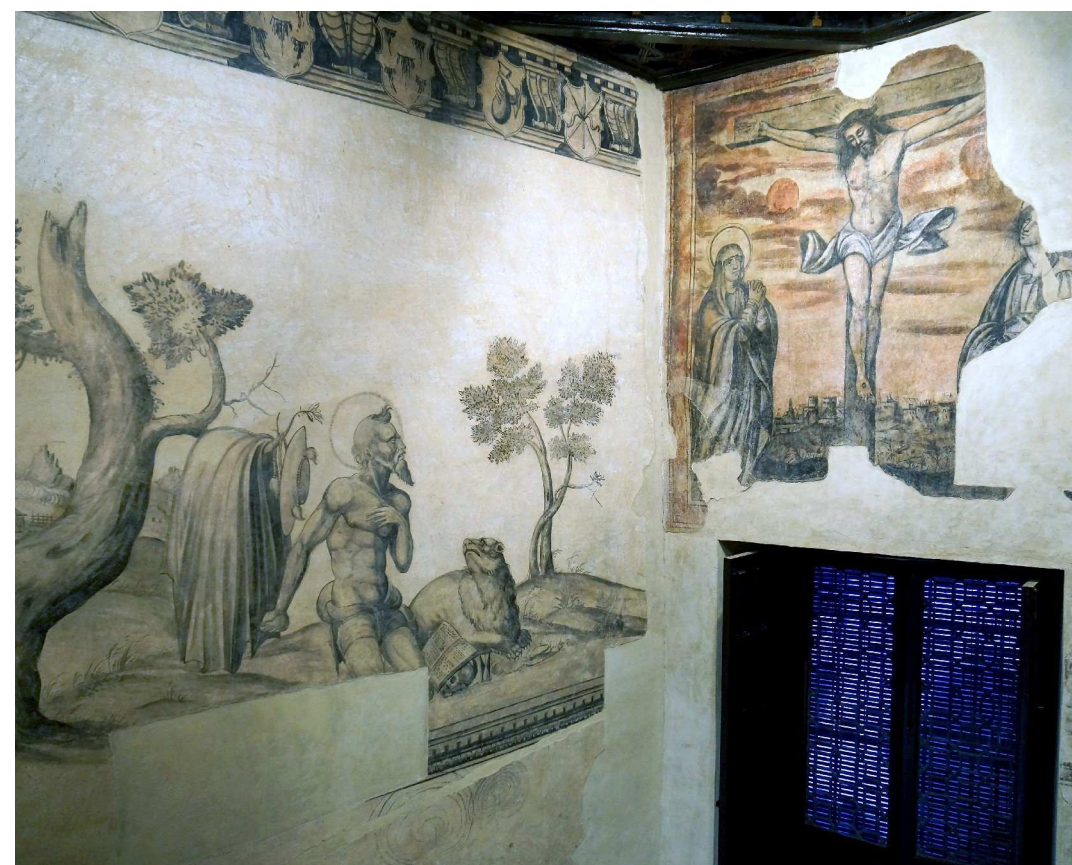
































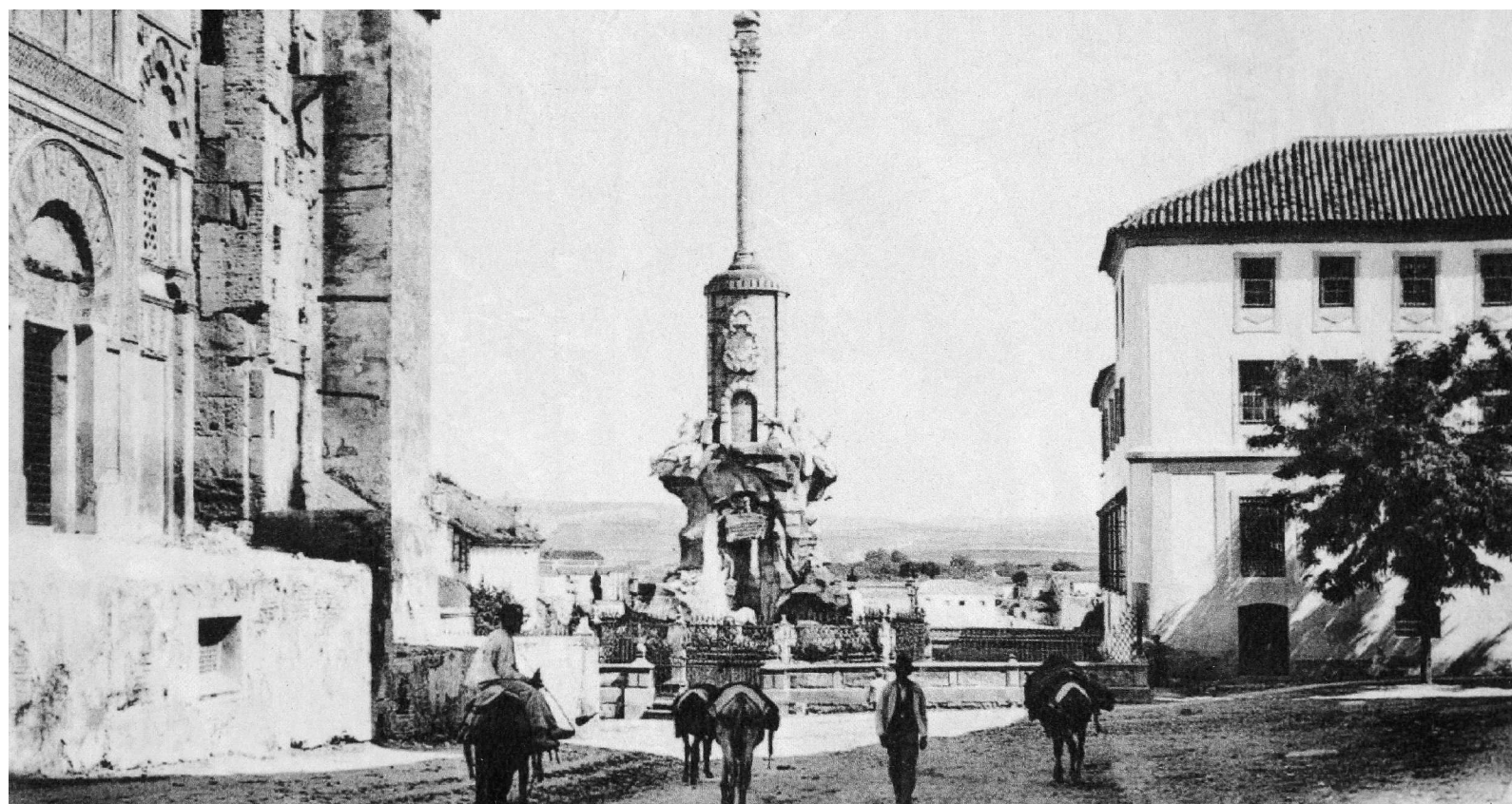




























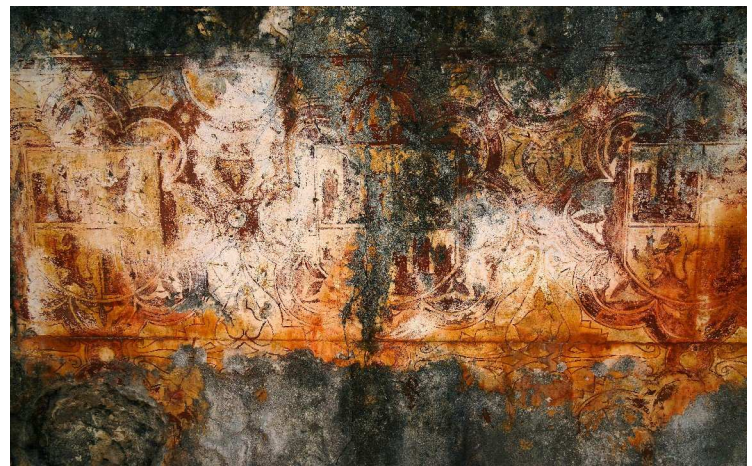
















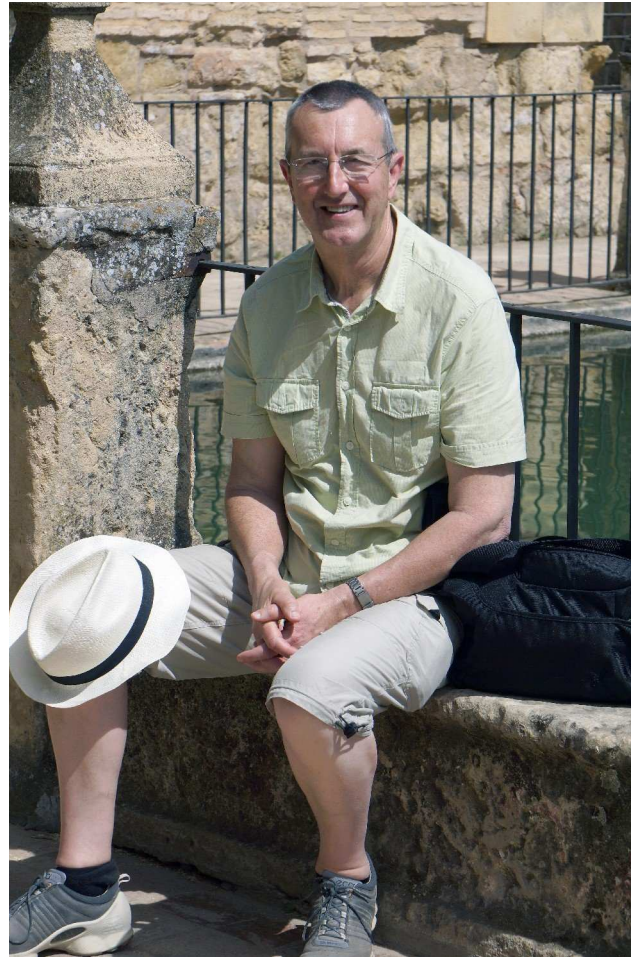




































## Granada and The Alhambra Palace

We drove to Granada through olive groves and via Priego de Cordoba, with views over the local hills. At 4pm we arrived at our hotel which was beautifully situated on a hillside, looking one way to the snow topped mountains of the Sierra Nevada and the other over the city of Granada. After dumping our cases we walked down into Granada at just the right time: the festival procession was about to begin .....parading horses, carts and waggons. After some tapas and beer we visited the cathedral then on to an expensive but good fish restaurant.

The next day we visited the Alhambra, which was every bit as interesting as we were told it would be. In the evening we strolled into town for a cheaper supper. Melon & Ham + Paella was OK but the pud was birds eye custard..... so we had a follow up ice cream before climbing the stairs to the hotel.

On our final day we walked round the old Moorish district and had an inexpensive but great lunch in a small square. Followed by a twice round the route bus ride as we could not work out where it was going. In the evening we visited the chapel by the cathedral where some notable Spanish Kings & Queens are buried, then on to a monastery of secluded nuns, impressive chapel completely covered in paintings.



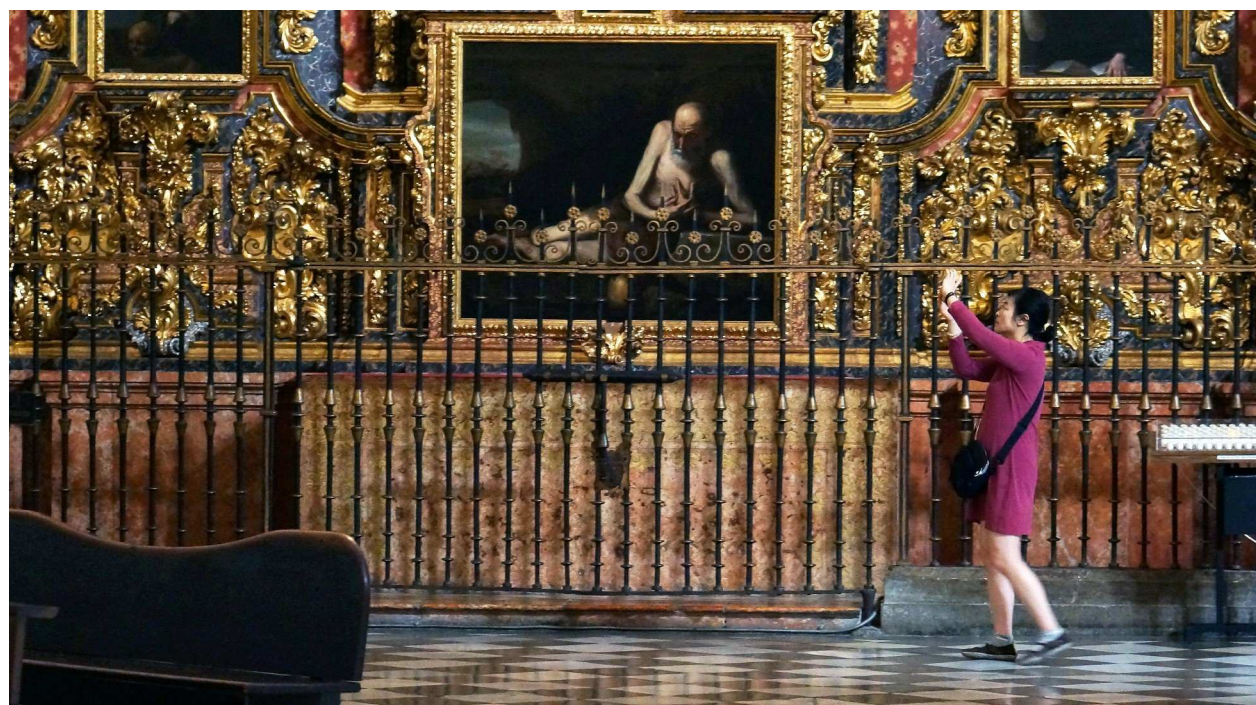
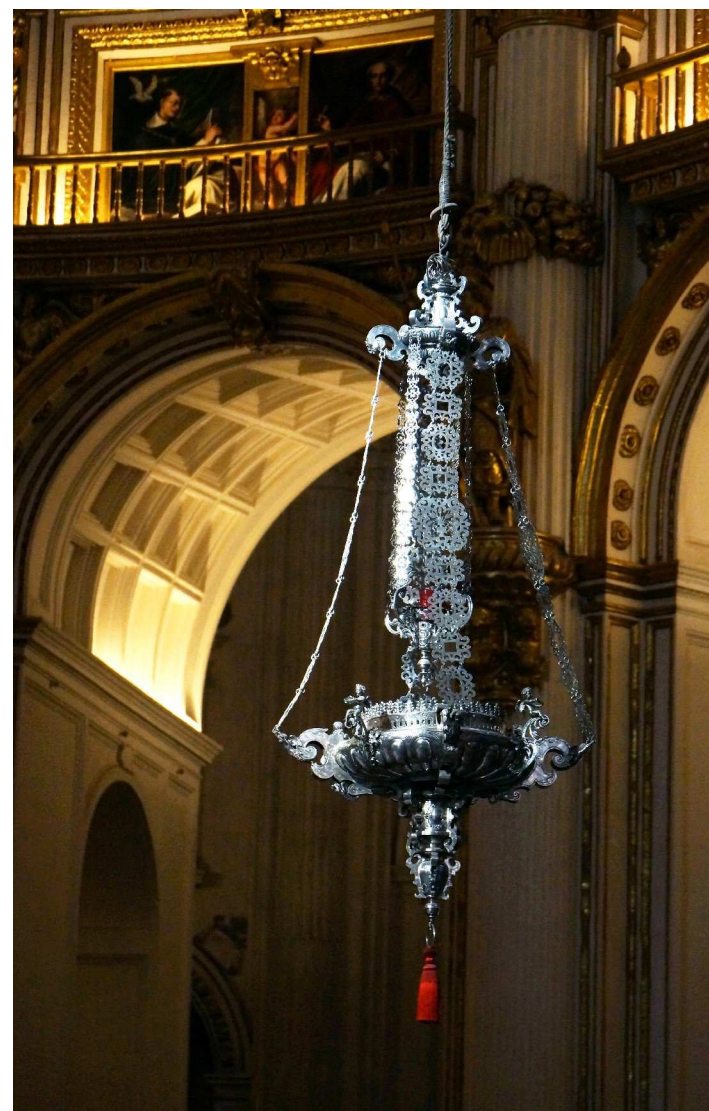
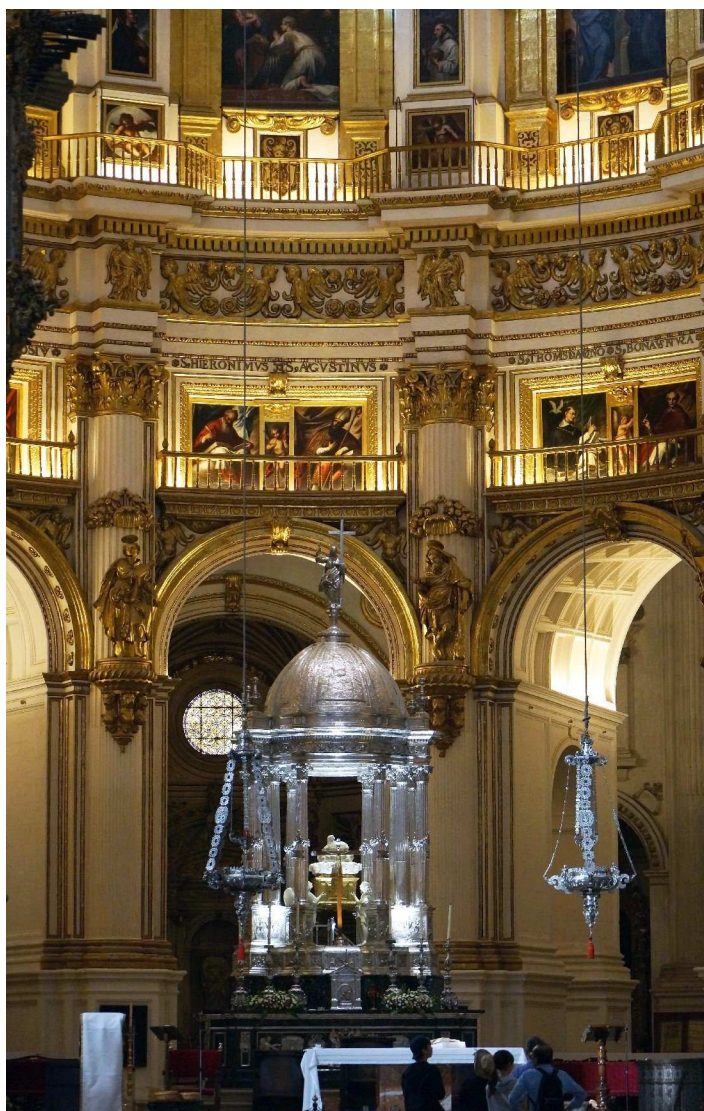
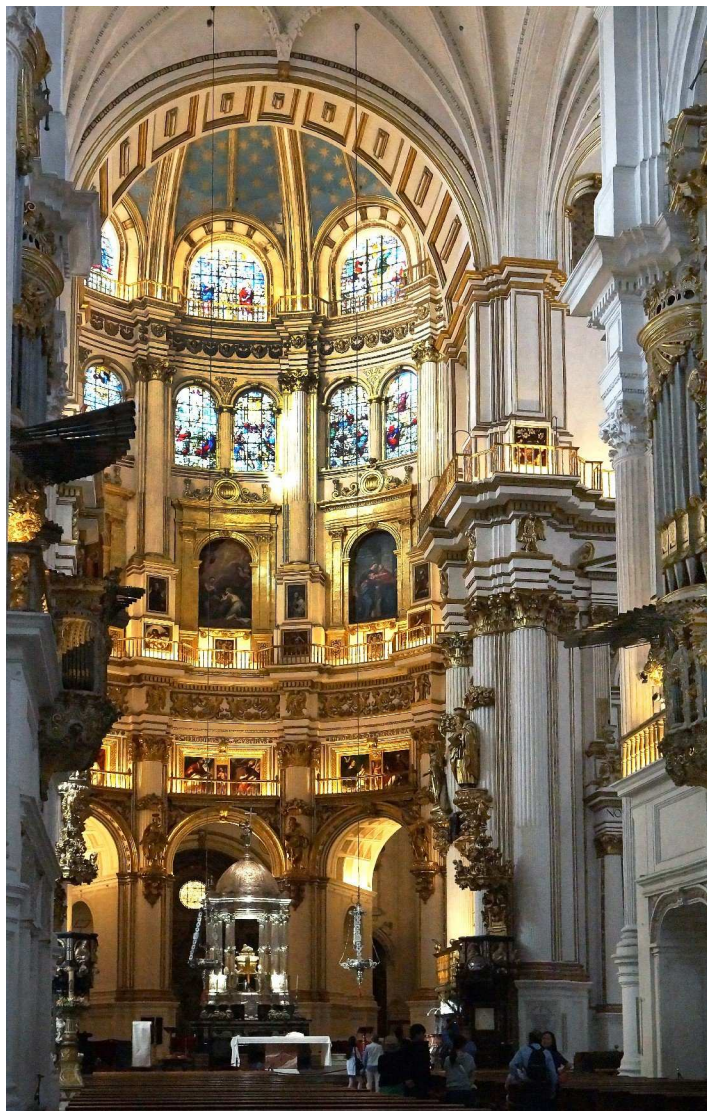




























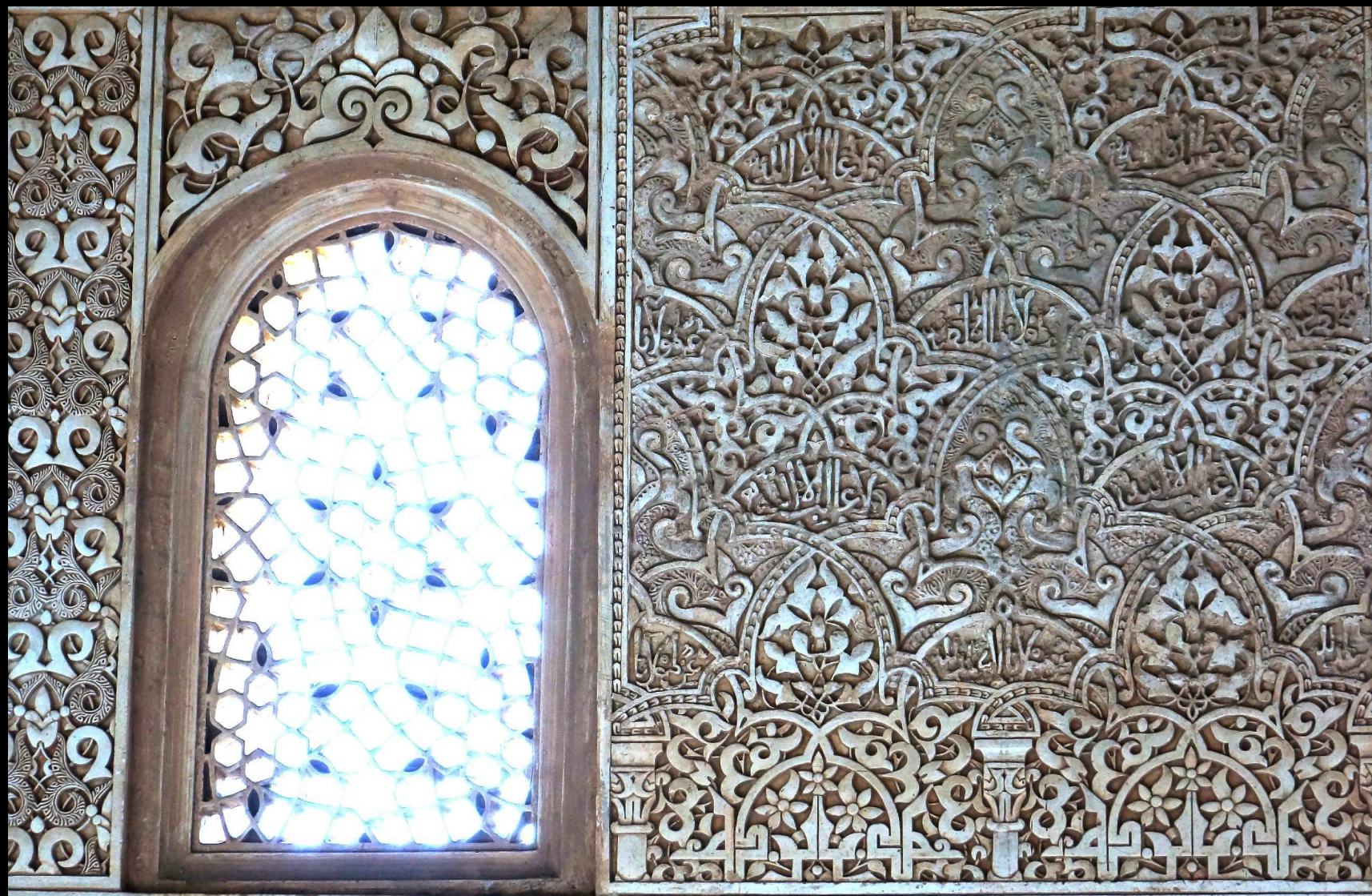








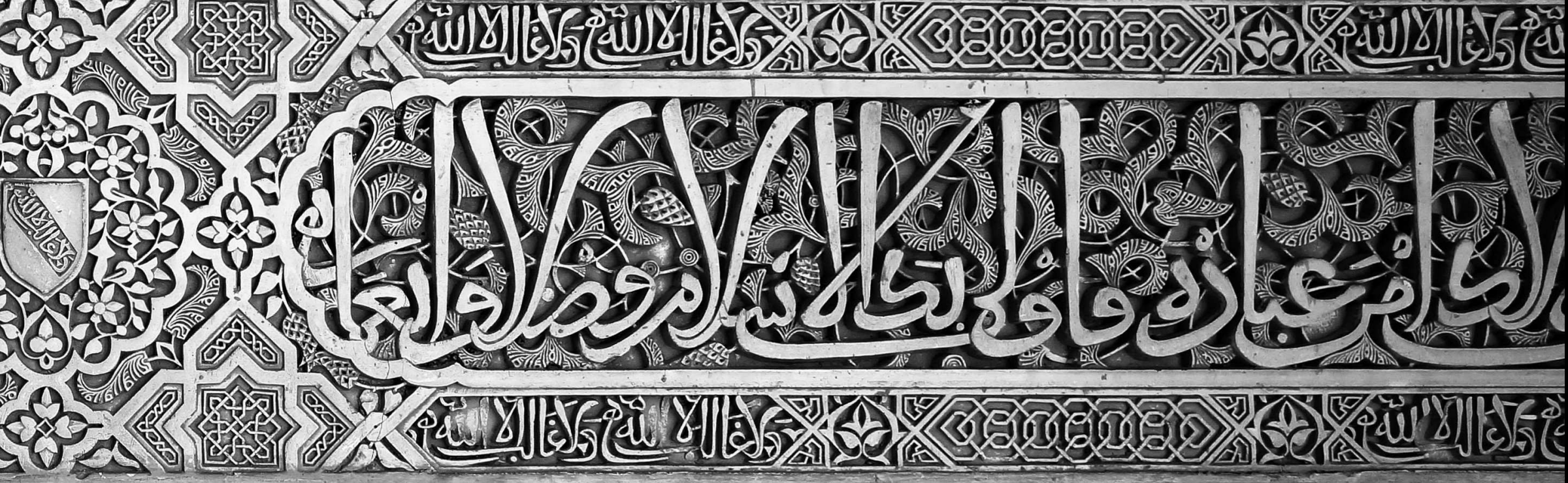








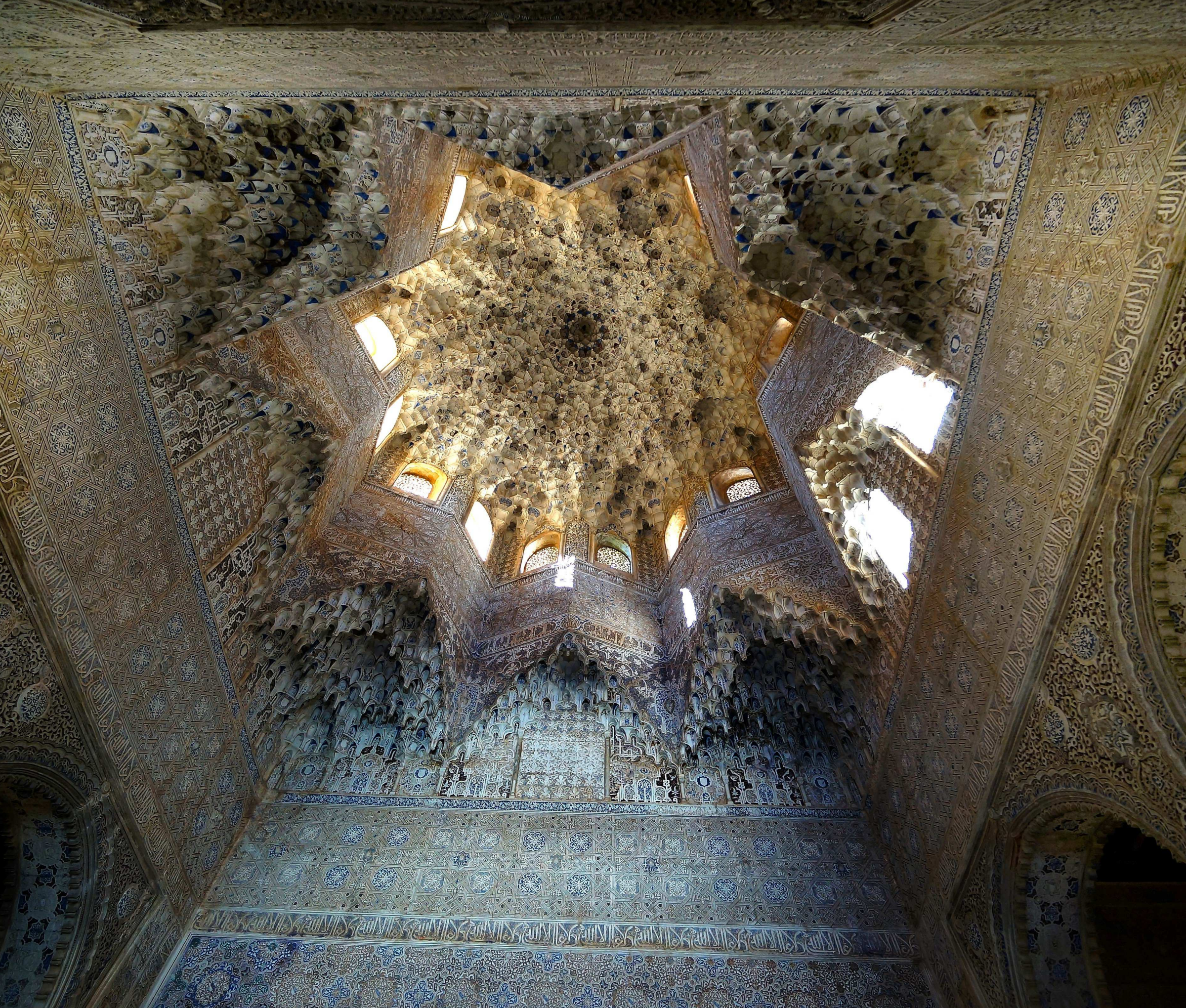








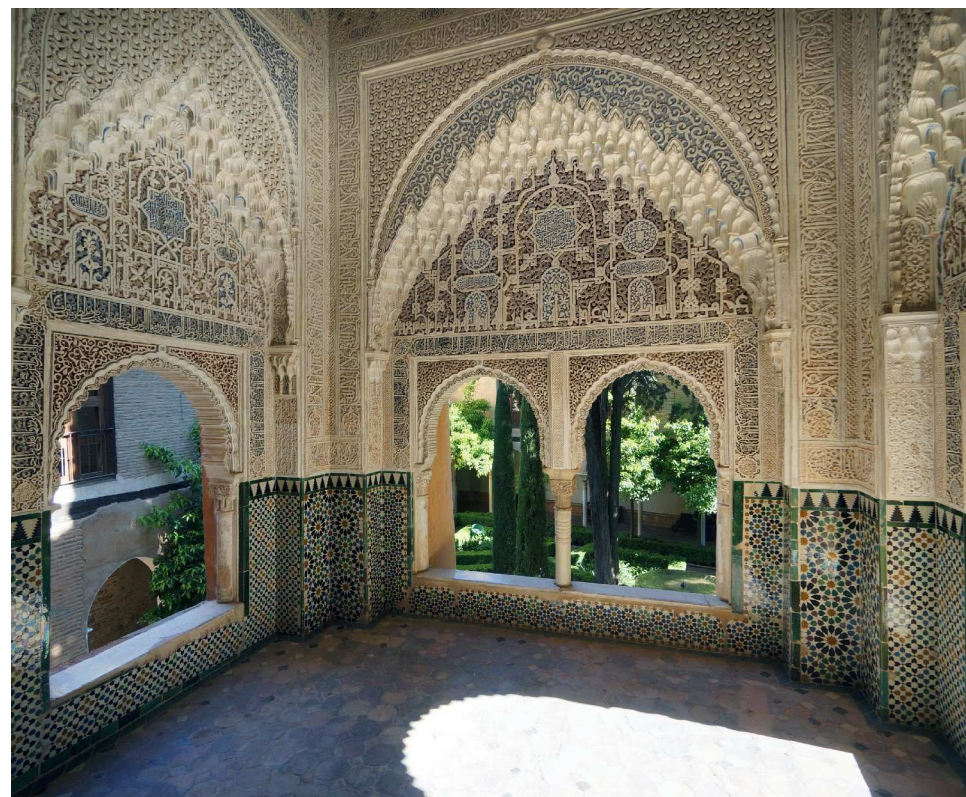
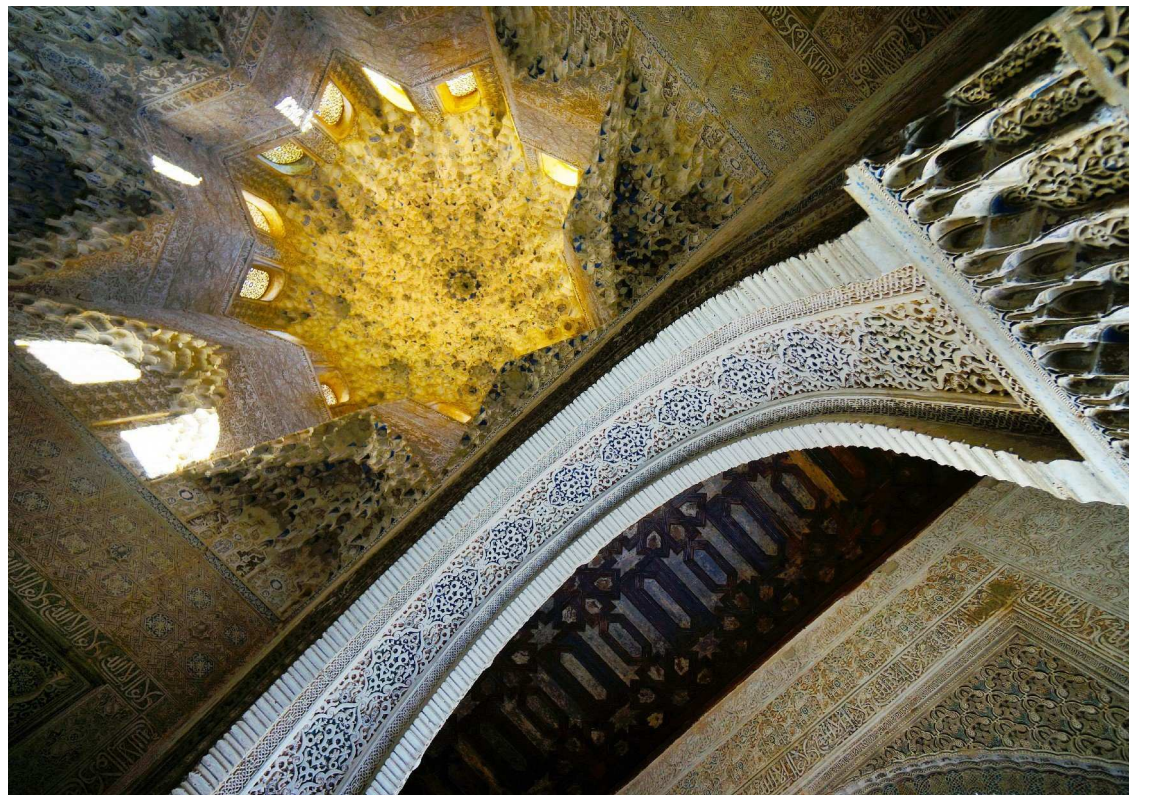
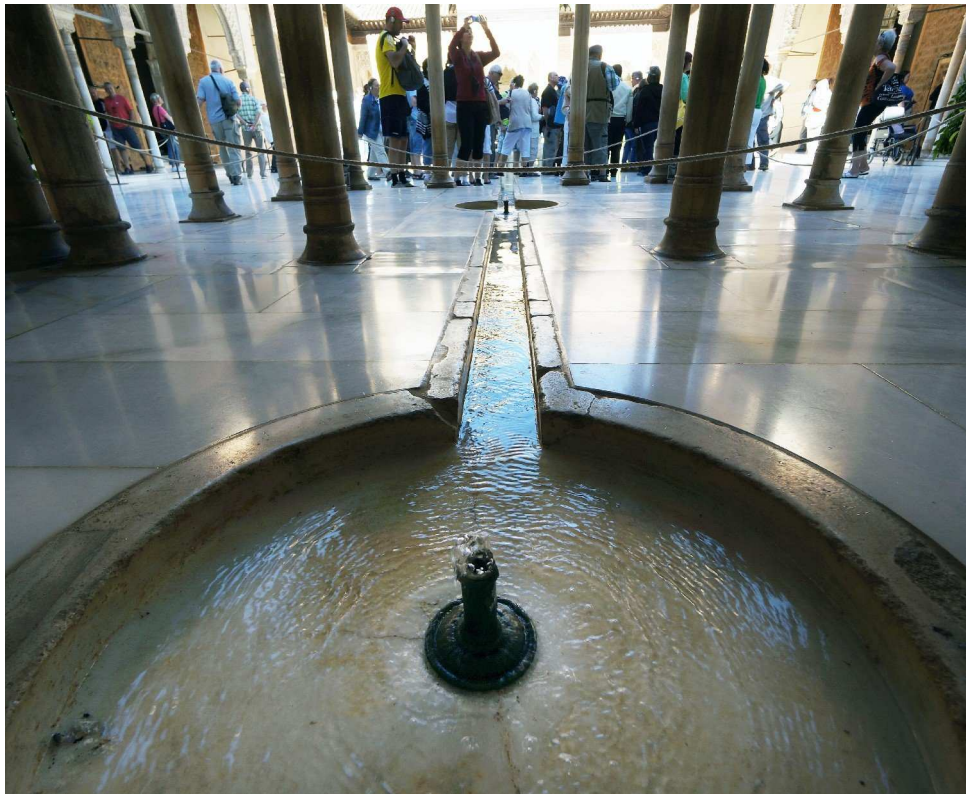
















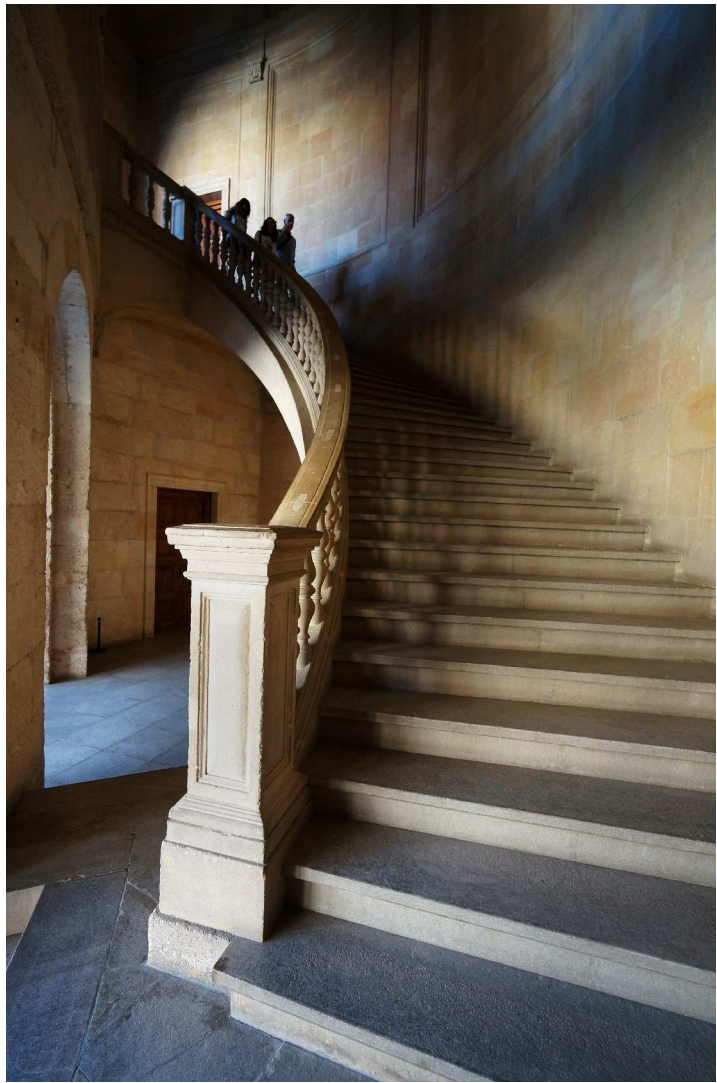
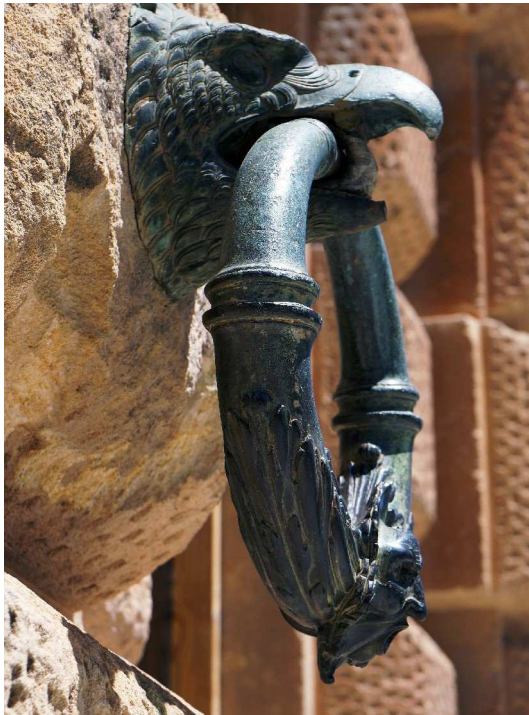


























































































































## Rhonda, Arcos de la Frontera and other White Villages

We drove to Rhonda via The Garganta de Chorro Gorge. The Gorge itself was a long way for not very much, as the bridge shown in the photographs is not for safe public access. Never mind, the journey took us through some lovely scenery. We ended up at hotel in Ronda, which was cheap, clean and central. In fact everything you could want for a night's stay. (shown below)

We took a quick tour of the new town and then wandered through the old town in the evening. We ended up in an OK sort of Tapas place for our evening meal, in the evening light we walk back via an ice cream parlour.

The next day we set off to visit some White Villages or Pueblos Blancos, stopping at two. On the way we passed a disappointing Roman ruin and then drove over a couple of mountain passes to stay the night at Arcos de la Frontera.

The hotel was blessed with a great view from the room balcony. Apart from that and the evening meal of prawns wrapped in bacon it was a town you could bypass.







































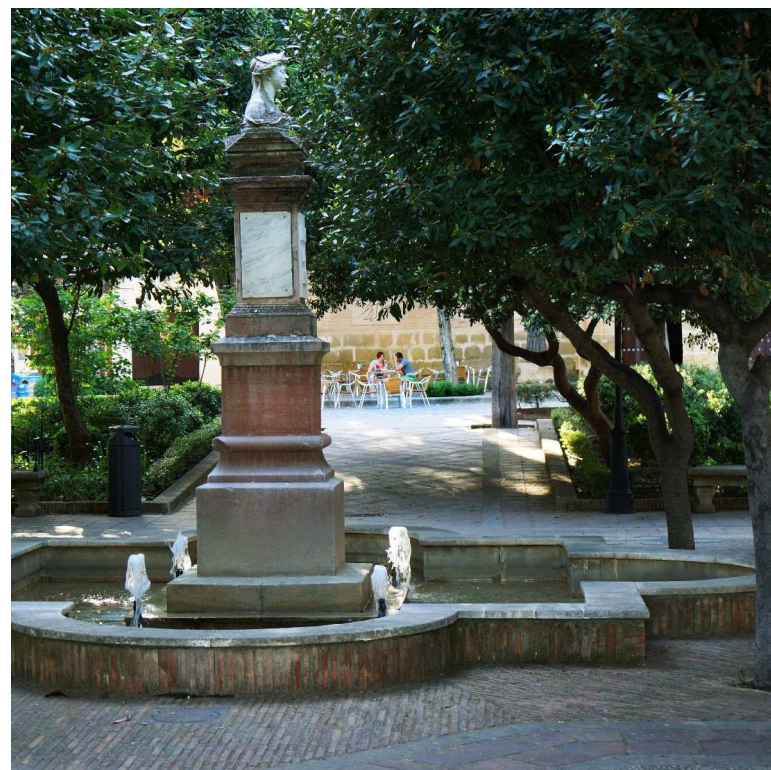
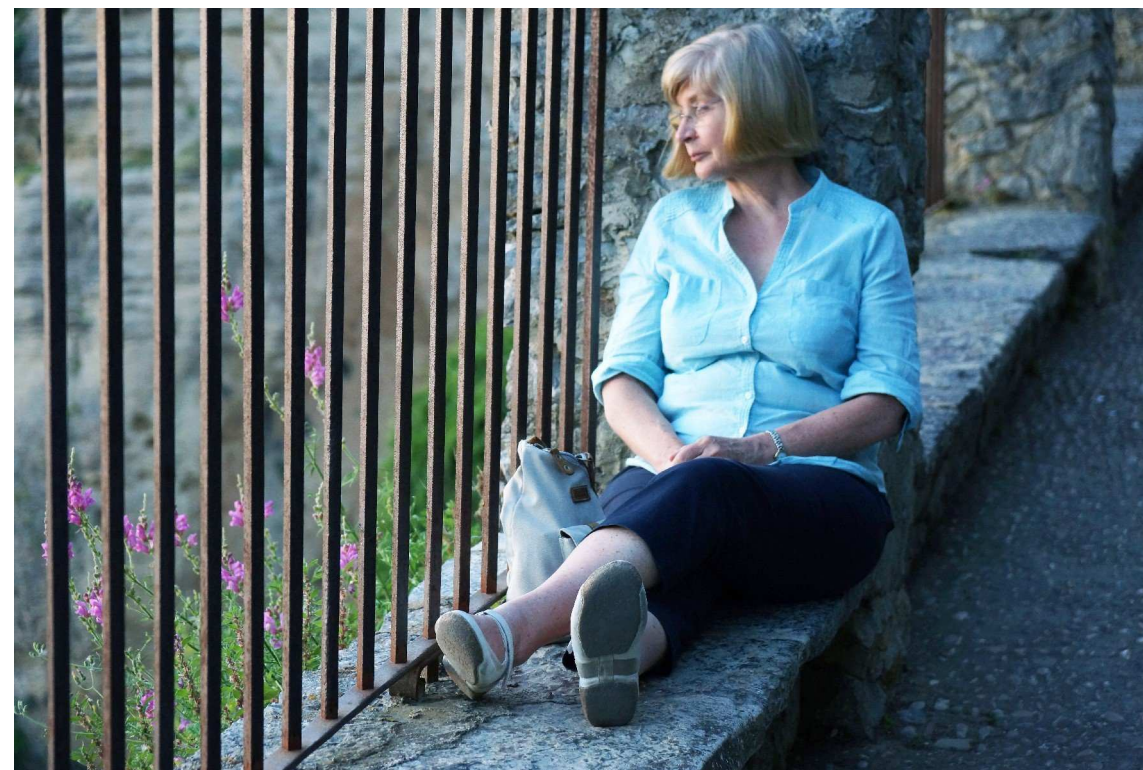




































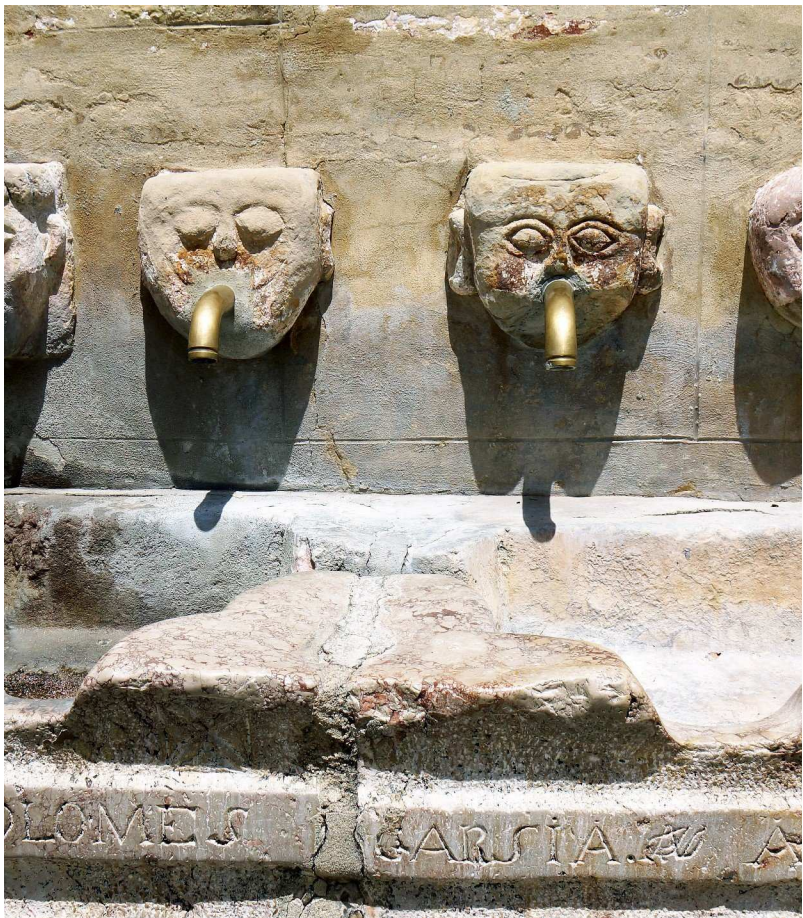














































## Cadiz

We arrived in Cadiz mid-morning and started a tour of the old town with a visit to the cathedral followed by a light lunch by the fish market. We had fried prawns in error.....not our best meal. We then took in a walk in the heat of the day around the old town.

We had a great, if somewhat expensive, supper by the sea wall watching the sun go down over a distant fort. The supper consisted of a terrine followed by tuna belly finished off with a delicious chocolate brownie served with a banana mouse. All washed down with a bottle of great Rosada. a great way to end a full day.



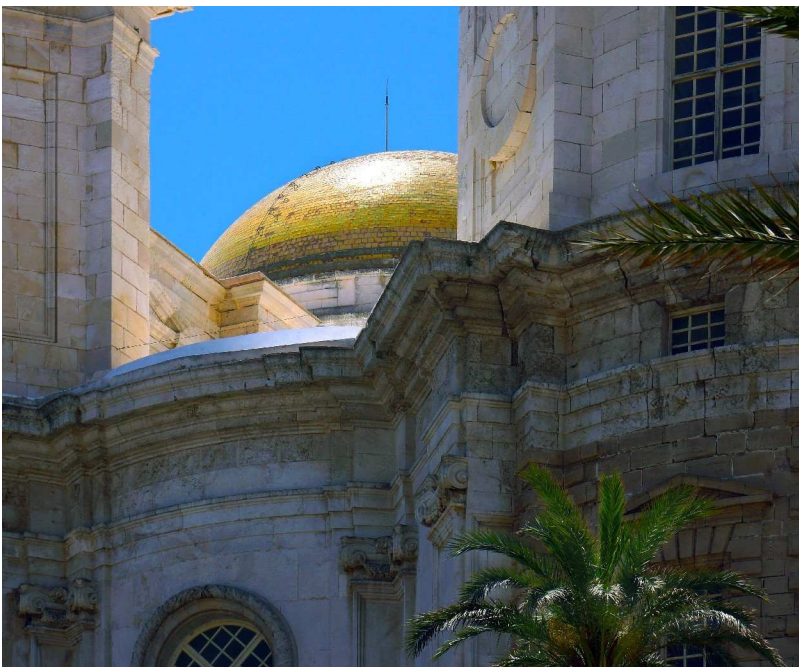
















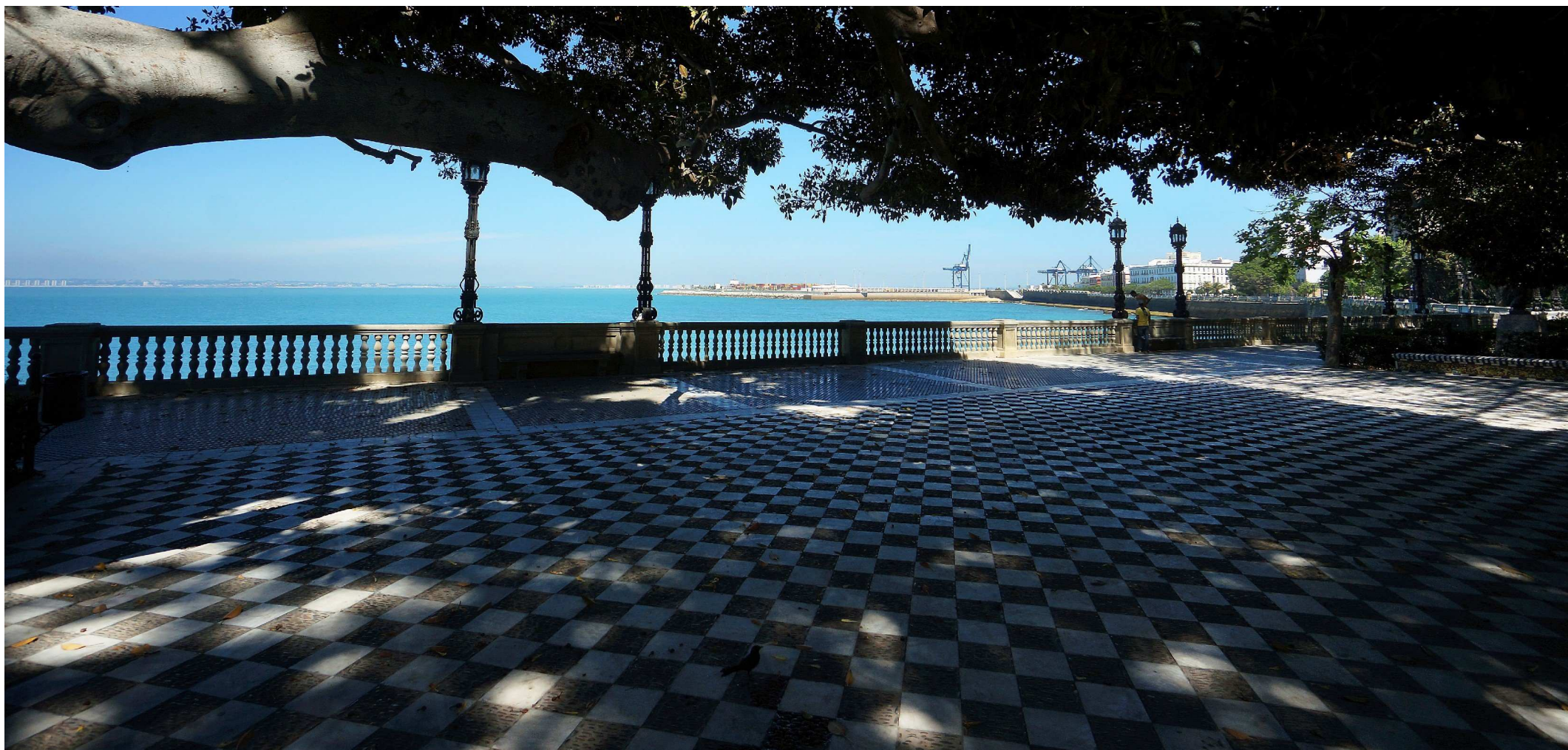
















### Menú del día

10 €

- 1. Pan de molde con mantequilla
- 2. Sopa de verduras
- 3. Ensalada de lechuga y tomate
- 4. Pechuga de pollo a la plancha
- 5. Puré de patatas
- 6. Postre a elección

Reserva de 24 horas

























Test Pictures from Italy...It's a long story.  
Above : Standard set up

On right  
Brightness = 70    Contrast = 78    R :100    G:83    B: 80















