



Routes Jaén

Jaén

Practical city guide / Map



Geography and history

Monuments and museums

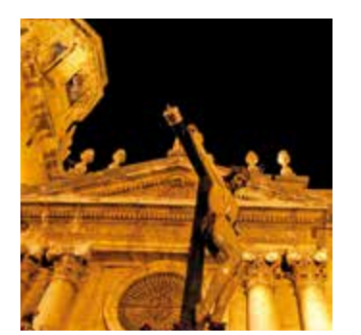
Festivals and traditions

Gastronomy and crafts



From its position above the countryside, the city of Jaén houses over 116.000 inhabitants and its origins date back to the Iberian period. Its situation in the area surrounding the Guadalquivir valley means that the Tartessian influence on the city is notable. Greeks and Phoenicians passed through these lands, however it was the Carthaginians who made Jaén a stronghold. The ancient Auringis was conquered around 207 AC by the Roman General Publio Cornelio and a slow Romanisation process of the city began. In 712 Jaén passed over to the Moors who called the city Yayyan. It was also called Geen that means a passing place for caravans. The first thing the Moors did was to provide the city with a complex sewage system to stop the sewerage being thrown into the streets. In 1246 the King Alhamar handed the city over to King Fernando the third, making Jaén a strategic place on the frontier between the Christian and Moorish Kingdoms of Spain. The period of greatest splendour was between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries, coinciding with the establishment of the settlement of Enrique the fourth. In fact the Christian Monarchs considered Jaén and its Kingdom to be a logistic base from where they could conquer Granada. After the Moors were expelled and with the Discovery of America, the activity decreased and a period of immigration began for the people of Jaén. In the eighteenth century Carlos the third established new towns in Sierra Morena. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the War of Independence reactivated the province's importance as a strategic position. After the territorial division was established the city was made the provincial capital in 1833. The climate is warm Mediterranean, varied by its altitude which gives it cold winters and an average temperature of 13° C and warm summers of 23° C.

The city of Jaén has a rich artistic patrimony: the **Santa Catalina castle (1)** is of Moorish origins, it was rebuilt in the thirteenth century. The **Parador Nacional de Turismo** hotel is situated next to the castle from where it overlooks the city. From the top of this mount, the twisting streets of the old part of the city wind their way down, they shelter important monuments like the **church of San Ildefonso (15)**, the **church of the Magdalena (27)**, the **chapel of San Andrés (22)** –with splendid wrought-iron bars from the sixteenth century, the **palace of Villardompardo (23)**, that houses the Moorish hammam baths, the **Museum of Art and Folk Customs** and the **International Naif Museum**; the **Provincial Museum (30)**, with its Plateresque facade, jealously keeps the most important remains from the Iberian culture like the Porcuna treasure, the Cerrillo Blanco complex, Pajarillo de Huelma or the Toya burial chamber. There are also Greek, Roman and Moorish ceramics as well as Roman mosaics. The old part of the city has its physical and historic centre in the Plaza de Santa María; from this square you can see the impressive facade of the **Cathedral (10)** flanked by two beautiful towers, the work of Andrés de Vandelvira, a magnificent example of Andalusian Renaissance with an altarpiece by Pedro Machuca. The interior of the Cathedral has a relic of the Holy Face of Christ and a processional monstrance. On leaving the city to find yourself in an extensive sea of olive groves, it makes you understand that this province lives exclusively for and from its olive cultivation. Except the mountain areas, the whole province is almost exclusively covered in olive trees, a fruit much appreciated in the cuisine in Andalucía, in Spain and all over the world. Jaén, Renaissance paradise, olive paradise, inland paradise of impressive natural beauty,



Throughout the year the city enjoys a series of festivals, they are mainly traditional celebrations with unquestionable folk and ethnic values. The different festivities include the San Antón bonfires on the 16th January, large bonfires are lit in the squares of Jaén as an offering to the protector of animals Saint Anthony Abbot.

The cuisine in Jaén has several peculiar features and there is a wide selection for you to try, you will not be disappointed. If you want to have a few tapas, there is a long list of classical "tapas", you can take your pick: the popular "bocado del pan" bread, olive oil and cod that very popular with the olive pickers, radishes, black pudding, chorizo, capers, olives prepared in different ways and snails in sauce. Dishes of greater substance are the wide selection of salads, included the roast pepper salad, the famous "pipirrana" salad, the salpicón and the salmorejo, a type of thick gazpacho. The gazpacho itself has several different and tasty varieties. The famous "patatas a lo pobre" (potatoes, pepper, onion and garlic), spinach Jaén style, "collejas", the very famous broad beans from Jaén that are prepared in different ways. Stews like "cocido" or "puchero", "potaje de habas" "potaje de berenjenas" and the local paella dishes "arroz de Jaén" that are popular in all the local homes well seasoned and spiced, they deserve every honour. Dishes like "encebollado" with tomato and cod, eaten during Lent, fried breadcrumbs or "migas" to warm you in cold weather and the delicious meatballs. Kid (with garlic or roast), rabbit, partridge and marinated pork loin, delicious dishes however they are cooked. Fish dishes include "pescado en escabeche", a kind of pickled fish. The desserts include rice pudding, sweet porridge, apples from the river Jaén and melons from Grañena. In the city of Jaén there are also been a revival of different crafts, like basket making, lace, bookbinding, wickerwork and miniatures.

the fields of San Felipe. Today this suburb is full of residential buildings, like the Alcantarilla and the Senda de los Huertos suburbs. The calle Bernabé Soriano, that is locally called the Carrera, runs down from the Cathedral and the plaza de San Francisco to the plaza de la Constitución. Like most towns la Carrera is the most classical street. At the beginning of the twentieth century Modernist buildings were erected on both sides of this street. The plaza de Santa María, where the Cathedral is situated, is one of the most representative urban spaces in the city. The calle Maestra is off this square, the primitive Casino or club is at the end of this street and the building has remains from the Condestable

From Santa Clara to the Magdalena

The **Monastery of Santa Clara (19)** is the oldest in the city of Jaén, it was founded by King Fernando the third. However, the original convent of Santa Clara of the order of the Franciscan Mothers, was destroyed during a Moorish attack back in 1368, the new convent was built right in the historic centre of the city. You get to the convent along the calle Santa Clara and the main door takes you into an Andalusian rural style patio. Inside the church there is a single nave covered by a

The Moorish marks of Jaén

The Magdalena suburb in Jaén occupies land that used to be the ancient Moorish suburb of the city. In the underground of this suburb, there are some Moorish baths under the well known plaza del Pato, their entrance is by the sculpture that decorates the fountain that presides the square. These baths were discovered in 1913 and restoring them was a difficult task because the **Villardompardo Palace (23)**

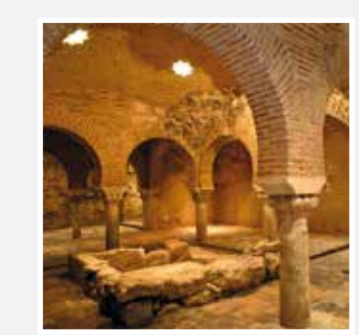
had been built over them. Their rehabilitation started in 1936 but work was stopped until 1970. The architect Luis Berges and his work rehabilitating these baths were awarded the Medal of Honour from the Europa Nostra Association. The entrance to the baths is along a covered corridor with a half dome. This leads you to the cold room, lit by a dozen skylights. The hot room is covered in the centre by a half dome with 15 skylights. These Arab baths of Jaén were used up until the fifteenth century, after that they were used as a prison and a hospital. Besides the baths, the Villardompardo Palace, built in 1592, houses the Museum of Art and Folk Customs and the "Manuel Moral" International Naif Art Museum.

Around the city of Jaén

The Cerro de Jabalcuz is six kilometres from the city of Jaén, it is the highest summit of the ones encircling the city. To get there you take the road to Los Villares, where the Fuente de la Peña beauty spot is, near the Cristo del Arroz hermitage. The Riocuchillo countryside leads down to the rural settlement that came into being around the Jabalruz spa and hot

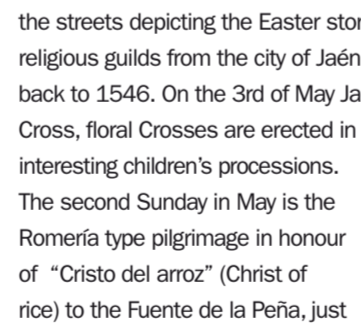


Concejo tower has been conserved in a good state, famous for its bell with a diameter of a metre and a half, its clock used to tell the city the time. Finally we come to the Magdalena suburb, where the plaza is presided over by the church of the same name, from the square you can take the narrow Hospitalico, Zumbarrojos or Bobadilla streets. The parish church of the **Magdalena (27)** is built over the site of an ancient mosque. In fact, its origins as a mosque is obvious from the patio and the ornamental pond that are beside the church, surrounded by arches, some are half moon arches. The church is designed in squares, its interior is divided into four naves separated by pillars. The main entrance is Gothic Isabellina, and the church tower was the minaret in Moorish times. As well as the church, the Raudal de la Magdalena is in the same plaza, a fountain that has been used since Roman times, it supplies the whole of the city of Jaén through a complicated system of pipelines.



Iranzo Palace. From the Casino's door you can walk up calle Ruiz Jiménez or Compañía, this second name comes from the Music Conservatory building, that used to be the school of the Compañía de Jesús. **San Lorenzo's Arch (5)** is not far from here, if you go through the Arch you come into calle

Mudejar style panelled ceiling leading to the religious image of Christ of Bambú, a sculpture dating from the sixteenth century. The main patio is in Renaissance style with a stone fountain in the centre. The **Caños Fountain (20)** is near the convent, the work of Francisco Castillo, it was restored in 1648. Before



Around the fires you can see typical folk dances and it is traditional to eat roast pumpkin, "rosetas" or corn patties as well as other typical local products. Easter is in March or April and there are processions through the streets depicting the Easter story, these are organised by the 16 religious guilds from the city of Jaén. The oldest of these guilds dates back to 1546. On the 3rd of May Jaén celebrates the festival of the Cross, floral Crosses are erected in squares and patios and there are interesting children's processions. The second Sunday in May is the Romería type pilgrimage in honour of "Cristo del arroz" (Christ of rice) to the Fuente de la Peña, just outside the city. A country festival celebrated with a romería type pilgrimage and a procession at a popular hermitage. Around the 11th of June the fair in honour of Our Lady of the Chapel (Virgen de la Capilla) is celebrated, there is a special mass, a floral offering and a procession of the image of the Patroness. The festivals continue after the summer on the first Sunday of September when the San Ildefonso suburb celebrates the feast of the Divine Shepherdess, in her honour there is a mass, typical flag waving "revoloteo de banderas" and in the late afternoon a procession organised by the religious guild of the Divine Shepherdess, dating back to the sixteenth century. The fair in honour of Saint Lucas is on the 18th October, it includes bullfights, typical casetas type bars that the different religious guilds, companies, clubs or peñas have set up, cultural acts and games. This is the main fair in the city of Jaén. On the 25th November lots of local people go to the Castle to accompany the image of Santa Catalina on route from the town to the fortress, where there is a mass followed by a procession.



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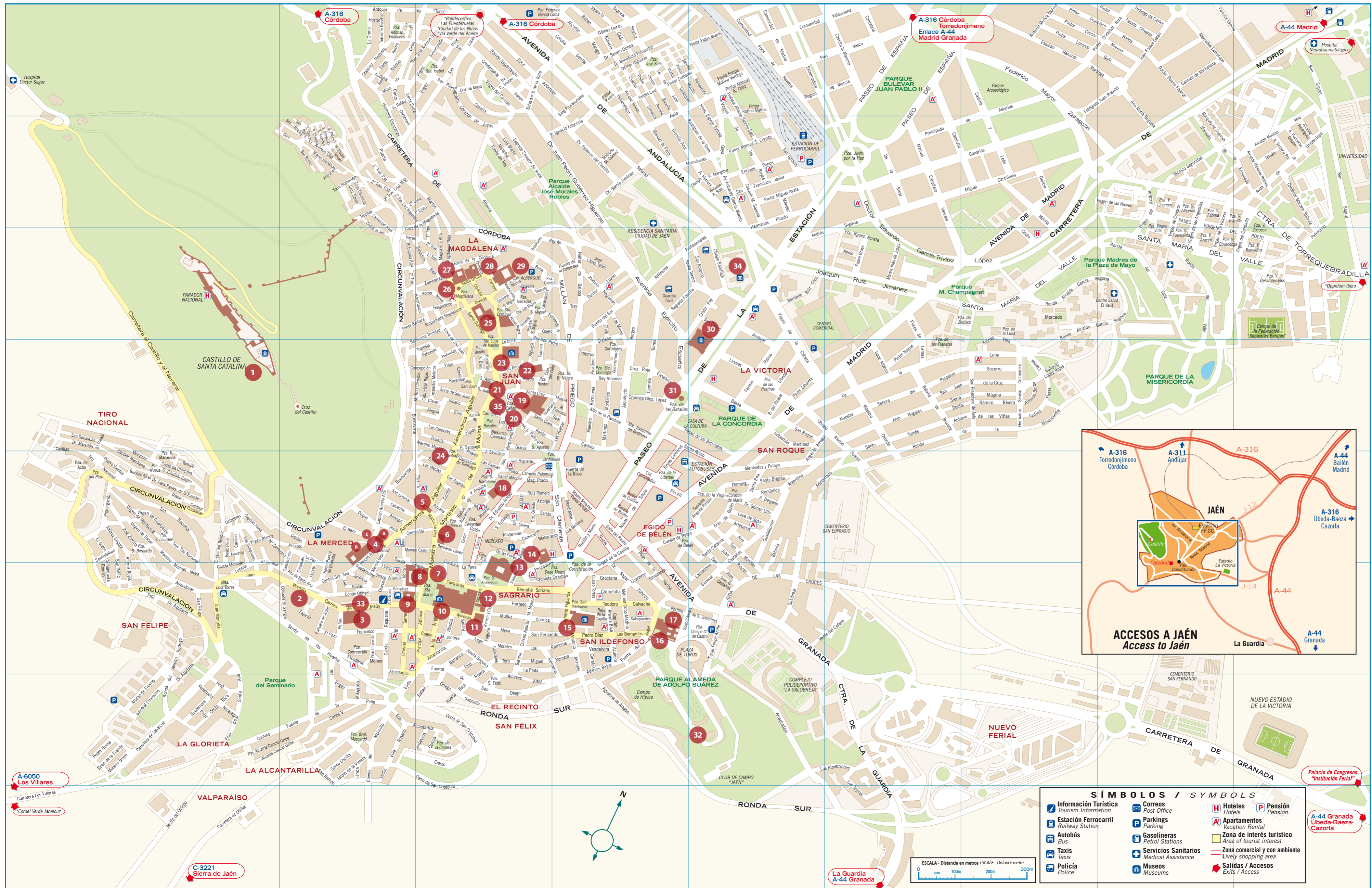
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Jaén



- 1 Castillo de Santa Catalina
- 2 Camarín de Jesús
- 3 Convento de Santa Teresa
- 4 Plaza de la Merced
A Palacio de los Quesada Ulloa
B Convento de la Merced
C Fuente Nueva
- 5 Arco de San Lorenzo
- 6 Palacio del Condestable Irazo
- 7 Palacio Casa del Deán
- 8 Palacio Episcopal
- 9 Ayuntamiento
- 10 Catedral y Sagrario
Museo Catedralicio
- 11 Palacio de los Covalada Nicuesa
- 12 Palacio de los Vélez
- 13 Diputación Provincial
- 14 Palacio de los Vilches
- 15 Iglesia de San Ildefonso
- 16 Puerta del Ángel
- 17 Convento de las Bernardas
- 18 Iglesia de San Bartolomé
- 19 Real Monasterio de Santa Clara
- 20 Fuente de los Caños
- 21 Iglesia de San Juan
- 22 Capilla de San Andrés
- 23 Palacio de Villadomardo. Baños Árabes.
Museo de Artes y Costumbres Populares
- 24 Refugio Antiaéreo
- 25 Real Convento de Santo Domingo
- 26 Fuente de la Magdalena
- 27 Iglesia de la Magdalena
- 28 Convento de Santa Ursula
- 29 Hospital de San Juan de Dios
- 30 Museo Provincial
- 31 Monumento a las Batallas
- 32 Cámara Oscura
- 33 Torreón del Conde de Torralba
- 34 Museo Ibero
- 35 Baños del Naranjo