

PRIME TRAVELER

Granada, The Tapa Comes Free

The last city in Spain where a free tapa is still guaranteed with every drink, and the palace so popular you may need to book it months ahead.



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The Tapa Comes Free



Granada is widely considered the last major city in Spain where ordering a drink still comes with a free tapa as the reliable, guaranteed default, not a fading custom you have to go looking for.

A Real Difference From Madrid

In Madrid, this custom survives only in certain older, traditional bars, and it's genuinely worth asking about before assuming it applies. Here, it's closer to the opposite, most bars still do it automatically, and finding one that doesn't is the exception.

Order a drink almost anywhere in this city, and something arrives with it. That's just how the bar works here.

You Often Don't Choose the Tapa

Unlike ordering specific small plates elsewhere in Spain, the free tapa here is frequently whatever the kitchen is serving that round, not a menu choice. Staying at the same bar for a few rounds often means trying a genuine sequence of different small dishes without ordering any of them individually.



The Alhambra: Book Absurdly Early



This is, without much competition, the single hardest ticket to get in this entire guide series.

The Nasrid Palaces Need Their Own Timed Slot

Within general Alhambra admission, entry to the ornate Nasrid Palaces specifically requires its own timed half hour window, capped at a limited number of visitors, and these slots genuinely sell out weeks or even months ahead during busy periods.

BOOK THE MOMENT YOUR DATES ARE SET

Waiting until a week or two before your trip to book Alhambra tickets, especially the Nasrid Palaces slot, is a genuinely common and genuinely avoidable disappointment. Book as early as the system allows.

Arrive at Your Exact Window

The timed entry for the Nasrid Palaces is enforced strictly, arriving even a little late can mean missing your slot entirely. Build in real buffer time to get there.