

# RONDA

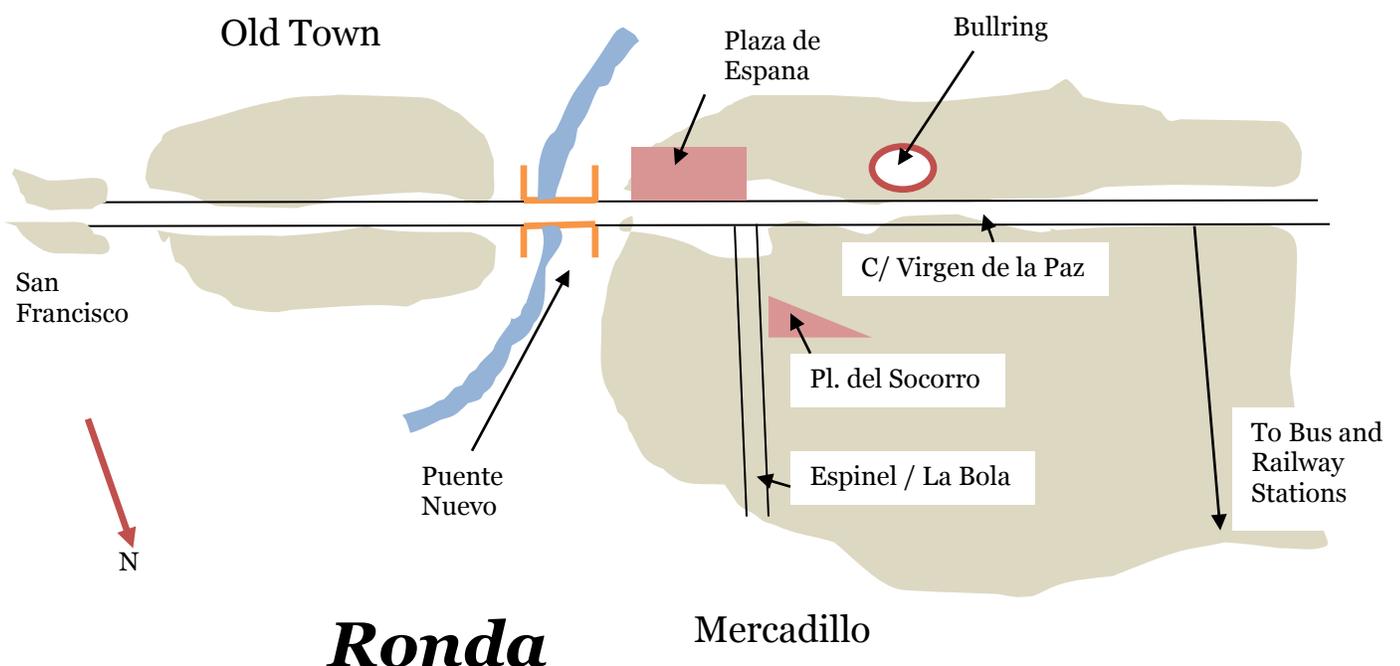
Ronda is a beautiful town set in an incomparable setting in the middle of the mountains behind the Costa del Sol, and makes a worthwhile visit, both for the journey and the destination. A day trip from Benalmádena and other resorts on the Costa del Sol is possible, but staying overnight will enable more time to explore the town itself.



Orientation is easy. The town is split in two by the deep *El Tajo* gorge, crossed by the eighteenth century *Puente Nuevo* (New Bridge). To one side is the old town (*La Ciudad*) which is a labyrinth of narrow lanes. This part of town is ideal for walking around and also includes the cathedral, town hall, and local museum. On the other side of the bridge is the newer part of the town, known as *Mercadillo*, which includes

the two main squares, the *Plaza de España* and the *Plaza del Socorro*, the bullring, most of the bars and restaurants and the main shopping streets. The bus and railway stations are to the north of this area, about 10 and 15 minutes walk respectively from the *Puente Nuevo*.

The orientation plan below gives an idea of how the town is laid out. For a more detailed map visit the Ronda tourist office website [www.turismoderonda.es](http://www.turismoderonda.es)



## Places to visit –



- \* the **Puente Nuevo bridge** and the **El Tajo gorge** (accessed by paths from the Old Town). There are several viewpoints over the gorge from both parts of town.
- \* **Casa Juan Bosco** in *C/Tenorio*, not so much for the house itself, but for the gardens which have a tremendous view of the *Puente Nuevo*. (*C/* = *Calle* = Street). The photograph on page 1 was taken from there.

- \* the **arab baths** (*Baños Arabes*), by the gorge on the north side of the old town.
- \* the **bullring**, the oldest in Spain, and the bullfighting museum.
- \* the pedestrianised main **shopping street** *Carrera Espinel* (also known as *La Bola*).

## Places to eat and drink –

There is a large selection of bars, cafes and restaurants. Almost all will serve *tapas*, with many selling a *tapa* selection of 4 or 5 dishes for about 10-12 euros. Good quality everywhere – the only places to avoid are the restaurants along the little street between the bullring and *Plaza de España*, which target (and rip off) the visiting coach parties. The main concentration of places is in the *Plaza del Socorro* and the side streets leading off it. A few suggestions:

- \* Apart from Plaza del Socorro itself, nearby *Faustino* in *C/Santa Cecilia* serves good tapas, and the restaurant to the rear is busy even when everywhere else is quiet. *Bodeguita El Coto* in *C/Nueva* is a traditional Spanish bar serving good tapas.
- \* In the old town *El Campillo* has a pleasant terrace on a quiet square (Plaza Maria Auxiliadora) and there are two pleasant café-bars in the square by the town hall and former cathedral.
- \* *Café-Bar San Francisco*, in the area of the same name, just outside the old gateway at the far end (bottom) of the old town, serves excellent tapas in the bar, and the restaurant and *bodega* have a good reputation.
- \* *Bar Restaurante Royal* in *C/Virgen de la Paz* looks plain, but is busy with locals eating the best fried fish and seafood in town.

## Places to stay-

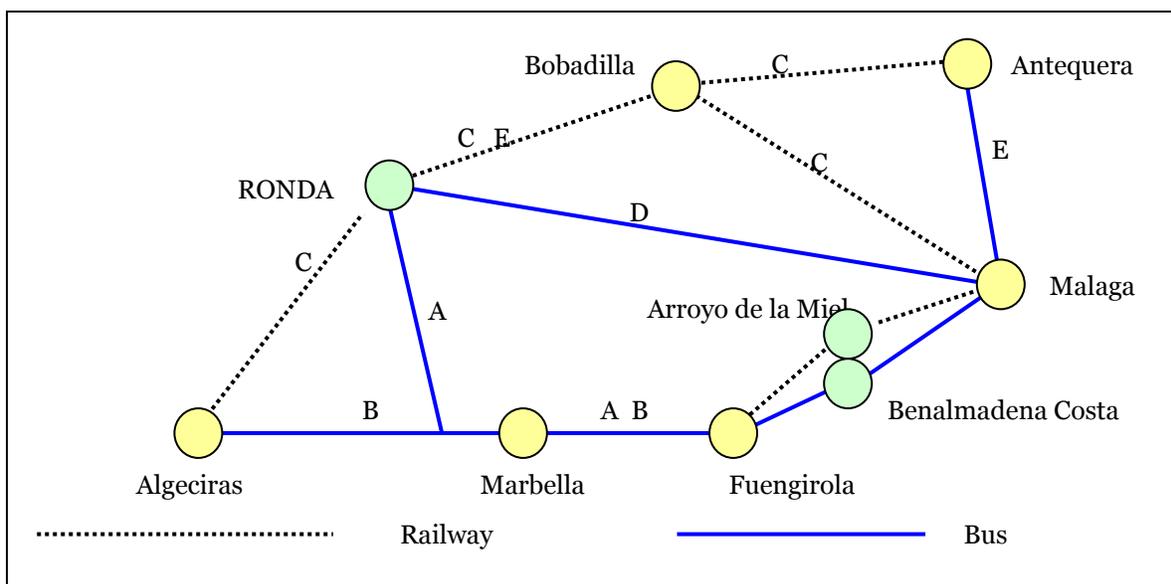
The four-star *Catalonia Reina Victoria (C/Jerez 25)* is one of the top hotels in town with tremendous views over the surrounding countryside. Can be expensive but there are good deals online from time to time. Details at [www.hoteles-catalonia.com](http://www.hoteles-catalonia.com) . The four-star *Hotel Maestranza* in *C/Virgen de la Paz*, across from the bullring (but quiet inside) is also good. Details at [www.hotelmaestranza.com](http://www.hotelmaestranza.com).

Otherwise the Rough Guide to Andalucía has recommendations, from the cheapest to the most expensive, including a number of places in the old city.

## Other info -

- \* the **tourist information** office is in the small square opposite the entrance to the bullring.
- \* there are plenty of **chemists** (*farmacias*) in the centre of town, with one open at all times.
- \* Many places in Ronda keep traditional **hours**, with shops closed between 1400 and 1700, and restaurants closed from 1600 to 2000.
- \* There is a Maskom **supermarket** at the corner of *C/Molino* and *C/Jan Jose* (between the bus station and the town centre) which sells cheap water, wine and picnic supplies.

## GETTING TO RONDA FROM THE COSTA DEL SOL BY TRAIN AND COACH



A variety of scenic circular trips to Ronda are possible by public transport – either as a day trip or with an overnight stay in Ronda. There is interesting scenery on all routes, with the most scenic being the train journeys between Malaga and Bobadilla, and between Ronda and Algeciras. The options are shown on the diagram above and described below.

Full details of times are in the bus and train times folder in the apartment, or you may wish to look at the latest information from Ronda Tourist Office [www.turismoderonda.es](http://www.turismoderonda.es).

Coaches and trains are usually comfortable and punctual, but they may be busy on Friday and Sunday afternoons from about 1500, and at Spanish holiday periods.

#### **A – Coach services Benalmadena Costa and Fuengirola - Ronda**

Direct services from Benalmadena are limited (currently 1-3 daily), but there are 5-6 services daily between Fuengirola, Marbella and Ronda.

#### **B – Coach services Benalmadena Costa – Algeciras**

4 direct services daily with additional journeys available by changing at Marbella.

#### **C - Train services**

There is a daily direct train from Malaga to Ronda leaving Malaga at 1005 and Ronda at 1655, which gives 5 hours in Ronda. If staying overnight, additional services are available by changing at Bobadilla. See train timetable 8 in the Bus and Train Times folder.

Three trains run daily Antequera – Bobadilla – Ronda – Algeciras. See train timetable 7 in the Bus and Train Times Folder

#### **D – Coach services Malaga – Ronda via Ardales**

9 journeys daily Monday to Friday, 6-7 journeys on Saturday and Sunday. This is the quickest route to Ronda, taking 1½ hours.

#### **E – Coach services Malaga – Antequera**

Coach services Malaga – Antequera 10 journeys daily Monday to Friday, 5 journeys on Saturday and Sunday. *This option is not advisable at present due to engineering work and bus replacement on the railway line through Antequera city.*