

ORANGE & GREEN PROGRAMME  
CORDOBA ANDALUCIA

# CONTEXT

Córdoba, also called Cordova in English, is a city in Andalusia, southern Spain, and the capital of the province of Córdoba. An Iberian and Roman city in ancient times, in the Middle Ages it became the capital of an Islamic caliphate. The old town contains numerous architectural reminders of when Córdoba was the capital of Hispania Ulterior during the Roman Republic and capital of Hispania Baetica during the Roman Empire, and when Qurtubah was the capital of the Islamic Caliphate of Córdoba, including most of the Iberian Peninsula.

It has been estimated that in the 10th century Córdoba was the most populous city in the world, and under the rule of Caliph Al-Hakam II it had also become a center for education under its Islamic rulers. Al-Hakam II opened many libraries on top of the many medical schools and universities which existed at this time. Such universities contributed towards developments in mathematics and astronomy. During these centuries Córdoba had become the intellectual center of Europe and was also noted for its predominantly Muslim society that was tolerant toward its Christian and Jewish minorities. Today it is a moderately-sized modern city; its population in 2012 was 330,033.

At the time of Julius Caesar, Córdoba was the capital of the Roman province of Hispania Ulterior Baetica. Great Roman philosophers such as Lucius Annaeus Seneca the Younger, orators such as Seneca the Elder and poets such as Lucan came from Roman Córdoba. Later, it occupied an important place in the Provincia Hispaniae of the Byzantine Empire (552-572) and under the Visigoths, who conquered it in the late 6th century.

Córdoba was captured in 711 by an Arab/Berber Muslim army. Unlike other Iberian towns, no capitulation was signed and the position was taken by storm. Córdoba was in turn governed by direct Arab rule. The new Arab commanders established themselves within the city and in 716 it became a provincial capital, subordinate to the Caliphate of Damascus.

Different areas were allocated for the services in the Saint Vincent Church shared by Christian and Muslims, until the former Mosque started to be erected on the same spot under Abd-ar-Rahman I. In May 796, it was chosen as the capital of the independent Arab Muslim emirate of al-Andalus, later a Caliphate itself. The Great Mosque of Córdoba dates back to this time; under caliph Al-Hakam II Córdoba had 3,000 mosques, splendid palaces and 300 public baths, and received what was then the largest library in the world, housing from 400,000 to 1,000,000 volumes.

On 29 June 1236, after a siege of several months, it was captured by King Ferdinand III of Castile, during the Spanish Reconquista.

With the most extensive historical heritages in the world, the city was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO on 17 December 1984.





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CORDOBA ANDALUCIA **HAMAM BATHS**





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# CONTEXT

Andalusia is home to the hottest and driest summers in Spain, but in the west, weather systems sweeping in from the Atlantic ensure that it is relatively wet in the winter, with some areas receiving copious amounts. Contrary to what many people think, as a whole, the region enjoys above average yearly rainfall in the context of Spain. Surprisingly, one of the wettest villages in Spain is Grazalema in the Sierra de Grazalema in Western Andalusia with an average of 2,153 mm a year. Although this value is extreme, much of the provinces of Cadiz and Huelva, and the Sierra de Cazorla receive more than 1000mm of rain a year, double that of Madrid. The olive-growing, continental expanses of Jaen, Córdoba and Sevilla tend to receive 500-700mm a year. As the Atlantic's rain-laden clouds move east they lose much of their moisture, ending in the badlands of America. In particular, Cabo de Gata with barely 150mm of rain a year is the driest corner in the Peninsula and in Europe. Much of Andalusia enjoys in excess of 300 days of sun a year.

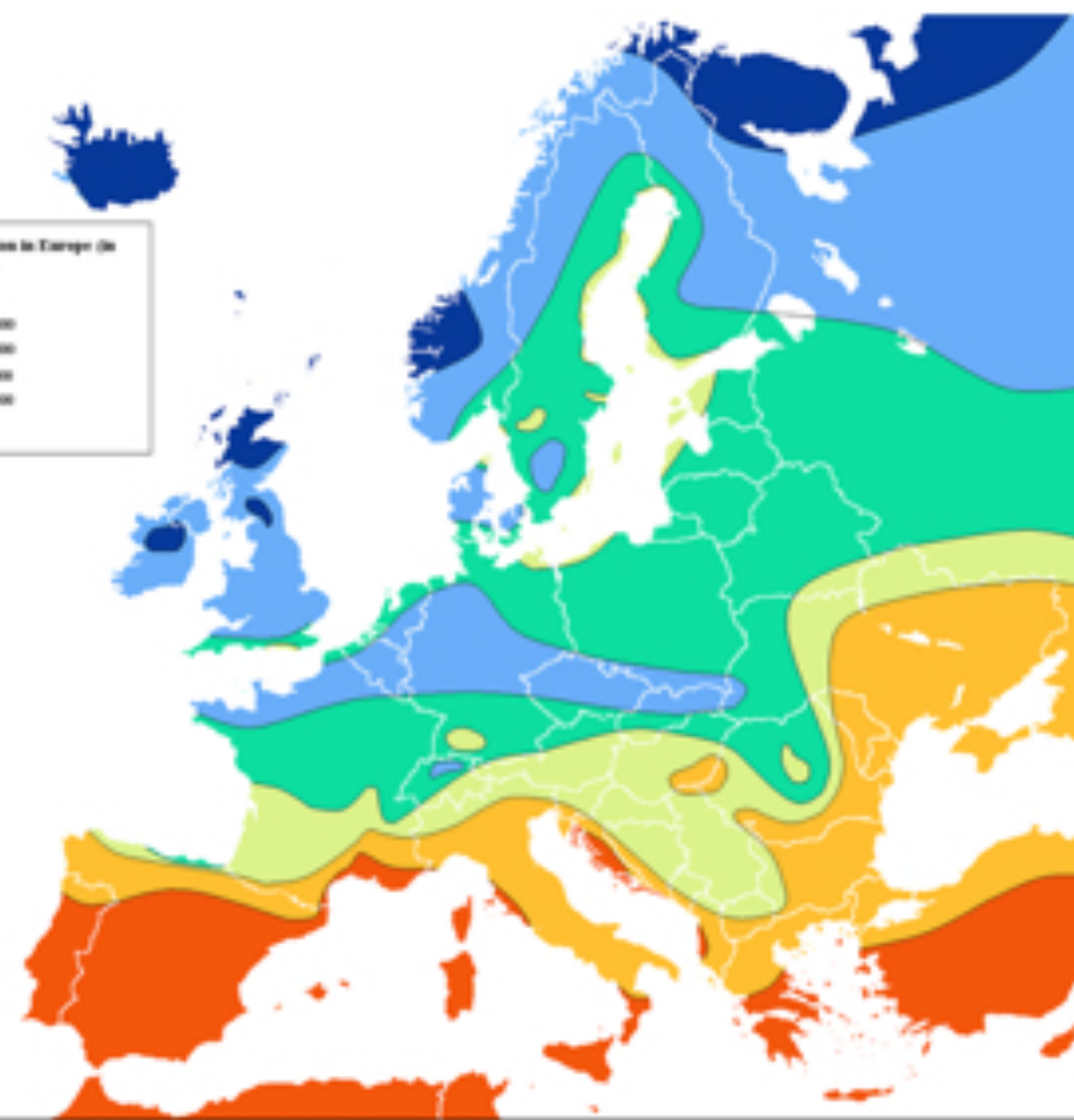
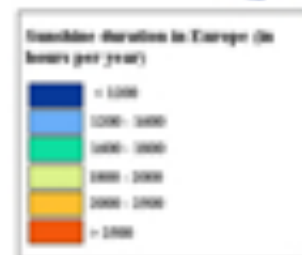
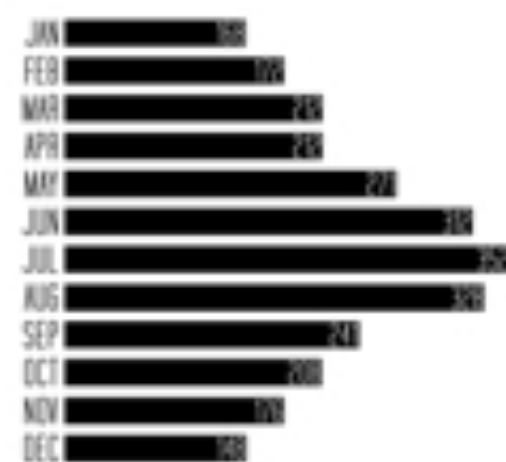
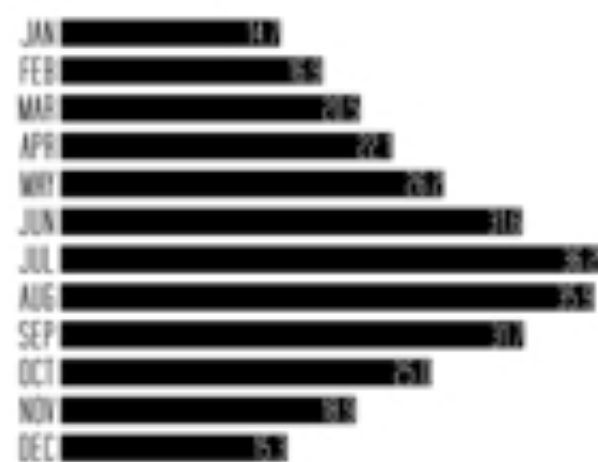
Córdoba has a Subtropical-Mediterranean climate and has the highest summer average daily temperatures in Europe (averaging 36.2 °C in July) and days with a temperature over 40 °C are common in the summer months. August's 24 hour average of 27.2 °C is also among the highest in Europe, despite having relatively cool nightly temperatures.

Winters are mild with isolated frosts. Precipitation is concentrated in the coldest months; this is due to the Atlantic coastal influence. Precipitation is generated by storms from the west that occur most frequently from December through February. This Atlantic characteristic then gives way to a hot summer with significant drought more typical of Mediterranean climates. Annual rain surpasses 500 mm, although there is a recognized inter-annual irregularity.

Registered maximum temperatures at the Córdoba Airport (located at 6 km of the city) are 45.6° (23 July 1995) and 46.2° (1 August 2003). The minimum temperature ever recorded was -8.2°.



### AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURE







The chosen site lies in the stretch of river between the Puente Miraflores and the Puente Romano on the Guadalquivir. The space between the two bridges is one of the most significant in Cordoba due to the location of the historic centre, directly west of the river, with the Mezquita de Cordoba on the west side of the Roman bridge. The east riverbank is composed of the Miraflores public park, designed by Juan Cuenca Wontilla, and is composed of a series of terraces that step down to the water.

Unfortunately both banks of the river are lined with wild trees and vegetation which largely obstruct views and vistas of the city. This landscaping is a recent addition to the city as photographs and paintings of Cordoba from the 12th Century onwards depict the river as being virtually free from trees and greenery up until the 1930's or possibly 1940's when wild growth began to establish itself on the riverbanks. Presently this vegetation creates a visual barrier which obstructs views across the river and staves the city's interaction with the Guadalquivir. This project will aim to remove this barrier and restore the important visual and physical links across the water.





COOL SOGUKLUK 22°C

WARM GOBEKTASI 36°C

HOT SICAKLIK 45°C 100% HUMIDITY

A hamam is the Turkish variant of a steam bath, sauna or Russian bath, distinguished by a focus on water, as distinct from ambient steam. In Western Europe, the 'Turkish bath' as a method of cleansing and relaxation became popular during the Victorian era. The process involved in taking a Turkish bath is similar to that of a sauna, but is more closely related to ancient Greek and ancient Roman bathing practices.

A person taking a Turkish bath first relaxes in a room (known as the warm room) that is heated by a continuous flow of hot, dry air, allowing the bather to perspire freely. Bathers may then move to an even hotter room (known as the hot room) before splashing themselves with cold water. After performing a full body wash and receiving a massage, bathers finally retire to the cooling-room for a period of relaxation.

The hamam combines the functionality and the structural elements of its predecessors in Anatolia, the Roman thermae and baths, with the Central Asian Turkic tradition of steam bathing, ritual cleansing and respect of water. It is also known that Arabs built versions of the Greek-Roman baths that they encountered following their conquest of Alexandria in 641.

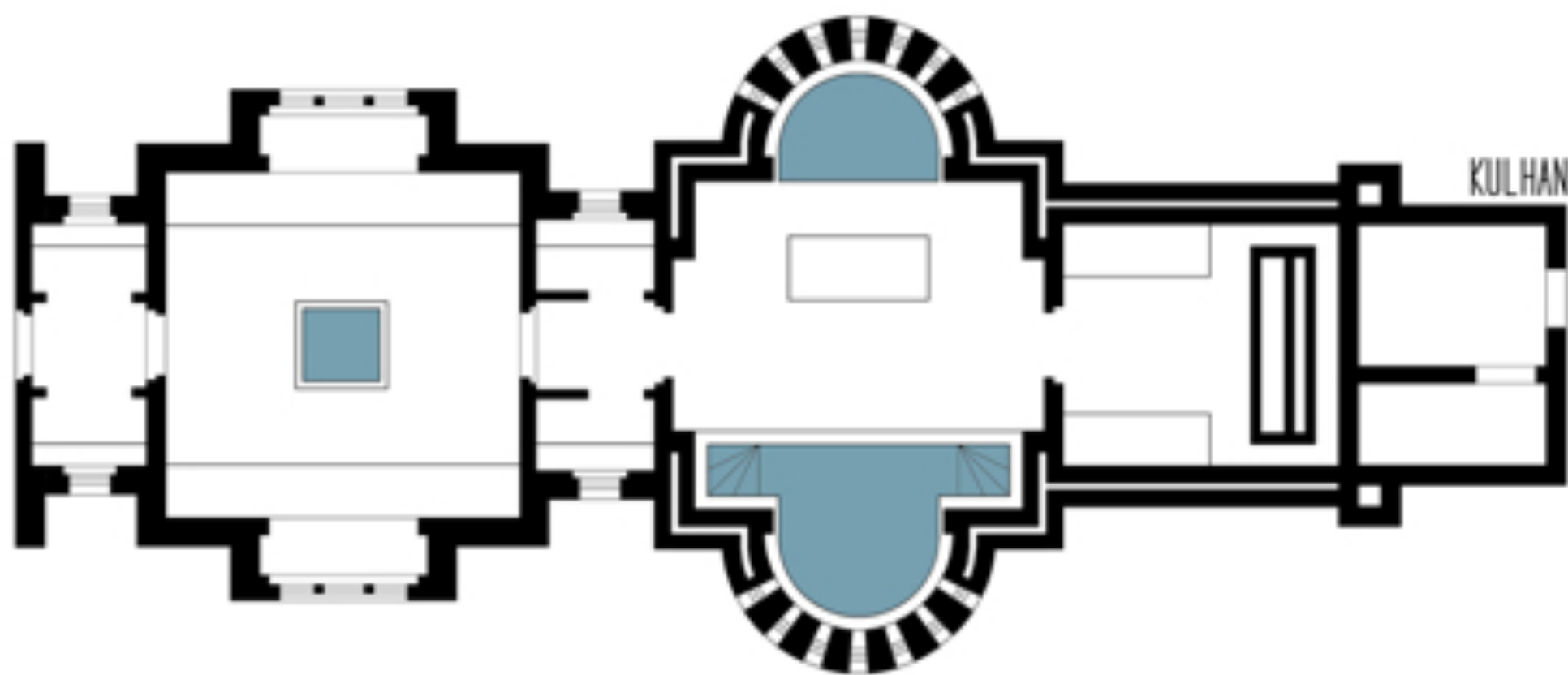
From the 10th century, Turkish kingdoms began to proliferate in Anatolia in lands conquered from the Byzantine Greeks, leading eventually to the complete conquest of the remnants of the old empire in the 15th century. During these centuries of war, peace, alliance, trade, and competition, the two cultures - Hellenized Roman and Anatolian Turkish - had tremendous influence on each other. Moving beyond the re-use of the Greek baths in their new lands, new bath were constructed as annex buildings of mosques, the complexes of which were community center as well as houses of worship. The Ottomans in particular became prolific patrons of baths, building a number of ambitious structures, particular in Constantinople after it became their capital in 1453.

Like its Roman predecessor a typical hamam consists of three basic, interconnected rooms: the sıcak (or hararet - caldarium), which is the hot room; the warm room (tepidarium), which is the intermediate room; and the sogukluk, which is the cool room (Frigidarium). The main evolutionary change between Roman baths and Turkish baths concerns the cool room. The Roman frigidarium included a quite cold water pool in which patrons would immerse themselves before moving on to the warmer rooms. Medieval Muslim customs put a high priority on cleanliness, but favored running water to immersion baths, so the cold water pool was dispensed with. Also the sequence of rooms was revised so that people generally used the cool room after the warmer rooms and massages, rather than before. Whereas the Romans used it as preparation, the Ottomans used it for refreshment and recovery.

The sıcak usually has a large dome decorated with small glass windows that create a half-light; it also contains a large marble stone called göbek taşı at the center that the customers lie on, and niches with fountains in the corners. This room is for soaking up steam and getting scrub massages. The warm room is used for washing up with soap and water and the sogukluk is to relax, dress up, have a refreshing drink, sometimes tea, and, where available, a nap in a private cubicle after the massage.

The hamam, like its precursors, is not exclusive to men. Hamam complexes usually contain separate quarters for men and women, or males and females are admitted at separate times. Because they were social centers as well as baths hamams became numerous during the time of the Ottoman Empire and were built in almost every Ottoman city.

TYPICAL LAYOUT



TEPIDARIUM SECTION



الحمّة

BENEFITS + PROGRAMME



CIRCULATION



BATHING



COOLING



RELAXATION



SOCIAL

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# CONCEPT + DEVELOPMENT

