

1. Generalife. A country-estate in the landscape
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TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

From 26th February to 24th May 2026
 Chapel and Crypt of the Palace of Charles V. Alhambra and
 Generalife Group of Monuments.

OPENING TIMES

From Monday to Sunday. From 26th February to March 31st, from
 10:00 to 18:00 h. From April 1st to 24th May, from 10:00 to 20:00 h.

ADMISSION FREE

FREE GUIDED VISITS

From 2nd March to 24th May 2026

RESERVATIONS

Places must be booked in advance. Groups of no more than 10
 people. Each visit will last approximately 45 minutes.

Information and reservations: <https://www.alhambra-patronato.es>

THE STILL GARDEN

Gardens are the art of nature, a mixture of living things and inert objects, Although their plants are in perpetual motion, with the seasonal cycle of blossoming and growth, their inert part is much more enduring, resisting change. Fountains, columns, spouts and channels all leave their own lasting mark, living on in the gardens. Even if the garden disappears, they can later be uncovered by archaeologists.

In the Generalife and the Alhambra, there are no clear dividing lines between the living and the inert. Vegetation dresses the buildings. The plasterwork and stone are adorned with leaves and flowers. The walls have imaginary plant compositions.



Paintings from the Hall of Kings. Palace of the Lions, Alhambra. Detail of the north vault.



Decorative wooden panel from the northwest of the Court of the Water-Channel, in the Generalife. 13th century. Museo de la Alhambra.



Panel of painted stucco. Western viewpoint of the Court of the Water-Channel in the Generalife, ca. 1273-1309. Museo de la Alhambra.

TIME IS ACCUMULATED IN GARDENS

The Alhambra and Generalife form a complex that is continually being improved in which gardens with very different aesthetics interweave and permanent features blend harmoniously with changes.

In the early Christian era, the marvellous gardens of Lindaraja and Adarves were added to the original Nasrid gardens. The High Gardens of the Generalife were built during the Romantic period, and the 20th century gave us the extensive gardens of El Partal and the broad terrace with gorges built by the architects Leopoldo Torres Balbás and Francisco Prieto-Moreno.



Rafael Garzón (phot.), "Paths and Gardens in the Generalife" [Arbour in the High Gardens of the Generalife]. Ca. 1890. Archivo del Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife.



José García Ayola, "Generalife" [Garden of the Court of the Sultana]. 1880-1890. Archivo del Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife.

JARDINES del GENERALIFE y la ALHAMBRA

El milagro que nació del agua

GARDENS of the GENERALIFE and the ALHAMBRA
 the miracle that sprang from water

GARDENS OF THE GENERALIFE AND THE ALHAMBRA

The miracle that sprang from water

The Alhambra and its surrounding hills are a garden landscape. Rather than being an additional accessory to decorate the palaces, nature combines with them to form one inseparable whole. Plants fill the courtyards, blend in with the buildings, interweave with the plasterwork and fuse with the verses of the poems that speak to us from the walls.

The Generalife and Alhambra enclose the richest collection of gardens on Earth. The vegetable-gardens of the Generalife, the terraces of El Partal, the Courts of the Water-Channel and of the Myrtles planted in the Middle Ages by the Nasrid Dynasty, are the oldest surviving cultivated spaces in palaces in the entire world. Over the centuries, they have been added to with excellent gardens with highly varied aesthetics.

For garden-lovers, the Alhambra and Generalife are a sublime example of beauty and of masterful use of water.



Painting on board depicting a fight between two knights. Alhambra, Palace of the Lions, Hall of the Muqarnas, ca. 1380. Museo de la Alhambra.

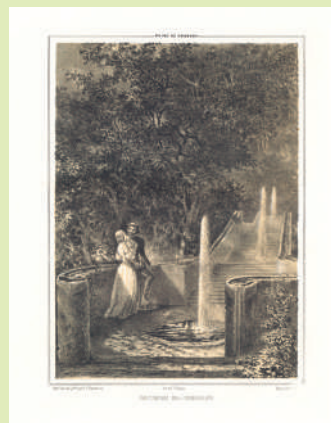
This exhibition, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the joint management of the Alhambra and Generalife, is a celebration of their gardens and shows how they have evolved over time and how they have been depicted in artworks of all kinds.

GENERALIFE. A COUNTRY ESTATE IN THE LANDSCAPE

The Generalife and its wonderful gardens have been a source of inspiration for all kinds of artists, poets, musicians and photographers. While the Alhambra was a city that had gardens, the Generalife was a garden in itself.



Portrait of doña Catalina de Granada Venegas: "Doña Catalina of Granada, daughter of Pedro of Granada III. Married Don Esteban Lomelín". Undated. Colección Giacomo Cattaneo Adorno, Marqués de Gabiano.



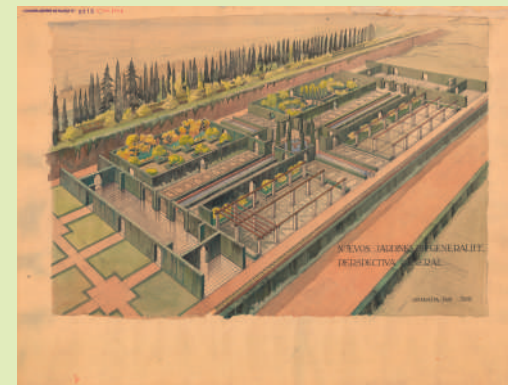
F. Javier Parcerisa (drawing), "Memories of the Generalife" [Water Staircase]. Ca. 1848. Fundación El legado andalusí.

Although change is in the very nature of gardens, the Generalife conserves the oldest ornamental garden in the world, the Court of the Water-Channel.

It was carefully tended by the Nasrid Sultans that created it, by the governors of the Granada-Venegas family who took care of it for four centuries, and later by the managers from the Board of Trustees of the Alhambra and Generalife.



Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey, "Jardin du Généralife" [Court of the Water-Channel]. 1833. Colección CSG.



Francisco Prieto-Moreno (architect), "New gardens of the Generalife. General view". Granada, 1949. Archivo del Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife.

EVOCATIONS OF GARDENS IN ART

From the beginning, the Generalife and Alhambra have fascinated all lovers of beauty. Their gardens have been a constant source of inspiration for painters, poets and musicians. The exhibition offers a wide selection of pieces that sprang from these fertile fantasies, ranging from sublime works of art to popular culture.



Wilhelm Gail, "Löwenhofder Alhambra in Granada" [Gardeners in the Court of the Lions]. 1838. Watercolour. Colección C. Moreno-Torres, Granada.



Joaquín Sorolla, [Lindaraja Garden]. 1909. Oil on canvas. Museo de la Alhambra.