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Opening times for tourists
[1 May/14 September]
Monday to Sunday: 9:00 - 14:30 and 17:00 - 20:30
[15 September/30 April]
Monday to Sunday: 10:00 - 17:00

Library opening hours
[16 June/15 September]
Monday to Friday: 8:30 - 15:00
[16 September/15 June]
Monday to Thursday: 8:30 - 15:00 and 16:00 - 18:30
Friday: 8:30 - 15:00

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Casa del Chapiz

NATIONAL MONUMENT (14th – 16th centuries)

Casa del Chapiz occupies a large area on the corner between Cuesta del Chapiz and Camino del Sacromonte, at the southeastern end of the former suburban quarter of Albaicín, once known as Rabah al-baydā’ or Barrio de la Blanca. It is said that the property was part of an old Nasrid alminia (aristocratic country estate), made up of four irrigation farming terraces with a mansion standing on the highest one.

Written sources preserved from 1525 onwards indicate that the house used to be inhabited by the Morisco family of Hernán López el Ferí but by then, all that was left of the property was the upper terrace. It was in charge of it until the mid-nineteenth century. During this period, the dwellings were accessed through one of the patios or enclosed courtyards that were recaptured; and vegetation was used to recreate the bays that had disappeared. It is almost rectangular (19.3 x 13.5 m) and retains its original central pond. The patio is common to all Morisco houses in Granada. It is rectangular (10.4 x 5.55 x 6.15 m) and large white marble columns standing supported by brick pillars in the corners and capitals. The upper floor would have had bays with rooms on all four sides of only the ground floor, and five-arch porticoes along the shorter sides. On the northern portico there are reused Nasrid elements (white marble bases, shafts and capitals). The upper floor was remade, while the ones in ruins were underpinned and strengthened; the roof tiles and frames were erected; some of the porticoes and galleries were rebuilt; the ponds in the patio were recovered; and vegetation was used to recreate the bays that had disappeared.

The Northerm Patio...

The restoration of Casa del Chapiz, which was undertaken between 1929 and 1932 by Leopoldo Torres Balbas, curator of the Alhambra and of the 6th Monumental Zone, guaranteed the survival of the building, which was embellished with a small central pond and a hallway or qasba entrance. Its functional organisation follows Andalusi tradition with wooden galleries on all four sides providing access to all the rooms on the upper floor. These are supported by brick pillars in the corners and large white marble columns standing halfway along the longest sides of the patio. Underneath the room in the northern bay there is an aljibe or cistern that was used to collect water from the irrigation canal Acequia de Aytradamar, used for human consumption and to water the orchard.

The Southern Patio...

The restoration of Casa del Chapiz, which was undertaken between 1929 and 1932 by Leopoldo Torres Balbas, curator of the Alhambra and of the 6th Monumental Zone, guaranteed the survival of the building, which was embellished with a small central pond and a hallway or qasba entrance. Its functional organisation follows Andalusi tradition with wooden galleries on all four sides providing access to all the rooms on the upper floor. These are supported by brick pillars in the corners and large white marble columns standing halfway along the longest sides of the patio. Underneath the room in the northern bay there is an aljibe or cistern that was used to collect water from the irrigation canal Acequia de Aytradamar, used for human consumption and to water the orchard.

The Gardens...

The gardens, planted around 1935, are spread over an area of the former orchard. They were newly designed using the typical features seen in Granada, similar to those planted during this period in the Generalife and the Alhambra palaces. The gardens cover an extensive area (100 m long with an average width of 15 m) supported by a thick Nasrid wall built of rammed earth and mortar. The gardens are accessed from the patio that lies to the south of the house and their design is made up of seven boxwood squares standing in a line, containing different kinds of trees and shrubs (myrtles, bitter orange, pomegranates, etc.). Throughout the entire area there are wonderful views of the Alhambra and the Generalife palaces.