

# OSUNA

## A VISITORS GUIDE

Navalagrulla, 28  
41640 Osuna  
Sevilla

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Osuna house	+34 955 218 207
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## Orientation

### arriving

Have you arrived on Saturday?? The shops don't reopen on Saturday evening and are closed all day Sunday so go and get what you need now. If you have arrived on Sunday, it's down to the tapas bar (Casa Curro is your very wonderful local).

The nearest...

- ... bread is in the sweet shop *Pan Despacho* on Plaza Salitre, left out of the house, right at the bottom and right into the square (C4).
- ... bar is Casa Curro, bottom of the road, turn right, on the left of the square, Plaza del Salitre (E4) .
- ... supermarket is La Compra, La Puerta de Ronda (C4), bottom of the road, turn right, turn left past the farmacia.
- ... cigarettes, in the *estanco* in Calle Antequera, bottom of the road, turn right, on the right (before you get to the square).
- ... petrol station is by Villa Ducal, past the hospital (G5).
- ... chemists is the Farmacia in Plaza Salitre, bottom of the road, turn right, on the left of the square, next door to Casa Curro.
- ... internet café is on Plaza Santa Rita (E4) (but there is wifi in the house, see page 9 for password).
- ...taxi is apparently Taxi Reina (655 82 50 66; carlosreinaortiz@hotmail.com) on Calle Hernando de Esturmio, 8. Never tried him but someone left a business card in the house....
- ... English newspaper is in Seville (the town, not the street, sorry).

Eroski is the really big supermarket, open Monday to Saturday 10am to 10pm (!) – see page 3.

For details of hot water, turning the gas on etc, see **House stuff** below.

If you want a suggestion for a first orientation walk, see **Things to do** below

If there's no power, check the circuit breakers in consumer unit by the front door.

If there's no water you really are being unlucky! – they are probably doing some road work locally. It comes back....

### what you'll find in the house

It should be fully stocked with everything a home should have, from rice to lavatory paper which you are welcome to borrow and replace. For example there'll be milk (it's all long life) in the cupboard under the main work surface - please use it but replace it for the next guests. Essentially, replace what you use and make sure that we aren't running out of anything. There won't be fresh food and the fridges will be empty (and by the same token, when you leave, don't leave anything to go off – see the Leaving section). If you break something, either replace it or tell us. Same if something doesn't work or has fallen apart - it's really annoying when we find out too late to do something about it.

## **the Spanish day**

Opening hours take a bit of adjusting to. When we first came to Osuna, we couldn't find any restaurants at all. A Spanish friend was bemused - the place is full of them, he said. The point is that a) they are open at different times to the ones we are used to, b) the times that they are open is a little unpredictable, and c) when they are closed, they are often hard to spot. When you get the hang of it, eating is easy - just do everything later. Restaurants don't usually really get going until 9:30 or so.

Shops open from about nine and close at about two (maybe half an hour later in winter). Between two and about five, absolutely nothing happens (some of the bars are open) but it's like a ghost town with tumbleweed blowing across the field of vision. And then the shops open again, some to 9 or later. Pretty quickly you find it's rather convenient being able to shop in the cool of the evening.

## **where can I find....?**

### **banks**

Lots down Carrera (E3). The ATMs will accept your card (*tarjeta*) and now generally have an English option.

### **bread**

Pan Despacho Plaza Salitre (C4)

Contrary to what Moro will tell you, good bread is hard to find here (though the bars seem to find it OK!). Much of it (including that from the local baker down Molinos) is light, dry and unappealing. The best locally is in the Pan Despacho (the sweetshop in Plaza Salitre, also open Sunday mornings) which does loaves and baguettes still warm from the oven. Brown is *integral*. Most reliable are the big supermarkets like Eroski where you can find the expected French bread, ciabata and some rather good brown seeded loaves.

### **chemists**

Farmacia, Plaza Salitre (C4)

See medical help, below.

### **emergency**

112 is the general emergency number.

Other numbers according to the EU are:

062 - civil guard,  
091 - police,  
061 - health emergencies  
080 - fire fighters  
092 - local police

but we've never had to use them so no idea if they work...

## **exercise**

The big sports centre is at A1 including pool, tennis and all the usual stuff.

## **food**

La Compra, La Puerta de Ronda (C4)

This is the closest with a good meat section and vegetables.

Indoor Market, Plaza Mayor (E3)

Opposite the *ayuntamiento*. Open every morning, very attractive and well worth visiting. A good place for meat, fish and vegetables. Now rather smartened up with cafes.

Eroski, South of G5

This is a proper big supermarket, open all day, every day, except Sunday. It's a car drive or a 10 minute brisk walk. Heaven knows how they manage to make it pay. Fabulous fish (if you're lucky, the lobsters will wave at you), delicatessen. Also washing machines, DVDs....

Carnicería, Plaza de Salitre (C4)

Great butchers on the square at the bottom of the road. Even speaks a little English

Frutas, Puerta de Ronda (C4)

Fruiters open and close regularly. There's a new one on the corner of Antequera and Plaza Salitre.

La dispensa iberica, Puerta de Ronda (C4)

A small delicatessen doing cheese, meats. Good for uncured chorizo sausages (ie you have to cook them like ordinary sausages). Great selection of hams if you fancy stuffing one in the hand luggage.

There are also lots of other supermarkets, fruterías, carnicerías all over the place. There are three supermarkets (Lidl, Maxi and Mercadona) in a pack at the top of Sor Angela de la Cruz.

## **internet**

There's wireless (router is in the old kitchen on the shelves). Network is WinetWifi, password is probok5310m. Otherwise there's an internet café at Plaza Santa Rita (E4)

## **market**

There is a general market by the park and bull ring (B1) every Monday morning. Very good for material (fancy running up some curtains?), clothes, shoes, lights, hardware. Not usually any food (though plenty of snack stalls).

## **medical help**

Farmacia, Plaza Salitre, (C4)

They'll sort you out for all the normal things. If you think you need prescription

drugs, you'll need the Centro de Salud

Centro de Salud, Asisitente Arjona, E4

The big health centre on the opposite block to the 1818 clothes shop. Go to the desk on the ground floor, say you're English and flash your E111. You may need to wait a bit and insist that you see a doctor (*medico*) but the doctors are very helpful.

Hospital de la Merced , (G5)

In an emergency there is the enormous hospital that serves the whole area (ask for *urgencias* pronounced ur-**hen**-sias).

### **park**

Parque San Arcadia (C1) on Calle Alfonso is good for kids with playground. Also exercise machines for grown ups. There are other playgrounds about eg at F4.

### **post office**

Get post cards and stamps in one of the *estancos* (like tabacs in France, they sell tobacco and cigarettes) along Carrera (E2) or on Calle Antequera, left out of the house turn right and it's there. The main post office is in San Agustin (E4)

### **teenager things**

Last time we looked, there was a disco on Sevilla and the Tazmania, a dark groovy café, at the top of Carrera D1). Watch for posters.

### **tourist offices**

The tourist office has moved to Carrera (Calle Carrera, 82; tel 954815732, [turismo@ayto-osuna.es](mailto:turismo@ayto-osuna.es)) in the entrance to the old hospital. It has all the stuff from Andalucía, not just Osuna. They have lots of maps and guides to the local flora and fauna, monuments, restaurants, many available in English

# House stuff



## awning

The one in the courtyard should be pulled across in hot weather – see ‘keeping cool’, below. The awning in the garden under the vine is intended for Spring when it’s hot but the vine hasn’t grown yet. Don’t use it past the beginning of May when the vine is out as it will get filthy and the vine will give you shade anyway. And like the big awning in the courtyard, beware of rain and pull it back when it’s not needed (certainly by the late afternoon).

## bedclothes

Spare bed linen is all in the linen press outside the front bedroom.



## books

Lots of books to read. We’re planning on rereading them all again when we retire, so we’d appreciate it if you didn’t nick them.

## breakfast

Antonio y Mari is highly recommended (see restaurant section). Otherwise you will want to buy oranges for juicing (electric juicer on the counter). Buy from the roadside, fruterías or from supermarkets. Opinion is divided whether you should buy *postres*, ie dessert or *para zumo* ie for juice.

## butane gas bottle

	OFF	<p>One for the hot water outside and one for the cooker. Also a very efficient heater (the wheels are prone to break – take care). You will need to turn these on when you arrive and turn them off when you leave.</p> <p>Should a bottle run out, there’s a spare in the utility room (it’s heavy, do mind yourself). Should you run out, Gas Osuna’s number is in the phone (955 820 789). Their office hours are 10-2 Monday to Friday and they will deliver but you will have to wait in. The alternative is to take the old bottle to their office. They are in the satnav (Calle afiladores, 16 in the El Ejido Industrial Estate (the satnav hasn’t got the one way systems quite right but you will see the office which is bright red)</p>
	ON	

## cat repellents

We like cats. But. We are in danger of becoming the make out place of choice for the local feline gang. In a desperate attempt to discourage them from using the garden as combined restaurant, bathhouse and maternity ward, we have employed ultrasonic solar powered repellents. They seem to work and we (in our sixties) can’t hear them but younger friends tell me that they can and it is most unpleasant (hope the cats

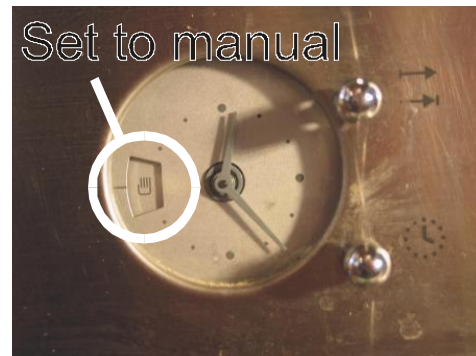
think so too!). So, by all means, turn them off. But we suggest you turn them back on again at night and please do so as you leave. To set them, keep the left hand switch at about 1/2 way and turn off the right hand switch and then on fully.

### **compost**

We have a separate bin for vegetable scraps that can be composted (inside the sink unit door). If you are prepared to play along, we'd be grateful, but please make sure the compost bin in the kitchen is empty when you leave! It should be obvious which heap is to be left to compost and which is receiving fresh offerings. The compost doesn't like wood ash.

### **cooker**

Hobs are gas (turn on the bottle in the cupboard to the right of the cooker). Press in knob and twist – you will hear the clicking of the automatic ignition. Hold it in for a second or so and turn the knob a bit more so that the clicking stops. Adjust as necessary. The big burner on the left is pretty scary – instructions are in the left hand drawer of the cooker. (By the way, don't try and scrub the surface – it's meant to look like that!)



Ovens are electric. Each cooker has a knob for temperature and another for selecting mode (eg fan, top heat, bottom heat). If they don't seem to work, it's probably because the timer has been set – it should be set to manual. See instruction book in the cooker drawer. There is also a laminated sheet showing what the controls would say if they hadn't all rubbed off....

### **cot**

There's a cot and a high chair cushion thing (which attaches to a normal chair) behind the sofa in the arch room. Linen in the bottom drawer of the chest of drawers

### **drying clothes**

There's a retractable washing line screwed to the wall in the far right hand corner of the garden (it used to be in the rubber tree but noone could find it). It should be fixed to the hook on the opposite wall, half way along or to the wall by the compost heap. For wet days, there's a drying rack in the passage to the garden. Oh, OK, there's also a drying machine. After using, check the filter and empty the water catcher.

### **football table**

Enjoy but please, if the ball needs a nudge, don't lift the table by the rods!! And replace the cover after use. It may not *look* like rain...

### **fountain**

Make sure there is enough water before turning it on or it'll be a new pump!



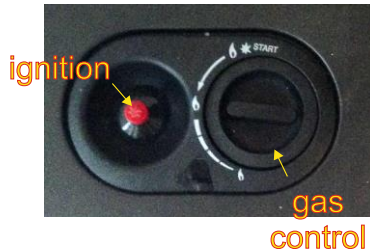
## fridge

When you arrive the fridges will (probably) be turned off. This is because there are occasional power cuts. Turn on the fridges as soon as you arrive and empty them and turn them off when you leave.

## fuse box

This is on the wall of the porch, just inside the front door.

## heater (butane in the dining room)



Very efficient. To light, turn on the gas cylinder, hold in gas control (in the vertical 'start' position), wait a few seconds for the gas to flow and press the ignition switch a few times until the pilot lights. Keep the gas control pressed in for 10-15 seconds and release. (If it goes out, repeat lighting procedure). Leave the gas control at the start position for about 5 minutes then turn the gas down to medium or low (you need to depress the control slightly to allow it to turn). Unlike our last one there is no thermostat, usually the low position is more than sufficient. To turn off, turn off the cylinder (probably a good idea to turn the gas control back to 'start').

## hot water

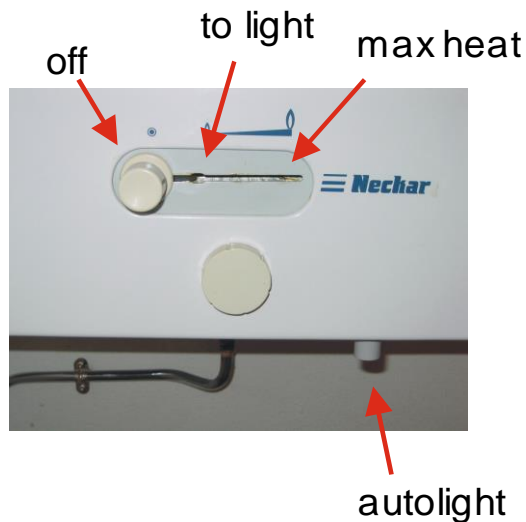
For most of the year, hot water is solar powered. You don't need to do anything. Please don't touch any of the controls. The tank off the cell room is bypassed so don't try turning on the immersion heater. But for winter arrangements, see below.

## hot water – winter

We will have switched the water to the winter setting. All you will need to do when you arrive is to plug in the immersion heater and unplug it when you leave. Electricity is ruinously expensive in Spain so please don't forget!

## hot water – outside shower room

The outside shower room/utility room is butane powered. It should be already on (we find if we turn the pilot off, the jets clog up). If it's not, you can have a go at lighting it but it's a bit fiddly and you shouldn't need it – the washing machine is cold fill. If you need to relight the outside boiler, check the bottle is on, then pull switch to the centre, hold in, click auto light (bottom right), keep the switch pressed in for a few seconds, release. If you want really hot water, move the switch fully to the right.



### **internet**

There's wireless (router is in the old kitchen on the shelves). Network is WinetWifi, password is probok5310m.

### **keeping cool**

The received wisdom is to keep the house locked up tight. We're not absolutely convinced and have remodelled the inside of the house to maximise airflow. That said, if it's hot, it's a good idea to pull the blinds down and close the windows in your bedroom during the day. In summer, always pull the awning across the courtyard during the day – if nothing else it'll stop the plants from dying. But do pull it back in the evening – should it rain, the weight of water will destroy it! When it's really hot, there are plenty of fans upstairs and down (we sleep with it on). And putting glasses in the freezer is a treat!

### **keeping warm**

Should you need them, you'll find electric heaters in each room. There is also an efficient butane heater in the dining room (remember to turn the bottle off after use). The wood burning stove in the front room works a treat!

### **lavatories**

Water can be saved by giving the loo only a short flush. Flush by pressing down the chrome button and then press again when you wish the flushing to stop. The outside loo is temperamental (I think there's a kink in the drain) and should not be used (though, how shall I put it? purely liquid waste is fine...).

### **loungers**

Cushions for the last remaining green one is in the settle in the dining room

### **maps and stuff**

In the bookcase in the old kitchen. General guides and maps plus brochures in 3 large loose leaf files. Borrow anything you need but please return (and additions/replacements very welcome!). Our own maps come in two versions, the one with all the churches and the one with all the cafes and shops.

## **paddling pool**

At the time of writing there is a paddling pool (these things tend to come and go) left by a previous visitor. It is vast. You are welcome to use it but please use the well water to fill it up and not the garden tap – it would be ruinously expensive.

## **parking**

All Osuna streets are very narrow, including Navalagrulla. Park on the correct side of the road, tight against the kerb, mirrors folded in. Make sure you are not obstructing a garage (they will need space to get out and turn). Should you be staying in the house on the 1<sup>st</sup> January or 1<sup>st</sup> July you can witness (and take part in) the switch from one side of the street to the other. Very exciting....

## **radio**

FM reception is not good but there's an internet radio in the kitchen. On/off switch is on top, it'll connect and then if it's not in the right place, you need 'lounge' and then select what you want to listen to.

## **rain**

When it does rain, it can be torrential and all the doors leak (this seems to be pretty universal around here). The Spanish solution is large plastic covered frames. We have two for the courtyard, one for the metal door from the porch and one for the wooden door at the bottom of the stairs. Not *totally* convinced they will work so there are also old towels in the old kitchen to act as a makeshift dam (you think we are kidding?). **AND MAKE SURE THE BIG AWNING OVER THE COURTYARD IS PULLED BACK!!**



The sofas on the colonnade should be covered when you arrive in case it rains. The covers can be folded and put behind the sofas (except when it rains, of course).

## **rubbish**

This is collected every night (except Sunday). Just leave rubbish bags (we use supermarket plastic bags – you'll find them in the elegant holder hanging up by the kitchen roller towel) outside on the pavement under the window. Don't leave bags out during the day – the local dogs enjoy the sport.... There is recycling, paper and glass go into bins on Plaza del Duque (turn right out of the house and down Molinos). Don't leave bags out in the street the morning you go but leave them in the lobby between the doors (Carmen will get rid of them).

## **strange devices in the garden**

These are ultrasonic cat repellers and they sort of work. Now we love cats but we were being overrun by several generations of the local moggies who were using the garden as combined lavatory and maternity facility. If you are under 50 and the noise is really irritating (we don't hear it) by all means turn them off but turn them back on



when you leave? Left knob should be turned to sensitivity about half way (3), right hand knob turned off them on again to 5.

### telephoning

In case of emergency, the phone's connected (+34 955 218 207) through the router on the shelves in the old kitchen.

### TV

Lovely day like this and you're skulking in the house wanting to watch TV?? Oh well. We have lots of DVDs, they work the way you expect them to work. The TV is set to work with the soundbar through the optical 1, DVD player through HDMI3 but you won't need to adjust anything!



### umbrella

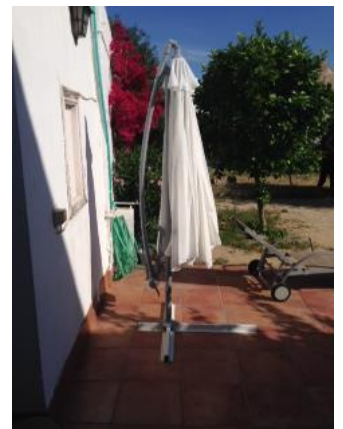
Do be careful. This is our third umbrella... please don't use it if it's at all windy and follow the instructions to raise and lower.



At the start, the umbrella should be fully down. Raise the lever and slide up to the top.



Close the lever, it should look like this.





Now raise the bit with the handle so the cantilever slides over, all the way and lock with the locking sleeve.

Now turn the handle to open the umbrella so the centre structure just sits snugly. Don't overtighten.

When you have finished with it, just reverse the procedure.



### washing machine

New washing machine is in the utility room. Right hand button selects the programme and the time and temperature come up on the control panel. 'Inicio' is the start button.

ignore these  
fine tune here



mix is favourite  
start/stop button

(For drying, see 'washing line'.) Water is not supplied by the butane boiler above it (it's a cold fill). If the key symbol comes on and the machine won't start and the buttons don't work, you have managed to lock the machine – hold the start button for 5 seconds. If you want to add more clothes half way through a cycle, press start. If YES and a drum symbol light up you can open the drum. If you get a flashing NO, wait until YES and the drum symbol light up. If you just get NO you're out of luck and will have to wait until the cycle finishes.

### water

The water supply may sometimes be interrupted. Don't worry, it is a form of water rationing and the supply will be resumed without your having to do anything about it. There are stop cocks in each bathroom and beneath the sinks in the kitchen and utility room.

### wood burning stove

Works jolly well (not only does it warm up the front room but the chimney does a pretty good job on the front bedroom too. There should be firelighters on the shelf in the utility room (make sure you replace the stock). The main stock of firewood is in the colonnade. Start with small bits and move onto bigger ones (though big will light fine on its own). Newspaper (if you use it) is in the cupboard under the stairs. To light, open the ventilator a bit, you can close it



down fully when the fire's got going. Always operate the stove with the door closed. There are fire irons beside the stove and a bucket for ashes. If you need to empty the ashes put them out with the rubbish – the plants don't seem to like them.

There's also a fan sitting on top of the stove. This is powered by the heat of the stove and is meant to distribute the heat round the room. It was a present...

## Things to do

### A first walk round town

This is an orientation walk. You will want to pop into many of the places mentioned later.

Turn right out of the house and turn left up Palomos and then right at the internet café into Sevilla. You will see La Colegiata on the hilltop in front of you. Go up Sevilla past the Convento de la Concepción (active, you'll see the nuns in their winged white wimples in the town) into Plaza Mayor. The town hall (*ayuntamiento*) and tourist office are on your right, the indoor market is on your left. Go past the Casino (its chairs overlooking the square) to the corner of Plaza Mayor. Following the sign to *Zona Monumental*, turn left up San Anton (the Meson del Duque bar and restaurant is straight ahead, the Archaeological Museum is on your right. After a short climb you will come to a stepped square (Plaza de la Encarnación) with the convent on your left (you can ring the bell and buy some pastries (*pasteles*) from the nuns there) and La Colegiata church on the right. Walk round La Colegiata and enjoy the view. Cross the road to the 16<sup>th</sup> century *Universidad* (now a school). Stroll in and enjoy the peaceful courtyard. Then go back to the main road<sup>1</sup>, turn right along it, following sign to Convento de la Merced, take the second turning on the left down a flight of steps into Cuesta de Marruecos, leading back into town. The Plaza de la Merced with the Merced tower and church is on your right. The Taberna Raspao in the square is a very nice place for an evening meal. Go down Alpechin into Carrera and turn right past the Plaza Rodriguez Marin with its fine church of Santo Domingo. Turn left down San Pedro (don't miss the Hotel Palacio Marquis de la Gomera), left down Christo, over Sevilla to the Plazuela del Salitre (where you'll find your local bar, the Casa Curro). Turn left into Antequera. And second left into Navalagrulla.

### Restaurants and bars in Osuna

There are lots of bars which will all serve you a drink and tapas. If you sit at the bar and order a glass of wine, the least you will get is some excellent olives. But just ask for something – Russian salad, anchovies, cheese, chorizo – it will only cost pennies. You can make a meal of tapas. Some bars will have a menu (in Casa Curro, it's all over the walls), some not. A not untypical conversation might be:

*¿Algo comer?* (what would you like to eat?)

*¿Qué hay?* (what have you got?)

*Todo. ¿Qué quieres?* (we have everything – what would you like?).

You can order tapas at the tables away from the bar but there may be slightly more substantial fare on offer. There is often a restaurant in a room at the back. Food generally comes in 3 sizes – *tapa* –small (and cheap) portions meant as an appetiser, *media* – a half portion, quite big enough for one person and *ración* – a full portion which you'd want to share. Some things, for example prawns (*gambas*), only come as a *ración*.

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<sup>1</sup> Alternatively, if you fancy a longer walk, don't turn left down to the Merced Tower but look straight ahead of you – you will see the old quarries – *las canteras* - honey coloured on the hill in the distance. Follow the road down you'll come to a sign to the right to the necropolis, go straight on along Buena Vista until you see the quarries. (See Las Canteras in the Osuna sights below). Return the way you came turning left at the necropolis sign down Granada into town.

Because everything is fresh, vegetarians can be catered for – *Soy vegetariano/a. No como carne o pesce* (I am a vegetarian. I do not eat meat or fish). That said, the concept of vegetarianism is not well understood, Osunians seem bemused that a little bit of ham to accompany the aubergine fritter might be a problem... Be firm. Taberna Raspao (see below) has good reports from vegetarians

In the notes that follow, the following codes are used.



bar



food and drink, usually at the bar



teashop, breakfast, churrería



proper sit-down restaurant



eating outside (in season)

£	cheap and cheerful
££	won't break the bank (but be careful what you order)
£££	as expensive as Osuna gets

### El Hotel Palacio del Marqués ££ (D2)

San Pedro, 20 ☎ 954 812 223



This is by far the best hotel in town - famous for its turret room which was used as the setting for Franco Zeffereilli's 2001 film "Callas Forever" with Fanny Ardant & Jeremy Irons.

The restaurant is excellent. Really quite posh and for what it offers, not expensive. Portions are huge, a salad really does for four, a steak (the one stuffed with goats cheese is fabulous) will serve two. Have the excellent Rioja Beronia. Finish off with a drink in the bar.

Don't miss the hotel. Stroll in as though you owned the place and have a good look round. Have a drink in the bar or better, sit in the courtyard and get them to bring the drinks to you. It's the only place in town where anyone will speak English. Even if you don't brave the hotel it's worth strolling down San Pedro (deemed by UNESCO to be the second most beautiful street in Europe).

### Hospederia del Monasterio £££ /££ (F3)

Plaza de la Encarnación, 3 ☎ 955 821 380



And this is another rather pleasant hotel/restaurant, opened in the beginning of 2006. This is the place to push the boat out, especially in the Summer when it's position at the top of the town opposite the Colegiata and the convent, makes it pleasantly cool in the evening. Sit inside or outside by the pool on the charming terrace. It is an *asador* which is really a barbie and they do really excellent grills at not unreasonable prices. Starters are excellent (share one between two) and the



ambience is both modern and authentic. House red is excellent. Opening is highly variable – they are pretty well always open Friday to Sunday but it's worth checking first. Fire doesn't get going until about 10.

### **El Mesón del Duque ££ (E3)**

Plaza de la Duquesa, 2 ☎ 954 812 845



This is a very pleasant, classy, mainly open air, restaurant and tapas bar. It's prettily situated above the Plaza Mayor (just opposite the Archaeological Museum) and beneath the Colégiata. It's where the more stylish Osunians tend to congregate. Food is good and varied (a media ración, ie half portion, will be quite enough) though can be expensive if you're not careful - certainly the tapas mounts up. Ask for *un plat de tomates cortado con ajo* (sliced tomatoes with garlic). It's not on the menu but they do it very well here.

### **Doña Guadalupe ££ (D2)**

Pl.Guadalupe, 6-8 ☎ 954810558



This is the concept eating joint very pleasantly situated. It is well renowned for its food. There is the bar with its green chairs and large TV and the more conventional restaurant which we have yet to see anything like full. And a courtyard. Some specialities are quite pricey and they certainly have a range of imported spirits which would set you back. But it's very pleasant and friendly with a strong bullfighting connection.

The first challenge is to find it. There's a great big advertising signpost in Carrera pointing down Gordillo. Go up and down there a few times until you lose patience. Eventually, half way down the street on the right you will see a sign on the wall saying 'private courtyard'. Yup, that's it....

### **El Molinillo £ (E3)**

Plaza Mayor, 6 ☎ 954 812 746



One of our favourites and a must for eating out. In the main square (Plaza Mayor) with excellent food, very reasonably priced. Don't order too much and be ready to wait a long time for the bill if a) you're late and b) it's high season.

Enjoy the colourful young people parading and riding their scooters and cars round and round and round....

When it's not al fresco dining weather you will find the locals inside, downstairs easting the 8€ menu del dia.

### **Cafesur £ (H5)**

Avenida Constitución, 88 ☎ 955 82 07 12



Very friendly with excellent food (try the solomillo al Jerez) and surprisingly situated at the far end of the Supersol building opposite the hospital. Don't be put off by the cafeteria-like first impression. A (very little) English is spoken here.

### **Casa Curro ££ (C4)**

Plaza Salitre, 5 ☎ 955 820 758



Not sure what Casa Curro means - the guide book has it as 'Flashy House' though 'curro' normally means 'job'. Whatever, it's the best (and most renowned) tapas bar in town. And it's your local. Extraordinary range of dishes are blackboarded all over the walls, though there is a menu if you sit at a table. Don't expect to get a seat unless you get there well before 10. And there's a serviceable restaurant as well.

### **Bar Curro £ (C4)**

Plaza Del Salitre, 9



This bar has gone through a number of transformations. It is owned by Casa Curro but smaller and there are places to sit outside on the street on three or four tables outside or to squeeze into the bar. Friendly, smaller selection of good tapas, good wine. It's useful when Casa Curro is closed for the summer hols; when it's open you can order anything from the Casa Curro menu – they'll simply walk it across the square!

### **Taberna Raspao £ (F2)**

Plaza de la Merced, 7



This is a really good place to eat - typical Andalusian fare in a popular bar/restaurant. Very pleasant to eat out by the trees in the courtyard under the gaze of the Colegiata. Ask for a *menú típico de Andalucía* and they'll see you right. They seem to understand the concept of vegetarian better than most. A word of warning. The restaurant inside has the smallest, most uncomfortable chairs we've ever sat in.

### **Torre Vera £ (C2)**

Calle Alfonso XII, 27; ☎ 620 194 787



We don't usually go up this end of town by the bullring but do for this one. You eat outside in a plastic tent (heated in Winter) with a great selection of good tapas and plates. The menu is somehow more approachable than other eateries. Have the gambas en béchamel (deep fried prawns). Highly recommended and open on Mondays!

### **Café Tetuan £ (D2)**

Calle de Carrera



This is a tea shop and ice cream parlour. It's inexplicably popular, maybe because of its location or because it's one of the few places for afternoon tea. (Recently done up – may have improved).

### **Antonio y Mari £ (C2)**

Corner of Barbeza and La Cilla



The only place to have breakfast. Steady throughput of Osunians catching up on the gossip. Very friendly. Order *tostades y mantequilla y mermelade* (toast, butter and jam - *media* if you only want ½ a piece). Or *churros* (a plate of fat doughnut worms), with chocolate (a bit rich for our tastes) or with the honey (*miel*) on the tables.

### **Casino (E3)**

Plaza Mayor



This is a fabulous place with an elegant veranda looking out onto Plaza Mayor. Inside the décor is of 1920s vintage, Mudéjar-inspired with a wonderfully bizarre ceiling. There's also a small library. It is incidentally the only place in the town licensed for putting on plays.

It is actually a club with some 800 (male) members but out-of-towners are allowed and it's a grand place for a drink or a snack.

### **Meson Consolación £ (D4)**

Cristo de la Paz



This is the nearest place to Navalagrulla for breakfast though it is really a bar. Pleasant sitting out in the square. It has recently changed hands and is now trying to make more of a go with food.

### **Churreria Chan £ (E3)**

San Francisco



This is the alternative place for churros. A little more downmarket than Antonio y Mari but very authentic!

### **Villa Ducal ££ (H5)**

Area de Servicios A92; ☎ 955 82 02 72



This is a big hotel, restaurant and bar in the service area along from the Hospital. Big and barn-like we've only had coffees there but the locals regard it highly.

### **El Amanecer de Osuna ££**

Carretera El Saucejo-Las Viñas ☎ 686 062 306



This is out of town on the El Saucejo road. After a few miles turn left for Las Viñas (sign marked restaurant). After about 1/2 a mile you'll see a building on the right. Go through the gates and up the drive. There's a playground for children outside but inside it's huge and rather nicely appointed. When we went there, we the only people there and there was no menu but various grills, paëlla were offered. Very good if a little pricey. Probably a good idea to phone first (see phrase book).

### **Other places**

There are lots of other restaurants and bars. When you find one you like (or want to warn us off!), do tell us. There's a lot by Calle Alfonso XII which we haven't tried, including a pizzeria. There's also some that are in the books that we've never got around to finding. If you fancy an adventure....

### **Venta Puerta de Palos**

Carratera El Saucejo, Km 10 ☎ 955 958 073

The guide says it has beautiful views over the natural landscape, offers traditional cooking and local produce and is the perfect place to enjoy some moments of rest.

### **Complejo Turístico Huerta de la Gomera**

Carretera. Osuna-El Saucejo, Km 12 ☎ 955 958 234

The tourist guide says it's wooden, got great views and does game. It's on the road to El Saucejo at about 12.5km, the gate is on the right

### **opening hours**

The bars close on different days. Monday is particularly sticky (you'd better eat in) though Raspao is usually open and Torres Vera is meant to be.

## Osuna sights

Osuna is great to explore with elegant streets of whitewashed houses and fine 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century mansions. Walking through the streets is a pleasure – day or night. If you did the orientation walk above you will have walked past some of these places, pop back for a longer look (lots more details in the guides in the old kitchen).

### La Colegiata de Santa Maria de la Ascensión

Open Tues-Sun, 10.00 - 13.30 and 16.00 - 19.00, 15.30 - 18.30 in Winter. Like most museums in Spain, this is closed on Mondays. You can't just stroll around but have to take the guided tour, cost 2€ (but see below) . The cathedral has some fine artworks, a museum and below, the crypt and chapel of the Dukes of Osuna.

### El Convento de la Encarnación

In La Colegiata, you should also buy an entrance ticket for a tour of the convent opposite (same hours as La Colegiata). The nuns are delighted to show you round their peaceful home of which they are very proud. You can also buy their excellent cakes (and a rosary if you're so inclined). Though a museum, it's a working convent and you can take mass here on Sunday mornings. The nuns will be in a side chamber. (By the way, *monasterio* and *convento* seem to be used interchangeably and do not indicate whether nuns or monks are involved)

### Antigua Universidad.

The big square building on the top of the hill is the restored Old University, now a school (it was suppressed by Fernando VII in 1820). The courtyard is wonderful and you are welcome to walk round it. The structure is original though restored. The outside walls are faced in the peculiar Andalusian style of mock pointed concrete.

### Museo Arqueológico

Don't miss the archaeological museum opposite the Meson El Duque (11.30 - 13.30, longer in June –August, and 17.00 - 19.00, 16.30 - 18.30 in Winter).

### Casino

On the Plaza Mayor. This is a private club though visitors are welcome. It's worth seeing its 1920s Mudéjar-inspired decor and grandly bizarre ceiling.

### Other churches

All the churches are worth a look but they are generally only open around the time of services. Iglesia de Santo Domingo, half way up Carrera is open rather more often.

### Other buildings

Some of the finest buildings are in Calle San Pedro immediately off Carrera. Number 16 is the Cilla del Cabildo (which you can't go inside) and has a superb geometric relief round a carving of the Giralda (in Sevilla), further along is the 18<sup>th</sup> century Palacio de los Marqueses de Gomera – (which you can – it's a fine hotel and restaurant). The workshop at the top of the road makes sumptuous embossed leather furnishings

### Las canteras

North above the town (go up Buena Vista, F1) is the source of Osuna's honey coloured stone, the quarries. It's a nice place to walk, and you can find the ruined *ermita de calvario*. You can also circle south east and find the necropolis and other Roman remains. You could walk from town (up Granada and turn left up Buena Vista) or save your strength and take the car, up Buena Vista, onto to the dirt and park by the canteras in front of you to the right. Go a little before the sun is setting – it'll be cooler and the sunset on the stone is a wonderful sight. The canteras where you are

parked have been rebadged as El Coto les Canteras and used for big functions – in a couple of years they may open it is a restaurant. The carvings on the rock are modern and copies of the originals which are now housed in the Louvre.

You can walk around here, follow the new road to the brow of the hill (past the proto theme park!), there are wonderful views of the town.

### **El Calvario**

This is the ruined church to where the procession goes in September on the feast of Osuna's patron saint. At other times, drive along the Martin de la Jara road until around the 6 km mark you get to the motocross track on the right (RACE). You will see the church on the hill to your left. If you have taken the additional tyre and underbody insurance(!) take the track not up the hill but back on yourself and curve by the side of the fence. When you get to the gate you will need to attract someone's attention (a hoot should do it!) who will let you in to climb to the church.

### **Bull fighting**

The Osuna bullring is very typical. It is usually only active during the feria (see below). There are three days with different styles on each day – the rejonés (usually on the Sunday) is in the Portuguese style where the matador is mounted on a fine horse. Breathtaking. Look out for posters for other local bullfights.

### **Feria**

This builds to a crescendo over the weekend whose Sunday falls between the 14-21<sup>st</sup> May (if Sunday is the 14<sup>th</sup> it appears to be arbitrary whether it's the 14<sup>th</sup> or the 21<sup>st</sup>). The whole town goes berserk. Dancing, eating, drinking, fun fair, displays of horsemanship.... The feria itself is at B2/3 to the immediate west of the Plaza del Toros. The agroganadera (the agricultural show) is about 2km north on Ecija road, turn right at Calle Alfareros by the Gela Pintura factory.

### **Corpus Christi and Holy week (semana santa)**

Holy Week is a real occasion in Osuna and throughout Andalucia. There are 15 brotherhoods (hermandades), ten of which process in the week from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. A magnificent float is carried from a church preceded by children and adults in a variety of costumes and bands. There are concerts in the main square. The Good Friday processions are particularly moving. At 6 am Jesus carrying his cross is slowly borne from Parroquia de la Victoria at towards La Colegiata at the top of the hill which it reaches about 9:30. Another float with the grieving Virgin Mary follows about ½ an hour behind. The whole town turns out, either in the procession or watching it and smart clothes are de rigueur. There'll be a couple of processions down Navalagrulla – watch out for the fliers on your windscreen warning you to move your car in plenty of time.

Corpus Christi (60 days after Easter Sunday) is another time of processions this time with the accent on the children.

### **Romeria**

This happens on the last Sunday in April (though it has been known to be the first Sunday in May). An effigy of Osuna's patron saint, *La virgin de la Consolación* is trundled on a horse drawn carriage to the tiny *ermita* opposite the ruined *El Calvario*. The procession starts off in town, at about 8am and walkers and tractor-drawn floats set off on the 10 km trek. You might like to join it about 10, park up and do the last 3 km or so. The members of the brotherhood and hangers on will stay there picnicking until the return trip at about 6pm.

Take the Martin de la Jara road (past Eroski, past the Malaga exit to the A92), there is a sign to *El Calvario*. Keep going until you are stopped by the *guardia civil* who will be stopping you driving into the procession. Eventually, you will see the ruined *El Calvario* on the hill to the left of the road. The procession will turn to the right past the moto-cross circuit. The *ermita* is set in a park where you can walk.

### **Fiesta de tapa**

Relatively new, this takes place in the second or third week of October. Fifteen of the bars compete for the award of the best original cold and hot tapas. Pick up a leaflet from the first one you visit and sample the offerings from each establishment. You have a week to complete at least twelve which will entitle you to enter the competition.

### **trips out**

We have lots of guides to browse in the bookcase in the old kitchen alongside the courtyard. Just some brief notes on some of the obvious places to go.

### Sun and water

The nearest and most charming is the Guadalhorce reservoir about an hour's drive. The scenery is stunning and there's plenty for non aquarists. See the Day trips and walks guide (If you didn't bring it with you, there's usually a copy with the house guide).

### Seville

You could spend days here. it's one of the most beautiful towns in the world. The *Giralda* (hee-ralda) and Cathedral are worth it on their own but there is so much in Seville to enjoy – elegant streets, Moorish, mudejar and later Christian architecture, the Jewish quarter, the Santa Ana. Then there's the night life, the tapas bars, the restaurants, Triana. And the shopping. One warning. Don't try and drive through it. Park the car at the earliest convenient spot and walk or bus or train. (Our favourite car park is by the Restaurante Modeso, just off Avenida de Menéndez Playa by Paseo de Caterina de Ribera. You can walk through the gardens to the cathedral). Flamenco is .. well make up your own mind. We went to Casa de la Memoria de Al-Andalus (<http://casadelamemoria.es/>) which for a *tablaó* (show) is apparently pretty authentic. Book a day in advance and be prepared to queue for a decent seat. It's by the vibrant Plaza de la Encarnación with the extraordinary Parasol. Visitors have highly recommended tapas bar La Antigua Abacería de San Lorenzo at 53 Calle Teodosio.

If you drive from Osuna you will come into Seville along the Avenida de Luis Montoto (note that nearly all Seville maps have East at the top). To get back to Osuna by car follow signs for the A92 to Málaga.

We prefer to go by train. You can get a very efficient train from Osuna to Sevilla but the train back is a bit early. Buy a return ticket (*ida y vuelta*) to save time but you will need to decide in advance which train to catch on the way home. The main station is Santa Justa but the smart thing to do is to get off one stop earlier (San Barnardo) and catch the tram right into the centre by the Catedral. Out of the station, straight ahead (past the metro and you'll see the tram on the far side of the road (ie going to the left)). The journey takes about 10 minutes.

## Granada

This is a bit of a drive away (maybe an hour and a half?) but on good roads and unmissable (really). Do consider going by train (though again, the train back's a bit early). The town is lovely but the *Alhambra* is stupendous. I don't know anyone who has visited it and been unmoved. Except in Winter, you must book ahead – a month is not generous. You can phone (+34 93 49 23 75 from the UK; 902 888 001 from Spain – they have English speaking operators) or use the website [www.alhambra-tickets.es](http://www.alhambra-tickets.es) (click on 'otros días y sesiones' and choose the date and morning or afternoon session. They'll give you a timeslot for visiting the Nasrid Palace). Other visitors have told us that if you order tickets online and any are concession tickets (eg a child), even though you can pick up from the machines you have to queue at the ticket office to have it validated. If you want to go at Easter you'll be very lucky to get a ticket but arriving at 7:30 and queuing for a couple of hours may work. Lots more to see and lots of places to eat and drink.

If you've left it too late, try the Granada City Pass – bono turístico - ([www.granadamap.com/bono/index.htm](http://www.granadamap.com/bono/index.htm)) which has a large allocation of tickets which are almost always available, even when the Alhambra itself has sold out. Even if the tickets are not sold out the bono turístico is a good idea because it includes entrance tickets to the Alhambra and Generalife, Cathedral, Royal Chapel, Monastery of Cartuja, Monastery of San Jerónimo, Science Park and they are all worth a visit. You can buy the bono turístico for the same day from the This-is audioguide kiosk in Plaza Nueva or the Science Museum and the price is 30€.

You can also purchase it in advance from the website <http://caja.caja-granada.es/Apli/bononuevo/mainEN.htm> and pick it up from a branch of the Caja Granada - the most central branch is the one in the Plaza Isabel la Católica at the end of the Gran Vía, near Plaza Nueva).

## Córdoba

The *mezquita* ('mosque') is extraordinary. You can trace its development through several Moorish incarnations until Carlos V plonked a cathedral inside it. It's the one with the famous striped double arches. But the town's a charming place on its own account. It is also renowned for its patio gardens – the festival of the patios is held in the first two weeks of May, preceded by the Cruces de Mayo celebration and followed by the main feria. Other visitors have recommended a car park <http://www.isoluxcorsanaparcamientos.com/en/where-to-park/parking-centro-historico.html> but you can also park across the Puente Romano on the Eastern bank.

## Ronda

What to say about Ronda? It was much visited by the English last century - the Hotel Victoria with its wonderful views over the famous gorge was much admired. It's a quite extraordinary situation, walking across the *puerto nuevo* (not that nuevo) or across the *puerto viejo* into the Arab quarter. Lots of market stalls and shops and places to eat, it's also the centre of the furniture business if you're interested. It is admittedly touristy (middle of the day is when it's at its fullest) but still very fine. One route would be: park as you come in, in one of the carparks round Plaza de la Merced. Turn west through the tree lined bit by the Casa de la Cultura and walk along by the stunning views and past the bull ring (you will be able to say that you have been up Orson Welles passage). Opposite the bullring (to the NE) are a series of streets with typical bars full of bullfighting memorabilia, the next ones (Nueva and Villanueva) full of clothes shops. You're going over the new bridge with astonishing views both sides. Now explore the old city. You could go left down to the old bridge



and then all the way to the Almocabar gate (either down below the walls or inside). When you reach Plaza Ruedo Alameda you can turn back and complete your circuit on the western side (there are lots of little cafes hidden away). Or you could have the best lunch in the region at Restaurante Almocabar, Plaza Ruedo Alameda, 5. (It was 110€ for 4 of us and the chocolate ice cream pudding for two is not to be missed!). There is rather good Museum at the Palacio de Mondragón – worth the 3€ entrance for the gardens and the view (and they are open through siesta). If you like come back via Grazelema, bit touristy but lots of fun (very good cheese)..

### Carmona

Really nice day out. Approaching the town from Osuna, you will come to a T-junction with a petrol station in front of you. Turn left and park in the car park as you enter the town. There's a 15<sup>th</sup>-century tower modelled on the Giralda in front of you, go through the Puerto de Sevilla on your right, the tourist office is just on the right, entrance to the Alacázar (2€ entrance) is through the back. There are churches, museums, very pleasant squares to eat and drink in. The only church that's open to visitors outside services is the Santa Maria which is lovely. At the time of writing Alfonso is running a 45 minute tour of the town starting outside the tourist office. He runs it on tips – 5€ per person would seem fair. For a real treat, walk through the old town towards the Puerto de Cordoba to the Molino de la Romera, 15<sup>th</sup> century restaurant in an oil mill where you can eat well in the very pretty courtyard. More palatial is the nearby Parador. Very grand but highly recommended for lunch or dinner in magnificent surroundings (they have a 33€ menu and the house red is excellent).

There is a Roman necropolis and amphitheatre to visit nearby at the Eastern end of the new town.

### Antequera

Lovely town Antequera. Park by the bullring (worth a look) and stroll through the big arch and up Alameda de Andalucía towards the alcazaba. The tourist office is in Calle Zapateros where you can pick up maps. Visit the Municipal Museum, churches of San José and Nuestra Señora de Carmen (knock-out inside). Stroll round the C13 Moorish castle and gardens and next door, the fine C16 church of Santa Maria. There is also a good restaurant by the bullring, Restaurante Plaza de Toros, +34 952 84 46 62. Not cheap by Andalucian standards but very good. There's a great view of the enormous limestone crag that you will have seen when you drove into the town. It is called La Peña de los Enamorados (Lovers' Leap) whence, as legend would have it, that two young lovers – one Christian from Antequera, the other a beautiful Moorish girl from nearby Archidona – hurled themselves to their death rather than renounce their love. Guests have highly recommended Bodega Muralla in Plaza de Carmen, +34 634 30 23 06 – you'll need to book for Sunday lunch.

Outside the town are the famous dolmens (mass tombs) the biggest of which is Cueva de la Menga, dating back 5000 years to the original Iberian peoples. The feria is in the third week of July

### Málaga

Yes the Costa del Sol is absolutely horrid, the coast road between Málaga and Marbella is truly dystopian. (Though if you have lots of money and maybe a yacht, you'll be OK). But Málaga is really rather pleasant. If you didn't spend anytime there on the way in you might contemplate it on the way back. Visit the citadels of the Alcazaba and Gibralfaro, the Picasso Museum and the Jardín de la Concepción. And

there are plenty of shops, restaurants and bars. The feria is in mid August.

### Écija

Lovely town. very different from anywhere else around, a bit more glam. Take the A-351 road (continuation of Carrera) northwards. It's about 35 km. Big roundabout, right into town. Third roundabout, turn left into Avenida Miguel de Cervantes (you'll see his statue). 600 yards later you'll see Plaza de Espana and a carpark in front to your right. Lovely square for a coffee, meal, look at the archaeological remains and lots of churches.

Alternatively take the Lantejuela Road (past the bullring) through Fuentes de Andalucía and make a stop at La Luisiana. There's an old roman bath there worth a visit. Along the Avenida de Andalucía, there's a square with palm tree on the left and you turn right down Calle de Cervantes, next left – the road joins Calle Pio Baroja and the baths are there on the right. Big imposing gates – you'll need to open them yourselves. Then onto Écija.

There's also a nice well-signposted walk to some lakes on the Écija road. 4km there and 4 km back. About halfway between Écija and Osuna the SE-708 runs West. About ½ way along the path (a Cañada Real) is clearly signed. Park and walk....

### Estepa, ...

The wonderful medieval town of Estepa, further afield, Arcos de la Frontera, the white towns ('pueblos blancos') round Ronda, walking the spectacular Natural Sierra de Grazalema, watch the flamingos round the lake at Fuente de Piedra, stroll through the extraordinary limestone pavement of El Torcal, just south of Antequera. A little further away is Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Lots to see in this pretty town, centre of manzanilla production, seafood to eat and in mid August, the famous horse races on the beach.

They all have their own special charms - read the guides in the old kitchen.

### Cádiz

The Andalucians pronounce it 'cardie' (the accent is on the first syllable and all Andalucians swallow the ends of words). Bit of a trek (~2 hours) but a good road and a very pleasant place, cobbled streets, sea air. When we went they just happened to be having a carnival, great fun. You could come back via Sanlúcar de Barrameda, where they have the beach horse races in the Summer.

### Priego de Cordoba

Really nice place in the middle of the Subbetica Natural Park, sort of mixture of Osuna and Ronda. Very pretty with some amazing baroque architecture. Bit under 1½ hours away but a lovely drive. There are public car parks or you may be able to park in the street in Cava just north of the main square Plaza de la Constitución (by the football/basketball pitches and carwash). There are galleries, museums (Lozano Sidro is good) a castle (OK), the royal slaughter houses (underwhelming), amazing churches (don't miss the Iglesia de la Asunción with its extraordinary Sagrario chapel) and a delightful Arab quarter (Barrio de la Villa). Walk round the Balcón del Ardave for the amazing views and have lunch in the bar of the same name on Paseo de Columbia.

But be warned. They take siesta very seriously. The churches and museums open

from about 10:30 to 1:30 and then close until 5 or 6. Set off early (9?) and pick up an horario from the excellent tourist office in the main square.

### Montilla/Moriles

Just close to Priego, you are in the heart of Pedro Ximenez wine country. You can visit various bodegas and follow the wine route. Try Lagar Blanco (+34 696 875391) tour, tasting and tapas, 8€pp plus 10€ for translator if needed; Lagar La Primilla (+34 616 111392), tour, tasting and tapas 12€ pp

### Cazalla de la Sierra and the Sierra Norte de Sevilla

Sierra Norte is a lovely National Park full of walks. It's a bit of a way, 1½ hours to Constantina at the South end. There's a driving tour suggested in the Michelin Green Guide and lots of walk in the walking pamphlet box. Also a book (in English!) with the walking maps describing the Cerro del Hierro walk

3km North of Cazalla on the A455 (signposted Constantina) is a half restored Carthusian monastery recently taken over by a Greek/Spanish couple. It's open 10-3 Friday/Saturday/Sunday (and weddings), really worth a visit (and Cazalla's nice too). Look for the signpost to La Cartuja.

### Gibraltar

It's about a 2½ to 3 hour drive. The prettiest route is to take the route to Ronda to pick up the A-369 to Gaucín, A-377 to Manilva and then on the toll road. Through customs (remember your passports), straight on and you can park in the car park just past Casemates Square and then stroll down Main Street and enjoy the weird Britishness of the place. A bit further is the lower station of the cable car (an alternative parking place). To get to the Rock itself, either take the cable car or drive in through Jew's Gate, pay your £10 and drive from site to site – Barbary Apes, St Michael's Cave, tunnels, the Moorish castle ... You'll probably be coming back in the dark (you could stay but accommodation is sparse and not great value) so you'll want to take the motorway almost to Málaga, A-357 towards Campillos, Almargen, El Saucejo and home.

### The seaside...

Is actually no further than other places we are heartily recommending and there's lots and lots of beach. Tell us where the good places are...

### **local markets**

Osuna's market is on Monday mornings by the Bull Ring (see **Orientation, where can I find...?**). Markets are much more in evidence on the coast – especially flea markets for example, Álora, Monday weekly market (village centre), Coin, Saturdays from 10.00h to 15.00h, Estepona, Wednesdays in Avenida Juan Carlos I, from 9.00h to 14.00h, Sundays in Estepona Puerto, Fuengirola, Tuesdays - feria ground, Saturdays near Euromarket & boot sale at feria ground, from 9.00h to 14.00h, Sundays in Puerto Deportivo. Málaga, Sundays flea market, (near the football stadium), Marbella, Mondays - Las Albarizas, by the football stadium, Saturdays - Capitan Cortez, Nueva Andalucía, Saturdays antique and weekly market (bullring), Sabinillas, Sundays – flea market town centre on the main road N-340.

But you may want to pop into a market when visiting Granada or Seville.

## Granada

Thursdays & Sundays mornings – Casería del Cerro

If you don't have a car, bus number 3 out past the bus station to the feria ground – crafts, ceramics, knick-knacks, CDs, clothes, fruit, vegetables, dried fruit, sweets, bags, belts and household fabrics. Be prepared to haggle.

## Seville

*El Jueves* is the Thursday flea market on Calle de la Feria. Early morning until about 2pm and is the oldest market in Seville. Furniture, ceramics, paintings, coins, glassware, books, clothing, toys, posters. Plenty of junk as well but less so than the flea market in Charco de la Pava (below).

Sunday morning Flea Market Charco de la Pava

This market was moved from the Alameda de Hercules a few years ago and is now far from the centre on the west bank of the river to the north of Triana, at the end of Avenida Colon III opposite a great drum of a building (which is next door to the World Trade Centre). It has a little bit of everything, and a lot of junk

Hippie market, Thursday, Friday and Saturday all day. Plaza del Duque

Located in front of the main El Corte Inglés location in the centre. Here you can find belts, shirts, scarves, leather goods, jewellery, wooden boxes, small sculptures, pipes and a few other miscellaneous goods.

Other Sunday markets

Plaza del Cabildo opposite the Cathedral (stamps, coins)

Plaza del Arte in front of the *Musee del Bellas Artes* (artworks, tiles)

Plaza Alfalfa (animals)

## **horseriding**

We've never done it but there are number of horse lending outfits.

Picadero de Antonio Angulo, Extramuros Estación, 22; ☎ 955 820 406  
[rosarioandrade3@hotmail.com](mailto:rosarioandrade3@hotmail.com) (one of our visitors has actually bought a horse from them but they went to a different place – “go past Eroski supermarket as you drive out of Osuna. Then take the first left turn off Martin de la Jara (that left turn is a funny circular rotary system which says Sevilla A92 on it). If you go round the rotary thing you will come out opposite the left turn. There are houses on the left, and the riding stables is first on the right. There are big gates which say San Antonio on them. They are on the left, knock at the metal door. If you get to the Hotel Villa Ducal, petrol station and car dealerships, you have gone too far.”

Picadero de Curro Vera; Camino de Granada, ☎ 615 18 78 59

Picadero de Luis Calderón ; C/ Mancilla, 79, ☎ 954 81 08 23

There is also the stables of the brother (Juan) of our cleaner (Carmen) with about four horses and a sand school (though you can go out on hacks). Out on Avenida de Constitución towards exit 95 of the A92. Past the ITV and the Centro de Conservación. The road splits, right to A92 but you go left. First left and the stud is first on the right. Ask us and we'll ask Carmen to arrange.

## **walking/biking**

The Spanish have a very healthy attitude to walking about – basically you have pretty

much unfettered right to roam. Just smile and say *hola*.

Specialist biking books are in the shelves but a good place to start for biking or walking is in the area called Las Viñas. Take the El Saucejo Road (see instructions for El Amanecer in the Restaurant section). Turn up beside the restaurant and keep going up until you lose your nerve. park the car and walk through the olive groves.

Other places include the area round the reservoir (*embalsa*) by Puerto de Encina, El Calvario (follow the signs from Osuna at the 85km slip towards Martin de la Jara) and the quarries above the town (*las cantaras*). Near there you will also find the necropolis, the roman remains and the gypsy encampment including cave dwellers. Also see the walks appendix.

### Getting around without a car



You can catch trains from Osuna to Seville, Cordoba, Granada and Málaga. Pop into the station and ask for *un horario a* Granada/Sevilla/etc. Allow plenty of time to buy a ticket – you will be reserved a seat automatically. A single ticket is *un billete sencillo*, a return is *un billete ida y vuelta*. A word of warning – the trains back are often quite early. **These are guide times – check them as they change from season to season.** There aren't any direct trains to Córdoba so the journey is more of a trek.

#### Directions to the rail station

The station is about 10 minutes walk. Turn left out of the house, right at the bottom into Antequera, straight on through Plaza de Salitre, along Mancilla, bear left into Avenida de la Estacion and it's straight ahead of you

Osuna	Sevilla
06:30 <sup>1</sup>	07:42
09:18	10:17
12:11	13:10
15:36	16:39
18:22	19:33
20:37 <sup>3</sup>	21:41
21:47	22:46

Sevilla	Osuna
07:40	08:38
11:10	12:09
13:00	14:01
15:05	16:12
15:10 <sup>4</sup>	16:09
18:30 <sup>3</sup>	19:45
20:10	21:09

<sup>1</sup> weekday only    <sup>2</sup> not Sundays    <sup>3</sup> Fridays and Sundays only    <sup>4</sup> Friday only

Osuna	Granada
07:57	10:05
12:50	15:00
18:43	20:56

Granada	Osuna
16:38	18:47
20:55	23:01

Osuna	Bobadilla	Córdoba
08:38	09:15/09:30	10:58
14:19	14:55/15:38	17:38
	15:45	17:15

Córdoba	Bobadilla	Osuna
06:41	08:20/08:31	09:18
12:15	14:05/14:48	15:34
17:50	19:33/19:51	20:28

16:12	16:48/17:26	18:58
18:04	18:46/20:31	21:55

18:48	20:14/20:59	21:42



## Pronunciation and phrase book

A phrase book is a must if you don't speak Spanish but here are a very few pointers.

what you want to say	what you say	pronunciation notes	what they may say	what it means
yes	sí	si		
no	no	noh		
OK	vale	<b>bal</b> -leh		
I'd like some more please	más (add whatever you want more of)	mass	¿algo más?	Do you want any more? (if you don't, say 'nada más')
I'd (we'd) like something to eat	Quiero (Queremos) algo a comer	kee- <b>er</b> -o (ke- <b>reh</b> -mos) <b>al</b> -go a kom- <b>er</b>	blah blah comer	would you like something to eat?
I'd (we'd) like something to drink	Quiero (Queremos) algo a beber	kee- <b>er</b> -o (ke- <b>reh</b> -mos) <b>al</b> -go a be- <b>ber</b>	blah blah beber	would you like something to drink?
bread	pan	pan		
red wine	tinto	<b>tin</b> -toh	¿Rioja?	Proper wine (ie not in a tumbler with ice cubes)
2 glasses of red wine, please	dos copas de tinto, por favor	dos <b>coh</b> -pas deh <b>tin</b> -to por fa- <b>bor</b>		
white wine	vino blanco	<b>bee</b> -no <b>blan</b> -co		
water	agua	<b>ag</b> -wa	con gaz o sin gaz?	with or without gas (ie sparkling or still)
chips	fritos	<b>free</b> -tos		
spanish omelette	tortilla	tor- <b>tee</b> -ya	con jamón o queso?	with ham or cheese?
salad	ensalada	en-sa- <b>lah</b> -da	de casa?	the house salad? (say yes)
chicken	pollo	<b>po</b> -yo		
meat	carne	<b>car</b> -neh	cerdo o cordero o vaca?	pork or lamb or beef?
fish	pescado	pes- <b>car</b> -do	anchoas o bacalao o salmón?	anchovies or salt cod or salmon?
where is (are)	¿dónde está	don- <b>deh</b> es- <b>ta</b>		

what you want to say	what you say	pronunciation notes	what they may say	what it means
	(están)?	(es- <b>tan</b> )		
lavatory	baño	<b>ban</b> -yo	servicios? aseos?	lavatories (whichever word you use, they will check with the other one!)
do you have...?	¿hay ...?	I		
what do you have?	¿qué hay?	keh I		
I don't understand	no comprendo	no kom- <b>pren</b> -doh		
please, (can you speak) more slowly?	por favor, más despacio	por fa- <b>bor</b> , mas des- <b>pas</b> -eeyo		
please, (could you say that) again?	por favor, otra vez	por fa- <b>bor</b> , <b>o</b> -tra bes		
are you open, tonight?	¿está abierto, esta noche?	es- <b>ta</b> abi- <b>er</b> -to <b>es</b> -ta <b>notch</b> -eh		
can I reserve a table for nine o'clock?	¿puedo reservar una mesa para las nueve?	<b>pwer</b> -do re-ser- <b>bar</b> oo-na <b>mess</b> -a <b>pa</b> -ra las <b>nweh</b> -beh		

## pronunciation

- You're not speaking French - there are no silent letters, all consonants are pronounced. (So, Spaniards don't pronounce 'Walkman' *warkman* but how it's spelt).
- Unlike English, vowels are always pronounced the same:
  - a as in *bat*
  - e as in *bet*
  - i as in *bit*
  - o as in *cot*
  - u as in *book*
- Consonants are usually as in English except:
  - c + a, o = 'k'
  - c + e, i = 's' (elsewhere in Spain, it's pronounced 'th')
  - cu = 'kw' as in queen (compare 'qu' below)
  - g + a, o = 'g'
  - g + e, i = 'ch' as in loch



gu+ e, i	= 'g'
gu+ a, o, u	= 'gw' as in Gwynedd
h	is silent
j	= 'ch' as in lo <u>ch</u> - the same as soft g
l	= 'l' but...
ll	= 'y' (sometimes a hint of a 'j')
n	= 'n' but...
ñ	= 'ny'
qu	= 'k'
v	= b as in 'bat' (yes really!)
y	= usually 'y', but Andalusians may pronounce it 'j'
z	= 's' ('th' outside Andalucía)

- 4 In Andalucía, they often swallow the end of words. So Cadiz (spelt Cádiz in Spanish) is pronounced 'cardy'
- 5 All Spanish words have just one syllable stressed. And stress is very important – they often won't understand you if you get it wrong even if the rest of your pronunciation is fine. All things being equal, the last syllable is stressed (eg navidad = na-bi-**dad** = Christmas). But:

if the last syllable of a word ends in a vowel or an 'n' or an 's' it doesn't count

dinero = di-**ner**-ro = money  
 menos = **men**-os = less

if there is a specific accent

Málaga = **Ma**-la-ga  
 recepción = re-sep-si-**yon**= reception

so, farm**ac**ia but panader**ía**

(incidentally, words ending in -ion are always accented -**ión**)

## How to get here

### driving from Málaga

#### overview

Osuna is on the way to Seville (Sevilla). Follow signs initially for Málaga (N340), then to Sevilla (A7 round Málaga) then the A45 northwards until you hit the A92 towards Sevilla. Osuna is on the 85 km turnoff. (If you miss it, there are more turnoffs at 84, 82 and 80km).

#### detail

Leave the airport, go over the roundabout, signposted Malaga (N340), keep in left lane over the small flyover (ie, not to Cádiz to the right). The road curls round and you join a motorway. You are looking for a sign to Antequera (N331) after about 4km. The turn off is 500m after the sign (don't take the turnoff just before!!). You will curve round and join a new motorway (A7). At the 241km post, you turn off this motorway onto the A45. (NB If you find yourself in Malaga you've gone wrong - getting out of town is not easy but follow signs to Granada and Sevilla.)

Stay on A45, ignoring turnoffs to Granada and Antequera until you hit the new intersection with the A92 (at 123km), take the exit to Sevilla and follow that to Osuna (exit at 85km). The road becomes the tree-lined Avenida de la Constitución (but there's no sign), go over the roundabout at the top and bear right along Capitan. Carry on (ignore the bear left along Antequera) but follow the sign to the Hotel Palacio along the cobbled street. Turn left just before the big arch into La Huerta. Take first right (small – Arcipresa Valderama), then sharp left and you're in Navalagrulla. 28 is just beyond the intersection on the left (grab any parking space you can).

### driving from Sevilla

Out of the airport and towards Sevilla. You will hit the ring road. Follow signs towards Granada and Málaga (A92) towards Sevilla. Osuna is on the 80 km turnoff. (If you miss it, there are more turnoffs at 82 , 84 and 85km). Follow road round and bear right onto slip road. You'll quickly come to junction – go left (Écija) not right (El Saucejo). Straight on, over roundabout down Sor Angela de la Cruz, bear left into Sevilla (ie not down the no entry). past Carmen on the right and sharp right at the internet café into Palamos. 2nd right is Navalagrulla.

Getting back to the airport is fine except it's easy to miss the turning off the A92. A little way past km1 the big overhead sign directs you to the middle lane for the aeropuerto (the right hand lane takes you off on a slip road) but *immediately* afterwards is the airport turnoff with the sign at eye level on the right. If you do miss it, there's more turnoffs later .

### by train

You really can do without a car in Osuna and still see all the places you want to see. And you'll save a lot of money (transport is cheap and excellent). Timetables are available at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) or <http://www.renfe.es/index.html> (scroll down the left hand side until you see 'seleccione su idioma' and click English) –those below are not up to date.

## From Málaga

There's a new station in the terminal. Buy a ticket in the machine (about 1.35€). Catch a local train to Maria Zambrano. From here you can get a train direct to Osuna. Allow plenty of time to buy a ticket!! The house is about a 10 minute walk (along Avenida de la Estación which turns into Mancilla, over Plaza de Salitre into Antequera, 2nd turn on the left). Coming back, do not go to the end of the line n=bit get off at Maria Zambrano for the connection (you cannot get a through ticket).

Málaga	Osuna
07:45	09:17
10:40	12:10
14:08	15:36
17:00	18:25
20:05	21:41

Osuna	Málaga
08:38	10:07
12:09	13:46
14:07	15:37
18:23	19:55
21:04	22:34

## From Sevilla

You have to get from the airport to Santa Justa in Seville. There is a very efficient airport bus (follow the signs as you exit with your baggage. (after Santa Justa the bus carries on to town (see below). At the station, go the Media Distancias ticket office.

Sevilla	Osuna
07:00	07:56
07:40	08:37
11:50	12:49
13:15	14:18
15:05	16:12
15:10	16:09
17:05	18:03
17:40	18:42
18:40	20:02

Osuna	Sevilla
06:40	07:57
09:19	10:18
15:35	16:39
18:03	19:05
18:48	19:48
20:29	21:34
21:43	22:41
23:02	23:59

### AEROPUERTO-SEVILLA

**Salidas Aeropuerto Sevilla (y Llegadas)**

Lunes a Sábados Laborables			Domingos y Festivos	
5:45	12:15	18:00	06:45	16:45
6:15	12:45	18:15	07:45	17:15
6:45	13:00	18:45	08:45	17:45
7:15	13:15	19:15	09:45	18:15
7:45	13:45	19:45	10:45	18:45
8:15	14:00	20:15	11:45	19:15
8:45	14:15	20:45	12:45	19:45
9:15	14:45	21:15	13:45	20:15
9:45	15:45	22:15	14:15	20:45
10:15	16:15	22:45	14:45	21:15
10:45	16:45	23:15	15:15	21:45
11:15	17:00	23:45	15:45	22:45
11:45	17:15	00:15	15:45	22:45
12:00	17:45	00:45	16:15	23:45

### SEVILLA-AEROPUERTO

**Salidas Carlos V, Avda. (isleta interior)**

Lunes a Sábados Laborables			Domingos y Festivos	
5:15	11:45	17:30	06:15	16:15
5:45	12:15	17:45	07:15	16:45
6:15	12:30	18:15	08:15	17:15
6:45	12:45	18:45	09:15	17:45
7:15	13:15	19:15	10:15	18:15
7:45	13:30	19:45	11:15	18:45
8:15	13:45	20:15	12:15	19:15
8:45	14:15	20:45	13:15	19:45
9:00	14:45	21:15	13:45	20:15
9:15	15:15	21:45	14:15	20:45
9:45	15:45	22:15	14:45	21:15
10:15	16:15	22:45	15:15	22:15
10:45	16:30	23:15	15:45	22:15
11:15	16:45	23:45	15:45	22:15
11:30	17:15	00:15	15:45	23:15



You will be allocated a reserved seat when you buy your ticket. A single is *ida*, return is *ida y vuelta*

### **By taxi**

Some visitors have highly recommended a British-run, Malaga-based taxi service ([www.b-met.com](http://www.b-met.com), [info@b-met.com](mailto:info@b-met.com); 0034 670651449 or 0034 697380926) who will pick you up at Malaga airport, take you to Osuna and bring you back at the end of your holiday. Guide price would be 260€ for one to six people. There are also services from Seville (just google airport transfers Seville) but we haven't tried them.

### **Finding the house**

There are only two routes through the one way systems to the house and these are marked on the first map that follows. Sat Navs are not reliable. Be warned, Osunians love digging up roads so one route may be blocked.

## Leaving

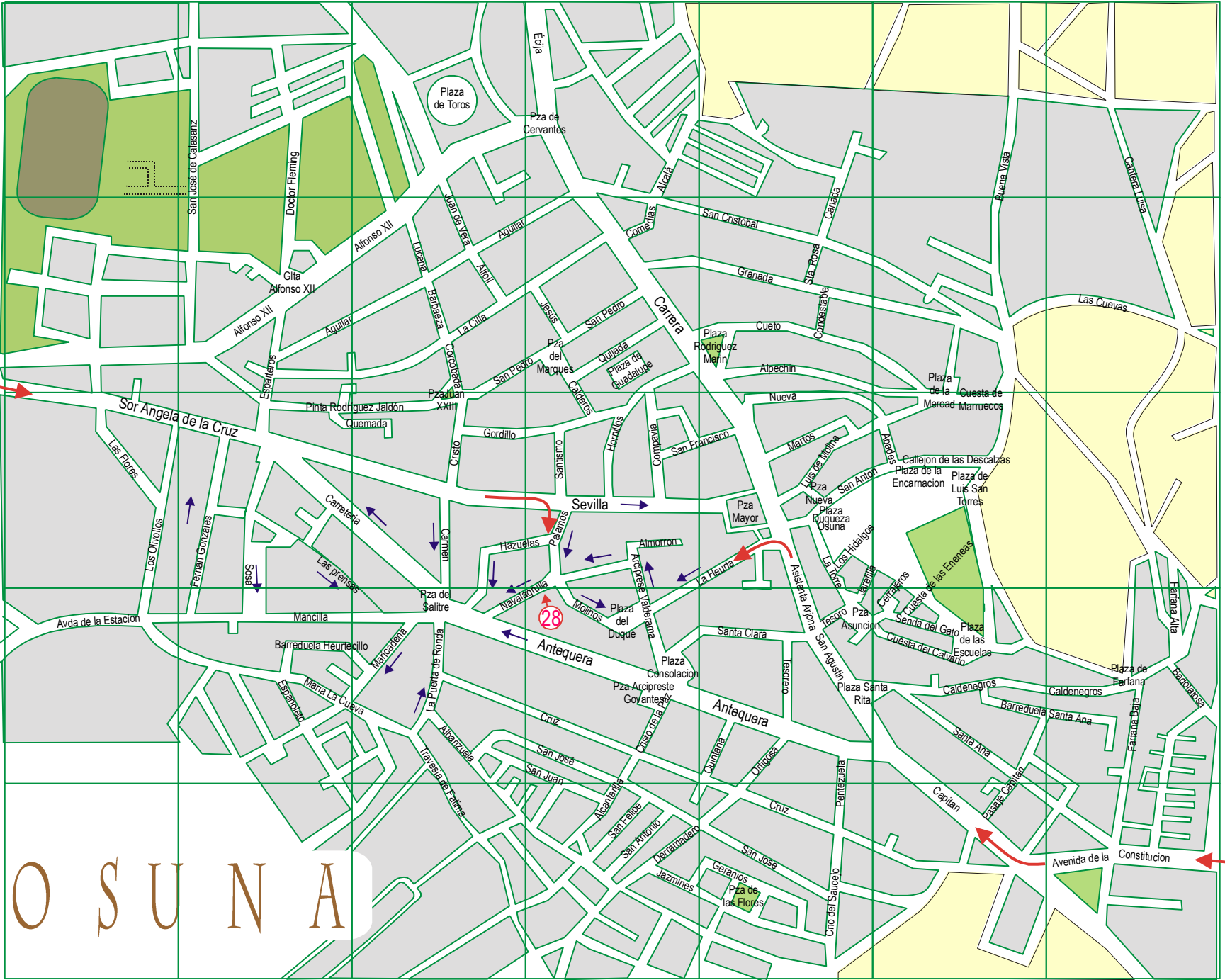
- Sign the visitors book
- If it's been attached, unplug the immersion heater
- Empty the fridge/freezers, turn them off (one by means of dial to 0, one by removing the plug) and leave the doors open (we sometimes get power cuts).
- Throw away all perishables but....
- Don't leave rubbish out – the local dogs will have a field day. Leave it in the porch and Carmen will make sure it is put out at night
- Strip your bed(s) and put the sheets and towels you have used into the utility room (the one with the washing machine in!).
- Turn off cooker butane bottles in the kitchen (not the one in the outside utility room).
- Turn off the TV extension lead
- Check the dribblers are all in the plant pots in the courtyard
- Tie up the big umbrella
- Make sure the cover is on the football table
- Put the covers back on the outside sofas
- Make sure both awnings are tied back
- Have you remembered passports? tickets? money? home keys?
- Lock up the house:
  - ↳ close and bolt passage door to garden
  - ↳ close and lock kitchen door to garden
  - ↳ close all other doors (but don't lock them)
  - ↳ in the summer especially, close shutters
  - ↳ make sure the awnings over the courtyard are drawn back (ie open - in case of rain!)
  - ↳ lock the front doors on leaving
- Post the keys back to us in England when you get home.

Las Canteras  
Ermita del Calvario



from A92  
exit 80  
(from Sevilla)

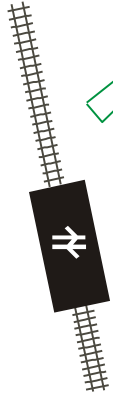
from A92  
exit 85  
(from Malaga)

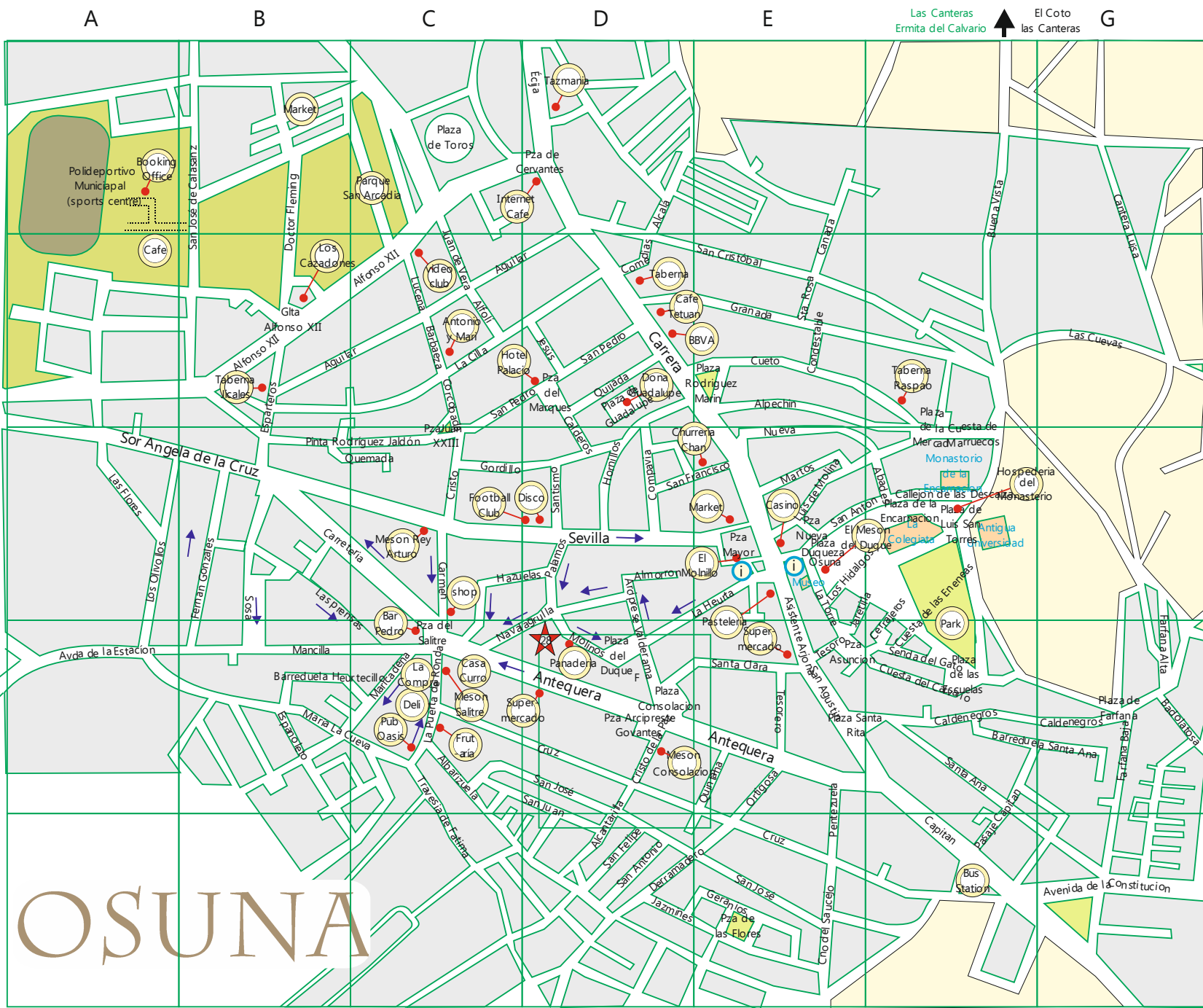


O S U N A

A B C D E F G

1  
2  
3  
4  
5





A

B

C

D

E

Las Canteras  
Ermita del Calvario

El Coto  
las Canteras

G

1

1

2

2

3

3

4

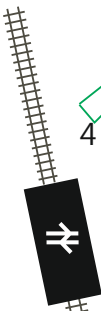
4

5

5

← Babel

→ Zona  
Arqueologica  
(picnic)



→ Villa Ducal  
Conypher  
El Molino

OSUNA

A

B

C

D

E

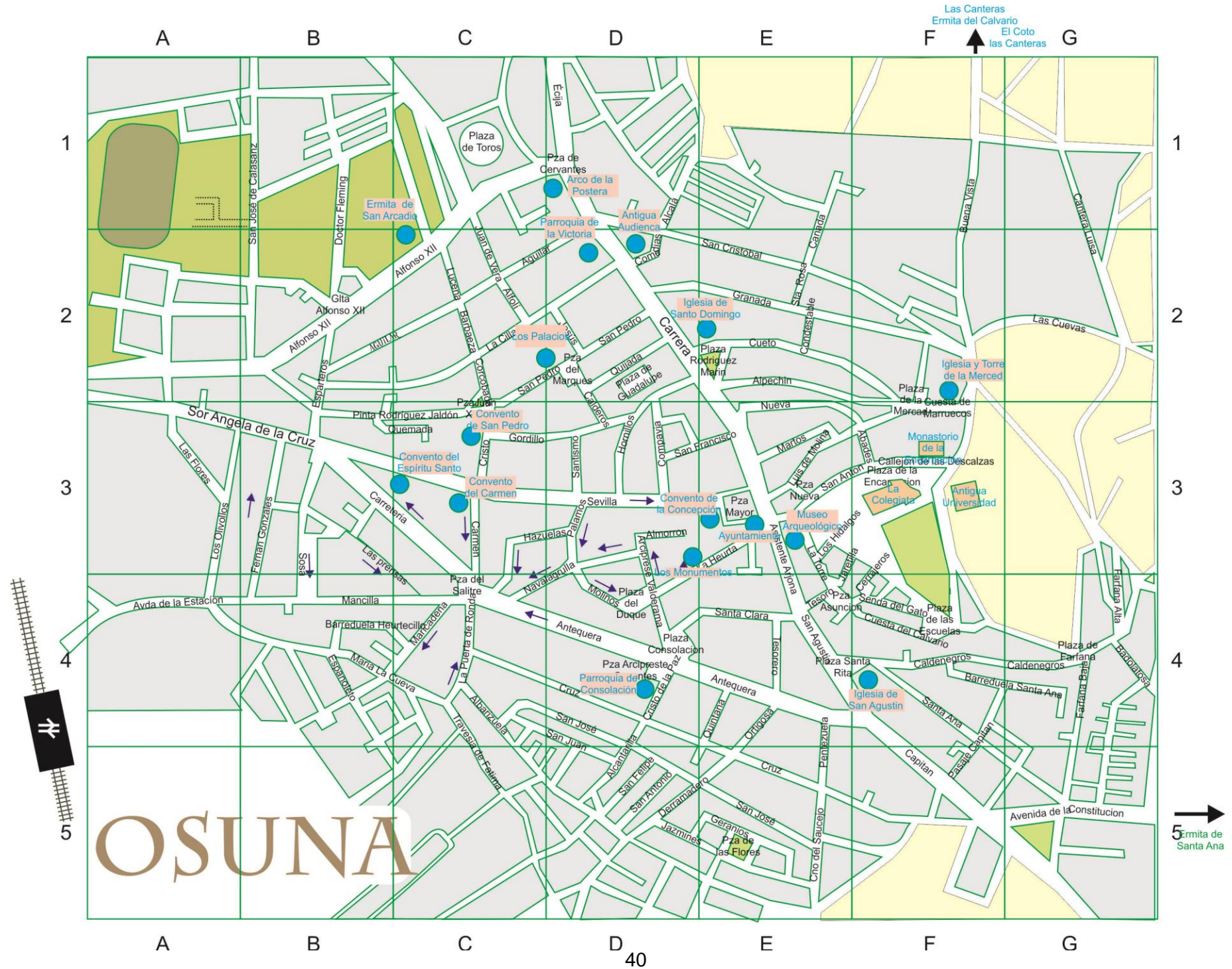
F

Eroski  
Hospital

G

39





Las Canteras  
Ermita del Calvario  
El Coto  
las Canteras

OSUNA

Ermita de Santa Ana