

# Welcome to Córdoba



A city with four World Heritage Sites, bound to make a strong impression on you. With a dazzling past, and the most important city in the West in the tenth century, for ages Córdoba has drawn the best from each culture that has passed through the city.

**From Roman times**, it should be noted that it was the capital of Hispania Ulterior, to which we owe part of the layout of the city, and constructions like the Roman bridge, walls, the Roman temple, the largest amphitheater until the construction of the Colosseum in Rome, one of the Empire's great theaters, three aqueducts, two forums, thermal baths, a circus, the origins of many courtyards, mausoleums, and palaces, and other vestiges and sites of great relevance...in addition to historical figures such as Seneca.

**During the Muslim period**, Córdoba (10th century) became the most influential city in the West in many areas, as evidenced by two of its most impressive World Heritage buildings: the Mosque and Medina Azahara, corresponding to the most powerful Caliphate at the time: the Umayyad. At the time it was the most populous city in Europe, with a population of 300,000 to 450,000 inhabitants (some accounts cite 1 million inhabitants), when cities such as London and Paris had 100,000 and 50,000 inhabitants, respectively. It boasted sewerage and public lighting systems, which most cities of the era lacked, and one of the largest libraries was erected in Córdoba, containing more than 400,000 volumes varying greatly in their origins and dates. The city was also the site of medical advances (such as cataract surgery), intellectual ones (a precursor of aeronautics) and universities. It was the birthplace of great figures who made all these advances possible; different emirs and caliphs, sages, philosophers, scholars, poets, doctors, craftsmen and artists.

Córdoba's **Jewish culture** also left us great a wealth of different elements and figures: one of the most beautiful and extensive Jewish Quarters in Europe, within the Historic Center, declared a World Heritage Site; one of the three medieval synagogues that are preserved in Spain, and the only one in Andalusia; many medical advances; and great philosophers, the city's premier and best-known representative being, perhaps, Maimonides.

**From the Christian era**: the Cathedral is built in the center of a Mosque, making it truly unique, the Fernandine Churches of the Reconquest stage, a magnificent Alcázar (fortress) where great events transpired, and where the Kings contributed not only to the development of Córdoba, but of Spain as a "brand;" and the Royal Stables, which gave rise to the finest breed of horse in the world: the Pure Spanish Horse.

*This publication only presents a small part of the history of Córdoba, through some of its monuments, museums, products and services that have been developed for our visitors to enjoy.*



# Córdoba

is more



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# Córdoba is more



Monuments  
Museums &  
Activities

The Mosque-Cathedral

The Historic Quarter

The Patios Festival

Medina Azahara



## Monuments



**Mosque-Cathedral**: 8th-18th centuries. Córdoba's most important monument was declared a World Heritage Site in 1984. A stunning mosque featuring a unique style, it was built in several phases over the course of the Muslim period. The beautiful Cathedral built inside makes it unique.

**Medina Azahara**: 10th century. The caliphal city of Medina Azahara was declared a World Heritage Site in 2018, constituting the most important archaeological site in all of Europe and a faithful reflection of the political, artistic, cultural and architectural influence Córdoba wielded in the world at that time.

**Fortress of the Christian Kings**: 13th century. The Fortress (Alcázar) stands on Roman, Visigothic and Arab ruins. Alfonso X, The Wise, began the restoration of the former caliphal palace, and Alfonso XI finished it. It contains Roman (Mosaic Hall), Arab (Arab Baths), Mudéjar (Courtyard) and Christian (Gardens) vestiges.

**Royal Stables**: 16th century. A building erected by Philip II to breed the Pure Spanish Horse (Pura Raza Española: PRE). Used ever since for horse breeding, today the Caballerizas Reales are a venue for equestrian events, and a project is underway for an International Horse Center.

**Arab Baths**: 10th century. These baths, adjacent to the now-disappeared Umayyad Alcázar, to which they were surely attached, may have been the most important in the city.



**Synagogue**: 14th century. Unique in Andalusia and one of the three preserved from medieval times in Spain, it is located in the Jewish quarter. Built between 1314 and 1315, according to the inscriptions found on the building, it served as a temple until the Jews' final expulsion.

**Capilla de San Bartolomé (Chapel of St. Bartholomew)**: 14th-15th centuries. An exquisite example of Mudéjar architecture, and the former parish of San Bartolomé. Built between the 14th and 15th centuries, with a single nave and a ribbed vault, its fine plasterwork and tile plinth are of special note. The chevet features traces of a mural painting.

**Fernandine Churches**: 12th-14th centuries. These are the churches built under Ferdinand III, The Saint, after the Reconquest, in different areas of the city. They are essential during Holy Week in Córdoba, and have their own route.

**Roman Bridge**: First century BC, with successive renovations over the course of history. With sixteen arches, four pointed and the rest semi-circular, in the center stands the city's oldest "Triumph of St. Raphael." For a long time this was the only point where one could cross the river without a boat.

## Museums



**Julio Romero de Torres**: 15th-16th centuries. The museum was created in 1931, a year after the painter's death, on the site of the house that belonged to the family. It is dedicated to his work and offers a look at his life, from his first works to his best known ones.

**Bullfighting**: 16th century. Located in an old stately mansion, it contains part of the extensive heritage dedicated to the five "caliphs" of bullfighting: Lagartijo, Guerrita, Machaquito, Manolete and Manuel Benítez, El Cordobés.

**Archaeological**: 16th century. Located in the Renaissance-style Palacio de los Páez de Castillejo, it is one of the most complete archaeological museums in Spain, and its basement contains an exceptional element: the remnants of the city's Roman theater.

**Fine Arts**: In the Plaza del Potro (Square of the Colt), its first director was Rafael Romero Barros, the painter's father. Its main and most numerous pieces date from the Baroque period and the 19th century.

**Centro Flamenco Fosforito**: 14th-15th Centuries Also known as the Posada del Potro (Inn of the Colt), it is the prototype of a popular type of house colloquially termed *corralas*, mentioned in works by Cervantes. Today, the Posada del Potro-Centro Flamenco Fosforito is a venue for the interpretation, production, research and dissemination of flamenco.



**Casa del Guadamecí Omeya (House of the Umayyad Guadamecí)**: Unique in the world as it showcases the recovery of the original Umayyad techniques used to adorn leather for decorative use. All this is thanks to the work begun by Ramón García Romero and kept alive by José Carlos Villarejo García, artists who researched the caliphal techniques that were employed in Córdoba (Spain) in the 10th century.

**Palacio de Viana**: 14th century. A majestic palace whose spaces are located around twelve magnificent courtyards and a fantastic garden. Different floral species decorate the grand museum, imbuing it with their scents.

**Torre de la Calahorra (Tower)**: Artistic/historical monument. After various uses, it currently houses the Museo Vivo de al-Ándalus (Living Museum of al-Andalus), covering the city's simultaneous habitation by Jews, Christians and Muslims, with their cultures.

**Casa de Sefarad**: The Casa de Sefarad/Casa de la Memoria (Sefarad House/Heritage House): a cultural center located in the heart of Córdoba's Jewish quarter.

## Activities



**Alma de Córdoba (Soul of Córdoba)\***: a night-time tour of the Mosque/Cathedral, featuring an audio-guide and lasting approximately one hour. For small groups of up to 100 people.

**Equestrian Show \***: the only Spanish Purebred Horse show in the world, at their birthplace: the Royal Stables (Caballerizas Reales). Approximately one hour.

**Patios de Córdoba (Courtyards of Córdoba)\***: both popular or stately courtyards can be visited throughout the year on routes you can do by yourself or with a guide.

**Fernandine Churches Route \***: a route of 11 representative churches promoted by the Cathedral Chapter of Córdoba, part of its commitment to culture.

**Bus to Medina Azahara\***: shuttle service to the interpretation center and archaeological site of Medina Azahara, located 9 kilometers from the city.

**City Sightseeing Bus \***: another way to become acquainted with the city, its different neighborhoods and areas, with audio guides that will tell you the history of Córdoba, and multiple stops throughout the city so you don't miss a thing.

**Ruta de los Molinos (Route of the Mills)**: declared of tourism interest, the 11 mills that survive today, located along the Guadalquivir River, are of great historical and ethnological value in an area of special scenic and cultural importance. The Route of the Mills\* allows you to visit five of them (M. de Martos, de la Albolafia, Pápalo, Enmedio and San Antonio).

**Andando Córdoba (Walking Córdoba)**: honored with the "Hispania Nostra" prize, this is an initiative created to enhance understanding of and experiences in the historic center of Córdoba through seven self-guided walks converging in the Mosque/Cathedral.

**Rutas de la Sierra (Mountain Routes)**: Just a few kilometers from the city, the Sierra de Córdoba mountain range offers a wide variety of trails combining nature with history. Go on your own or with one of our active tourism companies.

*\*With limited seating and/or subject to prior reservations and availability. Consult before planning your visit.*



## Monuments

- 01 The Mosque-Cathedral
- 02 Alcazar of the Christian Monarchs
- 03 Caliphal Baths
- 04 Synagogue
- 05 Roman Bridge
- 06 Royal Stables
- 07 San Bartolomé Chapel
- 08 Archaeological Site of Madinat al-Zahra
- 09 Roman Mausuleums
- 10 Roman Temple and City Walls
- 11 Palace of Congresses and Exhibitions
- 12 Palace of Viana
- 13 Cercadilla archaeological Site

## Museums and visitors' centers

- 14 Archaeological Museum
- 15 Fine Arts Museum
- 16 Julio Romero de Torres Museum
- 17 Bullfighting Museum
- 18 Inn of "El Potro", Fosforito Flamenco Center
- 19 Al-Iksir, The Museum of Alchemy
- 20 The Calahorra Tower, Al-Andalus Museum
- 21 Diocesan Museum, Episcopal Palace
- 22 Casa Árabe
- 23 Andalusí House
- 24 The House of Sefarad
- 25 Art on Leather Museum House
- 26 Casa Patio San Basilio 44
- 27 Trueque 4 The Courtyards Festival Visitors Center
- 28 Zoco Municipal (Souk)
- 29 Casa del Agua
- 30 Visitors Center Juramento San Rafael
- 31 Museum of Water Martos Water Mill

## Patios - courtyards

- 32 San Basilio
- 33 San Lorenzo - San Rafael
- 34 Judería
- 35 Sta Marina - San Agustín
- 36 San Andrés - Realejo
- 37 San Pedro - Santiago - La Magdalena

## Churches

- 38 Church of La Compañía
- 39 Church of La Magdalena
- 40 Church of La Trinidad
- 41 Church of Padres de Gracia - Trinitarios
- 42 Church of San Agustín
- 43 Church of San Andrés
- 44 Church of Santa Victoria
- 45 Church of de San Hipólito
- 46 Church of San Lorenzo (F)
- 47 Church of San Miguel (F)
- 48 Church of San Nicolás de la Villa (F)
- 49 Church of San Pablo (F)
- 50 Church of San Pedro (F)
- 51 Church of Santa Marina (F)
- 52 Church of Santiago (F)
- 53 Church of Santo Domingo (F??)
- 54 Church - Convent of la Merced
- 55 Church San Francisco
- 56 Church of San Basilio
- 57 Church of San Cayetano
- 58 Church of San Álvaro

## Exhibition centres

- 59 C3A (Centre for Contemporary Creation of Andalusia)
- 60 Pepe Espaliú Art Centre
- 61 Sala Vimcorsa
- 62 Rafael Botí Art Centre
- 63 Exhibition, Trade Fair and Convention Centre of Cordoba CEFC
- 64 Parque Joyerero

## Other public spaces

- 65 El Arenal Trade Fair - Feria de Mayo
- 66 Calle Cairuán
- 67 Moulins et roue hydraulique d'Albolafia
- 68 Casa de las Campanas
- 69 Moulin du La Alegria
- 70 Cuesta del Bailío
- 71 Calleja de las Flores
- 72 Calleja de las Cabezas
- 73 Calleja del Pañuelo
- 74 Cemetery Ntra. Sra. De la Salud
- 75 Palacio de la Merced
- 76 Palacio de los Villalones (Orive)
- 77 Círculo de la Amistad
- 78 Pl. de Capuchinos, Cristo de los Faroles
- 79 Plaza de Jerónimo Páez
- 80 Plaza de la Corredera
- 81 Plaza de las Tendillas
- 82 Plaza de los Condes de Priego
- 83 Plaza de Séneca
- 84 Plaza de Tiberiades
- 85 Plaza del Potro
- 86 Puerta de Almodovar
- 87 Puerta de Sevilla
- 88 Puerta del Puente
- 89 Triunfo de San Rafael
- 90 Gran Teatro
- 91 Teatro Góngora
- 92 Teatro de la Axerquia
- 93 Stadium Nuevo Arcangel

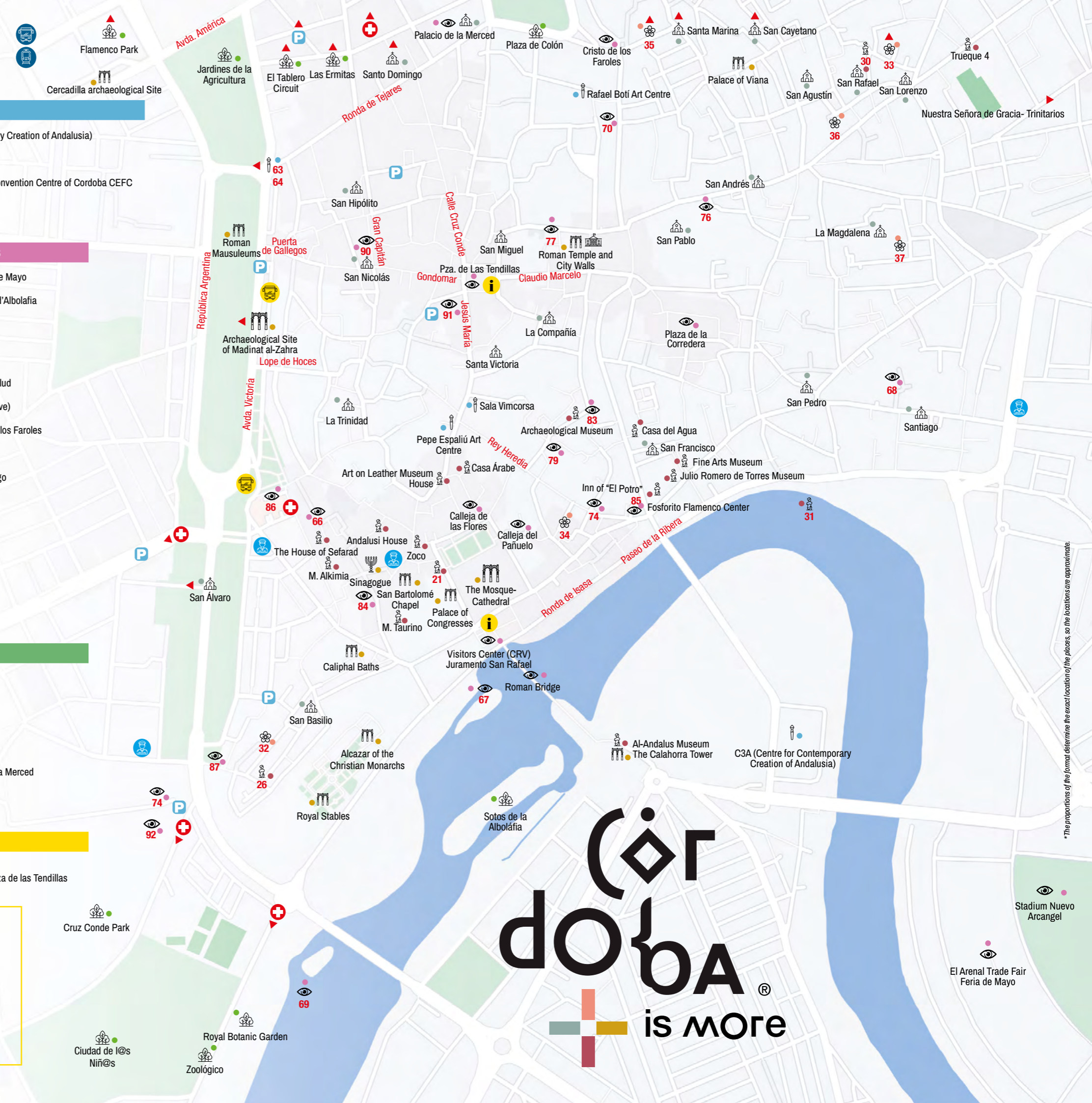
## Nature areas

- 94 Cruz Conde Park
- 95 El Tablero Circuit
- 96 Flamenco Park
- 97 Sotos de la Albolafia
- 98 Ciudad de los Niñ@s
- 99 Royal Botanic Garden
- 100 Zoo
- 101 Las Ermitas
- 102 Plaza de Colón Jardines de la Merced
- 103 Jardines de la Agricultura

## Tourism

- 104 Visitors Center (CRV)
- 105 Tourist Information Point Plaza de las Tendillas

- Bus to Medina Azahara
- Parking
- Bus station
- Train station
- Córdoba City Council
- Hospital
- Police



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is more

\*The proportions of the format determine the exact location of the places, so the locations are approximate.