

# Seville in a Weekend



This E-Book will provide you with all the main information you need to make the most of a few days in Seville. It was fully researched by ourselves during an extended trip to Seville and all the information is to the best of our knowledge correct at the time of writing (May 2009).

Please note that some factors, such as opening times, are constantly subject to change so we cannot be responsible for any disruption to travel plans should any information in this Ebook have changed. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you confirm any crucial dates or opening times with one of the official Seville tourist agencies which are listed in this guide.

In addition, would you kindly notify us of any errors you come across and send us more useful recommendations that we might include in future editions of this Ebook.

Have a great time in Seville.

Gerry Kerkhof

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## Welcome to Seville

Seville is Spain's 4th largest city with a population of some 710,000. It is a city with soaring summer temperatures which have approached 50°C on occasions during the last two summers so avoid July and August if possible.

There is nowhere else in Spain that complies so closely with the foreigner's perception of stereotypical Spain as Seville. For it is here that flamenco, bullfighting and fiesta are a way of life. Never more so than during the Feria de Abril (2 weeks after Easter Sunday) when everyone seems to hit the streets for a week long party.

There is plenty to see including the Cathedral which is now reckoned to be the world's largest church. There are steps from inside the Cathedral to the top of the 90m high Giralda which is the minaret of the former Mosque. The climb to the top provides some great views but stay at the bottom and buy the postcard if you've got a weak heart! Next to the Cathedral is the Alcázar which is a great introduction to Moorish art especially if you're going to visit Granada's Alhambra Palace later during your visit to Spain.

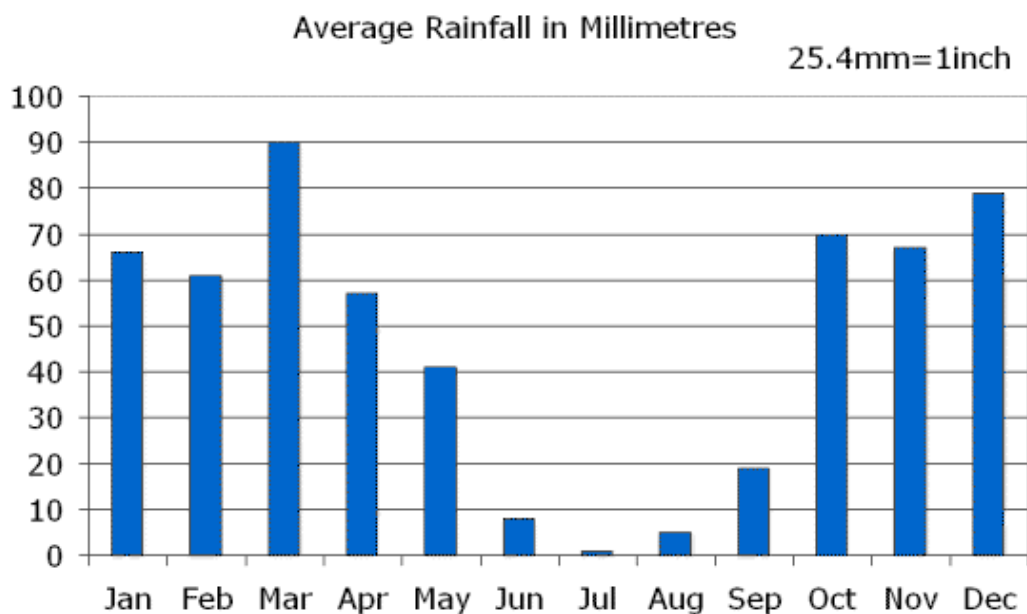
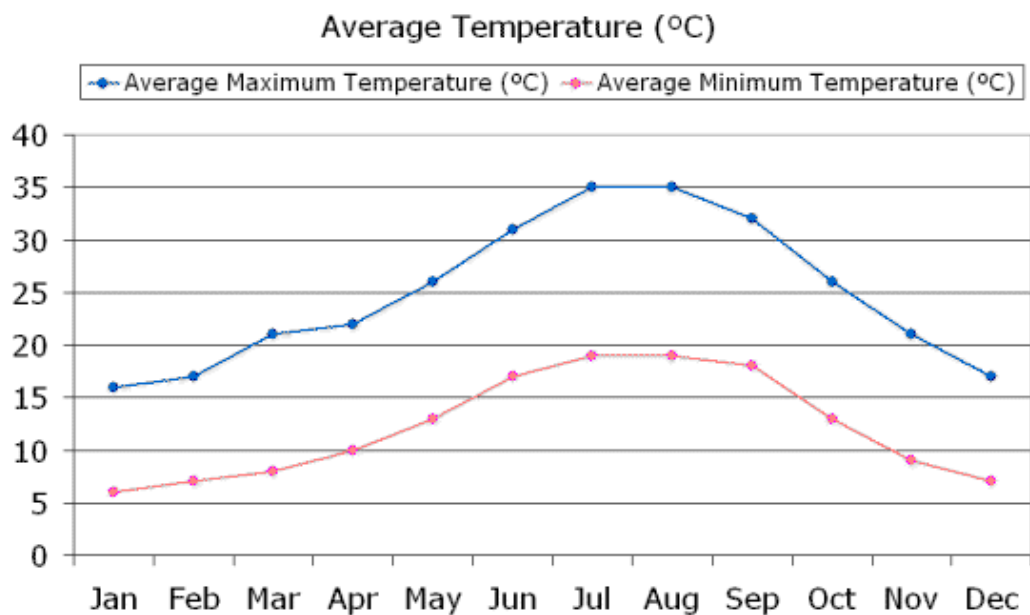
A word of advice ... One well known US guide book warns of the dangers of Barrio Santa Cruz to the extent that many North American visitors that we have dealt with seem terrified of visiting Seville. These worries are unfounded. The area is beautiful with a wonderful atmosphere and with people all over the place ... tourists, locals, children going to school, university students. I suppose someone has had a bag snatched at some time but isn't that the case with any touristy destination? Exercise common sense as you would anywhere and you're most unlikely to run into any problems in Seville.

## When to Visit Seville

In summer the Seville weather is hot, hot, hot particularly in July and August. In these months the streets tend to be empty during the day with people leaving their houses in the early morning and then not leaving them again until late in the evening. This makes for quite a nocturnal life during these months. There is very little rain from June to September. Winter temperatures tend to be very pleasant and although there can be some rain there are still lots of clear and sunny days.

For a 5 day forecast check the following website:

<http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/08391.html>



## Seville Tourism

### Getting to Seville

Seville does have an airport with domestic and international arrivals, however, the outstanding AVE high speed train service provides the gateway for most arrivals to the Andalusian capital. Thanks to this service Madrid's Atocha Station is just 2 hours 30 minutes from Seville's Santa Justa Station. Bookings can be made online in English at the [RENFE Website](#). From Santa Justa it's best to take a taxi to your final destination. If you're on a budget take a look at the ALTARIA train before booking the AVE. This service takes a little longer but can prove a fair bit cheaper. There are also efficient train services to Granada, Malaga, and many other destinations in Andalusia. Some of these departures are from the San Bernardo railway station which is closer to the tourist area of Barrio Santa Cruz.

Long distance bus services also serve Seville and are a cheaper option than the train though slower and less convenient. Services from Madrid arrive at the Plaza de Armas bus station whilst the Prado de San Sebastian terminal caters for most destinations within Andalusia. Timetables and fares appear online at the [Movelia Website](#).

### Seville Card

A useful recommendation for visitors to Seville is the [Seville Card](#) which provides discounts on entrance fees to the city's main tourist attractions and discounts on shopping, restaurants and entrance to flamenco shows. You'll also get reduced rates on the hop on hop off tourist bus service and cheaper Guadalquivir river cruises.

### Spain Tourist Offices

Before travelling you can often get useful tourist information about Seville from the Spanish National Tourist Office at the following addresses:

UK Spanish Tourist Office  
PO Box 4009  
London W1A 6NB  
Tel 020 7486 8077  
24 hour information and brochure request line 09 459 400180  
E-mail: [info.londres@tourspain.es](mailto:info.londres@tourspain.es)  
Website: [www.spain.info/uk](http://www.spain.info/uk)

USA Tourist Office of Spain  
666 Fifth Avenue, 35th Floor  
New York, NY 10103  
Tel: (212) 265-8822  
Fax: (212) 265-8864  
E-mail: [oetny@Tourspain.es](mailto:oetny@Tourspain.es)

## ***Tourist Information Offices in Seville***

On arrival in Seville you'll find a number of tourist information offices at the following addresses:

### **Municipal Tourist Offices**

Internet: [www.turismosevilla.org/index.php?idi=en](http://www.turismosevilla.org/index.php?idi=en)

Calle de Arjona, 28

Phone: + 34 954 22 17 14

Email: [barranco.turismo@sevilla.org](mailto:barranco.turismo@sevilla.org)

### **Edificio Laredo**

Plaza de San Francisco s/n

Phone: +34 954 59 01 88

Email: [laredo.turismo@sevilla.org](mailto:laredo.turismo@sevilla.org)

### **Costurero de la Reina**

Paseo de las Delicias, 9

Phone: +34 954 23 44 65

Email: [barranco.turismo@sevilla.org](mailto:barranco.turismo@sevilla.org)

### **Plaza del Triunfo, 1-3**

Phone: +34 954 21 00 05

Email: [infoturismo@dipusevilla.es](mailto:infoturismo@dipusevilla.es)

### **Regional Tourist Offices**

Internet: [www.andalucia.org](http://www.andalucia.org)

### **Avda. de la Constitución, 21 B**

Phone: +34 954 221 404

Email: [otsevilla@andalucia.org](mailto:otsevilla@andalucia.org)

### **Aeropuerto de San Pablo**

Autopista San Pablo s/n

Phone: +34 954 44 91 28

Email: [otaesevilla@andalucia.org](mailto:otaesevilla@andalucia.org)

### **Estación de Santa Justa**

Avda. Kansas City s/n

Phone: +34 954 53 76 26

Email: [otjusta@andalucia.org](mailto:otjusta@andalucia.org)

## Flights to Seville

### *International Flights to Seville*

At the time of writing [Ryanair](#) offer cheap flights to Seville airport from Bristol, Dublin, Liverpool and London Stansted. [Clickair](#) fly from London Gatwick to Seville. Aside from the budget carriers there are daily flights with Iberia from both London Heathrow and London Gatwick. Check the websites of the main airlines to keep up to date with their latest route options.

### *Domestic Flights to Seville*

There are plenty domestic flights to Seville from destinations all over the country including Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid, Valencia, Mallorca and Tenerife. [Iberia](#), [Vueling](#) and [Clickair](#) and offer the most domestic options.

### *Useful European Airline Websites*

Useful websites where you can keep up to date as to who flies where are [www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net) and [www.whichbudget.com](http://www.whichbudget.com).

## Seville Airport

Seville Airport is located just 10 kilometres northeast of Seville city. It is easily accessible along the San Pablo motorway in the direction of Cordoba. Although Seville is Spain's 4th largest city and is capital of the autonomous region of Andalucia its San Pablo airport caters mainly for domestic traffic as the majority of visitors to the region arrive at Malaga international airport on their way to the popular resorts of the Costa del Sol.

On arrival at Seville airport you'll find modern facilities in the main terminal including a variety of shops, cafes and banks with ATM facilities. There is no place for left luggage. In addition, there are numerous car rental operators based in the airport terminal. Good rates for [Seville airport car hire](#) are available online although driving in Seville city isn't recommended.

## Seville Airport Transfers

Seville's airport is only 10km east of the city on the main NIV road to Cordoba.

There are three main options for transferring to the city centre.

### *Private Transfers*

You can [pre-book Seville airport transfers](#) and have a driver waiting for you as you enter the airport's arrivals lounge.

### *Airport Bus Transfers*

There's a special airport bus service called EA (Especial Aeropuerto) which operates between the airport and Prado de San Sebastián . The bus stop is behind the taxi rank as you leave the arrivals area. At the time of writing the single fare is €2.30 and a return is €4.00. The route is as follows:

Seville Airport - Avenida Kansas City - Santa Justa Railway Station - Luis de Morales - San Francisco Javier - Carlos V - Prado San Sebastián

You can check bus timetables and route maps at the [Tussam Website](#).

### *Taxi Transfers*

There are always plenty taxis available and they charge about €20.00 to the city centre. Taxi phone numbers are as follows:

954 675 555 (Radiotaxi Giralda)

954 580 000 (Radiotaxi)

954 622 222 (Teletaxi)

### *Seville Airport Car Hire*

As mentioned earlier renting a car to drive into the city isn't a good idea as you'll almost certainly get lost in what is Spain's 4th largest city and parking can be a nightmare. Good rates for [Seville airport car hire](#) are available online.

## Seville Transport

### Seville City Buses

Public buses in and around the Seville metropolitan region are operated by a consortium of operators. Timetables (in Spanish) are available on the [Seville bus services website](#). City buses including the airport bus are operated by [Tussam](#). There are bus services to destinations all over Andalucia departing from the Prado de San Sebastian bus station in Seville. Departures to Madrid or Portugal depart from the Plaza de Armas bus station. Bus timetables and fares are on the [Movelia website](#).

### Seville Train Transport

[RENFE](#) operates intercity trains to Seville including the high speed AVE service to Cordoba and Madrid. Their website can also be used to find information about local trains (cercanias) serving the Seville metropolitan region. If you're coming to Seville by train from Madrid you'll arrive at the Santa Justa Station in just 2 hours 30 minutes from Madrid Atocha. Reservations should be made well in advance for journeys which coincide with the Feria de Abril or Holy Week. Bookings can be made online in English at the [RENFE website](#). From Santa Justa it's best to take a taxi to your final destination. Before booking the AVE be sure to take a look at the ALTARIA train which takes longer but can prove a fair bit cheaper.

There are also efficient train services to Granada, Malaga, and many other destinations in Andalucia. Please note that some departures are also from the San Bernardo railway stations which is walking distance from Barrio Santa Cruz and far more convenient than the Santa Justa station if you're staying in the tourist centre.

### Seville Metro

The Seville metro has been an ongoing headache for local politicians since initial construction began in 1974. Fears of damage to historic buildings resulted in the project being put on hold between 1983 and 1999. The idea is to create four lines covering the city and its metropolitan area though it isn't expected to be functional in any form before 2010.

### Seville Tram

A great addition to Seville city centre is the tram which runs from Plaza Nueva to Prado de San Sebastián with stops at Archivo de Indias and Puerta de Jerez. This is being extended to link with the high speed AVE train station at Santa Justa.

### Hop on Hop Off Buses

On the riverside next to the Torre del Oro is the most convenient starting point for the [hop on hop off bus tours](#) of Seville. Buses depart about every 20 minutes following a route which includes the following stops: Torre del Oro - Plaza de Espana - Isla Magica - Monasterio de la Cartuja

The whole route takes about 1 hour 15 minutes and you can get off as often as you like at the designated stops. Commentary is available in English and the ticket is valid for 24 hours from when it is first used.

### ***Horse Drawn Carriages***

In the main square outside the Cathedral you'll see many horse drawn carriages offering tours around the city. They generally follow a fixed route out past the Tobacco Factory to the Plaza de España and María Luisa Park returning via the Torre de Oro and La Maestranza bullring. The 40 minute trip costs around 30 Euros with official prices posted on signs near the departure point.

### ***Seville Card***

If you're planning on using the hop on hop off bus service you might like to consider purchasing the [Seville Tourist Card](#) which covers not only the hop on hop off service but also includes a boat trip on the Guadalquivir river, entrance to the city's main tourist attractions and discounts on shopping, restaurants and entrance to flamenco shows.

### ***Guadalquivir Cruise***

If you fancy a break from walking around the city there are daily cruises along the Guadalquivir River which depart from the Torre de Oro. You can get more information at [Seville River Cruises](#). This river cruise is quite unremarkable. It's generally popular with children and tourists with tired legs but shouldn't be considered an essential activity when visiting Seville.

### ***Seville Cycles***

Seville has made commendable progress in making the city cycle friendly by building cycle paths all over the city and setting up a bike share scheme which allows you to pick up a bike from one of the many bike stations and leaving it at another. The locals have adopted the new system with open arms and cyclists can be seen all over the place. A weekly membership only costs €5.00 then the first 30 minutes of each journey is free (the next hour costs €1.00 and subsequent hours are €2.00 each). A stumbling block for tourists is the €150.00 deposit that must be deposited when first registering. Payment is made at one of the 250 Sevici stations dotted around the city. See the [Sevici website](#) for more information.

## Accommodation ~ Where to Stay in Seville

### Seville Hotels

There are plenty of hotels in Seville but as the city has become more accessible in recent times thanks to transport improvements there has been quite an increase in prices. You can often find good deals by booking online at one of the websites recommended below but for visits during the Feria de Abril or Semana Santa you'll usually need to book months in advance and can expect to pay top prices.

The majority of first-time visitors to Seville will find accommodation to suit their budget in the vicinity of Barrio Santa Cruz in the historic heart of the city. Here there are numerous budget options tucked away down side streets as well as some charming hotels housed in typical Sevillian mansions.

[Venere Hotels](#) is a good place to start your search as they have more than 100 centrally located hotels available as well as a selection of self-catering apartments and cheap hostels. This website allows you to search by price or popularity and lists comments to their properties from previous guests.

If you don't find what you're looking for at the above link take a look at the [Hotels Combined](#) Website. They very cleverly check the availability of hotels in Seville for your dates of travel and compare prices from most of the main online hotel websites ensuring the best deal possible.

### Seville Apartments

An interesting alternative to staying in a hotel in Seville is to reserve an apartment for your stay. There are apartments to cater to the needs of all visitors to Seville ranging from small two-person flats to larger apartments suitable for families and groups of friends. A great advantage of the apartment option is that you don't have to eat out all the time which makes a welcome change when you're on an extended visit.

The [Venere Hotels](#) website mentioned above has an attractive selection of self-catering apartments on offer whilst another company called [Bookassist](#) has an even greater supply.

### Seville Hostels & Backpackers

Many visitors to Spain aren't comfortable with the idea of staying in as "hostal" is it conjures up thoughts of some kind of down and out's hostel in English. This is a fallacy as a Spanish "hostal" is simply a cheap hotel which is often a family-run business. In some parts of Spain these "hostals" are bursting with character and provide far more interesting accommodation than modern hotels. In Seville they tend to be very small and are mainly occupied by budget travellers and students. Many of them are really quaint as they have been established in charming Sevillian houses

centred on a small courtyard patio. Room types range from shared dormitories to en suite double rooms. For the best selection of budget accommodation in Seville take a look at the [Hostelbookers](#) website

### ***Enquiries About Specific Properties & Dates***

If you have any questions about properties that you like the looks of when looking through the above websites please be sure to contact them directly through their website as we will not be able to help you directly.

## Seville Hotels

It is advisable to book Seville hotels well in advance as this popular capital of Andalusia attracts visitors all years round thanks to the excellent climate of Southern Spain and attractions of this fabulous city. Bear in mind that there are many festivals in Seville which attract visitors from all over the world meaning a shortage of hotel rooms during Holy Week (Semana Santa), the April Fair (Feria de Abril) and numerous other annual fiestas.

It would be impossible to list and comment on every hotel in Seville in this short guide so I've simply selected a few hotels that we can strongly recommend below. If you'd like to consider more options then [Venere Hotels](#) is a good place to start. Alternatively, you can [compare the price of Seville hotels](#) according to your travel dates.

### [Las Casas de Los Mercaderes](#) - 3 Star

Address: Álvarez, Quintero, 13-9

This elegant hotel is centred on a charming 18th century courtyard with views over the Plaza Salvador. Its central location is ideal for the main tourist attractions which are no more than 5 minutes away on foot. The hotel is on a quiet pedestrian street which is fine provided you don't have your own car as accessibility is restricted.

### [Casas de la Juderia](#) - 4 Star

Address: Plaza Santa Maria La Blanca

Located in the Jewish Santa Cruz Quarter, this is one of the most charming hotels in Seville. The hotel comprises a number of houses and former palaces with a quaint patio and fountain at the entrance. Our QUAIN'T Choice.

### [Hotel Becquer](#) - 4 Star

Address: Reyes Catolicos, 4

A fine choice for location lying just a few minutes walk from the Cathedral and the historical centre. Very helpful staff and easy access by road. They often offer special offers making the hotel one of Seville's best for value.

### [Silken Al-Andalus Palace Hotel](#) - 4 Star

Address: Avda La Palmera, s/n

This is a good choice if you don't mind being about 2½ km north of the city centre. The hotel is in a residential area and overlooks the Betis football stadium and has plenty parking available without having to get lost in Seville's traffic before finding it. There is a great outside area with a swimming pool and peaceful gardens.

### [Hotel Alfonso XIII](#) - 5 Star

Address: San Fernando, 2

This hotel was named after the king who commissioned it in 1928 and was designed to be Europe's most luxurious hotel. It is situated among the arches and arabesques of the historic city centre only minutes from the Reales Alcázares and Plaza de España. It is easy to see why it was named in Condé Nast Traveler's Gold List. Our LUXURY Choice.

## Seville Apartments

An interesting alternative to staying in a hotel in Seville is to reserve an apartment for your stay. There are apartments to cater to the needs of all visitors to Seville ranging from small two person flats to larger apartments suitable for families and groups of friends. A great advantage of the apartment option is that you don't have to eat out all the time which makes a welcome change when you're on an extended visit.

Here are a few Seville apartments to consider for your stay.

### [Apartamentos Murillo](#) (Reinoso 6)

This charming accommodation is located in the heart of Barrio Santa Cruz within easy walking distance of all of Seville's main attractions.

### [Apartment Santa Cruz](#) (Plaza de los Venerables)

Another idyllic location in Plaza de los Venerables which place you in Seville's most sought after tourist location.

### [Apartment La Casa del Pozo Santo](#) (c/Lepanto, 9)

Charming accommodation housed in an 18th century mansion within easy access of Seville's main attractions.

### [Apartment Puerta Catedral I](#) (Alemanes, 15)

These apartments look right out at the Cathedral in the historical heart of Seville.

## Outside the Historical Centre

### [Apartamentos Turísticos Bib Rambla](#) (Avenida de la Innovación, 13)

Located a little out of town near the Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones this modern apartment complex has its own swimming pool and garden with good transport facilities into the city.

### [Apartment Lux Sevilla Palacio](#) (c/Secoya)

These apartments are also out of the city centre near the Palacio de Congresos. The outdoor swimming pool in summer helps compensate for the inconvenience of having to travel into the city for sightseeing.

## Seville Hostels

Many visitors to Spain aren't comfortable with the idea of staying in a "hostal" as it conjures up thoughts of some kind of down and out's hostel in English. This is a fallacy as a Spanish "hostal" is simply a cheap hotel which is often a family run business. In some parts of Spain these "hostals" are bursting with character and provide far more interesting accommodation than modern hotels. In Seville they tend to be very small and are mainly occupied by budget travellers and students. Many of them are really quaint as they have been established in charming Sevillian houses centred on a small courtyard patio. Room types range from shared dormitories to en suite double rooms.

There's quite a shortage of cheap Seville hostels these days as many establishments have been undergone reforms in recent times to transform them into attractive small hotels. They then have a licence to charge accordingly. Below we've recommended a few centrally located hostels with online booking facilities.

### [Hostal Nuevo Suizo](#) (Azofaifo, 7)

Tel: 954 229 147

Rooms: 19

Located in the very heart of the historical centre, the Hostal Nuevo Suizo is close to all the major attractions of Seville ...

### [Hostal Santa Catalina](#) (Alhondiga, 10-12)

Tel: 954 227 192

Rooms: 18

Another typical Seville house built on two levels in the historic centre with easy access on foot to most of the city's main sights ...

### [Hostal Florida](#) (Menendez Pelayo, 27)

Tel: 954 422 557

Rooms: 13

Seville The Hostal Florida stands on the edge of Barrio Santa Cruz with comfortable access to Seville's main attractions and to the Santa Justa railway station where the high speed AVE trains to Madrid depart from ...

### [Hostal Jentoft](#) (c/Benidorm, 2)

Tel: 954 22 09 81

Rooms: 50

Nice spot on the river near the Isla de la Cartuja from where you can easily wander to the city's main sights.

### [Hostal Vincent Van Gogh](#) (c/Miguel de Mañara, 4)

Tel: 954 563 727

Rooms: 19

Location, location. This hostel is housed in a typical Sevillian house and is perfectly located right next to the Alcázar.

[Hostal El Giraldillo](#) (c/Gravina, 23)

Tel: 954 224 275

Rooms: 10

Friendly family run option located just behind the Museo de Bellas Artes in the centre of Seville.

[Hostal Lis II](#) (Olavide, 5)

Phone: 954 560 228

Rooms: 13

Economical option tucked away down a side street in the historical heart of the city.

[Picasso Hostal](#) (c/San Gregorio, 1)

Tel: 954 217 976

Good budget option located in Seville's historic centre of Seville. Popular with young travellers and backpackers.

[Hostal Pension Triana](#) (Rodrigo de Triana, 69)

Tel: 954 459 960

Across the river in the Triana district this budget hostel is another popular choice amongst backpackers.

[Hostal Dalí](#) (Puerta de Jeréz, 3)

Tel: 954 229 505

Rooms: 18

Cheap accommodation right next to the Jardines de los Reales Alcázares and within easy reach of all of the city's main attractions.

### ***Cheap Seville Hostels at Hostelbookers***

For an even greater selection of budget accommodation in Seville take a look at the [Hostelbookers website](#).

## Seville Attractions

There are so many Seville attractions to see that the city deserves at least three days to do it justice. If you have more time available then you won't be disappointed. Below we've listed the most important attractions in Seville. Their location is shown on the Seville map which appears at the end of this publication.

### **Seville Cathedral**

Seville's immense cathedral is one of the biggest in the world with only St Peter's in Rome and St Paul's in London being larger. It was built on the site of Muslim Seville's main Mosque between 1401 and 1507. One highlight of the cathedral's lavish interior is Christopher Columbus' supposed tomb inside the south door. It is also home to a priceless art collection including famous works by Goya, Murillo and Zurbarán. More detailed information follows below this list of attractions.

### **La Giralda**

The tower which adjoins the Cathedral is called La Giralda. It was the Mosque's minaret and dates from the 12th century. Under Christian rule a belltower was added to the top as well as a famous weather vane called El Giraldillo which is a well known symbol of Seville. You can climb the 97 metres to the top of the tower for great views over the city.

### **Real Alcazar of Seville**

This was a fortress from the Muslim-era (dates from AD 913) which served as a hideout of Muslim and Christian royalty for many centuries. If you'll also be visiting the Alhambra in Granada then Seville's Alcazar is a good place to see first as it is a fine introduction to Moorish architecture. More detailed information follows below this list of attractions.

### **Plaza de España**

This is probably Spain's most spectacular Plaza de España which was the centrepiece of the 1929 Spanish-Americas Fair. It containing fountains and mini-canals and is surrounded by a display of tile work representing all the provinces of Spain. If you need a break from the city head into the tranquillity of the adjoining Parque de María Luisa which is only a 10 minute walk east of the Cathedral.

### **Antigua Fábrica de Tabacos**

On the way to the Plaza de España you will pass Seville's enormous old tobacco factory which was the setting for Bizet's Carmen. Today it is a part of Seville University and is open to the public during daylight hours.

## **Plaza de Toros de la Real Maestranza – Seville’s Bullring**

It’s well worth a visit to Seville's bullring which is one of the oldest (1758) and most famous in Spain. A short but uninspired guided tour is compulsory for visitors.

## **Archivo de Indias**

Since 1785 this building on the west side of Plaza del Triunfo has been the main archive of Spain's American empire. Its endless shelves hold more than 80 million pages of documents dating from 1492 through to the end of the empire in the 19th century.

## **Torre de Oro**

On the banks of the River Guadalquivir stands the Torre de Oro which today represents one of Seville's major landmarks. It was originally built as a watchtower by the Moors who could close access to the harbour by attaching a chain to it and to the opposite bank of the river. It is now used as a naval museum.

## **La Casa de Pilatos**

This is an impressive 16th century mansion where the founding Medinaceli family still reside. The areas open to the public are impressive for the architectural styles including Mudejar works.

## **Hotel Alfonso XIII**

This is Seville's grandest hotel which was constructed by King Alfonso XIII for the 1929 Spanish-Americas Fair. Visitors can step inside admire the beautifully decorated entrance areas and dining room. The restaurant is open to the public if you're celebrating a special occasion.

## **Hospital de los Venerables**

The Hospital de los Venerables is housed in a 17th century Baroque palace which initially served as a home for retired clergy. Today it is open to visitors keen to see its lovely courtyard and impressive art collection.

## **Hospital de la Caridad**

Filled with art from Seville's golden age, this beautiful Baroque church was the brainchild of an aristocratic playboy, Miguel de Mañara. He dedicated much of his later life to building this charity hospital after he apparently had a vision of his own funeral.

## **Isla Magica**

After the 1992 Expo in Seville this site located on the Isla de Cartuja was converted into a giant amusement park with adjoining business park. It lies just across the river from the northern part of the city providing great fun for children on the many rides which follow a general theme based on the Spanish colonial history.

## Seville Cathedral

Seville Cathedral, Catedral de Santa Maria de la Sede, has some mightily impressive statistics. The largest Gothic cathedral; the world's fourth largest Christian church; the largest altar in the world; at 11520 square metres only St Peter's in Rome and St Paul's in London are larger churches in Europe, although Seville's volume is greater than either; an altarpiece the life's work of a single craftsman; all contained in a cathedral designed to be 'such a building that future generations will consider us to be lunatics.'

Fortunately, it's not simply the statistics which impress visitors. It's once they are inside that the true wonder of the building becomes apparent.

After the Christians recaptured Seville in 1248, the city's foremost mosque, the Almohad Mosque, was used as a Christian church for many years. By the beginning of the 15th century, however, it was in such poor condition – and the city of Seville was beginning to become more important and wealthy – that the canons of the church decided to build their own place of worship on the same site. So single-minded were they in their pursuit of grandeur, that they renounced all but a subsistence level of funds for themselves in order to help fund the cost of the building – and also came out with their famous quotation mentioned at the end of the introductory paragraph.

They built their new church between the years of 1402 and 1506 – in itself a remarkable achievement given the building's enormity. The cathedral was constructed on the rectangular base of the former mosque and kept two major parts incorporated within the new design. The first of these, the Patio de los Naranjos, situated just inside the main entrance, is a courtyard full, as its name implies, of orange trees, and is where the original Muslim worshippers would wash before entering their mosque.

The other remaining element of the Almohad Mosque is the beautifully decorated minaret converted into a bell tower, La Giralda, which is now more than 90 metres high. Those parts of the tower higher than the bell itself were added during the construction of the cathedral, along with El Giraldillo, the weather vane on the top. John Gill, in his absorbing 2008 publication, *Andalucía, a Cultural History*, refers to La Giralda as 'a cross-section of Andaluz history' and, as well as being beautiful in its own right, it offers wonderful views across the city of Seville.

It is once you are inside the mighty, 5-naved Christian cathedral itself that its sheer vastness really strikes you. The central nave is a stunning 42 metres high. But there are so many other elements to admire as well as size. The box-like Coro, or Choir, in the centre has 117 stalls carved in the Mudéjar style. The enormous Gothic retablo, perhaps the largest altarpiece in the world, fills the centre of the nave and has fantastic carvings of biblical scenes all over it. There are works by Goya, Zubarán and Murillo to be searched out. Visitors can even find a collection of skulls as well as the original keys presented to King Ferdinand by the Jewish and Moorish inhabitants of Seville when the city surrendered to him in 1248.

One of the most impressive – and, at the same time, controversial – parts of the cathedral is the tomb of Christopher Columbus, just inside the Puerta de San Cristóbal. It is a highly imposing monument, but whether or not any part of the great explorer's

remains are actually contained within it is still very much a matter of debate and scientific investigation.

And always, wherever your eye wanders, you will be stunned by the quality of the sculptures, the stained glass, the paintings and, of course, the sheer quantity of gold and silver decoration to be seen.

Seville Cathedral is a beautifully striking building with many unforgettable aspects. When you visit, remember that shorts and t-shirts are not allowed and also check about the taking of photographs. When I was there recently, flash photography was not permitted. There is a small entrance fee, although on Sunday afternoons there is free admission. You will almost certainly be initially overwhelmed by the size of the building but then, as you wander around its delightfully cool interior, you'll discover that there is so much more to be said about it.

### **Opening Hours:**

Winter (1st September to 30th June)

Monday to Saturday: 11am to 5pm

Sunday: 2.30pm to 6pm

Public Holidays: Check Locally

Summer (1st July to 31st August)

Monday to Saturday: 9.30am to 4pm

Sunday: 2.30pm to 6pm

Public Holidays: Check Locally

## Seville Alcazar

The Alcázar is one of Andalucía's gems - a beautiful architectural masterpiece, whose history tells the story of Seville.

Originally a Moorish fort – the name comes from the Arabic for palace –the Alcázar is one of the finest remaining examples of predominantly Mudéjar architecture in the country; but that only begins to tell the tale. This seemingly exquisitely designed palace – still officially designated as an official royal residence – has, in fact, been added to continuously over the years.

It was at the beginning of the 10th Century that the original building was started but during the following century the ruling Almohades began to fully develop their royal fortress – on the western side of the current site. Following the reconquest, successive kings augmented the buildings but the predominant figure in this part of the Alcázar's history was the controversial Pedro I, who added, amongst other things, the mighty Palacio de Don Pedro. Pedro employed mainly Moorish and Jewish workers brought from Granada and incorporated huge fragments of buildings from Córdoba, Valencia and the nearby ruined city of Itálica into the constructions. The buildings, and especially the wonderful gardens incorporated into the Palace, were developed all the way to the 19th Century. Indeed, the gardens near the Amohad Wall on the eastern side of the complex are a 20th Century addition. The fascinating thing, however, is that – with this profusion of Mudéjar, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles – the Alcázar has such a wonderful feeling of unity about it.

There are so many aspects about this palace to fascinate and intrigue visitors – both inside the rooms, in the patios and the wonderful gardens.

Perhaps the most spectacular and luxurious of the rooms are the Cuarto Real Alto and the Salón de Embajadores. The former is the suite of rooms used by the Spanish Royal family, although usually open to the public, and is as extravagantly decorated as you might expect. The Salón de Embajadores was originally the throne room of Pedro I and has sumptuously tiled walls and a ceiling with a magnificent cedarwood cupola, with elaborate star patterns. It has a particularly spectacular archway, Arco de Pavones, covered with motifs of peacocks.

This room is part of Pedro I's incredible fusion of Muslim and Iberian styles – the Palacio de Don Pedro. You'll especially notice the Patio de las Doncellas, the Courtyard of the Maidens, commemorating the annual demand by the Moors of 100 virgins from their Christian kingdoms. This is as astonishingly beautiful as anything in the Alhambra – containing a large reflective pool, with sunken gardens on either side, exquisitely shaped arches, and spectacular wooden doors. The irony of this beauty being the creation of a ruler who murdered many of his own family in order to keep his position will add more poignancy to the occasion. The upper storey was added later by Carlos V and mixes Italian Renaissance and Mudéjar styles. Go from there into the adjoining Cámara Regia, with its mix of plaster and tilework, and you'll fully understand why people become so enchanted by the atmosphere of the Alcázar.

There are many other compelling attractions. The Sala de Audiencias, for example, has the first known painting of Columbus' American discoveries. The Casa de

Contratación includes the chapel in which Columbus reported back to Ferdinand and Isabella after his second journey.

You'll also see many references to Doña Maria de Padilla – her bedrooms, her patio, her bathing waters. Now a symbol of purity to the people of Seville, this former mistress of Pedro I, who apparently loved her to distraction, had a fascinating life story.

No reference to the Alcázar would be complete, though, without reference to the delightful gardens. Andalucía has many beautiful gardens – notably at Granada and Cordoba, of course - but those of Seville lose little in comparison with any of them. Even on the hottest summer's day – and they do get hot in Seville – the gentle elegance and grace of the gardens, with their delicate water features, meticulous planting and cunning use of light and shade, will be soothing and restorative.

There is so much more that could be said about the Alcázar of Seville. Just the other side of Plaza del Triunfo from the mighty Cathedral, the main entrance for visitors is through the Puerta del León. No matter how brief your stay in the city, don't miss it.

### **Opening Hours:**

Winter (1st October to 31st March)

Tuesday to Saturday: 9.30am to 5pm

Sunday & Public Holidays: 9.30am to 1.30pm

Closed: Mondays

Summer (1st April to 30th September)

Tuesday to Saturday: 9.30am to 7pm

Sunday & Public Holidays: 9.30am to 5pm

Closed: Mondays

## Seville Museums

### **Museo de Bellas Artes** (Plaza del Museo, 9)

Seville's most impressive art collection is housed in a former convent where notable masterpieces by artists of the Seville School (Murillo, Vales Leal and Zurbaran) are well represented.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday: 2.30pm to 8.30pm

Wednesday to Saturday: 9am to 8.30pm

Sundays & Holidays: 9am to 2.30pm

Closed: Mondays & Some Public Holidays (Check at Tourist Information)

### **Torre del Oro** (Paseo Cristobal Colon)

Standing on the river, this 13th century Moorish watchtower is now an interesting maritime museum. Free on Tuesdays.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 2pm

Saturday & Sunday: 11am to 2pm

Closed: Mondays, Holidays & August

### **Archivo de Indias** (Plaza del Triunfo)

This fascinating museum is home to all the documentation related to the discovery of the Americas dating from 1492 to the end of the Spanish Empire in the late 19th century. Free Entrance.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Saturday: 9am to 4pm

Sundays & Holidays: 10am to 2pm

### **Museo Arqueologico** (Plaza de America)

The archaeological museum lies at the southern end of the Maria Luisa Park with artefacts dating back to prehistoric times. Later exhibits are displayed from the Roman occupation of the Iberian peninsula. Free with EU passport.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday: 2.30pm to 8.30pm

Wednesday to Saturday: 9am to 8.30pm

Sundays & Holidays: 9am to 2.30pm

Closed: Mondays & Some Public Holidays (Check at Tourist Information)

### **Museo de Arte Contemporaneo (C/Santo Tomas 5)**

A fine collection of contemporary Spanish art from the 1970s to the current day.

### **Museo de Artes y Costumbres Populares (Plaza de America,3)**

At this museum of folklore and arts there's an interesting selection of costumes worn through the ages at Seville's festivals and craft exhibitions. Free with EU passport.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday: 2.30pm to 8.30pm

Wednesday to Saturday: 9am to 8.30pm

Sundays & Holidays: 9am to 2.30pm

Closed: Mondays & Some Public Holidays (Check at Tourist Information)

## **Seville Churches**

### **Basilica Macarena**

The Virgen de la Esperanza Macarena is Seville's most loved saint. Her statue stands in this church next to the Puerta de la Macarena all year round until she is carried through the streets during the Semana Santa processions.

### **Jesus del Gran Poder**

Standing on the Plaza San Lorenzo this church is where the statue of 'Jesus of the Great Power' lives until the Holy Week celebrations when it is paraded around the streets of Seville.

### **Iglesia San Salvador**

This is one of Spain's finest Baroque churches with an equally impressive interior which was recently renovated.

## Seville City Tours

You can take a Seville city tour on foot as the Cathedral, Giralda and Alcazár are all located right next to one another in the Barrio de Santa Cruz. To travel a little further afield it might be worth taking one of the hop-on, hop-off Seville city bus tours beginning from the Torre de Oro on the side of the river.

Alternatively, there are a wide range of city tours available covering the main tourist attractions whilst others combine city sights with themes such as seeing a flamenco show or going on a tour of the city's tapas bars with a local guide.

Rather than list all these tour options here it's easier for you to take a look at our website which lists the most popular [Seville city tours](#). Here you can browse the available tours, decide whether you prefer an escorted group tour or a private tour then book online.

## Seville Excursions

### **Royal Andalusian School Of Equestrian Art in Jerez de la Frontera**

Every Thursday there's a performance by the dancing horses of the Royal Andalusian School Of Equestrian Art in Jerez de la Frontera at midday. To get there by public transport take the Andalucia Express train from Santa Justa or San Bernardo railway station in Seville then get a taxi to the Equestrian School. You should book tickets well in advance from the [School Of Equestrian Art website](#) as this is a popular weekly events which is regularly sold out.

After the show it's a nice idea to walk along to the [Sandeman Sherry Bodega](#) which is just a few metres from the Equestrian School. There's a sherry tour in English at 1.30pm. To make life a lot easier it's probably worthwhile taking one of the day excursions to Jerez from Seville which include the horse show and a visit to a sherry bodega.

To make life easier you can avoid public transport altogether and pre-book excursions to Jerez at the following links:

[Coach Group Tour to Jerez](#) | [Private Tour to Jerez](#)

### **Cordoba**

The historical district of Cordoba is centred on the city's Great Mosque (Mezquita) and is one of the highlights of any trip to Andalucia. High speed AVE trains connect Seville's Santa Justa railway station with Cordoba in about 40 minutes although you'll find the AVANT service cheaper and only a little slower. Check latest timetables and prices in English at the [RENFE website](#). Buses leave for Cordoba from the Prado de San Sebastian bus station in Seville. They offer the cheapest option but take around two hours to get there. Bus timetables are on the [Movelia website](#). If you have the time it's well worth spending at least a night in Cordoba as it's a charming destination with plenty to see and shouldn't be rushed.

To make life easier you can avoid public transport altogether and pre-book excursions to Cordoba at the following links:

[Coach Group Tour to Cordoba](#) | [Private Tour to Cordoba](#)

## Granada

Home to the Alhambra Palace, Spain's most visited tourist attraction, Granada is known as the jewel of Moorish Spain. Buses travel from the Prado de San Sebastian bus station in Seville to Granada taking three hours. On arrival in Granada the bus station is some distance from the historic centre so you'll probably need to take a taxi. Bus timetables are on the [Movelia website](#). Train services from the Santa Justa or San Bernardo railway stations in Seville offer a more convenient option also taking around three hours. Check latest timetables and prices in English at the [RENFE website](#). Considering the day return travel times between Seville and Granada it really would be a shame to spend such a limited time in this city. Therefore, we'd suggest that you stay in Granada for a few nights or if time is limited you should take an escorted tour from Seville to Granada which includes a visit to the Alhambra Palace and the city's other main attractions. If travelling independently be sure to book your Alhambra Palace tickets <http://www.alhambra-tickets.es/> well in advance as they sell out frequently.

[Coach Group Tour to Granada](#) | [Private Tour to Granada](#)

## Italica

This is the site of some impressive Roman ruins located at Santiponce just outside the city. Public buses leave from the bus station at Plaza de Armas every 30 minutes and the journey takes about 20 minutes. The bus stops right outside the Roman town which was the birthplace of Hadrian and Trajan. Time it right and you could have lunch at one of the nice restaurants on the street approaching Santiponce or else tie in a visit to the impressive Monastery of San Isidoro del Campo which is also located here.

## Carmona

This is best visited on the way to or from Cordoba if travelling in your own car. It is a beautiful white village located on a hillside some 30km from Seville just off the main road to Cordoba. It is home to some lovely churches and has a marvellous unspoilt atmosphere. Time permitting it is a great choice for an overnight stay at its excellent parador or one of the other upmarket hotels in town.

## Cadiz & Puerto de Santa Maria

Thanks to the excellent train service you can head out of Seville from the Santa Justa or San Bernardo railway stations for day trips to Cadiz or Puerto de Santa Maria. The journey takes about an hour, check latest timetables and prices in English at the RENFE website <http://horarios.renfe.es/hir/ingles.html>. On arrival the Playa Atlantico beach in Cadiz is a great spot to head for and the ancient city itself is fascinating. For a fresh seafood lunch take the catamaran from the port across to Puerto de Santa Maria.

## Flamenco in Seville

Flamenco shows in Seville are on offer all over the city. Most guidebooks warn against visiting the touristy "shows" or tablaos on the grounds that they're not genuine. Personally we think these places offer a good night out and we've had no complaints from Spanish Fiestas customers.

There are different ways to enjoy flamenco in Seville ranging from popular tourist shows with dinner to more informal affairs in flamenco bars. Below we've listed some of the better known venues first then we've added a few of the less formal options. If you'd like to enjoy an evening of entertainment seated at a table possibly with dinner or at least a few drinks then the first four tablaos are the ones to consider. If on the other hand you'd prefer to just get a taste for what flamenco is about then consider the other venues.

### [El Tablao Flamenco Los Gallos](#)

**Address: Plaza de Santa Cruz, 11**

**Tel: 95 421 69 81**

This tablao has a professional cast and is the nearest you'll get to the real thing. There are two shows, the first from 9-11pm and the second from 11.30-1.30am. It's a nice idea to go for tapas first in Barrio Santa Cruz then go to the show. Check their website to confirm the latest prices.

### [El Tablao Flamenco el Arenal](#)

**Address: Rodo, 7**

**Tel: 95 421 64 92**

Located near the bullring and offering a great evening of entertainment with the option of dinner. There are two shows, the first at 9pm and the second at 11pm. You can just watch the performance with a drink or enjoy dinner during the show. Check their website for times and latest prices.

### [El Tablao Flamenco Patio Sevillano](#)

**Address: Paseo Colon, 11**

Patio Sevillano is one of the most popular tablaos. Located on Paseo Colon just along from the bullring before the Triana bridge this flamenco hall offers a fine evening's entertainment with the option of dinner during the performance. Check their website for times and latest prices.

### [El Tablao Flamenco Palacio Andaluz](#)

**Address: Avda. María Auxiliadora 18 B**

Palacio Andaluz is another tablao offering a fine evening's entertainment with the option of dinner during the performance. Check their website for the latest price and performance information.

**Casa de la Memoria****Address: C/ Ximénez de Enciso, 28 (Barrio Santa Cruz)****Tel: 954 560670**

If you'd prefer to avoid the touristy flamenco show with dinner/drink style performance then Casa de la Memoria is a good alternative. Traditional flamenco shows take place here every night in the heart of Barrio Santa Cruz. There are two shows every evening and it's a good idea to collect tickets earlier in the day as many shows sell out. Arrive early to get the best seats.

**La Carbonería****Address: c/Levies 18****Tel: 954 214 460**

La Carboneria is not a traditional tablao but a bar which has informal flamenco music performed by its clientele.

**El Tamboril****Address: Plaza Santa Cruz**

El Tamboril in Plaza Santa Cruz is another small club where you can watch impromptu free flamenco when the locals start passing the guitar around sometime after midnight and continuing until the early hours.

**[Flamenco Dance Museum](#)****Address: C/ Manuel Rojas Marcos 3****Tel: 954 340 311**

This isn't a flamenco show but a fascinating flamenco museum located in the heart of Seville which cleverly introduces visitors to the world of flamenco dancing.

**Pre-book a City Walking Tour and Flamenco Show in Seville**

On this private tour an English speaking official guide will meet you in your hotel lobby and take you on a walking tour of the Santa Cruz district including a visit to the Cathedral and Giralda tower. After the walking tour the guide will drop you off at a traditional Spanish restaurant for dinner and after dinner you will attend a flamenco show. [[Get More Information](#)]

## Bullfights in Seville

Although bullfights in Seville during the Feria de Abril are very popular it's usually possible to buy tickets either at the taquilla (bullring ticket office) or from one of the ticket outlets on c/Adriano next to the Real Maestranza bullring. Otherwise you'll find numerous ticket touts offering to sell tickets outside the arena just before the bullfight commences.

Buying tickets at the Maestranza bullring can prove tricky unless you speak Spanish so take a good look at the official bullfight poster on the walls of the bullring next to the ticket office so that you know what tickets you want in advance. Basically you have to decide between sol (sun), sombra (shade) and sol y sombra (sun & shade) where the ones in the sun are the cheapest.

In the Seville bullring a row of seats is called a "tendido". In terms of sun and shade you will find the following: Tendidos 1 to 7 are in the shade; Tendidos 6 & 9 are in the sun & shade; Tendidos 8, 10, 11 & 12 are in the sun.

If you wish to purchase bullfight tickets in advance for the Feria de Abril you can attempt to do so (in Spanish) via the website of the [Real Maestranza Plaza de Toros](#) in Sevilla. Normally this option isn't available before the first week of April.

Email: [taquilla@plazadetorosdelamaestranza.com](mailto:taquilla@plazadetorosdelamaestranza.com)

Fax: +34 954 501559

Tel: +34 954 501382

There's also a small ticket agency called [La Teatral](#) located at c\Velazquez n°12 in the city centre.

### **Useful Websites:**

You might find the following websites useful for bullfight tickets:

<http://www.ticketstoros.com/ingles/teyci.html>

<http://www.tauroentrada.com/>

<http://www.mundotoro.com/>

<http://www.entofucon.com/>

<http://www.taquillaelburladero.com>

## Seville Nightlife

With Seville being one of the hottest cities in Europe, it should come as no real surprise that the nightlife in the Andalucian capital city is also widely regarded as being amongst the 'hottest' in Spain. After all, Andalucia is the home of flamenco, tapas, sherry and one Spain's best beers, Cruzcampo – all pretty good ingredients for a flourishing nightlife when combined with those balmy summer nights.

Seville is a wonderful city in which to enjoy yourself. It is large enough to have a great variety of places to go but, at the same time, it's compact enough to negotiate your way around easily. It also has a large student population, a thriving Bohemian or 'underground' element and a lively gay scene, as well as a socially mixed community and an ever-changing population of foreign workers and tourists.

As with many Spanish cities, though, if you venture into the streets before 11 o'clock in the evening you might get the impression that it's only the tourists who know how to enjoy themselves in Seville. Aside from a few people having a beer on their way home from work, the locals will not come out until later – and that's when things will start hotting up.

It's customary here to begin the evening with a beer or two before moving on to other places and you'll find a wide range of bars – many of them overflowing into the streets – offering the ubiquitous ice cold Cruzcampo. Don't worry if you want a more 'international' selection, though – in recent years the number of bars offering a wider range has increased considerably. And there are, of course, numerous Irish pubs throughout the city – of, it has to be said, varying degrees of legitimacy.

When you think of food in Seville, I suppose it's only natural to think of tapas, and the reputation that the city has for the quality and variety of the tapas selections you will find here is completely merited. There are so many places where you can pop in for a tapa or media ración of delicious home-made food. Seville is near enough to the coast, of course, for the fish and sea food to be fresh so the range of food available here is almost limitless. There are few better ways of eating than having a few friends sharing half a dozen or so of these wonderful dishes before moving on to the next tapas bar as part of your 'tapeando'. Interestingly, although the traditional tapas offerings will still be readily available wherever you go, the revolution in Spanish cooking has led to some restaurants and bars offering innovative, contemporary – even fusion-style, tapas dishes. And there's certainly more for the vegetarian diner than was the case a few years ago.

There are, however, numerous occasions when, for whatever reason, you don't want tapas but instead prefer a 'proper' meal and, although Seville might not have the culinary reputation of, say, Bilbao or Barcelona, there are still many fine restaurants where you can go and enjoy a 'sit down' meal. In addition to the good value 'menu del día' opportunities you'll see in many places, there are some truly exceptional restaurants offering the very best in Spanish and International cooking.

And if, after you've eaten, you fancy a spot of clubbing, then again Seville has a wide choice available for you. Many of the clubs and discos are in the Triana district, as well as around the Expo '92 site, but there are also plenty in and around the old city

centre. You'll find that most of these clubs won't close until 6 or 7 in the morning and many of them will have strict dress codes – even when it's not 'Feria' time, Sevillanos like to smarten up when they have the chance.

And finally, of course, there is flamenco. In actual fact, there are many differing styles that come under the generic name of flamenco – but this is the part of the world where the gypsies first found this form of music and dance in order to express their suffering so flamboyantly. The famous Seville 'tablaos', which you'll see plenty of advertising for, undoubtedly offer high quality, superbly choreographed professional shows – often with a meal as part of the package. Some people prefer to take in what they consider the 'true' flamenco of the back street bars, where local artists sing, dance and play the guitar in unforgettably soul-stirring flamenco rhythms.

Whatever your taste, Seville will offer you plenty of high-quality nightlife which, along with the fascinating places you'll want to visit during the day, will make your stay here one incredible experience.

## Seville Tapas Bars

Seville is the capital of 'tapas', those tasty little appetizers that Spaniards eat with their drink before heading off to dinner. Alternatively, you can tour the tapas bars of Seville rather than going to a restaurant. There's no end of dishes to try and no end of bars to try them in.

Remember that a 'tapa' is very small whilst a ración is a full plate of the same dish. Often it's a good idea to order half portions (media raciones) of dishes you fancy trying. This gives you the chance to order a selection of different things which you can share rather than filling up on full portions.

Below we've selected a few of our favourite tapas bars and listed them according to areas of the city.

As a visitor to Seville you might find that you don't want to eat tapas for every meal and would prefer to sit down for a proper meal in one of the city's many fine restaurants. Take a look at our recommended Seville restaurants to help you make a choice.

### *The City Centre*

Referring to "El Centro" might be rather vague but for the purpose of this listing of recommended tapas bars we're referring to the area around c/Sierpes and c/Tetuan where you'll find most of Seville's main shopping streets.

**Blanco Cerillo** (c/Jose de Velilla, 1). Just off the main c/Velazquez shopping street this bar specializes in fish in a marinade (adobo).

**La Flor de mi Viña** (c/Jose de Velilla, 7). A little further down the same street is an absolute gem offering a fine selection of great tapas.

**Bar Santa Marta** (Plaza San Andres). Great place to sit outside and try their well known 'flamenquin'.

**Lizarran** (Javier Lasso de la Vega, 14). Loads of innovative tapas on offer and the waiters are always bringing around specials for you to try.

**El Patio de San Eloy** (c/ San Eloy 9). Decorated with ceramics throughout, this is a popular place where the locals enjoy sandwiches on freshly baked bread whilst sitting on the steps at the back of the bar.

## ***Arenal District***

This is whole area between the Cathedral and the river including the streets around the bullring.

**Bar Hijos de E. Morales** (c/Garcia de Vinuesa). Great atmospheric old bodega with sherry barrels around the place.

**Bodegas Diaz Salazar** (c/Garcia de Vinuesa). Another atmospheric old bodega serving simple tapas at the bar.

**El Buzo** (c/Antonia Díaz, 5). Simple Spanish dishes served up at this popular tapas bar/restaurant in the Arenal district.

**Meson Serranito** (c/Antonia Díaz 11). Tapas bar/restaurant offering a wide range of typical Spanish dishes.

**Bodega Antonio Romero** (c/Antonio Diaz, 19). Great spot near the bullring to try a fine range of tapas.

**Enrique Becerra** (c/Gamazo, 2). This well known restaurant also serves excellent tapas in its downstairs bar.

**Cerveceria Internacional** (c/Gamazo, 1) Great place to sample a selection of beers from all over Europe.

## ***Barrio Santa Cruz & Cathedral Area***

This is the main tourist area which is made up of the many streets behind the Cathedral and Alcazar heading towards Menéndez Pelayo.

**Bar Giralda** (c/Mateus Gagos 1). One of Seville's most famous bars which was originally a Moorish bathhouse. Offers a huge selection of tapas. Try the espinacas con garbanzos (spinach with chickpeas).

**Bodega Belmonte** (c/Mateus Gagos 24). Excellent tapas attracting a large tourist contingent.

**Bodega Santa Cruz** (c/Justino de Neve 2). A lively place which attracts locals and tourists alike. Offers a great choice of tapas. Notice how the waiter chalks your bill on the bar.

**Casa Román** (Plaza de los Venerables 1). Superb old tapas bar famous for its jamón de jabugo (one of Spain's finest cured hams) and caña de lomo (a pork stew).

**Bodeguita Casablanca** (Adolfo Rodríguez Jurado, 12). Good selection of local tapas at this bar near the Archivo de Indias.

**Hostería del Laurel** (Plaza de los Venerables 5). On the opposite corner of the square from Casa Roman this historic bar offers excellent tapas including zarzuelita de mariscos (shellfish cocktail).

**Las Teresas** (c/Santa Teresa 2). An atmospheric bar with a bullfighting tradition which serves a fine selection of tapas.

**Casa Antonio** (Plaza Alfalfa). You simply shouldn't leave Seville without trying Antonio's *cabrillas*. These are delicious snail dishes served in a moist, herb sauce.

**Bar Modesto** (c/Cano y Cueto, 5). One of the city's best and most well known tapas bars located to the north of Santa Cruz. Unbelievable choice.

**La Judería** (c/Cano y Cueto, 13). Good mid-priced restaurant for a sit down lunch.

**Bodegón Pez Espada** (c/Hernando Colón 8). Hugely popular and inexpensive place to eat near the Cathedral. Excellent seafood and paella.

**Texas Lone Star Saloon** (c/Placentines, 25). Great bar for cheap pints of beer, burger and chips and English sport on TV. Frequenting mainly by American college students. Good atmosphere and drinks way cheaper than the Irish bar next to the Cathedral.

### ***Barrio Triana and River Area***

Crossing the river over the Puente de Triana brings you into c/San Jacinto in the Triana neighbourhood where you'll find a whole stretch of bars specialising in fried fish dishes. C/Betis runs along the side of the river where you'll find a fine selection of tapas bars with views over the river.

**La Primera del Puente** (c/Betis s/n). A bar with a fine terrace overlooking the river. Try the *chipirón a la plancha* (grilled baby squid).

**Kiosko de los Flores** (c/Betis) lies at a new riverside site with a superb terrace from where you can order great *raciones*. Speciality is fried fish.

**Bar Sol y Sombra** (c/Castilla 151). A bar with a great bullfight tradition. Try the *cola de toro* (oxtail) or *cazuela Tío Pepe* (stew with sherry).

**Casa Ruperto** ((Avda. De Santa Cecilia, 2). Modest bar on the outskirts of Triana serving outstanding *cabrillas en salsa* (snails in sauce).

**Albariza** (Betis, 6). Huge variety of typical local tapas including superb *chuletillas de cordero* (lamb chops).

## **The Alfalfa & Plaza del Salvador**

This is an area well worth discovering if you're keen to find some excellent tapas bars. Find Plaza del Salvador on your map and head east to get there. You'll find several bars with terraces (Bar Manolo, Casa Diego, Gran Tino) which are great people watching spots on a warm evening but for the atmosphere of a busy tapas bar it's best to go inside one like La Bodega.

**Bar Alfalfa** (Plaza Alfalfa). Small bar at the entrance to Plaza Alfalfa with inventive tapas that attracts a large local clientele.

**La Bodega** (Plaza Alfalfa). Great selection of tapas in this bar that opens onto the street. Watch out for the skill of the busy barmen.

**Bar Manolo** (Plaza Alfalfa). Try getting a table at their terrace and watch the world go by in this busy square.

**Habanita Restaurant** (Calle Golfo, 3). Interesting option thanks to the Cuban influence in the available tapas.

**Entrecárceles** (Callejón del Agua, 6). A tiny bar holding no more than 20 people which lies on the site of a former prison. Serves excellent sherries.

**Bar Garloche** (c/ de los Boteros 26). Interesting bar with a Holy Week theme located centrally near Plaza Alfalfa.

**Entre dos Hermandades** (c/Recaredo 13). Basic bar/restaurant near the Casa de Pilatos offering a great value menú del día at lunchtime.

**Taberna Coloniales** (Burgos, 19) - Popular locals haunt near the Casa de Pilatos serving great tapas.

**Bar Europa** (c/ Siete Revuelta 35). A bit pricey but good tapas served on their terrace in the Plaza del Pan.

**Bar Kiko** (Herbolarios, 17). Try the marinated chicken in this popular tapas haunt near the Alfalfa.

## **Santa Catalina**

This is a popular tapas area centred on the Iglesia Santa Catalina.

**El Rinconcillo** (Calle Gerona, 42). This is Seville's oldest bar (founded in 1670). An atmospheric locale offering a limited but good selection of tapas.

**La Huerta** (Plaza de los Terceros). Lovely place to sit under the orange trees and try some of their exquisite tapas.

**Bar Ajo Blanco** (Calle Alhondiga, 19). Atmospheric little place adorned with jazz related memorabilia.

## ***The Alameda, San Lorenzo & Macarena Districts***

San Lorenzo stands just west of the large open square called the Alameda de Hercules whilst the Macarena District runs north east of the Alameda leading to the Basilica Macarena and the Andalucian Parliament building.

**Bar Eslava** (c/Eslava 3–5). Great tapas bar near the church of San Lorenzo. Try the cordero con miel (lamb with honey). Good restaurant next door.

**Las Columnas** (Alameda De Hércules, 19). Get a table overlooking the square and try the meatballs at this popular spot.

**Bar Alcoy 10** (Calle Teodosio, 10). One of the most innovative selection of tapas around in this little spot near San Lorenzo.

**La Madraza** (Calle Peris Mencheta, 21). A top choice among Seville's tapas restaurants which constantly attracts many locals so it's usually packed at weekends.

## Seville Restaurants

When visiting Seville you should spend plenty time wandering its tapas bars as this is the best city in the world to sample a great selection of these Spanish dishes. However, many visitors can soon become overfaced with the idea of wandering from bar to bar whilst rarely managing to get a seat so it's a good idea to plan a few meals in some Seville restaurants. Many tapas bars also have a dining room so there often isn't a strict distinction between what is a tapas bar and what is a restaurant so be sure to also take a look at our recommended Seville tapas bars.

Below we've selected a good range of restaurants in Seville that are worth considering and have ordered them according to location. Where possible we've included their website address where you can often find a sample menu of the restaurant. The majority of these Seville restaurants serve typical Andalucian and Spanish cuisine although there are a few here offering more creative dishes if you're looking for something a little different.

### The Centre

Referring to "El Centro" might be rather vague but for the purpose of this listing of recommended tapas bars we're referring to the area around c/Sierpes and c/Tetuan where you'll find most of Seville's main shopping streets.

#### **Casa Cuesta** (c/ Zaragoza)

Phone: 954 229 718

Website: [www.casacuesta.net](http://www.casacuesta.net)

A great selection of Andalucian dishes are on offer at this newish restaurant which is owned by the same family who run the better known Casa Cuesta which has been established in the Triana district since 1880.

#### **La Sopa Boba** (c/Torneo, 85)

Phone: 954 379 784

Website: <http://www.lasopaboba.net/>

Adventurous home cooking such as manzana con bacalao y cabrales (cod with apple and goat's cheese) has helped this restaurant make a name for itself of late.

#### **Robles Placentines** (c/ Placentines 2)

Phone: 954 213 162

Website: [www.casa-robles.com](http://www.casa-robles.com)

A great restaurant to experience Andalucian cuisine at its very best. There are two more Robles restaurants nearby serving similarly excellent fare, Casa Robles and Robles Tapas.

## ***El Arenal***

This is whole area between the Cathedral and the river including the streets around the bullring.

### **Enrique Becerra** (Gamazo, 2)

Phone: 954 213 049

Website: [www.enriquebecerra.com](http://www.enriquebecerra.com)

Some of the city's finest Andalucian dishes. You can try exquisite tapas at the bar such as baby eels or lamb meatballs or you can dine upstairs in the excellent restaurant.

### **Restaurante Casa Robles** (Alvarez Quintero, 58)

Phone: 954 213 150

Website: [www.casa-robles.com/](http://www.casa-robles.com/)

Inventive Andaluz cuisine attracts locals and tourists alike. There's another excellent branch of this well known restaurant at Placentines, 2.

### **La Taberna del Alabardero** (Zaragoza, 20).

Phone: 954 502 721

Website: [www.tabernadelalabardero.es](http://www.tabernadelalabardero.es)

Great choice for lunch as catering students prepare a good value set menu. Also popular spot for dinner in the upstairs dining room.

### **Meson Don Raimundo** (c/ Argote de Molina 26)

Phone: 954 223 355

Website: [www.mesondonraimundo.com](http://www.mesondonraimundo.com)

Great Andalucian dishes with an Arabic touch in this atmospheric restaurant which is housed in a building that was originally a convent.

## ***Barrio Santa Cruz & Cathedral Area***

This is the main tourist area which is made up of the many streets behind the Cathedral and Alcazar heading towards Menéndez Pelayo.

### **Egaña-Oriza** (San Fernando, 41).

Phone: 954 227 211

Website: [www.restauranteoriza.com](http://www.restauranteoriza.com)

Top notch dining experience next to the ancient walls of the Alcázar.

**Corral del Agua** (Callejón del Agua, 6)

Phone: 95 422 07 14

Website: [www.corraldelagua.es/](http://www.corraldelagua.es/)

This is one of the city's most romantic restaurant with tables placed in a typical Sevillano patio.

**Restaurante El Modesto** (c/ Cano y Cueto 5)

Phone: 954 416 811

Website: [www.modestorestaurantes.com/english/modesto.htm](http://www.modestorestaurantes.com/english/modesto.htm)

Authentic Andalucian and Spanish food are served at this delightful venue.

**Hotel Alfonso XIII** (c/San Fernando, 2)

Phone: 954 917 000

If you're looking for something special, dining on the beautiful patio of Seville's finest hotel is a real treat.

**La Albahaca** (Plaza Santa Cruz, 29)

Phone: 954 220 714

This charming, traditional has been built in a converted mansion in one of the Barrio Santa Cruz's prettiest squares. It is right next to the Los Gallos flamenco tablao so you can dine before attending the show.

**Hosteria del Laurel** (Plaza de los Venerables 5)

Phone: 954 220 295

Website: [www.hosteriadellaurel.com/](http://www.hosteriadellaurel.com/)

Idyllic Seville location with a fine selection of Spanish and European choices.

**Doña Elvira** (Plaza de Doña Elvira, 6)

Phone: 954 215 483

Ideal location on a fine evening where you can try typical Andalucia dishes seated under the orange trees of this charming square.

**Restaurante Santa Cruz** (Plaza de los Venerables)

Phone: 954 223 583

This restaurant is housed in an 18th century mansion where you can enjoy Andalucia cuisine in a typically atmospheric setting.

**Pizzeria San Marco** (c/Meson del Moro 4)

Phone: 954 564 390

This pizzeria in Santa Cruz serves excellent Italian food inside a twelfth-century Moorish bathhouse. Various other branches of this popular Italian restaurant have been established around the city on Calle Cuna, Calle Baños and at Calle Betis 68.

## ***Barrio Triana and River Area***

Crossing the river over the Puente de Triana brings you into c/San Jacinto in the Triana neighbourhood where you'll find a whole stretch of bars specialising in fried fish dishes. C/Betis runs along the side of the river where you'll find a fine selection of tapas bars with views over the river.

### **Río Grande** (c/Betis, 70)

Phone: 954 273 956

Website: [www.riogrande-sevilla.com/](http://www.riogrande-sevilla.com/)

Located on the bank of the Guadalquivir, this Triana restaurant offers superb views across to the illuminated Giralda and Torre de Oro. It also has a tapas bar.

### **Restaurante Poncio** (Calle Victoria, 8).

Phone: 954 540 000

Website: [www.ponciorestaurantes.com](http://www.ponciorestaurantes.com)

Great dining experience over the river in the Triana district.

### **Kiosco de las Flores** (c/ Betis)

Phone: 954 274 576

Website: [www.kioscodelasflores.com](http://www.kioscodelasflores.com)

Located across the river on Calle Betis this well known spot offers outdoor dining with splendid views of the city.

## ***The Alfalfa & Plaza del Salvador***

This is an area well worth discovering if you're keen to find some excellent tapas bars. Find Plaza del Salvador on your map and head east to get there. You'll find several bars with terraces (Bar Manolo, Casa Diego, Gran Tino) which are great people watching spots on a warm evening but for the atmosphere of a busy tapas bar it's best to go inside one like La Bodega.

### **Taberna Coloniales** (Plaza Cristo De Burgos 19)

Phone: 954 501 137

Lovely outdoor setting where you can enjoy a good range of local dishes with the mainly local clientele.

## ***Santa Catalina***

This is a popular tapas area centred on the Iglesia Santa Catalina.

### **El Rincóncillo** (c/ Gerona 40)

Phone: 954 223 183

Website: [www.elrinconcillo1670.es](http://www.elrinconcillo1670.es)

Upstairs in Seville's oldest bar there is now a fine restaurant serving mainly Andaluz cuisine.

### **Restaurante Jano** (c/ Doña Maria Coronel 17)

Phone: 954 214 804

Website: [www.janorestaurante.com](http://www.janorestaurante.com)

This intimate restaurant offers a creative menu with dishes quite distinct from the typical Andaluz cuisine on offer in most restaurants.

## ***The Alameda, San Lorenzo & Macarena Districts***

San Lorenzo stands just west of the large open square called the Alameda de Hercules whilst the Macarena District runs north east of the Alameda leading to the Basilica Macarena and the Andalusian Parliament building.

### **Restaurante Az-Zait** (Plaza de San Lorenzo, 1)

Phone: 954 906475

Rated by popular travel review website Tripadvisor as Seville's number one restaurant.

### **Bar Yebra** (c/Medalla Milagrosa, 3)

Phone: 954 351 007

A well established venue in the Macarena which continues to serve up succulent Andaluz cuisine.

## ***Elsewhere***

### **Marea Grande** (Diego Angulo Iñiguez 16)

Phone: 954 538 000

Located near the Jardines de la Buhaira, the Marea Grande serves innovative cuisine with an emphasis on seafood in what is certainly one of Seville's top quality restaurants.

**Hacienda Benazuza El Bulli**

Phone: 955 703 344

Website: [www.elbullihotel.com/](http://www.elbullihotel.com/)

Located in Sanlúcar la Mayor some 15 minutes away from Seville this is one of the top restaurants in Andalucia. It is set in the most charming location and the chef, Rafael Morales, previously worked under Ferrán Adriá at the world renowned El Bulli restaurant in Roses (Catalonia).

## Seville Nightclubs

Most dedicated Seville nightclubs only open their doors from Thursday to Sunday. They may officially start from around 9pm but you'll find few party goers before midnight and often the places don't get really busy until the middle of the night. As long as the clubs are hopping they'll usually stay open until sometime between 5am and 7am so make sure you get a siesta before going clubbing.

### **Boss** (C/Betis, 67)

This huge venue across the river in Triana has long had a fashionable reputation which often attracts local celebrities. The doors open around 8pm on weekends and the party lasts to beyond sunrise.

### **Holiday** (Jesus del Gran Poder, 73)

One of the city's most modern clubs which plays a good range of music throughout the night.

### **Birdie** (Avda. San Francisco Javier, 24)

An exclusive venue which attracts a wide range of party goers in the Nervion district.

### **El Coto** (Avda. Luis Montoto, 118)

This is a particularly trendy option which is inside the Meliá Los Lebreros Hotel.

### **Cathedral Club** (Cuesta del Rosario, 12)

This popular nightspot is well located near the busy Plaza de Alfalfa and attracts a mix of locals and visitors. The venue is decorated inside like a cathedral.

### **Sevilla Mía** (Plaza Padre Jerónimo de Córdoba)

This place on the edge of Santa Cruz is particularly popular with a younger crowd only opening its doors at midnight at weekends. The music and varied entertainment continue well into the next morning.

### **Weekend** (Avda Torneo, 43)

A trendy addition to Seville's club scene where go-go dancers strut their funky stuff to the latest sounds with an emphasis on house music.

## Seville Festivals

The dates of the Seville festivals and holidays listed below we believe to be correct at the time of writing. However, you might find that when a festival falls on a Sunday the following day becomes the public holiday. We cannot be responsible for disruption to travel plans should any of these dates be changed. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you confirm these dates with an official Spain travel agency before confirming your travel dates.

You can contact the Seville Municipal Tourist Office or the Spanish Tourist Office in the UK at the addresses below.

### **Seville Municipal Tourist Offices**

Internet: [www.turismosevilla.org/index.php?idi=en](http://www.turismosevilla.org/index.php?idi=en)

Calle de Arjona, 28

Phone: + 34 954 22 17 14

Email: [barranco.turismo@sevilla.org](mailto:barranco.turismo@sevilla.org)

### **Spanish Tourist Office**

Website: [www.spain.info/uk](http://www.spain.info/uk)

PO Box 4009

London W1A 6NB

Tel 020 7486 8077

E-mail: [info.londres@tourspain.es](mailto:info.londres@tourspain.es)

## *Dates of Festivals in Seville in 2010*

January 1st - New Year

January 6th - Three Kings

February 28th - Día de Andalucía

March 28th to 4th April - Semana Santa - Holy Week (Varies Annually)

April 1st - Maundy Thursday (Varies Annually)

April 2nd - Good Friday (Varies Annually)

April 20th to April 25th - Feria de Abril - April Fair (Varies Annually)

May 1st - Labour Day

June 3rd - Corpus Christi (Varies Annually)

August 15th - Assumption Day

October 12th - Columbus Day (Día de la Hispanidad)

November 1st - All Saints Day

December 6th - Día de la Constitución

December 8th - Immaculate Conception

December 24th - Christmas Eve

December 25th - Christmas Day

December 31st - New Year's Eve

## Holy Week in Seville

Holy Week is known as 'Semana Santa' in Spain and is most widely celebrated in the towns and cities of Andalucia. In Seville it is one of the city's two biggest annual festivals along with the April Fair (Feria de Abril) which follows two weeks later.

Semana Santa takes place the week leading up to the Easter weekend and consists of processions in which enormous 'pasos' (floats) are carried around the streets of Seville by teams of 'costaleros' (bearers) followed by hundreds of 'nazarenos' (penitents). Many of these floats are religious works of art that date back as far as the 17th century, each showing a small part of the Easter story.

Throughout the city thousands of people line the streets waiting to catch a glimpse of the processions, each of which takes many hours between leaving its parish and returning there after following a set route around the city. Each of over 50 brotherhoods (cofradías) have two floats so you can imagine the enormity of the occasion.

For the 'costaleros' who carry the float it's a once in a lifetime honour to do so as the numbers wishing to be carriers far outnumber the places available. Heavy rains in 2004 and 2005 caused the cancellation of many processions and grown men were left crying in the streets knowing they would never again get the opportunity to be a 'costalero'.

The carrying of the floats tends to be a male dominated activity as the floats often weigh over 2000kg and it takes many months of practice before the big day. On average there are 40 'costaleros' per float with each one supporting a weight of around 50kg for around 8 hours.

In some towns smaller and lighter floats are carried by females though few take part in the "classic" Semana Santa celebrations of the main Andaluz cities of Seville, Malaga, Granada, Cordoba and Huelva.

Following the float penitents are dressed in capes and ku klux klan looking head gear. This hides their identity, the meaning being that God is the only one who knows who they are.

Semana Santa is a religious occasion and the mood of each day's procession changes from the opening ones on Palm Sunday to the sombre ones of Good Friday which depict the crucifixion of Christ and finally the joyous ones of Easter Sunday which celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead.

The Good Friday processions leave churches at midnight and are carried throughout the night with huge crowds following their every step. A particular highlight of note is around 3am when La Macarena, Seville's most revered Virgin, reaches the official route. It's usually around 6am when the gipsy (gitano) brotherhood reaches the same place.

Visitors from all over Spain and many foreigners are present in Seville for the Semana Santa celebrations. The festival goes way beyond a merely religious event and is a

fantastic time to be in the city but be sure to book accommodation well in advance as hotels get fully booked months earlier.

The obvious way to enjoy the processions is to find a spot amongst the crowds and wait for the floats to go by. Their movement is very slow so once they come into view you may well be able to see them for a long time. Every float leaves its parish and heads for the official route from the north of C/Sierpes via Avda de la Constitución to the Cathedral where they enter from the west and depart from the east to return to their starting place. Check routes at [www.semana-santa.org](http://www.semana-santa.org).

Another interesting way to appreciate the enormity and the beauty of the floats is to visit the church where they come from. Two of note are in the Basílica de la Macarena and the Basílica de Jesús del Gran Poder which are west of the main tourist area. Here you'll see a constant stream of parishioners dropping into their church to pay tribute to the Virgin and admire the beautiful floats which reside inside.

<b>Dates of Holy Week (Semana Santa)</b>	
2010	28 March - 4 April
2011	17-24 April
2012	1-8 April
2013	24-31 March
2014	13-20 April
2015	29 March - 5 April
2016	20-27 March
2017	9-16 April
2018	25 March - 1 April
2019	14-21 April
2020	5-12 April

## Seville's April Fair

Seville's April Fair (La Feria de Abril) is a huge annual event on the extensive list of festivals taking place in the city. It was the poet Byron who referred to Seville as being famous for its oranges and women. Seeing the local girls at the Fair in their colourful flamenco dresses it is easy to understand his attraction. The city is overbooked well in advance for this event as thousand of locals and visitors alike party until dawn. If you're planning a visit you should try to book your hotel in Seville several months in advance.

The main venue for the April Fair is the 'Real de la Feria' which is on the other side of the river from the city centre in Los Remedios. To get there on foot just walk along the side of the river as far as the Torre de Oro then cross the bridge (Puente de San Telmo) to La Plaza de Cuba. From here continue along Calle Asunción which leads to the venue. Such is the enormity of the event that this area becomes a city in its own right for just one week. Next to the site is a huge fairground with all the usual rides and attractions. There are plans to relocate the event to La Cartuja which is the island further up the river which hosted the 1992 Expo and is currently the location of the Isla Mágica theme park.

The fair officially begins on Monday at midnight, normally 2 weeks after Semana Santa (Holy Week), and ends with a fireworks display the following Sunday, again, at midnight. In 2009 the April Fair begins on the night of 27th April and continues until 3rd May.

At the fairground there are over 1000 marquees known as 'casetas' at the event site most of which have ongoing flamenco performances, loud music and a bar. Other main themes of the party are horses and bullfighting making this a very Spanish affair. For foreign visitors it's important to be aware that in spite of the magnitude of this event it isn't really a public festival as most of the marquees are privately owned by individual families or by businesses so wandering in and out of them at will isn't an option. However, you can stroll around and observe the festivities from outside the 'casetas' whilst stopping off at a handful of public ones where food and drink are available along with impromptu flamenco performances.

In the city itself you can enjoy the atmosphere of the April Fair. At noon every day there is a procession called the 'Paseo de Caballos' in which local girls in their full flamenco outfit are pulled through the city in beautiful carriages by splendid horses. In the evening some of the year's top bullfights take place at the Plaza de Toros de Maestranza and at midnight of the last day there is a fabulous firework display which lights up the whole centre of Seville.

<b>Dates of the April Fair (Feria de Abril)</b>	
2010	20-25 April
2011	10-15 May
2012	24-29 April
2013	16-21 April
2014	6-11 May

2015	21-26 April
2016	12-17 April
2017	2-7 May
2018	17-22 April
2019	7-12 May
2020	28 April - 3 May

## Seville Shopping

Tourists who don't leave the Barrio Santa Cruz and Cathedral area miss out on one of Seville's great pastimes, shopping. Make your way to Plaza Nueva then wander along Calles Sierpes, Tetuán and Velázquez where you'll find thousands of fashionable locals strolling around. Some are shopping, many are just window shopping and the rest are heading for a bar or café where they can spend their time people watching.

Most shops in this area open from 10am until 2pm then usually close for around three hours with afternoon opening hours usually being from 5pm to 8pm. On Saturdays the smaller shops don't open in the afternoon and everything is closed on Sundays along Calle Sierpes.

Some of Spain's most stylish women can be seen shopping in these streets where many upmarket shops cater to their requirements. You'll find excellent women's clothes and shoe shops as well as top notch bags, jewellery and other fashion accessories on offer. In addition, there are a few specialist shops selling authentic flamenco dresses and accessories (try Calle Francos) as well as a stretch of shops catering for brides to be. There's also an exceptional selection of shops dedicated to children's clothes and some ceramic outlets, such as La Ceramica de Sevilla (C/Garcia de Vinuesa, 16).

For tourist souvenir shopping you'll find plenty little gift shops selling t-shirts and flamenco items in the streets of Barrio Santa Cruz. Ceramic tiles are also on sale in many of these shops, however, you should head across the river to Triana if you're interested in buying locally made ceramic items. At Calle Alfareros, 20 you can watch these ceramics being made. Another place to look out for is Ceramica Santa Ana at San Jorge 31 in Triana where there's a vast selection of ceramic items on display.

For something a little more impersonal head for the enormous El Corte Inglés department stores at Plaza de la Magdalena and Plaza del Duque where you can buy pretty much anything including top quality Spanish food products.

Most shops accept credit cards provided you have some identification with you and many can ship your oversized purchases home for you.

## Seville Markets

Thursday - There's a popular flea market on C/Feria near the Alameda de Hércules whose origins can be traced back to the 14th century.

Sunday - You can head over to the Puerta de Triana on Sunday mornings for their weekly market.

Sunday - Also on Sunday mornings there's a market in Plaza del Cabildo near the Cathedral which sells all kinds of old coins and stamps.

Sunday - In front of the Museo de Bellas Artes in Plaza Museo there's an art market held on Sunday mornings.

## Football in Seville

There are two teams in the city of Seville: Seville FC and Real Betis.

Seville FC have emerged as one of the strongest teams in La Liga in recent years culminating in the 2006/07 season when the team captured three trophies – the UEFA Cup, for the second successive year, the UEFA Super Cup and the Copa del Rey. Indeed, in just two seasons, Sevilla won more trophies than in their entire previous history!

Real Betis haven't enjoyed the same success on the pitch as Seville FC in recent times but their stadium, Estadio Manuel Ruiz de Lopera, is one of Spain's most passionate places to watch La Liga football. Their passionate supporters are loud, dedicated and imaginative – leaving their counterparts in Madrid and Barcelona miles behind in the noise department.

Rivalry between them is as intense as anywhere else in the country to the point where derbies between them have sparked violence amongst some of the most hard core fans. A cup match in 2007 was abandoned after Sevilla's manager, Juande Ramos, was hit on the head by a missile thrown from the Betis supporters and knocked unconscious.

In recent years this passion has been further inflamed by the terrible relationship between José María del Nido, president of Sevilla, and the owner of Real Betis, Manuel Ruiz de Lopera. These two highly controversial figures are different in almost every single way except for the desire for publicity and stories abound of insults they have shared and attempts they have made to upstage each other. Unfortunately, this only succeeded in encouraging the extreme elements amongst the fanatical supporters of both teams.

In general, however, you are most unlikely to run into any problems at matches played at either stadium just be careful if you go to the derby match. Tickets for most games are available on the gate before the match. However, for the local derby and for games against Real Madrid or Barcelona tickets will be in high demand so it's a good idea to go to the ticket office of the stadium on the Friday before the match as there are usually some on sale. Touts will tell you that the game is sold out whether it is or not. However, their prices tend to be only a little over face value.

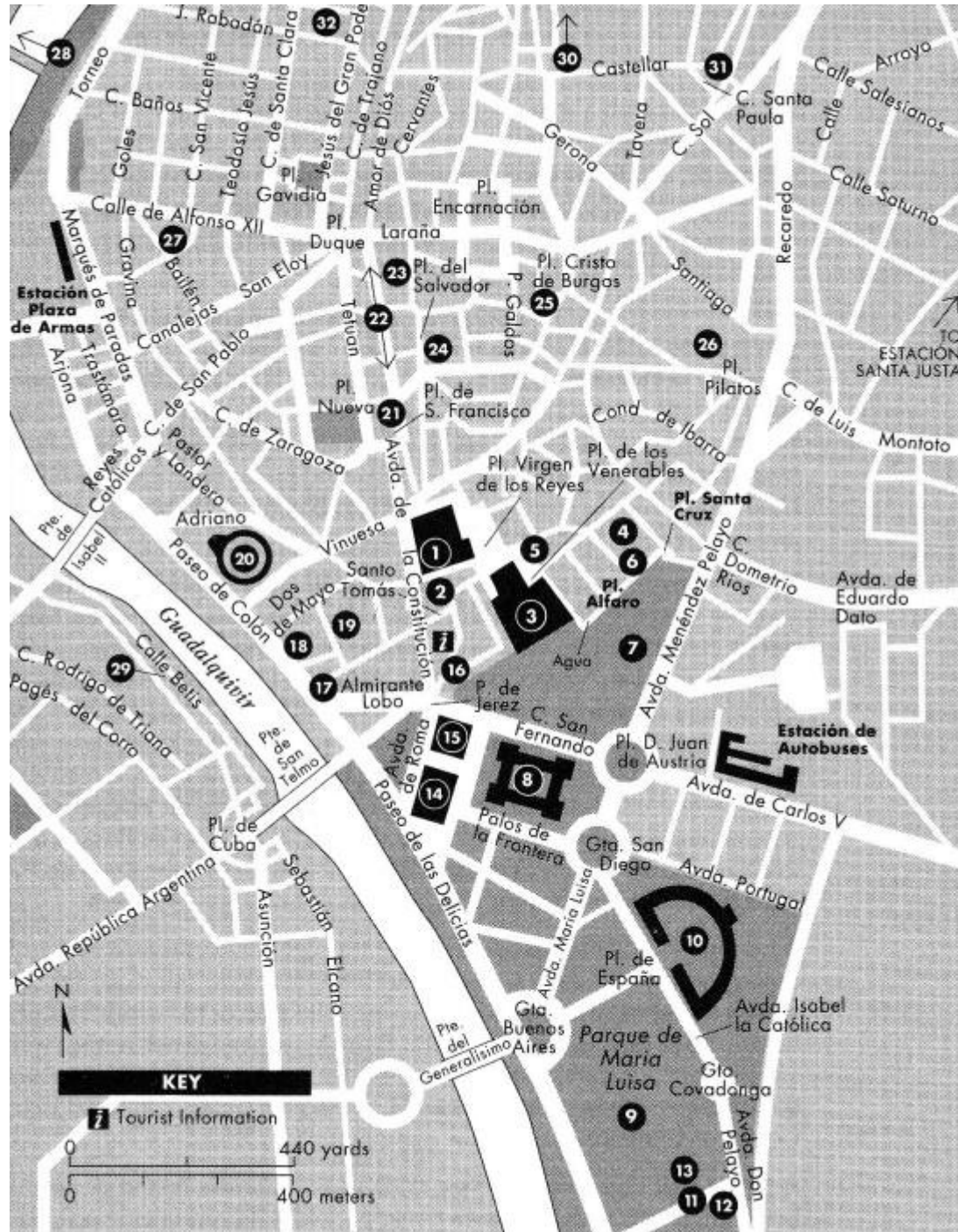
### Seville FC

Stadium: Sánchez Pizjuán  
Capacity: 45,500  
Address: Avenida Eduardo Dato s/n  
Telephone: (+34) 954 53 5353  
Website: Seville FC  
Tickets: <http://www.sevillafc.es/>

## **Real Betis**

Team: Real Betis  
Stadium: Manuel Ruiz de Lopera  
Capacity: 55,500  
Address: Avenida Heliopolis s/n  
Telephone: (+34) 954 61 0340  
Website: Real Betis  
Tickets: <http://www.realbetisbalompie.es/>

# Seville Map



## Key to Seville Map

1	Cathedral	17	Torre de Oro
2	Archivo de Indias	18	Teatro de la Maestranza
3	Alcazar	19	Hospital de la Caridad
4	Barrio de Santa Cruz	20	Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza
5	Hospital de Los Venerables	21	Ayuntamiento
6	Casa de Murillo	22	Calle Sierpes
7	Jardines de Murillo	23	Palacio de la Condesa de Lebrija
8	Seville University	24	Iglesia del Salvador
9	Parque de Maria Luisa	25	Casa Natal de Velazquez
10	Plaza de España	26	Casa de Pilatos
11	Plaza de America	27	Museo de Bellas Artes
12	Museo Arqueologico	28	Santa Maria de las Cuevas
13	Museo de Artes y Costumbres Populares	29	Triana
14	Palacio de San Telmo	30	Basilica de la Macarena
15	Hotel Alfonso XIII	31	Convento de Santa Paula
16	Palacio de Yanduri	32	San Lorenzo y Jesus del Gran Poder