
Travel Guide Seville

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Quick view

Seville – a brief overview

Seville is the capital city of the autonomous region of Andalusia and has a population of around 700,000. It is situated on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, 70 kilometers from the river's mouth. The picturesque historic old town is home to architectural works of art that testify to the coexistence of Christians, Muslims and Arabs in Andalusia. Examples include the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See and the Alcázar of Seville, which is a royal palace dating back to the fourteenth century. Both sites have been listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 1987.

The Universal Exposition of Seville in 1992 provided fresh impetus for development in the city. As a result, a large leisure park and a center for contemporary art were established on La Cartuja Island. The Metropol Parasol, a 26-meter-high wooden construction at La Encarnación square, has attracted attention in more recent years. There are festivals and festivities all year round in Seville but the highlights of the events calendar are the Holy Week processions (*Semana Santa*) and the *Fería de Abril*, which is one of the largest public festivals in Andalusia.



Spain

General Information

Country overview

Spain is one of the most popular holiday destinations in Europe. Endless beaches, brilliant sunshine and azure waters draw beach lovers to the Mediterranean coast, and the Balearic and Canary Islands. But visitors also flock to see the historical architecture of cities such as Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Leon, Seville and Segovia.

If you want to experience the real Spain, don't go to bed too early. In these parts, people stroll the city squares and dine out late into the night.

Geography

Spain accounts for roughly four-fifths of the Iberian Peninsula, with Portugal, Andorra and Gibraltar occupying the remainder. In the northeast, the Pyrenees form a natural frontier to France. The state territory also encompasses the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera) located southeast of Barcelona, in the Mediterranean, and the Canary Islands off the west coast of Africa. Ceuta, Chafarinas, Melilla and Ladu are tiny Spanish exclaves in North Africa, relics of the former Spanish Empire.

Spain is a mountainous country. The Pyrenees extend for 400 kilometers from the Basque Country in the northwest to the Mediterranean. Some peaks rise more than 3000 meters above sea level; the highest elevation here is the Pico de Aneto at 3404 meters above sea level. The country's interior consists of a vast plateau, the Meseta, which is intersected by a number of mountain ranges.

In the north and northwest, the Meseta is bordered by the Cantabrian Mountains and the Iberian Mountains, and in the South by the Sierra Morena, beyond which lies the Guadalquivir Valley. Galicia's mountainous landscape runs along the jagged Atlantic coast. The extreme south is also mountainous; the Sierra Nevada southeast of Granada belongs to the Betic Cordilleras, which run parallel to the Mediterranean and include the highest mountain on the Spanish mainland, the Mulhacén (3481 meters above sea level). The highest elevation on Spanish territory is the Pico del Teide (3718 meters above sea level) on Tenerife.

Spain has just under 5000 kilometers of coastline. The Mediterranean coast extends from the French border to the Rock of Gibraltar. The Strait of Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean and divides Spain from North Africa.

General Information

Key facts

Population: 46.33 million (2017)

Capital: Madrid.

Language

The official language is Spanish (Castellano, Castilian). In the Autonomous Communities of the Basque region, Galicia, Catalonia, Valencia, Navarra and the Balearic Islands, the relevant regional languages are also used as second official languages according to the Statutes of Autonomy. In tourist areas, English and German are commonly spoken foreign languages.

Electricity

220 V, 50 Hz (sometimes 110/125 V in older buildings in smaller places)

Currency

1 euro = 100 cents

Currency sign/abbreviation: €, EUR (ISO code). Banknotes are available in the values 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros, coins, in the nominal values 1 and 2 euros, as well as 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents.

Public holidays

Listed below are the public holidays for the period January 2020 to December 2021.

Please note

- a) several regional public holidays also exist.
- b) it is usual for public holidays, which fall on a Sunday, to be substituted by work-free days on subsequent weekdays.

* not in all parts of the country

2020

Año Nuevo (New Year's): 1 January 2020
Epifanía (Epiphany): 6 January 2020
Día de San José (St. Joseph's Day): 19 March 2020*
Jueves Santo (Maundy Thursday): 9 April 2020*
Viernes Santo (Good Friday): 10 April 2020
Domingo de Resurrección (Easter Sunday): 12 April 2020
Día del Trabajo (Labor Day): 1 May 2020
Asunción de la Virgen (Assumption Day): 15 August 2020
Fiesta Nacional de España (Spanish National Day): 12 October 2020
Fiesta de Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day): 1 and 2 November 2020*
Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day): 6 December 2020
La Inmaculada (Feast of the Immaculate Conception): 8 December 2020
Navidad (Christmas): 25 December 2020

2021

Año Nuevo (New Year's): 1 January 2021

Epifanía (Epiphany): 6 January 2021
Día de San José (St. Joseph's Day): 19 March 2021*
Jueves Santo (Maundy Thursday): 1 April 2021*
Viernes Santo (Good Friday): 2 April 2021
Domingo de Resurrección (Easter Sunday): 4 April 2021
Día del Trabajo (Labor Day): 1 May 2021
Asunción de la Virgen (Assumption Day): 15 August 2021
Fiesta Nacional de España (Spanish National Day): 12 October 2021
Fiesta de Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day): 1 and 2 November 2021*
Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day): 6 December 2021
La Inmaculada (Feast of the Immaculate Conception): 8 December 2021
Navidad (Christmas): 25 December 2021

All information subject to change.



Travel etiquette

How to fit in

Social Conventions

It is polite in Spain to shake hands in greeting. The usual courtesies should be observed. If you are invited to someone's home, your host will appreciate a small gift. Flowers are given only on special occasions.

Clothing

Casual dress is appropriate almost everywhere, although some hotels and restaurants require men to wear a jacket and tie; evening dress is only required for particularly formal occasions. Swimwear belongs without exception on the beach.

Smoking

A smoking ban applies in all public institutions, on public transportation, in telephone booths and in rooms containing ATMs, as well as in children's playgrounds and schoolyards. The smoking ban also applies to all bars, cafés and restaurants. Smoking areas inside bars and restaurants are no longer permitted.

Tipping

Tips are generally included in hotel and restaurant bills. It is nevertheless usual to leave a small tip for the service staff. Porters receive a small sum per item of luggage. The usual amount tipped in restaurants is between 10 and 15 percent. When the waiter brings your change, you leave some as the tip. It is considered extremely rude, however, to leave two- or five-cent pieces. When tipping your taxi driver, simply round up the fare.



Health

Health

Emergency telephone number: 112

Lyme disease, TBE (tick-borne encephalitis) and leishmaniosis are all diseases which are passed on by ticks and mosquitoes and also occur in Spain. Clothing that covers the skin and insect repellents provide protection.

Hepatitis A and hepatitis B occur all over Spain. A hepatitis A vaccination is generally recommended. Visitors planning an extended stay and close contact with the local population, and generally with children and young people, should also have a hepatitis B vaccination.

Measles and whooping cough occur in Spain. Before traveling to Spain, visitors should definitely check whether their vaccinations are up to date and if necessary, get a booster shot.

Epidemic outbreaks of meningococcal meningitis occur in Spain. Visitors should seek protection by getting a vaccination and avoiding large crowds. Children and young people, in particular, should be vaccinated. According to the latest recommendations, the vaccination applies as required travel vaccination for extended stays for certain groups of people (teenagers, school and university students). Visitors should consult their physician regarding the need for vaccination in the light of recommendations in the country of destination.



Phone calls & Internet

Phone calls & Internet

Telephone

Country code: +34

Mobile telephony and Internet

Since June 2017, EU citizens traveling within the EU, and also in Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein have been able to use their cell phones and surf the Net without incurring any extra charges: In other words, customers pay the same price for phone calls, text messages and data volume as they do at home. Restrictions do apply to the constant use of SIM cards abroad, however, and caps may be set on data packages.

For full details, contact your mobile telephony provider in your country. Travelers using a SIM card from a non-EU state do not benefit from the new arrangement.

Free Internet access via Wi-Fi is possible in many busy tourist spots. When using public Wi-Fi networks, it is a wise precaution to ensure encryption of all passwords, credit card details and banking TANs entered. Use of a VPN app or security software to check the safety of a hotspot is recommended.



Top 10 sights

Top 10 sights in Seville

Catedral de Santa María de la Sede

The imposing Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See was built on top of the Moorish central mosque in the fifteenth century. Some elements of the mosque remain, including the minaret, which became the 'Giralda' bell tower. Visitors to the cathedral can see delicate stonemasonry, sculptures, paintings and the grave of Christopher Columbus. Tip: Avoid visiting in the early afternoon, because it is particularly busy at that time of day.

Avenida de la Constitución
41001 Seville
Spain
Tel. +34-902/09 96 92

Opening times:
Mo 1100 – 1530
Tue-Sat 1100 – 1700
Sun 1430 – 1800

Reales Alcázares

The Alcázar of Seville is a famous palace with thick outer walls. These walls are the remains of a fortress dating back to the ninth century, which was built for the Moorish rulers. Today, the palace features a combination of styles from Islamic and

Renaissance architecture. This is also true of its patios and gardens.

Patio de Banderas
41001 Seville
Spain
Tel. +34-954/50 23 24

Opening times:
Daily 0900 – 1700

www.andalucia.org/en/cultural-tourism/visits/...

Barrio de Santa Cruz

The Santa Cruz district — the area between the cathedral, the Alcázar and Calle Santa María de la Blanca — is a very picturesque part of Seville, which makes it a popular destination. Its narrow alleys, green inner courtyards and cozy cafes and restaurants entice visitors to stroll, relax and enjoy. A visit to the shaded Jardines de Murillo (Murillo Gardens) comes highly recommended — especially during the hot hours around midday.

Plaza Santa Cruz
41001 Seville
Spain

Casa de Pilatos

This town palace is a prime example of Mudéjar, the fusion of Moorish and Christian architecture. It was constructed between 1492 and 1520, and the building surrounds an enchanting patio with fountains and rounded arches. In the indoor spaces, visitors can see the *azulejos*, which are tiles adorned with traditional, artistic designs.

Plaza de Pilatos 1
41003 Seville
Spain
Tel. +34-95/422 52 98

Opening times:
Daily 0900 – 1800 (November – March)
Daily 0900 – 1900 (April – October)

www.fundacionmedinaceli.org/monumentos/pilatos/

Torre del Oro

This 36-meter-high tower was part of the city defenses, which protected the Alcázar. It is said that at one time, its roof was tiled with gold-plated azulejos. Today, the only gold on this tower is the golden light that the setting sun casts over it. Inside the tower, there is a small maritime museum called the Museo Naval de Sevilla.

Paseo de Cristóbal Colón
41003 Seville
Spain
Tel. +34-954/22 24 19

Opening times:
Mon – Fri 0930 – 1845
Sat, Sun 1030 – 1845

www.visitasevilla.es/en/monuments-and-culture...

Parque María Luisa

This fantastic park dates back to the seventeenth century. It was given its current style, which is inspired by French garden architecture, when the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition was held in Seville. It was also at this time that the Plaza de

España was constructed in the northern section of the park. The imposing plaza was designed to be a testament to the entire history of Spanish architecture. There are curved staircases leading up to the buildings, which are decorated with azulejos. It also features a waterway and four Venetian bridges.

Avenida de Isabel la Católica	Opening times:
41003 Seville	Daily 0800 – 2200 (November – March)
Spain	Daily 0800 – 2400 (April – October)

www.visitasevilla.es/en/maria-luisa-park-and-...

Ceramica Triana

The Triana district, which is on the eastern bank of the Guadalquivir River, is considered to be the home of the *gitanos*, flamenco dancing and potters. Here, visitors can find stores selling authentic flamenco costumes — including ruffled dresses and dancing shoes — and stores selling pottery. If you are interested in Seville's traditional ceramics industry, you should visit the Centro Ceramica. It has a permanent craftsmanship exhibition and also organizes guided tours of the district.

Calle Callao 14	Opening times:
41010 Seville	Tue – Sat 1100 – 1700
Spain	Sun 1000 – 1430

Tel. +34-954/33 21 79

www.ceramicatriana.com/

Museo del Baile Flamenco

This museum in the historic old town provides visitors with insights into the world of flamenco dancing. The interactive exhibition about the origins and different kinds of flamenco is a unique experience for anyone who loves dance — as are the performances! The museum also has its own dance school and a shop selling accessories.

Calle Manuel Rojas Marcos 3	Opening times:
41004 Seville	Daily 1000 – 1900

Spain

Tel. +34-954/34 03 11

www.museoflamenco.com/

Metropol Parasol

In 2011, Seville was given a new landmark: the *Parasoles* (parasols) or *Setas* (mushrooms). These six, spectacular wooden constructions were designed by architect Jürgen Mayer H. and erected on the Plaza de la Encarnación — where the city's market building used to stand. As well as casting shade, these 26-meter-high four-story constructions also contain spaces dedicated to various uses. In addition to bars and restaurants, there is an archaeological museum in the basement and a panoramic walkway that loops around the roof.

Plaza de la Encarnación	setasdesevilla.com/
41003 Seville	
Spain	

Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo

If you cross the Guadalquivir River towards the East, you arrive at the Andalusian Contemporary Art Centre (CAAC). It was founded in 1990 and since 1997, it has been located in the former monastery of La Cartuja, on the river island that bears the same name. This area was used for the Expo '92 and is also home to the Isla Mágica amusement park and Agua Mágica, a water park.

Avenida Américo Vespucio 2
41092 Seville
Spain
Tel. +34-955/03 70 70

Opening times:
Tue – Sat 1100 – 2100
Sun 1000 – 1530

www.caac.es



Shopping in Seville Shopping in Seville

Key Areas

The main shopping areas are Calle Sierpes and Calle Tetuán – both streets are to the North of the town hall – as well as Plaza Nueva. In these areas, shoppers can find traditional independent stores. Increasingly, there are international chains too. If you love Andalusian pottery, you should visit the Triana district, where there are some larger ceramics retailers such as those on Calle Antillano Campos and Calle Alfarería.

Traditional souvenirs include lace, wine and sherry, shawls and fans of all sizes and flamenco accessories. These goods can be found in specialist shops in the historic old town and at most of the markets.

Markets

You shouldn't miss out on the opportunity to experience the splendidly colorful array of fresh goods on offer year round at an Andalusian market. Although the market is a sales area, it is also a meeting place. Seville has numerous farmer's markets, and they are open every day from Monday to Saturday. Particularly noteworthy markets include the Mercado de la Encarnación in the shade of the Metropól Parasol (the spectacular 26-meter-high wooden construction at Plaza de la Encarnación) and the Mercado de Triana at Plaza del Altozano, which sells both food and a varied assortment of souvenirs.

At weekends, there are flea markets and creative arts markets. These include the Sunday flea market on Alameda de Hércules and the creative arts market on Plaza del Museo in front of the Museo de Bellas Artes (mornings).

Malls

Most of Seville's malls are open from Monday to Friday, and the restaurants in the large shopping centers are open on Sundays as well. Although it is the range of goods these malls offer that makes them popular, in the summer months they are also popular because of their air-conditioning systems. In the city center, some recommended malls include Plaza der Armas (centrocomercialplazadearmas.es), which is in the old railway station at Plaza de La Legión, and the huge, modern Nervión Plaza (nervionplaza.com) on Calle Luis de Morales, near Santa Justa railway station.



Restaurants

Restaurants in Seville

In Seville, the evening meal or *cena* is eaten at about 10 pm, so many restaurants do not open until 9 pm. In the summer, when the siesta is extended due to the heat, the afternoon begins very late. As a result, the small midday meal is served until 3 or 4 pm. It is generally a *menú del día* consisting of two or three courses or a *plato del día*, a hot one-course meal. Popular tapas appetizers are generally also available in larger portions (*racion*) or as a main dish (*plato*). In Seville's Santa Cruz district, you will find a wide range of good restaurants and tapas bars.

Restaurante Tribeca

In the modern atmosphere of this restaurant, Chef Pedro Giménez and his team serve an exclusive selection of Andalusian specialties, which are predominantly made using regional products.

Calle Chaves Nogales 3
41018 Seville
Spain

Price: Luxury

Abantal Restaurante

Julio Fernández Quintero, who has won numerous awards for his culinary creations, is setting new standards in the region. He designs unconventional dishes that give traditional Andalusian cuisine an avant garde twist, and his creations delight even the most demanding of connoisseurs.

Calle Alcalde José de la Bandera 7 & 9
41003 Seville
Spain

Price: Luxury

El Rinconcillo

Dating back to 1670, the Rinconcillo is said to be Seville's oldest bar. Whether seated on the outdoor patio or inside admiring the archetypal Andalusian decor, visitors can enjoy the specialties offered by the traditional menu, as well as excellent wine and tapas.

Calle Gerona 40
41003 Seville
Spain

Price: Moderate

Cervecería Giralda

From the terrace of this tapas and beer bar, visitors have a direct view of the cathedral. The bar's indoor seating is in a faithfully restored vaulted hall. The tasty snacks offered here are available as starter-sized dishes and as main dishes.

Mateos Gago 1
41004 Sevilla
Spain

Price: Moderate

Mas Que Postres

At the Dulcería Triana, confectioner Manuel Jara creates what may well be the

finest patisserie products in Seville. His wares include macaroons and tarts, and he has two other shops (one in Nervión and one at the Mercado de Triana).

Pureza 5
41010 Seville
Spain

Price: Budget



Nightlife Nightlife in Seville

Daytime temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius are frequent in Seville, so it is hardly surprising that the nightlife here starts even later than it generally does in the rest of the country. In the cooler hours of the evening and night-time, the Santa Cruz district and the area surrounding Plaza de la Alfalfa are popular meeting places. If you like to look out over water, you should cross the Guadalquivir River and visit one of the riverside bars in the Triana district.

La Carbonería

Visitors to this flamenco club can watch dance performances — or even show off their own moves. Here you can enjoy guitar music and sangria and experience the rhythmic side of Andalusian culture.

Calle Céspedes 21
41004 Seville
Spain

Casa Morales

People meet in and outside this bar around midday — and in the evening, of course. It is near the cathedral and has a wonderfully old-fashioned interior. The atmosphere is pleasantly relaxed.

García de Vinuesa 11
41001 Seville
Spain

Fun Club

Fun Club on the Alameda square has been a hub for Seville's indie scene for more than 30 years. The club has its own record label, and visitors can expect an ambitious repertoire of indie, rock and hip-hop.

Calle Alameda de Hércules 86
41002 Sevilla
Spain

Teatro de la Maestranza

This building is where the Royal Seville Symphony Orchestra plays. The events program includes classical music concerts, operas and ballets. To book tickets, visit the theater's website (teatrodelamaestranza.es).

Paseo de Cristóbal Colón 22
41001 Seville

Spain

Antique Theatro

This well-established club is on the Expo '92 site on La Cartuja Island and has a pleasant outdoor area. Since it is one of the city's most stylish clubs, there will be some spectacular outfits to admire. Visitors should therefore make an effort with their own appearance.

Matemáticos Rey Pastor y Castro
Antiguo Pabellón Olímpico
Isla de la Cartuja
41092 Seville
Spain



Calendar of events Calendar of events in Seville

Semana Santa (Holy Week)

Numerous processions take place in Seville between Palm Sunday and Easter Day. The high point of the festivities is Good Friday. Wearing traditional, eerie costumes, the members of the brotherhoods (*Hermandades*) carry crosses. They are followed by the penitents (*Nazarenos*). During the festivities of Holy Week, normal life is put on hold to some extent.

April 5 - 11, 2020

Location: The whole city center

Fería de Abril

About two weeks after Easter, Seville celebrates its colorful *Fería*, which is a social event of the highest order. This fair, which also involves costumes and music, goes on for several days. It is one of the region's biggest events.

April 26 - May 2, 2020

Location: The whole city center

Velá de Santa Ana

This festival is celebrated in honor of Saint Anna, the patron saint of the Triana district. There is flamenco dancing on the streets until the small hours, and the food marquees (*casetas*) stay open late as well.

July 21 - 26, 2020

Location: Various venues in Triana

Noches en los jardines del Real Alcázar (concert series)

This popular concert series takes place in the gardens of the royal palace. In this romantic setting, audiences are treated to classical, flamenco and jazz music performances, among other genres. Each concert begins at 10:30 pm.

June 27 - September 21, 2020

Ort: Real Alcázar

Biennial de Flamenco

This biennial flamenco event is held in Seville in even-numbered years. There is always a theme as well as competitions for singing and dancing. There is also an extensive program of performances as part of the festival.

September 4 - October 4, 2020

Location: Various venues including Alcázar and Teatro Alameda



Hotels Hotels in Seville

With approximately 20,000 beds available for visitors, Seville has a good range of options for accommodation. In the years preceding Expo '92, many budget chain hotels were built. In recent years, however, some of the town palaces and stately homes in the city center have been converted into tasteful boutique hotels. Although there is an extensive range of options, you should always book in advance if you are visiting during the Easter period. Accommodations in Seville tend to be fully booked during Holy Week (*Semana Santa*) and *Feria de Abril*.

Hotel Alfonso XIII

This Luxury Collection hotel from Starwood is in a palace that was built in 1929 for the Ibero-American Exposition. As was the case then, this is where wealthy international visitors and stars book their rooms. The location and facilities are excellent, and it has a distinguished atmosphere.

San Fernando 2
41004 Seville
Spain

Category: Luxury

Hotel Casa 1800

This centrally located early nineteenth century town palace is now home to a stylish boutique hotel with all of the modern conveniences. Magnificent chandeliers and hand-carved furniture add a finishing touch to the elegant interior. The roof garden with a pool and a view of the cathedral is a welcome extra.

Rodrigo Caro 6
41004 Seville
Spain

Category: Luxury

Hotel Casa Del Poeta

This boutique hotel is somewhat hidden away, and the rooms vary in terms of size and facilities. An apartment is also available. The rooms are arranged around a central patio, which features a little fountain.

Don Carlos Alonso Chaparro 3
41004 Seville
Spain

Category: Moderate

Posada Pilatos

In the Alfalfa district, near Plaza San Agustín, there are apartments of various sizes. Shops and nightlife destinations are in close proximity.

Calle Muro de los Navarros 22
41003 Seville
Spain

Category: Moderate

Pension Doña Pepa

This little guest house is about 300 meters from Santa Justa train station and about a kilometer from the cathedral. The rooms vary in terms of size and facilities, but all guests can use the Wi-Fi and the lovely terrace.

Juan de Vera, 20
41003 Seville
Spain

Category: Budget



Geo Tip Arabian-style relaxation

powered by **GEO**

Arabian-style relaxation

A wonderful place to relax after a day in the hustle and bustle of Seville is within the thick stone walls of a Mudéjar palace dating from the 16th century. The building in the city's Santa Cruz neighborhood has been elaborately restored in its original Arabian style and today houses the Aire (beaire.com) ancient baths. The Aire's hammam and spa invite visitors to unwind and choose from an array of additionally bookable treatments and massages. A reservation is required.

Mehr auf GEO.de

<https://www.geo.de/sevilla-lh>