

Seville in 5 days

Sevilla.
COACH



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Introduction

Seville is a city with endless possibilities. It has a rich historical-artistic legacy, which is the result of the different civilizations that settled in our city and the fruit of the different artistic currents that washed in from other countries but Seville has much more to offer. Famous for its rich and varied cuisine, good weather and the friendliness of its people, Seville is the whole package with an intense cultural life throughout the year; a great choice of places to shop; a broad and diverse complementary offer as well as its nightlife.

In this guide, we make suggestions on **how to discover Seville in five days** and different things to experience our city life, so that you can get to know Seville well.



Day 1

In the morning we recommend, that you visit the city's three UNESCO World Heritage monuments: **the Cathedral and its Giralda bell tower, the Alcazar Royal Palace and the General Archive of the Indies.**

We suggest that you pre-purchase tickets for the Cathedral and the Alcazar Royal Palace, on their corresponding websites, to avoid unnecessary queues and to make the most of your time.

Catedral de Santa María de la Sede (Seville Cathedral) is the largest Gothic temple in the world and the third-largest Christian temple, after St Peter's of the Vatican and St Paul's of London. Built where the main Aljama of Seville once stood, the works began in the 15th century. Some of the old mosque still remains, such as its bell tower, the Giralda, a city landmark; the orange tree courtyard, formerly the ablutions courtyard, and what was once the main door of the mosque, the Puerta del Perdón (Door of Forgiveness).

The main artists of the time worked on the Cathedral, and over the following centuries Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical elements were added. The main altarpiece, considered to be the greatest altarpiece in Christendom, took almost a century to make and is the work of Peter Dancart.



Its numerous chapels hold true works of art, such as paintings by Murillo, Goya, Pedro de Campaña and Zurbarán; sculptures by Martínez Montañés; silver work such as the monstrance by Juan de Arfe, the Custodia; and an exceptional set of stained glass windows from the 15th century by the brothers Enrique and Mateo Alemán, as well as all those made from the 16th century onwards.

There are also many members of the royal family buried in the Cathedral, such as Pedro I of Castile, King San Fernando -conqueror and patron of the city - and his son, Alfonso X the Wise; as well as Christopher Columbus himself, the great explorer.

If you feel like climbing the Giralda bell tower, you will enjoy the best views of the city.

www.catedraldesevilla.es



The **Alcázar Royal Palace** is the oldest royal palace in Europe that is still in use. It remains the royal residence and where Spanish monarchs stay when they visit Sevilla.

The Alcázar is a palatial complex built over different periods, whose origins date back to the 10th century.

King Pedro I of Castile played a fundamental role in its appearance, who ordered the construction of the Mudejar palace, the main part of the palace complex. In addition to its beautiful outbuildings, we recommend a visit to its gardens, the third-largest in the city, of extraordinary historical value and with incomparable beauty that reflect the different styles of gardening developed over the ages, from Renaissance to Naturalism. More than 170 species have been catalogued in the 60,000sqm area. The Alcázar has also been the setting for numerous series and films, such as "**Lawrence of Arabia**", "**The Kingdom of Heaven**" or the famous series, "**Game of Thrones**".

www.alcazarsevilla.org

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The **General Archive of the Indies** is one of the most important historical archives in the country. Formed in 1785, by mandate of King Carlos III, to collect all documentation relating to the discovery and colonisation of America in a single building.

It is located in a beautiful Renaissance building designed by Juan de Herrera, in which 43,000 files are kept. In addition, over the course of the year there are many exhibitions and cultural activities relating to this theme.

www.mecd.gob.es



After visiting these beautiful buildings, we suggest a walk through the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the old Jewish quarter. Getting lost in its streets full of legends and history is truly a pleasure. You will also find some beautiful squares such as the Plaza de Doña Elvira, which in the 17th Century, held a famous "corral de comedias" (comedy theatre), or the Plaza de Santa Cruz, where the famous Sevillian painter Bartolomé Esteban Murillo is buried.

In the enclave of Santa Cruz you can find the **Hospital de los Venerables Sacerdotes**, a magnificent example of Sevillian Baroque designed by Leonardo de Figueroa, as well as the Centro Diego Velázquez, a place where the famous Seville-born painter studied and unveiled his works.

www.losvenerables.es



In the evening, what about a stroll in the **Parque de María Luisa**? It's the city's main park with beautiful bandstands and fountains, such as the bandstand dedicated to Seville-born Gustavo Adolfo Becquer, or to famous writers such as the brothers Alvarez Quintero or Miguel de Cervantes. In 1929, Parque de María Luisa hosted the Ibero-American Exposition, whose objective was to promote relationships between Spain, Latin America, the United States, Portugal and Brazil.

For this reason, the southern part of the city was redeveloped and a series of buildings were constructed to accommodate the exhibition. The Sevillian architect Aníbal González built two beautiful squares in a regionalist style: the **Plaza de España**, emblematic monument of the city, made of ceramic, wood and brick, and the **Plaza de América**, where the Museo Arqueológico (Archaeological Museum) and the Museo de Artes y Costumbres Populares (Museum of Popular Arts and Customs) can be found. In the avenues surrounding the park, you can see some of the pavilions built by the participating countries, such as those for Argentina, Guatemala, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Morocco, United States, Peru, Chile, Uruguay or Portugal; as well as the buildings making up the Seville pavilion: the Casino de la Exposición (Exposition Casino) and the Teatro Lope de Vega (Lope de Vega Theatre).



Additionally, and more family-orientated, in this area you can visit the Aquarium, where apart from seeing the various marine species, you can participate in different organised weekend activities. You can even spend the night among sharks!

www.acuariosevilla.es

In the Casa de la Ciencia, children and adults have the opportunity to learn about different aspects of science thanks to its planetarium and the various teaching activities that are organised throughout the year (exhibitions, workshops, etc.).

www.casadelaciencia.csic.es



A true Seville experience is going on a horse-drawn carriage ride through the Parque de María Luisa, which is considered to be one of the most romantic corners of the city. The shade creates an oasis during Seville's warm summer nights and entices you in for a picnic or better yet, to start the day off with a run breathing in the fresh air.

If this doesn't take your fancy, what do you think about enjoying a good conversation, taking in the beautiful cityscape and being watered by great wine while sitting on one of the city's many hotel terraces?



Day 2

We start today's visit at the **Museo de Bellas Artes** (Museum of Fine Arts), the city's most important collection of paintings and sculptures. Housed in a former convent, renovated in the 17th century, it is a jewel of the Mannerist style. In its 14 rooms, you can admire works dating from the 15th century up until the Seville Costumbrista paintings of the 20th century, with works by painters such as Pietro Torrigiano, Alejo Fernández, Martínez Montañés, Pedro de Mena, El Greco, Francisco Pacheco, Gustavo Bacarisas, Cabral Bejarano, Sánchez Perrier, Esquivel, etc. The Baroque Seville rooms really stand out with works by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, Valdés Leal y Zurbarán.

www.museodebellasartesevilla.es

Then, we head to the **Iglesia Colegial del Divino Salvador**, the city's second most important temple, after the Cathedral. The Roman Forum was once located here; later, the first mosque of Ibn Adabbas of the Caliph period (9th century) was built, which was the city's largest mosque until the Almohads constructed the main mosque in 1182. The current temple was built in the 17th century, its main architect being Leonardo de Figueroa. Housed within are Sevillian sculptures such as Juan de Mesa's effigy of Christ the "Cristo del Amor", or Martínez Montañés from Jaen's "Cristo de Pasión", both of which are used during the Holy Week processions. www.iglesiadelsalvador.es



After a cultural visit, there's nothing better to recharge than having some tapas al fresco, where you can enjoy Seville's delicious food and the great weather.



In the afternoon, we suggest a visit to one of the city's traditional palatial houses: **Casa de Pilatos**, with its important collection of Roman and Renaissance sculptures; **Palacio de las Dueñas**, belonging to the **Casa de Alba**, houses important works of art and was the birthplace of the poet Antonio Machado; **Palacio de la Condesa de Lebrija**, with its magnificent mosaics of Italica, the ancient Roman villa; or **Casa de Salinas**, with its beautiful Renaissance-style central courtyard.

To enjoy views of the city, there's nothing better than climbing **Las Setas** (Metropol Parasol), the world's largest wooden structure and an example of contemporary architecture in the city, located in the city centre, in the well-known **Plaza de la Encarnación**.

If you are interested in archaeology, on the ground floor of this building you can find the **Museo Antiquarium**, in which you can see archaeological remains from mainly Roman times, such as the excellent mosaic of the "pájaros", which was found during the first construction phase of Las Setas



As we are close to the shopping area, why not use the afternoon to do some shopping? In Seville you can buy a range of products: from souvenirs to remember your trip to Seville, to traditional handcrafted products (fans, ceramics, etc.), as well as the latest trends in fashion, decorations, accessories, shoes, etc.

What do you think about relaxing in Arabic baths in a 16th century palatial house?



Day 3

On day three, we start our visit by the river. The Guadalquivir river has played a very important role in the history of the city. Thanks to this river, in the 16th century Seville was a port, the gateway to America and one of the most important cities in Europe.

First we visit the **Torre del Oro**, a defensive tower built in the 13th century, making up part of the city's defensive system. Inside, it is home to the **Museo Naval** (Naval Museum), with its extensive collection of items relating to nautical art (flags, maps, anchors, etc.) as well as portraits of illustrious characters, ship models, images of Seville's port and numerous epigraphic documents relating to Seville and its great maritime discoveries.

Next we visit one of Seville's best-kept secrets, the **Hospital de la Santa Caridad**, whose beautiful Baroque-style church, houses paintings by Murillo and Valdés Leal and sculptures by Pedro Roldán created especially for the hospital. You can learn about the hospital's interesting history and the man behind it all, D. Miguel de Mañara.

www.santa-caridad.es



If you like bullfighting, the museum in **Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza**, one of the country's oldest arenas with a capacity of 13,000 people, exhibits paintings, bullfighting posters, matador costumes, bronzes, azulejos (glazed tiles) and sculptures (the works by Mariano Benlliure really stand out).
www.realmaestranza.com

To rest and recharge, there's nothing better than a cone of pescaito frito (fried fish).
Do you want to learn how to cook some typical Sevillian dishes? Well you can, in one of the city's traditional markets. Go ahead and show your friends and family your culinary skills ...



In the afternoon, we recommend a visit to one of Seville's most typical neighbourhoods: Triana. This neighbourhood offers many attractions: beautiful churches such as the **Parroquia de Santa Ana**, built in the 13th century; the **Capilla de los Marineros** (Sailors' Chapel), home to the venerated image of '**Esperanza de Triana**'; or the Basilica del Cachorro, home of the magnificent image '**Cristo del Cachorro**'.

Triana is famous for its ceramics; for this reason and to understand its history and evolution, we recommend a visit to the **Centro Cerámica Triana** (Triana Ceramics Centre). Located in an old ceramic factory, in the Centre you can visit the factory as well as the permanent exhibition of ceramic pieces, made in different artistic styles; temporary exhibitions are regularly organised and there is a section dedicated to the Triana neighbourhood. In the surrounding streets you can buy traditional ceramic ware.

Next to Triana market is the **Castillo de San Jorge**, which, from 1481 to 1785 was the headquarters of the Spanish Inquisition and symbol of the institution in Europe. This centre is a place for reflection where you play the lead. Its goal is to offer information about the inquisitorial process and the history of Castillo de San Jorge, the old Almohad castle.



Día 4

On day four, we take a visit to the northern part of the city. Starting at the **Convento de Santa Paula**, one of the many convents in the Seville

cloister, where, besides contemplating the infinite works of art within (magnificent azulejos by Niculoso Pisano, works by Martínez Montañes, Domingo Martínez, Alonso Cano and Felipe de Rivas) you can indulge in some traditional homemade sweets, such as the nun's famous marmelades, madeleines or the custard dessert 'tocinos de cielo' (marbled heaven). www.santapaula.es

On calle San Luis you will find the church dedicated to **San Luis de los Franceses** (Saint Louis of the French), an old Jesuit Novitiate church whose construction began in 1699 and was Leonardo de Figueroa's masterpiece. The inside boasts a group of altarpieces created by the sculptor Pedro Duque Cornejo, alongside the fresco paintings on the cupola, works of Lucas Valdés.

Further on, we arrive at the **Basilica de la Macarena**, the location of perhaps the most famous image outside of Seville, the Virgen de la Esperanza Macarena. Its museum offers broad insight into Seville's Holy Week as it exhibits processional and liturgical items, which the brotherhood has treasured throughout its more than four centuries of existence www.hermandaddelamacarena.es



Next to the Basilica, there are the remains of the old wall that once surrounded the city, built during the Almoravid era (11th-12th centuries). These walls stood until the 19th century when they were partially demolished. The walls can still be seen in the Macarena area and around the Alcázar Royal complex.

In front of the Basilica is the **Hospital de las Cinco Llagas** (Hospital of the Five Wounds), a spectacular Renaissance building by Martin de Gainza and Hernan Ruiz II, which is currently the headquarters for the Andalusian Parliament.

We proceed on to calle Feria, where we will encounter another two of the city's tourist activities: el **Palacio de los Marqueses de la Algaba** (Palace of the Algaba Marquises), where the Centro de Interpretación del Mudéjar (Mudejar Centre) is located, in which 111 pieces of the municipal archaeological collection and from other museums are housed, showing important mudejar pieces (plasterwork, household utensils, pots etc.).

The palace is also an exhibition of this art, highlighting its facade. Next to this, you can find the **Mercado de Feria** (the Feria market), another of the city's typical markets which offers a great selection of food.



Another way to get to know Seville is to **go by bike**. There is a wide range of bike hire companies. In addition, Seville is considered to be the Spanish city with the best network of bike lanes. Thanks to Seville being flat and its good weather, you can travel the city in a comfortable, fun and healthy way.

Of course, cities must be experienced both by day and by night. **Enjoy the Sevillian nights** in some of the many establishments in the most fashionable and atmospheric areas of the city (City Centre, Alameda de Hércules, Paseo Colón, Nervión ...). In winter, the centre is more popular; however, in summer people tend to frequent terraces by the riverside.



Day 5

On our last day, we will have a look around the area of Isla de la Cartuja, on the other side of the river. This area was the location of the Universal Exposition of 1992, whose 25th anniversary will be celebrated in 2017. We start the visit at the **Pabellón de la Navegación**. Built for the 1992 Universal Exposition, this pavilion has since changed its subject matter to focus on families and children. It is a meeting point with history, where you can discover what the men and women, who crossed the ocean looking for a better life, experienced.

www.pabellondelanavegacion.com

Seville hosts one of the **Caixaforum** Cultural Centers, the third largest in Spain. Covering an area of 7,500 sqm, it is located in the Torre Sevilla (Seville Tower) complex, on the Isla de la Cartuja (Island of the Carthusians). The cultural centre, designed by the architect Guillermo Vázquez Consuegra, has two exhibition rooms: one of 704 sqm and the other of 384 sqm; an auditorium for up to 276 people; two multipurpose rooms each 180 sqm; workshops; a café and a book shop.

www.caixaforum.es/es/sevilla



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Torre Sevilla, designed by Cesar Pelli is the first skyscraper in the city and the tallest in Andalusia, as well as the seventh tallest in all of Spain. It is situated on the southern side of the Isla de la Cartuja, in an area spanning 59,000 sqm. The tower extends 180.5 metres into the sky. The tower has an elliptical plan and 37 reinforced concrete floors on top of three underground levels. The façade is made from glass and steel and is protected by terracotta coloured aluminium slats.

What was once Morocco's Pavilion for Expo 92 is a beautiful building constructed by hand and is currently the headquarters of the Fundación Tres Culturas del Mediterráneo (Three Cultures of the Mediterranean Foundation), which aims to promote dialogue, peace and tolerance between the Mediterranean people and cultures. For this, numerous cultural activities are organised such as films, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, concerts, etc.

www.tresculturas.org



Next we have the **Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo** (Andalusian Centre for Contemporary Art), whose headquarters is the Monasterio de la Cartuja. The Carthusian monastery was founded in 1400 in honour of Santa Maria de la Cuevas. The body of Christopher Columbus has been buried there some 30 years, seeing as its monks hosted him on several occasions. After the Desamortización de Mendizábal (Mendizábal Disentailment) in 1835, the building lost its religious character and was sold to the English industrialist Charles Pickmann, who established a ceramics and porcelain factory. Due to this new industrial use, furnaces and chimneys were installed, some of which still remain. During the Universal Exhibition of 1992, it was used as the Royal Pavilion.

www.caac.es



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If you are looking for fun and excitement, there is nothing better than a day on the rides at **Isla Mágica theme park**. Located near the historic centre, the park's theme is 'Seville, the discovery of America', with a wide range of attractions and shows, and each season the park opens with a new attraction. In summer, you can refresh yourself in its Agua Mágica water park.

To finish, another experience that we suggest is to take a **boat trip on the river**, a millennial river full of history, which the Romans called Betis, and the Arabs Guadalquivir.



Sevilla.

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Schedules and prices are subject to change, so we recommend confirming this information.