

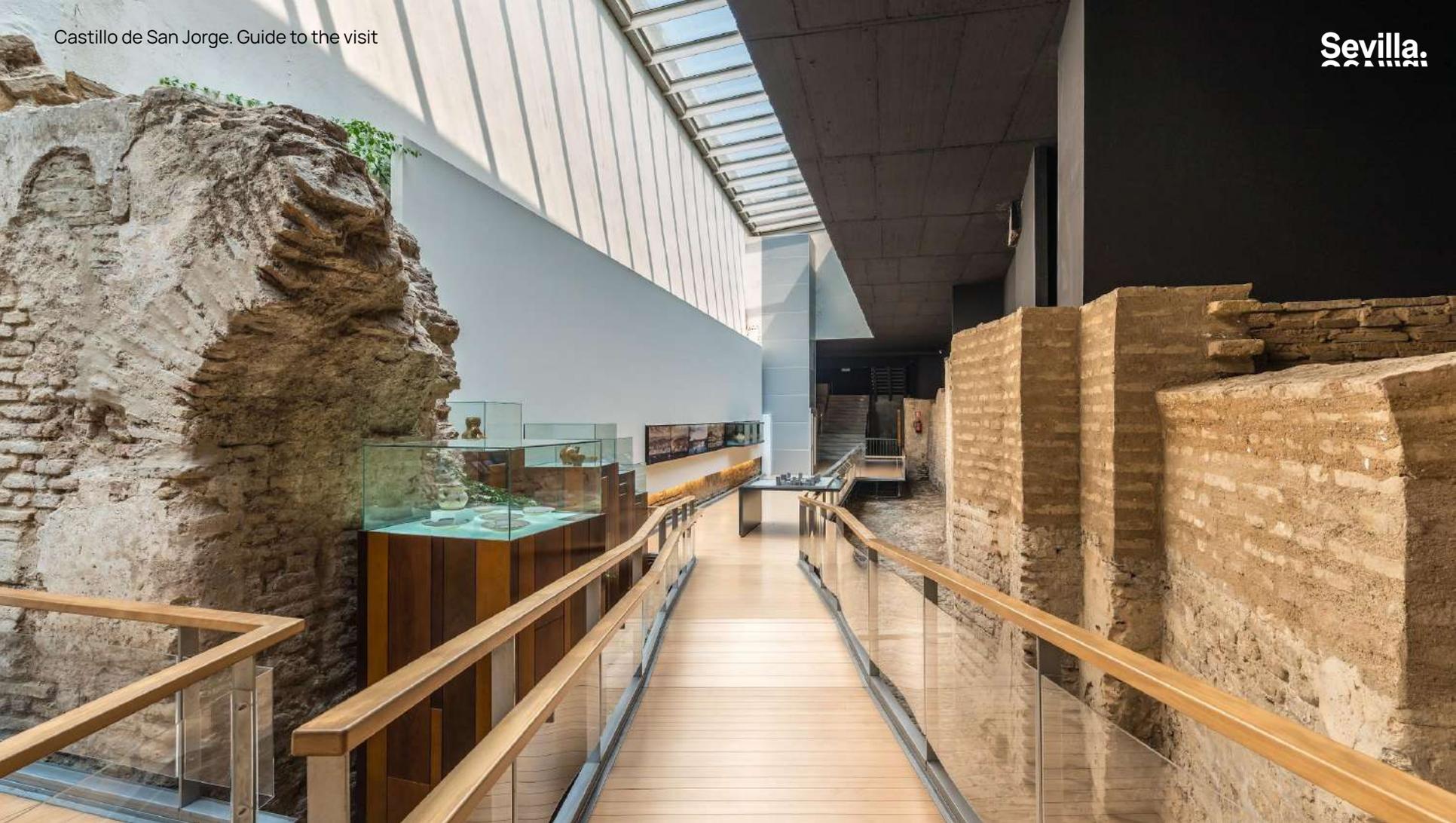
Castillo de San Jorge

Guide to the visit

Plaza del Altozano, junto al Mercado de Triana
Telf. 955 47 02 55 / 663 14 11 80

Sevilla.





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The Spanish Inquisition

In 1480, the Catholic Monarchs established the first seat of the Court of the Inquisition in Castile in Seville. Controlled by the Crown and with the approval of the Church, the mission of the Holy Office was to preserve the Catholic faith in Spain. With this institution at its service, the Monarchy intended to guarantee the religious and political unity of all its kingdoms. Its work was directed firstly towards the persecution of the Judaizing practices of Jewish converts to Christianity, and later towards the persecution of Protestantism and other deviations from orthodoxy.

The Inquisition, contrary to what many people think, did not originate in Spain. It was created by means of the papal bull *Ad abolendam*, issued at the end of the 12th century by Pope Lucius III as an instrument to combat the Cathar heresy in the south of France.

Tribunals of the Pontifical Inquisition existed in several European Christian kingdoms during the Middle Ages, the most active being those in northern Italy and southern France.

St George's Castle housed this tribunal for 300 years, which was extinguished in 1820. Thousands of men and women from all walks of life were imprisoned and tortured in its dungeons. Its image as a sinister fortress represented the Spanish Inquisition in Europe. Its archaeological remains allow us to remember those times and to reflect on negative aspects of the human condition.



History of St. George's Castle

12th-13th centuries

Almohad Necropolis

The first use of this site was as an Almohad necropolis related to the Triana neighbourhood and the Puente de Barcas bridge that led to the Aljarafe. The excavations recovered 229 burials, although it is thought that the necropolis must have contained more than 1,000. The tombs, in very simple graves, were oriented towards the southwest, with the dead person's legs bent and head facing east, towards Mecca, as is customary in the Muslim rite.

Around 1220-30, in the face of the southward advance of the Reconquest, the Almohads built a fortress over the cemetery to guard the bridge of boats and protect the city.





Christian Castle

1248: After the reconquest of Seville by Ferdinand III, the castle was given to the Order of the Knights of St. George. They built a chapel, which was the first parish church in Triana, remaining as a hermitage after the construction of the parish church of Santa Ana by Alfonso X El Sabio in 1276.

In the time of Henry IV it was the scene of fights between the king's supporters and those of his brother, the Infante D. Alfonso. It later passed into the hands of the Duke of Medina Sidonia.

In the 15th century the castle was returned to the crown under the Catholic Monarchs.

Headquarters of the Holy Office Tribunal

In 1480 the Inquisition was established in Seville in the now disappeared convent of San Pablo, now the church of La Magdalena; the high number of prisoners and alleged heretics meant that within a year a new headquarters had to be found.

1481: The Catholic Monarchs ceded the Castle of San Jorge to the Tribunal of the Holy Inquisition, which established its first headquarters and remained there for three centuries.

Due to its deterioration caused by the continuous flooding of the river, the Tribunal moved in 1785 to the old Jesuit college of Las Becas, until its disappearance in 1800.





Triana Market

After its abandonment by the Court, the State cedes it to the city in perpetuity, with the City Council taking charge of its demolition.

Around 1822, the municipal market of Triana was built.

In 1845, its southern end was truncated for the construction of the Isabel II Bridge, remaining as a market until today.

In 1990, the old market was completely demolished to build the current one. During the construction process, the remains that we see today were recovered.



The Castle (Model)

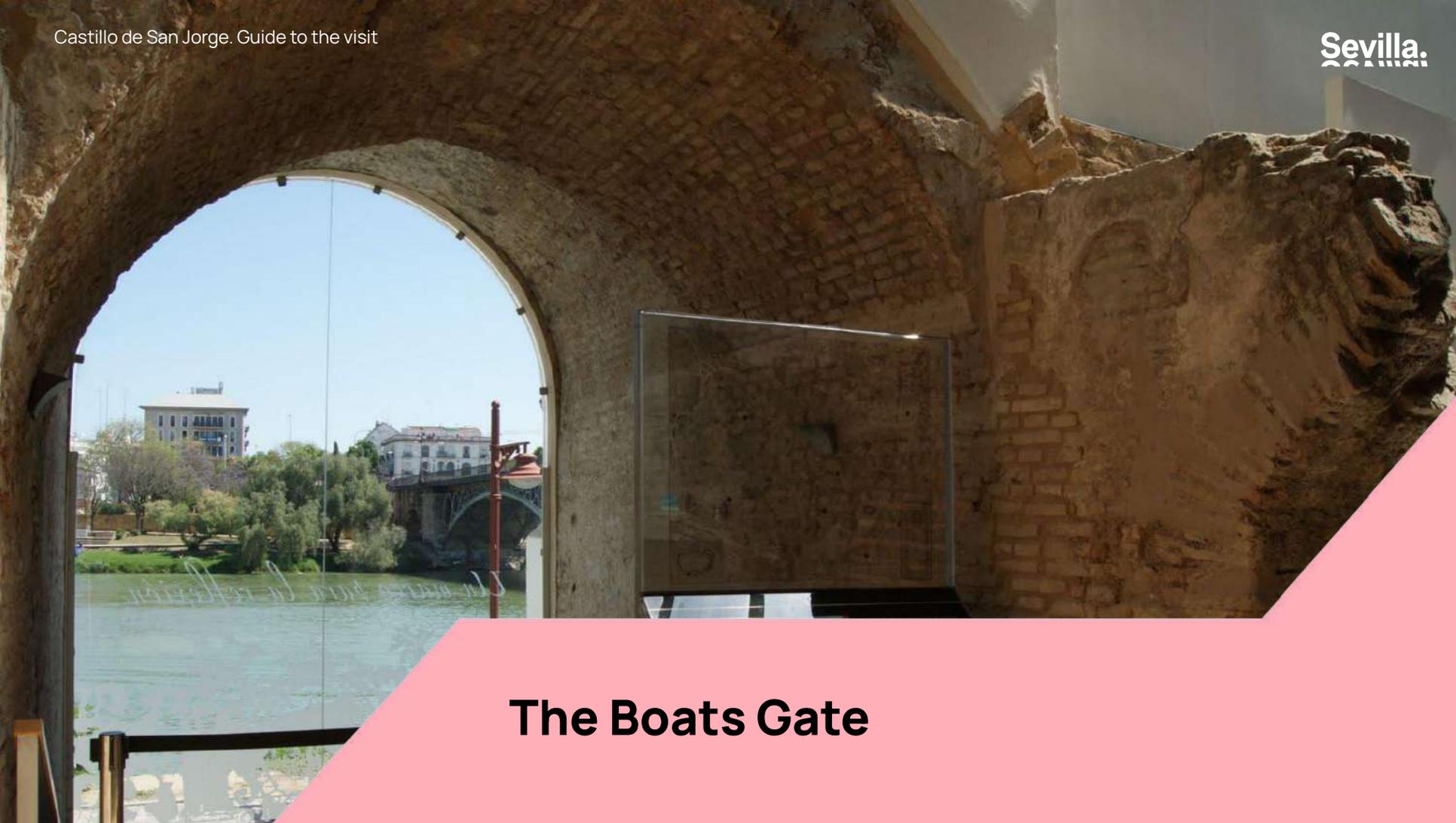
Given the large number of defendants and therefore prisoners, a new headquarters had to be found in just one year of operation of the Holy Office, and the Castle of San Jorge was chosen.

A magnificent fortress with eleven towers, it had 26 secret prisons, 12 of which were high, 8 in the towers and 4 in the parapet of the south wall; the rest were low in the courtyards. However, these were insufficient and various rooms had to be fitted out as prisons inside the houses of the ministers and officials who lived inside the castle.

It had several administrative offices and five more houses for the Inquisitor, the Nuncio, the Notary and the porter.

The castle was situated on the banks of the Guadalquivir River and was linked to Seville by a bridge for boats.

All that remains of the castle today is the pavement, some of the walls of the inquisitors' houses and the chapel areas. The entire upper part has been destroyed, leaving only the lower part.



The Boats Gate

The boats that brought supplies and various personnel arrived at this gate when the bridge of boats was rendered unusable by the great floods of the river, and the relatives of the prisoners, lawyers, bailiffs, informers, a motley crowd that made up the daily life in a frenetic coming and going of people from all walks of life passed through it.

Every year, the floods, which were particularly severe, caused great damage and very high repair costs. The waters of the Guadalquivir first entered through the sewers and then flooded in through doors and windows up to the first floor, sometimes collapsing partitions and even walls, leaving behind a thick layer of foul-smelling mud. The Court's activities had to be suspended for the duration of the clean-up and reconstruction work.



Archaeological tour

Fortified citadel

More than a castle, the enclosure of Saint George was a veritable citadel. Inside, diagonally laid out streets started from the three entrances to the enclosure and converged in the centre, next to the chapel. The paving was the same as that which paved the streets of the city in the 17th and 18th centuries. The slope of the streets was oriented towards the river, so that they would drain into it.

The porter's house

The porter and his wife were in charge of surveillance and service. It is a typical Andalusian popular house, with a small central courtyard, external staircase, woodshed, pantry and a kitchen on the ground floor, with bedrooms upstairs. The porters were minor officers of the Inquisition.

The stables

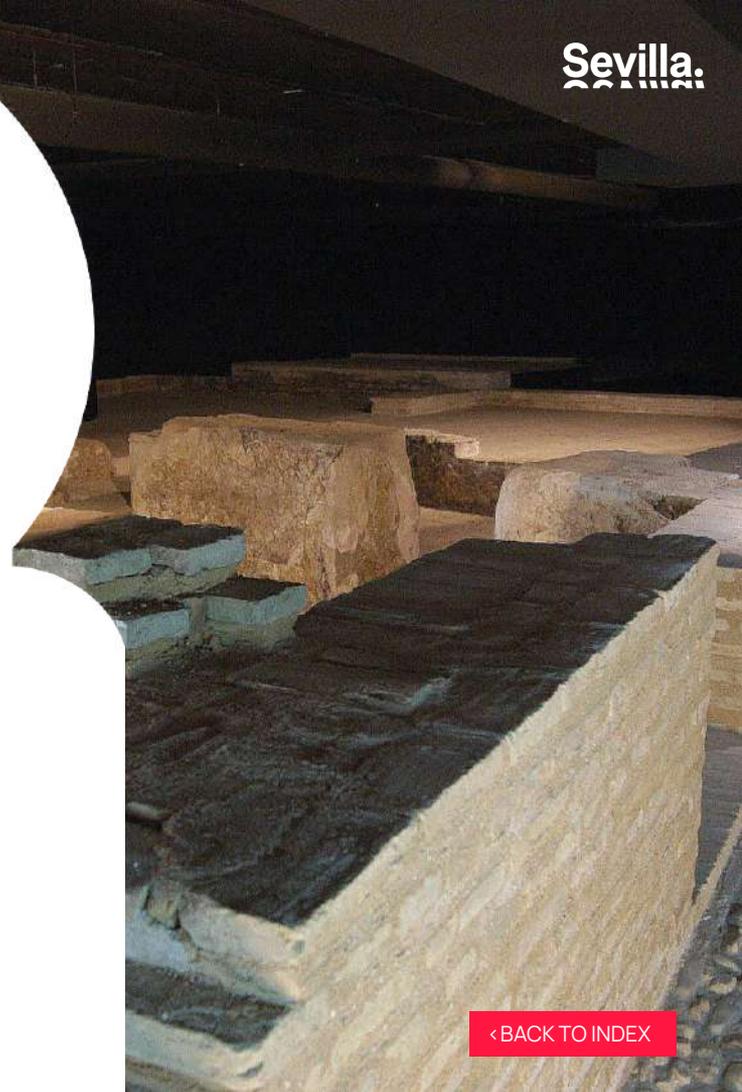
The inquisitors moved around on mules, which were kept in this stable with access from the street. It has 5 moorings and a well with a watering trough for the animals.

The houses of the nuncio and the notary

Semi-detached houses of the Nuncio or Papal Delegate and the Notary of the Secret, in charge of drawing up the documents of the process. Typical Andalusian courtyard houses with stairs and double height overlooking the interior of the citadel and the river.

The Notario del Secreto was a middle official, who dealt with the confiscated properties.

Other officials were the nuncio, who was in charge of disseminating the court's statements. The mayor, a jailer in charge of feeding the prisoners.





Houses of the familiares

The familiares were lay collaborators of the Holy Office, who were to be permanently at the service of the Inquisition.

They were a kind of police whose mission was to provoke denunciation or arrest heretics.

Becoming a familiar was considered an honour, as it was a public acknowledgement of cleanliness of blood and also entailed certain privileges.

Although there were many nobles who held the office, most of the familiares were of popular social origin. They could bear arms and could only be judged by the Inquisition.

The prisons

Behind the wall were the low prisons on the west wall, next to the present-day Calle de San Jorge.

They were small and dark, although they they had a small garden.

The citadel of the castle contained between 26 and 30 so-called "secret" prisons, destroyed for the construction of the market in 1821.

There were also 12 "high" prisons in the towers, including the so-called "torment chamber" in the Tower of San Jerónimo, which overlooked the current Plaza de Callao.





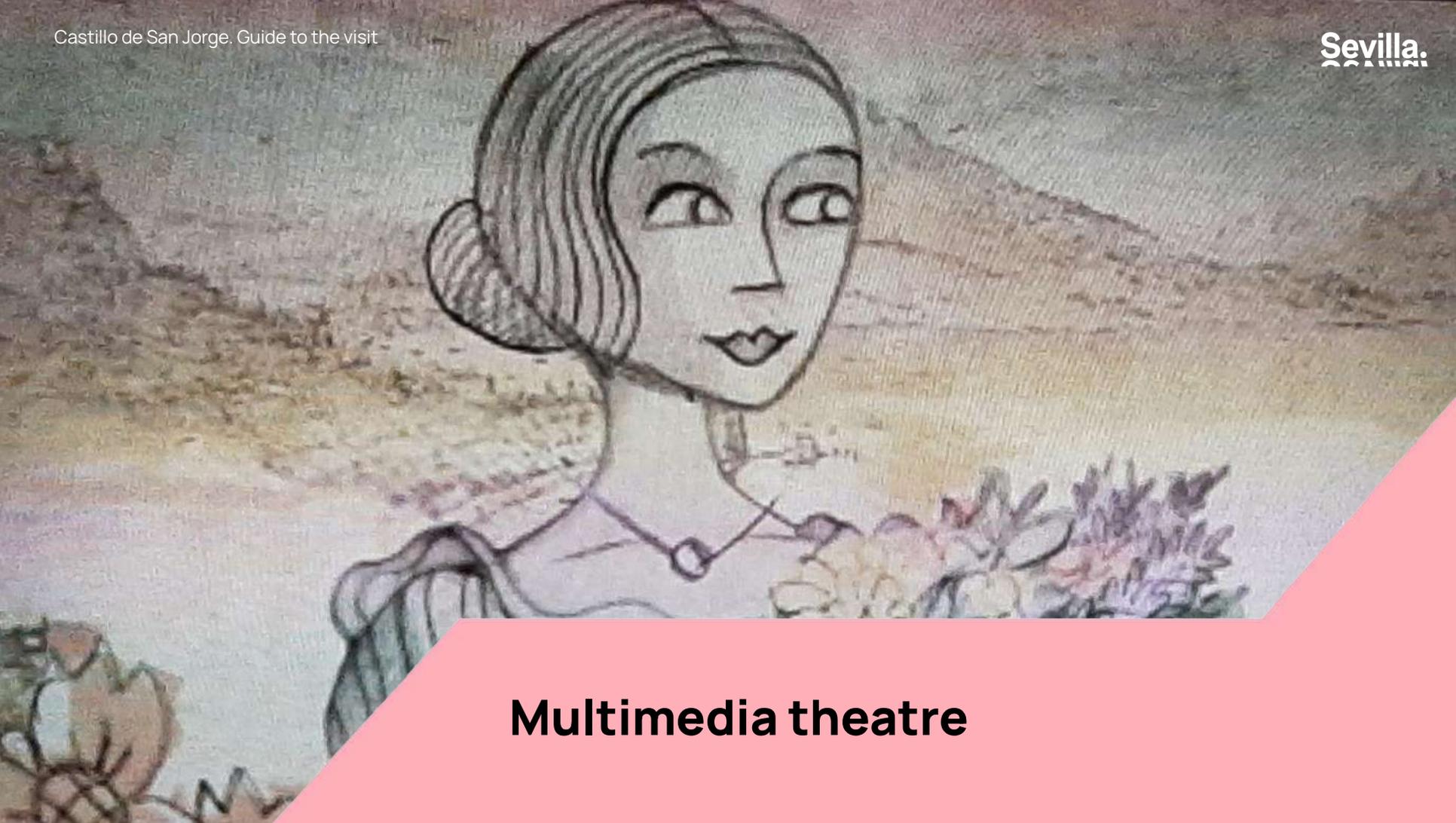
The Chapel of St. George

The chapel was used by the inquisitors to hear mass. The people could also attend the services.

This was the primitive parish church of Triana before the construction of the Church of Santa Ana, and was later converted into a hermitage.

The dedication to Saint George was maintained because this saint fought against the dragon, the personification of Evil, against which the Inquisition also fought.

Remains of the exterior portico, part of the nave with the base of the altar and the sacristy are preserved.



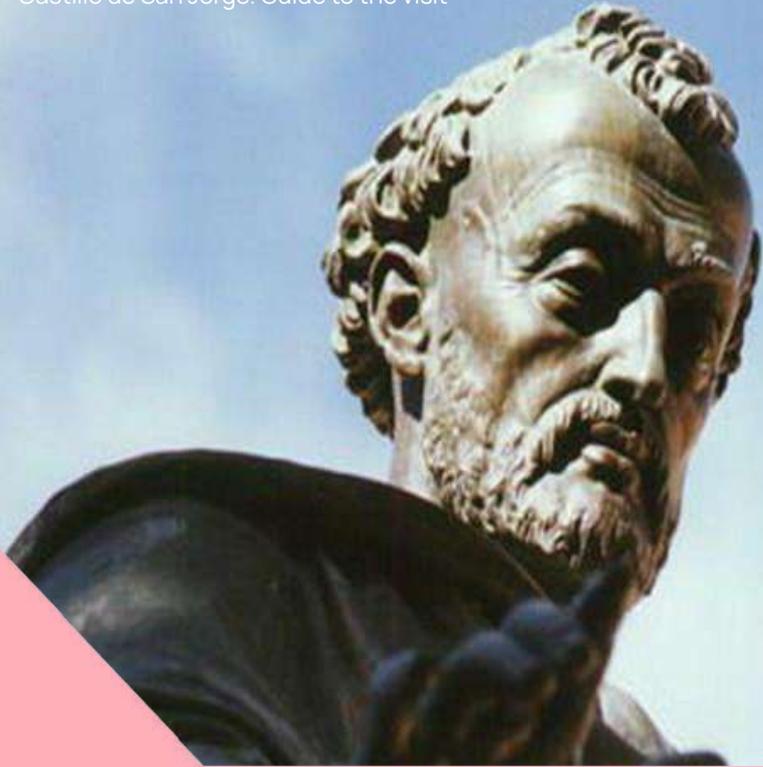
Multimedia theatre

Marcela's story

The story of Marcela (a fictitious character) is recreated using three boxes interspersed with different images and silhouettes. A representation that shows the story of a victim of the Inquisition and the process to which the prisoners were subjected. The charges, procedures and penalties are real.

Like Marcela, many men and women were victims of false accusations and abuses of power.

It is impossible to determine the exact number of victims, and because of gaps in the documentary collections, it is very likely that the exact number of those executed by the Inquisition will never be known with certainty.



Gallery of persecuted characters

Santa Teresa de Jesús

She was accused of being "enlightened" or "illuminated" and had serious problems with the Holy Office. Descendant of Jews. Her work "The Book of Life" was examined by the Inquisition, suspected of containing visions, revelations and dangerous doctrines. They recognised that the book contained good and helpful doctrine for the spiritual life, but still chose to keep it in their coffers until Teresa's death in 1582. The book was declared free of censorship.

Fray Luis de León

He was a prominent humanist and religious writer, a convert, who was imprisoned for four years (between 1572 and 1576) for having translated the Song of Songs into the vulgar language, forbidden by the Council of Trent. He was denounced by the professor of Greek at his university, accused of preferring the Hebrew text of the Old Testament to the Latin version (the Vulgate translation of St. Jerome) approved by the Church. He spent five years in the prisons of the Inquisition in Valladolid, during the time of his trial. He was finally acquitted and released.





D. PABLO OLAVIDE.

Pablo de Olavide

The distinguished scholar was accused of heresy and sentenced to imprisonment in a monastery. After two years in prison, he took advantage of a bathing leave to flee to France.

The leading figures of the Ilustracion Española (Spanish Enlightenment) were in favour of the abolition of the Inquisition. Many of the Spanish Enlightenment figures were prosecuted by the Holy Office, including Olavide in 1776 and Jovellanos in 1796.

María Bohorquez

A woman from Seville who, together with the prior of San Isidoro del Campo, Garcia Arias, formed the most important group of Protestants in Spain. Casiodoro de Reina was a prominent member of this group.

Casiodoro de Reina

Accused as a "teacher of heretics" in the evangelical community formed in the Hieronymite monastery of San Isidoro del Campo, he fled to Geneva in danger of being arrested together with Cipriano Valera. He translated the Bible into Spanish, the so-called "Biblia del Oso"; the first complete translation into Spanish from Greek and Hebrew. An image of him was burnt in an auto de fe.

Constantino Ponce de la Fuente

He was a magisterial canon of Seville, accused by the Holy Office of being a follower of Luther. Imprisoned for heresy in the Castle of San Jorge, he died in prison before he could hear his sentence.

Pietro Torrigiano

History says, and this is reflected in books, that Pietro Torrigiano, the magnificent Italian sculptor who created the 'Penitent Saint Jerome' and famously broke Michelangelo's nose, died imprisoned in the Castle of Saint George in Triana after being.





Exit to the market

The visit to the Castillo de San Jorge ends with a visit to the Triana Market.
In front of the market you can see the remains of the castle walls.

You can stay inside the Market to enjoy the wide variety of services on offer: Bazaar and gifts, Cafeteria, Butchers, Breweries, Delicatessen, Seafood, Prepared foods, Cookery School, Florists, Fruit, Gourmet and Preserves, Bars, Ham, Bakeries and patisseries, Hairdressers, Fishmongers, Poultry, Gifts and Accessories, Seeds and spices, Sushi, Theatre.....

In the vicinity of the Market you can visit:

- Centro de Cerámica Triana calle Callao, 16
- Capilla de los Marineros calle Pureza, 57
- Callejón de la Inquisición calle Callao
- Parroquia de Santa Ana calle Párroco D. Eugenio, 1
- Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la O calle Castilla, 30
- Casa de las Columnas calle Pureza, 79
- Capilla de la Estrella calle San Jacinto, 41
- Basilica del Cachorro calle Castilla, 182

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