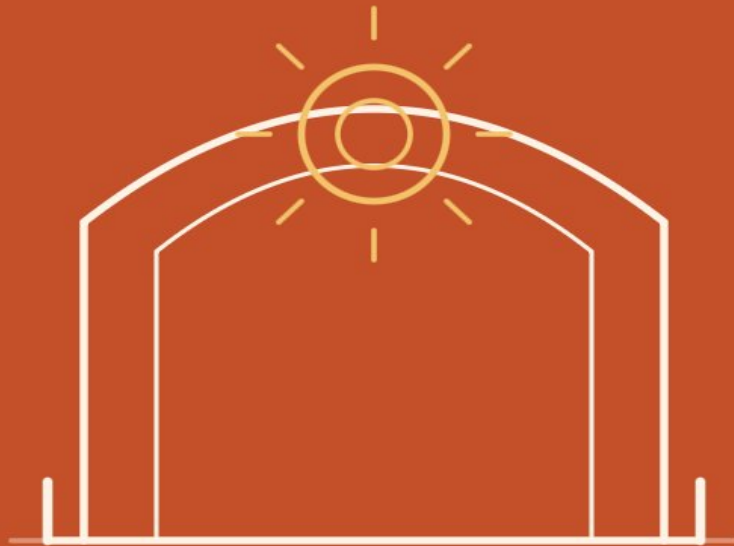




48 HOURS IN

Seville

SUN · STONE · SEA

WELCOME

Welcome to Seville.

Seville is the capital of Andalusia and the most operationally beautiful city in Spain. The Alcazar, the cathedral, the Giralda tower, the Barrio Santa Cruz, the Triana neighbourhood across the Guadalquivir — these are not merely photogenic landmarks but the accumulated layers of a city that was, for a century after Columbus, the most important port in the world and the sole gateway to the Americas. The gold and silver of the New World flowed through Seville's Casa de Contratacion; the architecture it left behind — Gothic, Mudéjar, Renaissance, Baroque — is still standing and still in daily use.

What distinguishes Seville from every other Andalusian city is pace. Seville moves slowly, deliberately, and on its own schedule. The siesta is not a tourist myth here — the city genuinely empties between 2pm and 5pm in summer and fills again at 9pm for dinner. Tapas bars open at 8am for workers having breakfast, close at 3pm, reopen at 8pm, and run until 1am. Understanding this rhythm — and surrendering to it — is the key to the city.

Seville is exceptional for solo travel. The tapas culture here — standing at a bar counter, eating small plates with wine or manzanilla sherry — is designed for individual participation. The flamenco tablaos are intimate and personal. The city's compact historic centre is entirely walkable. Arrive in spring or autumn; go slowly.

DAY ONE

Day One

Cathedral & Giralda · Real Alcazar · Barrio Santa Cruz · Tapas · Flamenco

Day One covers the monumental core of Seville — the three UNESCO World Heritage sites in the historic centre — then descends into the narrow streets of Santa Cruz for the evening.

MORNING · 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

9:00 AM

Seville Cathedral & La Giralda

Avenida de la Constitucion: the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, built 1401-1528 on the site of the great Almohad mosque (whose minaret — the Giralda — was retained as the bell tower). The interior contains the tomb of Christopher Columbus, the Capilla Mayor with its extraordinary 16th-century altarpiece (the largest in the world), and the treasury with Zurburan and Murillo canvases. The Giralda climb (35 ramps, no stairs — built so the muezzin could ride to the top on horseback) offers the best elevated view of Seville. EUR 13 entry including the Giralda. Book online at catedraldesevilla.es; arrive at 9am opening.

Insider Tip The cathedral roof tour (EUR 5 supplement) lets you walk the exterior buttresses and terraces above the nave — a completely different perspective on the building and a view down into the Patio de los Naranjos (Orange Tree Courtyard) that most visitors miss entirely. Book in advance; limited capacity.

11:00 AM

Real Alcazar de Sevilla

Patio de Banderas: a UNESCO World Heritage palace complex built by the Castilian king Pedro I in 1364 using Moorish craftsmen from Granada — the finest example of Mudéjar architecture in existence. The Palacio Mudéjar interior (the Salon de los Embajadores, the Patio de las Doncellas) combines Islamic geometric tilework, carved stucco, and artesonado wooden ceilings at a level of technical and artistic ambition that has not been surpassed. The gardens — 15 acres of Renaissance and Baroque terraces — are among the most beautiful in Europe. EUR 14.50; book online at alcazarsevilla.org. Allow 2-3 hours.

Insider Tip The Alcazar is still an official royal residence — the Spanish royal family uses the upper apartments when in Seville. The lower palace (the Mudéjar rooms) is the essential visit. Early morning entry (9:30am) gives you the Patio de las Doncellas to yourself for 20 minutes before the groups arrive. The gardens are at their best in April-May when the orange trees are in bloom.

AFTERNOON · 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM

2:00 PM

Lunch: Tapas in Barrio Santa Cruz

The narrow streets of the former Jewish quarter immediately east of the Alcazar are Seville's most atmospheric neighbourhood for lunch. Bar El Rinconcillo (Calle Gerona 40) is the oldest bar in Seville, operating since 1670 — the tapas chalked on the marble bar top include espinacas con garbanzos (spinach with chickpeas, an Andalusian classic) and the house fried fish. El Rinconcillo is cash only and authentically unrenovated. EUR 2-3 per tapa.

4:00 PM

Siesta / Afternoon Rest

Seville in summer (May-September) reaches 38-42C in the afternoon. The city closes. This is not optional — it is the correct response to the climate. Return to your accommodation or find a shaded plaza. The energy returns at 6pm.

6:00 PM

Metropol Parasol & Evening Walk

Plaza de la Encarnacion: the Metropol Parasol (locally known as Las Setas — the mushrooms) is a 2011 wooden lattice canopy the size of a city block by architect Jurgen Mayer H. The rooftop walkway (EUR 3) offers panoramic views of the city at golden hour. Below it, the Antiquarium contains Roman mosaics excavated during construction. Walk south through the Alfalfa neighbourhood to Calle Sierpes — the traditional shopping street — for the evening paseo.

EVENING · 9:00 PM - LATE

9:00 PM

Dinner: Tapas at Casa Morales

Calle Garcia de Vinuesa 11: one of the most authentic tapas bars in Seville, operating since 1850 in a former wine warehouse with original clay wine jars still embedded in the walls. Montilla-Moriles sherry served from the barrel, classic Andalusian tapas (tortilla, jamon iberico, pimientos de padron), no concessions to tourism. EUR 2-4 per tapa. Cash preferred.

11:00 PM

Flamenco: Casa de la Memoria

Calle Cuna 6: the most intimate and authentic flamenco venue in Seville — a 100-seat patio in a 15th-century palace in the Santa Cruz quarter. Nightly shows at 7:30pm and 9pm (book the later show for a more experienced crowd). EUR 22; book online at casadelamemoria.es. The performers are working flamenco artists, not tourist-circuit performers. A genuine cultural experience.

DAY TWO

Day Two

[Triana](#) · [Mercado de Triana](#) · [Plaza de Espana](#) · [Parque Maria Luisa](#) · [Tapas Crawl](#)

Day Two crosses the river to Triana — Seville's working-class barrio with a distinct identity — then explores the spectacular 1929 exhibition buildings south of the city.

MORNING · 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

9:00 AM

Triana Neighbourhood

Cross the Puente de Isabel II (Triana Bridge) into the neighbourhood that produced more flamenco artists than any other place on earth and still makes the azulejo ceramic tiles that cover every important building in Seville. The Calle Betis along the river is the most scenic street in Seville for morning coffee. The Mercado de Triana (Plaza del Altozano) is a covered market in a converted castle with excellent fresh produce stalls and a great breakfast bar. The Calle San Jacinto has the neighbourhood's best ceramics workshops.

11:00 AM

Plaza de Espana

Parque de Maria Luisa: built for the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition, this enormous semicircular palace complex in Baroque Revival and Regionalist style is one of the most theatrical spaces in Spain. The building curves 200 metres around a central fountain plaza; 58 tiled alcoves represent each Spanish province with historical scenes in azulejo ceramic. Rowboats available for hire on the surrounding canal. Free entry. The adjacent Parque de Maria Luisa (34 hectares) is the best green space in the city.

Insider Tip The Plaza de Espana was used as a filming location for the Naboo scenes in Star Wars Episode II (2002) and for Lawrence of Arabia (1962). The building is free and largely overlooked by visitors focused on the Alcazar — arrive at 9am for the best light and a near-empty plaza.

AFTERNOON · 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM

2:00 PM

Lunch: Bar Alfalfa

Calle Candilejo 1, Alfalfa neighbourhood: a standing-room-only tapas bar with some of the best montaditos (small open sandwiches) in Seville — the jamon iberico and manchego combinations are exceptional. Always crowded at lunch; arrive at 2pm sharp. EUR 1.50-2.50 per montadito.

4:00 PM

Museo de Bellas Artes de Sevilla

Plaza del Museo 9: the second most important art museum in Spain after the Prado, housed in a 17th-century convent with a spectacular baroque chapel converted into the main gallery. The collection is strongest in Spanish Golden Age painting — Zurbaran, Murillo, and Valdes Leal — and includes the largest collection of Murillo paintings outside the Prado. EUR 1.50 for EU citizens; free otherwise for those aged 65+. Otherwise EUR 6.

EVENING · 9:00 PM - LATE

9:00 PM

Tapas Crawl: El Rinconcillo to La Azotea

The Seville tapas crawl is the definitive solo dining experience in Spain. Start at El Rinconcillo (Calle Gerona 40) for the classic Andalusian standbys, move to La Azotea (Calle Mateos Gago 8) for the city's best contemporary tapas (slow-cooked pork, creative vegetable dishes), and finish at any of the bars on Calle Mateos Gago for a final copa of fino sherry. Budget EUR 25-35 for 6-8 tapas and drinks across three bars.

WHERE TO EAT

Seville's Table

RESTAURANT	NEIGHBOURHOOD	PRICE
Bar El Rinconcillo	Santa Cruz	EUR 2-3/tapa
Casa Morales	Centro	EUR 2-4/tapa
La Azotea	Santa Cruz	EUR 4-8/tapa
Bar Alfalfa	Alfalfa	EUR 1.5 0-2.50
Mercado de Triana	Triana	EUR 5-10
Bodeguita Casablanca	Centro	EUR 15-25

GETTING AROUND

Navigating Seville

MODE	COST	NOTES
Walking	Free	The entire historic centre (Cathedral, Alcazar, Santa Cruz, Triana) is walkable. Most of this itinerary covers 4-5km per day on foot.
Bicycle / Sevici	EUR 1.35/day	Seville has the best cycling infrastructure in Spain — 180km of dedicated bike lanes. Sevici bike-share (sevici.es) is excellent for the Triana crossing and Maria Luisa park.
Metro	EUR 1.40/ride	Single line (L1) running from Olivar de Quinto to Mairena del Aljarafe. Useful for Santa Justa station connection. Most historic centre sites are walking distance from each other.
Tram (T1)	EUR 1.40/ride	Runs along the historic centre from Puerta Jerez to Prado de San Sebastian. Useful for moving between the cathedral and the Museo de Bellas Artes.
Taxi / Cabify	Metered	Widely available. Cabify (Uber equivalent) is reliable. Taxis are white with a yellow door stripe. Starting fare EUR 1.55; most centro trips under EUR 8.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Before You Go

TOPIC	DETAILS
Getting There	Seville Airport (SVQ) is 10km northeast. Taxis: EUR 22-25 fixed fare to centro. Aerobuses run to Puerta de Jerez every 30 min: EUR 4. AVE high-speed train from Madrid Atocha: 2h30, EUR 30-80; from Malaga: 2h, EUR 20-45. Santa Justa station is 1.5km from the historic centre.
Best Time	March-May and October-November are ideal: 18-26C, Semana Santa (Holy Week, April) is spectacular but accommodation prices triple. June-September: extreme heat (38-44C); the city empties in August. Feria de Abril (April, one week after Semana Santa) is the city at its most alive.

TOPIC	DETAILS
Solo Dining	Seville has the best solo dining culture in Spain. Standing at a tapas bar counter alone is not just acceptable — it is the correct way to eat here. Order one tapa at a time, eat it, order the next. The bartender will keep track. Pay at the end.
Siesta	Many museums, shops, and restaurants close 2-5pm (some until 6pm in summer). Plan accordingly: mornings and evenings are activity time; afternoons are rest time. Fighting the siesta is both futile and exhausting in summer heat.
Useful Apps	Google Maps offline, Renfe (train booking), Sevici (bike share), alcazarsevilla.org, catedraldesevilla.es, casadelamemoria.es, Cabify, XE Currency.

Seville awaits.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE: FINAL CHECKLIST

Book Alcazar online to skip the queue: alcazarsevilla.org
Book Seville Cathedral + Giralda: catedraldesevilla.es
Book Casa de la Memoria flamenco (9pm show): casadelamemoria.es
El Rinconcillo: cash only, oldest bar in Seville since 1670
Plaza de Espana: free, go at 9am for empty plaza and best light
Metropol Parasol roof: EUR 3, best panoramic view at golden hour
Siesta is real — plan 2-5pm for rest, not sightseeing
Download Seville offline map before arriving
Book AVE train from Madrid or Malaga in advance: renfe.com

Your interactive map is one scan away.

All locations from this guide, colour-coded by day, open on your phone.

goingsolo.life/maps/seville