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### 7 main things to do in Seville

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Categories : Spain

Seville, a city in Southern Spain will amaze you for its culture, traditions, monuments, and history. It's the best city you will visit in Spain, quite different from Madrid or Barcelona. A day or two is sufficient to go around Seville.

#### Things to do in Seville

#### 1. Plaza de Espana

Spread across 50,000 sqm, Plaza de Espana is a massive central plaza in Maria Luisa Park. Once used for exhibitions now holds offices and museums.

The Plaza image represents Seville on the internet and to the outside world. The locals call it 'Venice of Seville'. Anyone visiting Seville can't miss this beauty. It should be the first thing to do in Seville.

Entrance fee: Free



The architecture has a blend of Baroque, Renaissance, and Moorish. Walking through the plaza gives you an amazing feel, a royal walk as if you are the king. The intrinsic wall details will keep you busy.

You can also try the rowboat going the canals (40 min ~ 6€) and admire this outstanding masterpiece.



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#### 2. Watch a Flamenco dance

Flamenco is folkloric music that is very popular in Southern Spain and the Sevillanos love it. Throughout Seville, you can spot this dance in various places but the best spot is at the Plaza de Espana.

Street artists perform non-stop and you will fall for the beats. You don't want to leave, you wonder how fast the feet move, you wonder how their steps sync perfectly to the music.



If you missed the action, numerous bars offer the Flamenco as complementary entertainment. So you can also grab a beer and watch them perform.

#### 3. The Royal Alcazar

Declared as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987, the palace belongs to the Spanish Monarchs. They still use it to conduct family events making the Royal Alcazar of Seville as **Europe's oldest palace** still being used.

Constructed in the 14th century, it has gone through various religious transitions starting from Islamic Isbyllia, followed by Christianity and finally Jewish.



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Entrance fee: 11.5 € for adults, 3 € for students aged between 17 to 25 years, free entrance for all on Mondays. More info is available on the Alcazar official website.



The palace interiors are mindblowing. It has a fusion of Gothic, Islamic, Renaissance, and Morrish architecture that drives you crazy. Anywhere you turn, be it the walls or the tiles or the roof or the arches, everything has details.

Apart from that, you can also wander around the Arabic style gardens, ponds, and fountains spread all over the palace.

#### 4. Cathedral de Seville

Seville cathedral, the 3rd largest church in the world was built over an ancient 12th-century Moorish mosque. It was completed in 1506 with a massive internal area of 11520 sqm.

The paintings, sculptures, design, decoration, and the dome ceilings inside are stunning. It also holds the tomb of the great explorer Christopher Columbus.

Dimensions: 127 m long\* 83 m wide\* 43m high



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A visit to Seville is not complete without the cathedral. The tickets can also be bought online and it includes access to La Giralda (bell tower top)

Entrance fee: Adult – 11€, students under 25 years – 4 €.

**Tip:** The entrance is free on Mondays but limited to only 70 visitors. So try your luck online.

#### 5. La Giralda

A 16th-century construction, La Giralda was originally a 300 feet tall minaret (part of a mosque) but now a bell tower (total 24 bells).

Interestingly the tower has no stairs. You need to walk up the ramps equivalent to 34 floors and finally just 17 steps to reach the top that gives the best city view in Seville.



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Entrance fee: Included in the Cathedral of Seville entry ticket.

La Giralda along with the Cathedral is Seville's heart. They form the core of the old town. Riding on a horse carriage (max 4 adults ~ 36€/hour) completes your old town tour.

#### 6. Torre del Oro

It's a 13th-century defensive tower rests along the Guadalquivir river. It was originally built to protect the city entry point. Locals call it the tower of gold due to its golden color in daylight.

Now Torre del Oro includes a maritime museum inside (two floors with a terrace offering a panoramic view) displaying the Spanish naval history.

Entrance fee: Adult – 3 €, students – 1.5 €.

Tip: Free entry on Monday



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#### 7. Metropol Parasol

As you walk through the busy and narrow streets of Seville, suddenly you come across these strange wooden shaped landmark.

Also known as Setas de Sevilla, the Metropol Parasol looks like a huge waffle colored mushroom. It has become a huge attraction for tourists in recent times (built-in 2011).

A lot of interesting things happen here like street artists' performances, musicians, dancers, and a bunch of restaurants to sum it up.

Entrance: Free to walk up the top, but 3 €/person to reach the top with an elevator. They offer the best sunset view of the city.



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#### Seville public transport

The buses form the core of <u>public transportation</u> in Seville followed by trams and the Metro. Prado de San Sebastián is the main bus station.

Tickets are available at Tobacco shops or TUSSAN info points.

- One way tickets cost ~ 1.4 € if bought on board.
- 1-day and 3-day tickets are available for 5 € and 10 € respectively.

#### Tarjeta Multiviaje

The best option is to buy Tarjeta Multiviaje, a plastic card for 1.5 €. Then top up with as much as you want (minimum 7 €). Multiple persons can use this card and it's cheaper (~ 0.8 €/trip)

#### What you can expect?

Seville may not be on your bucket list while visiting Spain. But it is one of those cities that is still authentic showing you the culture and heritage.

Be it the Flamenco dance or the Royal Alcazar, you will enjoy Seville. So do visit Seville and say to others, 'It's the best city I have visited in Spain'.

Time of visit: May 2019

"Spain, the beautiful country of wine and songs." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe