

# TravelPast50

## Mini Guide to Seville, Spain

(Updated December 2024; Learn more about Spain reading our blog, [TravelPast50](#) and this post, [What to Do in Sevilla.](#))

### Tourist Visitor Centers

Pl. del Triunfo, 1, Casco Antiguo, 41004 Sevilla, Spain

### Museums and Monuments

[Seville Cathedral and Giralda](#). The second largest cathedral in the world and its Moorish-style bell tower are top of the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Seville. Don't be disappointed; book your tickets in advance. [Royal Alcázar y Jardines del Alcázar](#). The Royal Palace and its gardens date to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, rebuilt from a former Almohad building.

[Museum of Fine Arts](#). The *bellas artes* museum is housed in an imposing Andalusian building and displays great Spanish artists from Murillo to Zurbarán, plus excellent traveling exhibitions.

**Torre del Oro**. An easy-to-overlook landmark that sits on the banks of the Guadalquivir River and was once part of the city walls. Check out the Naval Museum inside.

[Centro Andaluz Arte Contemporáneo](#). An opportunity to see Seville's contemporary arts (art, film, lectures, workshops) and its creative scene, with the intriguing backdrop of a former Carthusian monastery.

[Museum of Popular Arts and Customs](#). Inside the María Luisa Park, this represents one of the most complete collections of Andalusian ceramics.

[Archivo de Indias](#). Another ingredient in Seville's World Heritage designation, the Archives building is interesting to visit for its architecture and fixtures, but more so for the select, rotating documents on display. An example: correspondence between Columbus and Queen Isabel.

**Antiquarium Museum**. This archeology museum of partially excavated Moorish and Roman ruins is an unexpected find. Look for underground access below the popular square "Las Setas" (noted below).

### Flamenco

[Casa de Memoria](#) Centro Cultural Flamenco. In our opinion, the very best flamenco performances in Seville are here. Accept no substitute.

### Parks, Walks, and Notable Public Places

**Plaza de España**. The semi-circular arms of these buildings (built for international exhibitions in 1929) wrap around a large pond with fountains. Highlights are the tile benches representing all the provinces of Spain.

**María Luisa Park**. Sprawling landscape gardens include memorials to Spain's literary greats.

**Las Setas de la Encarnación**. Outdoor space with public art, also known as the Metropol Parasol. It's in fact the largest wooden structure in the world, built in a revitalization program in 2011. Enjoy great views from the structure's walkways, shop nearby markets, or take in the occasional staged events.

**Triana Neighborhood**. Triana is still notable for retaining its residential feel and local businesses centered on Calle San Jacinto. Check out the massive **Mercado de Triana** food market, the delicious **Helados Azahar** shop, the historic **Casa Cuesta Restaurante**, plus the **Callejon de la Inquisition**, the little passageway that leads to the remains of the Castillo San Jorge, once the seat of the Holy Office and the Court of the Inquisition.

**Isla de la Cartuja**. A family destination known for the "Isla Magica" theme park, also great for riverside walks.

**Alameda Hércules**. A bit off the usual tourist route, this is a welcoming tree-lined space surrounded by shops and restaurants.

## Shopping

**Shopping notes:** Keep your receipts. VAT tax is reimbursable. Notable Spanish brands and designers include Desigual, Custo, Balenciaga, Loewe, Zara, and Kris' favorite, Adolfo Dominguez. Spain's still known for leather goods (shoes, gloves), pottery, stringed instruments, inlaid wood, damascene metal work (Toledo), home décor, fans, sweets...and of course olive oil, wine, and jamón Iberico.

[Ceramicas Sevilla](#). c/Gloria, 5, Barrio Sta. Cruz. Antique tiles.

[Ceramica Triana](#). Calle Callao, 14. More tiles.

[Grabados Laurence Shand](#). C/Bailén 42. Antique Maps and Engravings, near the Fine Arts Museum.

[Orange Tree Sevilla](#). c/Ximénez de Enciso, 22 (Sta Cruz) Gifts derived from Sevilla's emblematic oranges.

**Calle Sierpes** Seville's pedestrian only shopping street

[El Corte Ingles](#). Spain's premiere department store.

## Food Halls/Markets

[Mercado del Barranco](#). Gourmet market housed in a 19th-century galvanized-iron former fish market.

[Mercado de Triana](#). Seville's classic fresh food market.

## Bars and Restaurants

[El Rinconcillo](#). C. Gerona, 40. Andalusian cuisine since 1670. That says it all.

**La Cueva**. Calle Rodrigo Caro at Plaza Doña Elvira. Tucked in the Santa Cruz neighborhood. Sit outside while the kids run around the plaza and try the seafood or paella.

[San Marco](#). C. Mesón del Moro, 6. An Italian restaurant installed in the site of 12<sup>th</sup> Century Arab baths, right in Santa Cruz.

[Az-Zait Restaurante](#). Pl. S. Lorenzo, 1. Try this pricey but elegant Michelin-awarded eatery, with house-produced olive oil.

[Restaurante El Cairo](#). C. Reyes Católicos, 13. Classic-style restaurant serving Andalusian dishes and wines.

[Bar Dos de Mayo](#). Plza de la Gavidia. A wonderful neighborhood restaurant with regional specialties, outdoor seating and lots of locals and families.

[Olivares Bar](#). C. Baños, 3. A favorite neighborhood spot near our apartment. We enjoyed the fresh food (see the chalk board) and the bustling professional crowd.

**Taberna Álvaro Peregil**. C/ Mateos Gago, 22. A casual local standby for its tapas bar. Known for orange wine.

[Bodeguita Antonio Romero](#). C. Arfe, 32A. We know little, but this recommendation came from a reliable source!

## Festivals

[Semana Santa](#). Many other cities in Spain will argue, but Seville's *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) celebration, with processions winding their way from every parish to the Cathedral, best represents this Spanish tradition.

[Feria De Abril](#). The Feria is also Seville's defining festival, with equestrian events, traditional costumes, and tented parties with loads of food. Note, admission to most tents is by invitation only.

## Day Trips

[Italica](#). These extensive Roman ruins are worth a day trip. Ask at tourism for the bus schedule.

## Hotels

*More hotel brands we like in Spain:* [Barceló Hotels](#), [Catalonia Hotels](#), [NH Hotels](#), [Petit Palace Hotels](#)

[Casas de Judería Hotel](#). In the old Jewish quarter and centrally located next to Santa Cruz, this charming hotel takes up more than 20 former houses, all connected by passages and courtyards.

[Hotel Rey Alfonso X](#). Classic 4-star in the heart of Seville's Santa Cruz neighborhood.

[Apartamentos Murillo](#). Once upon a time we stayed here for a month with young children. Great times.