



# Tour Information



## Seville – Shifting Worlds and Cultures





## Travel

### Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

### Visas

You do not need a visa for short trips to Spain. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Spanish consulate: 20 Draycott Place, London SW3 2RZ; Tel: 020 7589 8989, Fax: 020 7581 7888.

Open Mon-Fri 0915-1400 (except Spanish National holidays).



### Tickets

You will be sent an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number, with your final departure documents. You can check in online up to 7 days before travel. Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an extra cost.

Please check that the details on your tickets are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport.

Your ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



### Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you**, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels). If you book an upfront or extra legroom seat you can also take an additional large cabin bag on board.

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

### Transfers

On arrival in Seville, coach transfer (approx. 30 minutes) directly to hotel.

### Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

### Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

### Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



## Accommodation

### Hotel Becquer, Seville

Located within the heart of Seville's Old Town and housed in the old stately home of the Marquises of Las Torres, the four-star Hotel Becquer is only a short 10-minute walk away from Seville Cathedral and near a host of bars and restaurants. The hotel has a rooftop swimming pool (seasonal opening), bar/café, lounge and restaurant. Bedrooms are comfortable with ensuite bathroom, TV, telephone, free wifi, air-conditioning, safe and hairdryer. Please note there are no tea/coffee making facilities in the room.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:

<https://www.hotelbecquer.com/en/>

### Food

Spain's eating and drinking culture is one of its greatest attractions, and a very sociable one too, with people rubbing shoulders in tapas bars and cafés. The Spaniards take their food seriously – be it diner-style *menús del día* (menus of the day) or elaborate, nouveau cuisine in gourmet restaurants. Food is generally dictated by the seasons and fresh, whichever corner of Spain you go to. An excellent way to understand different facets of Spanish cuisine is to sample tapas: small snacks served with drinks in local bars across the country. They can range from gourmet canapés to simple plates of olives, cheeses and cured meats, and may be charged or given free.

Spanish drinks have also brewed up quite a storm worldwide – from the thirst-quenching sangria to bubbly Cava to the sophisticated Rioja wine.

#### Specialities:

**Paella:** A Valencian rice dish loaded with seafood and chicken or rabbit, saffron and vegetables.

**Croquetas:** Fried bread-crumbed fritters with a creamy, potato interior.

**Cocido:** A fragrant and rich chickpea and meat stew popular in Madrid.

**Tortilla Española:** A rich, chunky potato omelette – a staple throughout Spain.

**Gazpacho:** A chilled tomato-based, tangy vegetable soup from Andalucía.

**Jamón:** One of many cured Spanish meats, Jamón is a

type of finely sliced cured ham.

**Pulpo á feira:** Tender, boiled lobster seasoned with paprika and salt and drizzled in olive oil.

**Chorizo:** A dried and course pork sausage seasoned with smoked paprika.

**Albondigas:** Fried Spanish-style meatballs, usually smothered in tomato sauce.

**Bacalao al pil:** A Basque Country dish of salt cod with a velvety white olive-oil emulsion.

**Sherry:** A fortified wine available in several styles: Fino and Manzanilla (pale and dry), amontillado (dry, richer in body and darker in colour), Oloroso (medium, full-bodied, fragrant and golden) and sweet sherries such as Pedro Ximénez.

**Rioja:** Spain's flagship red wine, made from Tempranillo and Garnacha grapes.

**Cava:** A sparkling wine from Catalonia made using the same method used to produce Champagne.

Most restaurants serve a *menú del día* at lunchtime; this is a three-course meal including drinks that generally costs from €10 to €20 and can be very good value.

### Drink

Spain is essentially a wine-drinking country, with sherry being one of the principal export products. Its English name is the anglicised version of the sherry producing town *Jerez*, from which the wine was first shipped to England. There are four main types: *fino* (very pale and dry), *amontillado* (dry, richer and darker), *oloroso* (medium, full-bodied, fragrant and golden), and *dulce* (sweet).

Well-known Spanish beers (*cerveza*) include *San Miguel*, *Damm*, *Estrella Galicia* and *Cruzcampo*. Spanish brandy is as different from French as Scotch whisky is from Irish. It is relatively cheap, pleasant, although some brandy drinkers may find it a little sweet. Brands include *Carlos I*, *Osbourne* and *Fundador*.

#### Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

**Breakfast** – daily

**Dinner** – two dinners with wine at local restaurants (one being a tapas dinner)



## Destination

Seville is one of the most alluring cities in Europe with streets lined with orange trees and a wealth of glorious buildings, as well as a lovely Mediterranean climate. Its historic centre, dominated by its colossal Gothic cathedral, is an intoxicating mix of Moorish Palaces, Baroque churches and winding medieval lanes, with a host of tapas bars and restaurants to tempt you. It is the home of Flamenco, too, with small shows keeping the intimacy and intensity of this centuries-old tradition alive, whilst aristocratic mansions recall the city's past as a showcase Moorish capital and, later, a 16th-century metropolis rich on the back of New World trade. We will explore the evolution of the city's culture in the company of art historian, Andrew Spira, who will illuminate this lustrous city's artistic and architectural highlights.

### Places of interest included in the tour:

#### Seville

According to legend, Seville was founded by Hercules and its origins are linked with the Tartessian civilisation. It was called Hispalis under the Romans and Isbiliya with the Moors. The high point in its history was following the discovery of America in 1492. For all its important monuments and fascinating history, Seville is universally famous for being a joyous town. While the Sevillians are known for their wit and sparkle, the city itself is striking for its vitality. It is the largest town in Southern Spain, the city of Carmen, Don Juan and Figaro. Seville lies on the banks of the Guadalquivir and is one of the largest historical centres in Europe, it has the minaret of La Giralda, the cathedral (one of the largest in Christendom), and the Alcázar Palace. Part of its treasure include Casa de Pilatos, Torre del Oro, the Town Hall, Archive of the Indies (where the historical records of the American continent are kept), the Fine Arts Museum (the second largest picture gallery in Spain), plus convents, parish churches and palaces. The quarter of Triana on the other side of the river, La Macarena, Santa Cruz and San Bartolomé, the street of Las Sierpes, plus La Maestranza bullring, María Luisa park and the riverside walks are all representative images of Seville.

#### Royal Alcazar

While the Alcazar looks like a Moorish palace, in fact many of its most beautiful rooms were built - by Moorish workmen, it's true - for the Christian king,

Pedro the Cruel of Castile, in the 1360s. Pedro lived in, and ruled from, the palace with his mistress, Maria de Padilla. He embarked upon a complete rebuilding and extending of the palace, employing the finest workmen from Granada and Toledo, and utilising fragments of earlier Moorish buildings in Seville, Cordoba and Valencia. Pedro's Mudejar palace (designed in Moorish style for a Christian ruler) forms the heart of the Alcazar as it is today and, despite numerous restorations necessitated by fires and earth tremors, the Alcazar offers some of the best surviving examples of Mudejar architecture. The Alcazar is divided into sections dating from a succession of eras: Moorish (11th-12th century), Gothic (13th century), Mudejar (14th century), and Renaissance (15th-16th century).

For more information please visit:

<https://www.alcazarsevilla.org/en/>

#### Seville Cathedral

Seville's cathedral, Santa Maria de la Sede, is the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, and is recognised by UNESCO World Heritage. The cathedral's construction lasted over a century, from 1401 to 1506. It is said that when the plans were drawn up, church elders stated, "*Hagamos una iglesia tan hermosa y tan grandiosa que los que la vieren labrada nos tengan por locos.*" (Let us build a church so beautiful and so magnificent that those who see it finished will think we are mad). The basilica occupies the site of the great Aljama mosque, built in the late 12th century by the Almohads, the ruling Moorish dynasty, of which the only remaining parts are the Patio de Naranjas, the Puerta del Perdon (on Calle Alemanes, on the north side), and the Giralda (formerly the minaret, now the belltower).

For more information please visit:

<https://www.catedraldesevilla.es/>

#### Hospital Los Venerables

Founded by Justino de Neve in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Los Venerables Hospital is built in the Baroque style and split into two sections. The residence built by Leonardo de Figueroa features original elements such as tiled galleries arranged in a circle leading to a fountain and the staircase beneath an elliptical vault decorated with Baroque plasterwork. The second part of the building is a church with works by Valdes Leal including a wall painting in the presbytery vault. Works by Lucas Valdes and Virgilio

Maltoni can be seen on the high altar as well as sculptures by Pedro Roldan also featuring.

*For more information please visit:*

<https://losvenerables.es/>

## Plaza de Toros de la Real Maestranza de Caballeria de Seville

The Plaza de Toros de Sevilla is the largest and most important arena for bullfighting in Spain. The bullring was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with a unique Baroque façade and can accommodate 13,000 spectators. The main entrance (The Puerta del Principe – The Prince’s Gate) has beautiful 16<sup>th</sup> century iron gates, originally from a convent, made by Pedro Roldan. The arena has a slight slope being higher in the centre than near the stalls to give the bullfighter an advantage to sprint downhill to get behind the barricade from the bull. The small and interesting museum at the arena contains memorabilia, costumes, posters, bull heads and paintings of some celebrated Sevillano toreros such as Juan Belmonte and Joselito El Gallo.

*For more information please visit:*

<https://realmaestranza.com/en/home/>

## Iglesia del Divino Salvador

The Salvador church began construction in 1674 on the remains of Mezquita Mayor, which was the main mosque in Seville from the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Architect Esteban Garcia originally began erecting the church, but it was left to Leonardo de Figueroa to complete in 1792. The architects incorporated the Arabian mosque’s Patio de Abluciones and basement into the design, and also added sculptures from Martínez Montañés and Juan de Mena. Today the plaza in front of the church, Plaza del Salvador, provides a popular meeting place and destination for both locals and visitors alike, with its various bars offering outside tables.

*For more information please visit:*

<https://www.catedraldesevilla.es/iglesia-de-el-salvador/iglesia-colegial/>

## Archivo de Indias

The Archivo de Indias contains more than 10 kilometres of bookshelves with documents from the history of the ‘New World’ from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The archives are housed in a stately building originally built during the reign of Philip II and designed by Juan de Herrera to be used for the Consulate of the Merchants for trade of gold, silver,

spices and cocoa between Spain and the ‘New World’. Since opening in 1785 the archive is noted to contain approximately 43,000 files with some 80 million pages of documents and 8000 maps and drawings from the likes of Christopher Columbus, Pizarro and Cortes.

## Casa de Pilatos

Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by order of Don Pedro Enriquez and later his son Fadrique Enriques de Ribera the Casa de Pilatos is considered to be the most beautiful palace in Seville (after the Alcazar of course) and is one of the best-preserved buildings from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Different styles were combined in the construction of the palace including Gothic, Mudéjar and Italian Renaissance. The palace has many marble columns and floors, long corridors, ceiling paintings, large wooden doors, mudéjar tiles, busts of Roman emperors and Greek gods plus a beautiful and colourful garden. Today the palace is partly inhabited and is the residence of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dutchess of Medinacelli and her family.

*For more information please visit:*

<http://www.fundacionmedinaceli.org/monumentos/pilatos/>

## Monasterio Santa Paula

The convent of Jeronimas nuns (followers of St Jerome) dates from 1475. The outstanding features of the building include the 16<sup>th</sup> century portico and Plateresque main front from 1504 decorated with ceramics and sculptures. The church cannot be visited but part of the convent has been turned into a museum featuring unique items from the Sevillian Baroque period and from other parts of the world including paintings by Jose de Ribera and Morales. The nuns living at the convent sell typical sweets, jams and jellies from the region to visitors.

*For more information please visit:*

<https://santapaula.es/>

## Palace of the Countess of Lebrija

Built as a Sevillian town house in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the house was divided into two separate residences: one for winter on the upper floor and one for summer. The façade of the building we see today is Sevillian in style and dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The palace only really came to life in 1901 when Dona Regla Manjon Mergelina, the Countess of Lebrija, bought the property and restored it. The countess embellished the ground floor with artistic

treasures acquiring a famous collection of Roman mosaics and several archaeological items from different periods and cultures. She also decorated the rooms with artworks from different periods and used Sevillian tile borders for decoration. Art works within the palace range from ancient Greece and Rome to Sorolla. The palace is considered to be the world's most important collection of mosaics.

*For more information please visit:*

<https://palaciodelebrija.com/en/home-2/>

## Museo de Bellas Artes

Housed in a grand Mannerist palace and a former convent, this magnificent art museum has been lovingly restored and is now one of the finest in Spain. Located in a tiny plaza away from the city centre bustle, the building dates back to 1612, the work of architect, Juan de Oviedo. It is built around three patios which are decorated with flowers, trees and the distinctive Seville tile work. The museum's impressive collection of Spanish art and sculpture extends from the medieval to the modern.

*For more information please visit:*

<https://www.museosdeandalucia.es/web/museodebellasartesevilla>

## Your lecturer / Guide

**Andrew Spira** - graduated from the Courtauld Institute of Art before completing a MA degree in Museum and Gallery Management at City University, London. He worked at the Temple Gallery, London (specialist in Byzantine and Russian icons), and as a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum where he specialised in 18th century British Art and Design, and Metalwork. He also specialises in Russian art, publishing 'The Avant-Garde Icon: Russian Avant-Garde Art and the Icon Painting Tradition' in 2008 (Lund Humphries). For 20 years he has been taking tours to cultural sites in western Europe, Russia, Armenia and Georgia. He was Programme Director at Christie's Education for 10 years before going part-time to focus on his current research project - on personal identity and the way it is reflected in the material culture of western Europe from the Middle Ages to the present day.

**He will deliver two lectures during the tour:**

*'An Exotic Mix: the Muslims, Jews and Christians of Medieval Seville'*

*'Europe: the Making of Modern Seville'*

## Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in northern Spain at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

**Time** – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Spanish and Catalan

Religion – Roman Catholic

**National holidays** – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Good Friday; Easter Monday; St George's Day (23 Apr); Labour day (01 May); Whit Monday; St John the Baptist Day (24 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); Catalonia Day (11 Sep); Spanish National holiday (12 Oct); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Spanish Constitution Day (06 Dec); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephen's Day (26 Dec).

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

**Credit cards** – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink, although some complain it has a strange taste, so it is generally recommended to drink bottled water, readily available in supermarkets and shops.

**Shops and Museums** – Shops are open Mon-Sat 1000-1400 and 1700-2000. Supermarkets and department stores tend to open 0930-2100/2200 and may open on Sundays in large cities.

Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

**Clothes & Shoes** – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

**Camera** – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

**Bath plugs** – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

**Telephones/mobiles** – You should be able to use your mobile phone, depending on your operator and contract. The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

### **Taking food and drink into EU countries**

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



## Health

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Spanish summers can be hot and sunny, so always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



## Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>





## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7831 133079

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate General Malaga

Calle Mauricio Moro Pareto 2

Edificio Eurocom

29006 Malaga

Spain

Spain.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Fax: +34 952359211

Telephone enquiries: +34 952352300.

Consular phone lines are open 0800-1600.

Travel Editions

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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