

Sevilla



Geography and history



Seville was founded by Hercules according to the mythology, but the truth in fact is very different, the first settlement was made by the Tartessians in the eighth century B.C., it was later occupied by Phoenicians and Carthaginians. The river is navigable as far as the city making it a strategically place for trade in inland Andalucía.

The Romans called the city Hispalis and founded the colony of Italica in the surrounding area (you can visit the ruins of Italica today, some of the largest and best preserved in Spain), two Roman Emperors were born here: Adriano and Trajano. The Moors called it Ikbila and the name of Seville is derived from it. Moorish rule was a period of great splendour, not only because of the buildings from this period, but also culturally, politically, socially and economically.

In 1248, it was conquered by the Christian King Fernando the third The Saint. After the discovery of America in 1492 Seville became the main port for trade with the New World, this resulted in several centuries of grandeur for the city and it became one of the most relevant cities in the world at that time. In the seventeenth century it produced great universal figures in the arts, unfortunately however with regards to the economy trade with America progressively moved to the port of Cádiz. The twentieth century started with the illusion of preparing a large Exposition that was postponed several times for different reasons, it was held finally in 1929. The century ended with another Exposition, the Expo 92, commemorating the fifth centenary of the Discovery of America. From an urban planning view the Expo not only incorporated the Isla de la Cartuja into the city, it also included the completion of the Santa Justa railway station for the high speed Spanish train (AVE) and the ring roads.

Seville, capital of Andalucía, is the fourth city in Spain with regard to the number of inhabitants. Seville has 704.114 people in its Metropolitan area and without a doubt can be considered to be the artistic, cultural, financial, economic and social centre of the south of Spain.

Seville is within the Mediterranean climatic area and its climate is warm. The average temperature is over 26° C, although the summers are hot with temperatures over 35° C.

Monuments and museums

One of the most important aspects of the city of Seville is its impressive heritage. Few places in the world can boast like the local people from Seville do of this incomparable mixture of cultures that make up the city: churches, palaces, towers, museums, city walls, plazas and streets make up an offer that never fails to amaze the visitors.

Let's start with the **Cathedral and its Giralda tower (1)**, which was the ancient minaret of the Almohad mosque, work on it began in 1184 by Ahmed Ibn Baso and was finished in 1198 by Ali de Gomara. In 1365 an earthquake destroyed the original upper copper spheres. To crown the new bell tower a sculpted bronze figure was added, the work of Bartolomé Morel, symbolising the virtue of "Faith". This figure, popularly known as the Giralillo, is a weathervane, which gave the tower its name of La Giralda.

The monumental complex of the **Reales Alcázares palaces (9)**, just a stone's throw from the Cathedral, dates back to the year 700: it was the chosen residence of the Moorish chiefs, built in several different areas each a walled enclosure, one is the Casa de los Príncipes. After the Reconquest this house became the residence of Spanish monarchs. From the Puerta del León, that opens onto the walled turrets of the Plaza del Triunfo, you enter the sumptuous interior of the Reales Alcázares: the Patio de las Muñecas (Patio of dolls) with its sumptuous decorated tiles and stuccoed Arabesque work; the Patio de las Doncellas (Patio of the Maidens), a splendid example of Andalusian Mudéjar architecture; the Salón de Embajadores (Salon of the Ambassadors), the main hall of the palace; the Salón de Carlos V, with magnificent decoration with tiles and Flemish tapestries; the Royal Apartments, with rooms redecorated in the eighteenth century.

In addition to all this, Seville has quality museums, not only because of the exhibits they house but also because of the beautiful buildings they are housed in and their historic importance. Other monuments that are worth a mention are: the **Torre del Oro (24)**; La **Real Maestranza de Caballería** (bullring) **(15)**; the **Hospital de la Caridad (46)**; the **palace of San Telmo (25)**; the **Archbishop's palace (2)**; **Archivo de las Indias (10)**; **Pilate's House (39)**; the **hospital de los Venerables (8)**; the **hospital de las Cinco Llagas** (housing the Parliament of Andalucía) **(70)**; the **Basílicas of Gran Poder and Macarena (68)** and the numerous convents.

Festivals and traditions

At the beginning of spring the city of Seville undergoes a change, it varies in colour and smells different, the show the city of Seville stages at this time of the year is unique and something you will not forget. The religious festival that the city of Seville celebrates at Easter has earned well-deserved universal fame. Visitors come to the capital of Andalucía to witness this solemn celebration unequalled in the Christian world. The main part of the festival is prepared by the different religious guilds and penitents in their processions through the streets of the city, the floats or pasos are followed by long lines of nazarenos, echoes of the saetas (sacred songs in flamenco style sung during Holy Week processions), the pasos of Christ and the Virgin Mary (series of floats carried in procession with images of Christ or the Virgin Mary in tableaux depicting part of the Easter story) mystery and harmony (the pasos of the Virgin Mary are popularly called pallium processions). All this with impressive ancient religious images of great artistic value that the local people are very devoted to. Seville is a centre of religious art, not only in Spain but Internationally. This craftsmanship includes sculptors of religious imagery, goldsmiths, silversmiths, carpenters, embroiderers, candlemakers, etc., who continue working today using the same techniques that were used in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries With the sound of the steps of the bearers of the religious floats still echoing in the air along side the clouds of incense and the aroma of orange blossom. The penitents' hoods and candles are exchanged for dust, flamenco dresses, horse parades and carriages, flamenco, tapas and wine in the streets of the Real



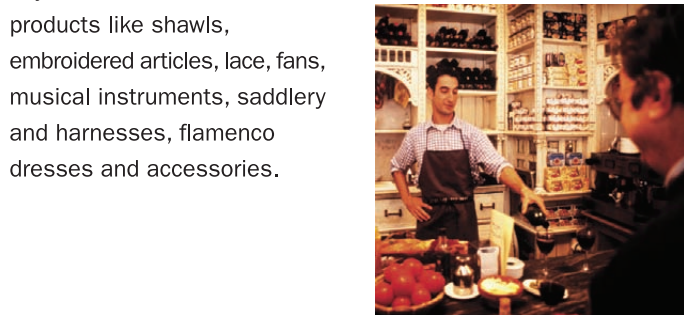
fairground for the April fair in Seville. The very first fair was opened at Prado de San Sebastián in 1847 and was exclusively a stock fair. The actual fair has changed completely. Other festivals worth mentioning are Corpus Christi, the open air dance in honour of Santiago and Santa Ana (in the Triana quarter), the procession of the image of Our Lady of Reyes (Patroness of Seville) or the Cavalcade of the Three Wise Men (the oldest of its kind in Spain).

Gastronomy and crafts

The gastronomy in Seville reflects its past. It is closely linked to the Andalusian cuisine and includes ingredients from the nearby areas as its own. This is the case of the serrano ham, shellfish from Cádiz and Huelva or manchego cheese. Olive oil is a main ingredient that comes from the relationship Seville has with the Mediterranean communities. Main dishes from the sevillana cuisine include gazpacho, sevillana salad made with endive instead of lettuce, menudo (a kind of tripe Andalucía style), ox-tail, pork loin in lard, pringá (a mixture of beef, lard, chorizo, black pudding and ham), fish casserole or stews like the one made with chickpeas and spinach, from recipes that have been handed down from the Moors.

The best of the confectionery from Seville is made in the enclosed convents, cakes like the yemas de San Leandro or home-made jams from Santa Paula.

Seville has a craft industry that is led by its ceramics and pottery. The ceramics are made in the Triana quarter and the origins are back in Moorish times. La Cartuja also makes china, it was founded by Charles Pickman dating back to 1839. Today the city of Seville has many shops where you can buy all different art and craft products like shawls, embroidered articles, lace, fans, musical instruments, saddlery and harnesses, flamenco dresses and accessories.



The gateway to America

The discovery of America and the events that came after made the city of Seville one of the most important cities of that time. For over two hundred years it led the monopoly of trade with the New World and it was also the base



witness "such a mass of gold was minted it was difficult to imagine". Second is the religious buildings that are a feature of that time, many of them belonged to religious orders that had interests in America. That is the case of the **church of the Magdalena (46)** (twelfth to eighteenth centuries), that belonged to the Dominican convent of San Pablo, centre of studies of the defender of the native Indians Frar Bartolomé de las Casas, a contemporary of Christopher Columbus. The convent of los Remedios (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries) on the other side of the river the parish **church of Santa Ana (22)** (thirteenth and sixteenth centuries) is situated and built to protect the sailors, the Cathedral of the seafaring suburb of Triana and the **convent of Santa Paula (61)**, a favourite place of the descendants of Christopher Columbus, Hernán Cortés, Viceroy and Latin Americans. Finally, there are three large emblematic buildings: the **palace of San Telmo (25)** (seventeenth to nineteenth centuries), which housed the University of Navigators, it now houses the Presidency of the Junta for overseas operations in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The impact those years had, left a deep mark on the city in the form of numerous civil, religious and administrative buildings. Places linked with Christopher Columbus, who stayed at the Cartuja monastery (fifteenth to eighteenth centuries) when he was in Seville, situated in the centre of the site of the Expo 92, and other places like the ancient San Laureano school (sixteenth century), where his son Hernando built a house and market garden, as well as a complete range of architectural styles. These marks of the American influence can be put into three categories. First of all, the port area which is a vital part of the past, the first voyages of Magellan and Elcano started from the quay here. El Arenal is on the left hand side of the river and includes the ancient Atarazanas or boat yards (thirteenth to eighteenth centuries), they served as an arsenal and a deposit for provisions. The two symbolic towers **Torre del Oro (Gold) (24)** and **Torre de la Plata (Silver)** and the stretch of the Moorish almohade walls (twelfth and thirteenth centuries) that makes up the old Customs House, where goods coming into the city were stored. Then there is the Arco de la Plata and the Casa de Contratación, situated in the Alcázar castle, this organisation controlled the traffic in the river and organised fleets. The precious metals went down to the Casa de la Moneda or Royal Mint (sixteenth to eighteenth centuries), where according to an eye

links this street with the **Monastery of Santa María de las Cuevas (76)**. Further on you come to the bridge of Cristo de la Expiración, also called the Cachorro, that takes traffic into Triana, it is also the natural exit to Huelva. This bridge has a unusual feature, its pedestrian parts are covered by canvas awnings which personalises its look and provides shade in the summer months. On to one of the most emblematic bridges in the city, the first metal bridge in the city was built in 1852, the **bridge of Isabel II (16)**, also known as the Triana bridge. This bridge was declared to be a national historic monument on the 13th April 1976. Next is the bridge of San Telmo,



de Andalucía; the Archivos de las Indias (sixteenth to eighteenth centuries) of exceptional documentary interest and the **ancient Tobacco factory (26)** (eighteenth century) which houses the University today, this is where the first tobacco came into Europe.

The bridges of Seville

Entering the city from the north along the river Guadalquivir, you can see the Alamillo bridge which was built in 1991, a singular element of this bridge is a 140 metre high mast at an angle of 58°, the design of Santiago Calatrava. Further on as you approach the **convent of San Clemente (37)**, you come to the



bridge that is a symbol of the Expo 1992 for many local people, the Barqueta bridge. It connects the north of the Cartuja with the historic part of the city of Seville. This bridge was built over the river that flows past the foot of the Cartuja, set on pillars on the opposite bank by means of rafts in 1989. Continuing along the calle Tomeo you come to the Cartuja bridge, a pedestrian bridge built in 1991 that



the 5th Centenary, it forms part of the SE-30, the city's ring road. It is an enormous viaduct two kilometres long, its central part is 45 metres above the river so it does not obstruct the river traffic. It is the highest road in the city providing lovely panoramic views from the bridge. The Latin American Exposition of 1929 was won by the architect Aníbal González who was from Seville, he designed the Plaza de América and the three pavilions that were built between 1911 and 1919 - Mudéjar, Renaissance and Royal—at present they house the Museum of Arts and Popular Folk Customs, the Archaeological Museum and the Council Offices respectively. Without a doubt the Plaza de España was the work that culminated the career of this architect, it was carried out between 1914 and 1928. The Telefónica Pavilion (Juan Talavera) is next to this square, the Pavilion of Portugal is in el Prado de San Sebastián (Revello de Andrade). The Pavilion of Seville is in the Gardens of San Telmo, a complex of buildings made up of the Lope de Vega Theatre, the Casino de la Exposición, the Pavilion of Chile, the Pavilion of Uruguay, the Pavilion of Peru and the Pavilion of USA. The Pavilions of Guatemala, Argentina, Colombia, Brazil and Mexico are situated in the Paseo de las Delicias. The Pavilion of Morocco and the Comandancia de Marina are in the Avenida de Molini. The Pavilion of the Basque country is in the Avenida de la Raza. Other work that was carried out in the city on the occasion of this Exposition was the rehabilitation of the María Luisa Park by the French engineer Forester. The Hotel Alfonso XIII was built together with the gardens opposite the Archivo de Indias, several streets were opened to facilitate the communications between different parts of the city and two new suburbs came into being, the Porvenir and the Heliópolis suburbs.



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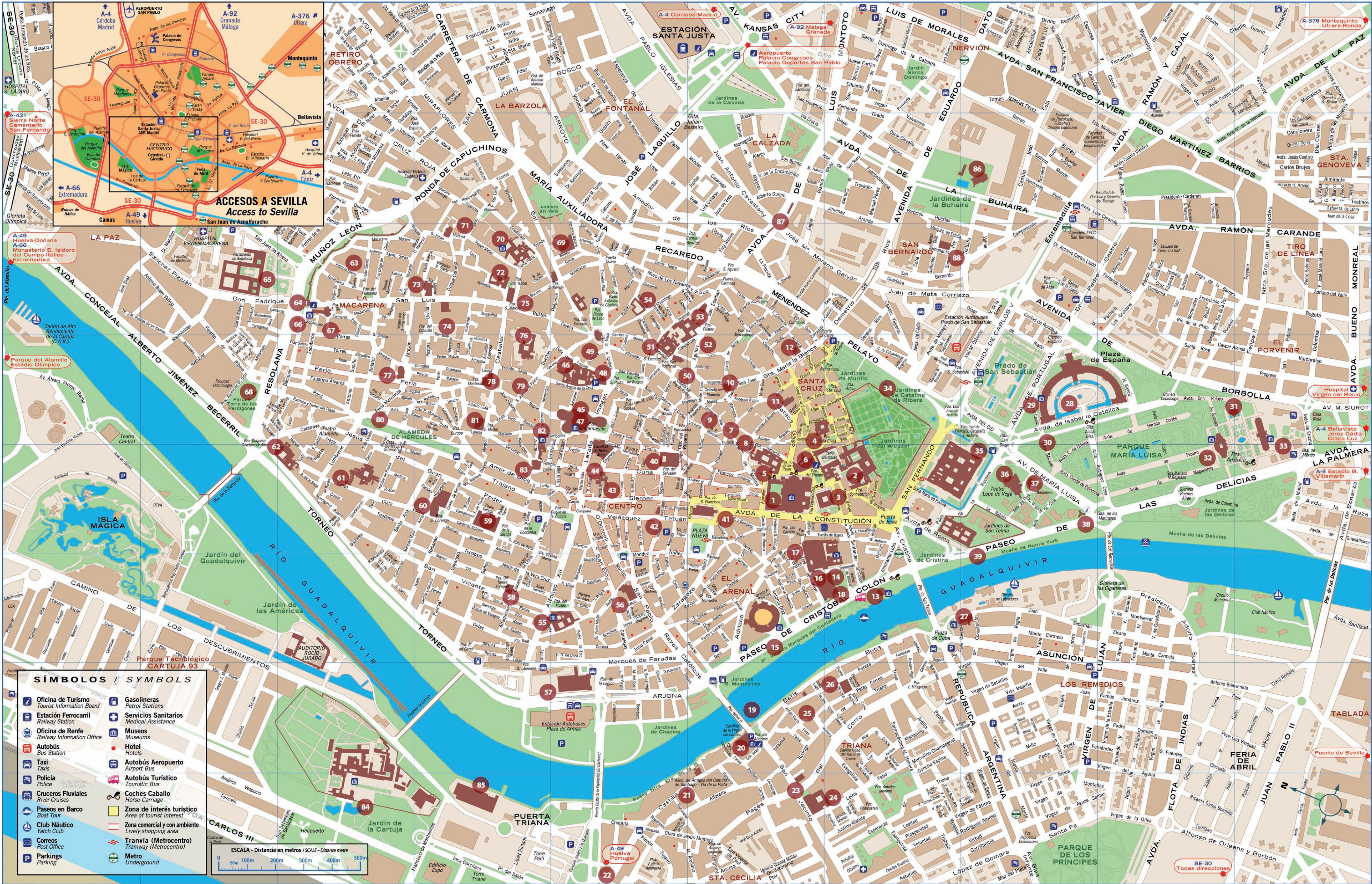
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Sevilla



- 1 Catedral y Giralda - Museo Catedralicio
- 2 Reales Alcázares
- 3 Archivo General de Indias
- 4 Hospital de los Venerables - Centro Velázquez
- 5 Palacio Arzobispal
- 6 Convento de la Encarnación
- 7 Monolitos romanos
- 8 Casa de los Pinelo
- 9 Museo del Baile Flamenco
- 10 Iglesia de San Nicolás
- 11 Iglesia de Santa Cruz
- 12 Iglesia de Santa María La Blanca
- 13 Torre del Oro - Museo Naval
- 14 Hospital de la Caridad
- 15 Plaza de Toros y Museo de la Real Maestranza de Caballería
- 16 Atarazanas Reales
- 17 Arco de Postigo
- 18 Teatro de la Maestranza
- 19 Puente de Isabel II - Puente de Triana
- 20 Castillo de San Jorge Museo de la Inquisición
- 21 Iglesia de la O
- 22 Capilla del Patrocinio (El Cachorro)
- 23 Capilla de la Estrella
- 24 Iglesia de San Jacinto
- 25 Capilla de los Marineros
- 26 Iglesia de Santa Ana
- 27 Museo de Carruajes
- 28 Plaza de España
- 29 Museo Militar
- 30 Monumento a Bécquer
- 31 Pabellón Real
- 32 Museo Artes y Costumbres Populares
- 33 Museo Arqueológico
- 34 Monumento a Colón
- 35 Antigua Fábrica de Tabacos - Universidad
- 36 Casino de la Exposición - Teatro Lope de Vega
- 37 Museo Casa de la Ciencia
- 38 Costurero de la Reina Centro Temático Exposición 1929
- 39 Palacio de San Telmo
- 40 Iglesia Colegial Divino Salvador
- 41 Ayuntamiento
- 42 Capilla de San José
- 43 Casa Palacio de la Condesa de Lebrija
- 44 Iglesia de la Anunciación
- 45 Metropól Parasol
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- 47 Museo Antiquarium
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- 49 Iglesia de Santa Catalina
- 50 Iglesia de San Ildefonso
- 51 Convento de San Leandro
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- 56 Iglesia de la Magdalena
- 57 Antigua Estación de Córdoba
- 58 Iglesia de San Vicente
- 59 Convento de Santa Rosalía
- 60 Iglesia de San Lorenzo y Jesús del Gran Poder
- 61 Convento de Santa Clara y Torre de Don Fadrique
- 62 Monasterio de San Clemente
- 63 Murallas Romanas
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- 65 Hospital de las Cinco Llagas - Parlamento Andalúz
- 66 Basílica y Museo de la Macarena
- 67 Iglesia de San Gil
- 68 Torre de los Perdigones - Cámara Oscura
- 69 Iglesia de Los Gitanos
- 70 Convento y Museo de Santa Paula
- 71 Iglesia de San Julián
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- 76 Casa-Palacio de Dueñas
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- 78 Iglesia de San Juan de la Palma
- 79 Convento del Espíritu Santo
- 80 Columnas romanas
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- 82 Museo Hospital del Pozo Santo
- 83 Iglesia de San Andrés
- 84 Monasterio Sta. Mª de las Cuevas - Centro Andalúz Arte Contemporáneo
- 85 Museo Pabellón de la Navegación y Torre Schindler
- 86 Restos Palacio árabe de la Buhaira
- 87 Restos del Acueducto Romano
- 88 Iglesia de San Bernardo