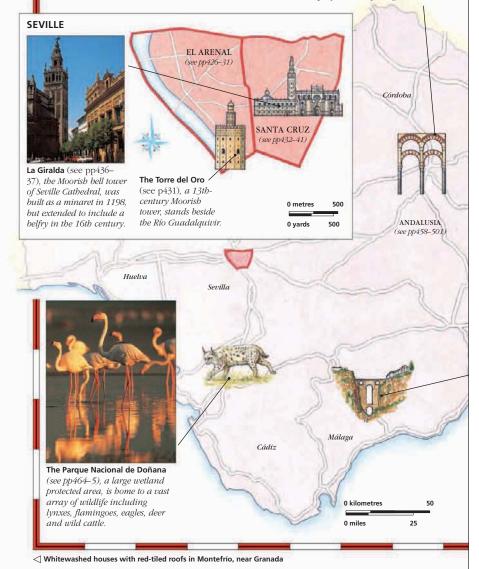


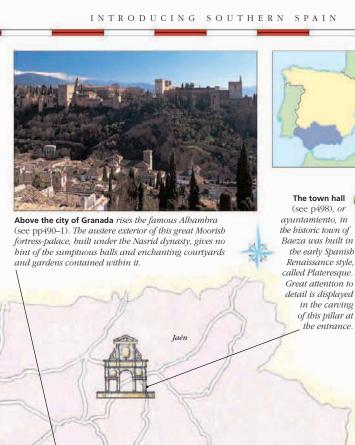
# Southern Spain at a Glance

One large region – Andalusia – extends across the south of Spain. Its landscape varies from the deserts of Almería in the east, to the wetlands of Doñana National Park in the west; and from the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada to the beaches of the Costa del Sol. Three inland cities between them share the greatest of Spain's Moorish monuments: Granada, Córdoba and Seville, the capital, which stands on the banks of the Río Guadalquivir. Andalusia has many other historic towns as well as attractive, whitewashed villages, important nature reserves and the sherry-producing vineyards around Jerez de la Frontera.



Córdoba's Mezquita (see pp480–81) bas a remarkable forest of arches in its interior and an exquisitely decorated mibrab (prayer niche) facing Mecca.



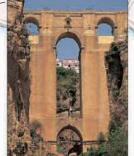






Granada

Almería



The Puente Nuevo (see p470), a bridge built in the 18th century, spans the Tagus gorge, which divides the old white town of Ronda from its newer districts.

> The Cabo de Gata nature reserve (see p501) is an area of steep cliffs and secluded coves, with a stretch of seabed that is rich in marine flora and fauna.



# The Flavours of Southern Spain

Andalusia is vast, bordered on one side by the Mediterranean and on the other by the Atlantic. Inland are lofty mountains and undulating hills, endless olive groves and bright fields of sunflowers. The cuisine is as varied as the terrain, with a huge array of seafood, superb meat and game, and a harvest of sun-ripened fruit and vegetables. The *tapeo* (tapas-barhopping) is a regional institution and, around Granada, these little morsels are still served free with drinks. Along the coast, especially the Costa del Sol, the influx of foreigners has brought glamorous international restaurants but, inland, traditional recipes are still the norm at old-fashioned inns.



Olives and olive oil



Diners choosing from a selection at a tapas bar

# TAPAS

The *tapeo*, or tapas crawl, is an intrinsic part of daily life in Andalusia. Each bar is usually known for a particular speciality: one might be well known for its homemade *croquetas* (potato croquettes, usually filled with ham or cod), while another will serve exceptional hams, and yet another might make

the best *albóndigas* (meatballs) in the neighbourhood. Tapas are often accompanied by a glass of chilled, refreshing sherry, or perhaps a cold draught beer (*una caña*). Tapas were once free, but that tradition has largely died out.

# **SEAFOOD**

It's not surprising, given its extensive coastline, that southern Spain offers every imaginable variety of seafood, including cod, hake, prawns, crayfish, clams, razor clams, octopus, cuttlefish, sole and tuna. Almost every seaside resort will offer pescaito frito (fried fish) originally a Malaga dish, made with the freshest catch of the day. In Cádiz, they are served appealingly in a paper cone, and in nearby Sanlúcar do not miss the sweet and juicy langostinos (king prawns).



Selection of delicious Spanish embutidos (cured meats)

# **REGIONAL DISHES AND SPECIALITIES**

Andalusia embodies many of the images most closely associated with Spain – the heady rhythms of flamenco, striking white villages and bullfighting. And tapas – in Andalusia, you can easily make a meal of these delectable treats, and every bar has an excellent range. Don't miss the mouthwatering hams from Jabugo and Trevélez which are famed throughout Spain, or the platters of freshly fried fish liberally doused with lemon juice. An ice-cold sherry (the word

comes from Jérez, where most sherry is produced) is deliciously refreshing in the searing summer heat and is the most popular tipple at southern fiestas. While pork remains the most appreciated local meat, duck, beef and lamb are also favourites, subtly flavoured with aromatic bay leaves.



Gazpacho This famous chilled soup is made with plump, ripe tomatoes, garlic and red peppers.



Andalusian vegetable seller displaying fresh local produce

## MEAT AND GAME

Pork and beef are the most popular meats in Andalusia. Glossy black bulls (some raised for bull-fighting but most for meat) are a common sight, and one of the most



Prawns and sardines on display at the fishmarket

popular local dishes is rabo de toro (bull's tail). The famous hams of Jabugo (in the southwest) and Trevélez (near Granada) are among the finest produced in Spain, and are made with freerange, black-footed pigs fed on a diet of acorns. All kinds of cured meats are made here, often to traditional recipes which have remained unchanged for centuries. In the wild inland Sierras, you will find an abundance of game in season, along with the traditional country staples of lamb and rabbit.

# FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

The undulating Andalusian fields and hillsides are densely covered with beautiful olive groves, and the best oils are graded as carefully as fine wines. Olive oil is liberally

used in Andaluz cuisine, and the typical southern breakfast is toasted country bread topped with thin slices of tomato and drizzled with olive oil - utterly delicious. The hot climate is perfect for fruit and vegetables, including luscious peaches, papayas, persimmons, and mangoes, as well as tomatoes, asparagus, aubergines (eggplants) and artichokes. The chilled tomato soup, *gazpacho*, is a classic, but *salmorejo*, which is thicker and topped with a sprinkling of chopped boiled eggs and ham, is even tastier.

# ON THE MENU

Chocos con habas Cuttlefish is cooked with beans, white wine and plenty of bay leaves.

Pato a la Sevillana Succulent duck, cooked slowly with onion, leeks, carrots, bayleaf and a dash of sherry, this is a speciality of Seville.

Rabo de Toro An Andaluz classic, made with chunks of bull's tail, slowly braised with vegetables, bay leaf and a dash of sherry until tender.

Salmorejo Cordobés A creamy tomato dip thickened with breadcrumbs.

# Torta de Camarones

Delicious fritters filled with tiny, whole shrimp.

# Tortilla del Sacromonte A

speciality of Granada: omelette with brains, kidney or other offal, peppers and peas.



Huevos a la Flamenca Eggs are baked in a terracotta dish with vegetables, ham and chorizo sausage



Pescaíto Frito A seaside favourite, this is a platter of small fish tossed in batter and fried in olive oil.



Tocino de Cielo This simple but delicious dessert consists of creamy egg custard with a caramel syrup topping.

# Wines of Southern Spain

Andalusia is a land of fortified wines, and the best of these is *Jerez* (sherry). Andalusians drink the light, dry fino and manzanilla styles of sherry as wines (they only have 15.5 per cent alcohol) – always chilled, and often as an accompaniment to tapas (*see pp606–7*). The longer-aged, richer, yet still dry styles of amontillado and oloroso sherry go well with the cured *jamón serrano* (*see p604*). Other wines include fino, which may or may



González Byass logo Other wines include fino, which may or may not be fortified, and Madeira-like Málaga.

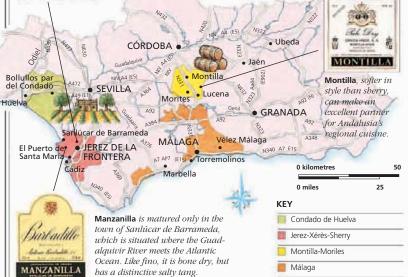
Working the soil in Jerez



Tio Pepe is one of the finos of Jerez, which are noted for their bouquet of flor (yeast), pale colour and appetizing finish.

# WINE REGIONS

The Jerez wine region covers the chalky downs between the towns of Jerez, Sanlúcar and El Puerto de Santa María. South of the Montilla-Moriles region are Málaga's vineyards, which have been reduced by urban development.



# **KEY FACTS ABOUT WINES OF SOUTHERN SPAIN**



# **Location and Climate**

The Jerez region has one of the sunniest climates in Europe – summer heat tempered by ocean The best type of soil is white,

breezes. The best type of soil is white, chalky *albariza*. In Montilla it is more clayey.



# **Good Producers**

Condado de Huelva: Manuel Sauci Salas (Riodiel), A.Villarán (Pedro Ximénez Villarán). Jerez: Barbadillo (Solear), Blázquez

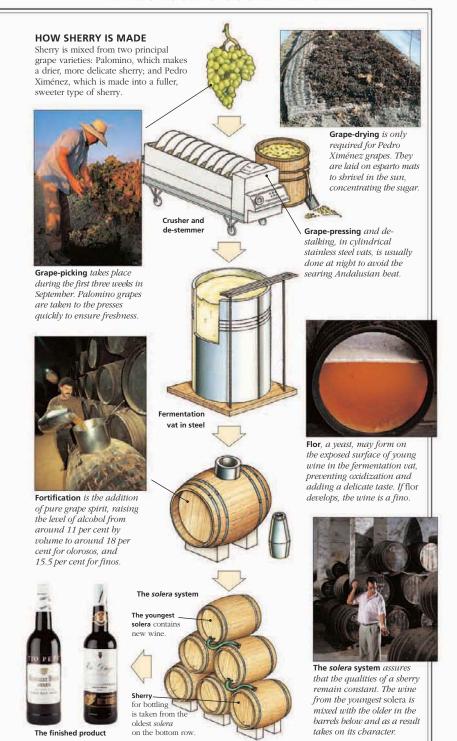
(Carta Blanca), Caballero (Puerto), Garvey (San Patricio), González Byass (Alfonso, Tío Pepe), Hidalgo (La Gitana, Napoleón), Lustau, Osborne (Quinta), Pedro Domecq (La Ina), Sandeman. *Montilla-Moriles:* Alvear (C.B., Festival), Gracia Hermanos, Pérez Barquero, Tomás García. *Málaga:* Scholtz Hermanos, López Hermanos.

# Gi Th fro

# **Grape Varieties**

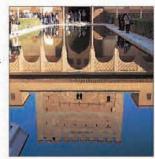
The best dry sherry is produced from the Palomino grape. Pedro Ximénez is used for the sweeter d is the main grape in Montilla ar

styles and is the main grape in Montilla and Málaga. Moscatel is also grown in Málaga.



# Moorish Architecture

The first significant period of Moorish architecture arrived with the Cordoban Caliphate. The Mezquita was extended lavishly during this period and possesses all the enduring features of the Moorish style: arches, stucco work and ornamental use of calligraphy. Later, the Almohads imported a purer Islamic style, as can be seen in La Giralda (see pp436–7). The Nasrids built the superbly crafted Alhambra (see pp490–91) and the Mudéjares (see p55) used their skill to create beautiful Moorish-style buildings such as the Palacio Pedro I in Seville's Real Alcázar (see pp440-41).



Reflections in water, combined with an overall play of light, were central to Moorish architecture.

Defensive walls





Mudéjar era, after c.1215

## **DEVELOPMENT OF MOORISH ARCHITECTURE** Almoravid and Almohad era 1091–1248 Pre-Caliphal era 710-929 Caliphal era 929-1031 Nasrid era c.1238–1492 **c.1350** Alhambra palace **1031–91** *Taifa* period (see p54) 900 700 800 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 **785** Mezquita in Córdoba begun **1184** La Giralda in Seville begun **c.1350** Palacio Pedro I 936 Medina Azahara near Córdoba begun

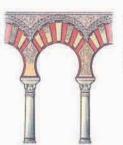


Azulejos (see p438), glazed tiles, often adorned walls in geometric patterns, as here in the Real Alcázar (p440).

# MOORISH ARCHES

The Moorish arch was developed from the horseshoe arch that the Visigoths used in the construction of churches. The Moors modified it and used it as the basis of great

architectural endeavours, such as the Mezquita. Subsequent arches show more sophisticated ornamentation and the slow demise of the basic horseshoe shape.



Caliphal arch, Medina Azahara (see p477)



Almohad arch, Real Alcázar (see p440)

Arcaded galleries

around courtyards.



Mudéjar arch, Real Alcázar (see p440)

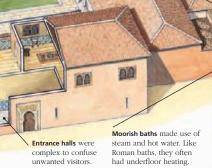


Nasrid arch, the Alhambra (see p490)

# MOORISH PALACE

The palaces of the Moors were designed with gracious living, culture and learning in mind. The imaginary palace here shows how space, light, water and ornamentation were combined to harmonious effect.

Clay tiles





Water cooled the Moors' elegant courtyards and served a contemplative purpose, as here in the Patio de los Leones in the Alhambra (see p491).



Elaborate stucco work typifies the Nasrid style of architecture. The Sala de los Abencerrajes in the Albambra (see p491) was built using only the simplest materials, but it is nevertheless widely regarded as one of the most outstanding monuments of the period of the Moorish occupation.

# Flamenco, the Soul of Andalusia



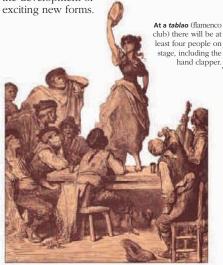
poster 1953

More than just a dance, flamenco is a forceful artistic expression of the sorrows and joys of life. Although it has interpreters all over Spain and even the world, it is a uniquely Andalusian art form, traditionally performed by gypsies. There are many styles of *cante* (song) from different parts of Andalusia, but no strict choreography – dancers improvise from basic movements, following the

rhythm of the guitar and their feelings. Flamenco was neglected in the 1960s and 1970s, but recent years have seen a revival of serious interest in traditional styles and the development of



Sevillanas, a folk dance strongly influenced by flamenco, is danced by Andalusians in their bars and homes.



The origins of flamenco are hard to trace. Gypsies may have been the main creators of the art, mixing their own Indian-influenced culture with existing Moorish and Andalusian folklore, and with Jewish and Christian music. There were gypsies in Andalusia by the early Middle Ages, but only in the 18th century did flamenco begin to develop into its present form.



# THE SPANISH GUITAR

Classical

The guitar has a major role in flamenco, traditionally accompanying the singer. The flamenco guitar developed from the modern classical guitar, which evolved in Spain in the 19th century. Flamenco guitars have a lighter, shallower construction and a thickened plate below the soundhole, used to tap rhythms. Today,

flamenco guitarists often perform solo. One of the greatest, Paco de Lucía, began by accompanying singers and dancers, before making his debut as a soloist in 1968. His inventive style, which combines traditional playing with Latin, jazz and rock elements, has influenced many musicians outside the realm of flamenco, such as the group Ketama, who play flamenco-blues.



Expert guitarist Paco de Lucía



Singing is an integral part of flamenco and the singer often performs solo. Camarón de la Isla (1950–92), a gypsy born near Cádiz, was among the most famous contemporary cantaores (flamenco singers). He began as a singer of expressive cante jondo (literally, "deep song"), from which be developed his own distinctive style. He has inspired many singers.

# WHERE TO ENJOY FLAMENCO

Madrid has several good tablaos, flamenco venues, (see p321). In Granada, Sacromonte's caves (p489) are an exciting location. In Seville, the Barrio de Santa Cruz (pp432–41) has good tablaos.

**The proud** yet graceful posture of the *bailaora* is suggestive of a restrained passion.

A harsh, vibrating voice is typical of the singer. The bailaora (female dancer) is renowned for amazing footwork as well as intensive dance moments. Eva Yerbabuena and Sara Baras are both famous for their personal styles. Both lead their own acclaimed flamenco companies. Another flamenco star is Juana Amaya.



. Traditional polka-dot dress

The bailaor (male dancer) plays a less important role than the bailaora. However, many bave achieved fame, including Antonio Canales. He has introduced a new beat through his original foot movements.

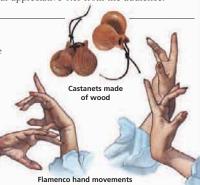


# THE FLAMENCO TABLAO

These days it is rare to come across spontaneous dancing at a *tablao*, but if dancers and singers are inspired, an impressive show usually results. Artists performing with *duende* ("magic spirit") will hear appreciative *olés* from the audience.

# FLAMENCO RHYTHM

The unmistakable rhythm of flamenco is created by the guitar. Just as important, however, is the beat created by hand-clapping and by the dancer's feet in high-heeled shoes. The *baila-oras* may also beat a rhythm with castanets; Lucero Tena (born in 1939) became famous for her solos on castanets. Graceful hand movements are used to express the dancer's feelings of the moment – whether pain, sorrow, or happiness. Like the movements of the rest of the body, they are not choreographed, and the styles used vary from person to person.





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# EL ARENAL

ounded by the Río Guadalquivir and guarded by the 13th-century Torre del Oro, El Arenal used to be a district of munitions stores

and shipyards. Today this quarter is dominated by the dazzling white bullring, the Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza, where the views

Sevillians have been staging corridas for more than two centuries. The many bars and bodegas in the neighbouring streets are especially busy during the summer bullfighting season. Once central to the city's life, the

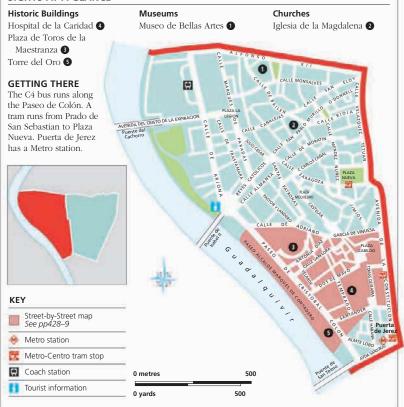
Once central to the city's life, the influence of the Guadalquivir declined as it silted up during the 17th century. By then El Arenal had become a notorious underworld

haunt clinging to the city
walls. The river was
converted into a
canal in the
early 20th century but restored
to its former navigable glory in time
for Expo '92. The east
bank was transformed into

a tree-lined promenade with excellent views of Triana and La Isla de la Cartuja across the water (see p446).

The Hospital de la Caridad testifies to the city's continuing love affair with the Baroque. Its church is filled with famous paintings by Murillo, and the story of the Seville School is told in the immaculately restored Museo de Bellas Artes further north. The city's stunning collection of art includes great works by Zurbarán, Murillo and Valdés Leal.

# SIGHTS AT A GLANCE



 $<sup>\</sup>mathrel{ extstyle < }$  Pasting up an advertisement for a bullfight on the walls of the Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza

# Street-by-Street: El Arenal

Once home to the port of Seville, El Arenal also housed the ammunition works and the artillery headquarters. Now its atmosphere is set by the city's bullring, the majestic Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza. During the bullfighting season (*see p430*) the area's bars and restaurants are packed, but for the rest of the year El Arenal's backstreets remain quiet. The riverfront is dominated by one of Seville's best-known monu-





★ Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza Seville's 18th-century bullring, one of Spain's oldest, bas a Baroque façade in white and ochre 

■

Carmen
(See p445), sculpted in bronze, stands opposite the bullring.

Canular of the control of

Paseo Alcalde Marqués de Contadero

The Teatro de la Maestranza, a showpiece theatre and opera house, was opened in 1991. Home of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla, the theatre also features international opera and dance companies.

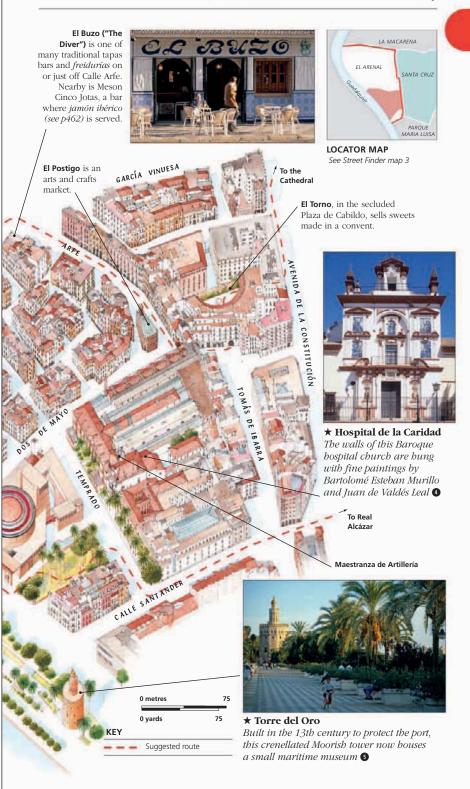
# **STAR SIGHTS**

- ★ Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza
- ★ Hospital de la Caridad
- ★ Torre del Oro



**The Guadalquivir** used to cause catastrophic inundations. Following floods in 1947 a barrage was constructed. Today, tourists enjoy peaceful boat trips, starting from the Torre del Oro.

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp590–91 and pp640–42





Madonna and Child in the Baroque Iglesia de la Magdalena

# Museo de Bellas Artes 0

Plaza del Museo 9. Map 1 B5. 9am-8:30pm Tue-Sat, 9am-2:30pm Sun, public hols Groups of 20: by appt. 15/29 (free for EU citizens) pa & www.juntade andalucia.es/ cultura/museos

The Convento de la Merced Calzada houses one of the best art museums in Spain, Completed in 1612 by Juan de Oviedo, the building is designed around

three patios. The Patio Mayor is the largest of these, remodelled by the architect Leonardo de Figueroa in 1724. The convent church is notable for its Baroque domed ceiling, painted by Domingo Martínez.

The museum's collection of Spanish art and sculpture, from the medieval to the modern, focuses on the work of Seville School artists. Among the star attractions is La Servilleta, a Virgin and Child (1665-8), which is said to be painted on a napkin (servilleta). One of Murillo's most popular works, it may be seen in the restored convent church.

The boisterous La Inmaculada (1672) by Juan de Valdés Leal is in a gallery

devoted to the artist's forceful religious paintings. Several fine works by Zurbarán include San Hugo en el Refectorio (1655), painted for the monastery at La Cartuja (see p446).

# Iglesia de la Magdalena 2

Calle San Pablo 10. Map 3 B1. Tel 95 422 96 03. 🏢 Plaza Nueva. 🪃 43. 8–11am, 6:30–9pm Mon–Sat, 8:30am–2pm, 6:30–9pm Sun.

This immense Baroque church by Leonardo de Figueroa, completed in 1709, is gradually being restored to its former glory. In its southwest corner stands the Capilla de la Quinta Angustia, a Mudéjar chapel with three cupolas. This chapel survived from an earlier church where the great Seville School painter Bartolomé Murillo was baptized in 1618. The font that

was used for his baptism is now in the baptistry of the present building. The church's west front is topped by a belfry which is painted in vivid colours.

Among the religious works in the church are a painting by Francisco de Zurbarán, St Dominic

in Soria, housed in the Capilla Sacramental (to the right San Jerónimo Penitente in of the south door), and frescoes by Lucas Valdés over

the sanctuary. On the wall of the north transept there is a cautionary fresco of a medieval auto-da-fe (see p274).

# Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza 3

Paseo de Cristóbal Colón 12. Map 3 B2. **Tel** 95 422 45 77. Puerta Jerez. Archivo de Indias. 9:30am 7pm daily (May–Oct: to 8pm). Good Friday, 25 Dec. 💋 🌠 www.realmaestranza.com

Seville's famous bullring was built between 1761 and 1881.

The arcaded arena holds up to 14,000 spectators. Guided tours of this immense building start from the main entrance on Paseo de Cristóbal Colón. On the west side is the Puerta del Príncipe (Prince's Gate), through which the triumphant matadors are carried aloft by admirers from the crowd.

Just beyond the enfermería (emergency hospital) is a museum of portraits, posters and costumes, including a purple cape painted by Pablo Picasso. The tour continues on to the chapel where matadors pray for success, and then to the stables where the horses of the picadores (lance-carrying horsemen) are kept.

The bullfighting season starts on Easter Sunday and continues intermittently until October. Most corridas take place on Sunday evenings. Tickets can be bought from the taquilla (booking office) at the bullring.

Next door to the Plaza de Toros is the Teatro de la Maestranza. Seville's austere opera house and theatre, designed by Luis Marín de Terán and Aurelio de Pozo, opened in 1991. Fragments of ironwork from the 19th-century ammu-nition works that first occupied the site adorn the river façade.



Arcaded arena of the Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza, begun in 1761

the Museo de Bellas Artes



Finis Gloriae Mundi by Juan de Valdés Leal in the Hospital de la Caridad

# Hospital de la Caridad 4

Calle Temprado 3. **Map** 3 B2. **Tel** 95 422 32 32. **(A) (E)** Puerta Jerez. **(G)** 9am-1:30pm, 3:30-7:30pm Mon-Sat, 9am-1pm Sun & public hols. **(G) (D)** 

This charity hospital was founded in 1674 and it is still used today as a sanctuary for elderly and infirm people. In the gardens stands a statue of its benefactor, Miguel de Mañara, whose dissolute life before he joined a brotherhood is said to have inspired the story of Don Juan. The façade of the hospital church, with its whitewashed walls, reddish stonework and framed azulejos, provides a glorious example of Sevillian Baroque.

Inside are two square patios decorated with plants, 18th-century Dutch tiles, and fine fountains with Italian statues depicting Charity and Mercy. At their northern end a passage to the right leads to another patio, containing a 13th-century arch which survives from the city's shipyards.

Inside the church there are a number of original canvases by some of the leading painters of the 17th century, despite the fact that some of its greatest artworks were looted by

Marshal Soult during the Napoleonic occupation of 1808–14 (see p62). Directly above the entrance is the ghoulish Finis Gloriae Mundi (The End of the World's Glory) by Juan de Valdés Leal, and opposite hangs his morbid In Ictu Oculi (In the Blink of an Eye). Many of the other works that can be seen are by Murillo, including St John of God Carrying a Sick Man and portraits of the Child Jesus and St John the Baptist as a Boy.

# Torre del Oro 6

Paseo de Cristóbal Colón. Map 3 B2. Tel 95 422 24 19. 

□ Inam-2pm Tue-Fri, 11am-2pm Sat & Sun.

□ Aug & Mon. 
□ (free Tue & for EU citizens).

In Moorish Seville the Tower of Gold formed part of the walled defences, linking up with the Real Alcázar (see pp440-41). It was built as a defensive lookout in 1220, with a companion tower on the opposite bank.

A metal chain stretched

between them to prevent hostile ships from sailing upriver. The turret was added in 1760. The gold in its name may be the gilded *azulejos* that once clad its walls, or treasures from the Americas unloaded here.

The Torre del Oro, built by the Almohads unloaded here. The tower has had many uses, such as

a chapel and a prison. Now, as the Museo Marítimo, it exhibits maritime maps and antiques.

# SEVILLE'S FIESTAS

April Fair (two weeks after Easter). Life in the city moves over the river to the fairground for a week. Here, members of clubs, trade unions and neighbourhood groups meet in casetas (entertainment booths) to drink and dance all night to the infectious rhythm of sevillanas. (Access to booths may be limited to private parties.) Every day, from around 1pm, elegant, traditionally dressed riders on horseback and mantilla-crowned women in open carriages show off their finest flamenco attire in parades. During the afternoons, bullfights are often staged in the Maestranza bullring.



Float in Holy Week procession

Holy Week (Mar/Apr). Over 100 gilded pasos (floats bearing religious images) are borne through the streets between Palm Sunday and Easter Day. Singers in the crowds often spontaneously burst into saetas, fragments of song in praise of Christ or the Virgin. Emotions are high in the early hours of Good Friday as the images of the Virgen de la Macarena and the Virgen de la Esperanza of Triana emerge from their churches.

Corpus Christi (May/Jun). The Seises, boys dressed in Baroque costume, dance before the main altar of the cathedral (see p437).



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# SANTA CRUZ

Barrio de Santa Cruz, is a warren of white alleyways and patios that has long been the most picturesque corner of the city. Many of the best-known sights are located here: the cavernous Gothic cathedral with its landmark tower, La Giralda; the splendid Real Alcázar, with the royal palaces and lush gardens of Pedro I and Carlos V; and the Archivo de Indias, whose documents tell of Spain's exploration Ornate streetlamp, and conquest of the Americas.

Spreading northeast from these of Andalusian architecture, testify to great monuments is an enchanting maze of whitewashed streets. The Golden Age artist Bartolomé Esteban

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

🕽 eville's old Jewish quarter, the 🍃 Murillo lived here in the 17th century, while his contemporary, Juan de Valdés Leal, decorated the Hospital de los Venerables with superb Baroque frescoes. Further north is one of Seville's favourite shopping streets, the Calle de las Sierpes. The market squares around it, such as the charming Plaza del Salvador, provided backdrops for some of the stories of Cervantes. Nearby, the ornate facades and interiors of the Ayuntamiento (town hall)

Plaza del Triunfo and the Casa de Pilatos, a gem

the great wealth that flowed into the city from the New World during the 16th century, much of it spent on art.

# **Historic Buildings** Churches Archivo de Indias 6 Cathedral and La Giralda pp436-7 Avuntamiento 2 Streets and Plazas Casa de Pilatos 4 Calle de las Sierpes 3 Hospital de los Venerables 5 Real Alcázar pp440–41 🕡 **GETTING THERE** This area is well served by red and black buses. Buses 5, 40, 41, C3, C4 and C5 will take you to Puerta de Jerez, where there is also a Metro station. Metro-Centro tram runs along Avenida de la Constitución. Street-by-Street map (pp434–5) Metro station Metro-Centro tram stop

La Giralda seen from the gardens of the Real Alcázar

0 yards

Tourist information

# Street-by-Street: Santa Cruz



Window grille, Santa Cruz

The maze of narrow streets to the east of Seville Cathedral and the Real Alcázar represents Seville at its most romantic and compact. As well as the expected souvenir shops, tapas bars and strolling guitarists, there are plenty of picturesque alleys, hidden plazas and flower-decked patios to reward the casual wanderer.
Once a Jewish ghetto, its restored buildings, with characteristic window grilles, are now a harmonious mix of upmarket residences and tourist accommodation. Good bars and restaurants make



Plaza Virgen de los Reyes is often lined by horse-drawn carriages. In the centre of the square is an early 20th-century fountain by José Lafita.

Palacio Arzobispal, the 18th-century Archbishop's Palace,

the area well worth an evening visit.





This huge Gothic cathedral and its Moorish bell tower are Seville's most popular sights 1



Convento de la

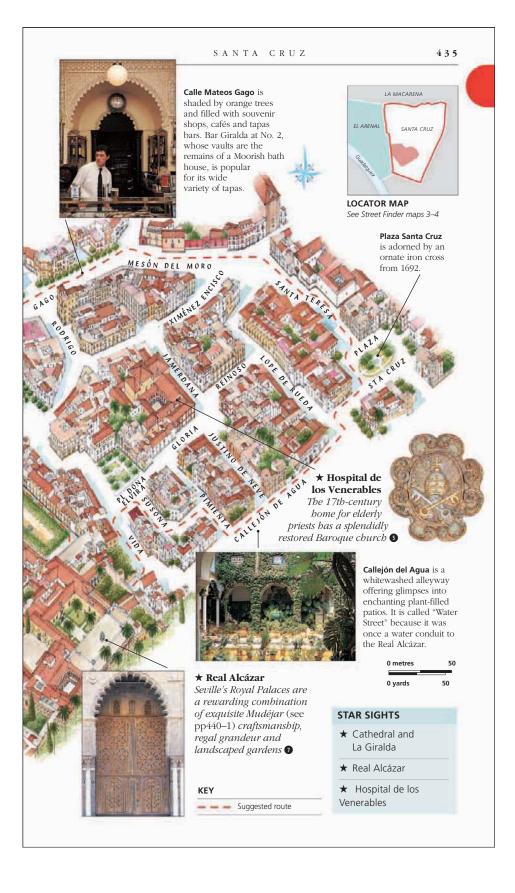


Archivo de Indias

Built in the 16th century as a merchants' exchange, the Archive of the Indies now houses documents relating to the Spanish colonization of the Americas 6

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp590-91 and pp640-42

Plaza del Triunfo has a Baroque column celebrating the city's survival of the great earthquake of 1755. In the centre is a modern statue of the Virgin Mary (Immaculate Conception).



# Seville Cathedral and La Giralda •

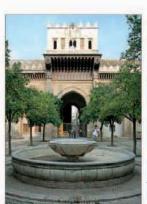


16th-century stained glass

Seville's cathedral occupies the site of a great mosque built by the Almohads (see p54) in the late 12th century. La Giralda, its bell tower, and the Patio de los Naranjos are a legacy of this Moorish structure.

Work on the Christian cathedral, the largest

in Europe, began in 1401 and took just over a century to complete. As well as enjoying its Gothic immensity and the works of art in its chapels and sacristy, visitors can climb La Giralda for stunning views over the city.



# ★ La Giralda

The bell tower is crowned by a bronze weathervane (giraldillo) portraying Faith, from which it takes its name. A replica bas replaced the original vane.

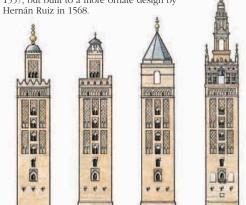
Group Entranc

**★** Patio de los Naranjos

In Moorish times worshippers would wash their hands and feet in the fountain under the orange trees before praying.

# THE RISE OF LA GIRALDA

The tower was built as a minaret in 1198. In the 14th century the bronze spheres at its top were replaced by Christian symbols. A new belfry was planned in 1557, but built to a more ornate design by



bro

Puerta del Perdón (Exit)

Roman pillars / brought from Itálica (see p476) surround the cathedral steps.

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp590–91 and pp640–42

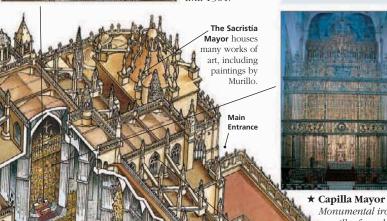
# Retablo Mayor

Santa María de la Sede, the cathedral's patron saint, sits at the high altar below a waterfall of gold. The 44 gilded

relief panels of the reredos were carved by Spanish and Flemish sculptors between 1482 and 1564.

# VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Avenida de la Constitución. Map 3 C2. Tel 954 21 49 71. Puerta Jerez. Archivo de Indias. C3, C4, 5, 41, 42. Cathedral & 8:30am, 9am, 10am, noon, 5pm Mon–Sat (Sat also 8pm); 8:30am, 10am, 11am, noon, 1pm, 5pm, 6pm Sun. www.catedraldesevilla.es



Monumental iron grilles forged in 1518–32 enclose the main chapel, which is dominated by the overwhelming Retablo Mayor.

The Tomb of Columbus dates from the 1890s. His coffin is carried by bearers representing the kingdoms of Castile, León, Aragón and Navarra (see p54).



# STAR FEATURES

- ★ La Giralda
- ★ Patio de los Naranjos

Iglesia del Sagrario,

a large 17th-century

chapel, is now used as a parish church.

★ Capilla Mayor

# Puerta de la Asunción

Though Gothic in style, this portal was not completed until 1833. A stone relief of the Assumption of the Virgin decorates the tympanum.



Genoese fountain in the Mudéiar Patio Principal of the Casa de Pilatos

# Ayuntamiento 2

Plaza Nueva 1. **Map** 3 C1. **Tel** 95 459 01 01. Plaza Nueva. 530-6pm Tue, Wed & Thu. Jul & Aug. Www.sevilla.org

Seville's City Hall stands between the Plaza de San Francisco, where *autos-da-fe* (public trials of heretics) were held. and the Plaza Nueva.

Building was completed between 1527 and 1534. The side bordering the Plaza de San Francisco is a fine example of ornate Plateresque style (see p25) favoured by the architect Diego de Riaño. The west front is Neo-Classical, built in 1891. Sculpted ceilings survive in the vestibule and the lower Casa Consistorial (Council Meeting Room), containing Velázquez's Imposition of the Chasuble on St Ildefonso. The upper Casa Consistorial has a dazzling coffered ceiling and paintings by Zurbarán and Valdés Leal.

# Calle de las Sierpes 3

Seville's main shopping promenade, the "Street of the Snakes", runs north from Plaza de San Francisco. Longestablished stores selling hats, fans and traditional *mantillas* (lace headdresses) stand alongside clothes and souvenir

shops. The parallel streets of Cuna and Tetuán also offer some enjoyable window-shopping. Halfway up the road walking north, Calle Jovellanos to the left leads to the 17th-century Capillita de San José. Further on at the junction with Calle Pedro Caravaca is the Real Círculo de Labradores, a men's club founded in 1856.

Opposite – with its entrance in Calle Cuna – is a 15th-century private mansion, the **Casa de la Condesa Lebrija**. Among the Lebrija family's treasures on display is a Roman mosaic from the ruins of nearby Itálica (see p476) and a collection of azulejos.

Right at the end of the street is La Campana, Seville's best-known *pastelería*.

# Casa de Pilatos 4

Plaza de Pilatos 1. **Map** 4 D1. *Tel* 95 422 52 98. (3, C4. (1) 9am-6pm daily (until 7pm Apr-Sep). (2) first floor. (2) (3) ground floor.

Enraptured by by the architectural and decorative wonders of High Renaissance Italy and the Holy Land, the first Marquis of Tarifa built the Casa de Pilatos. So called because it was thought to resemble Pontius Pilate's home in Jerusalem, today it is the residence of the Dukes of Medinaceli and is one of the finest palaces in Seville.

Visitors enter through a marble portal, commissioned by the Marquis in 1529 from Genoese craftsmen. Across the arcaded Apeadero (carriage yard) is the Patio Principal. This courtyard is essentially Mudéjar (see p55) in style and decorated with azulejos and intricate plasterwork. In its corners are three Roman statues, depicting Minerva, a dancing muse and Ceres, and a Greek statue of Athena, dating from the 5th century BC.

In its centre is a fountain which was imported from Genoa. To the right, through the Salón del Pretorio with its coffered ceiling and marquetry, is the Corredor de Zaquizamí.

# **AZULEJOS**

Colourful *azulejos*, glazed ceramic tiles, are a striking feature of Seville. The craft was introduced to Spain by the Moors, who created fantastic mosaics in sophisticated geometric patterns for palace walls – the word *azulejo* derives from the Arabic for "little stone". New techniques were introduced in the 16th century and later mass production extended their use to decorative signs, shop façades and advertising hoardings.



Azulejo billboard for Studebaker Motor Cars (1924), Calle Tetuán



Fresco by Juan de Valdés Leal in the Hospital de los Venerables

The antiquities on display in adjacent rooms include a bas-relief of *Leda and the Swan* and two Roman reliefs commemorating the Battle of Actium of 31 BC.

Coming back to the Patio Principal, you turn right into the Salón de Descanso de los Jueces. Beyond is a rib-vaulted Gothic chapel, with Mudéjar plasterwork walls and ceiling. On the altar is a copy of a 4th-century sculpture in the Vatican, *The Good Shepherd*. Left through the Gabinete de Pilatos, with its small central fountain, is the Jardín Grande.

Returning once more to the main patio, behind the statue of Ceres, a tiled staircase leads to the upper floor. It is roofed with a wonderful *media naranja* (half orange) cupola built in 1537. There are Mudéjar ceilings in some rooms, full of family portraits and antiques.

# Hospital de los Venerables •

Plaza de los Venerables 8. Map 3 C2. Tel 95 456 26 96. Archivo de Indias. 10am-1:30pm, 4-7:30pm daily. 1 Jan, Good Friday, 25 Dec.

Set in the heart of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, this home for elderly priests was begun in 1675 and completed around 20 years later by Leonardo de Figueroa. It has now been restored as a cultural centre by FOCUS (Fundación Fondo de Cultura de Sevilla).

Stairs from the central, rosecoloured, sunken patio lead to the upper floors, which, along with the infirmary and cellar, are used as exhibition galleries.

The Hospital church, a showcase of Baroque splendours, has frescoes by both Juan de Valdés Leal and his son Lucas Valdés. Other highlights of the church include sculptures of St Peter and St Ferdinand by Pedro Roldán, flanking the east door; and *The Apotheosis of St Ferdinand* by Lucas Valdés, top centre in the reredos of the main altar. Its frieze (inscribed in Greek) advises to "Fear God and Honour the Priest".

In the sacristy, the ceiling has an effective *trompe l'oeil* depicting *The Triumph of the Cross* by Juan de Valdés Leal.

# Archivo de Indias 6

Avda de la Constitución. Map 3 C2.
Tel 95 450 05 28. El Puerta Jerez.
Archivo de Indias. 9am-4pm
Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun.

The Archive of the Indies illustrates Seville's preeminent role in the colonization and exploitation of the New World. Built between 1584-98 to designs by Juan de Herrera, coarchitect of El Escorial (see pp330-31), it was originally a lonja (exchange), where merchants traded. In 1785 Carlos III had all Spanish documents relating to the "Indies" collected under one roof. Among the archive's 86 million handwritten pages and 8,000 maps and drawings are letters from Columbus, Cortés, and Cervantes and the extensive correspondence of Felipe II.

Upstairs, the library rooms contain regularly changing displays of drawings, maps and facsimile documents.



Façade of the Archivo de Indias by Juan de Herrera

# Real Alcázar o

In 1364 Pedro I ordered the construction of a royal residence within the palaces which had been built by the city's Almohad (see p54) rulers. Within two years, craftsmen from Granada and Toledo had created a jewel box of Mudéjar patios and halls, the Palacio Pedro I, now at the heart of Seville's Real Alcázar. Later monarchs added their own distinguishing marks: Isabel I (see p56) dispatched navigators to explore the New World from her Casa de la Contratación, while

Mudéjar Isabel I (see p56) dispatched navigators to explor stucco New World from her Casa de la Contratación, wh Carlos I (the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V – see p58) had grandiose, richly decorated apartments built.



Jardín de Troya

# Gardens of the Alcázar

Laid out with terraces, fountains and pavilions, these gardens provide a delightful refuge from the heat and bustle of Seville.



# ★ Charles V, Rooms Vast tapestries

vast tapestries and lively 16th-century azulejos decorate the vaulted halls of the apartments and chapel of Charles V.

Patio del Crucero lies above the old baths.

# PLAN OF THE REAL ALCÁZAR

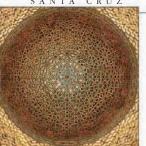
The complex has been the home of Spanish kings for almost seven centuries. The palace's upper floor is used by the royal family today.



★ Patio de las Doncellas The Patio of the Maidens boasts plasterwork by the top craftsmen of Granada.

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp590–91 and pp640–42

# ★ Salón de Embajadores Built in 1427, the dazzling dome of the Ambassadors' Hall is of carved and gilded, interlaced wood.



# VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Patio de Banderas. Map 3 C2.
Tel 95 450 23 23. 

Puerta
Jerez: 
Archivo de Indias. 
9:30am-7pm daily (to 5pm OctMar). 

www.patronatoalcazarsevilla.es

# Horseshoe Arches Azulejos and complex plasterwork decorate the Ambassadors' Hall, which bas three symmetrically arranged, ornate archways, each with three borseshoe arches.

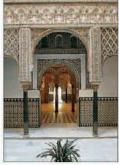
Casa de la Contratación



The Patio de la Montería was where the court met before hunting expeditions.







# Patio de las Muñecas

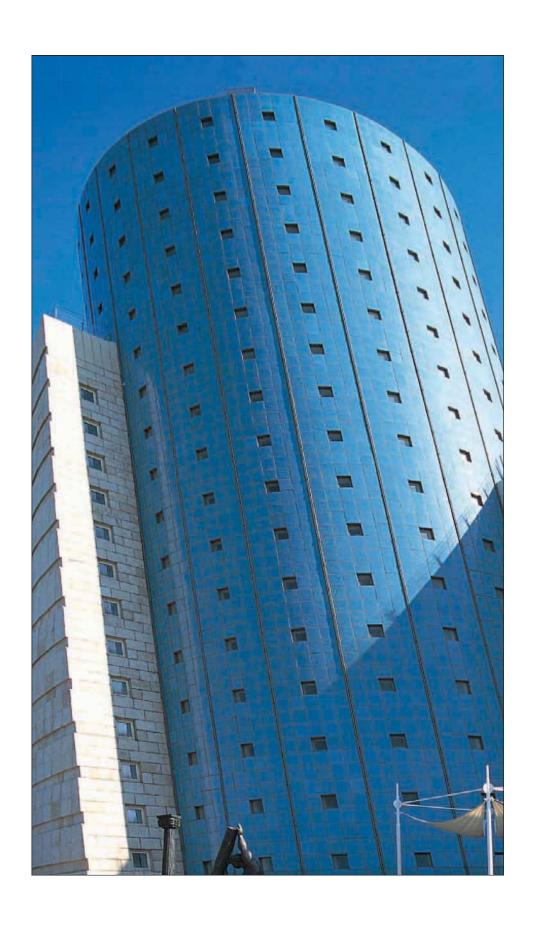
The Patio of the Dolls and its surrounding bedrooms formed the domestic heart of the palace. It derives its name from two tiny faces on one of its arches.

# Patio del Yeso

The Patio of Plaster, a garden with flower beds and a water channel, retains features of the earlier, 12th-century Almohad Alcázar.

# STAR FEATURES

- ★ Charles V Rooms
- ★ Patio de las Doncellas
- ★ Salón de Embajadores



# FURTHER AFIELD

The north of Seville, La Macarena, is a characterful mix of decaying Baroque and Mudéjar churches, and oldstyle tapas bars. The place to visit here is the Basílica de la Macarena, a shrine to Seville's much-venerated Virgen de la Esperanza Macarena. Among the many convents and churches in the area, the Convento de Santa Paula offers a rare opportunity to peep behind the walls of an enclosed community. Roman column

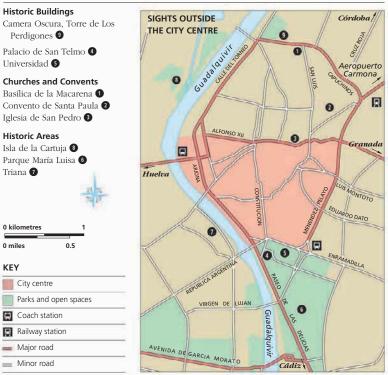
The area south of the city Alameda de Hércules is dominated by the extensive, leafy Parque María Luisa. A large part of the park originally formed the grounds of the Baroque Palacio de San Telmo. Many of the historic buildings in the park were erected for the Ibero-American Exposition of 1929. The grand five-star Hotel Alfonso XIII Teatro

and the crescent-shaped Plaza de España are the most striking legacies of this upsurge of Andalusian pride. Nearby is the Royal Tobacco Factory, forever associated with the fictional gypsy heroine Carmen, who toiled in its sultry halls. Today, it is part of the Universidad, Seville's university. There is more to see across the river from the city centre. With

its cobbled streets and shops selling ceramics, the Triana quarter retains the feel of old Seville. In the 15th century a Carthusian monastery, the Monasterio de Santa María de

las Cuevas, was built north of Triana. Columbus resided there and the area around it, the Isla de la Cartuja, was chosen as the site for Expo '92. Today the site is home mainly to offices but the Isla Mágica amusement park and Teatro Central are also located here.

# SIGHTS AT A GLANCE



Pabellón de Andalucía, built on the Isla de la Cartuja for Expo '92



St John the Baptist by Montañés in the Convento de Santa Paula

# Basílica de la Macarena **1**

Calle Bécquer 1. **Map** 2 D3. **Tel** 95 437 01 95. **C**1, C2, C3, C4, 2, 10, 13, 14. **9am-2pm,** 5-9pm daily (from 9:30am Sun & public hols). **Easter Fri.** 

The Basílica de la Macarena was built in 1949 in the Neo-Baroque style by Gómez Millán as a new home for the much-loved Virgen de la Esperanza Macarena. It butts on to the 13th-century Iglesia de San Gil, where the image was housed until a fire in 1936.

The image of the Virgin, standing above the main altar amid waterfalls of gold and silver, has been attributed to Luisa Roldán (1656–1703), the most talented female artist of the Seville School. The wall-paintings, by Rafael Rodríguez Hernández, date from 1982.

The Virgin's magnificent processional gowns and jewels are held in the Treasury museum.

# Convento de Santa Paula 2

Founded in 1475, Santa Paula is a working convent and home to 40 nuns. The museum consists of two galleries filled with religious artifacts and

paintings. Marmalades and jams, made by the nuns, are sold by the exit. The nave of the convent church has an elaborate wooden roof, dating from 1623. Among the statues in the church are St John the Evangelist and St John the Baptist, both the work of Juan Martínez Montañés.

# Iglesia de San Pedro 3

Plaza San Pedro. **Map** 2 D5. **Tel** 954 21 68 58. **10**, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 24, 27, 32, C5. **1** 8:30–11:30am, 7–8:30pm Mon–Sat; 9:30am–1:30pm, 7–8:30pm Sun. **4** 

Diego Velázquez, the Golden Age painter (see p32), was baptized in this church in 1599. It is built in a typically Sevillian mix of architectural styles. Mudéjar elements survive in the lobed brickwork of its tower, which is surmounted by a Baroque (see p25) belfry. The principal portal – facing the Plaza de San Pedro – is also Baroque, and was added by Diego de Quesada in 1613.

The poorly lit interior has a Mudéjar wooden ceiling and west door. The vault of one of its chapels is decorated with exquisite geometric patterns of interlacing bricks.

Behind the church, in Calle Doña María Coronel, cakes are sold from a revolving drum in the wall of the 14th-century Convento de Santa Inés. Fronting its church is an arcaded patio, decorated with 17th-century frescoes by Francisco de Herrera.



Modern tilework adorning the front of the Iglesia de San Pedro

# Palacio de San Telmo **4**

Avenida de Roma. **Map** 3 C3. *Tel* 95 503 55 05. **(A) (E)** Puerta de Jerez. **(C3**, C4, C5, 5, 34, 40, 41. **(A)** for renovation until 2011. **(B) (D)** 

This imposing palace, named after the patron saint of navigators, was built in 1682 as a university to train ships' pilots, navigators and high-ranking officers. In 1849 it became the residence of the Dukes of Monpensier and until 1893 its grounds included what is now Parque María Luisa. Today it is the presidential headquarters of the Junta de Andalucía (the regional government).

The most striking feature of the Palacio de San Telmo is the

# Parque María Luisa **6**

Map 4 D4. 

■ Prado de San

Sebastián. 
■ Museo Arqueológico

Tel 95 478 64 74. 
□ 9am-8:30pm

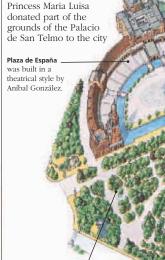
Tue-Sat, 9am-2:30pm Sun. 
■ 1 & 6

Jan, 1 May, 24, 25 & 31 Dec. 
② (free

for EU citizens). 
■ Museo de Artes

y Costumbres Populares Tel 95

471 23 91. 
□ as above.



The Glorieta de Bécquer / is an arbour with sculpted figures depicting the phases of love – a tribute to poet Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer.

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp590-91 and pp640-42

exuberant Churrigueresque portal designed by Leonardo de Figueroa, and completed in 1734. Surrounding the Ionic columns are allegorical figures representing the Sciences and Arts. St Telmo, holding a ship and charts, is flanked by the sword-bearing St Ferdinand and St Hermenegildo, with a cross. On the north façade is ranged a row of sculptures of Sevillian celebrities, added by Susillo in 1895. Among them are artists such as Montañés, Murillo and Velázquez.

Opposite is Seville's most famous hotel, the Alfonso XIII, dating from the 1920s. Its centrepiece is a grand patio with a fountain and orange trees. Non-residents are welcome to visit the bar and the restaurant.

# Universidad 6

Calle San Fernando 4. Map 3 C3. **Tel** 95 455 10 00. 🚸 Puerta de Jerez. 🏢 Puerta de Jerez or Prado de San Sebastian. 🚃 C3, C4, 5, 25. 8am–8:30pm Mon–Fri. public hols. www.us.es

The former Real Fábrica de Tabacos (Royal Tobacco Factory) is now part of Seville University. In the 19th century, three-quarters of Europe's cigars were manufactured here, rolled by 10,000 *cigarreras* (female cigar-makers) - the inspiration for French author Mérimée's Carmen.

Built in 1728–71, the factory complex is the largest building in Spain after El Escorial (see pp330-31) near Madrid.



Baroque fountain in one of the patios in the Universidad

The moat and watchtowers are evidence of the importance given to protecting the king's lucrative tobacco monopoly.

for this park in 1893. Landscaped by Jean Forestier, director of the Bois de Boulogne in Paris, the park was the leafy setting for the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition. The legacies of this extravaganza are the Plaza de España, decorated with regional scenes on ceramic tiles, and the Plaza de América, both the

work of Aníbal González. On the latter, in the Pabellón Mudéjar, the Museo de Artes y Costumbres Populares displays traditional Andalusian folk arts. The Neo-Renaissance Pabellón de las Bellas Artes houses the provincial Museo Arqueológico. Exhibits include statues and fragments found at Itálica (see p476).

Plaza de

América

Fuente de



The Isleta de los Patos sits in a lake graced by ducks and swans. Museo de Artes y Costumbres Populares



Decorative tiles at Cerámica Santa Ana, a popular ceramics shop in Triana

# Triana 0

**Map** 3 A2. Plaza de Cuba, Parque de los Príncipes.

This close-knit area, named after the Roman Emperor Trajan, was once Seville's gypsy quarter. Triana remains a traditional working-class district, with compact, flower-filled streets. For centuries it has been famous for its potteries. The best-known of its ceramics shops today is Cerámica Santa Ana at No. 31 Calle San Jorge.

A good way to approach Triana is across the Puente de Isabel II, leading to the Plaza del Altozano. The Museo de la Inquisicion, in Castillo de San Jorge, avoids sensational images and concludes with a presentation on human rights today. Nearby is one of the characteristic streets of the area, the Calle Rodrigo de Triana, named after the Andalusian sailor who was the first to sight the shores of the New World on Columbus's voyage of 1492.

The Iglesia de Santa Ana, founded in the 13th century, is Triana's most popular church. In the baptistry is the Gypsy Font, believed to pass on the gift of flamenco song to the children of the faithful.

# Isla de la Cartuja 3

The site of Expo '92 (see pp68–9), this area has since been transformed into a complex of exhibition halls, museums and leisure spaces.

The 15th-century Carthusian Monasterio de Santa María de las Cuevas was inhabited by monks until 1836. Columbus stayed and worked here, and it houses the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, which contains works by Andalusian artists, as well as Spanish and international art.

The centrepiece of Expo, the Lago de España, is part of the Isla Mágica theme park. This re-creates the journeys and exploits of the explorers who left Seville in the 16th century for the New World.

# Cámara Oscura 9

This huge camera obscura uses mirrors and magnifying lenses to display an image of the surrounding area. The Tower of Perdigones also offers scenic views of the city

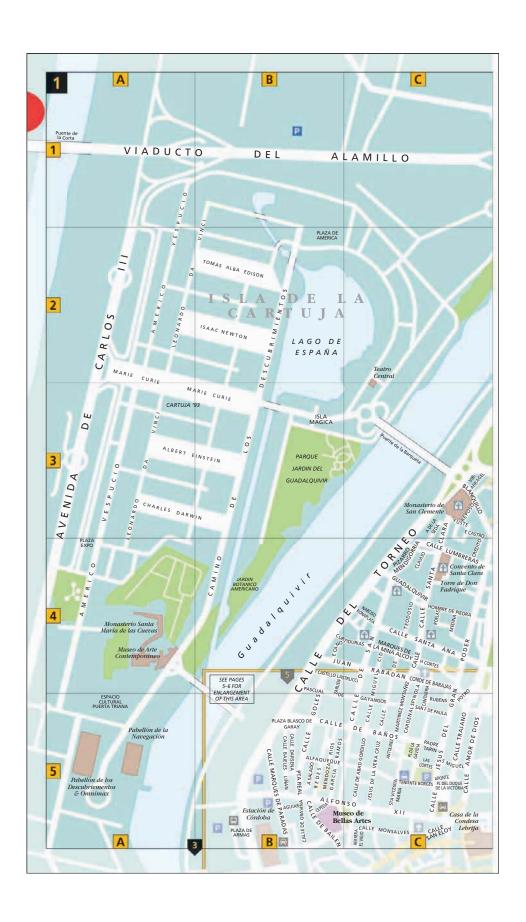


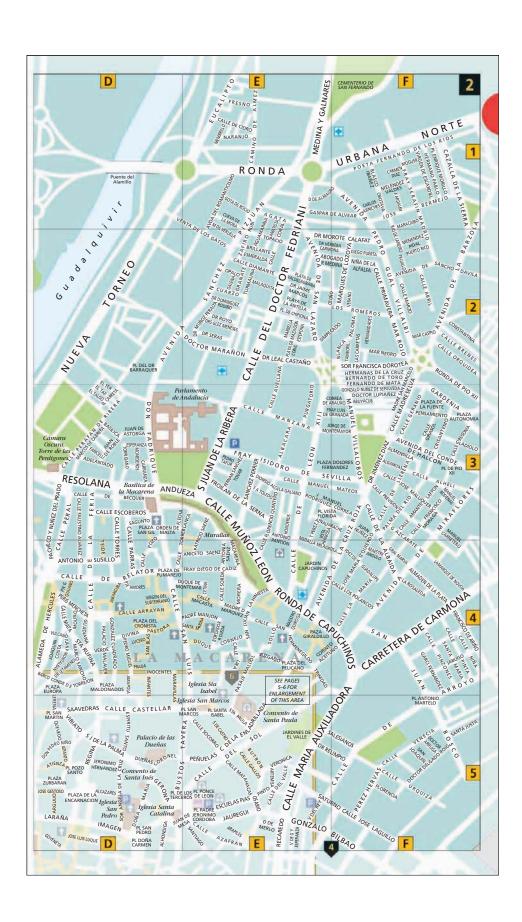
Main entrance of the Carthusian Monasterio de Santa María de las Cuevas, founded in 1400

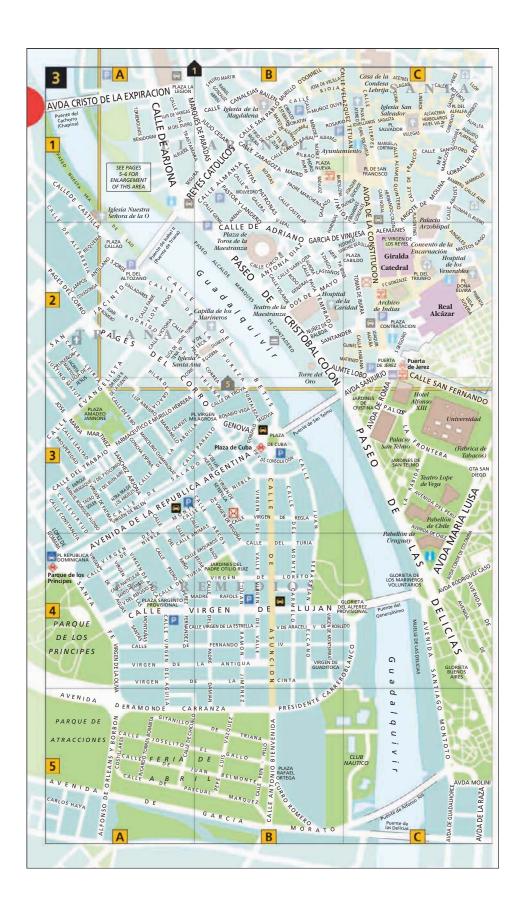
For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp590-91 and pp640-42

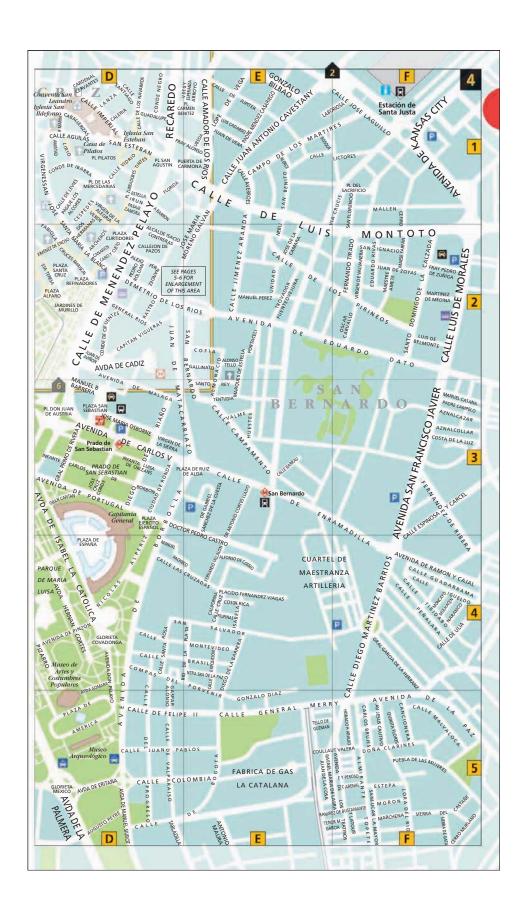
SEVILLE 447

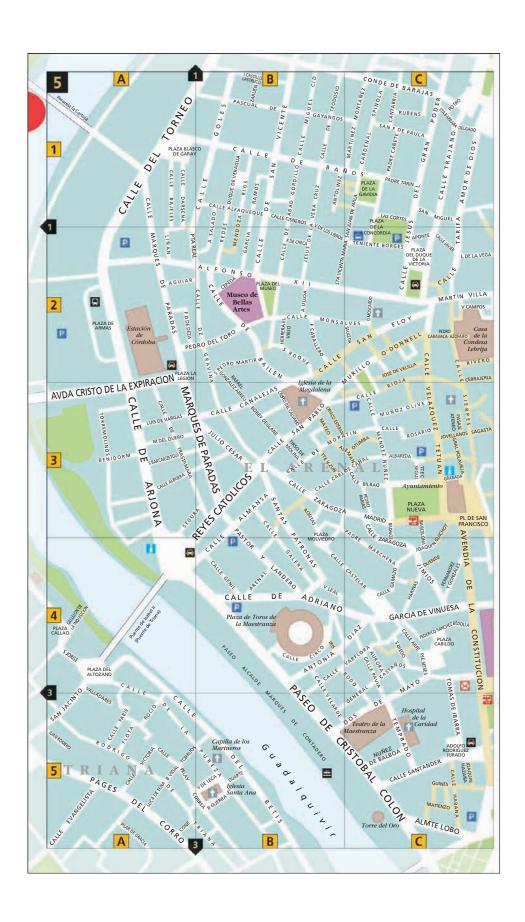
# SEVILLE STREET FINDER he map references given and restaurants (pp640-42). The with the sights described schematic map below shows in the Seville section of the area of Seville covered by the guide refer to the maps the Street Finder. The symbols on the following pages. Map references are also given for Seville hotels (see pp 590–91) used for the sights and other features are listed in the key at the foot of the page. 1 2 CARRETERA A CAMAS 5 6 **KEY TO STREET FINDER** Major sight Taxi rank Railway line Place of interest Parking Pedestrianized street Metro-Centro tram stop Other building Tourist information Hospital with casualty unit Railway station Police station Main bus stop Church SCALE OF MAP PAGES Coach station Convent or monastery 0 metres 250 River bus boarding point Post office 250

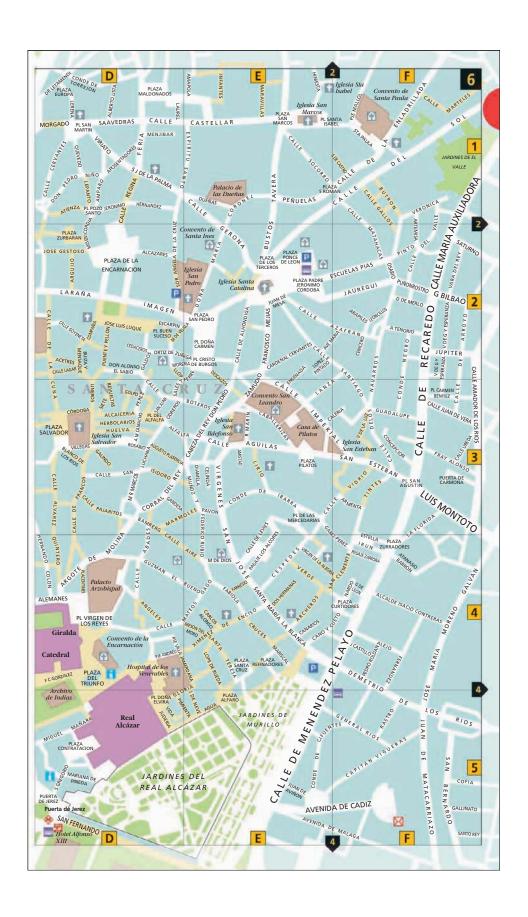












#### SHOPPING IN SEVILLE

he shopping experience in Seville is influenced by its culture – bustling with energy until the moment the siesta arrives, then relaxing over lunch before the frenzy begins again. Seville has a good mix of well-known chain stores and independently plate made in Seville owned shops, and the stores

diverse as the people themselves. The many wonderful Moroccan, Indian and main shopping district winds through African import shops to explore.

Calle Tetuán and Calle Sierpes, and flows on towards Plaza Nueva and over to Plaza Alfalfa, where you will find a fantastic range of goods anything from the latest fashions to unique Spanish arts and crafts. Yet more diverse items can be found while strolling along Amor de Dios towards

in this vibrant city are as colourful and Alameda de Hercules, where there are



#### SPECIALIST SHOPS

The streets of Calle Cuna, Calle Francos and Calle Lineros are lined with shops that capture the flamenco spirit. Lina Boutique has impeccably styled, unique dresses as well as accessories. Calzados Mayo sells flamenco dance shoes, while beautiful handmade shawls and intricate lace mantillas (veils) can be found at Juan Foronda. Handmade sombreros (hats). in addition to tasteful men's accessories, are available at Maquedano. For a fabulous range of leather goods and fashions, **El Caballo** is the place to shop.

To relive the spirit of Semana Santa (Easter Week), religious items can be bought at Casa Rodríguez. If you are enraptured by the aroma of

orange blossom, visit Agua de



# **AND GALERIAS**

El Corte Inglés, Spain's national department store, has two main locations in the centre -Plaza Duque de la Victoria and Plaza Magdalena. The larger building at Plaza Duque offers clothes, shoes, sporting goods, cosmetics, a gourmet shop and a supermarket; the smaller

building stocks music, books and art supplies. The outlet in Plaza Magdalena sells fine china, kitchenware and appliances. It also houses a supermarket. El Corte Inglés is open Monday

to Saturday until 10pm. Plaza de Armas is the only shopping centre in the heart of town, with shops, bars, restaurants, a nightclub, cinema and a supermarket. Nervion Plaza, the largest shopping hub close to the city centre (and

accessible by metro), is lined with shops, restaurants, bars, a cinema and a mall. Shopping centres are open from 10am to 8:30pm Monday to Saturday.

#### **OPEN-AIR MARKETS**

The lively and colourful openair markets feature a dazzling display of unique wares and are a great way to spend a leisurely morning. Distinctive accessories and clothing can be found in the markets of Plaza Duque de la Victoria and Plaza Magdalena, open all day (weather permitting) Thursday to Saturday.

The markets at Plaza Encarnación, El Arenal, Plaza del Altozano, in Triana, and Calle Fería (open Monday to Saturday) offer local produce, fish, meat and cheese, while the Thursday market at Calle Fería specializes in bric-abrac. On Sundays, stamps, coins and other collectibles are traded in Plaza del Cabildo, and the painters market in Plaza del Museo has displays of local art.



Stylish handmade sombreros

#### **ANTIQUES AND CRAFTS**

Antique shops are scattered throughout the city centre, mainly in Barrio Santa Cruz and Alfalfa. Antiguedades el Museo has classic Spanish and European furnishings and art, while handmade goods can be found at El Postigo, an arts and crafts centre. Ocre y Almagra boasts unique paintings, ceramics and functional artwork with Andalusian influences. Seville's great ceramic tradition is visible in the Triana district, which still has several operating ceramic workshops. Ĉeramic shops can also be found along Calle Sierpes and Calle Tetuán.

#### **FOOD AND WINE**

To bring home some of Seville's gastronomic specialities or to prepare a nice picnic, visit **Baco**. The gourmet shop in El Corte Inglés has exquisite luxuries for the discerning palate, as well as an ample wine cellar. For general groceries try the supermarket downstairs. Every area has several small convenience stores. For out-of-hours shopping **Open Cor** is open 8am–2am daily.

#### **FASHION**

The shops of Calle Tetuán and Calle Sierpes bustle with an exciting range of the latest fashions. For avant-garde baute couture with Andalusian flair, visit the Sevillian designers' boutique Victorio y Lucchino. Luchi Cabrera has exclusive women's clothes and accessories. Loewe offers classic lines of clothing, luggage and accessories for both men and women, while **Zara** stocks all the latest highstreet trends. For unique and exotic accessories, head to the Alfalfa district, where several shops offer distinctive jewellery, handbags and other goods. **Esmeralda** has the biggest selection. For stylish baby clothes with Sevillian flair, pay a visit to Larrana.

The well-heeled of Seville shop at the vast array of shoe stores in the area as well as at the well-stocked "shoe street" of Calle Córdoba.

# BOOKS, MUSIC AND SOUVENIRS

Small bookshops are tucked into numerous corners of the city, but for the biggest selection of books in multiple languages, go to Casa del Libro. Music aficionados can find regional sounds of flamenco, Rock Andaluz and Semana Santa music at



An art poster with a typical Sevillian flavour

Compás Sur Flamenco with their impressive collection of CDs, DVDs, books and sheet music. Also, a large selection of musical instruments and equipment can be found at Sevilla Musical.

Typical souvenir shops are abundant along Avenida de la Constitución, Calle Mateos de Gago and all throughout Barrio Santa Cruz.

#### **DIRECTORY**

#### SPECIALIST SHOPS

#### Agua de Sevilla

San Fernando 3. **Map** 3 C3, 6 D5. *Tel* 954 50 15 38.

#### Calzados Mayo Pl Alfalfa 2. Map 3 C1,

6 D3. **Tel** 954 22 55 55.

#### **Casa Rodríguez** C/ Francos 35. **Map** 3 C1, 6 D3. **Tel** 954 22 78 42.

**El Caballo**C/ Antonio Diaz 7. **Map** 5
B4. *Tel* 954 21 81 27.

# Juan Foronda

C/ Tetuan 28. **Map** 3 C1, 5 C3. **Tel** 954 22 60 60.

#### Lina Boutique C/Lineros 17. Map 3 C1,

5 D3. **Tel** 954 21 24 23.

#### Maquedano

C/ Sierpes 40. **Map** 3 C1, 5 C3. **Tel** 954 56 47 71.

#### DEPARTMENT STORES AND GALERIAS

#### El Corte Inglés

Pl Duque de la Victoria 8, 13B. **Map** 1 C5, 5 C2. **Tel** 954 59 70 00. One of several branches.

# ANTIQUES AND CRAFTS

#### Antiguedades el Museo

Plaza del Museo 4. **Map** 1 C5, 5 B2. **Tel** 954 56 01 28.

#### El Postigo

C/ Arfe s/n. **Map** 3 B2, 5 B4. **Tel** 954 56 00 13.

# Ocre y Almagra

C/ Sierpes 83. **Map** 3 B2. **Tel** 954 21 27 48.

### FOOD AND WINE

#### Baco

C/ Cuna 4. **Map** 3 C1, 6 D2. **Tel** 954 21 66 73.

#### Open Cor

Av Sanjurio. **Map** 3 C3, 5 C5.

#### FASHION

#### Esmeralda

C/ Alcaiceria de la Loza 26. **Map** 3 C1, 6 D3. **Tel** 954 22 55 11.

#### Larrana

C/ Blanca de los Rios 4. **Map** 3 C1, 6 D3. **Tel** 954 21 52 80.

#### **Loewe** Pl Nueva 12. **Map** 3 B1,

5 C3. *Tel* 954 22 52 53. **Luchi Cabrera** Pl El Salvador s/n. **Map** 6 D3. *Tel* 954 22 39 76.

#### Victorio y Lucchino

Pl. Nueva 10. **Map** 3 B1, 5 C3. **Tel** 954 50 26 60.

#### Zara

C/ Rioja 10. **Map** 3 B1, 5 C3. **Tel** 954 21 10 58. One of several branches.

# BOOKS, MUSIC AND SOUVENIRS

#### Casa del Libro

C/ Velázquez 8.

Map 3 C1, 5 C3.

Tel 902 02 64 10.

#### Compás Sur Flamenco

Cuesta del Rosario 7E. **Map** 3 C1, 6 D3. **Tel** 954 21 56 62.

#### Sevilla Musical

C/ Cardinal Spinola 3. **Map** 1 C5. **Tel** 954 91 57 55.

# ENTERTAINMENT IN SEVILLE

eville is universally famed as being a city of celebration and vitality, and this is reflected in its two spring festivals, Semana Santa and Feria de Abril (see p431). In fact, the city has a year-round programme of interesting cultural events. The modern Teatro de la Maestranza and Teatro Lope de Vega, along with a number

tivals, while the world's most important flamenco festival, the Flamenco dancer in traditional dress

derby between Real Betis and of independent venues, host a range of Sevilla FC is an absolute must-see.

Decorative tile commemorating Seville's Real Betis football club

#### SEASONS AND TICKETS

In Seville, the arts season usually starts in September. lasting until June-July. From April to the end of the summer, the streets and openair stages also host shows.

Two of the city's biggest events - the Bienal de Flamenco and the Bienal de Arte Contemporáneo are biannual and take place in the autumn in even-numbered years.

Tickets for major sports events, opera, concerts and festivals should be booked in advance - details can be provided by the city's tourist information offices. Football matches are very popular, so buy these in advance too.

#### **ENTERTAINMENT GUIDES**

A monthly events guide, El Giraldillo (www.giraldillo.es) covers film, music, theatre, clubs, art, sport, books, gay

life, travel and much more. La Teatral, a bimonthly publication, is specifically focused on theatre and dance.

#### **FLAMENCO**

Flamenco embraces a broad spectrum of dancing, singing and musical styles. One venue with high-quality performances is Los Gallos. For something really authentic, venture out to La Anselma in the Triana quarter - the traditional home of the gypsy community. **La Carbonería** is an informal bar where free flamenco shows are often performed by amateur artists.

Promoting semi-professional local artists, **Casa de la** Memoria in the Santa Cruz district presents varied shows daily. As the venue is quite small, it is recommended you buy tickets in advance, and show up early to get a seat. In Calle Betis, there are

bars where the public can watch and join in with Sevillanas, a popular Andalusian folk dance.

dance, music, theatre and arts fes-

Bienal de Flamenco, takes place

in the city. Seville also has an

enviable selection of night

spots, from the quiet, more

relaxed area surrounding the

cathedral to the buzzing bars

of Calle Betis and the Alfalfa

district. For sports fans, a local

The Museo de Baile Flamenco is a good place to learn about the origins of the dance and current developments, as well as see performances.

#### MUSIC AND DANCE

The setting of Bizet's Carmen, Rossini's The Barber of Seville and Mozart's Don Giovanni and Figaro. Seville is a city of opera lovers. Prestigious international opera companies perform at the elegant Teatro de la Maestranza, starting in December and lasting until May. This theatre is home to the Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla, whose performances are highly regarded. The annual programme of the theatre also includes chamber and classical music seasons. Teatro Lope de Vega and



A live performance of flamenco at Los Gallos



Rosario Flores, the famous Andalusian singing star, performing at one of her concerts

Conservatorio Superior de Música Manuel Castillo are two other remarkable venues for classical music.

The Maestranza and Teatro Central are the main venues hosting a wide range of national and international classical and contemporary dance performances. Sala Endanza is the ideal venue for smaller productions.

#### **ROCK, JAZZ AND BLUES**

Few international rock stars make it to Seville, as Barcelona and Madrid tend to attract all the big names. However, large concerts are sometimes held at Estadio Olímpico. Some of Spain's most popular groups and singers in the flamenco

pop genre, such as Niña Pastori and Rosario Flores, are from Andalusia. Café Naima and Café Daoiz, have live music from local bands. including jazz, folk and rock, but the highlight of the jazz calendar in Seville has to be the International Jazz

Festival, held in November at the Teatro Central.

#### **NIGHTLIFE**

The nightlife of Seville offers an endless array of possibilities. Calle Betis, along the Triana side of the river, has many bars, restaurants and clubs. Alameda de Hércules is one of the liveliest areas. with Café Habanilla and Café Central as main bohemian hotspots. Las Columnas is the most popular tapas bar in Barrio de Santa Cruz district and Bar Garlochi is recommended for the first drink of the night. Ku dé Ta is a fashionable nightclub in Plaza de Armas next to El Arenal. The streets surrounding Plaza

de la Alfalfa overflow with vouthful revellers. Frequented by Spanish celebrities, Antique in Isla de la Cartuja is the place to dance till dawn. In summer, their outdoor terrace, Aqua, boasts two pools and music, dance and fashion shows.

#### BULLFIGHTING

The Maestranza Bullring (see p430) is mythical among fans of bullfighting. Some of the most important bullfights in Spain are held here during the Feria de Abril. The season runs from April to October. It is advisable to book in advance if the matadors are famous, and also if you want a seat in the sombra (shade). Tickets are sold at the taquilla (box office) at the bullring.

#### AMUSEMENT PARKS

Isla Mágica re-creates the exploits of 16th-century New World explorers. The first of the eight zones which visitors experience is Seville, port of the Indies, followed by Quetzal, the Fury of the Gods, the Gateway to the Americas, Amazonia, the Pirate's Lair and El Dorado. Fun for children of all ages.

#### **DIRECTORY**

#### FLAMENCO

#### Casa de la Memoria

C/ Ximenez de Enciso 28. Man 4 D2 6 F4 Tel 954 56 06 70.

#### La Anselma

C/ Pages del Corro 49. **Map** 3 A2.

#### La Carbonería

C/ Levíes 18. Map 4 D1, 6 F3. Tel 954 21 44 60.

#### Los Gallos

Pl de Santa Cruz 11. Map 4 D2, 6 E4. Tel 954 21 69 81. www.tablaolos gallos.com

#### Museo de Baile Flamenco

C/ Manuel Rojas Marcos 3. **Map** 6 D3. Tel 954 34 03 11.

#### MUSIC AND DANCE ROCK, JA77 AND

#### Conservatorio Superior de Música Manuel Castillo

C/ Baños 48. **Map** 1 C5, 5 B1. **Tel** 954 91 56 30.

#### Sala Endanza

Cas C/Torneo 18. Map 1 C3. **Tel** 954 90 40 34.

#### **Teatro Central**

Av José Gálvez s/n, Isla de la Cartuja. **Map** 1 C2. Tel 955 03 72 00.

#### Teatro Lope de Vega

Av María Luisa s/n. **Map** 3 C3. Tel 955 47 28 22.

#### Teatro de la Maestranza

Paseo de Colón 22. Map 5 C5. 3 B2. Tel 954 22 33 44.

# RIUFS

#### Café Daoiz

C/ Jesús del Gran Poder 19. Map 1 C5, 5 C1. Tel 954 22 65 73.

#### Café Naima

C/ Trajano 47. Map 1 C5, 5 C1. Tel 954 38 24 85.

#### Estadio Olímpico

Isla de la Cartuia, s/n. Map 1 B1. **Tel** 954 48 94 00. www.eosevilla.com

#### NIGHTLIFE

#### Antique

Matemáticos Rey Pastor y Castro s/n. Map 1 B3. Tel 954 46 22 07.

#### Bar Garlochi

C/ Boteros 26. Map 3 C1, 6 E3.

#### Café Central

Pl Alameda de Hércules 64. **Map** 1 D4. Tel 954 38 73 12

#### Café Habanilla

Pl Alameda de Hércules 63. Map 1 D4.

#### Tel 954 90 27 18. Ku dé Ta

Pl de Armas. Map 3 A1, 5 A2. Tel 954 08 90 95

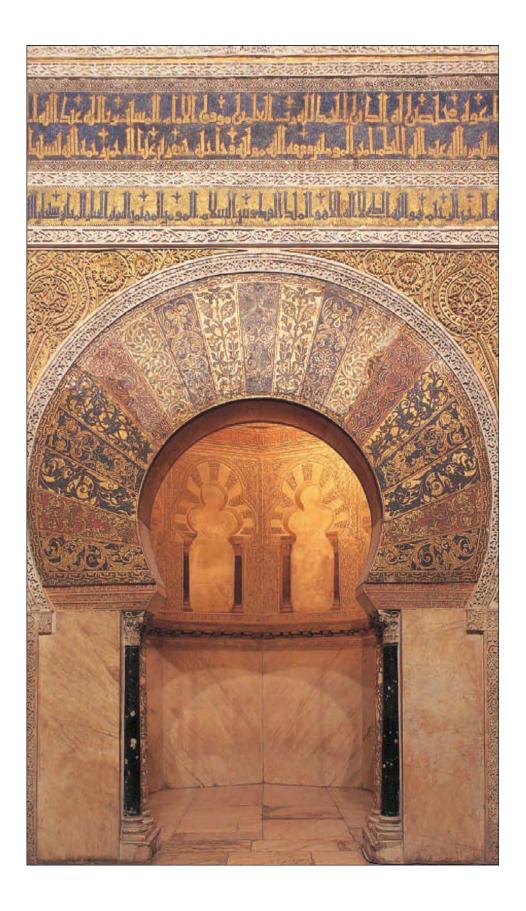
#### Las Columnas C/ Rodrigo Caro 1.

#### Map 3 C2, 5 E4.

AMUSEMENT PARKS

#### Isla Mágica

Pabellón de España, Isla de la Cartuja. **Map** 1 B2. Tel 902 16 17 16.



# ANDALUSIA

HUELVA · CÁDIZ · MÁLAGA · GIBRALTAR · SEVILLA CÓRDOBA · GRANADA · JAÉN · ALMERÍA

Andalusia is where all Spain's stereotypes meet. Bullfighters, beaches, flamenco, white villages, cave houses, gaudy fiestas, religious processions, tapas and sherry are all here in abundance. But each is part of a larger whole, which includes great art and architecture, nature reserves and an easy-going way of life.

The eight provinces of Andalusia stretch across Southern Spain from the deserts of Almería to the Portuguese border. One of Spain's longest rivers, the Guadalquivir, bisects the region. Andalusia is linked to the central tableland by a pass, the Desfiladero de Despeñaperros. The highest peaks on the Spanish mainland are in Andalusia's Sierra Nevada.

Successive invaders left their mark on Andalusia. The Romans built cities in this southern province, which they called Baetica, among them Córdoba, its capital, and the well-preserved Itálica near Seville. It was in Andalusia that the Moors lingered longest and left their greatest buildings – Córdoba's Mezquita and the splendid palace of

the Alhambra in Granada.
Inevitably, perhaps, the most visited places are the great cities and the busy Costa del Sol, with Gibraltar, a geographical and historical oddity, at its western end. But

there are many attractions tucked into other corners of the region. Many of the sights of Huelva province, bordering Portugal, are associated with Christopher Columbus, who set sail from here in 1492. Film directors have put to good use the atmospheric landscapes of Almería's arid interior, which are reminiscent of the Wild West or Arabia. Discreetly concealed among the countless olive groves that cover Jaén province, but not to be missed, are Andalusia's two lovely Renaissance towns, Úbeda and Baeza.



The city of Jaén surrounded by olive groves, seen from the Castillo de Santa Catalina

 $<sup>\</sup>mathrel{\displaystyle \mathrel{\triangleleft}}$  Doorway into the  $\it{mihrab}$  (prayer niche) in the Mezquita at Córdoba

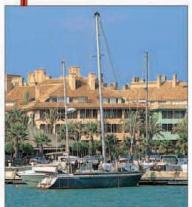
# **Exploring Andalusia**

Andalusia is Spain's most varied region. It offers dramatic desert scenery at Tabernas, water sports on the Costa del Sol, skiing in the Sierra Nevada and sherry tasting in Jerez. Of the many nature reserves, the vast, watery Doñana teems with birdlife, while Cazorla is a rugged limestone massif. Granada and Córdoba are unmissable for their Moorish heritage; Úbeda and Baeza are Renaissance gems; and Ronda is one of dozens of superb white towns.

MEDINA AZAHARA SIERRA DE ARACENA Constantina El Ronquillo Calañas 25 PALMA DEL RÍO Alcala del Río CARMONA 26 ÉCIJA del Contido ITÁLICA 20 Alcala de Guadaira HUELVA 2 Moguer
PALOS DE LA Ayamonte MONASTERIO 3
DE LA RÁBIDA 3 a Torre de la Higuera, Golfo de NACIONANA Utrera OSUNA KEY GARGANTA DEL CHORRO Major road SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA Secondary road Carratraca Scenic route RONDA Chipiona JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA El Puerto de Santa María Main railway

m n cádiz 🗨

San Fernando



Minor railway

International border

Regional border Summit

The smart marina at Sotogrande

LALUZ Tarifa

ALGECIRAS (1)

Barbate

Belalcáza

MARBELLA 16

**G** GIBRALTAR

Hinojosa del Duque

Villanueva del Duque

#### **GETTING AROUND**

Andalusia has a modern motorway network, with the principal NIV A4 (E5) from Madrid following the Guadalquivir valley to Córdoba, Seville and Cádiz. The fast AVE train links Málaga, Seville and Córdoba with Madrid. Coaches cover most of the region. The main airports are Málaga, Seville, Jerez and Gibraltar.





The famed jamón ibérico hanging in a bar in Jabugo. Sierra de Aracena

#### 

Huelva, 🖪 Fl Repilado, 🗐 Aracena. C/ Pozo de la Nieve s/n, Aracena, 663 93 78 77. 🖨 Sat.

This wild mountain range is one of the most remote and least visited corners of Andalusia. On the hillside are the ruins of a Moorish fort. The hill is pitted with caverns and in one, the Gruta de las

Maravillas, is a lake in a chamber hung with many stalactites.

The village of Jabugo is famed for its ham, jamón ibérico, or pata negra (see p419).

Off the A-471 are Provincial, Huelva the giant opencast mines at Minas de Riotinto, where iron, copper and silver have been exploited since Phoenician times. The Museo Minero traces the history of the Rio Tinto Company.

Gruta de las Maravillas Pozo de la Nieve. *Tel* 663 93 78 77 (for info about availability).

10am-1:30pm, 3-6pm. 💋 🎉 Museo Minero Plaza del Museo. **Tel** 959 59 00 25. daily. 1 & 6 Jan, 25 Dec. 4

# Huelva 2

Huelva. [130,000. ] Pl Alcalde Coto Mora 2, 959 65 02 00. Fri. M Las Columbinas (3 Aug).

Founded as Onuba by the Phoenicians, Huelva had its grandest days as a Roman port. It was almost wiped out

in the great Lisbon earthquake of 1755. It is an industrial city today, sprawling around the quayside on the Río Odiel.

Columbus's departure for the New World (see p56) from Palos de la Frontera, across the Río Odiel estuary, is celebrated

in the excellent Museo **Provincial**, which also charts the history of the Rio Tinto mines. To the east of the centre, the Barrio Reina Victoria is a bizarre example of English mock-Tudor suburban bungalows built by the Rio Tinto Company for its workers in the early 20th century.

South of the town, at Bronze jug, Museo Punta del Sebo, the Monumento a Colón, a rather bleak statue of

> Columbus created by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1929, dominates the Odiel estuary.

#### **Environs**

There are three resorts with sandy beaches near Huelva: Punta Umbria, on a promontory next to the bird-rich wetlands

of the Marismas del Odiel: Isla Cristina, which is also an important fishing port and has excellent seafood restaurants; and Mazagón with miles of windswept dunes.

The hilly region east of Huelva known as **El Condado** produces several of Andalusia's finest wines, and Bollullos del Condado has the largest wine cooperative in the region. Niebla, nearby, has a Roman bridge. The town walls and 12th-century Castillo de los Guzmanes are both Moorish.

**Museo Provincial** Alameda Sundheim 13. **Tel** 959 65 04 24. ☐ Tue –Sun. と

**♠** Castillo de los Guzmanes C/ Campo Castillo, Niebla. *Tel* 959 36 22 70. daily.

#### Monasterio de la Rábida 🛭

Huelva. 🧐 from Huelva. Tel 959 35 04 11. Tue-Sun. 🕹 🎉 💯

Four kilometres (2 miles) to the north of Palos de la Frontera is the Franciscan Monasterio de la Rábida. founded in the 15th century

In 1491, a dejected Columbus sought refuge here after his plans to sail west to find the East Indies had been rejected by the Catholic Monarchs. Its prior, Juan Pérez, fatefully used his considerable influence as Queen Isabella's confessor to reverse the royal decision.

Inside, frescoes painted by Daniel Vásquez Díaz in 1930 glorify the explorer's life and discoveries. Also worth seeing are the Mudéjar cloisters, the flower-filled gardens and the beamed chapterhouse.



Frescoes depicting the life of Columbus at the Monasterio de la Rábida

#### Palos de la Frontera 4

Columbus put to sea on 3 August 1492 from Palos, the home town of his two captains, the brothers Martín and Vicente Pinzón. Martín's former home, the Casa Museo de Martín Alonso Pinzón, is now a small museum of exploration, and his statue stands in the main square.

The 15th-century **Iglesia de San Jorge** has a fine portal, through which Columbus left after hearing Mass before boarding the *Santa Maria*. The pier is now silted up.

#### Environs

In the beautiful white town of Moguer are treasures such as the 16th-century hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Montemayor, and the Neo-Classical town hall. The Convento de Santa Clara houses the Museo Diocesano de Arte Sacro and has a pretty cloister.

# Casa Museo de Martín Alonso Pinzón

Alonso Pinzón
Calle Colón 24. *Tel* 959 35 08 51
(for guided tours). for restoration.

↑ Convento de Santa Clara
Plaza de las Monjas. Tel 959 37 01 07.
↑ Tue-Sat. public hols. | ✓

#### El Rocío 6

Huelva. A. 2,500. Avda de la Canaliega, 955 77 79 56. A. Romería (MaylJun).

Bordering the Parque Nacional de Doñana (see pp464–5), El Rocío is famous for its annual romería, which sees almost a million people converge on the village. Many of the pilgrims travel from distant parts of Spain, some on gaudily decorated ox-carts, to visit the

Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Rocío. A statue of the Virgin in the church is believed to have performed miraculous healings since 1280. Early on the Monday morning of the festival, men from Almonte fight to carry the statue in procession, and the crowd clambers on to the float to touch the image.



Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Rocío, El Rocío

# ANDALUSIA'S FIESTAS



Crowds following the image of the Virgin at El Rocío

Carnival (Feb/Mar), Cádiz. The whole city puts on fancy dress for one of Europe's largest and most colourful carnivals. Groups of singers practise for many months to perform ditties satirizing current fashions, celebrities and politicians. Romería de la Virgen de la Cabeza (last Sun in Apr), Andújar (Jaén). A mass pilgrimage to a lonely sanctuary in the Sierra Morena. Día de la Cruz (first week in May), Granada and Córdoba. Neighbourhood groups compete to create the most colourful crosses adorned with flowers on squares and street corners. Córdoba Patio Fiesta

(mid-May). Flower-decked patios in old Córdoba are opened to the public with displays of flamenco. El Rocío (May/Jun). More than 70 brotherhoods of pilgrims arrive at the village of El Rocío to pay homage to the Virgen del Rocío. Columbus Festival (late Julearly Aug), Huelva. This celebration of Columbus's

Juleary Augy, Huelva. Inis celebration of Columbus's voyage is dedicated to the native music and dance of a different Latin American country every year.

Exaltación al Río
Guadalquivir (mid-Aug),
Sanlúcar de Barrameda
(Cádiz). Horses are raced
on the beach at the mouth
of the Río Guadalquivir.

# Parque Nacional de Doñana o

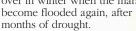
Dor Euro with

Bird-spotting from boat

Doñana National Park is ranked among Europe's greatest wetlands. Together with its adjoining protected areas, the park covers in excess of 50,000

hectares (123,000 acres) of marshes and sand dunes. The area used to be a hunting ground (coto) belonging to the Dukes of Medina Sidonia. As the land was never suitable for human settlers,

wildlife was able to flourish. In 1969, this large area became officially protected. In addition to a wealth of endemic species, thousands of migratory birds stop over in winter when the marshes





Shrub Vegetation Backing the sand dunes is a thick carpet of lavender, rock rose and other low shrubs.



Prickly Juniper

This species of juniper (Juniperus oxycedrus) thrives in the wide dune belt, putting roots deep into the sand. The trees may get buried beneath the dunes.



### Coastal Dunes

Softly rounded, white dunes, up to 30 m (100 ft) high, fringe the park's coastal edge. The dunes, ribbed by prevailing winds off the Atlantic, shift constantly.



#### Monte de / Doñana, the

behind the sand dunes, provides shelter for lynx, deer and boar.



#### The Interior

The number of visitors to the park's interior is strictly controlled to ensure minimal environmental impact. The only way to view the wildlife here is on officially guided day tours.

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp591-7 and pp642-8

#### KEY

Marshes

Dunes

Parque Nacional de Doñana

Parque Natural de Doñana

Road

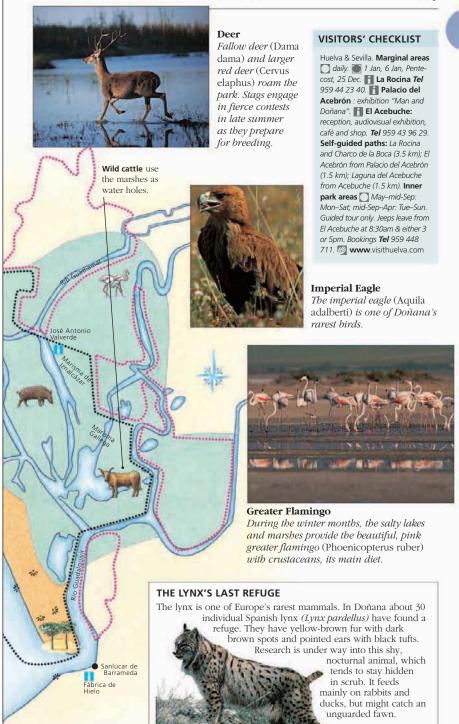
Viewpoint ...

Visitors' centre

Parking

Coach station

The elusive lynx, only glimpsed with patience



0 miles

#### Sanlúcar de Barrameda •

Cádiz. 🔼 63,000. 📮 🚼 Calzada del Ejército, 956 36 61 10. A Wed. Exaltación al Río Guadalquivir and horse races (mid-Aug).

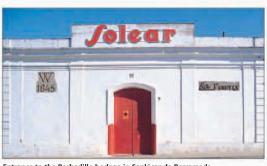
A fishing port at the mouth of the Río Guadalquivir, Sanlúcar is overlooked by a Moorish castle. This was the departure point for Columbus's third voyage in 1498 and also for Magellan's 1519 expedition to circumnavigate the globe.

Sanlúcar is best known for its light, dry manzanilla sherry made by, among other producers, Bodegas Barbadillo. Boats from the quay take visitors across the river to the Parque Nacional de Doñana (see pp464-5).

#### **Environs**

Chipiona, along the coast, is a lively little resort town with an excellent beach. The walled town of Lebrija, inland, enjoys views over vineyards. Its Iglesia de Santa María de la Oliva is a reconsecrated 12thcentury Almohad mosque.

# 



Entrance to the Barbadillo bodega in Sanlúcar de Barrameda

#### Jerez de la Frontera 8

Cádiz. 👰 190,000. 🛧 💂 😭 📋 Alameda Cristina 7, 956 34 17 11. Mon. Grape Harvest (Sep).

Jerez is the capital of sherry production (see pp420-21) and many bodegas can be visited. Among the well-known names are González Byass and Pedro Domecq.

The city is also famous for its Real Escuela Andaluza de Arte Ecuestre, a school of equestrian skills. There are public dressage displays on Thursdays. If you visit on another day you may be able to watch the horses being trained. The Palacio del

Tiempo, nearby, has one of the largest clock collections in Europe. On the Plaza de San Juan, the 18th-century Palacio de Penmartín houses the Centro Andaluz de Flamenco, where exhibitions give a good introduction to this music and dance tradition (see pp424-5). The partially restored, 11thcentury Alcázar encompasses a well-preserved mosque, now a church. Just to the north is the cathedral.

#### **Environs**

Not far from Jerez, the Monasterio de la Cartuia Santa María de la Defensión is considered one of the most beautiful in Spain. The port of El Puerto de Santa María has several bodegas that can be visited, including Osborne and **Terry**. The town also has a 13th-century castle and a large bullring.

### ⊞ Real Escuela Andaluza de Arte Ecuestre Duque de Abrantes. *Tel* 956 31 96

35 (by appt). Mon–Fri. 6 & www.realescuela.org

n Palacio del Tiempo Calle Cervantes 3. *Tel* 956 18 21 00.

m Palacio de Penmartín Plaza de San Juan 1. **Tel** 856 81 41 32. Mon–Fri. public hols.

Alameda Vieja. **Tel** 956 31 97 98. daily. 1 & 6 Jan, 25 Dec. 16

📤 Alcázar

¶ Sherry Bodegas
☐ phone for tour times. 
☐ González Byass, C/ Manuel María González 12, Jerez. *Tel* 902 44 00 77. **Pedro Domecq,** C/ San Ildefonso 3, Jerez. **Tel** 956 15 15 00. **Sandeman,** C/ Pizarro 10, Jerez. **Tel** 956 31 29 95. Osborne, C/ de los Moros, Puerto de Santa María. **Tel** 956 86 91 00. **Terry,** C/ Tonelero, Puerto de Santa María. Tel 956 15 15 00.



Real Escuela Andaluza de Arte Ecuestre, Jerez de la Frontera

#### Cádiz o



Egyptian mask, Museo de Cádiz

Jutting out of the Bay of Cádiz, and almost entirely surrounded by water, Cádiz lays claim to being Europe's oldest city. Legend names Hercules as its founder, although history credits the Phoenicians with establishing the town of Gadir in 1100 BC. Occupied by the Carthaginians, Romans and Moors in turn, the city also prospered after the

Reconquest (see pp54–5) on wealth taken from the New World. In 1587 Sir Francis Drake sacked the city in the first of many British attacks in the war for world trade. In 1812 Cádiz briefly became Spain's capital when the nation's first constitution was declared here (see p63).

#### **Exploring Cádiz**

The joy of visiting Cádiz is to wander along the waterfront with its well-tended gardens and open squares before exploring the old town, which is full of narrow alleys busy with market and street life.

The pride of the city is its Carnival (see p463) – a riotous explosion of festivities, fancy dress, singing and drinking.

#### 

Known as the Catedral Nueva (New Cathedral) and built on the site of an older one, this Baroque and Neo-Classical church, with its dome of golden-yellow tiles, is one of Spain's largest. In the crypt is the tomb of composer Manuel de Falla (1876–1946), native of Cádiz. The cathedral's treasures are stored in the Casa de la Contaduria, behind the cathedral.

#### **M** Museo de Cádiz

Plaza de Mina. Tel 956 20 33 68.

2:30–8:30pm Tue;
9am–8:30pm Wed-Sat;
9am-2:30pm Sun & hols.

The museum has archaeological exhibits charting the history of Cádiz and the largest art gallery in Andalusia, with works by Rubens, Zurbarán and Murillo. On the third floor is a collection of puppets made for village fiestas.

#### 11 Torre Tavira

Calle Marqués del Real Tesoro 10.

Tel 956 21 29 10. daily. The city's official watchtower in the 18th century has now been converted into a camera obscura, and offers great views.

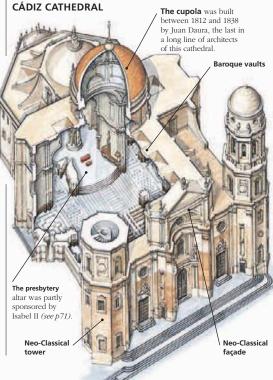
#### ♠ Oratorio de San Felipe Neri

This 18th-century church has been a shrine to liberalism since 1812. In that year, as Napoleon tightened his grip on Spain during the War of Independence (see pp62–3), a provisional government assembled here to try to lay the foundations of Spain's first constitutional monarchy. The liberal constitution it declared was bold but ineffectual.

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST



Zurbarán's Saint Bruno in Ecstasy, in the Museo de Cádiz





Fishing boats at the resort of Zahara de los Atunes on the Costa de la Luz

#### Costa de la Luz 0

Cádiz. Cádiz. Cádiz, Tarifa.
Paseo de la Alameda s/n, Tarifa,
956 68 09 93.

The Costa de la Luz (Coast of Light) between Cádiz and Tarifa, at Spain's southernmost tip, is an unspoiled, windswept stretch of coast characterized by strong, pure light – the source of its name. From the Sierra del Cabrito, to the west of Algeciras, it is often possible to see the outline of Tangier and the parched Moroccan landscape below the purpletinged Rif mountains across the narrow Strait of Gibraltar.

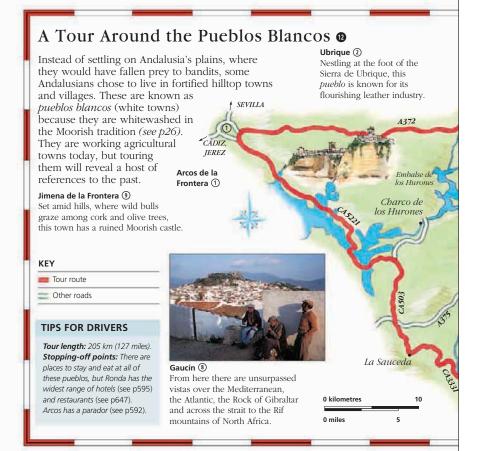
**Tarifa** is named after an 8th-century Moorish commander,

Tarif ben Maluk, who landed there with his forces during the Moorish conquest (see pp52–3). Later, Tarifa and its 10th-century castle were defended by the legendary hero Guzmán during a siege by the Moors in 1292.

Tarifa has since become the windsurfing capital of Europe. The breezes that blow on to this coast also drive the numerous wind turbines on the hills.

Off the N340 (E5), at the end of a long, narrow road which strikes out across a wilderness of cacti, sunflowers and lone cork trees, is **Zahara de los Atunes**, a modest holiday resort with a few hotels. **Conil de la Frontera**, to the west, is busier and more built up.

The English admiral Nelson defeated a Spanish and French fleet off **Cabo de Trafalgar** in 1805, but died in the battle.



#### Arcos de la Frontera **0**

Cádiz. 30,000. Plaza del Cabildo, 956 70 22 64. Fri. Trio del Domingo de Resurrecccion (last day of Easter), Velada de Nuestra Señora de las Nieves (4–6 Aug), Semana Santa, Feria de San Miguel (end of Sep).

Although legend has it that a son of Noah founded Arcos it is more probable that it was the Iberians. It gained the name Arcobriga in the Roman era and, under the Caliphate of Córdoba (see p52), became the Moorish stronghold of Medina Arkosh. It is an archetypal white town, with a labyrinthine old quarter.

On the Plaza de España, at the top of the town, are the parador (see p592) and the Iglesia de Santa María de la Asunción, a Late Gothic-Mudéjar building noted for its choir stalls and altarpiece. The huge, Gothic Iglesia de San Pedro, perched on the edge of a cliff formed by the Río Guadalete, is a striking building. Nearby is the Palacio del Mayorazgo, which has an ornate Renaissance façade. The town hall (ayuntamiento) has a fine Mudéjar ceiling.

#### Environs

In the 15th-century the Guzmán family was granted the dukedom of **Medina Sidonia**, a white west of Arcos de la Frontera. The area became one of the most important ducal seats in Spain. The Gothic Iglesia de Santa María la Coronada is the town's finest building. It contains a notable collection of Renaissance religious art.

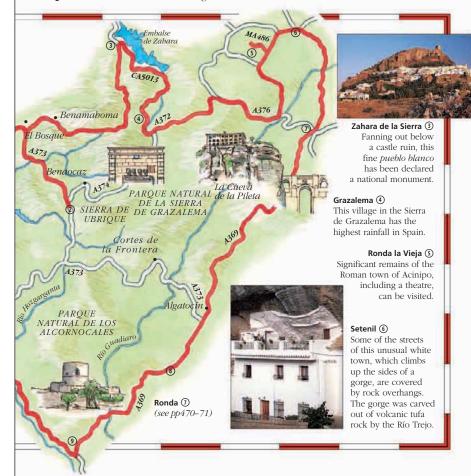


Iglesia de Santa María de la Asunción in Arcos de la Frontera

Palacio del Mayorazgo
C/ San Pedro 2. Tel 956 70 30 13 (Casa de Cultura). 8am–3pm Mon–Fri.

#### T Ayuntamiento

Plaza del Cabildo. **Tel** 956 70 00 02. Mon–Fri. public hols.



# Street-by-Street: Ronda 9



One of the most spectacularly located cities in Spain, Ronda sits on a massive rocky outcrop, straddling a precipitous limestone cleft. Because of its impregnable position this town was one of the last Moorish bastions, finally

> To El Mercadillo, Plaza de Toros, parador (see p595) and tourist information

in Ronda falling to the Christians in 1485.
On the south side perches a classic
Moorish pueblo blanco (see pp468–9) of cobbled alleys, window grilles and dazzling whitewash most historic sights are in this part of the town. Located in El Mercadillo, the newer town, is one of the oldest bullrings in Spain.



#### **★ Puente Nuevo**

Convento de Santo **Domingo** was the local headquarters of

the Inquisition

An impressive feat of 18th-century civil engineering, the "New Bridge" over the 100-m (330-ft) deep Tajo gorge joins old and new Ronda.



Casa del Rey Moro

From this 18th-century mansion, built on the foundations of a Moorish palace, 365 steps lead down to the river.

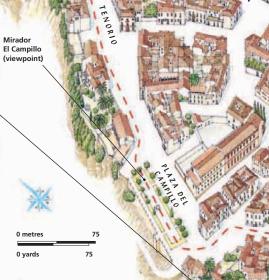


Mirador



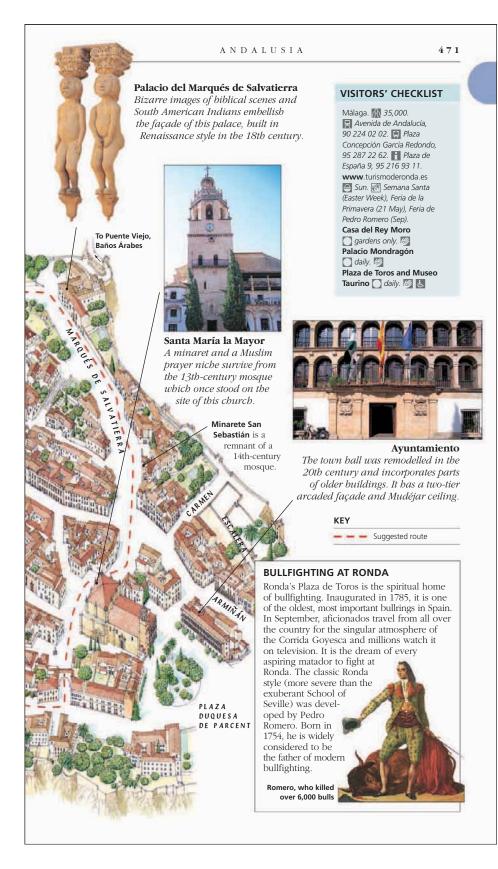
#### **★** Palacio Mondragón

Much of this palace was rebuilt following the Reconquest (see pp54–55), but its arcaded patio is adorned with original Moorish mosaics and plasterwork.



#### **STAR SIGHTS**

- ★ Puente Nuevo
- ★ Palacio Mondragón



#### Algeciras @

Cádiz. 🔼 200,000. 🗐 🚼 Calle Juan de la Cierva, 956 78 41 31. ➡ Tue. ๙ Feria Real (24 Jun–2 Jul).

From the industrial city of Algeciras, there are spectacular views of Gibraltar, 14 km (9 miles) away across its bay. The city is a major fishing port and Europe's main gateway for ferries to North Africa, especially Tangier and Spain's territories of Ceuta and Melilla.

#### Gibraltar 6

British Crown Colony. A 35,000. Duke of Kent House, Cathedral Square, (+35) 020 07 49 50. M Nat Day (10 Sep). www.gibraltar.gov.uk

The high, rocky headland of Gibraltar was signed over to Britain "in perpetuity" at the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 (see p62). Today, about 4 million people stream across the border annually from La Línea de la Concepción in Spain.

Among the chief sights of Gibraltar are those testifying to its strategic military importance over the centuries. Halfway up the famous Rock are an 8th-



St Michael's Cave, which served as a hospital during World War II

century Moorish castle, whose keep is still used as a prison, and 80 km (50 miles) of siege tunnels housing storerooms and barracks. St Michael's Cave, which served as a hospital during World War II, is now used for classical concerts.

The **Apes' Den**, near Europa Point, Gibraltar's southernmost tip, is home to the tailless apes. Legend says that the British will keep the Rock only as long as the apes remain there.

A cable car takes visitors to the Top of the Rock at 450 m (1,475 ft). Gibraltar Museum charts the colony's history.

The Keep, Siege Tunnels, St Michael's Cave, Apes' Den Upper Rock Area. Tel (+35) 020 04 59 57. daily. 1 Jan, 25 Dec. 纷

#### **11** Gibraltar Museum

18 Bombhouse Lane. **Tel** (+35) 020 07 42 89. Mon–Sat. public

#### The Costa del Sol

Thanks to its average of 300 days' sunshine a year and its varied coastline, the Costa del Sol, between Gibraltar and Málaga, offers a full range of beach-based holidays and water luxury of Marbella are many other popular resorts aimed at the mass market. More than



Puerto Banús is Marbella's ostentatious marina. The expensive shops, restaurants and glittering nightlife reflect the wealth of its clientele.





Yachts and motorboats in the exclusive marina of Marbella – the summer home of the international jet set

#### Marbella 6

0 miles

Málaga. M. 120,000. M. Glorieta de la Fontanilla, Paseo Marítimo, 95 277 14 42. Mon. San Bernabé (Jun). www.marbella.com

Marbella is one of Europe's most exclusive holiday resorts, frequented by royalty and film stars. There are 24 beaches, including Puerto Banus, Playa Rio Verde and Playa Nagueles. In winter, the major attraction is the golf. Among the delights of the old town, with its spotlessly clean alleys, squares, and smart shops and restaurants, is the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de

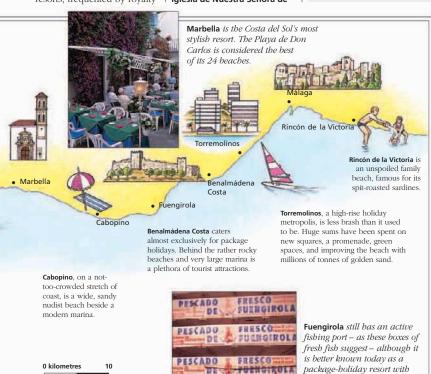
la Encarnación. The Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo displays some of Pablo Picasso's leastknown work.

∰ Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo C/ Hospital Bazan. Tel 95 276 57 41. Mon–Sat. public hols.

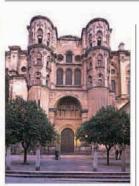
a chiefly British clientele. It

has a spectacular backdrop

of steep, ochre mountains.



FRENCIROLA



The main façade of Málaga's cathedral, consecrated in 1588

#### Málaga 0

Málaga. 🚮 650,000. 👢 📮 😭
 Avda de Cervantes, 4 Paseo del Parque, 95 220 96 03. 🍧 Sun.
 Carnival (Feb/Mar), Feria (second Sat-third Sun of Aug).

Málaga, the second largest city in Andalusia, is today a thriving port, just as it was in Phoenician times, and again under the Romans and then the Moors. It also flourished during the 19th century, when sweet Málaga wine (see p420) was one of Europe's most popular drinks – until phylloxera ravaged the area's vineyards in 1876.

The **cathedral** was begun in 1528 by Diego de Siloé, but it is a bizarre mix of styles. The half-built second tower, abandoned in 1765 when funds ran out, gave the cathedral its nickname: La Manquita ("the one-armed one").

Málaga's former Museo de Bellas Artes has been adapted to house a new **Museo Picasso** displaying works by the native artist. The **Casa Natal de Picasso.** where the painter

**Picasso**, where the painter spent his early years, is now the Picasso Foundation.

Málaga's vast **Alcazaba** (see p53) was built between the 8th and 11th centuries. There is a partially excavated Roman amphitheatre by its entrance, but the real attraction is the display of Phoenician, Roman and Moorish artifacts in the **Museo Arqueológico** 

On the hill directly behind the Alcazaba are the ruins of the **Castillo de Gibralfaro**, a 14th-century Moorish castle.

#### **Environs**

In the beautiful hills to the north and east of Málaga is the Parque Natural de los Montes de Málaga. Wildlife, such as eagles and wild boars, thrive here amid the scent of lavender and wild herbs. Walkers can follow a number of scenic marked trails. Going north on the C345 you can also visit a small preserved winery of the 1840s.

Museo de Picasso
Calle San Agustín 8. Tel 95 260 27 31.

Tue–Sun. 1 Jan, 25 Dec. ₩

♣ Alcazaba and Museo Argueológico

Arqueológico
Calle Alcazabilla. *Tel* 95 212 20 20. *Tue—Sun*.

#### Garganta del Chorro ®

Málaga. 💂 El Chorro. 🛄 Parque Ardeles. 🚹 Avenida de la Constitución, Álora, 95 249 83 80.

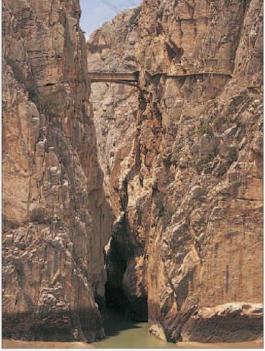
Up the fertile Guadalhorce valley, beyond the village of El Chorro, is one of the geographical wonders of Andalusia. The Garganta del Chorro is an immense chasm, 180 m (590 ft) deep and in places only 10 m (30 ft) wide, cut by the river through a limestone mountain. Downstream, a hydroelectric plant detracts from the wildness of the place.

The Camino del Rey is a catwalk clinging to the rock face which leads to a bridge across the gorge. It is, however, closed to the public.

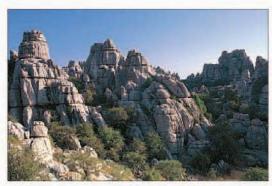
#### Environs

**Álora**, a classic white town (*see p468*) with a ruined Moorish castle and an 18th-century church, lies 12 km (7 miles) down the valley

(7 miles) down the valley. Along the twisting MA441 from Alora is the village of Carratraca. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Europe's highest society travelled here for the healing powers of the sulphurous springs. These days, Carratraca has a faded glory – water still gushes out at 700 litres (155 UK and 185 US gal) a minute and the outdoor baths remain open, but they are little used.



The Garganta del Chorro, rising high above the Guadalhorce River



Weathered limestone formations in El Torcal

#### El Torcal @

Málaga. 🗐 Antequera. 🖨 Antequera. Antequera, 95 270 25 05. Parque Natural del Torcal Tel 95 104 21 00.

A massive exposed hump of limestone upland, which has been slowly weathered into bizarre rock formations and caves, the Parque Natural del Torcal is popular with hikers. Footpaths lead from a visitors' centre – walks of up to two hours are marked by yellow arrows, longer walks by red.

The park is also a pleasure for natural historians, with fox and weasel populations, and colonies of eagles, hawks and vultures, as well as rare plants and flowers like wild orchids.

#### Antequera @

Málaga. 🤼 42,000. 📮 📮 🕴 Pl San Sebastián 7, 95 270 25 05. Tue. Tue. Ferias (end May & mid-Aua).

This busy market town was strategically important first as Roman Anticaria and later as a Moorish border fortress defending Granada.

Of its many churches, the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, with its vast Baroque altarpiece, is not to be missed. At the opposite end of the town is the 19thcentury Plaza de Toros, with a museum of bullfighting.

The hilltop castle was built in the 13th century on the site of a Roman fort. Visitors can walk round the castle walls by approaching through the 16th-

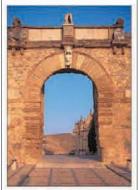
century Arco de los Gigantes. There are excellent views of Antequera from the Torre del Papabellotas on the bestpreserved part of the wall.

In the town below, the 18thcentury Palacio de Nájera is the setting for the Municipal Museum, the star exhibit of which is a splendid Roman bronze statue of a boy.

The massive dolmens, just outside the town, are thought to be the burial chambers of tribal leaders and date from around 2500-2000 BC.

#### **Environs**

Laguna de la Fuente de Piedra, north of Antequera, teems with bird life, including huge flocks of flamingoes, which arrive to breed after wintering in West Africa. A road off the N334 leads to a lakeside viewing point. There is a visitors' centre in Fuente de Piedra village. To the east, also off the N334, is Archidona, with its 18thcentury, octagonal Plaza



The triumphal, 16th-century Arco de los Gigantes, Antequera

Ochavada built in French style, but which also incorporates traditional Andalusian features.

Plaza de Toros
Carretera de Sevilla. *Tel* 618 26 11
20. *Tue–Sun.* Museo Taurino

Sat, Sun, public hols n Palacio de Nájera

Coso Viejo. **Tel** 95 270 40 21.
until mid-2011.

#### Osuna @

Sevilla. 🤼 17,500. 📃 📮 Calle Carrera 82, 95 481 57 32. Mon. <equation-block> San Alcadio (12 Jan), Virgen de la Consolación (8 Sep).



Palacio del Marqués de la Gomera. in Osuna, completed in 1770

Osuna was once a key Roman garrison town. It rose again to prominence in the 16th century under the Dukes of Osuna. who wielded immense power. In the 1530s they founded the Colegiata de Santa María, a grand church with a Baroque reredos and paintings by José de Ribera. This was followed in 1548 by the University, a rather severe building with a beautiful patio. Some fine mansions, among them the Palacio del Marqués de la Gomera, also reflect the town's former glory.

#### **Environs**

To the east lies Estepa. whose modern-day fame rests on its biscuits polvorones and mantecados (see p419). The Iglesia del Carmen has a black and white, Baroque façade.



Tomb of Servilia in the Roman necropolis in Carmona

#### Carmona 2

Carmona is the first major town east of Seville, its old quarter built on a hill above the suburbs on the plain. Beyond the **Puerta de Sevilla**, a gateway in the Moorish city walls, is a dense cluster of mansions, Mudéjar churches, and winding streets.

The Plaza de San Fernando has a feeling

of grandeur which is characterized by the Renaissance façade of the old **Ayuntamiento**. The present town hall, set just off the square, dates from the 18th century; in its courtyard are some Roman

mosaics. Close by is the **Iglesia de Santa María la Mayor**. Built in the 15th century over a mosque, whose patio still survives, this is the finest of Carmona's churches.

Dominating the town are the ruins of the **Alcázar del Rey Pedro**, once a palace of Pedro I, known as Pedro the Cruel. Parts of it now form a parador (see p592).

Just outside Carmona is the **Necrópolis Romana**, the extensive remains of a Roman burial ground. A site museum displays some of the items found in the graves, including statues, glass and jewellery.

Calle Salvador 2. **Tel** 95 414 00 11. Mon–Fri. public hols.

↑ Necrópolis Romana Avenida Jorge Bonsor 9. *Tel* 95 562 46 15. ☐ *Tue—Sun*. ☐ Mon & Sun in summer; public hols.

#### Itálica @

Roman mosaic

from Itálica

Sevilla. **Tel** 95 562 22 66. A from Seville. Apr-Sep: 8:30am-9pm Tue-Sat, 9am-3pm Sun; Oct-Mar: 9am-6:30pm Tue-Sat, 10am-4pm Sun.

Itálica was founded in 206 BC by Scipio Africanus. One of the earliest Roman cities in Hispania (see pp50–51), it

grew to become important in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Emperor Hadrian, who was born in the city and reigned from AD 117–138, added

marble temples and other grand buildings.

Archaeologists have speculated that the changing course of the Río Guadalquivir may have led to Itálica's later demise during Moorish times.

Next to the vast but crumbling **amphitheatre** is a display of finds from the site. More treasures are displayed in the Museo Arqueológico in Seville (see p445).

The traces of Itálica's streets and the mosaic floors of some villas can be seen. However, little remains of the city's temples or of its baths as most of the stone and marble has been plundered over the centuries. Some well-preserved Roman baths and a theatre can be seen in **Santiponce**, a village just outside the site.

#### Sierra Morena 🚳

Sevilla and Córdoba. 💂 Cazalla & Constantina, **Tel** 954 883 562 & 955 881 297 respectively. 🙀 Constantina, Cazalla. 🚹 El Robledo, 95 588 15 97.

The Sierra Morena, clad in oak and pine woods, runs across the north of the provinces of Sevilla and Córdoba. It forms a natural frontier between Andalusia and the plains of neighbouring Extremadura and Ia Mancha. Smaller sierras (ranges of hills) within the Sierra Morena chain are also named individually.

Fuente Obejuna, north of Córdoba, was immortalized by Lope de Vega (see p290) in his play about an uprising in 1476 against a local overlord. The Iglesia de San Juan Bautista in Hinojosa del Duque is a vast church in both Gothic and Renaissance styles. Belalcázar is dominated by the huge tower of a ruined 15th-century castle. Storks nest on the church towers of the plateau of Valle de los Pedroches, to the east.

Cazalla de la Sierra, the main town of the sierra north of Seville, is cosmopolitan, and popular with young Sevillanos at weekends. A unique concoction of cherry liqueur and aniseed, Liquor de Guindas, is produced here. Constantina, to the east, is more peaceful and has superb views across the countryside.



A cow grazing in the pastures of the Sierra Morena north of Seville

#### Palma del Río 6

Córdoba. 🤼 19,400. 💂 🖨 Calle Santa Clara, 957 64 43 70. Tue. Tue. 19–21 May & 18-20 Aug). www.palmadelrio.es

The Romans sited a strategic settlement here, on the road between Córdoba and Itálica, almost 2,000 years ago. The remains of the 12th-

century city walls are a reminder of the town's frontier days under the Almohads (see p54).

The Iglesia de la Asunción, a dates from the 18th century. The Monasterio de San Francisco is now a hotel (see p595), and guests can eat dinner in the 15th-century refectory of the Franciscan monks. Palma del Río is the home town of El Cordobés,



most famous matadors. His biography, Or I'll Dress You in Mourning, paints a vivid picture of life in the town and of the hardship which follow-ed the end of the Civil War.

#### **Environs**

One of the most dramatic silhouettes in Southern Spain breaks the skyline of Almodóvar del Río. The Moorish castle - parts of it dating from the 8th century stands on a hilltop over-looking the whitewashed town and fields of cotton.

del Río

Tel 957 63 40 55. ☐ daily. 1 Jan, 25 Dec.

# Écija 🚳

Sevilla. 🔼 40,000. 📮 👔 Plaza de España 1, Ayuntamiento 95 590 29 33. A Thu. Feria (21–24 Sep). www.turismoeciia.com

Écija is nicknamed "the frying pan of Andalusia" owing to its famously torrid climate. In the searing heat, the palm trees on the Plaza de España

provide blissful shade. An ideal place to sit and observe daily life passing by, this is also a spot for evening strolls.

Écija ĥas 11 Baroque church steeples, many adorned with gleaming azulejos (see p438), and together they make a very impressive sight. The most florid of these is the Iglesia de Santa María, which overlooks the Plaza de España. The Iglesia de San Juan, with its exquisite, brightly coloured bell tower, is a very close rival. Of the many mansions along

Calle Emilio Castelar, the Baroque Palacio de Peñaflor is worth a visit. Its pink marble doorway is topped by twisted columns, while an attractive wrought-iron balcony runs along the whole front façade.

Palacio de Peñaflor C/ Emilio Castelar 26. **Tel** 95 483 02 73. for refurbishment.

#### Medina Azahara 🛭

Córdoba. **Tel** 957 35 28 74. 🗎 Córdoba. 🔃 10am–8:30pm Tue–Sat (to 6:30pm 16 Sep–30 Apr), 10am-2pm Sun & public hols.

Just a few kilometres north of Córdoba lies this once glorious palace. Built in the 10th century for Caliph Abd al Rahman III, it is named after his favourite wife, Azahara. He spared no expense, employ-



Detail of wood carving in the main hall of Medina Azahara

ing more than 15,000 mules, 4.000 camels and 10.000 workers to bring building materials from as far as North Africa.

The palace is built on three levels and includes a mosque, the caliph's residence and fine gardens (see pp422–3). Marble, ebony, jasper and alabaster once adorned its many halls, and it is believed that shimmering pools of quicksilver added lustre.

The glory was short-lived. The palace was sacked by Berber invaders in 1010 and over subsequent centuries it was ransacked for its building materials. Now, the ruins give only glimpses of its former beauty a Moorish main hall, for instance, decorated with marble carvings and a carved wood ceiling. The palace is currently being restored.



Trompe l'oeil on the ornate Baroque façade of the Palacio de Peñaflor, Écija

# Street-by-Street: Córdoba @



Maimónides

The heart of Córdoba is the old Jewish quarter, situated to the west of the Mezquita's towering walls. A walk around this area gives the sensation that little has changed since the 10th century when this was one of the greatest cities in the Western world. Wrought ironwork decorates cobbled streets too narrow for cars, where silversmiths create

fine jewellery in their workshops. Most of the chief sights are here, while modern city life takes place some blocks north, around the Plaza de Tendillas. To the east of this square is the Plaza de la Corredera, a 17th-century arcaded square with a daily market.



#### The Capilla de San Bartolome This small Church was built in the Gothic-Mudéjar style. It is

decorated with elaborate plasterwork and tiles.



#### ★ Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos

Water terraces fountains add to the tranquil atmosphere of the gardens belonging to the palace-fortress of the Catholic Monarchs (see pp56–7), built in the 14th century.

Sinagoga Hebrew script covers this 14th-century synagogue. Spain's other synagogues are in Toledo, Madrid and Barcelona.

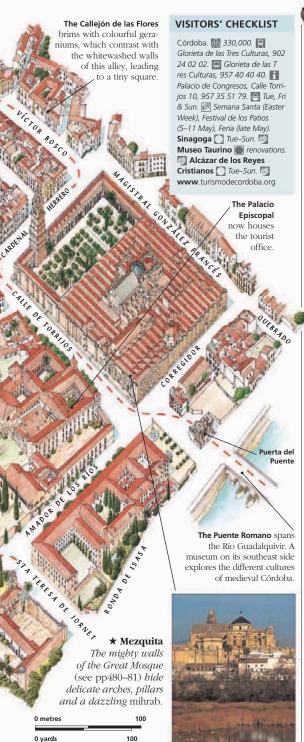
Museo Taurino, the museum of bullfighting, is closed for renovation.

KEY

Suggested route

#### STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos
- **★** Mezquita





Moorish bronze stag from Medina Azahara, Museo Arqueológico

#### Exploring Córdoba

Córdoba lies on a sharp bend in the Río Guadalquivir, which is spanned by a Roman bridge linking the 14th-century Torre de la Calahorra and the old town. One of the most atmospheric squares in Andalusia is the Plaza de los Capuchinos. With its haunting stone calvary surrounded by wrought-iron lamps, it is particularly evocative when seen by moonlight.

#### Museo de Bellas Artes

Plaza del Potro 2. **Tel** 957 35 55 50.

Tue-Sun.

Exhibits in a former phasity.

Exhibits in a former charity hospital include sculptures by local artist Mateo Inurria (1867–1924) and works by Valdés Leal, Zurbarán and Murillo of the Seville School.

#### Museo Arqueológico

Plaza Jerónimo Páez 7. **Tel** 957 35 55 17. Tue-Sat. Located in a Renaissance mansion, displays include Roman mosaics, pottery and relief carvings, and impressive finds from the Moorish era.

#### 📅 Palacio de Viana

Plaza Don Gome 2. **Tel** 957 49 67 41. Tue-Sun (am only Sun & public hols). Furniture, tapestries, paintings and porcelain are displayed in the 17th-century former home of the Viana family.

#### Museo Romero de Torres

Plaza del Potro 1. Tel 957 49 19 09.

Tue-Sun. (free Fri).
Julio Romero de Torres (1874–1930), who was born in this house, captured the soul of Córdoba in his paintings.

# Córdoba: the Mezquita

Córdoba's Great Mosque, dating back 12 centuries, embodied the power of Islam on the Iberian Peninsula. Abd al Rahman I (see p52) built the original mosque between 785 and 787. The building evolved over the centuries, blending many architectural forms. In the 10th century al Hakam II made some of the most lavish additions, including the elaborate mibrab (prayer niche) and the magsura (caliph's enclosure). During the 16th century a cathedral was built in the heart of the reconsecrated mosque, part of which was destroyed.



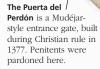
Patio de los Naranjos

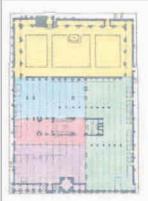
Orange trees grow in the courtyard where the faithful washed before prayer.



Torre del Alminar

This bell tower, 93 m (305 ft) high, is built on the site of the original minaret. Steep steps lead to the top for a fine view of the city.





#### **EXPANSION OF THE** MEZQUITA

Abd al Rahman I built the original mosque. Extensions were added by Abd al Rahman II, al Hakam II and al Mansur.

#### **KEY TO ADDITIONS**

- Mosque of Abd al Rahman I Extension by Abd al Rahman II
- Extension by al Hakam II Extension by al Mansur

Patio de los Naranjos

#### Puerta de San Esteban is set in a section of

wall from an earlier Visigothic church.

#### STAR FEATURES

- **★** Mihrab
- ★ Capilla de Villaviciosa
- ★Arches and Pillars



#### Cathedral

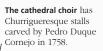
Part of the mosque was destroyed to accommodate the cathedral, started in 1523. Featuring an Italianate dome, it was designed chiefly by members of the Hernán Ruiz family.

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

C/Torrijos 10. **Tel** 957 47 05 12.

10am-6:30pm Mon-Sat; 8:30–10am, 2-6:30pm Sun & pub hols (Nov-Feb: to 5:30pm Mon-Sat; 8:30–10am, 2-5:30pm Sun & pub hols).

9:30–10am, 2-9:30pm Mon-Sat; 11am, noon & 1pm Sun & hols.



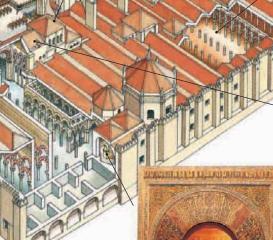
Capilla Mayor /

Capilla Real



#### ★ Arches and Pillars

More than 850 columns of granite, jasper and marble support the roof, creating a dazzling visual effect. Many were taken from Roman and Visigothic buildings.



# ★ Mihrab This prayer niche,

richly ornamented, held a gilt copy of the Koran. The worn flagstones indicate where pilgrims circled it seven times on their knees.



★ Capilla de Villaviciosa The first Christian chapel was built in the mosque in 1371 by Mudéjar (see p55) craftsmen. Its multilobed arches are stunning.



Baroque statuary in the Fuente del Rey at Priego de Córdoba

#### Montilla @

Córdoba. 🔼 23,000. 💂 📮 🚼 Capitán Alonso de Vargas 3, 957 65 24 62. Fri. of Grape Harvest (late Aug).

Montilla is the centre of an important wine region that produces an excellent smooth white fino (see p420). Unlike sherry, it is not fortified with alcohol Several bodegas including Alvear and Pérez Barquero, will show visitors around by prior arrangement.

The Mudéjar Convento de Santa Clara dates from 1512. The town library is in the Casa del Inca. so named because Garcilaso de la Vega, who wrote about the Incas, lived there in the 16th century.

#### **Environs**

**Aguilar**, 13 km (8 miles) to the south, has the unusual, eight-sided Plaza de San José (built in 1810) and several seigneurial houses.

Baena, 40 km (25 miles) to the west of Montilla, has been famous for its olive oil since Roman times. On the Plaza de la Constitución is the Casa del Monte, an mansion dating from the 18th century. At Easter thousands of costumed drummers take to the streets.

#### ₱ Bodega Alvear

Ávda María Auxiliadora 1. **Tel** 957 66 40 14. Mon-Fri. 🌠 12:30pm

**■** Bodega Pérez Barquero Ávda de Andalucía 27. **Tel** 957 65 05 00. aaily. Aug. 155

#### Priego de Córdoba 🚳

Córdoba. 🔼 23,000. 📮 🚹 Plaza de la Constitución 3, 957 70 06 25. www.turismodepriego.com

Priego de Cordóba's claim to be the capital of Cordoban Baroque is borne out by the dazzling work of carvers, ironworkers and gilders in the many houses, and especially churches, built with wealth generated by a prosperous 18th-century silk industry.

A restored Moorish fortress stands in the whitewashed medieval quarter, the Barrio de la Villa. Close by is the outstanding Iglesia de la Asunción, converted from Gothic to Baroque style by Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda. Its pièce de résistance is the

sacristy, created in 1784 by local artist Francisco Javier Pedrajas. The main altar is Plateresque (see p25).

At midnight every Saturday the brotherhood of another Baroque church, the Iglesia de la Aurora, parades the streets singing songs in praise of the Virgin.

La Asunción, Priego de Córdoba Silk merchants built many of the splendid mansions that follow the curve around the Calle del Río. At the street's end is the Baroque Fuente del Rey (The King's Fountain). The 139 spouts splash water into three basins adorned with a riot of statuary.

#### **Environs**

Zuheros, perched on a crag in the limestone hills northwest of Priego, is one of Andalusia's prettiest villages. Rute, to the southwest, is known for its anís (see p607).

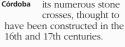
Alcalá la Real, in the lowlands east of Priego, is overlooked by the hilltop ruins of a castle and a church. There are two handsome Renaissance buildings on its central square: the Fuente de Carlos V and the Palacio Abacia.

#### Montefrío

Granada. 🤼 7,000. 📮 🚹 Plaza España 1, 958 33 60 04. 🖨 Mon. Fiesta patronal (14–18 Aug).

The approach to Montefrío from the south offers wonderful views of tiled rooftops and pretty whitewashed houses. This archetypal Andalusian

town is topped by the remains of its Moorish fortifications and the 16th-century Gothic Iglesia de la Villa. In the centre of town is the Neo-Classical Iglesia de la Encarnación, designed by Ventura Rodríguez (1717-85). The town is known for its chorizo, as well as its numerous stone crosses, thought to



#### **Environs**

Santa Fé was built by the Catholic Monarchs at the end of the 15th century. Their army



Barrels of Montilla, the sherry-like wine from the town of the same name



The castle overlooking the resort of Almuñécar on the Costa Tropical

camped here while laying siege to Granada, and this was the site of the formal surrender of the Moors in 1492 (see pp56–7). A Moor's severed head, carved in stone, adoms the spire of the parish church.

Sited above a gorge, Alhama de Granada was named Al hamma (hot springs) by the Moors. Their baths, close to the spot where the hot water gushes from the ground just outside town, can be seen in the Hotel Balneario.

**Loja**, on the Río Genil, near Los Infiernos gorge, is known as "the city of water" because of its spring-fed fountains.

#### Nerja 🛛

Málaga. M. 18,000. . Calle Carmen 1, 95 252 15 31. Sun. Feria (9–12 Oct). www.nerja.org

This well-established resort, built on a cliff above sandy coves, lies at the foot of the beautiful Sierra de Almijara. There are sweeping views up and down the coast from the rocky promontory known as **El Balcón de Europa** (the Balcony of Europe). Along it runs a promenade lined with cafés and restaurants.

East of the town are the Cuevas de Nerja, a series of vast caverns which were discovered in 1959. Wall paintings found here are believed to be about 20,000 years old. Only a few of the many cathedral-sized chambers are open to public view. One of these has been converted into an impressive auditorium which has a capacity of several hundred people.

#### Environs

In **Vélez-Málaga**, the ruins of the Fortaleza de Belén, a Moorish fortress, dominate the medieval Barrio de San Sebastián.

Cuevas de Nerja
Carretera de las Cuevas de Nerja.

Tel 95 252 95 20. daily. 1
Jan, 15 May.

#### Almuñécar 3

Granada. 🚮 22,000. 📄 🚹 Avda Europa, 958 63 11 25. 🖴 Fri, 1st Sat of each month. 🐼 Virgen de la Antigua (15 Aug). www.almunecar.info

Almuñécar lies on the Costa Tropical, so named because its climate allows the cultivation of exotic fruit. Just inland, mountains rise to more than 2,000 m (6,560 ft). The Phoenicians founded the first settlement here, called Sexi, and the Romans constructed an aqueduct, the remains of which can be seen today. Almuñécar is now a popular holiday resort.

Above the old town is the castle, built by the Moors and altered in the 1500s. Below it is the Parque Ornitológico, with an aviary and botanic gardens, and the ruins of a Roman fish-salting factory. The Museo Arqueológico Cueva de Siete Palacios displays a variety of Phoenician artifacts.

#### Environs

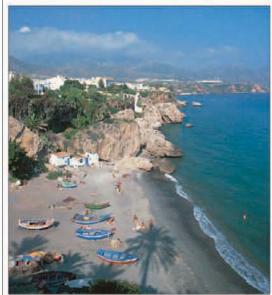
The ancient white town of Salobreña is set amid fields of sugar cane. Narrow streets lead up a hill to a restored Arab castle with fine views of the Sierra Nevada (see p485).

★ Parque Ornitológico
Plaza de Abderraman. *Tel* 634 46
81 54. daily.

Museo Arqueológico
Cueva de Siete Palacios
Casco Antiguo. *Tel* 607 86 54 66.

☐ *Tue–Sun.* ☑

**Castillo de Salobreña**Calle Andrés Segovia. *Tel* 958 61 03
14. ○ daily. ○ public hols. ❷ ✔



One of the succession of sandy coves that make up the resort of Nerja



The majestic peaks of the Sierra Nevada towering, in places, to over 3,000 m (9,800 ft) above sea level

#### Lanjarón 🚳

Granada. 🤼 24,000. 📮 🚹 Avda de la Alpujarra s/n, 958 77 04 62. Tue & Fri. M San Juan (24 Jun).

Scores of clear, snow-fed springs bubble from the slopes of the Sierra Nevada; their abundance at Lanjarón. on the southern side of this great range of mountains, has given the town a long history as a health spa. From June to October, visitors flock to take the waters for arthritic, dietary and nervous ailments. Bottled water from Lanjarón is sold all over the country.

A major festival begins on the night of 23 June and ends in an uproarious water battle in the early hours of 24 June, the Día de San Juan. Every-

one in the streets gets doused. The town is on the threshold of Las Alpujarras, a scenic upland area of dramatic landscapes, where steep, terraced hillsides and deep-cut valleys conceal remote, whitewashed villages. Roads to and from Lanjarón wind slowly and dizzily around the slopes

# A Tour of Las Alpujarras 🛭

The fertile, upland valleys of Las Alpujarras, clothed with chestnut, walnut and poplar trees, lie on the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada. The architecture of the quaint white villages which cling to the hillsides - compact clusters of irregularly shaped houses with tall chimneys sprouting from flat, grey roofs – is unique in Spain. Local specialities are ham cured in the cold, dry air of Trevélez and brightly coloured, handwoven rugs.



Orgiva ① This is the largest town of the region, with a Baroque church in the main street and a lively Thursday market.

Poqueira Valley ② Capileira, Bubión and Pampaneira are three villages typical of Las Alpujarras in this pretty river valley

Fuente Agria ③ People come to this spring to drink the iron-rich, naturally carbonated waters

LANJARÓN ①

GRANADA

RRA ▲ MULHACÉN 3,479 m 11,410 ft Juviles Guadalfed A348

Trevélez, in the shadow of Mulhacén,

Spain's highest mountain, is famous for its cured ham.

Trevélez (4)

SIERRA DE LA

#### Laujar de Andarax 🚳

Almería. 🖍 2,000. 📻 🚹 Carretera C-332 (A-345), 950 51 35 48. 🎒 3 & 17 of each month. San Vicente (22 Jan), San Marcos (25 Apr), Virgen de la Salud (19 Sep).

Laujar, in the arid foothills of the Sierra Nevada, looks southwards across the Andarax valley towards the Sierra de Gádor.

Andarax was founded by one of the grandsons of Noah. In the 16th century, Abén Humeya, leader of the greatest Morisco rebellion (see p59), made his base here. The revolt was

The revolt was crushed by Christian troops and Abén Humeya was killed by his own followers. Inside Laujar's 17th-century church, La Encarnación, is a statue of the Virgin by Alonso Cano. Next to the Baroque town hall (ayuntamiento) is a fountain inscribed with some lines written by Francisco Villespesa, a dramatist and poet who was born in Laujar in 1877: "Six fountains has my pueblo/He who drinks

their waters/will never forget them/so heav-

El Nacimiento, a park to the east of Laujar, is a suitable place to have a picnic. You can accompany it with one of

the area's hearty red wines. **Ohanes**, above the Andarax valley further to the east, is an attractive

hill town of steep streets and whitewashed houses known for its crops of table grapes.

Painting, Iglesia de

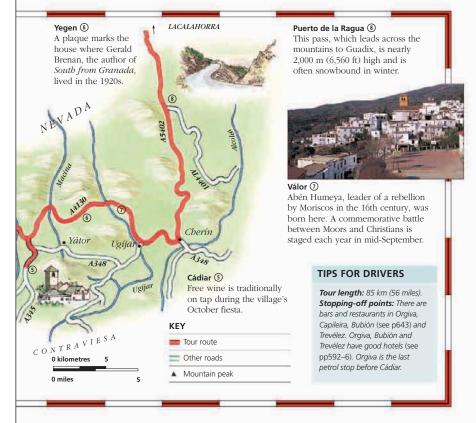
#### Sierra Nevada 30

Granada. from Granada. Plaza de Andalucía, Cetursa Sierra Nevada, 902 70 89 00.

Fourteen peaks more than 3,000 m (9,800 ft) high crown the Sierra Nevada. The snow lingers until July and begins falling again in late autumn. One of Europe's highest roads, the GR411, runs past Solynieve, an expanding ski resort at 2,100 m (6,890 ft), and skirts the two highest peaks, Pico Veleta at 3,398 m (11,149 ft) and Mulhacen at 3,482 m (11,420 ft).

The Sierra's closeness to the Mediterranean and its altitude account for the great diversity of the indigenous flora and fauna found on its slopes – the latter including golden eagles and some rare butterflies.

There are several mountain refuges for the use of serious hikers and climbers.



#### Granada 9



Stone relief, Museo Arqueológico

The guitarist Andrés Segovia (1893–1987) described Granada as a "place of dreams, where the Lord put the seed of music in my soul". It was first occupied by the Moors in the 8th century, and its golden period came during the rule of the Nasrid dynasty (see p55) from 1238 to 1492, when artisans, merchants, scholars and scientists all contributed to the city's international reputation as a centre for culture. Under

Christian rule, following its fall to the Catholic Monarchs in 1492 and the expulsion of the Moors (see pp56–7), the city blossomed in Renaissance splendour. There was a period of decline in the 19th century, but Granada has recently been the subject of renewed interest and efforts are being made to restore parts of it to their past glory.



Façade of Granada Cathedral

#### **Exploring Granada**

The old city centre around the cathedral is a maze of narrow one-way streets. It contains the Alcaicería – a reconstruction of a Moorish bazaar that burned down in 1843. Granada's two main squares are the Plaza Bibrambla, near the cathedral, and the Plaza Nueva. From the latter, Cuesta de Gomérez leads up to the city's two principal monuments: the Alhambra and the Generalife. On a hill opposite is the Albaicín district.

Churches well worth a visit are the Iglesia de San Juan de Dios, almost overwhelming in its wealth of Baroque decoration, and the Renaissance Iglesia de San Jerónimo.

#### ♠ Cathedral

C/ Gran Via 5. Tel 958 22 29 59.

☐ daily. ☐
On the orders of the Catholic Monarchs, work on the cathedral began in 1523 to plans in

a Gothic style by Enrique de

Egas. It continued under the Renaissance maestro, Diego de Siloé, who also designed the façade and the magnificent Capilla Mayor. Under its dome, 16th-century windows depict Juan del Campo's *The Passion*. The west front was designed by Alonso Cano, who was born in the city. His grave can be seen in the cathedral.

#### ♠ Capilla Real

C/ Oficios 3. Tel 958 22 92 39. aily. Jan 1, Good Fri, Dec 25. The Royal Chapel was built for the Catholic Monarchs between 1506 and 1521 by Enrique de Egas. A magnificent reja (grille) by Maestro Bartolomé de Jaén encloses the high altar and the Carrara marble figures of Fernando and Isabel, their daughter Juana la Loca (the Mad) and her husband Felipe el Hermoso (the Fair). Their coffins are in the crypt. In the sacristy there are art treasures, including paintings by Botticelli and Van der Weyden.



Entrance to the Moorish *mihrab* in the Palacio de la Madraza

#### 📅 Palacio de la Madraza

Calle Oficios 14. *Tel* 958 24 34 84. for renovations.

Originally an Arab university (now part of Granada University), this building later became the city hall. The façade is 18th century. The Moorish hall has a finely decorated mibrab (prayer niche).

#### ₩ Corral del Carbón

A relic of the Moorish era, this galleried courtyard was a theatre in Christian times, and later a coal exchange. Today it houses a cultural centre.

#### Casa de los Tiros

Table 10 Hills Calle Pavaneras 19. Tel 958 57 54 66.

☐ 2:30-8:30pm Tue, 9am-8:30pm Weck-Sat, 9am-2:30pm Sun, 2 Jan, 28 Feb, 20 & 21 Mar, 22 May, 15 Aug, 12 & 13 Oct, 1 Nov, 6 & 8 Dec.

☐ 1 & 6 Jan, 1 May, 24, 25 & 31 Dec.

☐ Built in Mudéjar style in the 1500s, this palace owes its name to the muskets projecting from its battlements



Grille by Maestro Bartolomé de Jaén enclosing the altar of the Capilla Real



Cupola in the sanctuary of the Monasterio de la Cartuia

(tiro means shot). It originally belonged to the family that was awarded the Generalife after the fall of Granada. Among their possessions was a sword that had belonged to Boabdil. This is carved on the façade, along with statues of Mercury, Hercules and Jason.

#### # Alhambra and Generalife See pp490–92.

#### 🕁 El Bañuelo

Carrera del Darro 31. *Tel* 958 22 97 38. 10am-2:30pm Tue-Sat. public hols. These Arab baths were built in the 11th century. The columns are topped by Visigothic, Roman and Arab capitals.

# Museo Arqueológico Carrera del Darro 43. *Tel* 958 57 54

#### **VISITORS' CHECKLIST**

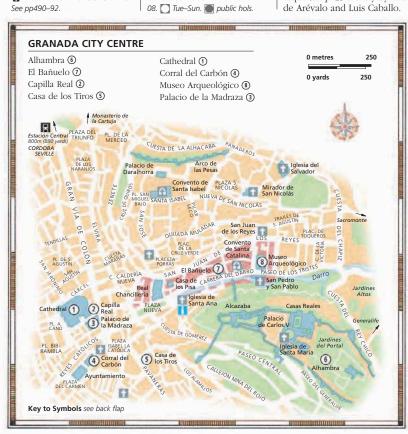
Granada. 🤼 241,000. 🙏 12 km (7 miles) southwest of city.

Avenida Andaluces, 902 24 02 02. Carretera de Jaen, 958 18 54 80. Santa Ana 4, 958 57 52 02. Sat & Sun. Semana Santa (Easter), Día de la Cruz (3 May), Corpus Christi (May/Jun). www.granadatur.com

This museum occupies the Casa de Castril, a Renaissance mansion with a Plateresque (see p25) portal. It displays Iberian, Phoenician and Roman finds from Granada province.

#### 

Paseo de la Cartuja. **Tel** 958 16 19 32. Founded in 1516 by Christian warrior, El Gran Capitán, this monastery outside Granada has a dazzling cupola by Antonio Palomino, and a Churriguer-esque (see p25) sacristy by Luis de Arévalo and Luis Caballo.



# Street-by-Street: the Albaicín



Ornate plaque on a house in the Albaicín

This corner of the city, on the hillside opposite the Alhambra, is where one feels closest to Granada's Moorish ancestry. Now mostly pedestrianized, this was the site of the first fortress built in the 13th century, and there were also once over 30 mosques. Most of the city's churches were built over

their sites. Along the cobbled alleys stand *cármenes*, villas with Moorish decoration and gardens, secluded from the world by high walls. In the jasmine-scented air of evening, stroll up to the Mirador de San Nicolás for a magical view over the rooftops of the Alhambra glowing in the sunset.



Street in the Albaicín Steep and sinuous, the Albaicín's streets are truly labyrinthine. Many street names start with Cuesta, meaning slope.

#### Real Chancillería

Built in 1530 by the Catholic Monarchs, the Royal Chancery has a beautiful Renaissance façade.



0 metres

) vards

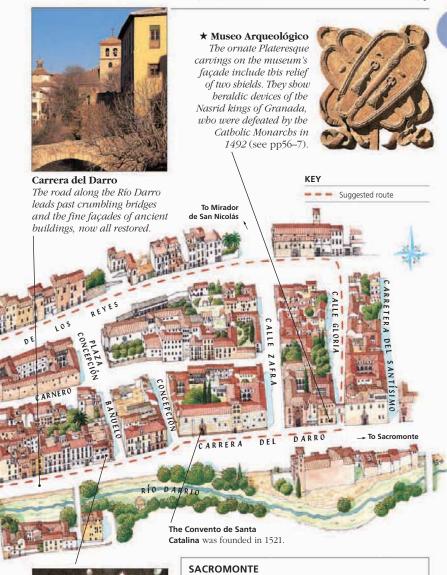
#### STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Iglesia de Santa Ana
- ★ El Bañuelo
- ★ Museo Arqueológico

Casa de los Pisas, also known as Museo San Juan de Dios, displays works of art – some depicting St John of God, who died here in 1550.

#### ★ Iglesia de Santa Ana

Just north of Plaza Nueva stands this 16th-century brick church in Mudéjar style. It has an elegant Plateresque portal and, inside, a coffered ceiling.



#### Granada's gy

Granada's gypsies formerly lived in the caves honeycombing this hillside. In the past, travellers would go there to enjoy spontaneous outbursts of flamenco. Today, virtually all the gypsies have moved away, but touristy flamenco shows of variable quality are still performed here

quality are still perfor in the evenings (see pp424-5). Sitting at the very top of the hill is the Abadía del Sacromonte, a Benedictine monastery. The ashes of St Cecilio, Granada's patron saint are kent inside.



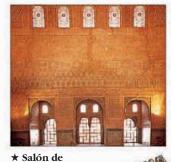
saint, are kept inside. Gypsies dancing flamenco, 19th century

#### ★ El Bañuelo

Star-shaped openings in the vaults let light into these well-preserved Moorish baths, which were built in the 11th century.

#### The Alhambra

A magical use of space, light, water and decoration characterizes this most sensual piece of architecture. It was built under Ismail I, Yusuf I and Muhammad V, caliphs when the Nasrid dynasty (see pp54-5) ruled Granada. Seeking to belie an image of waning power, they created their idea of paradise on Earth. Modest materials were used (plaster, timber and tiles), but they were superbly worked. Although the Alhambra suffered pillage and decay, including an attempt by Napoleon's troops to blow it up, in recent times it has undergone extensive restoration and its delicate craftsmanship still dazzles the eye.



Sala de



## ★ Patio de Arrayanes This pool, set amid myrtle bedges and

graceful arcades, reflects light into the surrounding halls.



**Embajadores** 





Patio del Mexuar This council chamber, completed in 1365, was where the reigning sultan listened to the petitions of his subjects and held meetings with his ministers.

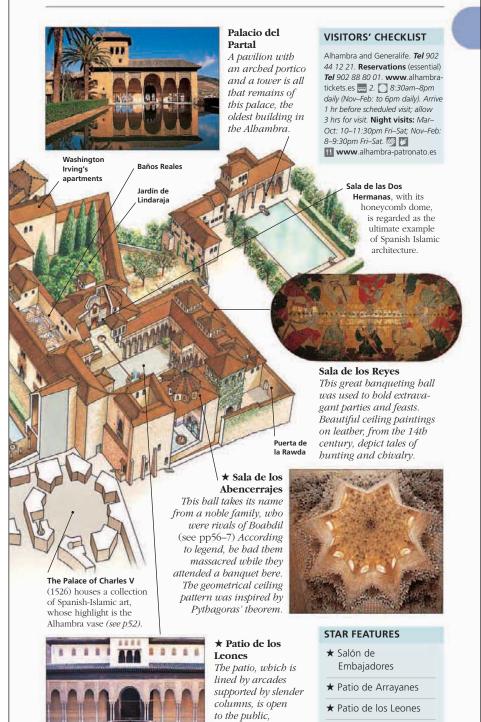
PLAN OF THE ALHAMBRA Palacios Nazaries (shown above) Palace of Charles V Alcazaba Gardens Iglesia de Santa Maria Other buildings the map.

Entrance

The Alhambra complex includes the Palacios Nazaries, the 13th-century Alcazaba, the 16th-century Palace of Charles V, and the Generalife (see p492), which is located just off

To the Generalife

Main gate



although the lion

statues and fountain

are being restored.

★ Sala de los

Abencerrajes

#### Granada: Generalife

From the Alhambra's northern side, a footpath leads to the Generalife, the country estate of the Nasrid kings. Here, they could escape from palace intrigues and enjoy tranquillity high above the city, a little closer to heaven. The name Generalife, or Yannat al Arif, has various interpretations, perhaps the most pleasing being "the garden of lofty paradise". The gardens, begun in the 13th century, have been modified over the years. They originally contained orchards and pastures. The Generalife provides a magical setting for Granada's annual music and dance festival (see p41).



The Patio de la Acequia is an enclosed oriental garden built round a long central pool. Rows of water jets on either side make graceful arches above it.

Jardines Altos (Upper Gardens)



Agua is a staircase with water flowing gently down it.

#### Entrance

The Patio de Polo was the courtyard where palace visitors, arriving on horseback, would tether their steeds.

#### The Patio de los Cipreses

otherwise known as the Patio de la Sultana, was the secret meeting place for Zoraya, wife of the Sultan Abu-l-Hasan, and her lover, the chief of the Abencerrajes.

The Patio del Generalife lies just before the entrance to the Generalife. The walk from the Albambra to the Generalife gardens passes first through the Jardines Bajos (lower gardens), before crossing this Moorish patio with its characteristically geometric pool.