

***Spain***

***Andalusia***

***Seville***

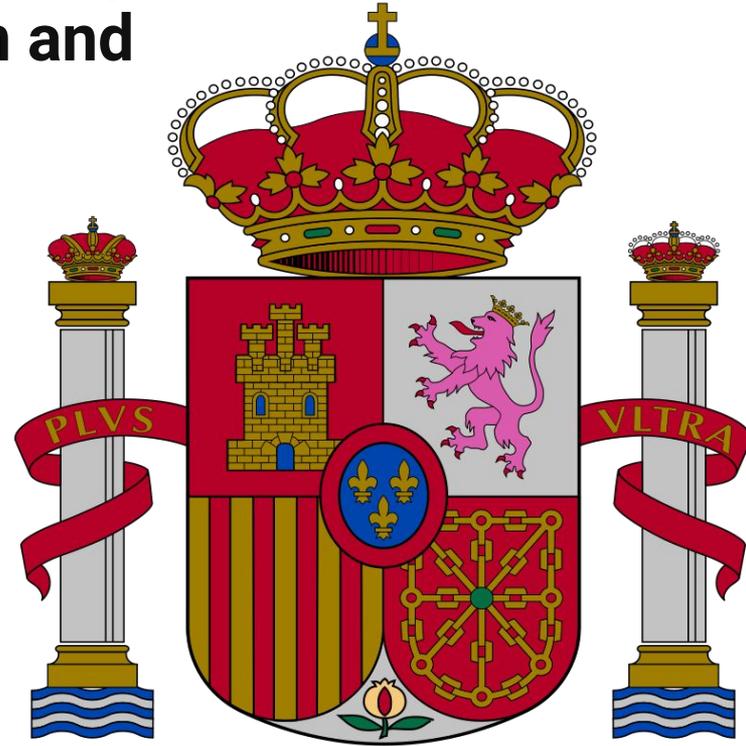
a short guide



by: Sylwia Marasz

Spain , the Kingdom of Spain (Reino de España), is a country located **in southwestern Europe with parts of territory in the Atlantic Ocean and across the Mediterranean Sea.**

The largest part of Spain is situated on the Iberian Peninsula; its territory includes the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla in Africa.





**Spain** with a land area of **504,782 square kilometres** in the Iberian peninsula, is the **second largest** country in European Union (behind France), and **the fourth largest** country in the European continent (behind Russia, Ukraine, and France).

The country is divided into **17** autonomous communities and **2** autonomous cities.

One of the autonomous communities is **ANDALUSIA** (ANDALUCIA in Spanish) with its capital in **Seville**.





Andalusia is the southernmost autonomous community in Spain. It is the most populous and the second-largest autonomous community in the country. It is officially recognised as a "historical nationality". The territory is divided into eight provinces: Almería, Cádiz, Córdoba, Granada, Huelva, Jaén, Málaga, and Seville - which is the capital city. Andalusia is located in the south of the autonomous communities of Extremadura and Castilla-La Mancha; west of the autonomous community of Murcia and the Mediterranean Sea; east of Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean; and north of the Mediterranean Sea and the Strait of Gibraltar. Andalusia is the only European region with both Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines.

Spain as a country is so rich in historical monuments, breathtaking views, cultural events and astonishing places that it would take me a lifetime to talk about all of them or even half of them. That's why I chose only one city to talk about - **Seville**.

The city of Seville (Sevilla in Spanish) is the capital of the Spanish region and province of Andalusia and has about 700,000 inhabitants, making Seville the fourth largest city in Spain. In the cultural, political, economic and artistic realms, Seville is the most important southern Spanish city. The historic city centre of Seville offers many attractions, such as the Real Alcázar de Sevilla, the Seville Cathedral with the Giralda Tower and the Torre del Oro at the river.







#SetasDeSevilla

YouTube Facebook Twitter Instagram @setasdesevilla

setasdesevilla.com

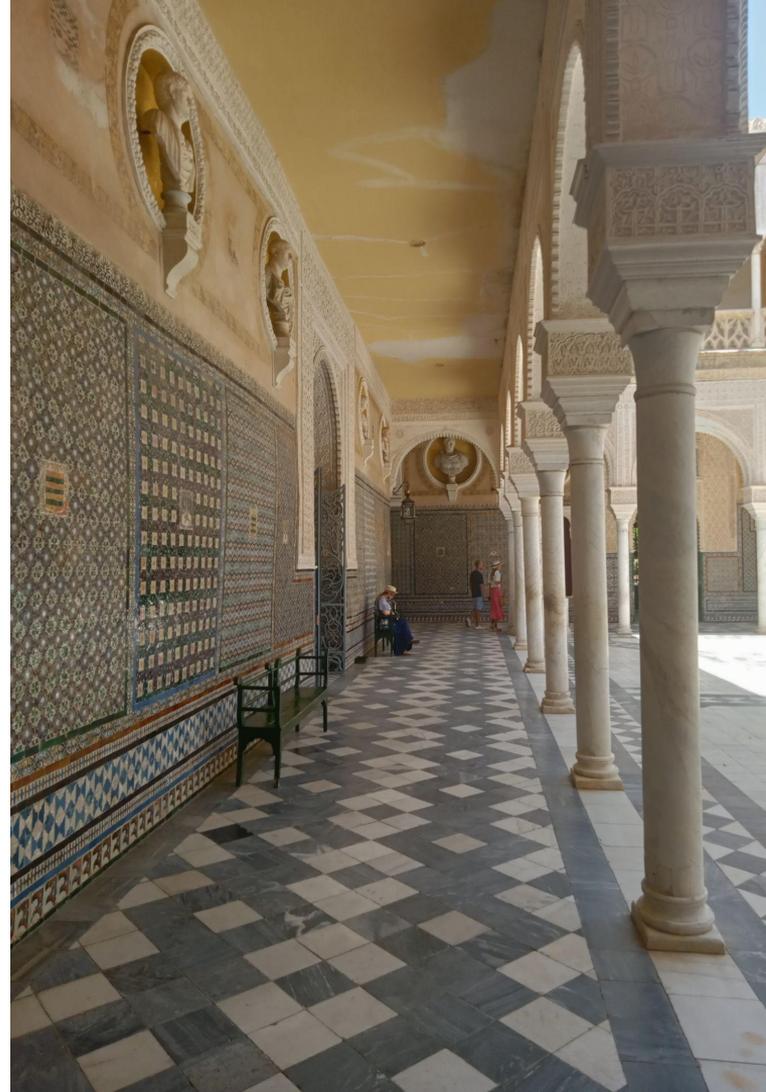
One of Seville's most popular – and unusual – attractions is **The Metropol Parasol**, known locally as *Las Setas*, or *'the Mushrooms'*, because of the distinctive shape of its vast wooden canopies and supporting pillars.



## ***Casa de Pilatos***

This beautiful 15th–16th-century mansion is one of central Seville’s hidden treasures, and its exquisite gardens, though smaller in scale, match anything you’ll see in the Alcázar. Begun by the wealthy *conquistador* and Mayor of Andalusia, Pedro Enriquez de Quiñones, in the 1400s, Casa de Pilatos is another of Seville’s classic Mudéjar structures, built around a central courtyard in the traditional Andalusian style.

The palace’s appears in two films: 1962’s *Lawrence of Arabia* and 2010’s *Knight and Day*.

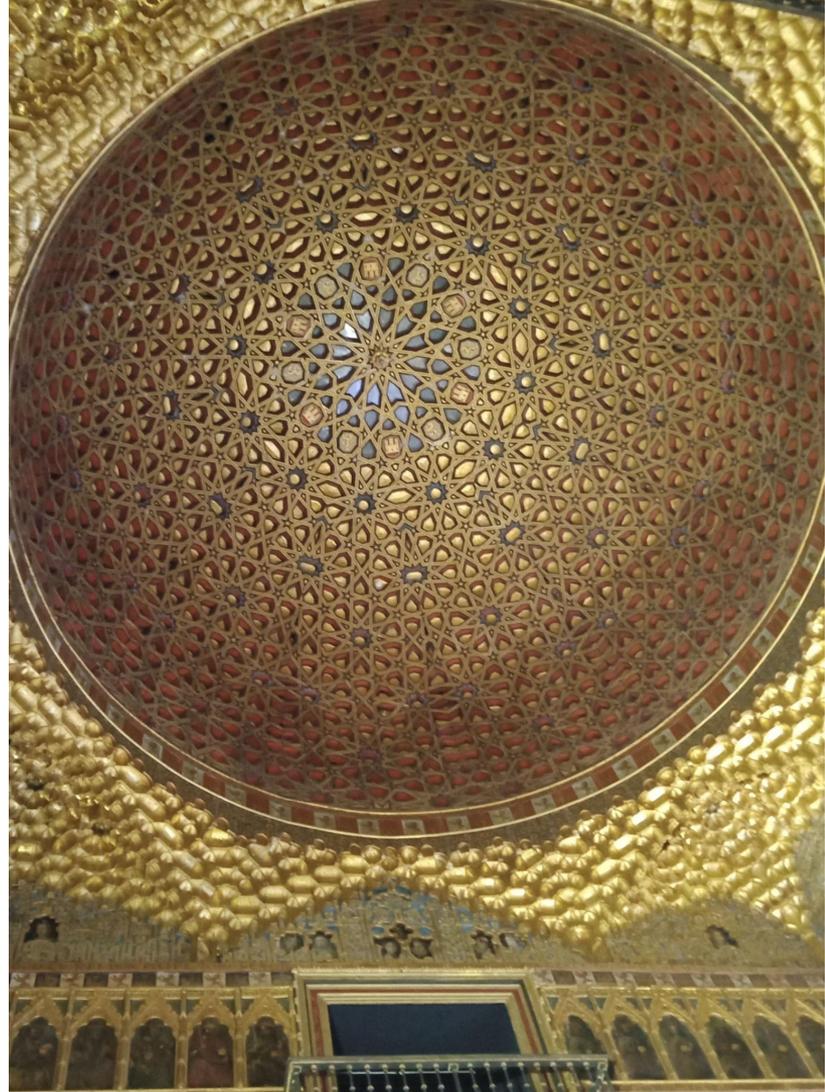


Casa de Pilatos, Seville; kkmarais, flickr



## Royal Alcazar Palace

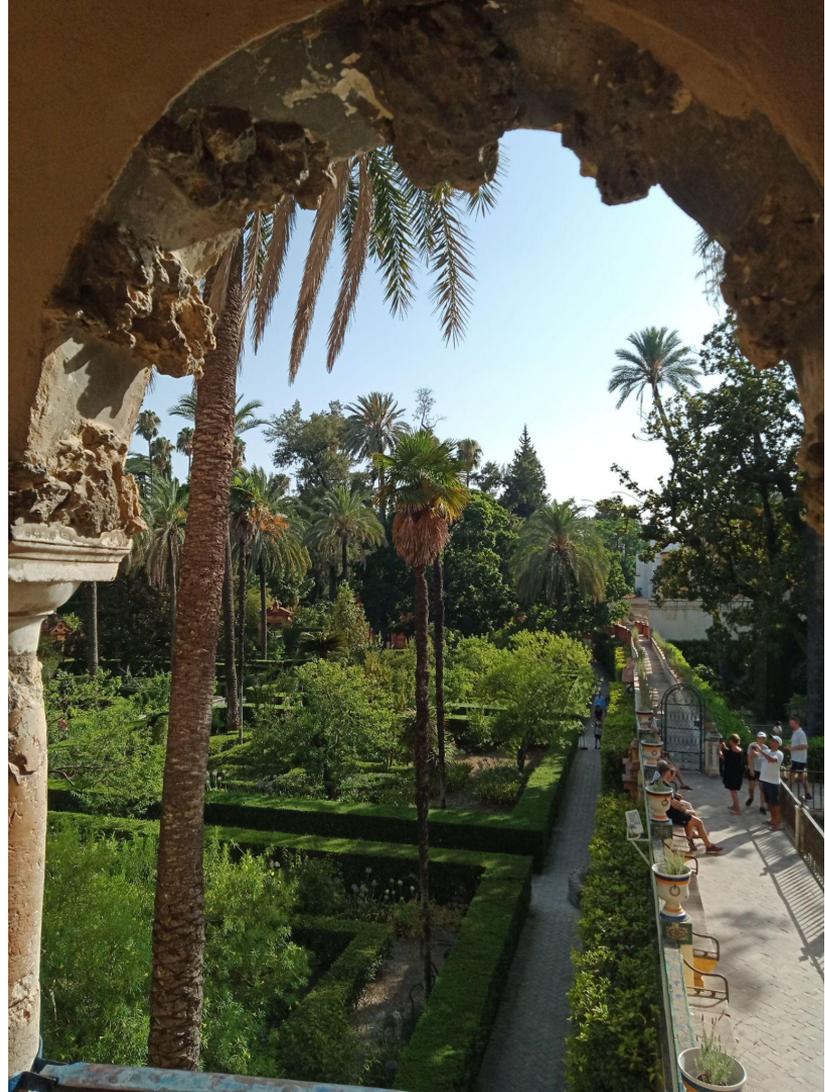
Seville's key architectural attraction is the Royal Alcázar Palace. Work on this great palace complex began in the 10th century, when the Umayyads built a Moorish fortress attached to the Roman city walls, but it was not until the 12th century that the first royal palace was built on the site, by the then-ruling Almohad Dynasty. Additions and renovations continued on and off until the 19th century, resulting in a structure that showcases a mix of Moorish, Renaissance and Mudéjar architecture, with the latter being particularly notable in the Mudéjar Palace. The upper floors of the Alcázar are the Spanish royal family's Seville residence, making it Europe's oldest continually used royal palace.





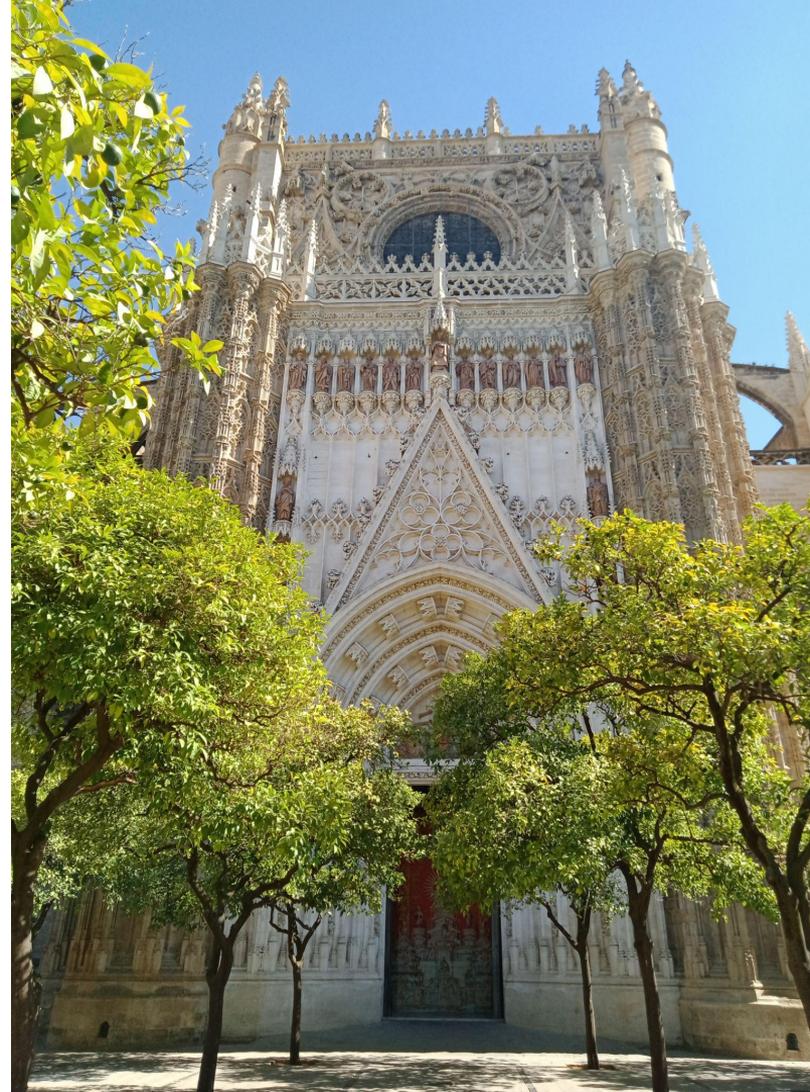


Great gardens of Royal Alcazar



# *Cathedral*

Seville's greatest Catholic monument amazes with its sheer size: it is the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. Construction of this sprawling Gothic complex, which houses 80 chapels and has the longest central nave in Spain, began in 1401 on the site of the city's former mosque. Work continued for over 100 years, and in 1507 the cathedral was finally completed, having spectacularly succeeded in fulfilling the design team's aim to make something 'so beautiful and so magnificent that those who see it will think we are mad'.





## Giralda Bell Tower

All that remains of Seville's great mosque is part of its minaret, which is now the cathedral's Giralda bell tower, another of Seville's key architectural attractions. The minaret, which was built during the Almohad period, was originally topped with giant copper globes, but these fell off in an earthquake in 1365. The ruling *conquistadors*, perhaps interpreting their removal as a hint from the universe, decided to replace them with a Christian cross and bell tower. Except for the final section, which features stairs, the route to the top (for stunning views) is via ramps – supposedly so it can be reached by horseback,





# *Plaza de Espana*

One of Seville's Mudejar classics is the Plaza de España, built in 1928 for the Ibero-American Exposition in 1929. The half-moon shaped building is fronted by a moat and borders on a plaza with a beautiful fountain at its centre; it showcases a striking mix of Mudéjar and Renaissance styles, with splashes of Art Deco to be seen on the colourful façades. Boating can be enjoyed on the moat, which is spanned by four bridges representing the ancient kingdoms of Spain.





**Azulejo** is a form of Portuguese and Spanish painted tin-glazed ceramic tilework. Azulejos are found on the interior and exterior of churches, palaces, ordinary houses, schools, and nowadays, restaurants, bars and even railways or subway stations. They are an ornamental art form, but also had a specific functional capacity like temperature control in homes. That's a kind of decoration that you'll find everywhere you go





## *Maria Luisa Park*

It is located next to Plaza the Espana. Maria Luisa Park, a botanical garden and the Andalusian capital's largest and most attractive area of greenery. It is a beautiful place to stroll in spring, when the park's many species of plants and flowers are in bloom and when the local residents – doves, parrots, ducks and swans – are on display. Stretching along the banks of the Guadalquivir, its half-mile of shaded walkways, tiled fountains, ponds and tropical foliage is also home to the Mudéjar Pavillion, in which the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions of Seville can be found.





The **Monastery of Santa María de las Cuevas**, also known as the **Monastery of the Cartuja (Charterhouse)**, is a religious building on the Isla de La Cartuja in Seville, southern Spain. The **Andalusian Contemporary Art Center (The Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC))** is now located on this site.







The most important **art collection** of Seville is in the ***Museum of Fine Arts of Seville***. It was established in 1835 in the former Convent of *La Merced*. It holds masterworks by Murillo, Pacheco, Zurbarán, Valdés Leal, and other masters of the Baroque Sevillian School, containing also Flemish paintings of the 15th- 16th centuries.



