



Photograph: SCB

Price per person: €70.00 VAT (21%) NOT INCLUDED

Panoramic bus tour to the main sites of interest in the city with a first stop in the Plaza de España and Maria Luisa Park. Next stop is at the Torre del Oro, where we will start a walking tour through Seville's historic city centre including a guided visit to the Cathedral and Giralda and the Royal Alcazar. Lunch after the tour.

Tour guide languages: Spanish and English

Price includes: transportation, tour guide, tickets for monuments, radio guides and lunch.

Pick-up point: in front of the main entrance of the Barcelo Renacimiento Hotel.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

<i>9.00am</i>	Bus departure from Barcelo Renacimiento Hotel for Panoramic Tour
<i>10.10am</i>	Bus stops at the Torre del Oro to start walking tour of historic city centre
<i>10.10- 1.30pm</i>	Visit of monuments
<i>2pm-3.30pm</i>	Lunch
<i>4.00pm</i>	Bus departure from city centre to return to Barcelo Renacimiento Hotel
<i>5.15pm</i>	Arrival at hotel

Cathedral and Giralda



It is also known as Cathedral of Holy Mary of the See. It is the largest Catholic cathedral in the world and the third-largest Christian temple after St. Peter in Rome and St. Paul in London. Since the conquest of the city the 23 November 1248, the building of the Main Mosque became the cathedral of the archdiocese of the Kingdom of Seville. The orientation of the prayers, formerly southwards, was changed to the eastward Christian orientation, placing the Main Chapel in its eastern side. With time, the walls and pillars were covered with reredos and paintings. By the end of the 14th century, the building was in a very poor condition with the risk of falling

into ruins. The Cathedral chapter decided to demolish the Almohad building to erect a cathedral according to the Christian standards. Its construction took place in several periods over more than 500 years. The result was a combination of different architectural styles that make it strikingly beautiful. The different stages of the construction of the cathedral are the following: Gothic (1403-1528) the construction took place at the same time the Almohad building was being demolished; the Renaissance section (1528-1593) corresponds to the period that started in 1528, when a series of attachments to the Gothic building were built, such as the Main Sacristy, the Chapter Room and other attached halls and the apse section with the Royal Chapel; the Baroque part (1618-1758) comprises almost exclusively the construction of the Sagrario Parish Church; Academic (1758-1823) with mostly Neoclassic works; in the Neogothic stage (1825-1928) unfinished sections from former periods were completed. The Orange Tree courtyard is the sahn of the former Main Mosque of Isbiliya. After the construction of the Gothic building, it was used as cloister, however, since it remained open to the city it has always been a place of passage, public plaza, marketplace and playing ground for children.

The Giralda is the Cathedral's bell tower, one of the largest in the world and a true jewel of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Once it was the tallest tower in the world, with its height of 97.5 m and remains a world icon, in addition to being one of the most famous images of the city and of all Andalusia. The tower is made up by two different sections, perfectly connected, and provides a clear example of the cultural melting pot existing in the city. The Muslim section is the oldest one; it was started in 1184, ordered by Abu Yaqub Yusuf to become the minaret of the Almohad mosque of Seville. It was started in stone, as we can see at its base, and remains from Roman buildings and gravestones were used.

Royal Alcazar



An alcazar is a castle; the term derives from the Arabic القصر al qasr meaning 'fortress', and in Latin castellum (castrum). The unique feature of the alcazar is that it is a fortified palace. Several Spanish cities have an alcazar, with Seville, Cordoba or Toledo displaying the most characteristic ones. Members of the Royal Family and eminent persons visiting the city have used the Alcazar of Seville as residence. It is made up by several buildings from different times in history. The original fortress was built on an originally Roman and then Visigoth settlement. It later became a Paleochristian basilica (St. Vincent Martyr) in which St. Isidore was buried.

The Royal Alcazar of Seville started to take its current shape after the conquest of the city by the Muslims in 713. They used the site as residence for their rulers since 720. In 884, the fortress contributed to deter the Viking invasion of the city. Initially, several buildings were built on the site, such as the House of the Princes, a group of dwellings that in the 9th century reached from the Plaza del Triunfo to the Santa Cruz Quarter. One of the palaces facing two courtyards dates back to the period when the Alhambra was built. Indeed, the Nasrid king Muhammad V sent skilled craftsmen from Granada, who worked with local ones. The home of the emirs was enlarged in the 11th century and construction works went on in the following century with further fortifications and more courtyards and palaces. After the Reconquest of the city in 1248 the Royal Alcazar became the home of king Ferdinand III, and then became the usual residence of later monarchs. Alfonso X carried out the first reforms with the construction of three large Gothic rooms.

Source: Tourism of Seville