

Simply Seville !

The birthplace of artists Murillo and Velazquez; loved and enjoyed by writers such as Byron, Virginia Woolf, Hans Christian Anderson and Ernest Hemingway, Seville, the capital of Andalucia sits proudly on the banks of the River Guadalquivir (East & West). It has been host to many peoples : Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans (in fact, the City of Italica, created outside Seville, became one of Rome's richest & best organised colonies), Muslims and Christians. By the 15th Century, its privileged position with by now, a vast Port, enabled it to quickly become one of the biggest, richest and most cosmopolitan cities in the world. Seville today is an exciting, pulsating, vibrant, colourful city, with proud Sevillanos, passionate about their city and traditions. We will enjoy just a taster of what this wonderful city has to offer, which will hopefully, whet your appetite to return.

We leave Nerja by coach and enjoy breakfast en route. We continue straight to Seville, for a visit to the Casa de Los Pilatos, the mansion, privately owned by the Medinaceli family. On the ground floor, we will have audio guides to describe the details of the tiled walls and stunning carved ceilings. On the first floor, we will have a private, guided visit in English. We board the coach once more, to cross the River Guadalquivir to the area of Triana. This area is famous for making ceramics and tiles - in fact, most of those we will have seen in the Casa de Los Pilatos were made here. There is also a wonderful municipal market, which sells the usual fruit, veg, meat and fish and when these close, the tapas bars inside the market open. This area was very much a no-go area for many years as it was deemed that those trades and workers should be outside the City - hence they were across the river. We will visit the Ceramics Museum which is very interesting. After this visit, we will wander into the pedestrianised street and avail ourselves of a tapas lunch at one of the many bars and restaurants. Before we board the coach, I hope very much that we will be able to visit a privately owned patisserie owned by a Michelin Starred chef.

We will board the coach and cross the river once again to check-in for 2 nights B & B at the Hotel Inglaterra, which is situated in the excellent location of Plaza Nueva - we say goodbye to our coach until it returns to collect us on Day 3.

After an interlude of R & R, we will meet for a cocktail on the Hotel Terrace, where we can enjoy the spectacular views over this stunning City. We will then take a short walk to nearby Restuarant La Isla for dinner.

After a good night's sleep and a buffet breakfast , our English speaking Guide, Marta will collect us for a walking tour of the City (not all of it !) and a few visits. She will certainly point out the famous landmarks as we make our way to the privately owned Palacio de Las Duenas, former home of the Duchess of Alba. This Palace was built in the 15th Century and was also home, for a short while in his childhood, to the famous literary figure, Antonio Machado. The Duchess you may remember, was a very flamboyant, flamenco loving woman who married her third husband who was 24 years her junior. We hope to visit the Convento of St Paula before a guided visit of the Metropole Parasol (Las Setas). We will have heard a Talk about this monument in November. During the construction of this structure, building was halted as Roman remains were found. These can be visited, perhaps independently later, when our morning with the guide has finished. At some stage, we will have a coffee break. We will then wander through the narrow streets and find somewhere to enjoy another tapas lunch.

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I suggest that the morning may have been quite tiring for some and so, some may wish to enjoy a siesta, others may wish to visit another nearby monument, such as the Roman remains mentioned above.

In the evening, we will meet in the hotel reception, before a leisurely stroll to the restaurant Cuna 2 for dinner, which is in yet another former private house. After dinner, at 10.30 p.m. there is the option to go to a Flamenco show in part of another nearby privately owned Palace (their show is normally at 21.00 but will perform later for us).

After a good sleep and buffet breakfast, Maria and I will take any who wish to join us, to the Museo de Belles Artes at 10.00 a.m.

* check-out is by mid-day and you may wish to return to your room to freshen up. The hotel will store our luggage until our coach arrives at 16.30

There will then be free time to enjoy some places of your own choice :

Horse drawn carriage ride - a wonderful way to see the City, including the **Plaza de Espana**, which was built for the 29 Expo. This Plaza always generates mixed opinions but well worth a view. 45 € - find others to share

Hospital de la Caridad - still operates as a home for elderly gentlemen. There is a Baroque chapel with wonderful paintings - some Murillo's. 4 €

The Cathedral - may be a long wait ! 9 € or possible discount to 4 € for over 65 's

A walk back over the bridge to **Triana**, see the **market**, see the **Castle Jorge**, which was used for the Spanish Inquisition.

Torre del Oro - wonderful for those who are in to Naval memorabilia and paintings. 3 € or 1.5 € over 65's.

Hospital Venerables in Barrio Santa Cruz, wonderful art gallery

Or just wander, look and enjoy !

The price per person for 2 sharing is 390 €
single supplement is an additional 65 € for 2 nights and is 455 €

The price includes coach travel to and from Nerja, 2 nights B & B in 4* Hotel Inglaterra, cocktail on first evening, 2 dinners, all entrances where stated on days 1 & 2, services of English speaking guide or audio guide where stated.