

OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

Seville Cathedral

Seville · From 18€

https://catedraldesevilla.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Mosque to Gothic Masterpiece

GOOGLE 4.8 ★★★★★ 59 297 reviews

TIQETS 4.5 ★★★★☆ 8 905 reviews

The story of the Seville Cathedral begins with a bold declaration in **1401**. Architect Alonso Martinez challenged his peers to build a temple so immense that future generations would deem its creators mad. This ambition was born from the ruins of an Almohad mosque, symbolizing the Christian victory after the Reconquista. The construction aimed not just to replace a place of worship but to assert the prosperity and power of Seville as a major commercial hub. By reusing columns and elements from the former mosque, the builders created a unique architectural dialogue between two faiths.

Construction began in **1402** under the guidance of Master Carlin from Normandy, blending French Gothic influences with local Andalusian traditions. The cathedral was designed to be vast, surpassing other European cathedrals in width rather than length. Its nave stretches 132 meters long, but it is the constant width of **83 meters** that truly sets it apart. This exceptional dimension reflects the wealth of the city during the late medieval period. The structure stands as a testament to the technical prowess of medieval engineers who dared to push the boundaries of stone and mortar.

The most striking feature of this complex is the **Giralda tower**, originally the minaret of the great mosque. Instead of demolishing it, the Christians converted it into a bell tower, preserving its gentle ramp designed for horseback ascent. This pragmatic decision saved time and resources while maintaining the visual harmony of the skyline. The tower's Mudéjar architecture contrasts beautifully with the soaring Gothic vaults of the main nave, creating a layered historical narrative visible in every arch and column.

Inside, the spiritual heart beats around the **Royal Chapel**, housing the tombs of Ferdinand III and Alfonso X. These monarchs shaped Spanish history, and their resting place underscores the cathedral's role as a royal mausoleum. Additionally, the sarcophagus of Christopher Columbus sits near the entrance, supported by four colossal statues representing the kingdoms of Spain. This inclusion links the cathedral to the Age of Discovery, marking Seville as the gateway to the New World.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the massive doors, you are immediately struck by the sheer scale of the interior. The air feels cool and still, contrasting sharply with the bustling heat outside. Sunlight filters through stained glass windows, casting colorful patterns on the stone floor. Your gaze is drawn upward to the intricate Gothic vaults, where shadows dance among the ribs of the ceiling. It is a space designed to elevate the spirit, making you feel small yet connected to centuries of devotion.

As you move toward the altar, the golden glow of the **monumental altarpiece** dominates your view. Its detailed sculptures seem alive, telling stories of faith and sacrifice. The silence is broken only by the distant chime of bells or the soft footsteps of fellow visitors. Climbing the Giralda offers a panoramic reward, revealing the red rooftops of Seville stretching to the horizon. This journey from shadow to light encapsulates the essence of visiting this sacred monument.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS

Historic Center · Metro: San Bernardo (L1, L2) or Preciados (L1), 5 min walk.

OPENING HOURS

Hours vary by season and school holidays. Always check exact time slots on the official website before your visit.

PRICES

Free entry for children depending on age (check variants). {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 1h30 to 2h to explore the vast nave, admire the monumental altarpiece, and climb to the top of the Giralda without rushing.

PHOTOS

Photography is generally allowed without flash in the nave. Be aware of restrictions during religious ceremonies or in specific chapels like the Capilla Mayor.

AUDIENCE

Ideal for all audiences interested in history. Children will enjoy the legend of the Giralda, but the visit requires respectful calmness towards this sacred pla

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

Metro

: Plaza Nueva — 4 min à pied

Seville Airport (30 min) · Seville Plaza Armas (9 min)

Bus

: Plaza Nueva — 4 min à pied

Seville Airport (47 min) · Seville Plaza Armas (13 min)

Car

Seville Airport (36 min) · Seville Plaza Armas (7 min)

Bike

Seville Airport (47 min) · Seville Plaza Armas (7 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve Seville Cathedral ?



📍 s/n,Avenida de la Constitución — 41004 Seville

🌐 37°23.149′ N, 5°59.586′ O



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Vast Nave

Ground Level (Nave & Chapels)

Explore the vast central nave lined with thirty side chapels. Admire the Gothic vaults and the monumental organs. Visit the Royal Chapel to see the tombs of Ferdinand III and Alfonso X. Observe the sarcophagus of Christopher Columbus near the entrance.

Main Altar & Choir

Focus on the Capilla Mayor dominated by Pierre Dancart's altarpiece. This Flamboyant Gothic masterpiece features 45 sculpted panels depicting Christ's life. Notice the intricate details and the golden monstrance, the largest in the world. Feel the spiritual intensity of this central space.

Giralda Tower Summit

Climb the gentle ramp to the top of the bell tower. Enjoy panoramic views of Seville's historic center and the Guadalquivir River. Observe the weather vane, the Giraldillo, crowning the structure. Experience the wind and the silence high above the city streets.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

Wheelchair access possible in the nave, but climbing the Giralda is difficult (steep ramp).

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Strollers allowed in the nave; strict dress code must be observed.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Unmissable Architectural Wonders

01 Exterior/Tower

The Giralda Tower

Formerly a minaret, this tower showcases **Mudéjar architecture**. Its ramp allows easy access without stairs. The summit offers breathtaking views of Seville. It is the iconic symbol of the city.

> 💡 Originally designed for horses to ascend, the ramp remains unchanged. **Horseback ascent** was common until the 16th century.

02 PIERRE DANCART Capilla Mayor

Pierre Dancart's Altarpiece

Considered the largest altarpiece in the world, it features **45 sculpted panels**. This Flamboyant Gothic work depicts scenes from the Bible. Its size and detail overwhelm the viewer. It represents the pinnacle of religious art.

> 💡 Dancart dedicated his entire life to this project. **Lifetime achievement** defines this monumental sculpture.

03 Treasury

Monumental Monstrance

Housed in the treasury, this is the **largest monstrance** globally. Made of solid gold, it testifies to artistic mastery. Its design includes intricate figures and symbols. It is a key piece of liturgical jewelry.

> 💡 Crafted in the 17th century, it weighs several kilograms. **Solid gold** composition highlights its value.

04 Royal Chapel

Royal Chapel Tombs

Here rest **Ferdinand III** and **Alfonso X**. These kings shaped Spanish history and law. Their tombs are surrounded by ornate carvings. The chapel serves as a royal mausoleum.

> 💡 Ferdinand III conquered Seville in 1248. **Conqueror's rest** marks this sacred spot.

05

Treasury Chapel

Christopher Columbus Sarcophagus

Located near the entrance, this tomb is supported by **four colossal statues**. They represent the kingdoms of Castile, León, Aragon, and Portugal. It commemorates the discoverer of America. Controversy exists over his true burial site.

> 💡 Seville claims these are the authentic remains. **Disputed legacy** adds mystery to the tomb.

06

Central Nave

Gothic Vaults

Look up to admire the **intricate ribbed vaults**. They reach 42 meters in height. The engineering complexity is evident in every intersection. Light plays across the stone surfaces.

> 💡 Builders used advanced techniques for their time. **Medieval innovation** allowed such height.

07

South Facade

Puerta del Perdón

Known as the Door of Forgiveness, it is used only once a year. Pilgrims enter here during Holy Week. It symbolizes penitence and redemption. The door remains closed otherwise.

> 💡 Used exclusively for processions. **Annual opening** marks special occasions.

08

Choir Area

Organ Pipes

Two large organs flank the choir. Their pipes stretch towards the ceiling. Music fills the vast space during services. The sound resonates deeply within the stone walls.

> 💡 Restored regularly to maintain quality. **Acoustic perfection** is prioritized.

TIPS

Smart Tips for Your Visit

TIMING

Arrive right at opening (10:45 AM) or late afternoon to avoid crowds and heat. Midday visits are crowded and hot.

BILLET

Buy tickets online in advance. Check for free tickets weekly on the official website, though they are limited.

PARCOURS

Start with the Giralda climb while fresh. Then explore the nave and chapels at a leisurely pace.

PHOTO

Take photos from Plaza del Triunfo for the best angle of the Giralda. Inside, photography is allowed without flash.

PAUSE

Visit Bar La Catedral nearby for tapas after your visit. It offers a lively atmosphere and traditional food.

ENFANTS

Children enjoy the Giralda legend. Ensure they wear comfortable shoes and respect the quiet atmosphere.

AUDIOGUIDE

Rent an audioguide available in English, French, and Spanish. It helps understand the complex history and art.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes for climbing the ramp and walking on cobblestones. Dress modestly covering shoulders and knees.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

How to avoid the queue to enter the Cathedral?

It is highly recommended to buy your cathedrale seville coupe file tickets online in advance. You can also try the trick of the Iglesia Colegial Divino Salvador, which sometimes sells combined tickets. This method allows

Are there free entries?

Yes, the cathedral offers 100 free tickets each week via its official website. These spots are limited to 20 per day and valid only for the 2 PM to 3 PM slot. Demand is huge, so book as soon as sales open and have a Plan

Do combined tickets with the Alcázar exist?

There is no single official ticket directly linking the two sites from the same operator. However, some aggregators offer tourist packages including both monuments. Check the cancellation conditions and separate schedule

Do I need to book the Giralda climb separately?

Often, access to the Giralda is included in the standard cathedral ticket. Just ensure that your chosen option explicitly mentions 'Giralda'. In high season, time slots for the tower can be saturated, so confirm your inc

Is it possible to go to the top of the Giralda?

Yes, you can access the summit via an inclined ramp rather than stairs, which makes the ascent easier. This access is often included in the main ticket or available as an add-on. The panoramic view of Seville and the Gua

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

The Madman's Bet

In 1401, architect Alonso Martinez declared they should build a temple so large people would think them mad. This **bold challenge** defined the cathedral's scale. It reflects the confidence of post-Reconquista Seville.

Minaret to Bell Tower

The Giralda was originally a mosque minaret. Its ramp allowed horses to ascend. Converting it saved resources and preserved **Islamic heritage** within a Christian structure.

World's Largest Altarpiece

Pierre Dancart's altarpiece has 45 panels. It is the largest in the world. This **Flamboyant Gothic** masterpiece took decades to complete. It dominates the main chapel visually.

Record Width

While shorter than Milan or Cologne, Seville Cathedral is wider at 83 meters. This **exceptional width** symbolizes prosperity. It creates a spacious, open interior feel.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Just steps away lies the **Real Alcázar**, a stunning Mudéjar palace with lush gardens that complement the cathedral's solemnity. Nearby, the **Santa Cruz Quarter** invites you to wander through narrow white alleyways filled with artisan shops and flowered patios. For a quick refreshment, stop at **Bar La Catedral**, a local institution famous for traditional tapas right opposite the facade. Don't miss the Plaza del Triunfo for the best photo angle of the Giralda against the sky. These surrounding sites complete the cultural immersion, offering a blend of royal history, Jewish heritage, and Andalusian lifestyle.



Visiting the Seville Cathedral is more than a tour; it is a journey through time. You witness the coexistence of cultures in stone and gold. From the base of the Giralda to the heights of the choir, every corner holds a secret. Let the grandeur inspire you, and leave with a deeper appreciation for the artistry that defines this city. Remember the **madman's bet**—they succeeded beyond imagination.