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FREE GUIDE · SEVILLE

Royal Alcázar of Seville

Pedro I's Mudéjar palace, the gardens and Game of Thrones' Dorne — the 7 must-see spaces of the Alcázar, explained one by one



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Your visit at a glance

The Real Alcázar is the oldest royal palace still in use in Europe: the royal family still stays here when it visits Seville, eight centuries after its first Almohad stone was laid. A World Heritage Site since 1987, it's a marvel of a thousand years of layered styles —Islamic, Mudéjar, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque— with King Pedro I's palace as the jewel in the crown. Its water courtyards, its tiled halls and its gardens were the Water Gardens of Dorne in Game of Thrones, and you only have to step through the gate to understand why the production barely had to decorate a thing. This tour brings together its seven must-see spaces —from Pedro I's palace to the gardens—, explained one by one, with 1, 2 and 3-hour routes so you can choose according to the time you have.

At a glance

PRICE

€15.50 general · ~€8 reduced

HOURS

Apr-Sep 9:30am-7pm · Oct-Mar 9:30am-5pm

WHAT TO SEE

7 must-see spaces

FREE ENTRY

Mondays, last hour (minimal capacity)

TIME

1-3 h (about 2 h for the essentials)

WHERE

Next to the Cathedral (on foot)



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With this free guide you already do a great visit: the essentials, with a route. If you want to make the most of it, at the end I'll show you the complete version.

Before you go in: book your skip-the-line ticket

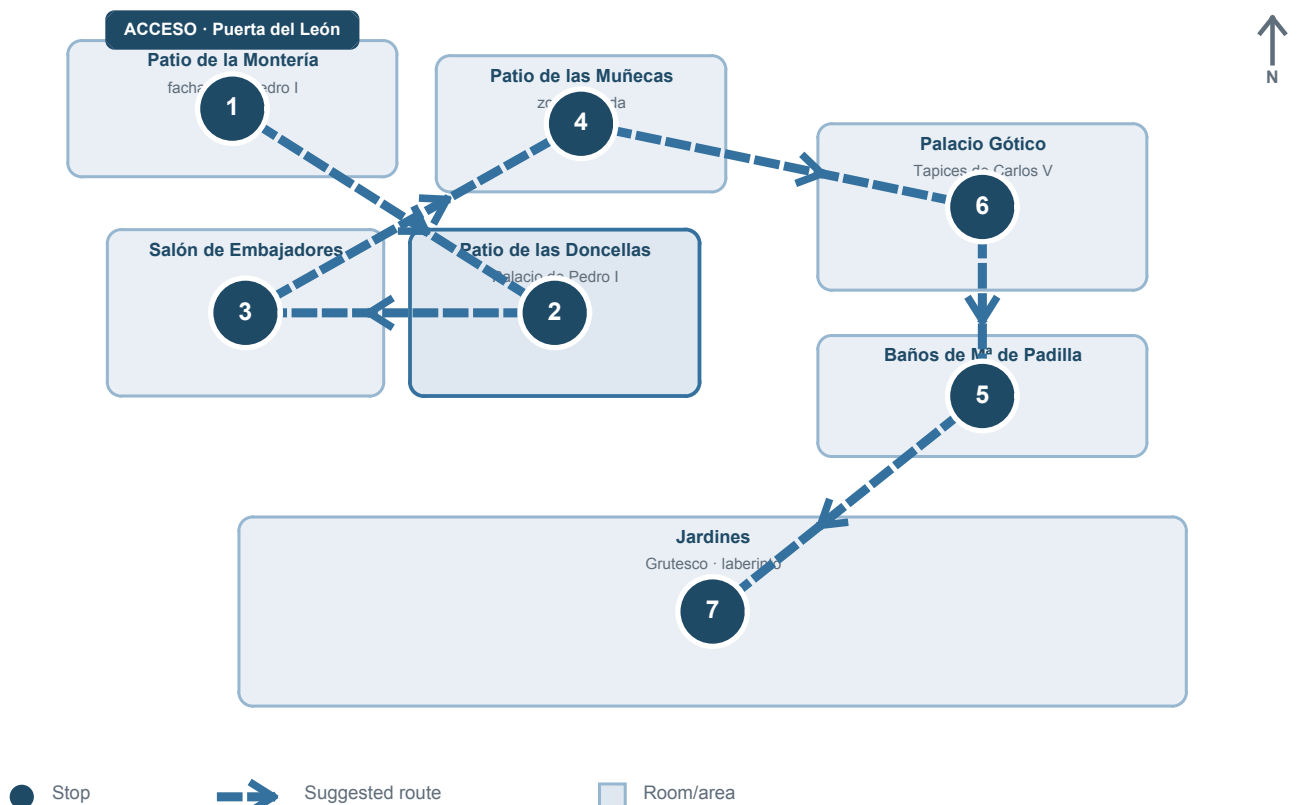
On Civitatis, with free cancellation. Skip the ticket-office queue.

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The map and the route

You come in through the Lion's Gate, next to the Cathedral, and emerge into the broad Patio de la Montería, with the façade of Pedro I's Palace facing you. From there, the Mudéjar heart: the Courtyard of the Maidens, the Ambassadors' Hall beneath its golden dome and the intimate Courtyard of the Dolls. Beneath the palace wait the Baths of Doña María de Padilla; to one side, Charles V's Gothic and tapestry halls. The walk always ends in the gardens, with the Grotto Gallery, Charles V's pavilion and the maze. Follow the numbers on the stops: they run in the most comfortable order for making your way around the grounds.

REAL ALCÁZAR DE SEVILLA · PALACIOS Y JARDINES (ESQUEMA, NO A ESCALA)



Desde la Puerta del León (NO) se entra al Palacio de Pedro I; el Palacio Gótico queda al este y los baños de Doña María, bajo el Patio del Crucero. Los jardines ocupan la mitad sur. No a escala.

Visiting order: 1 The Patio de la Montería and façade of Pedro I › 2 The Courtyard of the Maidens › 3 The Ambassadors' Hall › 4 The Courtyard of the Dolls › 5 The Baths of Doña María de Padilla › 6 The Gothic and Tapestry Halls of Charles V › 7 The Gardens (Grotto Gallery, Charles V's pavilion and maze)

Schematic layout by area; the number shows the visiting order. Not to scale: follow the museum's own floor plans and signs on the day.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

1

The Patio de la Montería and the façade of Pedro I

Beyond the Lion's Gate, main entrance · 15

A Christian king commissioned Muslim craftsmen to build a façade worthy of a caliph. The result, with legends in Arabic and Castilian on the same front, is the finest gateway into the Mudéjar world you're about to cross.



The Mudéjar façade of Pedro I's Palace from the Patio de la Montería.

Photo: JI FilpoC · CC BY 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons



DON'T MISS THIS

The polychrome wooden eaves and the double inscription, in Arabic and Gothic Castilian, above the door.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

On that façade there's a phrase in Arabic repeated over and over that connects this palace with the Alhambra. In the premium guide we tell you what it says and why a Christian king put it on his door.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

2

The Courtyard of the Maidens

Centre of Pedro I's Palace · 20

The most photographed courtyard in the Alcázar: a pool that reflects arches of lacework. Below, Pedro I's Mudéjar; above, Charles V's Renaissance. One place, two centuries, not a visible seam.



*The Courtyard of the Maidens,
with its central pool reflecting the
Mudéjar arcade.*

Photo: Benjamin Smith · CC BY-SA 4.0 ·
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THE REFLECTION

The reflection of the arcade in the pool and the contrast between the Mudéjar lower storey and the Renaissance gallery above.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

Beneath this courtyard something lay hidden for centuries that nobody suspected, until archaeologists lifted the floor not long ago. In the premium guide we tell you what turned up and how it changed the courtyard.

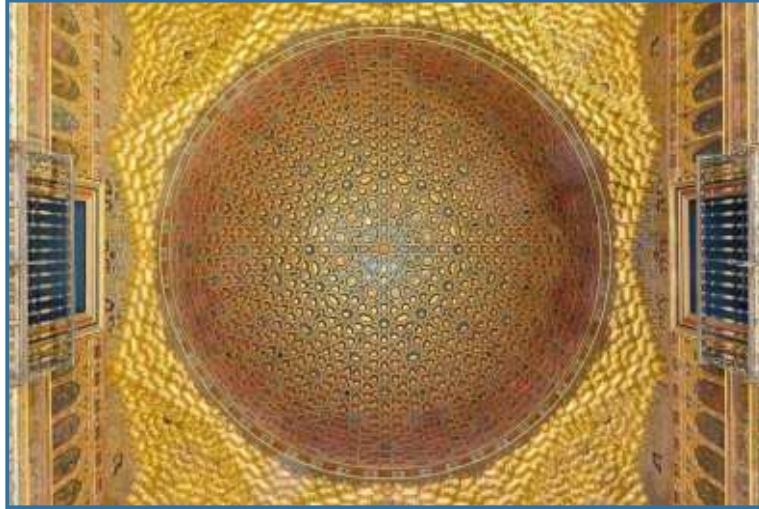
THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

3

The Ambassadors' Hall

Pedro I's Palace, next to the Courtyard of the Maidens · 20

The throne room, crowned by a golden cedar dome representing the universe. In fiction it was the hall where the House of Martell of Dorne reigned. Reality outdid the set.



The golden hemispherical dome of the Ambassadors' Hall.

Photo: Benjamin Smith · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons



LOOK UP

The gilded hemispherical dome, carved in cedar, crowning the hall like a sky of gold.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

That golden dome has a maker with a name and surname, an exact date and a very specific hidden meaning above the throne. In the premium guide we tell you who assembled it and what it really represents.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

5

The Baths of Doña María de Padilla

Underground, beneath the palace (Gardens) · 12

Former cisterns turned into a Gothic gallery reflected in water. It was a corner of Dorne in Game of Thrones, where the Sand Snakes plotted. Cool, silent and otherworldly.



The Baths of Doña María de Padilla, a Dorne setting in Game of Thrones.

Photo: Alberto.Bravo · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons



SEE IT LIKE THIS

The perfect reflection of the Gothic vaults in the still sheet of water, with the light coming in at floor level.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

These baths were one of the most recognisable settings of Dorne, and they hide why the film crew barely had to touch a thing. In the premium guide: what was filmed here and the secret of its perfect reflection.

Practical tips

Best times

Book the first slot of the morning (09:30): fewer people and better light in the courtyards. In summer, leave the gardens for the late morning or go straight to them first thing, because at midday the sun really beats down and there's little shade.

Buy your ticket in advance

The Alcázar has limited capacity (around 750 people at a time) and in high season same-day tickets sell out early; the ticket-office queue can eat up a good hour. Get your ticket online, with a booked day and time, and arrive a few minutes before your slot: that way you go almost straight in and secure your place.

Getting in free

There's a free window, usually on Mondays in the last hour before closing (around 18:00-19:00 in summer and 16:00-17:00 in winter), with very limited capacity; check the day and time on the official website. The Upper Royal Quarters, the palatial area still in use, are visited with a separate ticket (around €5.50).

With children

It works like a little treasure hunt: finding the two 'dolls' hidden in the Courtyard of the Dolls, counting the peacocks in the gardens and getting lost (and out) of the hedge maze. Kids love the Baths of María de Padilla for their air of a mysterious cave.

Accessibility and services

Much of Pedro I's palace and of the gardens is accessible, though there are steps and uneven cobbled floors, especially going down to the Baths of María de Padilla. There's free or reduced entry for people with disabilities, and there are toilets and a shop by the entrance. If you use a wheelchair, check the adapted itinerary on the official website.

Combine it

It's right next to the Cathedral and the Giralda and the Archivo de Indias, and a step from the Santa Cruz quarter. With more time, the Plaza de España and the Parque de María Luisa are a comfortable stroll away. A perfect day of monumental Seville.

Practical info

Address: Patio de Banderas, s/n, 41004 Seville; entrance via the Lion's Gate, next to the Cathedral, in the heart of the old town (on foot from the centre; tram and buses nearby). Guide price: general €15.50 (reduced around €8 for seniors and young people aged 14 to 30; free for under-13s, Seville residents and people with disabilities, with proof). Upper Royal Quarters: separate ticket, around €5.50. Free window usually on Mondays in the last hour, with very limited capacity (check). Approximate hours: April-September 09:30 to 19:00; October-March 09:30 to 17:00. Closed 1 and 6 January, Good Friday and 25 December. Limited capacity (around 750 people): book your ticket online in advance to secure a time. Always confirm prices, hours and free days on the official website before you go.

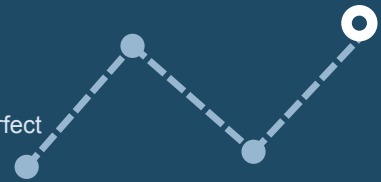
Official website: www.alcazarsevilla.org

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THE COMPLETE VERSION

Take the complete visit

With this free guide you already cover the essentials. The PREMIUM is your complete visit to Royal Alcázar of Seville: every work with its story, a 3-step looking guide for every painting, the cheat-sheet for your phone and the tips to skip the queues. For less than the price of a coffee.

In the free guide you miss out on:

- 4 The Courtyard of the Dolls**
Private quarters of Pedro I's Palace · 12
- 6 The Gothic and Tapestry Halls of Charles V**
Gothic Palace, next to the Patio del Crucero · 15
- 7 The Gardens: Grotto Gallery, pavilion and maze**
The whole southern half of the grounds · 30

PREMIUM Guide · Royal Alcázar of Seville

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» **Check availability and prices**

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