



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS & SERVICES **2026**

**BUDGET
FRIENDLY!**

GUIDE TO SEVILLE

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TIPS FOR ECSAS PARTICIPANTS TO EXPLORE SEVILLE AFFORDABLY

Welcome to Seville and to ECSAS 2026! Between inspiring sessions and networking opportunities, we hope you'll also have time to experience the vibrant culture, history, and gastronomy of Andalusia's capital.

To help you discover the city without breaking the bank, we've put together a selection of affordable (and often free) experiences, local recommendations, and practical tips for getting around.

November is arguably the best month to visit Seville: the summer heat is gone, autumn colours peak in the parks, and the crowds have thinned out, making it much easier to experience the city like a local.

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WORLD-CLASS FREE & CHEAP SIGHTS

You don't need to spend a fortune to see Seville's architectural wonders!

- **Plaza de España & María Luisa Park (Free):** Built for the 1929 Exposition, this jaw-dropping semicircular plaza features tiled bridges and alcoves representing every Spanish province. In November the surrounding 100-acre park turns shades of amber and gold. Skip the €6 rowboats — the view from the footbridges is just as spectacular.
- **The Cathedral Perimeter at Dusk (Free):** The Seville Cathedral is the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. If the €12 entry fee isn't in your budget, do a perimeter walk at dusk when the bells are ringing and the exterior lights turn on.
- **Barrio Santa Cruz & Triana (Free):** Wander the maze-like, whitewashed streets of Santa Cruz (the old Jewish Quarter), then cross the Isabel II bridge into Triana, famous for pottery and flamenco.
- **Torre del Oro (€3 / Free on Mondays):** This 13th-century military watchtower sits on the Guadalquivir River. Inside is a small naval museum, and the rooftop offers panoramic views of Triana.



Plaza de España & María Luisa Park



The Cathedral of Seville



Barrio Santa Cruz & Triana



Torre del Oro

Budget Hack: The Real Alcázar (the royal palace) normally costs around €13.50, but is free on Monday afternoons (usually the last hour of operation). You still need to book the free ticket online in advance.

AUTHENTIC FLAMENCO ON A BUDGET

Flamenco's exact origins are debated, but its roots trace back to 18th-century Andalusia, born from a blend of Romani, Andalusian, Jewish, and Moorish influences.

Seville's Triana neighbourhood, on the western bank of the Guadalquivir, is considered one of the art form's birthplaces and became its epicentre through the 18th and 19th centuries, giving rise to its own singing and dance style, the soleá de Triana. By the 19th century, **café cantantes** ("singing cafés") had sprung up around the city, turning flamenco from a private, family tradition into a public performance art — a legacy you can still feel today in Triana's streets and peñas.

Touristy "tablao" shows typically cost €40–€50; for a more local and affordable experience, try...

- **La Carbonería:** A legendary, rustic venue tucked away in the backstreets of the city centre. No cover charge — just buy a reasonably priced drink (try the agua de Sevilla or a local beer) and enjoy raw, **impromptu flamenco sets**.
- **Peñas Flamencas: Local flamenco clubs** (peñas) in the Triana district — neighbourhood cultural associations where locals gather. Tickets are usually €10–€20 and often include a drink, for a more authentic window into the art form.



EAT LIKE A KING FOR UNDER €15 A DAY

Seville has one of the best-value food scenes in Europe, provided you follow the local clock: lunch at 2:00 PM, dinner at 9:00 PM. Eating at 12:30 PM or 6:00 PM tends to land you in tourist traps.

- **Order tapas, not raciones:** individual tapas generally cost €2.50–€4 each. Two or three is plenty for a full meal.
- **Must-try budget dishes:** espinacas con garbanzos (spinach and chickpeas, perfect for cool November evenings), montaditos (small toasted sandwiches, often with pork or jamón), solomillo al whisky (pork loin in a garlic-whisky sauce).
- **Top budget tapas bars:** Casa Morales (open since 1850, cheap montaditos and local sherry by the wine vats); Bodega Santa Cruz / Las Columnas (steps from the cathedral, loud, authentic, and cheap); Mercado de Triana / Mercado de Feria (indoor markets for fresh olives, local cheeses, and cheap seafood tapas).



GETTING AROUND FOR PENNIES

Seville is entirely flat and very walkable, but if you want to save your feet, use the city's bike-share system.

- **Sevici Bike Share:** Register for a short-term subscription for a few euros. The first 30 minutes of every ride are free, so you can hop from station to station without paying more than the base registration fee.

LOCAL TIPS & HIDDEN GEMS



Plaza de España &
María Luisa Park



Archive of the Indies



The Cathedral of
Seville

Visit the Cathedral for FREE on Sunday

Free admission on Sunday afternoons during the winter season (October–March). Tickets must be reserved online in advance, and entry is limited, so book early.

Watch Flamenco for FREE

Skip the expensive tourist shows and head to La Carbonería, where live flamenco performances are often free (just order a drink) — one of the most authentic places to experience flamenco in Seville.

Explore Plaza de España Early in the Morning

Free to visit and spectacular at any time, but arriving before 9:00 AM lets you enjoy it with very few people — perfect for photos and a peaceful stroll.

Relax in María Luisa Park

Right next to Plaza de España, the city's green oasis — fountains, gardens, peacocks, and shaded pathways, ideal for a picnic or a break between conference sessions.

Visit the Archive of the Indies

Archivo General de Indias is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with free admission, housing original documents on Spain's exploration of the Americas — often much quieter than the Cathedral next door.

LOCAL TIPS & HIDDEN GEMS (II)



Metropol Parasol (Las Setas)



Santa Cruz neighbourhood



Palacio de las Dueñas

Watch the Sunset from Las Setas

The area around Metropol Parasol ("Las Setas") is lively in the evening. The panoramic walkway requires a ticket, but the square below is free and regularly hosts street performers, musicians, and local events.

Discover Hidden Patios in Santa Cruz

Explore the tiny alleys of Barrio de Santa Cruz beyond the main streets to find flower-filled courtyards, quiet plazas, orange trees, and charming corners many visitors miss.

Visit Hidden Palaces for Free

- Palacio de las Dueñas – free on Monday afternoons.
- Palacio de la Condesa de Lebrija – free on Friday mornings.

Advance booking or early arrival is recommended.

Bonus Local Tip: Don't eat the oranges! Seville's street orange trees produce bitter oranges, traditionally used for marmalade rather than eaten fresh. Beautiful (and wonderfully fragrant in spring) — but not the sweet oranges you might expect.

RECOMMENDED LOCAL FOOD

- **Jamón Ibérico** (*Spanish ham*)
- **Salmorejo** (*Cold tomato cream*)
- **Espinacas con garbanzos** (*Spinach & chickpeas*)
- **Croquetas** (*Croquettes*)
- **Tortilla española** (*Spanish potato omelette*)
- **Churros con chocolate** (*Churros with chocolate*)



Salmorejo



Espinacas con garbanzos



Churros



Tortilla española

GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- **Currency:** Euro (€)
- **Language:** Spanish (English is commonly spoken in tourist areas)
- **Power:** European plug adapter (Type C or F)
- **Tap water:** safe to drink
- **Payments:** card payments widely accepted
- **Sunset:** around 18:00 in November. Plan sightseeing accordingly!

WHAT TO PACK FOR SEVILLE

Seville in November usually enjoys mild, sunny days and cooler evenings, with temperatures generally between 12°C and 22°C, comfortable for sightseeing and outdoor activities.

- **Comfortable walking shoes** (you'll likely explore on foot!)
- **Light layers** (T-shirts, shirts, light sweaters)
- A **light jacket or cardigan** for the evenings
- **Smart-casual outfit** for the conference dinner or networking events
- **Compact umbrella** or lightweight rain jacket (occasional showers are possible)
- Reusable **water bottle**
- **Sunscreen** (yes, even in November!)

Local Tip: Many of Seville's streets are paved with cobblestones, especially in the historic centre and the Santa Cruz neighbourhood. Comfortable footwear will make exploring the city much more enjoyable.



GETTING AROUND

Conference venue

The conference will take place at the **Meliá Sevilla Hotel**, allowing participants to stay and attend the event in one place for a more comfortable experience.

Address: Dr. Pedro de Castro, 1, Seville

The Meliá Sevilla is right next to Plaza de España and María Luisa Park, which is the guide's best selling point.

Public transport

Seville is compact and walkable, but public transport is handy for longer hops, hot afternoons, or reaching the airport.

- **Bus (TUSSAM):** An extensive network covers every neighbourhood, running roughly 6:00 AM–11:30 PM (night buses midnight–2:00 AM). A single ticket costs €1.40, paid on board (contactless cards accepted). The circular lines C1–C4 loop around the historic centre and are handy for orientation.
- **Tram (MetroCentro, line T1):** Runs from Plaza Nueva, in the heart of the city, through Puerta de Jerez and Prado de San Sebastián to the Nervión district. A single ticket also costs €1.40, and you can tap a debit/credit card directly on board.
- **Metro (Line 1):** A regional line connecting Dos Hermanas and Mairena del Aljarafe through the city — most useful if you're staying outside the centre. Single tickets run €1.35–€1.80 depending on transfers.
- **Tarjeta Multiviaje:** A reloadable card (refundable €1.50 deposit) that discounts bus and tram fares to as little as €0.69–€0.76 per trip — worth it if you're using public transport several times a day during the conference.
- **Airport transfer:** The EA Especial Aeropuerto bus connects Seville Airport to the city centre in about 30 minutes for €6.85.
- **Taxis & ride-hailing:** Widely available and metered; a short ride across the centre typically costs €6–€10.



