



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:  
A Supplemental Guide to Living  
in Seville, Spain

SPANISH STUDIES ABROAD

The CENTER for CROSS~CULTURAL STUDY

[www.spanishstudies.org](http://www.spanishstudies.org)



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## Country Profile: Spain

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## Travel the Land

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## Learn the Language

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## Live the Life

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As part of your cross-cultural experience, you will encounter different cultural attitudes and behaviors while you are abroad. This is a guide that complements the Handbook to help you better understand the cultural norms of where you will be studying, as well as to offer you useful information on the city and country. Think of this as an insider's guide to help you quickly and effectively acclimate to your new city and become a *U^cā|ā [ Dēin no time. ō^∧} ā^∧!c^Á^∧} ā^∧^Á*

## 7 ci bhfmDfcZ`Y. 'GdUjb

At the end of your program, you'll know more about Spain than you ever could have expected. The following information will give you some idea about Spanish life before you go. Further up-to-date details on Spain and other European countries can be found on the website of the [U.S. State Department](http://www.state.gov).

### 6 F-9: <=GHCFMC: 'GD5-B'

The Iberian Peninsula has been settled for millennia and is home to some of Europe's most impressive Paleolithic cultural sites including the famous caves at Altamira that contain spectacular paintings dating from about 15,000 to 25,000 years ago. The Basque people, Europe's oldest surviving ethnic group, are also the first identifiable people of the peninsula.

Beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC, Phoenicians, Greeks, and Celts entered the region. The Romans followed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and established the Roman province of *Q^∧/āē* laying the groundwork for Spain's present language, religion, and laws. The Visigoths arrived in the fifth century AD after the collapse of the Roman Empire. Then in the year 711, North African Moors sailed across the Mediterranean Sea, swept into Andalusia, and within a few years captured most of the peninsula. *ŠāŪ^& } ~ ā cā* — the centuries-long efforts to drive out the Moors — lasted until 1492 with the defeat of the last Moorish armies in Granada by Spanish forces under King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. By 1512, the unification of present-day Spain was complete.



During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Spain became the most powerful nation in Europe, due to the immense wealth derived from its extensive empire in the Americas. This period was also marked by what would be known as the Spanish Inquisition, a religious tribunal within the Spanish government that sought to maintain the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church by repressing and expelling non-Catholics. The Inquisition would last until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A series of long, costly wars and revolts, capped by the defeat by the English of the "Invincible Armada" in 1588, began a steady decline of Spanish power in Europe. Controversy over succession to the throne consumed the country during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, leading to an occupation by France during the Napoleonic era in the early 1800s, and led to a series of armed conflicts throughout much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the revolt and independence of most of Spain's colonies in the Western Hemisphere: three wars over the succession issue; the brief ousting of the monarchy and establishment of the First Republic (1873-74); and, finally, the Spanish-American War (1898), in which Spain lost some of its last colonial possessions – Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines – to the United States. A period of dictatorial rule (1923-31) ended with the establishment of the Second Spanish Republic. It was dominated by increasing political polarization, culminating in the leftist Popular Front electoral victory in 1936. Pressures from all sides, coupled with growing and unchecked violence, led to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in July 1936.

Following the victory of his nationalist forces in 1939, General Francisco Franco assumed power and would rule for the next 36 years. Spain was officially neutral during World War II but followed a pro-Axis policy. Therefore, the victorious Allies isolated Spain at the beginning of the postwar period, and the country did not join the United Nations until 1955. In 1959, under an International Monetary Fund stabilization plan, the country began liberalizing trade and capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Spain was transformed into a modern, industrial economy with a thriving tourism sector. Its economic expansion led to improved income distribution and helped develop a large middle class. Upon the death of General Franco in November 1975, Franco's personally designated heir, Prince Juan Carlos de Borbón, assumed the titles of King and Commander-in-Chief. The new King Juan Carlos replaced Franco's last Prime Minister with Adolfo Suarez in July 1976. Suarez's administration moved to enact a series of laws to liberalize the new regime and Spain's first democratic elections since 1936 were held on June 15, 1977. Prime Minister Suarez's *Unión Demócrata* (UCD), a moderate center-right coalition, won the largest bloc of seats in the *Congreso de los Diputados*. Under Suarez, the government drafted a democratic constitution that was overwhelmingly approved by voters in a national referendum in December 1978.

**7 CI BHFMCJ9FJ-9K**

A member of the European Union since 1986, the Kingdom of Spain is a highly developed and stable democracy with a modern economy. Additional information on the country may be obtained from the [Tourist Office of Spain](#).

<b>7 Ud]HJ.</b>	Madrid
<b>Dcdi`U]cb:</b>	47 million
<b>FY][ ]cbg.</b>	Roman Catholic (predominant), some Protestant and Muslim communities
<b>BU]j Y`@b[ i U] Yg.</b>	Spanish (official) 74%, Catalán/Valenciano 17%, Galician 7%, Basque 2%

**Df]bW]dU` ; cj Yfba YbhCZ]V]Ug**

**?]b[ : Y]dY=J** – King of Spain, Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish Armed Forces (*Juan Carlos I*)

**AU]Ubc`FU`cm6fYm**–President of the Government (*Manuel Vázquez*)

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The Kingdom of Spain is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy in which the King is recognized as Head of State. The current monarch, His Majesty King Felipe VI, ascended to the throne in 2014 after his father, King Juan Carlos, abdicated. Although he legally holds considerable political and military authority, in reality the King's position is largely ceremonial and he mostly serves as a cultural figurehead for the nation. Most of The King's powers have been devolved to the Spanish national parliament. The leader of parliament is styled as the President of the Government, a position comparable to the office of Prime Minister in other countries. As a democratically elected official, the President of the Government exercises actual political authority.

The bicameral national parliament of Spain, the *Congreso de los Diputados* and *Senado*, consists of a 350-seat Congress of Deputies and a 208-seat Senate. Senators are elected to represent Spain's various regions, while Deputies are elected to represent parliamentary districts based on population. Spanish law dictates that elections must be held at least once every four years. However, elections in Spain are not set on fixed dates, so voters sometimes go to the polls after less than four years. Voting in the country is open to all Spanish citizens aged 18 or older.

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- Examples of Major National Parties:

- o People's Party (ÚÚÁ Úæç[ ÁÚ ] ~ |æ) – Majority party
  - o Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (ÚÚÚÚÁ Úæç[ ÁÚ ] &æç[ à^! [ Á• ] æ[ ]) –largest opposition party
  - o United We Can (WÚÁ ÁÚ ç[ •ÁÚ ] á^ [ • ) – liberal third party
- Á
- Examples of Regional Parties holding elected seats in the Ô [ /••Á• ] ^!æ•
    - o Together for Yes (R:ÚÁÁR } •Á^/ÁÚ} – Catalán Nationalist Party in Catalonia
    - o Yes to the Future (ÖEÛPXAÁÖ : \ [ ÁÚá^!ááR |c æ^æÚæç[ Áæá ] æç[ æXæ & ] ) - Basque Nationalist Party

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Spain is divided into 17 Autonomous Communities (Ô [ { ~ } æç[ ^•ÁE ç] [ { æ ) which cover the Iberian Peninsula and the Canary Islands, as well as two small Autonomous Cities (Öá áæç[ ^•ÁE ç] [ { æ ) of Ceuta and Melilla on continental North Africa. Each of these autonomous regions elects its own government and administers a variety of areas including public education and universities, local transportation and highways, social services, health care, economic development, and public safety. Several of the & [ { ~ } æç[ ^•ÁE ç] [ { æ are further divided into provinces which denote historical geographic areas.

**9Xi WUjcbU`GmghYa`**

About 70% of Spain's student population attends public schools or universities. The remainder attend private schools or universities, the great majority of which are operated by the Catholic Church. Compulsory education begins with primary school or general basic education for ages 6-12. It is free in public schools and in many private schools, most of which receive government subsidies. Following graduation, students attend either a secondary school offering a general high school diploma or a school of professional education (corresponding to grades 9-12 in the North America) offering a vocational training program.

**9Wébcá mî**

Spain's accession to the European Union (EU) in January 1986 required the country to open its economy, modernize its industrial base, improve infrastructure, and revise economic legislation to conform to EU guidelines. In doing so, Spain increased gross domestic product (GDP) growth, reduced the public debt to GDP ratio, reduced unemployment from 23% to 15% in 3 years, and reduced inflation to under 3%. The fundamental challenges remaining for Spain include reducing the public sector deficit, decreasing unemployment further, reforming labor laws and investment regulations, lowering inflation, and raising per capita GDP.

The 2008–13 Spanish financial crisis had a devastating effect on the Spanish economy. The main cause of Spain's crisis was the housing market crash and the unsustainably high GDP growth rate (gross domestic product - the value of the production of goods and services in Spain). The rise in prices, combined with the austerity measures (government budget cuts) and extremely high unemployment, heavily impacted the livelihood of Spanish citizens. Between 2007 and 2008, Spain had its unemployment rate climb 36%, suffering its worst unemployment rise ever recorded. Unemployment for those under 25 fluctuated around 50%. Spain's current generation is considered the most educated that the country has ever had, yet it faces the greatest rate of unemployment in Europe. European countries provided €100 billion of rescue loans in 2012 to bail out the economy. Since 2013, Spain's economy has steadily improved and stabilized, now bringing it ahead of other major European economies.

**DYcd`Y**

The citizens of modern-day Spain are overwhelmingly (88%) ethnic Spaniards whose mixed ancestry dates back to the Moors of the Middle Ages, the Romans, and pre-Roman Iberian peoples. Approximately 12% of the country's population consists of foreign-born residents including temporary residents from across the European Union and a growing community of immigrants from North Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. With the exception of the highly populous inland city of Madrid, Spain's population is concentrated along the country's nearly 5,000 kilometer (3,100 mile) coastline.

Most Spaniards (68%) nominally belong to the Roman Catholic Church, though roughly two-thirds of them report that they are non-practicing. The Spanish Constitution of 1978 disestablished the Roman Catholic Church as the official state religion, while recognizing the role it plays in Spanish society. About 27% identify as atheists or declare they have no religion while 2% practice other religions.

## @b[i U Y

The Spanish language is the country's official language and is the native tongue of the vast majority of Spaniards. Much like how the English language originated in England – a region of what is today Great Britain – the Spanish language originated in the early Middle Ages in Castile, a region of central Spain. For this reason, the language is sometimes referred to by its alternative name, Castilian or ~~ca~~ [ .

In several regions of Spain, other native languages are spoken alongside Spanish. Notably, the Basque language ( ^ ~ \ ^ / æ ) is famously spoken in the north by roughly one-third of the population of the País Vasco and neighboring Navarra. In northwestern Spain, most residents of the autonomous community of Galicia speak Galician ( \* æ / ^ \* [ ] ), whereas the Catalán language is widespread in Spain's northeastern Mediterranean region in the autonomous communities of Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, and northern Valencia. Most speakers of these languages can also speak Spanish fluently as a second language. Likewise, many Castilian-speaking Spaniards learn these regional languages in the local public school systems.

The Spanish language in Spain is marked by the use of the ç [ • [ d [ • Á for the plural second-person familiar conjugation. Another unique aspect is the pronunciation of the letters “z” and “ci” with a “th” sound. When traveling in the country, you will learn that there are a wide variety of different regional accents and colloquialisms, just like in your home country and in your native language.

## G9 J=@@`CJ9FJ-9K`

Seville is the capital of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia and the Province of Seville. It is known for its many orange trees and the smell of their fragrant blossoms all over the city in spring. Seville is also the birthplace of Flamenco music/dance.

5i tcbca ci g`7 ca a i b]m`	Andalusia (Capital)
Dfcj ]bW.	Seville
A Yffc dc`]Hb`Dcdi `U]cb.	704,200 (Spain's fourth largest city)
Dfcj ]bW`Dcdi `U]cb.	1,928,962
@bX`5fYU.	54.1 sq mi

## <]gtcfm

Seville was founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC by the Phoenicians and the Greeks under the name Ispal. Later in 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, it was taken over by the Carthaginians until they were defeated in 206 BC by the Romans. Then in 45 BC, in the height of its age of splendor, it was given the status of a colony by Julius Caesar.

Then, in 712 AD began the Arab domination and the city was known as Isbiliah and entered a new age of splendor under Arab rule. In 1147 AD the center of power was transferred from Córdoba to Seville. From this last period of the Arab-Andalusian domination remain the Giralda, the Torre del Oro, the Alcazar (later rebuilt by the Christian kings) and the Macarena wall (Muralla de la Macarena).

In 1248, Ferdinand III the Saint took over Seville for Christianity. Muslims were forced to leave whereas Mudejars and Hebrews stayed. Many churches were built to replace the mosques. Ferdinand III transferred the Kingdom of Castile Court to the Alcazar of Seville. He stayed there until he died in 1252 and is considered Seville's patron saint. Ferdinand III's son, Alfonso X, continued his father's work. He established a tolerant reign which enabled the Jewish, Arab and Christian's knowledge to boom.

The overtaking of Granada in 1492 marked the end of the Reconquest process; the Jews were expelled and Seville became the headquarters of the Inquisition. In 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas. From then on, Seville experienced its most glorious period. Indeed, the Chamber of Commerce was created to deal with the trade relations between Spain and the overseas territories. The new American market, as well as the monopoly of Seville on the trade relations, brought it much wealth. Seville became the wealthiest city of Spain, as well as the most cosmopolitan.

In 1519, Carlos I of Spain (Carlos V of Germany) became emperor. Spain became the most powerful nation in Europe, although the constant wars of the empire ruined a large part of the wealth coming to the port. However, the 17th century saw the decline of Seville. After a plague epidemic in 1649, the population shrunk in half. Nonetheless, after the Independence war and another plague epidemic in the 19th century, Seville experienced another period of prosperity

under Queen Elisabeth, who implemented urban reforms, in particular the construction of the Elisabeth II Bridge (Puente Isabel II) in 1845 and the collapse of the wall around the city in 1869, which gave birth to new roads and squares.

During the 20th century, Seville hosted two expositions that modified its landscapes. In 1929, Seville welcomed the Latin-American exposition, the aim of which was to strengthen the Andalusian economy. Several houses representing various countries were built for this exposition and still exist nowadays. Sixty-three years later, in 1992, Seville hosted the Universal Exposition.

### 9Wbca mi

Seville has the only inland port in Spain, which is located on the Guadalquivir River 80km from the Atlantic Ocean. This allows for trade from Spain to the rest of Europe, the Middle East and Northern Spain. Since the Universal Exposition of Seville in 1992 there has been a lot of investment in the infrastructure of Seville. The city also has a large service and tourism industry, as well as new technologies industries.

### DYcd'Y'

The citizens of modern-day Seville are overwhelmingly (96%) ethnic Spaniards whose mixed ancestry dates back to the Moors of the Middle Ages, the Romans, and pre-Roman Iberian peoples. About 3.5% of the population is foreign, mostly those from Morocco, Ecuador, and Colombia who have arrived in the previous 10 years as immigrants. There are also immigrants from other origins such as China, Bolivia, Peru, and Argentina.

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See full list at: [www.exploreseville.com](http://www.exploreseville.com).

### b'UbX'5 fci bX'GYj J'Y'

g'UAz[ JWJb'@J7UH'UE If you like amusement parks, check out this one! Students generally take advantage of this in the warmer months: <http://www.islamagica.es/>

D'UnUXYHcfcg – If you would like to see one of Spain's famed, yet controversial, bullfights, this is the place to be. You can see live & //æ every day from April to September.

D'UnUXY9gdU U– This is a great place to go and people watch. You can also enjoy the illuminated fountains and the beautiful painted tiles. It is a beautiful place to relax.

Ai gYi a g – If you like museums, there are many to enjoy in Sevilla. You will want to make time for the Museo de Bellas Artes, Museo del Baile Flamenco, Museo Arqueológico, Museo de Artes y Costumbres, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, and Palacio de Lebrija.

< JgfcfJWGJhgÁ You will most likely see these during your orientation or other Study visits, however not to miss are: The Ruins of Italica, Cathedral and Giralda, and Reales Alcazares (Royal Palace).

### 8 Un#K YY\_YbX'HfJdg'Zca 'GYj J'Y'

GJYffUg:cZGYj J'U – Hiking and nature

A UU UqWU Uqz<i Yj UZUbX'7zXJn – The beaches of the Costa de la Luz

7 Ufa cbU – Small historic town outside of Seville

7 OEXcVU – You will probably go with the Spanish Studies visit but you may want to return to explore on your own!

There is plenty of information on nearby places to visit on the internet, in guidebooks, and on our [Facebook page](#).

## @Ufb'H Y'@b[ i Uj YÁ'

### Hk9'5B85 @ G5B'5779BH'

In ~~Q'ää' &æ~~ and specifically Seville, you will encounter a Spanish accent you may not have heard before. This way of speaking Spanish, called ~~^/æ äæ'~~, is different from the Spanish you hear in Madrid and the rest of Spain. It's main





available at Amazon.com or Netflix. You should also ask your Spanish professor or any friends who might have just returned from studying in Spain if they have any other suggestions for you.

### 7 i ffYbhi9j Ybhi9j

- [El País](#), Spain's most widely distributed newspaper
- [El Mundo](#)
- [El Economista](#), important coverage of the economy
- [MARCA](#), Spain's newspaper for sports
- Newspapers in Seville :
  - o [Diario de Sevilla](#)
  - o [ABC de Sevilla](#)
  - o [20minutos](#)
  - o [QUE](#)

### FYZfYbWV6cc\_g'

- Emmanuel Paris-Bouvret & Anna Pérez-Gironés: [En una palabra, Sevilla, España](#)
- Lonely Planet Guides: [Lonely Planet: Andalucía](#)
- Margarita Gorrisen: [Barron's Foreign Language Guides: Mastering Spanish Grammar](#)
- Christopher & Theodore Kendris: [Barron's Foreign Language Guides: 501 Spanish Verbs Conjugated](#)
- Whereabouts Press, Spain: [A Traveler's Literary Companion](#)

### 6cc\_g'

- Alberto Méndez: [Los girasoles ciegos](#)
- Dulce Chacón: [La voz dormida](#)
- Ernest Hemingway: [The Sun Also Rises](#)
- Giles Tremlett: [Ghosts of Spain](#)
- Jason Webster: [Duende: A Journey into the Heart of Flamenco](#)
- Javier Cercas: [Soldados de Salamina](#)
- John A. Crow: [Spain: The Root and the Flower](#)
- John Hooper: [The New Spaniards](#)
- José María de Mena: [Tradiciones y leyendas sevillanas](#)
- Patricia Espinosa de los Monteros & Francesco Venturi: [Houses and Palaces of Andalucía](#)
- Penelope Casas: [Tapas: the Little Dishes of Spain](#)
- María Dueñas: [El tiempo entre costuras](#)
- Miguel de Cervantes: [Don Quijote de la Mancha](#)
- Camilo Jose Cela: [La familia Pascual Duarte](#)
- Antonio Machado: [Campos de Castilla](#)
- Elvira Lindo: [Manolito Gafotas](#)

### Acj]Yg'

- Ocho Apellidos Vascos, Directed by Emilio Martínez-Lázaro, 2014
- Grupo 7, Directed by Alberto Rodriguez, 2012
- Carmina o revienta, Directed by Paco León, 2012
- La montaña rusa, Directed by Emilio Martinez Lazaro, 2012
- También la lluvia, Directed by Iciar Bollain, 2011
- Mientras duermes, Directed by Jaume Balaguero, 2011
- Escuchando al Juez Garzon, Directed by Isabel Coixet, 2011
- *Ólã ã~ |*, Directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2010
- *Š | • Áã'æ [ • Á [ q •*, Directed by Pedro Almodóvar, 2009
- *Š | • Á ãæ [ | • Áã \* [ •*, Directed by José Luis Cuerda, 2008
- *Óæ ã [*, Directed by Javier Fesser, 2008
- *Ò Áãã'ã q Áã^|Áã } [ ÁÚã q Áãã'ã c@* Directed by Guillermo Del Toro, 2006
- *Šãã^} \* ~ ãã^ Áã Á ãã [ •æ*, Directed by José Luis Cuerda, 1999
- *Úãçã|ãæ æ*, Directed by Carlos Saura, 1992

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- Chambao, *Ô@ã àãã ÉãFG*

- Mala Rodríguez, *Óscar Wilde* (2011)
- Toni Zenet, *Siempre* (2010)
- Amaral, *Óscar Wilde* (2008)
- El Camarón de la Isla, *Óscar Wilde* (1979; *Óscar Wilde* (2008)
- Manolo García, *Óscar Wilde* (2008), *Óscar Wilde* (2004)
- La Mala Rodríguez, *Tu* (2008)
- Miguel Bosé, *Óscar Wilde* (2007)
- Manu Chao, *Óscar Wilde* (2007), *Óscar Wilde* (2001)
- Estrella Morente, *Tu* (2006)
- El Sueño de Morfeo, *Óscar Wilde* (2005)
- Diego el Cigala, *Siempre* (2003)
- Mano Negra, *Viva* (2003)
- La Oreja de Van Gogh, *Siempre* (2003)

## QJ YH Y @ZYÁ`

You will probably find that your daily life in Seville is not too different from your daily life in North America. You will spend most of your time studying, hanging out with friends, and participating in extracurricular activities that interest you. Although the lives of college students in Spain and North America are fairly similar, here are some differences that you should be aware of.

### A99HB; `GD5 B-G<` : F-9B8 G`

Spanish people are friendly, open, and generally eager to meet new people. However, you will need to make an effort to introduce yourself to them. You will have many opportunities in Seville to meet Spanish friends. Some of the best ways are through the Speaking Partners program (a conversation exchange with a Spaniard), Spanish Studies fiestas, or just by going out to the places on campus and in the city where Spanish students hang out. Also, if you are taking courses with Spanish students at a local university, be sure to talk to students in your classes and hang out on campus as much as possible. They may not approach you, so you might have to step out of your comfort zone and reach out to them.

If you live with a family, there may or may not be people your age in your homestay. Make an effort to get to know everyone in the family, including friends and relatives who may visit. As part of the program you will be assigned a Speaking Partner; try to meet with this person on a regular basis, as he or she will introduce you to friends and show you their favorite spots around the city. If it is not working out and you are not able to meet up very often, inquire about a new Speaking Partner.

If you live in a Student Residence, this will be a great place to meet Spaniards your age. Don't be shy or embarrassed if you're not 100% comfortable speaking the language. Your dorm-mates have probably all studied a second language, so they will be able to relate. They will be able to help you learn and hopefully you will be able to laugh at your mistakes. The most important thing you can do is make an effort to not just hang out with the other people from your home country. Sit with the Spanish students at mealtimes and definitely don't speak English in front of them; it can make them feel left out.

### CI F`75 ADI G9G`-B`G9J=-@@`

While all students will take at least one course at the Spanish Studies Center, students on the Integrated Studies program will take courses with locals at one of two university campuses in Seville. We currently offer courses at the *Wj q^!• qe q^Á* *Ú^çq||æ Wj q^!• qe q^Á* and the Spanish Studies Center (El Centro Norteamericano de Estudios Interculturales).



The Spanish Studies Center was established in 1969 when the Guidera family started the Center for Cross-Cultural Study in order to give North American students the opportunity to immerse themselves in another culture. Now it is home to both Spanish Language and Culture programs for North American students in Spain, as well as English courses for Spaniards, also hosting various cultural events throughout the year. The Center is housed in a Spanish-style mansion in the heart of Sevilla. From the Center you can easily explore Seville by foot, by bike, or by public transportation.

All of the faculty at the Center are native Spanish speakers, many originally from the Andalucía region. They are very familiar with teaching North American students, thus offering courses that have a similar feel to language courses in North America with a smaller student/instructor ratio and an interactive atmosphere (e.g. grades are based on participation in the class, quizzes, projects and exams).

At the Center you will find the main office where the staff is always there to answer questions and help you navigate your time abroad. There is a patio, computer lab, library, writing center, and of course all the classrooms at the Center as well. The cultural travel staff will organize outings and excursions that you are encouraged to participate in.



**I bJj YfgjXUX'XY'GYj J`U**

The *Wj q^!•tææÁ^Á^çj|æ* (USEV) is a traditional European-style campus with buildings throughout the city. Established in 1505 and now serving more than 70,000 students, USEV is one of the most important educational and cultural centers in Andalucía. The historic building that now houses the School of Literature & Philology and the School of Geography & History is located in the city center, just a 10-minute walk from the Spanish Studies Center! For more information, visit the [USEV website](#).



**I bJj YfgjXUX'DUV'c'XY'C`Uj jXY**

Established in 1997, *Wj q^!•tææÁ^Á^çj|æ* (UPO) is one of the newest Universities in Spain and now serves over 10,000 students! It is located in the outskirts of the city and was built on the U.S. campus model and therefore has many modern buildings, including gymnasium, library, and other classroom buildings which are all conveniently located in one place. The campus is easily accessible by bus or subway in 10-20 minutes from the city center. For more information, visit the [UPO website](#).

**<CI G-B;**

Typically Spanish university students live at home, in a student residence (privately run, not a university building), or a private apartment with other students. With Spanish Studies in Seville, you will have the choice of a homestay or student residence.

On average, homes in Spain tend to be smaller than a typical North American home. Many Spaniards live in flats (apartment-style homes) or small houses with very little yard space, especially in and around cities and large towns. Very few Spaniards live in large, detached homes with sprawling yards.

If you are in a homestay, oftentimes “families” may not be the traditional family students expect. Your family could be a widow or single woman, an older couple whose children have grown, two sisters living together, or it could be a family with children your age and younger. Many of these families will take in students as a form of extra income. Regardless, they are all friendly, kind people who have been interviewed and whose houses have been inspected before we agreed to have them provide a home for our students.

Energy costs are high in Spain, so you may notice your host family turning off the lights if you leave them on and they may ask you to take a shorter shower. Be respectful of these differences and do as your host family does—be conservative with water, heat, and electricity.

**GD97 5 @8 9H5 FMB998 G. J9; 9H5 F 5BGzJ9; 5BG'5 B8 `; @ H9B!: F99 ``**

As a vegetarian, you should be very careful in restaurants and make sure that the bean dish you are ordering doesn't have ham in it. Many vegetarians will opt to eat fish while in Spain; this will give you more options and probably allow you to eat more well-balanced meals while abroad. Vegans will be hard pressed to eat very well in Spain. While most food is cooked in olive oil rather than butter, you will have to make sure you are getting the nutrients you need.

If you're dining out, you can try looking for a [Fresc Co franchise](#), a veggie-friendly buffet that can be found in many big cities in Spain.

If you plan to change your diet and begin eating fish, meat, or dairy, you should start incorporating these foods into your diet before you leave, so that you will not be sick at the start of your program in Sevilla. You must let us know about any dietary restrictions or food allergies by emailing [info@spanishstudies.org](mailto:info@spanishstudies.org) or calling (413) 256-0011. **BCH9. Gca YXJYUfmi UWta a cXUjcbg'a UmfYei jfY'Ub'UXXjhcB U`ZY''**

For more information on being a vegetarian or vegan in Spain, visit [www.vegan.es](http://www.vegan.es).

### Hours of Operation:

As mentioned before, almost all shops begin to close down around 1:30 every afternoon so that the employees can go home for *comida* and *trabajo*. Most stores will begin to reopen around 5:00 PM and will stay open until around 8:30 or 9:00 PM. In the city center, however, shops and the large department store *El Corte Inglés* remain open all day. Shops are generally open these hours from Monday through Saturday and are closed on Sunday.

Shopping in Spain is very specialized; you buy medicines at the pharmacy, and only the pharmacy. You buy shampoo or feminine hygiene products at the grocery store. If you need your watch fixed, you go to the watch store; if you need an alarm clock, you go to the electronics store, etc. The only large department store you'll find in Seville is the *El Corte Inglés*. They have everything from CDs to clothes to sporting goods to groceries. They tend to be more expensive than other stores, so you might be better off finding the small specialty shops and making your purchases that way. You will also get a lot of individual attention at all Spanish stores. You should greet the store employees when you go in, and say *buenos días* / *buenas tardes* when you leave. If you need something specific, the easiest and most common thing to do is simply walk into the store and ask the employee for what you need. Browsing on your own is not something people usually do, except at large clothing stores like Zara or H&M.

Here are a few helpful hints on where to look for what you need:

I need to get...	Go to...
School supplies (notebooks, folders, pens...)	Una papelería
Stamps	Correos or un estanco/una tabacalera
Cold Medicine	Una farmacia
Batteries <i>carros</i> headphones <i>auriculares</i> etc.	Una tienda de productos eléctricos
Memory cards	Un estanco, una tienda de fotografía
Condoms	Una farmacia
Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush...	El supermercado (e.g. Mercadona), una perfumería

### Fun Activities:

We want you to have fun in Seville; your social life is a big part of your education abroad. However, you are expected to meet all your academic responsibilities. Make sure you don't let hanging out with friends interfere with your school work.

There are a number of ways to get involved socially in Seville such as going out at night, hanging out during the day or evenings, and various organized social activities. Below are a few suggestions. Please also be sure to visit the activities fair held in the Spanish Studies Center at the beginning of each term.

Here are some fun neighborhoods to explore in Sevilla:

**Barrio de Santa Cruz** is a great place to explore. Here you can lose yourself amid the winding narrow streets. You will find restaurants, cafés, bars, *café de leche*, ice-cream parlors, and small shops. Although many tourists frequent this neighborhood, there is much to be discovered.

**Barrio de San Bartolomé** is known for its great pottery and ceramics, but also has lots of small bars and restaurants to check out.

**Barrio de San Francisco** is a culturally diverse neighborhood where there are lots of friendly people, tapas spots, great bars, small shops, and more! Many young people go here in the evenings; it's considered an alternative neighborhood where you can find people attending concerts and a street market on Thursday mornings.

**Barrio de San Juan** isn't a neighborhood, but an area that is great to go out at night and located right in the heart of the city. There is always a lot going on here. On the weekends it is always full of young people.

**Barrio de San Pedro** is a great neighborhood to go out for dinner, shopping, and the movies. There are many university students and bars because it is near many of the Universidad de Sevilla buildings.

