Top Ten Things to Do and See in Seville

(Personal recommendation: where available book tickets in advance, there are some good combination deals with 'beat the crowd' option which can avoid very long queues at peak times!)

1.Cathedral

Seville's cathedral is said to be the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. Construction began in 1401 on the site of Seville's former mosque, and work continued until 1507 when it was finally completed. This massive Gothic complex houses 80 chapels and has the longest central nave in Spain.

Today, the only parts that have survived of Seville's mosque are the famous Giralda Bell Tower, which was previously the mosque's minaret; the Patio de Naranjas and the Puerta del Perdon. For more information visit: https://www.catedraldesevilla.es/

2.Giralda Bell Tower

The Giralda Bell Tower was the minaret of Seville's great mosque, built during the Almohad period and originally topped with giant copper globes. During an earthquake in 1365 the globes were lost and were subsequently replaced with a Christian cross and bell tower. Apparently built for horseback access, you will need to climb 34 sloping ramps but just 17 steps to experience the stunning views!

3. The Royal Alcazar Palace

Another magnificent architectural attraction in Seville is the Royal Alcazar Palace. Construction began in the 10th century when the Umayyads built a Moorish fortress attached to the Roman city walls, but it was not until the 12th century that the first royal palace was built on the site. Additions and renovations continued on and off until the 19th century, resulting in a structure that showcases a mix of Moorish, Renaissance and Mudéjar architecture.

The gardens occupying 100,000 square meters have more than 20,000 plants belonging to at least 187 different species. They represent almost 40% of the landscaped public space in the historic centre of Seville, important for the regulation of biodiversity in the city.

The upper floors of the Alcázar are the Spanish royal family's Seville residence, making it Europe's oldest continually used royal palace. For more information visit: https://www.alcazarsevilla.org/en/

4. The Plaza de Espana

Built in 1928 in preparation for Seville's hosting of the Ibero-American Exposition of 1929, the Plaza de Espana can only be described as 'stunning'! The 'half-moon' shaped building is fronted by a moat and borders on a plaza with a beautiful fountain at its centre; it showcases a striking mix of Mudéjar and Renaissance styles, with splashes of Art Deco to be seen on the colourful façades. Boating can be enjoyed on the moat, which is spanned by four bridges representing the ancient kingdoms of Spain.

In more recent times The Plaza has featured in both 'Star Wars' and 'Game of Thrones'.

5. Maria Luisa Park

First opened to the public on 18th of April 1914, the Maria Luisa Park was part of the redevelopment in preparation for Seville's hosting of the Ibero-American Expo of 1929. Seville's largest and most attractive area of greenery, the botanical garden covers 340,000 square meters. It is particularly beautiful in spring when the park's many species of plants and flowers are in bloom, and doves, parrots, ducks and swans can be seen. Stretching along the banks of the Guadalquivir, its half-mile of shaded walkways, tiled fountains, ponds and tropical foliage is also home to the Mudéjar Pavillion, in which the 'Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions of Seville' can be found.

6. Triana

On the western bank of the Guadalquivir river sits Triana, Seville's former 'gypsy quarter'. Its colourful, quaint streets are lined with old-style tapas bars, the walls of which are often plastered with faded bullfighting posters, photos of flamenco artists and weeping Virgin Marys. It is also known for its locally made ceramics, which adorn the walls of its old, whitewashed houses, and one of Seville's best and most lively markets, the Marcado de Triana.

7. Santa Cruz

This charming old Jewish neighbourhood surrounds the central plaza where the Cathedral is located. When Ferdinand III took the city from the Moors in 1248, he confined Seville's Jewish population to this neighbourhood. It forms the heart of historic Seville with its maze of narrow cobbled streets and romantic squares where you can find some of the city's best tapas bars.

8. Feria de Abril

Seville's legendary fiesta and one of the biggest fairs in Andalusia, the 'Feria de Abril', takes place two weeks after Easter. Originally a 19th century cattle market, this week long celebration hosts over 1,000 marquees every year where the locals dance and drink into the small hours. Although most marquees are private and by invitation only there are several open to the public. This annual extravaganza with traditional Flamenco costume and smartly paraded horses is a must if you're planning a visit to Seville at Spring time.

9. Las Setas

One of Seville's most unusual attractions has to be 'Las Setas' (The Metropol Parasol), known locally as 'the Mushrooms' because of the unique shape of its vast wooden canopies and supporting pillars. When work first started in 2005, Roman remains were found underneath Plaza Encarnación, making construction a lengthy and controversial process. To preserve the extensive remains, which can be seen on the lower ground floor, these enormous wooden fungi are supported on just a few elegant white pillars above the square. On the monument's roof, a winding walkway provides stunning views over the city, especially at sunset. For more information visit: https://setasdesevilla.com/

10. Boat Tours and River Cruises

There is a good choice of boat tours and river cruises providing scenic trips along the river Guadalquivir while you relax and enjoy the sights. Many provide tapas and local wine while you marvel at monuments like the Gold Tower, Real Maestranza, and Triana's bridge. It is recommended to book your ticket in advance. For more information visit: www.getyourguide.com