The Alcázar of Seville, with a history stretching back more than a thousand years, is one of the most complex and important buildings in the world; the diversity and uniqueness of its almost-labyrinthine rooms are of extraordinary value. With every step, we are taken to key moments in Spanish history: the arrival of the Taifa kings, the Almohad Caliphate, the Castilian transformation, etc. The steps of such singular characters such as Al-Mutamid, Ferdinand III “The Saint”, Peter I “The Just”, Isabella of Castille, or Emperor Charles can still be heard echoing through its spaces.

The history of the Islamic palace is that of the city itself: a dynamic city that grew in size along with its political influence and architectural wealth. Currently, a large portion of its walls and palaces are still standing, albeit disguised or altered by the different powers that have inhabited its rooms since the Castillian conquest. The walls that surround the Patiño de Banderas, its original door, the Palacio del Yeso, and a large part of the Patio del Crucero belong to the Islamic period.

Starting in the 13th century, the Castilians adapted to the royal life of the palace, transforming the meaning and purposes of the different spaces. Firstly, they chose to superimpose, upon what had been the most important of the Almohad palaces, a building emblematic for its quality and symbolism. The Palacio Gótico represented the drastic transition of the new Christian order, but the rest of the buildings belonging to the Islamic citadel continued to be inhabited with few alterations to their structure for a century after the conquest.

Archaeological excavations have revealed both processes, nevertheless showing the spectacular change set into motion by King Peter I starting in 1356, which meant the definitive disappearance of the Almohad interior layout of the central area of the complex. It is the Palacio Mudéjar that serves as the heart of the current palace, its most precious jewel, a faithful witness to an age of splendour, with a mix of cultures and personality like few others in our history.

But the Alcázar cannot be understood without its gardens, whose diversity and harmony give testimony to the splendour of Seville beginning in the Renaissance. Facing the grand Palacio Gótico and Palacio Mudéjar, the Italian Renaissance gardens of Las Damas, La Danza, Troya, Galera and Flores extend southwards in an ordered fashion, under the protection of the Almohad wall. Flanking them to the east and west, respectively, are the gardens of Jardín del Marqués de la Vega Inclán, in the French style, and the Jardín Inglés, examples of the dominant styles at the beginning of the 20th century.

The Alcázar is above all a display of beauty, spectacle, and amazement. It is not easy to visit it by following an ordered path through its history. However, it is indeed easy to let yourself be guided by the magic of its spaces if we accept its complexity, and value what each one means as faithful witnesses to a thousand-year story of splendour, decadence, and rebirth.

VISITING HOURS:
October - March: 9:30 - 17:00  |  April - September: 9:30 - 19:00
Closed: January 1st and 6th, Good Friday, and the 25th of December

www.patronato-alcazarsevilla.es
Email: actividades@patronato-alcazarsevilla.es
Patio de Banderas s/n. 41004 Seville  |  Phone: + 34 954 50 23 24
PALACES, ROOMS AND GARDENS

1 Patio del León
2 Palacio del Yeso
3 Sala de la Justicia
4 Patio de la Montería
5 Facade of the Palacio del Rey Don Pedro
6 Casa de la Contratación
7 Capilla de la Virgen de los Navegantes
8 Casa del Asistente
9 Patio del Asistente
10 Palacio del Rey Don Pedro
11 Cuarto Real Alto
12 Dormitorio de Isabel la Católica
13 Capilla de Isabel la Católica
14 Antecomedor
15 Comedor de Gala
16 Sala de Fumar
17 Mirador de los Reyes Católicos
18 Dormitorio de Pedro I
19 Antesala de Audiencias
20 Sala de Audiencias
21 Sala de las Bóvedas
22 Baños Doña María de Padilla
23 Sala de los Infantes
24 Salón de los Embajadores
25 Salón de los Reyes Católicos
26 Salón de los Pasos Perdidos
27 Mirador de los Reyes Católicos
28 Mirador del León
29 Jardín Inglés
30 Jardín del Laberinto
31 Jardín del Techo de Carlos V
32 Cenador del León
33 Estanque de Mercurio
34 Columna de Al-Mutamid
35 Jardín del Príncipe
36 Columna de Al-Mutamid
37 Fuente de Troya
38 Jardín de la Danza
39 Estanque de Mercario
40 Galería del Grutesco
41 Fuente de la Fama
42 Fuente de Neptuno
43 Gruta de las Sultanas
44 Pabellón de Carlos V
45 Cenador del León
46 Jardín Inglés
47 Jardín del Laberinto
48 Entrance Puerta de la Alcoba
49 Jardín de los Poetas
50 Jardín Marqués de la Vega Inclán
51 Puerta de Marchena
52 Jardín de la Alcubilla
53 Apeadero

Gardens

35 Jardín del Príncipe
36 Columna de Al-Mutamid
37 Fuente de Troya
38 Jardín de la Danza
39 Estanque de Mercario
40 Galería del Grutesco
41 Fuente de la Fama
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Other Area

- Shop
- Café
- Restrooms