



Carmona

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Practical city guide/ Map

Andalucía



Geography and history

Monuments and museums

Festivals and traditions

Gastronomy and crafts



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Andalucía

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Carmona, the town the Carthaginians called "Kar´Hammon", is one of the most ancient towns in Andalucía. It is 30 kilometres from Seville, set on a mount that dominates the valley formed by the river Corbones in the Los Alcores district. The fertile land and the privileged site —on a promontory that is easily defended— have attracted settlers since prehistoric times, proof of this is in the Neolithic objects uncovered here, including surprising bell-shaped glasses from the Acebuchal site.

In 206 BC "Kar´Hammon" was conquered by the Romans and they started one of the most brilliant periods of the town's history: Carmo, as the Romans called it, even minted its own coins. The Via Augusta ran through the town, there are still remains of some of the road surface and the bridge. The town of Carmona still has the original layout of the Roman design. Carmona kept its importance throughout the Moorish period, it became the capital of one of the Taifa kingdoms that splintered from the Caliphate of Córdoba. It was conquered by Fernando III in 1247.

Climate: It is Continental, although the winter temperatures are mild. The summers are fairly hot and the average temperature is 18.1 °C.



Carmona is a monumental town that has magnificent buildings from different periods in its streets. The marks of history are present all over the old part of the town, which you should visit leisurely to discover the remains from its past. You should also keep an eye on the subsoil because there is a **necropolis (2)** in Carmona, the most important monument in the town and the only one of its kind on the whole of the Iberian Peninsula: it has hundreds of burial chambers, cut out of the rock of Los Alcores. Near the **plaza de San Fernando (13)** there are valuable remains of one of the largest Roman temples on the Iberian peninsula; the marble capitols are proof of this. The **amphitheatre (1)**, the walled enclosure and the two main Gates to the town, the **Gate of Seville (6)** and the **Gate of Córdoba (34)** are also Roman, although both of the Gates have undergone reform. The Alcázar de Arriba crowns the town, it is the ancient Moorish fort and at the present houses the National Parador hotel. Other monumental buildings were built during the fourteenth century like the **churches of Santiago (2), San Blas (18)** and San Felipe, the latter in Gothic-Mudejar style. Another two outstanding buildings are the Gothic **Priory church of Santa María (28)** and the **church of San Pedro (5)**, whose tower dates from 1783 and is known as the "Giralda chica" or small Giralda tower. The domestic architecture includes the market square or **plaza de Abastos (10)**, the old town hall building and numerous dwellings and palaces in Baroque style. The Carmona Tourist Reception Centre has different rooms dedicated to the history of the town as well as a complete archive of photographs.

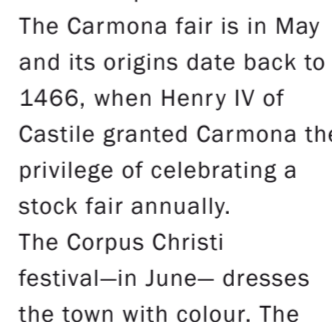
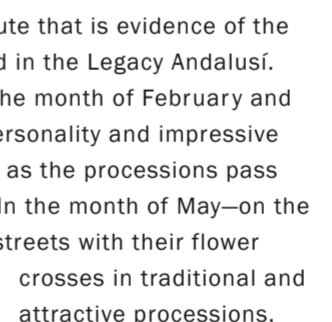
Most of the traditions and festivals are linked to the historic, religious and landscape wealth of the town, through its festivals the town has an intimate relationship with its past. You can follow the Route of Roman Andalucía or Betica, of which Carmona is a compulsory stop. There is also the Washington Irving route that is evidence of the Moorish heritage and included in the Legacy Andalusi. The Carnival is a tradition in the month of February and there is Easter with its own personality and impressive artistic expression, especially as the processions pass through the old part of town. In the month of May—on the 1st— the children invade the streets with their flower crosses in traditional and attractive processions. The Carmona fair is in May and its origins date back to 1466, when Henry IV of Castile granted Carmona the privilege of celebrating a stock fair annually. The Corpus Christi festival—in June— dresses the town with colour. The streets are carpeted with reeds and petals, for the religious guilds to take the Holy Monstrance in procession, the work of the goldsmith Francisco de Alfaro.

The cuisine is mainly based on products from the countryside with vegetables as the main ingredients. You can try the "revoltijo" a kind of mixture of different vegetables that are served with different seasonings, "el picadillo" —made with olives—, gazpacho and tomato soup, spinach with chickpeas served with fried eggs. A special mention for "boronías" (prepared with olive oil, garlic, tomato, green peppers, onion, laurel, parsley, salt, green beans, potatoes and water) or partridge cortijera style, the rural nettle stew or "chícharos" stew. Cod is something that there is no shortage of all over Andalucía. Here in Carmona they prepare it with potatoes and saffron. They also make oak cakes powdered with cinnamon and English tart. The Moorish and Mudejar cuisine continue to be present in desserts like the almond tarts and torrijas dipped in honey. The confectionery from Carmona includes the taste of almond, honey and coconut. Local crafts include work in wrought iron and ceramics, the same clay is used that has made the pavements and floors in the buildings in town. Also cabinet making and marquetry in wood.

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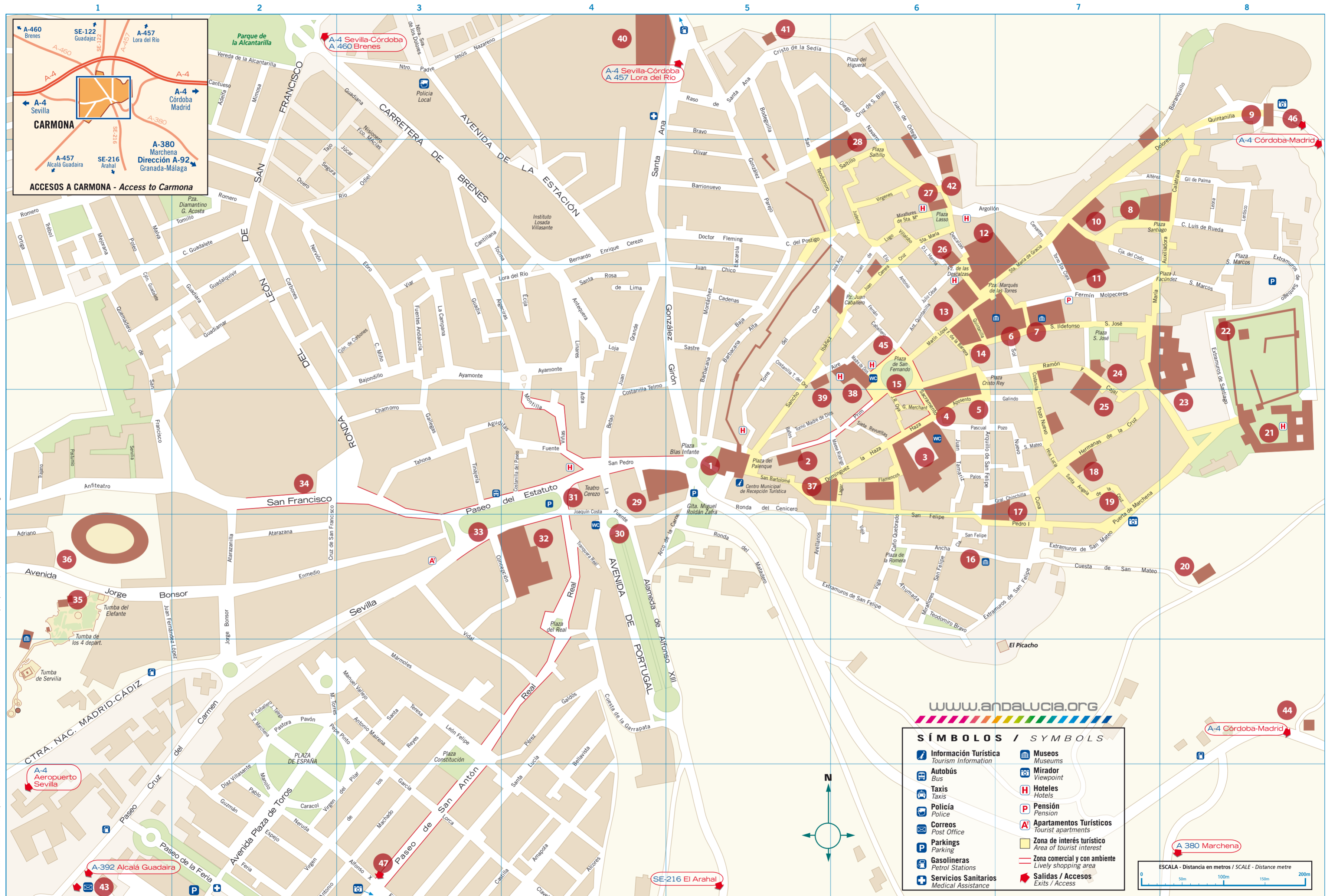


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Carmona



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Alcázar de la Puerta de Sevilla 2 Iglesia de San Bartolomé 3 Plaza del Mercado de Abastos 4 Ayuntamiento 5 Iglesia del Salvador 6 Iglesia Prioral de Santa María 7 Museo de la Ciudad 8 Iglesia de Santiago 9 Puerta de Córdoba 10 Hospital de la Caridad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Convento de Santa Clara 12 Convento de las Descalzas 13 Casa Palacio de los Aguilar 14 Palacio de los Rueda 15 Plaza de San Fernando 16 Centro de Interpretación del Mudéjar 17 Iglesia y Arquillo de San Felipe 18 Casa del General Chinchilla 19 Molino de la Romera 20 Ermita de San Mateo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 Alcázar del Rey Don Pedro 22 Cubete 23 Palacio de Don Alonso Bernal Escamilla 24 Palacio de la Cultura - Casa de los Briones 25 Casa Palacio del Marqués de San Martín 26 Casa de la Cultura (Casa de las Descalzas) 27 Casa Palacio de Lasso de la Vega 28 Iglesia de San Blas 29 Iglesia de San Pedro 30 Alameda de Alfonso XIII | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 Teatro Cerezo 32 Convento de la Concepción 33 Mausoleo romano 34 Capilla de San Francisco 35 Necrópolis romana 36 Anfiteatro romano 37 Casa Palacio de los Domínguez 38 Convento de Madre de Dios - Antiguo Cabildo - Casa Mudéjar 39 Casa de los Caro | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 Centro Cultural Iglesia de Santa Ana 41 Humilladero del Cristo de la Sedia 42 Casa Palacio del Barón de Gracia Real 43 Fábrica de Anís "Los Hermanos" 44 Ermita de Ntra. Sra. de Gracia 45 Foro romano 46 Puente y Calzada romana 47 Ermita de San Antón |
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