Jerez

**Andalusia**

**Monuments and museums**

The historic succession of the different cultures that have given life to Jerez can be seen and felt in the many architectural styles and singular buildings that define the physiognomy of this singular town. Its 300,000 inhabitants —declared “Historic and Artistic Monumental Complex”— is made up of typical suburbs with attractive streets and squares. The fountains and orange trees disappear between the palaces, the different style of churches and the wine cellars. If you want to get to know the history of Jerez the compulsory stops are: the Cathedral (2), in Baroque style, built in the eighteenth century and very nearby the Alcázar (3), dating back to the twelfth century, surrounded by the remains of the Moorish walls. You cannot leave Jerez without visiting the Clock Museum (29), with over 300 clocks and the Archaeological Museum (20), with interesting Greek exhibits. Other museums are dedicated to the Bull, the Horse, Flamenco and Wine. Outside the town you can visit the La Cartuja monastery (33), dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, a true jewel of Andalusian Renaissance.

**Geography and history**

The Moors called the town “Sherish”, the town of Jerez de la Frontera became one of the most important towns in Al Andalus under the rule of the Almoravides and the Almohades.

It was conquered in 1264 by Alfonso 10th the Wise, Jerez played an important role in the conflict against the Moors of Granada. It later gained its greatest splendour and economic boom after the Discovery of America. Later on, throughout the nineteenth century, numerous bodegas or wine cellars were established giving the town its personality and international fame. Jerez is the largest town in the province of Cádiz —with 180,000 inhabitants—. It is situated in a fertile valley formed by the rivers Guadalquivir and Guadalete, situated just 12 kilometres from the Atlantic coast and only a few minutes away from the beaches and the Cadiz mountains. It is the world centre for the production of sherry wine. It has excellent communications with Seville, Cádiz and the Gibraltar countryide. Climate. Its excellent geographic situation between the sea and the mountains, makes it possible to enjoy pleasant temperatures, with over 3,200 hours of sunshine a year. In winter the average temperature is 11ºC and in summer 25º C.

**Festivals and traditions**

Wine, brandy horses and flamenco mark the life of the people from Jerez and the thousands of visitors who come to here. This peculiar stamp of identity is evident in the town’s traditions and fairs. On the occasion of the Horse Fair in May, the town and its inhabitants show their best side. You have to enjoy and experience the horse parade for yourself. The show “How the Andalusian horses dance” cannot be missed, presented by the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art housed in a French style palace, or from the stables of Yeguada Hierro del Bocado. Other equestrian events are included in the Autumn Festival. Some of the large wine cellars or bodegas are a compulsory visit, authentic temples where wine and brandy are maturing in silence. Land of the Carthusian horse, of the fighting bull, cradle of flamenco —with an excellent museum—, Jerez is also the speed city. Its circuit hosts motor cycling trails and Formula 1. Thousands of bikers meet every year to witness the Spanish Motor Biking Gran Prix, a sports and leisure event looked forward to each year.

**Gastronomy and crafts**

Enjoy the extraordinary cuisine that the town of Jerez has to offer, based on the excellent shellfish from the Bay of Cadiz, especially the king prawns from Sanlúcar. The sherry wine from Jerez, in its different versions, is an ingredient that is always present in the Jerez cuisine. Foods like kidneys cooked in sherry sauce, or clams or cockles sautéed in sherry wine, meats with a touch of bandy in the sauce after they have been roasted. Jerez is a town where going for some tapas is more than a conversation is cultivated. And time slips by. You can buy sherry wines and vinegar directly from the wine cellars, as well as small barrels and sherry glasses. Saddlers are very important in the Jerez area because of the importance of the horse here. Other craft industries in Jerez include the leather articles, glazed ceramics, flamenco dresses, embroidery and lace as well as wicker furniture.

**Joven Visita Jerez**

Practical city guide/ Map

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