

# EvR in Spain

# Comenius in Spain



# Doñana National Park



# Doñana National Park



# The Doñana National Park

- The Doñana National Park is an important refuge for birds of passage which fly to warmer Africa.
- Their flight leads them across Andalusia, where they rest in the Doñana National Park. There you will find about 250 bird species including 70,000 geese and 400,000 ducks.
- In this important nature reserve in Europe there are rare animals like the purple moorhen, the ruddy duck, the Andalusian hemipode, the crested coot and the Iberian lynx.
- Some of these animals only live there because they find enough food and because they come in contact with very few humans.
- The nature reserve also offers a habitat to snakes, saurians, turtles and genets, but these are only a few examples. There are many more species: 48 mammal species, 72 species of fish and 34 amphibian species.
- The above-mentioned aspects show why the Doñana National Park was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

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- **Facts:** The Doñana National Park was founded in 1969 and comprised an area of 54,252 hectares, which was expanded in 2004 to include 26,540 hectares buffer zone. It is located on the Costa de la Luz in Andalusia and is Spain's most important wetland area.
- **Plants:** The park includes various plants such as pondweeds, white flowering faucets, different reeds, rushes and shrubs like pasture, wild grape and blackberry. Umbrella pines and pine forests grow in the valleys of the 40 meter high dunes. The mountain Monte Blanco is dominated by yellow citrus shrubs.

# El Rocío

- The Hermitage of El Rocío
- El Rocío is a little village which is famous for its hermitage called `Ermita del Rocío`. Once a year at Pentecost people from all over Spain come to this church. Each time they choose the same path and while they're in town they stay in houses which are empty for the rest of the year. The reason for the celebration is the virgin `Blanca Paloma`. The faithful want to touch the statue of the Blanca Paloma because they believe they will receive a special blessing. After two weeks it ends and everybody travels home to convey the blessing to their families and friends.
- The church is white with a golden roof. Above the entrance you can see a tower topped by a big cross. Inside there is a great altar on the left. It is made of gold and is full of beautiful decorations. But you aren't allowed to take any photos.
- In front of this monument you can sit and pray. At Pentecost people pray outside while the sun is rising.



# Cave of Wonders



# Cave of Wonders

- **„Gruta de las Maravillas“**
- Andalusia is the autonomous region in Spain with the most protected nature areas, and each is outstanding in its own right. One of them is the „Cave of Wonders“, in Spanish „Gruta de las Maravillas“.
- The legend has it that the discoverer was a minister. The first time it was named in history was in 1886. In 1914 the cave, one of the biggest sights in Spain, was opened to the public. Since this opening thousands of visitors have explored the cave including members of royal families, government representatives and politicians. The cave is inspiration for many artists, for example: authors, poets, painters and musicians.
- We took a trip to this cave on Thursday, 31 January. The cave consists of 2,130 meters of subterranean tunnels; 1,200 meters are open to the public.
- Inside of the cave there are lakes of pure and distilled water, which are lighted by spotlights. Moreover, you will see many stalactites and stalagmites. Celine will tell you more about this cave.

# Cave of Wonders

- **“Gruta de las Maravillas”**
- The beauty of the lakes, the wide open spaces and multifarious coloring of stalactites and stalagmites are exceptional.
- When the tour started, we went into the first hall called "Salón de la Entrada", "Entrance Hall" in English.
- Then we went upstairs into the next large and beautiful hall "Sala de las Conchas“, "Chamber of Shells".
- The "Breve Galería“, "Short Gallery“, leads to the "Salón de las Brillantes“, "Chamber of Diamonds".
- We climbed up a narrow tunnel to the "Salón del Gran Lago“, "Hall of the Big Lake".
- Continuing forward we saw the "Salón de la Esmeralda“, "Emerald Chamber".
- After this hall we went straight through the "Cristalería de Dios“, "Crystal Glass of God“, and the "Salón de los Desnudos“, "Chamber of Nudes" (name given because of the shapes of the rock formations).

# Province of Huelva - Landscape



# Seville - Cathedral



# Seville - Cathedral



# Seville Cathedral – View from the Giralda



# Seville Cathedral – View from the Giralda





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# Seville - Cathedral

- Seville's Cathedral was considered to be the third largest gothic church in the world after St. Paul's Cathedral in London and St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. But new calculations have now pushed it in front of both of them. It was built upon the huge rectangular base-plan of the old Almohad mosque. To make place for this new monument the mosque was almost entirely demolished after an earthquake had destroyed the tower in 1396. Inspired by the vision of an unrivaled monument to Christian glory, the canons renounced all but a subsistence level of their incomes to support the construction of the building. The total area covers 11.520 square metres and its central nave rises to the height of 42 metres, what makes it appear in the Guinness Book of Records. It was registered in 1987 by [UNESCO](#) as a [World Heritage Site](#), along with the [Alcázar palace complex](#) and the [General Archive of the Indies](#).
- The cathedral is also the burial site of [Christopher Columbus](#). Columbus' remains were originally buried in the cathedral of Havana on Cuba, the island he discovered on his first voyage in 1492. But in 1902 they were transferred to Seville, where they are housed in a monumental tomb created by Arturo Mérida in the late Romantic style.
- The *Giralda* is the bell tower of the Cathedral and at the same time the symbol of the city of Seville. Its height is 105 metres and its square base is 13 metres long per side. It was built as the minaret of the mosque in the XII century to resemble the minaret of the Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech (Morocco), although the top section of the bell tower dates from the Renaissance. Under the direction of architect Ben Ahmad Baso, the construction of the tower began in 1184 and was finished in 1198. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the belfry was added by the architect Hernán Ruiz the Younger.
- Its name *Giralda* is due to the little statue called *Giraldillo* on its top, which represents a woman with a palm in one hand and a shield in the other hand. This statue spins when the wind is blowing and to spin means *girar* in Spanish. The Giraldillo was installed in 1568 to represent the triumph of the Christian faith.

# Seville – Plaza de España

