

Sanlúcar de Barrameda

Andalusia · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Sanlúcar de Barrameda is a port town in the province of Cádiz, at the mouth of the Guadalquivir river where it meets the Atlantic. It is known for manzanilla, a dry sherry-type wine aged by the sea air, for its fresh seafood, especially the langostinos, and for the gateway to Doñana National Park across the river.

Columbus set out on his third voyage from here in 1498, and Magellan's fleet left from the town in 1519. Today it has an old upper town with a castle and palaces, a lower town with bars, and long beaches.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are pleasant. Summer is hot but the sea wind helps, and the beaches are busy in August. Winters are mild.

Feria de la Manzanilla in late May or early June is the main festival, and the horse races on the beach in August are unique to Sanlúcar.

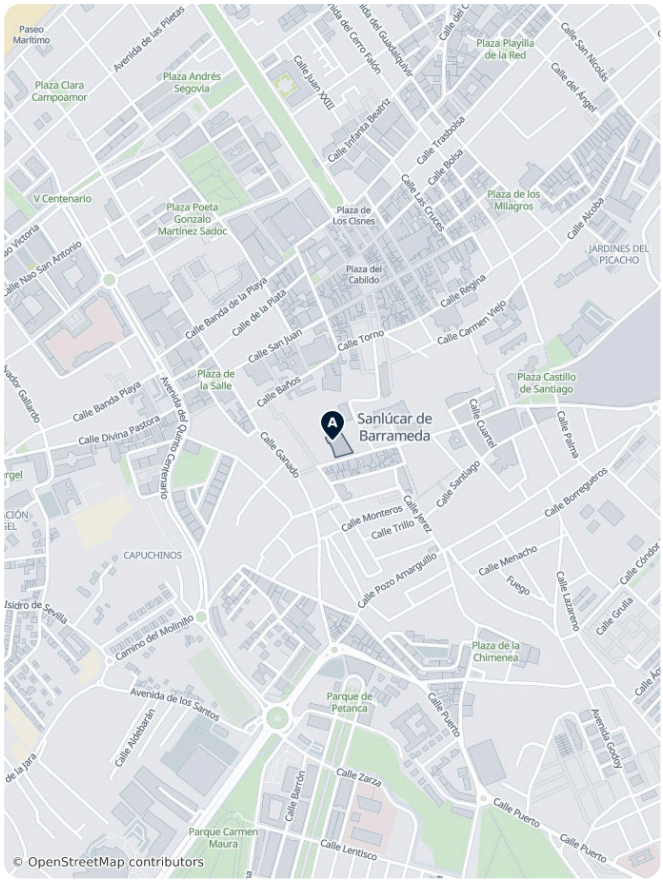
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for wildlife watching	16° / 19°	8° / 3°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for wildlife watching	17° / 21°	9° / 4°	Dry air
March	Great Great for wildlife watching	19° / 25°	11° / 6°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	13° / 9°	20 sunny days · Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	15° / 12°	24 sunny days · Dry air
June	Great Great for the beach	29° / 36°	19° / 16°	25 sunny days · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	32° / 37°	21° / 18°	28 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 7 days above 35°
August	Great Great for the beach	32° / 38°	21° / 19°	27 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 7 days above 35°
September	Great Great for the beach	29° / 34°	19° / 16°	22 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 31°	16° / 12°	Calm winds
November	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 24°	12° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for wildlife watching	17° / 20°	9° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Palacio de Orleans-Borbón is a 19th-century palace of the Orleans-Borbón family, now used by the local government, with gardens.
- The Castillo de Santiago is a 15th-century castle with a tower, near the Bajo de Guía.
- The Palacio Ducal de Medina Sidonia is a palace of the Dukes of Medina Sidonia, in the old town.
- The Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O is a church with a Mudéjar portal.
- The Convento de Santo Domingo and the Convento de la Madre de Dios are old religious buildings.
- The Bajo de Guía is a waterfront with seafood restaurants facing Doñana.
- The visitor center of the Poblado de la Plancha is the start of Doñana National Park tours.
- The bodegas (wine cellars) offer visits and tastings of manzanilla.



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What to experience

- Visit a manzanilla bodega and taste with local snacks.
- Eat langostinos and fried fish at the Bajo de Guía.
- Take the boat trip into Doñana National Park.
- Walk the beach at sunset, and watch the August horse races if you are there.
- Visit the castle and the palaces.

Day trips

- **Doñana National Park**: a boat trip across the Guadalquivir to a wetland reserve.
- A Jerez de la Frontera (about 25 km): sherry cellars and horses.
- B Cádiz (about 45 km): an old port city.
- C Sevilla (about 120 km): the capital of Andalusia.
- D Carmona (about 150 km): a historic town.



Where to explore

Other places nearby:

- **Cádiz province**: Jerez de la Frontera and Cádiz.
- **Seville province**: Sevilla and Carmona.

Getting there

- **By air**: Jerez airport is about 25 km away, and Seville airport about 120 km.
- **By train**: The nearest main station is Jerez, with a connection by bus or taxi. Check Renfe schedules.
- **By bus**: Buses run from Jerez, Cádiz and Seville.
- **By car**: The A-480 road from Jerez and the AP-4 motorway.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The center is walkable, and the upper town is on a hill.
- **Taxi**: To reach the beaches and the Bajo de Guía.
- **Bus**: Local buses connect the beaches.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The center is walkable, with a hill to the upper town.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The town is mostly flat, with a coastal path.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Optional. The town is easy on foot, but a car helps for Jerez and the coast.
- **Parking**: Paid parking is available, with limited space in summer.
- **Roads**: Roads are good, but busy in August.

Food & drink

Sanlúcar is a gastronomic town. The signature drink is manzanilla, a pale dry wine, served cold with fried fish, *tortillitas de camarones* (shrimp fritters) and the local *langostinos* (prawns). Also try *gambas*, *tortillas*, and the sweet *tocino de cielo* of the area.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Sanlúcar is a safe town. The Atlantic currents at the river mouth can be strong, so swim at supervised beaches. In summer, use sun protection.

History

The town was a Moorish settlement and later a possession of the Dukes of Medina Sidonia, who ruled it for centuries. In 1498 Columbus left from here on his third voyage, and in 1519 Magellan's expedition sailed from the town on the first circumnavigation.

Sanlúcar later became an important port for trade with the Americas, and manzanilla made it known for wine.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

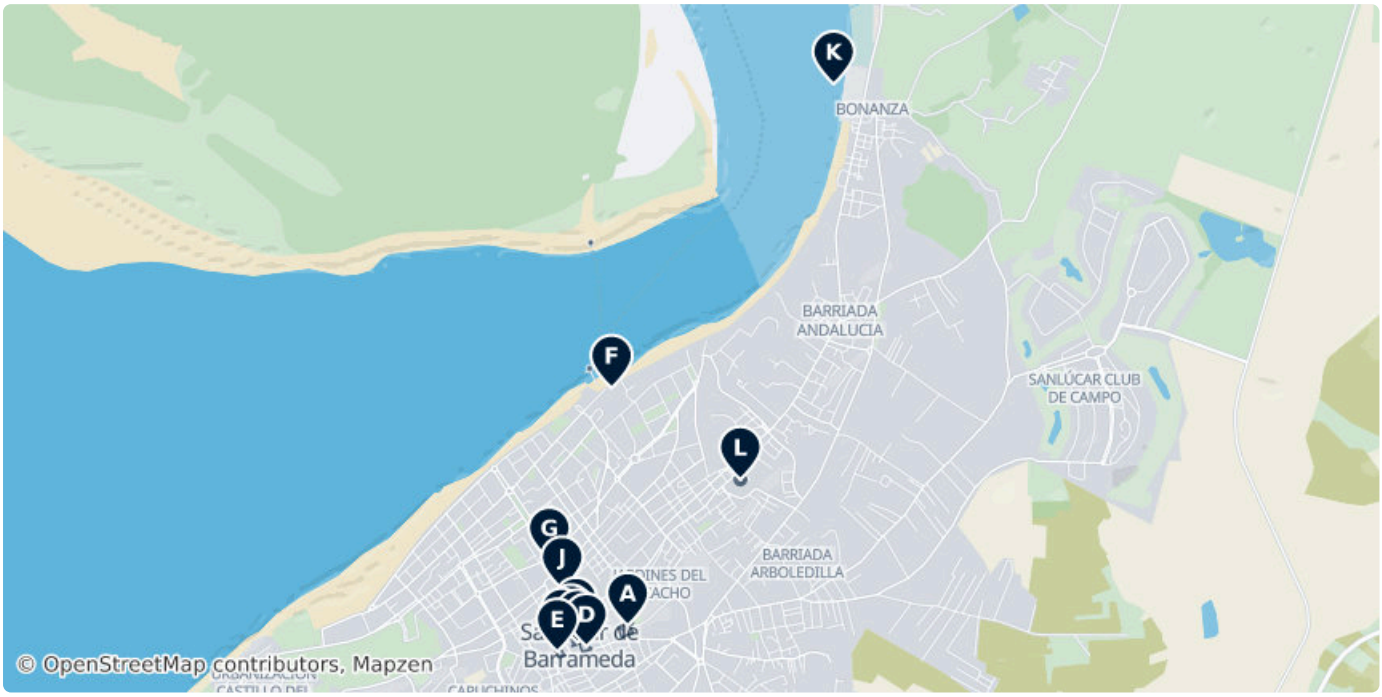
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Sanlúcar de Barrameda Essentials

Sanlúcar de Barrameda sits at the mouth of the Guadalquivir River, serving as a historic gateway for Atlantic trade. This collection highlights the town's architectural heritage, from the 15th-century Castillo de Santiago to the Gothic-Mudéjar Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O. The list features the Palacio Ducal de Medina Sidonia, housing one of Europe's most significant private archives, alongside culinary landmarks like the Plaza de Abastos market and renowned seafood institutions like Casa Bigote and Casa Balbino.





A Castillo de Santiago

A 15th-century fortress built by the Duke of Medina Sidonia. Notable for its hexagonal keep and defensive walls, it offers panoramic views of the Guadalquivir river mouth and Doñana National Park.

9B Calle de la Cava del Castillo, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77721, -6.35043)

castillodesantiago.com

B Las Covachas

A 15th-century Gothic-style merchant gallery featuring ten pointed arches decorated with stone carvings of mythological beasts. It served as a commercial hub for the city's upper district.

2 Cuesta de Belén, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77660, -6.35402)



C Palacio Ducal de Medina Sidonia

Built in the 15th century over a Ribat, this palace blends Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles. It houses the General Archive of the House of Medina Sidonia, containing documents dating back to the 12th century.

4 Plaza de los Condes de Niebla, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77635, -6.35360)



D Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O

A 14th-century church featuring a Mudéjar-style portal and a rich interior with a coffered ceiling. It stands as a primary example of the Gothic-Mudéjar architecture of the region.

Sanlúcar de Barrameda (36.77615, -6.35304)



E Palacio de Orleans-Borbón

The Palacio de Orleans-Borbón rises in the Spanish town of Sanlucar de Barrameda in the Andalusian province of Cádiz.

15 Calle Caballeros, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77589, -6.35488)

F Casa Bigote

A legendary seafood restaurant in the Bajo de Guía district, specializing in local Sanlúcar prawns and traditional stews served in a tavern setting overlooking the river.

(36.78920, -6.35145)

G Bodega La Gitana

Founded in 1792, this historic winery is dedicated to the production of Manzanilla sherry. The site includes traditional aging cellars and offers tastings of its flagship La Gitana label.

Avenida Calzada de la Duquesa Isabel (36.78050, -6.35538)

lagitana.es, +34 669663008

H Plaza de Abastos

A traditional food market housed in an 18th-century building. It is a central hub for fresh Atlantic seafood and locally grown vegetables from the coastal 'navazos' gardens.

(36.77696, -6.35370)



I Auditorio de la Merced

A former 17th-century monastery and church, now serving as a cultural center and concert hall. It retains its grand Baroque façade and historic interior space.

3 Cuesta de Belén, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77642, -6.35459)

J Casa Balbino

Located in the Plaza del Cabildo, this iconic tapas bar is famous for its 'tortillitas de camarones' (shrimp fritters) and extensive selection of local Manzanilla wines.

(36.77903, -6.35456)

Mo–Su 12:00–17:00, 20:00–01:30

+34 956 360 513

K Puerto de Bonanza

A historic fishing port where the daily catch is landed. It provides a glimpse into the town's maritime industry and serves as a departure point for river traffic.

Carretera de la Colonia, 11549 Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Spain (36.80454, -6.33744)

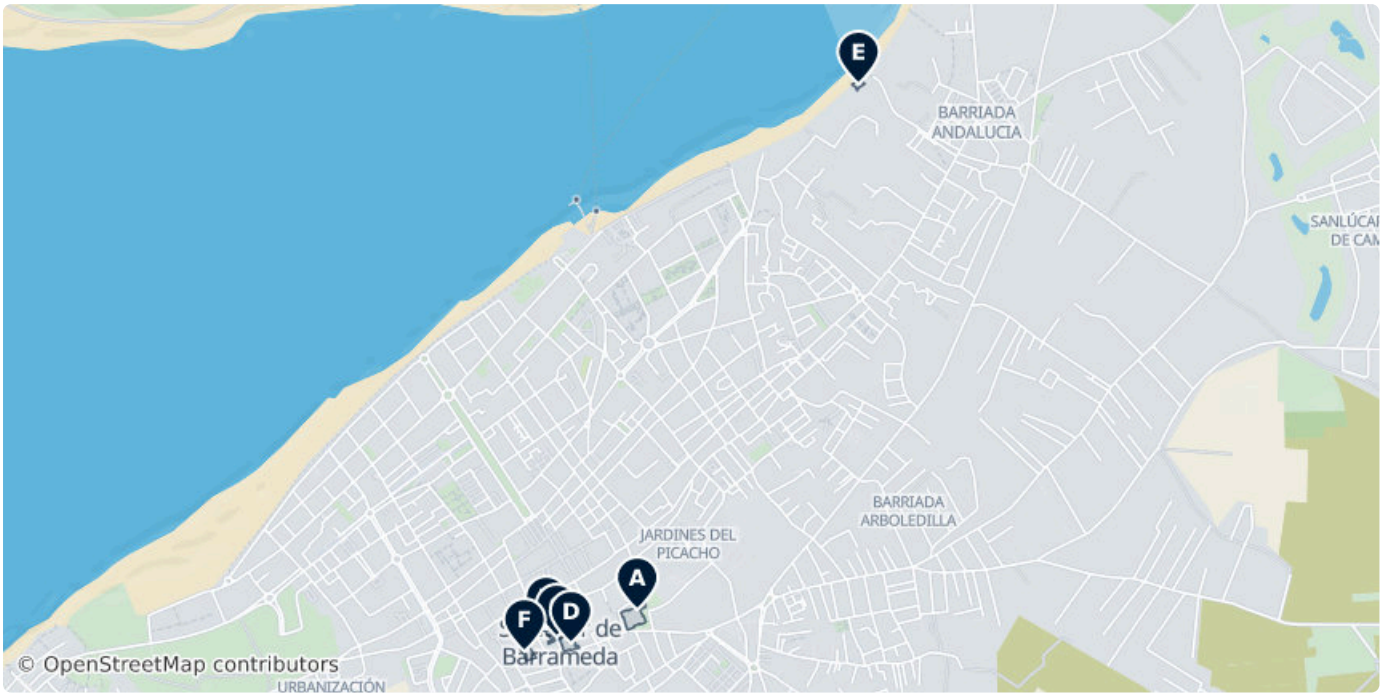
L Bullring

Traditional bullring opened in 1900, featuring a distinctive circular design and hosting events during the town's local festivals.

68 Avenida de San Francisco, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.78458, -6.34333)

Historic Sites of Sanlúcar

Sanlúcar de Barrameda's historic center preserves an architectural legacy shaped by its strategic position at the mouth of the Guadalquivir River. This selection features the 15th-century Castillo de Santiago, the Gothic merchant exchange of Las Covachas, and the Palacio Ducal de Medina Sidonia, which houses a significant historical archive. The list also includes religious landmarks like the Mudejar-Gothic Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O and coastal defenses such as the 17th-century Baluarte de San Salvador, illustrating the city's evolution from a medieval stronghold to a vital maritime hub.





A Castillo de Santiago

A late 15th-century fortress built by the Duke of Medina Sidonia. This Gothic castle features a prominent hexagonal keep, the Torre del Homenaje, and served as a defensive stronghold protecting the mouth of the Guadalquivir River.

9B Calle de la Cava del Castillo, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77721, -6.35043)

castillodesantiago.com

B Las Covachas

A 15th-century Gothic merchant exchange featuring a gallery of ten pointed arches. The facade is decorated with stone carvings of basilisks and mythical creatures, reflecting the city's commercial prosperity during the late Middle Ages.

2 Cuesta de Belén, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77660, -6.35402)



C Palacio Ducal de Medina Sidonia

Built over a 12th-century Moorish ribat, this palace combines Mudejar and Renaissance architecture. It serves as the ancestral seat of the Dukes of Medina Sidonia and contains one of the most significant private historical archives in Europe.

4 Plaza de los Condes de Niebla, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77635, -6.35360)



D Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O

This 14th-century church is a prime example of Mudejar-Gothic architecture. It features an elaborately carved stone portal and a 16th-century Mudéjar coffered ceiling, representing the religious heart of the city's upper quarter.

Sanlúcar de Barrameda (36.77615, -6.35304)



E Baluarte de San Salvador

A 17th-century coastal fortification designed to defend the Sanlúcar coastline and the entrance to the Guadalquivir River. It remains a key example of the military engineering used to protect Spanish maritime trade routes.

Camino del Arroyo San Salvador, 11540, Spain (36.79380, -6.34171)



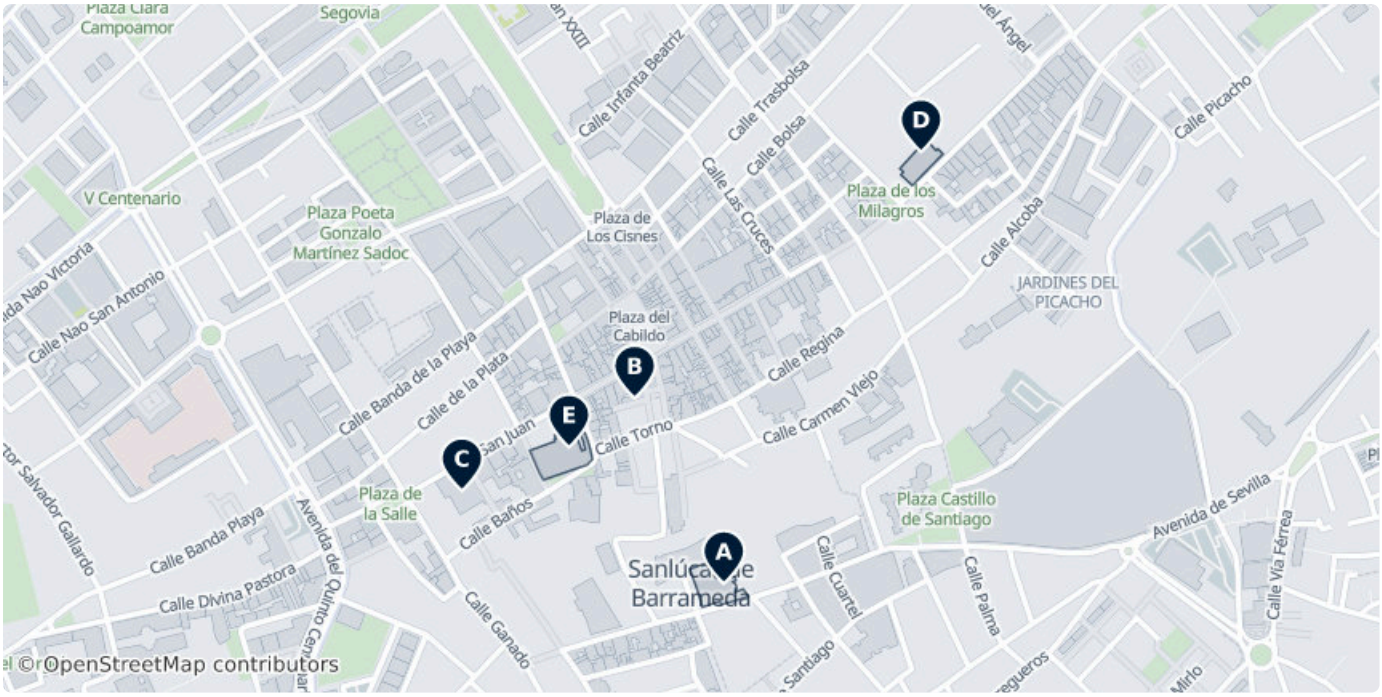
F Palacio de Orleans-Borbón

The Palacio de Orleans-Borbón rises in the Spanish town of Sanlucar de Barrameda in the Andalusian province of Cádiz.

15 Calle Caballeros, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77589, -6.35488)

Historic Churches

Sanlúcar de Barrameda's religious architecture spans the 14th to 18th centuries, showcasing styles from Mudejar and Gothic to Renaissance and Baroque. Key sites include the 14th-century parish church of Nuestra Señora de la O with its Mudejar portal and the 16th-century Santo Domingo church, built with stone from Puerto de Santa María. These buildings, often founded under the patronage of the Dukes of Medina Sidonia, house significant sacred art, ornate altarpieces, and historical archives documenting the city's maritime and noble past.





A Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O

14th-century Mudejar-Gothic parish church featuring a Plateresque portal decorated with the Guzmán family coats of arms and a notable Mudejar coffered ceiling.

Sanlúcar de Barrameda (36.77615, -6.35304)



B Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados

18th-century Baroque church belonging to the Brotherhood of the Holy Charity, located in the lower part of the city.

2 Calle de los Saters, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77814, -6.35423)



C Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Carmen

17th-century Catholic temple and former Carmelite convent church, reflecting the transition between Mannerism and early Baroque styles.

1 Pasaje de las Angustias, Sanlúcar de Barrameda 11540, Spain (36.77714, -6.35655)



D Iglesia de Santo Domingo

16th-century Renaissance and Mannerist church constructed with stone from El Puerto de Santa María. It was originally part of a prominent Dominican monastery.

Calle Mar, Sanlúcar de Barrameda (36.78078, -6.35039)



E Convento de la Madre de Dios

16th-century cloistered convent of Dominican nuns. The complex features Renaissance architectural elements and a traditional Andalusian religious layout.

Calle Jesús Cautivo 1 (36.77761, -6.35511)

guiadigital.iaph.es/bien/inmueble/9540/cadiz/sanlucar-d...

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