



# Carmona



## Geography and history      Monuments and museums      Festivals and traditions      Gastronomy and crafts



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EMAS



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 reformed. 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

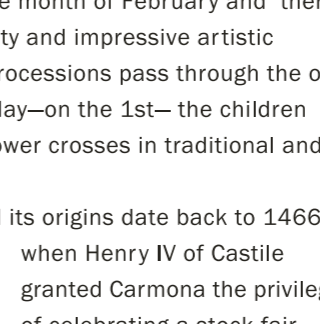
were built during the fourteenth century like the churches of **Santiago (2)**, **San Blas (18)** and San Felipe, the latter in Gothic-Mudejar style. Another two outstanding buildings are the Gothic **Priory church of Santa María (28)** and the **church of San Pedro (5)**, whose tower dates from 1783 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 Bética, 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.



goldsmith Francisco de Alfaro.



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



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

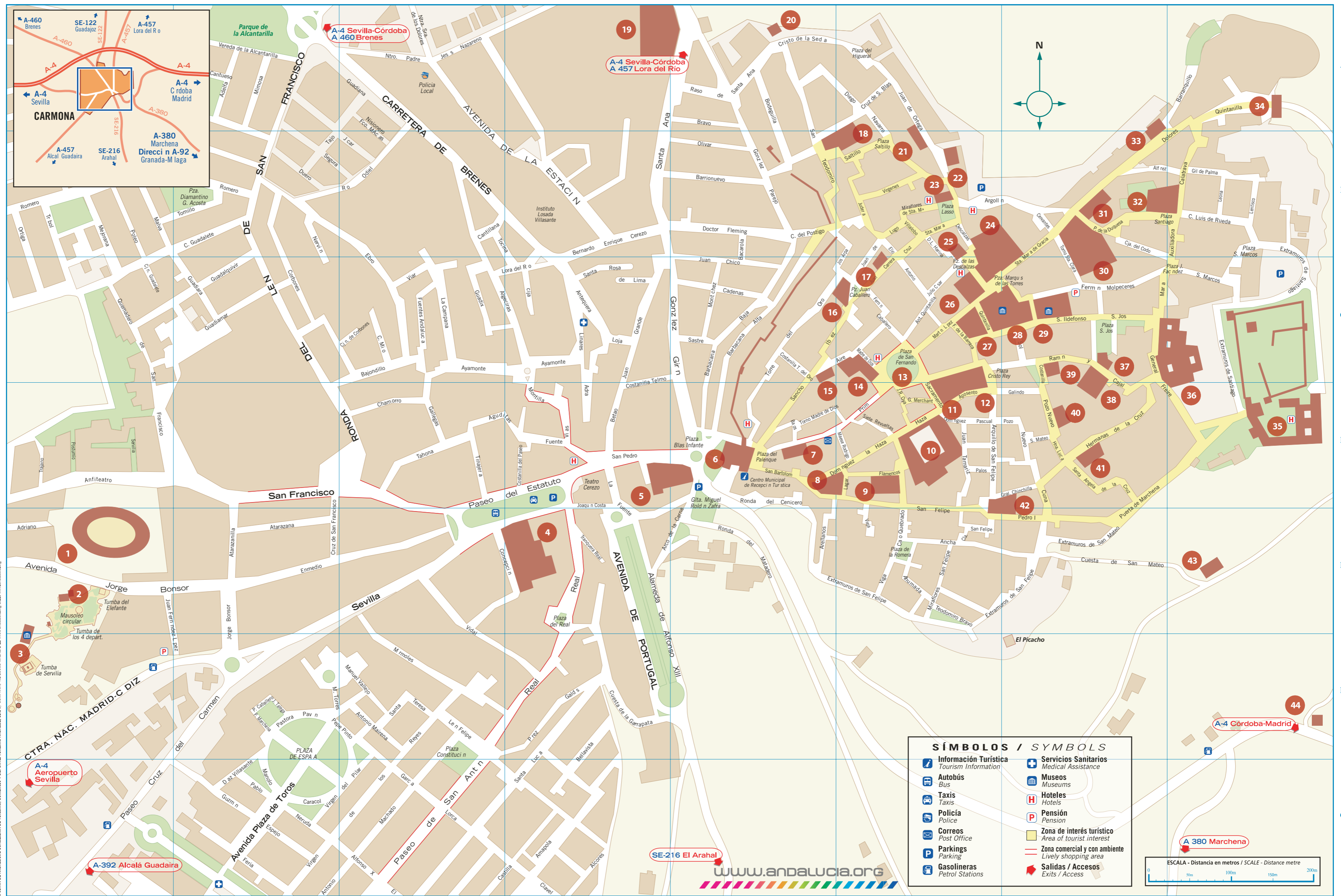


"boronías" (prepared with olive oil, garlic, tomato, green peppers, onion, laurel, parsley, salt, green beans, potatoes and water) or partridge cortijera style, the rural nettle stew or "chicharos" stew. Cod is something that there is no shortage of all over Andalucía. Here in Carmona they prepare it 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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- 1 Anfiteatro romano
- 2 Necrópolis romana
- 3 Museo de la Necrópolis romana
- 4 Convento de la Concepción
- 5 Iglesia de San Pedro
- 6 Alcázar de la Puerta de Sevilla
- 7 Iglesia de San Bartolomé
- 8 Casa Palacio de los Domínguez
- 9 Casa de los Flamencos

- 10 Plaza del mercado de Abastos
- 11 Ayuntamiento
- 12 Iglesia del Salvador
- 13 Plaza de San Fernando
- 14 Convento Madre de Dios - Cabildo Antiguo - Casa Mudéjar
- 15 Casa de los Caro
- 16 Casa de Don Diego de Zafra
- 17 Casa del Ave María
- 18 Iglesia de San Blas

- 19 Iglesia de Santa Ana
- 20 Humilladero Cristo de la Sedía
- 21 La Casa Salada
- 22 Casa-Palacio del Barón de Gracia Real
- 23 Casa Palacio de Lasso de la Vega
- 24 Convento de las Descalzas
- 25 Casa de la Cultura (Casa de las Descalzas)
- 26 Casa Palacio de los Aguilár
- 27 Palacio de los Rueda

- 28 Iglesia Prioral de Santa María
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- 34 Puerta de Córdoba
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- 36 Palacio de Don Alonso Bernal Escamilla
- 37 Palacio de la Cultura - Casa de los Briones
- 38 Casa-Palacio del Marqués de San Martín
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- 43 Ermita de San Mateo
- 44 Ermita de Ntra. Sra. de Gracia