

Walk Through Spain and Portugal from 1/26—3/22/2026

Results of Week 8: 3/16—3/22/2026

During this week we collectively walked 375 miles and had 22 participants. For the entire 8 weeks we had a total of 29 participants and walked 2724 miles. Sources for photos are given in smaller font near the image. You can click on images to increase their size for a better view. The green line on map of Spain and Portugal indicates places we visited each week. A magenta line on the entire map is our proposed route for our 8 week walk map with major cities marked with magenta dots. PAT is free software. Copyright © 2010, 2013 by Ian Macky. **Note: This document is copyrighted by K. Scharer, 2026, except where other copyrights are noted.**

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL MAP



We left Sagres and headed east along the coast until we arrived in Lagos. One of the interesting things we saw as we neared Lagos was a stork's nest. muffinn from Worcester, UK, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, stork, right. It was the first time I had ever seen one and I was amazed at the size!

A view of the city of Lagos from the water is shown below. Lacobrigo, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Our first stop was at the church of Santo Antonio, shown below left. Bextrel, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, exterior of San Antonio, left. Kolborn (Wikimedia), CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, center. Vitor Oliveira from Torres Vedras, PORTUGAL, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior ceiling, right.



This church is often referred to as the golden church because of its gilded wood decorations. It is Baroque in style. It is also a national monument in Portugal.

Interestingly, the church was started at the request of the military and was finished in 1707. But less than 50 years later it was demolished by the 1755 earthquake that destroyed many buildings in Portugal. Again, it was the military commander of the Lagos Infantry Regiment who wanted the church rebuilt. The new church was finished by 1769. That commander was also an administrator of the Confraternity of St. Anthony of Padua, which probably explains his behavior! The church has multiple paintings that depict the miracles of St. Anthony. Many of the other decorations were completed in eighteenth century. Attached to the church building is the Municipal Museum of Lagos, which has been named a National Monument. We went to Mass while we were here.

While we were in Lagos, we also visited the Castle of Lagos. The castle is from medieval times. The walls of the castle actually encase the entire city and were built as part of the defense system for the city. As a coastal city, Lagos was ripe for plundering by foreign countries. From prehistoric times various groups have taken control of Lagos including Greeks, Phoenicians, Romans, Carthaginians, Visigoths, and Moors. It seems it was during the Roman occupation that some city walls were built.

But during medieval times, stronger and complete walls were begun by King Alfonso III and continued under the next two kings being completed around the middle of the 13th century. During the Age of Discovery, mostly in the 15th century, the harbor and its ship building industry produced the Caravel ships used by Prince Henry, the Navigator, who sailed from nearby Sagres. in his two trips around the world, thus helping to build Portugal's empire.



Hovallef, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, castle, left By 1642, the walls need to be restored and it was at that time that the castle in the south of Lagos was built. The large castle was pentagonal in shape with five large strongholds at each corner. Unfortunately, the 1755 earthquake produced a tsunami devastated much of the southern coast of Portugal that damaged much of the city and its defensive structures. As a result, the military and the civilian government moved further west along the coast to Tavira, which we will visit a later this week.

However, in the 1800's, Lagos had a surge in growth of both population and wealth, with fishing bringing in the majority of increased wealth to the city. By the late 1950's, the Portuguese government contributed to rebuilding the heritage of Lagos, including rebuilding the walls and castle, as well as other important historical buildings. But it was time to move on.

Silvas, a bit north and west, was our next destination. It has a famous Cathedral we wanted to visit! The city has a population of about 37,000 people and the city covers an area of 262 square miles. By comparison, the city of Columbia is about 141 square miles with a population of the 137,000.



muffinn from Worcester, UK, CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons, panoramic view.

Of course, both cities have larger populations in their metropolitan areas which include smaller cities and towns nearby. Silvas is of historical note because it served as the capital of the Kingdom of the Algarve from the 13th to the 20th centuries.

As with much of the coastal area, Silvas has been populated since Paleolithic times with a variety of nationalities. The river Arade runs through Silvas and was navigable in historical times. This link between an inland city and the coast allowed merchandise, produce, fish, etc. to be moved in either direction easily. It also fostered the invasion of various groups who claimed the area at different points in history. The Moors were the most recent invaders, controlling most of the coastal areas of Portugal for about 4 centuries but in some places losing control for a period and then regaining control. That is what happened in Silvas.

In 1189, The King of Portugal took over the city and expelled the Moors. The king then ordered the castle to be built for defense. But the King of Portugal lost the town once again to the Moors and it wasn't until 1242 that the town was taken back by Portugal. The city declined after that with Faro, which we will see later ascending in importance. We went to the cathedral first.



Romain D C, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, exterior. Bextrel, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, main altar.

The Cathedral used the grand mosque built during the time of Moorish rule of the city and converted it into the cathedral, combining mostly Gothic style with some Baroque elements. The 1755 earthquake damaged the



cathedral, especially the nave. Then it was repaired, some of the simpler Gothic elements on the upper façade were transformed using Rococo style. Then in the 1700's a bell tower and door on the south side were added. It is still considered to be the best example of Gothic design in the region. It is considered a national monument.

Many important people have been buried in the cathedral, including for a time King John II of Portugal but his remains were later moved to the Monastery of Batalha northwest of Lisbon. However, the slab of his tomb remains visible in the Silvas Cathedral. Other tombs include crusaders, explorers, bishops, and nobles.

Silvas is no longer a considered a cathedral, although most people refer to it as the Cathedral. In the mid-16th century as Silvas was declining, the seat of the bishop was transferred to the Faro Cathedral.

We also saw the old Roman bridge with three arches crossing the Arade River. From its name, you can guess the builders were the Romans when they populated the area, sometime between the 2nd and 5th centuries. It has three large arches spanning the river. Imagine a bridge lasting that long if it were built today!



Vitor Oliveira from Torres Vedras, PORTUGAL, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The Cruz de Portugal, shown left, is carved from white limestone, between the 1300's to the 1400's. The legend of the cross says it was donated to the city around 1499. It is about 36 inches tall and the carvings include Christ on the cross as well as a Pietà, in Gothic style. The cross has been moved several times to different locations in the city but has been in its current site in a garden since 1957.

After viewing the cross we went to visit the Castle of Sliva. M920416, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, right,
The picture, shown right, is of the castle at night illuminated for a medieval fair. The flags adorning it are not there at other times. But this picture does the best job of showing its size. It's believed that the first fortification or hill fort was built upon a around the 2nd century. Later the Moors built up the fortifications including the castle between the 700's and 1200's. It is considered to be one of the best examples of Arab fortifications in Portugal today.

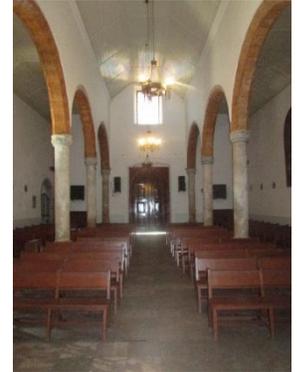


RHaworth, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons Alvor church, below left.



Next we headed south and back to the coast to Alvor. Our first stop was the parish church.

The Parish Church of Alvor, (Igreja do Divino Salvador, Matriz de Alvor) was constructed in the 1500's. The church has a small morabito or hermitage attached in one side chapel. The morabito is believed to be older than the church, possibly dating back to the Islamic period. Both buildings have state protections as Property of Public Interest.



Kolforn (Wikimedia), CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons,

Interior of the church, showing the three naves divided by arcades, right

The Parish church, for many of the inhabitants, it is the most important symbol of their city. The church is built in Manueline style. There are six different altars within as well as several side chapels. The church has been dedicated to the Devine Savior. On one altar there is an image of Christ. The image is considered to be of special significance to the community because it found washed up on the seashore by a local fisherman who placed it on the altar.

King Manuel I ordered the church to be built to honor his father, King John II, and memorialize his death in Alvor in 1495. The church was severely damaged in 1755 by the major earthquake that damaged so much of Portugal's buildings. The bell tower was ruined as a result . However, both the church and the bell tower were restored to their original state. In the 1700's some decorative tiles were added to the interior. In the 1970's, more renovations occurred with a particular focus on the various altars.



Paulo Juntas, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Castle of Alvor in background.

Celtic people may have been the first to inhabit the area during the Iron Age which was from 1200 B.C. to 500 B.C. There is evidence of a castro or hill fort from that time. Later the area was inhabited by Romans.

Alvor has been a municipality since at least 436 B.C. It was used during that era as a commercial port by the Carthaginians. But the Moors invaded in 716 and built the castle and protective defenses that at least are partly intact today.

The Moors and Portugues King played tug-of-war with the place in medieval times. The Moors held the city until 1189, when King Sancho I took control, helped by the crusaders. But in 1191, the Moors regained control and ran the city until 1250 by the Portuguese. The city was rebuilt around 1300 including its defenses and did its main function of protecting the coast against privateers until the 1755 earthquake. The earthquake did considerable damage to the city. Reportedly only one person died as a result of the earthquake but it was responsible for the destruction of homes, the fort, and the watch tower. Before we left, we took a nature walk along the Ria de Alvor boardwalk and then walked along the beautiful sandy seashore before heading out to our next destination a bit inland, Loulé.

Around 200 BC after the Second Punic War, the Romans occupied the area. One of the interesting site at Loulé are the ruins of a Roman settlement known as Cerro da Vila, which are being excavated.

xlibber, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, ruins below.



The Romans introduced practices such as caning food for trade, agricultural practices to enhance farming, and mining for cooper and iron.

Later, around the 400's AD, other invaders such as the Suebi, and Vandals (both Germanic tribes) and after that the Visigoths ruined the remains of the previous settlement. Typically, each new invading group incorporated some portion of the previous invaders' strengths and/or buildings into the newcomers' lives. In the 700's the moors invaded and built a small fortification in Loulé.

Our first stop was at the mother church of Loulé, St. Clemens Church. The bell tower of the church was originally the minaret of a former mosque. The bell tower is one of the few remaining Islamic buildings left in Portugal. Across the street is an old Moorish cemetery.



St. Clemente's or officially Igreja Matriz de São Clemente, is the oldest church in the city. It was built late 1200's where the mosque had been. It is Gothic in design. Later in the 1500's several side chapels were added to the church.

Vitor Oliveira from Torres Vedras, PORTUGAL, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, St. Clements, left and St. Francis below right.

Igreja de São Francisco (St. Francis church) was our next stop. It was built on the edge of the town by the Third order of the St. Francis in the early 1700's. It was built on the former site of a Chapel dedicated to St. Sebastian which had belonged to the Santiago Order. It became a parish church in the late 1800's. It is relatively simple in design but has an interesting bell tower for three bells, which unfortunately aren't visible in the picture. It also has a Baroque gilded altar and blue and white tiles decorating the interior. One interesting feature is a pelican-shaped tabernacle which came from St. Anthony's Convent, possibly due to the convents and monasteries being closed by the government around that time. There are also interesting paintings of both St. Francis and St. Sabastian. Various renovations over the years have produced a church with a variety of architectural styles, from Baroque to a neo-Manueline.



Next, we went to see the old Castle walls You may wonder about all the castles but historically there were so many invasions along the coastal region, the city or castles walls were the main defensive protection for these places. The Castle was part of the Moorish fortifications but became part of Portugal in 1249. At that time the king, supported by a Knight and Master of the Order of Santiago took possession of the Castle. Unfortunately, the economy of Loulé suffered since a main part of their income had been coming from trading with African and Andalusia. By the late 1300's, Loulé was practically abandoned.

But the King bestowed special privileges on the village so it could expand. Also, there was a threat of a Spanish invasion, so the Portuguese king ordered the tower by the port repaired and the walls along the south raised.

Glen Bowman from Newcastle, England, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, walls, left.



Loulé, along with the rest of the Algarve, became important as an exporter of items such as wine, fruit, olive oil, handicrafts, and fish. This was supported by the Portuguese acquisitions around the world. The exporting of goods allowed Loulé to recover from its past

stagnation. New infrastructure was built, the city walls were once again rebuilt, and in 1471, the old castle was transformed into the first hospital in the Algarve. The village began to grow until the end of the 1500's when Portugal was under Spanish control. The defenses had crumbled and piracy was a real threat to the village.

But after Portugal again became an independent country, in the 1700's the whole country became more prosperous due to infusions of Brazilian gold. But then the 1755 earthquake happened and much of the city was destroyed. But once again, the city was rebuilt and then grew with the infusion of merchants.

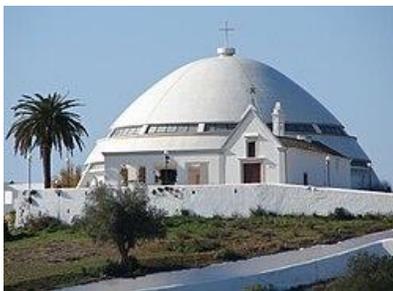
The early 1800's were politically and economically unstable due to the Napoleonic Wars and the ending of the monarchy. The new government ordered national treasures sold and the convents and churches also considered public property to be closed. In the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Piety - Sovereign Mother, the Convent of Espírito Santo became the Municipal Hall and the church converted into a theater.



A new roadway was created by removing the hermitage of Carmo and removing part of the city wall, opening up the space for development. One of the new buildings was the marketplace of Loulé, shown left. Jose A., CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

The development of new transportation, such as railways and new roads helped Loulé grow along with small industrialization of artisanal factories which brought more people to the city.

What we were most interested in seeing in Loulé was the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Piety - Sovereign



Mother (Portuguese:Nossa Senhora da Piedade) is shown left. No machine-readable author provided. Valternet assumed (based on copyright claims)., CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, shrine left. The shrine is often called more simply, The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Piety or sometimes even just Sovereign Mother. It is the largest Marian shrine south of Fatima and considered among the most



significant ones in Portugal. Kolforn (Wikimedia), CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, original shrine, right.

In 1553, the shrine/ hermitage, shown right, was built on a hill in Loulé. It was built at a crossroads

from Roman times that linked three cities, which made it a great location for pilgrims. It appears in the records of the Order of Santiago who probably built the shrine, but by the end of 1500's was given to Loulé's city government to manage. The city has since presented an annual festival on Easter Monday every year to the honor Our Lady of Piety. In the mid-1900's the modernistic temple was added to the hermitage site.

Within the original shrine is a wooden sculpture of Our Lady of Piety, Mary holding the body of Jesus after he was removed from the cross.

Manuel Vieira, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, sculpture being carried in procession, left. The sculpture is visited by pilgrims in search of healing and for solutions for other needs. The crowned sculpture which is about 36' high and 16" wide is carried in Procession during the Easter Monday festival. Thousands come to the festival every year.



After visiting the shrine, we headed to Faro, back at the coast. Faro is at the most southern point in Portugal. It is a city with a historic walled- historic city surrounded by newer modern buildings. It is also the gateway to a lovely nature park called the Ria Formosa and lovely pristine beaches on three sandbar

islands. The city Faro has a population of about 46,000 thousand people but the municipality has around 70,000.

Humans were around the Faro area in prehistoric times since the Paleolithic age. Faro was known to have had both Phoenician (4th century BC) and Roman settlements (2^d to 8th centuries AD), then various other groups settled there and was later a port city for the Moors (700—1200 AD).

It became part of Portugal in 1249 when the area was taken from the Moors. In the 1300's, the Jewish population of the city began increasing. Samuel Gacon printed the Torah in Hebrew; it was the first book printed in Portugal. The Jewish population had many merchants and artisans who made significant contributions to the city's economy. Unfortunately, this contribution was negated when King Manuel I decided to expel all of the Jews from Portugal who would not convert to Christianity. Manuel I also contributed, however, to the city by constructing a hospital and the Church of Espírito Santo and some other city buildings. It achieved city status in 1540. Since the 1755 earthquake, it has been the administrative capital of the Algarve region of Portugal. While most of the coastline of Portugal was devastated by a Tsunami during the earthquake, Faro was not as severely damaged. The Ria Formosa lagoon, with its sandy banks, which sits in front of the city absorbed the onrushing water and protected the city. Jose A., CC BY 4.0, via



Wikimedia Commons, Lagoon area, left. But Faro did

have some damage. The Convent of San Francisco and the Convent of Santa Clara, the Episcopal Palace, city walls, castle towers and various other buildings such as the barracks and custom houses were damaged. But these have been restored.



First we went to the cathedral, the Church of Santa Maria of Faro. It is in the old town area of the city. Nol Aders, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left. The church was begun in 1251 in Gothic style, just two years since Portugal had reclaimed the area from the Moors. The Cathedral is believed to be built on the site formerly held an early Christian basilica built between 50-300 AD and which the Moors had converted to a Mosque. While the church

has been renovated and enlarged over the years, there are still some elements of the original building, such as the bell tower and two chapels of the cross still intact. It became a Cathedral in the 1300's. In 1596, during an invasion of Faro by the British, the cathedral was ransacked and set on fire. Only the bell tower façade, the walls of the nave, and chapels in the sanctuary remained. It was rebuilt then in the early 1600's in Mannerist style.

Mozzihh, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, organ, below, left.



When it was being rebuilt, the interior was adorned with several gilded carvings and ornate the organ, shown at left. Although the earthquake caused some damage to the building which was repaired, no other major changes have been made since then. Therefore, the interior has some of the most valuable art works of the 17th and 18th centuries in the region. On the main altar altarpiece is covered in gilded carvings and lovely tilework in some chapels. After the earthquake, it became the seat of the Bishop. We were able to attend Mass while we were visiting.

Till Niermann, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior of Cathedral chapel, left.

Since we were at the main Cathedral Square we went to see the Episcopal Palace and the Episcopal Seminary of St. Joseph. The Episcopal Palace is a two-floor building whose construction period was between the late 16th early 17th century; it remains the Bishop's official residence. It was rebuilt and extended after the 1755's earthquake so it now occupies the whole city block.



Some features of the Episcopal Palace are remarkable such as the design, the scissor roof and entryway. Inside the building, the hall and staircase are lined with 18th century tiles.



Marc Ryckaert, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Some features of the Episcopal Palace are remarkable such as the design, the scissor roof and entryway. Inside the building, the hall and staircase are lined with 18th century tiles. The building is in combined rococo and neoclassic style. The building was begun in 1787. Another interesting feature is that it used the city walls as part of the foundation.

There are two additions to the building. One on the north side has extravagant stonework, while the one on the south side was built later to complete the symmetry of the building for Episcopal School, and it still serves that purpose. This one minute, 40 second video gives a great picture of the interior of the Bishop's Palace.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/VzYqflVf3A>

Bextrel, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, city walls, above right



Since we were in the old town section, it was not surprising to see some of the ancient defensive walls which once surrounded the city but are now well within the city's boundaries. We saw them in several different places as we walked around.

Then we headed to another church, the Igreja do Carmo, considered to be one of the most important churches historically in the region. It was built beginning in 1713 by the Bishop of Silva inside the old walls of the city. The church was built for the Third Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Then in 1747 the original façade and main body of the church were removed, a larger build was erected.



Kjell Vikanes, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, façade left.

Manuelvbotelho, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior

It took until 1755 to complete the main church while the towers were completed later; one in 1878 and the other. The work continued for some time, with the last floor being completed in 1755. The east tower was



finished in the early 1800's and the west tower in 1878. Nine bronze bells were placed in the west tower. The interior is Baroque in style to match the exterior façade. Inside are beautifully carved altars. It has a single nave and four chapels on the sides.

The central front doors are bordered by Corinthian columns. The niches on either side of the main entrance contain statues; one holds St. Teresa and the other features Saint Elias. Next to the church is the Chapel of Bones from 1816.



The Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones) is behind the church. It contains over 1000 skeletons which line the walls and ceilings. They are placed in geometric designs. A second smaller room uses the bones and skulls of Monks as decoration. The chapel was built because the cemetery had to be exhumed in order to have room for new burials. The Monks have a separate; they all served in the

Carmel order in the city.

Directly behind the chapel is a creche and nursery for the church and children laughing and playing could be heard as we explored the Capela dos Ossos. Next we stopped at Tavira, as we headed back toward Spain. The place now known as Tavira has been inhabited since about 1,000 BC.



Tavira medieval Bridge. Digitalsignal, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons
 By the 8th century BC, the Phoenicians had settled there; they built an urban center and protected it with massive stone walls. They were there for at least two centuries and then moved, perhaps due to changes in the landscape due to erosion of the coastline. The Romans came next, building at Tavira but after the fallen of that empire, it too disappeared.

By the time the Moors arrived, not much was left of the previous civilization's buildings. But they built up a city also between the 700's to the 1200's and this time left behind buildings, agricultural sites and other aspects of Moorish culture that can still be seen today at Tavira. The medieval bridge in the city, pictured above, was probably built by the Moors in the 12th century. In 1242, the city was reclaimed by Portugal and most of the Moors were killed. The few Moors left were held in a tiny section of the city.

Like most of the area, Tavira's buildings were mostly destroyed during the 1755 earthquake and resulting tsunami. Rebuilding occurred and the city has some lovely 18th century buildings and 37 churches! The picture below was taken from the castle. The city is divided by the River Gilão; a bridge links the two parts. While we can't visit all 37 churches, we picked one in the city center to explore.

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El Pantera, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left.



The Igreja da Misericórdia de

Tavira is in the center of the old town with both bell and clock towers. It was built between 1541 and 1551. It is Renaissance in style and considered to be one of the nest examples of



that style in the region. cordeiro [2], CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, main door, above center. Concierge.2C, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, altar, right and wall tiles below.



The 14 tile panels around the internal walls represent the seven-corporal works of mercy and the seven-spiritual works of mercy.

Then it was time to head to Seville, Spain and out flight home. Seville is the largest city in Ansalusia and the provincke of Seville. It is located



onthe lower portion og of the Guadalquivir River. The river is navigable to the Mediterranean so Seville has a port, despite being inland. Jebulon, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons, Seville cityscape, above right.. The city has a



population of about 69,000 while the whole metropolitan area contains 1,500,000 people. It was founded by the Romans during their heyday but was taken by the Moors in 711. It became part of Spain in 1248. Some remnants of the Roman era can still be seen, such as a portion of an aqueduct.



Our first stop was at the Cathedral of Saint Mary seen from from Constitución Avenue Thomas Weyrauch Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, above right. The Giralda, originally built by the Almohads as a minaret to the Great Mosque of Seville, is now the bell tower of the cathedral.

Emilio J. Rodríguez Posada, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, bell tower, left.

The Seville Cathedral, AKA St. Mary's is the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. It incorporates part of a Mosque and took 106 years to build, finishing in 1506. It has many important tombs including one of the two believed to be Christopher Columbus. It also has the



largest altarpiece in Spain! We went to Mass here.

Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, altar, right

We didn't have a lot of time in Seville because we had a flight to catch but there was another church we wanted to visit in particular.

The Church of Santa María la Blanca was finished in 1665. The Brotherhood of the Rosary of Our Lady of the Snows has its headquarters in this church.



Anual, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Santa Maria la Blanca, facade. José Luis Filpo Cabana, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, ceiling plasterwork, right.

The church is decorated with plasterwork in intricate designs and some murals, including one of the Last Supper by Murillo. The main altarpiece of the Virgin of the Snows is a bench carved in baroque style. There is a silver Tabernacle with statues of Sts. Peter and Paul on either side.



CarlosVdeHabsburgo, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left Virgin of the Snows, below left.

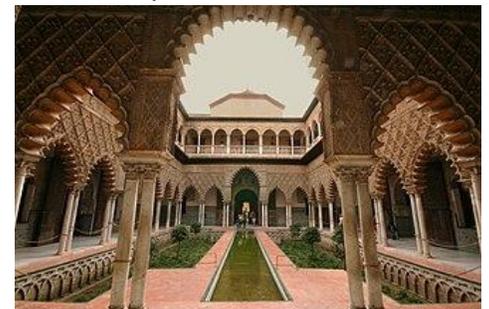
The Virgin of the Snows sculpture is from the 1800's and owned by the Brotherhood since 1864. Several other Brotherhoods are also headquartered in the church. The Brotherhood of Penitence of the Church of San Isidoro also has the Virgin of the Snows as its patron saint.



There was one more stop to be made before we flew home, the famous Palace of the Alcazar, including the gardens shown right.

Cat from Sevilla, Spain, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Over the years the Gardens and Palace have been redesigned, with the last major redesign in the 1600's. The Salón de Embajadores in the Alcazar Palace, left.



Jl FilpoCC, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons. The site is just too beautiful to miss! The palace has been used for several movies and you may recognize it from the Game of Thrones!

Unfortunately, we weren't able to make it all the way to Granada because of the ice and snow during the first two weeks of our walk this spring.

Thank you for participating!

Your Tour Director,
Kathy Scharer