



Living in Jerez de la Frontera

Welcome to Jerez de la Frontera

Jerez is one of the most popular places for Sage College families to live—especially for those who want to be close to the school. It's a beautiful, historic city known for its sherry, horses, motorbikes races and flamenco, but also has everything a modern family needs: great services, accessible transport, parks, and a lively cultural scene.

From elegant plazas to modern shopping areas, Jerez offers a balance of Spanish tradition and everyday convenience.

Parent Tips & Real-Life Insights

What it's really like to live in Jerez with a family

Relocating your family is a huge leap — and while Jerez has so much to offer, like any move, it comes with a learning curve. Here's a realistic picture of what to expect, and what parents have shared about **living in Jerez while having children at Sage College**.

The Pace of life is slower — and that's (mostly) a good thing

Life in Jerez runs on a **slower, more relaxed rhythm** than many newcomers are used to—especially those arriving from the UK, northern Europe, or big cities. Shops close for siesta, things don't always run on time, and admin can take a few attempts.

But you quickly learn to **lean into the lifestyle**: late dinners, long weekends, and time outdoors with the kids. It's not about racing around—it's about enjoying the day.

💬 "We went from rushing all the time to sitting in the sun after school with a coffee while the kids played. It felt strange at first... now we love it."



It's Sunny—a lot

With around **300 days of sunshine a year**, Jerez is built for outdoor living. Families spend a lot of time in parks, at the lake, on terraces, or at the beach on weekends. Kids play outside in the evening, even after dinner.

Top tip: Pack hats, sunscreen, and water bottles in school bags. And don't be surprised if your winter coat stays in the closet most of the year.

Making friends can take time—but it happens

Sage College has an international feel, but most students and families are **Spanish or bicultural** (one Spanish parent, one foreign). Social circles sometimes overlap with school years or family ties, so it can take a little while to get into the mix.

That said, **once you connect with a few parents**, you'll find people warm, welcoming, and generous. **WhatsApp groups** are widely used to coordinate everything from birthday parties to lost water bottles.

👉 At **Sage College**, though, the **school gate is often a great place to meet new families**, especially in the younger year groups. Many friendships start there—or at one of the **many birthday parties** that get organised, particularly in Primary.

School Commutes are easy (or Bussed)

Most Sage families live **within 5–15 minutes of the school**, and many in the **Campo de Golf / Área Sur** area walk daily. Parking is usually fine around school, though it gets busier on rainy days.

There is a **Sage College school bus service** with various routes—check the **school website** for the latest details and stops.



Sundays are sacred (and very, very closed)

Unlike many other countries, **almost all shops in Jerez are closed on Sundays**, including supermarkets, pharmacies, and shopping malls. Plan ahead, and embrace it: Sunday is truly a **family day**.

Locals head to the lake, the beach, a long lunch with family—or simply relax at home. You'll quickly grow to love the quiet rhythm of it.

Dinnertime is later, bedtime is flexible

Most Spanish families eat dinner between 8–10 p.m., and it's not unusual to see toddlers out at 10:30 in summer. That said, you don't need to follow the same schedule—**do what works for your family**, but know that playdates and kids' parties often start at 6 p.m.

The Beach is (not always) a day trip away

Even though Jerez isn't on the coast, you're **15–20 minutes from Rota, El Puerto, and Costa Ballena**, making afternoons and weekend beach trips an easy habit. Many families also book holiday homes in Chiclana or Conil for longer stays.

It grows on You

Jerez might not be love at first sight for everyone—especially if you're used to modern cities or beachfront living. But give it time. The city has a **warm, lived-in charm** and a **deep community feel**. The food is great, the lifestyle is healthy, and **kids thrive**.

 “We thought we were just coming for a year... now it's been four. Jerez gives our kids freedom and us peace of mind.”

 **School commute time:** Sage College is located within the city, so commutes from most areas **take 5–15 minutes by car**.



Popular neighborhoods in Jerez

Jerez offers a mix of traditional Spanish charm and modern family living. Whether you want to be close to the city centre, have a bit more space, or live near parks and amenities, there's a neighborhood to suit every family's needs.

Here are some of the **most popular areas for Sage College families**:

Montealto

One of the most popular residential areas for families.

✓ Relatively close to Sage College

 Several bilingual nurseries and small parks nearby

 Walking distance to supermarkets and local shops

 Easy parking and quiet residential streets

 Mainly low-rise apartment blocks and terraced homes

 “Feels very community-focused. You see other Sage families around regularly.”

Campo de Golf / Área Sur

A spacious and modern residential area **directly in front of Sage College**, this is one of the most convenient places for families at the school to live.

 Large residential developments, many with private garages and communal gardens

 Families walk to school in minutes—no car needed!

 Borders the **Sherry Golf Course** and **Laguna de Torrox**, a beautiful lake with a walking/cycling path perfect for **dog walks, scooters, or roller skates**

 Excellent shopping: **Carrefour, Mercadona, Lidl** all nearby

 Very close to the **public & private hospital** and **local health centre**

 Very popular with Sage families—expect to see familiar faces on school runs and around the lake

 “We walk to school every day, and the lake is our go-to for weekend strolls. It's a great area with everything we need.”



El Altillo

A quieter, more upscale neighborhood just a 10-15 minutes drive from school.

-  Spacious homes with gardens and gated communities
-  Popular for dog-walking, jogging, and quiet family life
-  Private transport recommended—less central
-  Small shopping center and sports clubs nearby

City Centre (Centro Histórico)

Live in the heart of the action with all the charm of Jerez at your doorstep.

-  Beautiful plazas, flamenco venues, tapas bars
-  Walking access to everything
-  Mostly apartments in traditional Spanish buildings
-  Street parking can be difficult, but plenty of public transport
-  “Great if you want culture and city living—everything’s walkable.”

Hipercor / Carrefour Norte Area

Convenient and well-connected.

-  Apartment blocks and newer developments
-  Close to big supermarkets (Hipercor, Carrefour), gym, and cafés, but not close to the school and the town centre.
-  Good public transport links
-  Often chosen by families who want everything close by

Chapín

Family-friendly with sports facilities and parks.

-  Near stadium and municipal sports complex
-  Large green areas and play parks
-  Mix of apartments and townhouses
-  Close to several schools and activities

Shops, Services & Essentials in Jerez

Real recommendations and go-to places for settling in

Luz Shopping – Outdoor Retail Park

-  Google Maps



Luz Shopping is Jerez's **main retail destination**, designed as a spacious, American-style outdoor shopping park. It's especially convenient for furniture, sports gear, fashion, and kids' items.

 IKEA Jerez – full showroom, marketplace, and restaurant

 Conforama – sofas, beds, and home décor

 Decathlon – sports clothing and equipment (great for school PE kits!)

 Juguettos – popular toy store with crafts, board games, and birthday gifts

 Family tip: There are cafés, smoothie stands, and a large outdoor play area for kids to burn off steam between errands.

Área Sur Shopping Centre

 Google Maps

Directly next to Luz Shopping, Área Sur is an **indoor mall** with restaurants, high-street brands, and a cinema.

 Fashion shops: Zara, Springfield, Stradivarius, Bershka, Pull & Bear, Primark all under one roof.

 Baby and kids shops: Mayoral, Zippy, Prenatal

 Food court with Burger King, 100 Montaditos, tapas, ice cream, and more

 **Cines Yelmo** – shows some films in English (VOSE – versión original subtitulada en español)

 This is the closest mall to Sage College — less than 5 mins away by car or even walkable from the school for many families.

Supermarkets (with useful locations)

You'll find supermarkets across Jerez, but these are especially convenient for Sage families:

- **Carrefour Jerez Sur** –  Av. de Europa, s/n, 11405

Located in Área Sur; ideal for weekly shops or back-to-school supplies. Huge selection. **Cine UGC Cine ciudad** (with English versions of films) in the facilities.

- **Mercadona (Laguna de Torrox area)** –  Calle Holanda, 11408

Newly opened, clean, modern, and walking distance for many families in the Campo de Golf area.

- **Hipercor El Corte Inglés** –  Av. Voltaire, 11405

Slightly more premium supermarket with international products, gourmet deli, and high-end brands.



Home & Furniture

- **IKEA Jerez** – 📍 Luz Shopping | ikea.com/es

Full showroom with restaurant and kids' area. Delivery available.

- **Conforama** – 📍 Av. de Europa, 2 | ☎️ 956 302 822

Stylish and affordable for furniture and homeware.

- **Leroy Merlin** – 📍 Luz Shopping | ☎️ 956 345 826

Great for light fittings, DIY, paint, outdoor furniture, and storage hacks.

Party Supplies, Toys & Stationery

- **Party Fiesta (Luz Shopping)** – decorations, helium balloons, costumes

- **Juguettos** – 📍 Luz Shopping | ☎️ 956 309 049

Toys, games, LEGO, arts & crafts

- **Ale-Hop (Área Sur)** – quirky gifts, party favours, and school bits

- **Multiprecios Bazar** – dotted all over Jerez, great for quick stationery, plastic tubs, or last-minute themed party items

Deliveries, Couriers & Admin

- **Correos (Main Post Office)** – 📍 Av. Alcalde Álvaro Domecq, 11402

Handles parcels, letters, ID verification, and PO box services. There is also a Correos Office in Carrefour Sur facilities.

- **SEUR / MRW Courier Points** – Located across the city, including near Área Sur

Used for Amazon and other online orders

- **Copistería Romeral** – 📍 Av. Puertas del Sur, 1

Helpful for printing, document scans, NIE copies, and school paperwork

Fresh Food Markets

- **Mercado Central de Abastos** – 📍 Pl. de Abastos, 11403

Open Monday to Saturday, 9–2. Great local vibe and everything from fish and veg to spices and olives. Stall owners are very friendly—don't worry if your Spanish isn't perfect!

- **La Panacea:** ecological market and natural shop placed in Calle Veracruz, 4

- **La Vega Organic Market (monthly)** – Usually held near Plaza del Arenal. Features organic and handmade products, eco-goods, natural soaps, and produce. Check local event listings for next date.



Playgrounds, Parks & Kids' Activities in Jerez

Places to burn energy, meet other families, and explore the outdoors. Whether your kids love climbing frames, roller skating, bouncing off the walls (literally!), or just feeding ducks, Jerez has plenty of green spaces and family-friendly venues to enjoy the sunshine—or escape the heat.

Local Playgrounds & Outdoor Spaces

- **Laguna de Torrox** –  Next to Campo de Golf area

A local favourite! This large lake is surrounded by a safe walking/cycling/skating loop. You'll often find Sage families walking dogs, teaching kids to ride bikes, or meeting for a lap after school.

- **Parque del Retiro** –  Av. Fernando Portillo

Spacious with large open lawns, basketball court, and several climbing frames. Ideal for weekend meetups.

- **Parque González Hontoria** –  Av. Alcalde Álvaro Domecq

A huge, tree-filled park right in the city. It hosts the Feria del Caballo in May, but year-round it's perfect for picnics, games of football, and letting kids roam. Includes a permanent children's playground.

- **Ciudad de los Niños** –  Av. de la Universidad, s/n

One of the biggest outdoor family areas in Jerez! Features pedal karts, , slides, water fountains, a café, and loads of green space. Entry is free; some activities require a small fee. Ideal for all ages. Very popular with local families.

- - Ctra. Cortes – Cuartillos , Desvío El Torno, Km.2 11593 – Jerez de la Frontera. One of the biggest outdoor family areas in Jerez! Features pedal karts, , slides, water fountains, a café, and loads of green space. Entry is free; some activities require a small fee. Ideal for all ages. Very popular with local families.

- **Rancho Cortesano** –  Ctra. Cortes – Cuartillos , Desvío El Torno, Km.2 11593 <https://ranchocortesano.net/>

One of the most interesting family activity centers in Jerez! Not only can you visit a real hive in a beekeeper outfit, but also you can harvest your own fruit, carve Halloween pumpkins or make candles. Delicious vegetarian breakfast and meals are served in a beautiful and countryside environment..



Indoor Soft Play & Activity Centres

Perfect for birthday parties, hot summer afternoons, or rainy winter days.

- **Costa Jump** – 📍 Luz Shopping | costajump.es

Trampoline park with jump zones, foam pits, obstacle courses, and toddler play area. Offers party packages. Fun for older kids too!

- **Royal Kids** – 📍 Luz Shopping

Indoor play centre with a multi-level soft play frame, and ball pits. Great for under 10s. Café area for adults. Shoes off!

- **Astro Kids** – Instagram: @astrokidsjerez

Smaller but friendly indoor playground with themed zones, role play areas, and safe toddler space. They host weekly events and music sessions too.

Bowling & Arcade Fun

- **Bowling Center Jerez**– 📍 Av. de Europa, next to Carrefour

12-lane bowling alley, arcade games, café and snack bar. Often has family discounts. Good for older kids and tweens.

- **Bowling Luz Shopping** – 📍 Inside Luz Shopping complex

Compact bowling alley with bright lighting, pool tables, and games—convenient if you're already shopping nearby.

Swimming & Water Fun

- **Piscina Cubierta Jerez (Indoor Pool)** – 📍 Calle de la Serrana, s/n

Public indoor swimming pool with lessons, free swim times, and affordable rates. Great for rainy days or winter exercise.

- **Piscina cubierta Manuel Mestre** – 📍 Calle Arquitecto Hernández Rubio.
Public indoor swimming pool very close to the school, with lessons, free swim times, and affordable rates. Great for rainy days or winter exercise.

- **Aqualand Bahía de Cádiz** – 📍 El Puerto de Santa María (15–20 mins away)

The nearest waterpark! Ideal for summer fun with younger and older children—slides, splash zones, and family-friendly food stalls.



Horse Riding & Equestrian Activities

- **Yeguada La Cartuja** – 📍 Carretera Medina Sidonia Km 6.5

Historic Andalusian stud farm offering weekly shows and riding experiences. Great for day trips and visitors.

- **Centro Ecuestre Jerez** – 📍 Camino de Espera

Offers riding lessons and summer camps for children

Festivals & Community Life in Jerez

Where culture, tradition, and family fun come together

Jerez is rich in culture and community spirit. It's famous across Spain for its **flamenco, horses, and sherry**, but for families living here, it also offers a year-round calendar of vibrant festivals and local events—many of which are perfect for all ages.

Whether you're parading with the Three Kings, dancing at the Feria, or watching Semana Santa processions go by, Jerez invites everyone to join in.

Feria del Caballo (May)

The most famous festival in Jerez and a must-experience for all newcomers.

- Held in **Parque González Hontoria**, right in the city
- Expect **horses, carriages, flamenco, music, and food tents** (casetas)
- Many families dress in traditional clothes—children included!
- **Fairground rides**, mini petting zoos, and kids' zones make it family-friendly

🎉 Many Sage families attend together—ask in the WhatsApp groups if anyone's going!

Carnival (February/March)

A festive lead-up to Lent, celebrated with costumes, music, and comedy.

- Jerez has smaller parades and local shows
- **Cádiz Carnival**, just 40 minutes away, is one of the biggest in Spain
- Kids often dress up for school that week—Sage College joins in the fun!



✝ **Semana Santa (Holy Week – March/April)**

A beautiful and solemn week of Easter processions, traditional dress, and music.

- Jerez's processions pass through the historic centre with candles, music, and statues
- Children are welcome as spectators (though crowds can be large at times)
- Many families enjoy watching an early-evening procession followed by dinner out

🎁 **Three Kings Parade (5 January)**

The most magical night of the year for Spanish children!

- Huge parade through Jerez with floats, costumes, and sweets thrown to the crowd
- Many Sage families attend together; arrive early to get a good viewing spot
- Children wake up on **6 January** to gifts from the Reyes Magos

🎁 This is the main gift-giving day in Spain, more important than Christmas morning for many local families.

🌟 **San Juan (23 June)**

Celebrated with **bonfires on the beach**, particularly in nearby coastal towns like El Puerto and Rota. Families often head out for an evening picnic and watch locals jump over the flames to “burn away the bad.”

🎵 **Other Local Events**

- **Vendimia (Grape Harvest Festival)** – September

Celebrates Jerez's wine heritage with parades, grape-stomping, and cultural events.

- **Zambombas (December)** – Traditional flamenco-style Christmas parties held in plazas and patios around the city. Very festive and social, often involving singing and dancing in the streets.



Transport & Getting Around in Jerez

Easy ways to navigate the city and beyond

One of the great things about living in Jerez is that it's **compact, well-connected**, and easy to navigate whether you have a car or not. School runs are quick, shops are nearby, and the city links easily to the coast, Cádiz, and even Seville for day trips.

Getting Around by Car

- **Driving is the most common option** for Sage families—most residential areas are within 5–15 minutes of the school.
 - Parking is generally free in residential areas like **Campo de Golf, Montealto, and El Altillo**.
 - In the city centre, you may find **blue zones (pay by the hour)** or underground car parks.
 - Roads are well maintained and easy to navigate. A satnav or Google Maps is helpful for smaller side streets.
-  You'll get to know roundabouts quickly—Jerez has a lot of them!

Walking & Cycling

- Many families **walk or cycle** to Sage College from nearby areas like **Campo de Golf, Laguna de Torrox, or parts of Montealto**.
- The **footpath around the lake** is ideal for morning scooters, pushchairs, or bike rides to school.
- **Cycle lanes** are developing but still limited—stick to parks and quieter streets with younger children.

Taxis & Ride Services

- Taxis are easy to find and reasonably priced.
- You can call one via **Radio Taxi Jerez** –  956 344 444
- Ride-hailing apps like **Free Now** work in some areas, but traditional taxis are more reliable.
- Many Sage families use taxis for airport transfers or evenings out.



Public Buses

- Jerez has a **local city bus network** that connects major neighborhoods, shopping areas, and the city centre.
- Timetables are available online or at major bus stops, though services can be infrequent in less central areas.
- For older students or teens, buses can be a good way to travel independently to activities or into town.

Trains & Regional Travel

- Jerez Train Station (Estación de Jerez) connects to Cádiz, El Puerto, Seville, and beyond.
 - o Seville: ~1 hour
 - o Cádiz: ~45 minutes
- Local commuter trains are reliable and comfortable, with discounts for kids and families.



Great for day trips or beach weekends without needing to drive.

Jerez Airport

- **Aeropuerto de Jerez (XRY)** is small, friendly, and just **15–20 minutes** from most areas of the city.
- Offers regular flights to **Madrid, Barcelona, London, Frankfurt**, and more—especially in peak seasons.
- Easy parking and short security queues make it perfect for weekend getaways.



Health, Safety & Local Info in Jerez

Key places and services to support your family's well-being

Jerez offers a full range of **public and private healthcare options**, plus English-speaking professionals and modern medical facilities. Here's a trusted list of **doctors, hospitals, dentists, and emergency contacts** recommended by local families.



Public Hospitals

Hospital Universitario de Jerez

📍 Calle Bruselas, s/n | ☎ 956 03 21 00

The main public hospital serving Jerez and the surrounding area.

- Full emergency department (Urgencias)
- Specialties include pediatrics, maternity, surgery, and orthopedics
- Free for those with a Spanish health card (tarjeta sanitaria)

🕒 Located very close to **Área Sur** and **Campo de Golf** — walkable or a 5-minute drive from Sage College.

Private Hospitals & Clinics

Clínica Beiman Jerez

📍 Av. Puerta del Sur, 9 | ☎ 856 10 20 00 | beiman.es

Modern private clinic with orthopedics, pediatrics, physio, gynecology, and lab tests. Some English spoken. Good for specialist appointments and quick diagnostics.

Hospital HLA Jerez Puerta del Sur

📍 Av. Puerta del Sur, 4 | ☎ 956 35 73 00 | grupohla.com

Full-service private hospital with a 24/7 emergency department. Works with most major Spanish and international insurers. Some reception and admin staff speak English.

English-Speaking Doctors

Dr. Stuart Scott (General Practitioner)

📍 Consults at Clínica Beiman & privately

UK-qualified GP with years of experience treating expat families in Jerez and the Costa de la Luz. Appointments by arrangement. Highly recommended in local forums.

Centro Médico Sermecon

📍 Calle Adriático, 1 | ☎ 956 14 48 34

Private multi-specialty clinic. Ask for English-speaking staff when booking. Offers paediatrics, dermatology, ENT, and adult medicine.



Dentists

Clínica Dental Plaza del Caballo (Dr. Pedro Martín)

 Av. Alcalde Álvaro Domecq, 13 |  956 30 70 85

English spoken. Friendly and calm with children. Offers checkups, orthodontics, and emergency care.

Clínica Dental Dr. Rafael Benítez

 Calle Pizarro, 7 |  956 30 04 20

Recommended by several expat families for his gentle approach and experience with nervous patients.

Vets & Pet Care

Clínica Veterinaria Sur

 Av. Puerta del Sur, 3 |  956 30 34 98

Caring, friendly team with some English. Great for routine vaccinations, pet passports, and emergencies.

Hospital Veterinario Jerez

 Carretera Cortes, Km 1.5 |  956 34 84 68

24-hour vet hospital. Excellent emergency and surgical care. English spoken.

Service	Number	Notes
Emergency Services (Fire, Police, Ambulance)	112	Free from any phone. English-speaking operators available.
Medical Emergencies Only	061	Andalusian ambulance service. Use for urgent but non-life-threatening help.
Local Police (Jerez)	092	For minor issues like traffic, noise complaints
Guardia Civil	062	For rural or regional matters