

Welcome to Madrid

The Palacio de las Cortes Españolas, Spain's parliament, in the Plaza de las Cortes, was built on the site of the former convent of Espíritu Santo. No longer occupied by the monks, it was used as the headquarters for the Congress between 1834 and 1841, before which time the Congress had no fixed address. The tender put out for the construction of the current building was awarded to the architect Narciso Pascual y Colomer, and construction work was finished in 1850.

On the main façade, a flight of stairs climbs up to the neoclassical portico. It features six imposing fluted Corinthian columns which support the triangular pediment, decorated with reliefs by Ponciano Ponzano. The symbolic lions flanking the entrance are by the same sculptor and were cast using the iron from cannons captured during the Spanish-Moroccan War. Underneath the pediment is the engraved bronze main door, which is only opened on special occasions.

The many rooms of the building, which was built on a symmetrical ground plan, include the well-known assembly hall (salón de sesiones), the library and the conference hall, better known as the salón de los pasos perdidos, (the hall of lost steps). Valuable portraits, tapestries and furniture decorate the headquarters of the Spanish parliament, which has undergone various extensions in recent decades to connect it to the adjoining buildings. To organize a group guided tour, contact (+34) 91 390 65 25, (+34) 91 390 65 26 or guias.congreso@sgral.congreso.es

What does this guided visit include?

After entering through Puerta de los Leones, and from the main Vestibule, known as Vestíbulo de Isabel II, you will go through the Salón de los Pasos Perdidos, the Escritorio del Reloj and Escritorio de la Constitución arriving to Hemiciclo where the plenary sessions are celebrated. There you can see the recent renovations that have covered most of the signs of the bullet holes from the famous shooting of the 1981 Coup. The visit continues through the Portrait Gallery (Galería de los Retratos) of the first floor, Sala Mariana Pineda and the very Sala Constitucional (Constitutional Chamber).

The Open-Door Days are on the week of 8 of December, the Day of the Spanish Constitution



Services

	Ascensor		Servicio de visitas guiadas
	Tienda		

Interest data

Address

Plaza de las Cortes, s/n 28014

Telephone

(+34) 91 390 60 00

Email

informacion@congreso.es

Metro

Banco de España (L2), Sevilla (L2), Sol (L1, L2, L3)

Cercanías (Local train)

Madrid-Sol

Tourist area

Sol / Gran Vía

Fax

(+34) 91 429 87 07

Web

<http://www.congreso.es/>

Bus

002, 3, 5, 10, 14, 15, 20, 27, 34, 37, 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 150, M1, N9, N10, N11, N12, N13, N14, N15, N16, N17, N25, N26

Price

Free entry

Opening times

The Open-Door Days are on the week of 8 of December, the Day of the Spanish Constitution

- GROUP GUIDED TOURS BOOKED IN ADVANCE

Monday to Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm and 4-6:30pm, and Fridays from 9am to 1:30pm, except in August, when permitted by parliamentary activity.

- INDIVIDUAL TOURS BOOKED IN ADVANCE

Fridays at 12pm and Saturdays from 10:30am to 12:30pm, except in August and on certain days on account of parliamentary and institutional acts, and public holidays.

Bookings can be made as of 1pm on the Saturday prior to the visit, up until 9am on the Friday prior to the visit, using the following link: [Book a tour on Friday or Saturday](#)

- INDIVIDUAL TOURS WITHOUT PRIOR BOOKING

Mondays at 12pm, except on public holidays and on specific days on account of parliamentary and institutional acts.



