

Prado Museum

The Prado Museum, which is commemorating its [200th anniversary](#) this year, is the crown jewel of one of the city's most popular tourist itineraries: the [Paseo del Arte](#), where you'll also find the [Thyssen-Bornemisza](#) and [Reina Sofía](#) museums. The Prado's walls are lined with masterpieces from the Spanish, Italian and Flemish schools, including Velázquez' *Las Meninas* and Goya's *Third of May, 1808*. Its collection comprises 8,600 paintings and over 700 sculptures, so we recommend deciding what you want to see before stepping into the museum. If you are short on time, the Prado's website suggests [three itineraries](#), lasting 1, 2 and 3 hours and covering the museum's most important masterpieces.

Spanish School of Painting

The Prado Museum houses the most comprehensive collection of Spanish painting in the world. Start your visit in the 11th century, contemplating the Mozarabic murals from the Church of San Baudelio de Berlanga, and from there move on to the canvases painted by **Bartolomé Bermejo**, **Pedro Berruguete**, **Juan de Juanes** or **Luis de Morales** to trace a timeline from Spanish-Flemish Gothic painting to the Renaissance. The galleries devoted to **El Greco** display some of his most notable works such as *The Knight with his Hand on his Breast* and *The Holy Trinity*.

The Prado is home to works by some of the **Spanish Golden Age** leading painters including **Ribera**, **Zurbarán**, **Murillo**, and the great **Velázquez**, whose masterpieces *Las Meninas* and *The Seamstresses* hang here. In the **Goya** galleries you'll find an array of works by the great artist, from the tapestry cartoons he made for the Royal Tapestry Factory to the *Black Paintings* he painted on the walls of his house La Quinta del Sordo (Deaf-Man's Villa). The rooms devoted to 19th-century art feature pieces by **Fortuny**, **Federico**, **Raimundo Madrazo** and **Joaquín Sorolla**, the Valencian artist whose wonderful [house-museum](#) is also found in the city.

Collections of works from other schools

Spanish Baroque art was strongly influenced by the Renaissance, a style of art that emerged in Italy and soon spread across the continent. The Prado boasts a number of notable works painted in the Italian Quattrocento (15th century), including **Fra Angelico's** *Annunciation*, the chest with the story of *Nastagio degli Onesti* by **Botticelli**, **Mantegna's** *The Death of the Virgin* and **Antonello da Messina's** *The Dead Christ Supported by an Angel*. Raphael's virgins and paintings by **Titian**, **Tintoretto** and **Veronese** -the stars of the Venetian school- are wonderful examples of art from the Italian Cinquecento (16th century) and are among the Prado Museum's most valuable

treasures. Artworks by **Caravaggio**, **Guido Reni** and **Annibale Carracci** are a superb illustration of the different paths followed by the Italian Baroque.

Strong political ties between the Spanish monarchy and Flanders gave the Prado its wonderful collection of Flemish art. It spans from works by Flemish Primitives - of which Philip II was an ardent admirer - like **Van der Weyden's** *The Descent from the Cross* and **Hieronymus Bosch's** *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, to paintings from the Flemish Baroque, in particular paintings by **Rubens**, the **Bruegel Family**, **Jordaens** and **Teniers**. The museum also boasts works by some of the great French, German and Dutch painters including **Dürer**, **Claude Lorrain**, **Rembrandt** and **Watteau**. Although not as famous, the galleries devoted to sculpture and decorative arts are equally fascinating. They are home to Roman statues, the Dauphin's Treasure – a group of luxury vessels inherited by Philip V - and sculptures by Leone and Pompeo Leoni commissioned by Philip II and Charles V.

The museum's history

The Prado Museum opened on November 10, 1819. The building designed by **Juan de Villanueva** was originally conceived as a house of science but, encouraged by his wife Maria Isabel of Braganza, King Ferdinand VII finally decided to use it as a museum, to store the royal paintings. Years of private donations and acquisitions led to a notable expansion of its collection.

At the start of the Spanish Civil War, the artworks were moved to the basement and sandbagged to protect them against possible bombings. Then, following the recommendations of the League of Nations, they were moved to Valencia and finally evacuated to the Geneva headquarters of the LoN. When the Second World War broke out shortly after, the collection was returned to Madrid.

Temporary exhibitions

The Villanueva building houses large part of the museum's magnificent collection of paintings and sculptures. Right behind it, next to the Cloister of Los Jerónimos, stands the extension designed by modernist architect **Rafael Moneo** which hosts temporary exhibitions, restoration workshops and houses an auditorium, a café, a restaurant and offices. A few metres away, next to [El Retiro Park](#) you'll find El Casón del Buen Retiro, which also belongs to the museum. Once the dance hall of the former Palace of El Buen Retiro, today it is home to a library and a reading room for researchers.



Services



Ascensor



Biblioteca



Cambiador de bebés



Puntos de información



Sala de lactancia



Wi-Fi gratis



Audioguías



Cafetería



Consigna / Guardarropa



Restaurante



Tienda

Interest data

Address

Paseo del Prado, s/n 28014

Telephone

902 107 077

Web

<http://www.museodelprado.es>

Bus

6, 10, 14, 19, 26, 27, 32, 34, 37, 45

Price

General admission: €15

General admission + official guidebook: €24

Concessions: €7.50

Free admission to the Museum's collection: Monday to Saturday 6.00pm to 8.00pm and Sunday 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Art Walk Card (flat rate): €30.40

Annual State Museum Card (flat rate): €36.06

Opening times

Mon - Sat: 10.00am - 8.00pm

Sun and public holidays: 10.00am - 7.00pm

Closed: 1 January, 1 May and 25 December

Reduced opening hours: 6 January, 24 and 31

December (from 10.00am to 2.00pm)

Tourist area

Paseo del Arte

Email

museo.nacional@museodelprado.es

Metro

Banco de España (L2), Estación del Arte (Antigua Atocha) (L1)

Cercanías (Local train)

Madrid-Atocha

Type

Instalaciones culturales, Museos

Official tourism website

