

Royal Palace

Home to the Kings of Spain from Charles III to Alfonso XIII, Madrid's Royal Palace takes us on a journey through the history of Spain. Though it is no longer the royal family's home, it continues to be their official residence.

Long before Madrid became the capital of Spain, Emir Mohamed I chose Magerit (the city's Arabic name) as the site for a fortress to protect Toledo from the advancing Christians. The building was eventually used by the Kings of Castille until finally becoming what would be known as the **Antiguo Alcázar** (Old Fortress) in the 14th century. Charles I and his son Philip II turned the building into a permanent residence for the Spanish royal family. However, in 1734 a fire burnt the Palace of Los Austrias to the ground, and **Philip V** ordered the construction of the palace that stands today.

Following the untimely death of **Filippo Juvara**, the architect originally commissioned to design the palace, it was his pupil Juan Bautista Sachetti who eventually drew up the final plans. Seventeen years passed between the laying of the first stone in 1738 and final completion of the work commissioned by Philip V. However, it was **Charles III** (known as the "Mayor of Madrid" due to the large number of reforms and initiatives that he undertook in the city) who became the first monarch to occupy the new building. His successors Charles IV (responsible for the creation of the Hall of Mirrors) and Ferdinand VII added many decorative details and furnishings, such as clocks, items of furniture and chandeliers.

The palace, inspired by **sketches made by Bernini** for the construction of the Louvre in Paris, is built in the form of a square and looks out over a large courtyard with galleries and a parade ground. The decoration of the palace's rooms and their layout has gradually changed over the years as the building has been adapted to suit the needs of its residents.

It comprises over 3000 rooms, including: the **Main Staircase**, designed by Sabatini with over 70 steps; the **Throne Hall** featuring a ceiling painted by Tiepolo; the **Hall of Halberdiers**, which Charles III turned into the Guards Room; the **Gasparini Room**, with its grand 18th century decoration on a floral theme; the **Royal Chemist's** with natural medicine cabinets, ceramic pots made by the **La Granja factory**, and even prescriptions given to members of the royal family; and the **Royal Chapel**, which is home to a collection of string instruments made by the legendary Antonio **Stradivari**.

The Royal Armoury and the Painting Gallery

The Royal Armoury is one of the most significant collections of its kind, housing weapons and armour worn by the kings of Spain and other members of the royal family since the 13th century. **The Painting Gallery** is home to a large number of artistic treasures, including *Virgin with Child* by **Luis Morales**, *Portrait of Isabella the Catholic* by **Juan de Flandes**, *Salome with the Head of John the Baptist* by **Caravaggio** and works by such artists as **Velázquez**, **Goya**, **Federico Madrazo** and **Sorolla**.

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The Royal Kitchen

Reopened in October 2017 after a major renovation, the palace's splendid Real Cocina are the **oldest well-preserved kitchens of a European royal residence**, notable for their size and the excellent state of their accessories. They occupy a large part of the first basement and their current appearance is the result of the redecoration ordered by Queen Isabella II and Alfonso XII between 1861 and 1880.

Changing of the Guard

Don't miss the [Changing the guard](#) (held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, weather permitting) and the magnificent [Solemn changing the Guard](#), which takes place on the first Wednesday of each month, weather permitting (except January, August and September).



Services



Aparcamiento de pago



Servicio de visitas guiadas



Audioguías

Interest data

Address

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Telephone

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Email

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Ópera (L2, L5, R), Plaza de España (L2, L3, L10)

Cercanías (Local train)

Madrid-Sol

Type

Edificios y monumentos

Tourist area

Austrias

Fax

(+34) 91 542 69 47

Web

<https://entradas.patrimoniocional.es/es-ES/informacion-recinto/6/palacio-real-de-madrid>

Bus

3, 25, 39, 46, 75, 138, 148, C1

Price

Check prices at the [official webpage](#).

Free admission to the Royal Palace: Monday to Thursday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm (October to March) and 6.00pm to 8.00pm (April to September) for EU citizens, residents and holders of work permits in the EU and Latin American citizens with proof of nationality or a residence or work permit.

Opening times

Winter opening hours (October to March): every day from 10.00am to 6.00pm

Summer opening hours (April to September): every day from 10.00am to 8.00pm

Closed: 1 May, 25 December, 1 and 6 January. On 12 October it opens at 5.00pm. On 24 and 31 December it closes at 3.00pm.

In addition to planned closures, the Palace may also close for official events. Please visit the [Patrimonio Nacional's website](#) for the latest information.

Official tourism website

