

Monument to Cervantes

Due to a major refurbishment of the square which is expected to last till February 2021, both the gardens and the square may be partly closed off to the public.

The monument to Cervantes was commissioned by King Alfonso XIII in 1915, on the 300th anniversary of the publication of the second part of *Don Quixote*. The main body of the fountain was erected in the 1920's, but the full monument was not completed until the 1960's, when the sculptures of Aldonza and Dulcinea were added on the side.

This impressive monument stands behind a rectangular pool. The figures of Don Quixote and his squire Sancho Panza stand on the central pedestal inviting passers-by to gaze at them amid the bustling life of the city.

The contrast between imagination and reality is reflected in the two bronze figures which, unlike the other stone sculpture, are made of bronze. Behind them, presiding over the group, is the figure of Cervantes himself, holding a copy of *Don Quixote*. The sides are decorated with scenes from *La Gitanilla* (right,) and *Rinconete y Cortadillo* (left). The rear section is presided over by a female figure, symbolising Spanish literature. At her feet lies a fountain featuring the coats of arms of all the Latin American countries, and in the top section we can see figures representing the five continents, holding up a globe with an allegorical figure of Fame or Victory, which symbolises the universal quality of Cervantes' work.



Interest data

Address

Plaza de España, s/n 28008

Metro

Plaza de España (L2, L3, L10)

Price

Free access.

Tourist area

Sol / Gran Vía

Bus

3, 43, 44, 46, 52, 74, 75, 120, 133, 138, 148, C2, N18, N19, N20, N21

Type

Edificios y monumentos

Official tourism website

