

# Welcome to Madrid

**Located in the heart of the Guadarrama Sierra (on one side of Mount Abantos), just 50 kilometres from Madrid, San Lorenzo de El Escorial is one of the municipalities of the greatest tourist and cultural interest in the region. Its main attraction is the San Lorenzo de El Escorial Monastery and Royal Site, which was declared to be a UNESCO Heritage Site in 1984.**

Affected by the death of his father, Carlos V, in 1558 and in order to consolidate the House of Austria in Spain, it was Felipe II who ordered the construction of the Monastery, to ensure the eternal memory of his family, create a family Pantheon and offset the destruction of a church devoted to San Lorenzo during the battle of San Quintín, in France.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1563, the first stone was laid under the orders of Juan Bautista de Toledo. On his death in 1567, Juan de Herrera was responsible for the work, marking his own architectural stamp in the "herreriano" style, characterised by the importance of the lines rather than the abuse of decorative elements that distract attention from the building.

With an area of 33,327 square metres, the Monastery of El Escorial is the monument that best sums up the ideological and cultural aspirations of the Spanish "Golden Age", expressed here through an original synthesis of Italian and Flemish artistic forms at the behest of Philip II.

Combining several functions in one building, San Lorenzo el Real was born as a monastery of the monks of the order of San Jerónimo, whose church served as a royal pantheon. It also has a palace to house the king and his entourage, a school and seminary to complete the religious function of the monastery and a library. This scheme is, to a certain extent, still in place today.



## Services

 Audioguías

 Servicio de visitas guiadas

## Interest data

### Address

Avenida Don Juan de Borbón y Battenberg, s/n  
28200

### Telephone

(+34) 91 890 59 03

### Web

<https://www.patrimoniounacional.es/real-sitio/real-sitio-de-san-lorenzo-de-el-escorial>

### Cercanías (Local train)

El Escorial

### Tourist area

Cerca de Madrid

### Email

[secretaria.escorial@patrimoniounacional.es](mailto:secretaria.escorial@patrimoniounacional.es)

### Bus

661, 664

### Price

General: €12

Reduced: €6

Free entry: Wednesdays and Sundays 3pm - 7pm

### Opening times

#### Palace and Monastery:

Current schedules due to the health situation:

Tue - Sun: 10am - 7pm

Closed: Mondays, 1 & Jan, 1 May, 12 Sept, 24, 25 & 31 Dec.

Extraordinary openings: 3 May, 1 Nov, 6 Dec

#### Gardens:

Mon - sun: 10am - 8pm

**Casa del Principe Don Carlos, Casa del Príncipe and Casa del Infante Don Gabriel**  
: temporarily closed



PÁGINA OFICIAL DE TURISMO DE LA CIUDAD DE MADRID

