

# Welcome to Madrid

**Madrid's history and tradition cannot be understood without its famous "verbenas" or open-air festivities, three of which are being held in neighbouring districts on successive dates during August. The party gets under way with the San Cayetano festival in the Rastro/Embajadores area, followed by San Lorenzo in Lavapiés, and ends with the biggest and most important of all, La Paloma in La Latina.**

Chulapos (traditional Madrid dandies), chotis dancing, lemonade, streets decked with lanterns, locals dancing cheek to cheek... All this is part and parcel of **Madrid's local festivals** especially in summer, when the days are longer and can be enjoyed to the full. For two weeks, the city's oldest streets are filled with traditional flavours and sounds, especially at dusk, when the air is cooler and people emerge to have a cold drink and a tapa or two in the many open-air bars set up especially for the festivals.

These celebrations have a strong community spirit and are an inseparable part of the real Madrid, one that holds dear its traditional image as a party-loving, sociable city with one simple aim - to have a good time. And of course, it extends a very warm welcome to anyone wanting to join in. The programme of events typically includes children's games and competitions, card tournaments, performances by bands and pop groups, tapas routes and the procession honouring the saint or virgin in whose name the festival is being held.

## **Traditional districts**

The festivals are taking place in three very traditional neighbouring districts, in whose charmingly haphazard streets many 19th century buildings, some with courtyards, are to be found.

The **San Cayetano** festival is held in the area around the church dedicated to the saint, in Calle **Embajadores, Plaza de Cascorro** and streets in the Lavapiés area, such as Calle Argumosa and Calle Casino. The **San Lorenzo** festivities take place entirely in Lavapiés, around the church dedicated to this saint (Calle Dr. Piga) and in Calle Argumosa.

Finally, the **Virgen de la Paloma** festival, one of Madrid's most famous, is the high point of the season, both in terms of the number of people it attracts and the area it occupies. The festival takes over **Plaza de la Paja** and the surrounding streets, the whole of Calle Toledo up to **Plaza de las Vistillas** plus the streets running round the parish church of Virgen de la Paloma in the

square named after her.



## Interest data

### When

From 6 to 16 August 2020

### Tourist area

La Latina

### Price

Free

### Address

San Cayetano (Plaza de Cascorro) / San Lorenzo (Iglesia de San Lorenzo) / La Paloma (Plaza de la Paja)

### Metro

La Latina (L5), Lavapiés (L3)

### Opening times

- Festivity of San Cayetano: 7 August
- Festivity of San Lorenzo: 10 August
- Festivity of Virgen de la Paloma: 15 August

**Type**

Eventos de ciudad, Fiestas



PÁGINA OFICIAL DE TURISMO DE LA CIUDAD DE MADRID

