Essential Madrid
WELCOME TO MADRID

Madrid is one of Europe's great cultural capitals. It's also a fun, friendly, caring, diverse, vibrant city, packed full of things to do for all audiences. It's one of those places where it's easy to feel part of the scene, to fit in with everyday life and adopt the customs and habits of the local residents. There's room for everyone here, so everyone's welcome.

If you read these pages carefully, you'll discover that Madrid boasts a permanent, diverse range of attractions. Beyond the leading art museums and galleries, there's a network of small house-museums where your imagination can get swept back to past times, something that also happens when you sit at a table in one of the many century-old restaurants that bear witness to the city's history.

Madrid is perfect for walking. Some of its parks are true green lungs, like El Retiro and Casa de Campo, while others are almost hidden and secret, such as El Capricho, Quinta de los Molinos and Cerro del Tío Pío, the latter with one of the best views over the city. Madrid has many viewpoints, some of which give incredible panoramic vistas, either with the Sierra de Guadarrama mountain range in the background or over the backyards and rooftops of the historic centre.

In this guide you'll find all the must-see buildings and monuments, the best our local gastronomy has to offer, theme parks to enjoy with the kids, plus a calendar listing of the year's top events. But Madrid is much more... We encourage you to wander around and explore all the craft workshops, shops and small traders which make this city such an exciting place to be. And don't set yourself limits: every Madrid neighbourhood has a surprise in store.
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Madrid is ideal for taking a stroll. We’ve prepared two routes for you that you can easily follow on foot, map in hand, and which will uncover the city’s landmarks and most important streets. Take route 1 for Hapsburg Madrid and Route 2 for the Art Walk, which is home to the capital’s top museums.
1 PUERTA DEL SOL
Look for the ‘Kilometre 0’ plaque on the ground then take a photo with the Bear and Tree Strawberry monument and the statue of Charles III. The clock at Casa de Correos always rings in the New Year.

2 CALLE ARENAL AND SURROUNDING STREETS
The most famous churros, strips of fried dough, in Madrid are served up in the San Gines chocolate bar, right next to the church of the same name. Close by is the Descalzas Reales Monastery (16th century).

3 MONASTERY OF THE INCARNATION
This royal building houses significant collections of 17th and 18th-century painting and sculpture, including works by Carducho, Lucas Jordán and Pedro de Mena.

4 PLAZA DE ORIENTE
On one side is the Teatro Real opera house. On the other you will find the Royal Palace and its gardens. The Solemn Changing of the Guard takes place the first Wednesday of every month at 12 noon (except during the summer and when there are official events).

5 LA ALMUDENA CATHEDRAL
The cathedral boasts its own museum allowing access to the dome with its splendid views over Madrid as far as the mountains.

6 CUESTA DE LA VEGA
This street lies on one of the ravines which served as a natural defence for the Muslim citadel of Mayrit. Look out for the remains of the old Arab wall.

7 PLAZA DE LA VILLA
Casa de la Villa (17th century) shares this square with Casa de Cisneros (16th century) and the Lujanes Tower (15th century).

8 CAVA DE SAN MIGUEL
Stretching from San Miguel Market, a favourite of gourmets, this historical street is lined with traditional taverns. The Arco de Cuchilleros archway leads into Plaza Mayor.

9 PLAZA MAYOR
In 1617 Juan Gómez de Mora undertook the regularisation of the medieval square. It was later reformed by Juan de Villanueva in 1790. The equestrian statue of Philip III and the Casa de la Panadería are its two symbols.

10 PLAZA DE LA PROVINCIA
In 1629 Philip IV commissioned the construction of the Santa Cruz Palace for housing the prison annexes.
ROUTE 2
Duration: 3 hours

1. MONASTERIO DESCALZAS REALES
2. PALACIO DE CIBELES
3. PALACIO DE ALFONSO XII
4. PALACIO DE VELÁZQUEZ
5. MURO DE EUROPA
6. MUSEO NACIONAL DE CIENCIAS NATURALES

Madrid Itineraries: Route 2
1. **PUERTA DEL SOL**
   All that remains is to look for the Mariblanca statue at the entrance to Calle Arenal.

2. **CALLE DE ALCALÁ**
   The Royal Academy of Fine Arts, the Casino, the Metropolis building, the Círculo de Bellas Artes and the Cervantes Institute are all must-sees.

3. **CIBELES FOUNTAIN**
   Designed by Ventura Rodríguez in 1777, it represents the goddess of Mother Earth. The two lions, Hippomenes and Atalanta, are the work of Roberto Michel.

4. **CIBELES PALACE**
   The former Telecommunications Palace is home to Madrid City Council as well as the CentroCentro exhibition space. Don’t forget to visit its rooftop vantage point.

5. **PUERTA DE ALCALÁ**
   Built under the orders of Charles III, it replaced a previous gate which had resided on this spot since the 16th century. It is the work of the architect Sabatini.

6. **EL RETIRO PARK**
   This green lung in the centre of Madrid boasts several places of interest, such as the lake, the Glass Palace and the fountain of the Fallen Angel. At its southern end is Cuesta de Moyano, home to the park’s permanent bookstalls.

7. **REINA SOFÍA MUSEUM**
   Home to Picasso’s Guernica, the museum features Spanish and international avant-garde art. Here you can see pieces by Dalí, Miró and Tàpies, amongst others.

8. **PRADO MUSEUM**
   This prestigious museum houses the finest works of the Spanish, Italian and Flemish schools, painted by the great masters including Goya, Velázquez, El Greco, Rubens and Bosch.

9. **THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA MUSEUM**
   Following a stroll through the Botanical Gardens, take the opportunity to visit the Thyssen Museum with its complete journey through the history of European art (12th to 20th centuries).

10. **LITERARY QUARTER**
    During the Golden Age this district was home to the great writers of the day. The Ateneo and the Lope de Vega House Museum are must-visits.
ART WALK

Paseo del Prado
**PRADO MUSEUM**

📍 Paseo del Prado (no number)
📞 902 10 70 77
📍 BANCO DE ESPAÑA / ATOCHA / RETIRO
🕒 Mon-Sat 10 am to 8 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 7 pm.
🌐 museodelprado.es

One of the most famous art galleries in the world, boasting the finest collection of Spanish paintings by Goya, Velazquez and El Greco. Visitors should allow plenty of time to take in all of the rooms in both the neoclassical building designed by Juan de Villanueva and the modern extension by Rafael Moneo, and explore this magnificent collection of European art from the 12th to the 19th centuries.

**THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA MUSEUM**

📍 Paseo del Prado, 8
📞 902 76 05 11
📍 BANCO DE ESPAÑA
🕒 Tue-Sun 10 am to 7 pm. Mon 12 noon to 4 pm.
🌐 museothyssen.org

A journey through the last seven centuries of European art, from the early 13th to the late 20th century. Dürer, Frans Hals, Gauguin, Van Gogh and Kirchner are just some of the great masters on display in the Villahermosa Palace.
**REINA SOFÍA MUSEUM**

📍 Santa Isabel, 52  
📞 91 774 10 00  
_TUNNEL_/ATOCHA RENFE  
🗓 Mon-Sat 10 am to 9 pm. Sun 10 am to 7 pm.  
Tue closed  
🌐 museoreinasofia.es

Picasso's *Guernica* is the jewel in the crown of this museum specialising in contemporary art, where Spanish artists take pride of place. This is a chance to see works of art from the late 19th century to the present day (don't miss the works by Dalí and Miró). The museum's new wing was designed by Jean Nouvel.

**PASEO DEL ARTE PASS**

This card allows you to visit the Prado, the Thyssen-Bornemisza and the Reina Sofia museums. It can be purchased from the ticket offices at any of the three museums.
CENTROCENTRO
- Cibeles Palace. Plaza de Cibeles, 1
- 91 480 00 08
- BANCO DE ESPAÑA
- Tue-Sun 10 am to 8 pm.
  Mon closed
- centrocentro.org

CentroCentro and the Madrid City Hall are located side by side in the old Telecommunications Palace designed by Antonio Palacios and Joaquín Otamendi (1904). Its purpose is to encourage reflection on contemporary urban life and culture through a series of exhibitions, lectures, concerts and various other activities. CentroCentro offers everything you need to know before visiting the Art Walk.

CAIXAFORUM
- Paseo del Prado, 36
- 91 330 73 00
- ATOCHA
- Every day 10 am to 8 pm.
- obrasocial.lacaixa.es

A vertical hanging garden by the French botanist Patrick Blanc serves as the gateway to this great cultural centre, housed in a building designed by Herzog and De Meuron on the site of an old electrical power station. Its temporary exhibitions featuring avant-garde movements are of particular interest.

NAVAL MUSEUM
- Paseo del Prado, 5
- 91 523 85 16
- BANCO DE ESPAÑA
- Tue-Sun 10 am to 7 pm.
  Mon closed
- armada.mde.es/museonal

A journey through the history of Spanish navigation from the age of discovery in the 15th century all the way through to the 20th century.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS
- Montalbán, 12
- 91 532 64 99
- BANCO DE ESPAÑA / RETIRO
- Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 3 pm. Thu 9:30 am to 3 pm and 5 to 8 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
  Mon closed
- mnartesdecorativas.mcu.es

A total of 30,000 historic decorative objects, including furniture, ceramics, glassware, jewellery, fabrics and oriental art.
MUSEUMS

Art and Culture - Museums

National Archaeological Museum (MAN)
ANDÉN 0

Chamberí station.
Plaza de Chamberí (no number)

IGLESIA / BILBAO
Fri 11 am to 1 pm and 5 to 7 pm. Sat, Sun and holidays 10 am to 2 pm.
metromadrid.es/es/viaja_en_metro/anden_0/

LOPE DE VEGA HOUSE MUSEUM
Cervantes, 11
(+34) 91 429 92 16

ANTÓN MARTÍN
Tue-Sun 10 am to 6 pm
(advance reservation required).
casamuseolopedevega.org

ABC MUSEUM OF DRAWING AND ILLUSTRATION
Amaniel, 29-31
(+34) 91 758 83 79

NOVICIADO / PLAZA DE ESPAÑA
Tue-Sat 11 am to 8 pm.
Sun 10 am to 2 pm.
Mon closed
museo.abc.es

AIR MUSEUM
A-5 motorway, km 10.500
91 509 16 90
CUATRO VIENTOS
Tue-Sun 10am to 2pm.
Mon and August closed
museodelaire.com

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAS
Avda. Reyes Católicos, 6
(+34) 91 549 26 41

MONCLOA
Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 3 pm.
Thu 9:30 am to 7 pm.
Sun & holidays 10 am to 3 pm
Mon closed
museodeamerica.mcu.es

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
Serrano, 13
(+34) 91 577 79 12

SERRANO
Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 8 pm.
Sun & holidays 9:30 am to 3 pm.
www.man.es

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
Conde Duque, 9-11
(+34) 91 588 59 28

SAN BERNARDO / NOVICIADO
Tue-Sat 10 am to 2 pm and 17:30 to 9 pm.
Sun and holidays 10:30 am to 2 pm
madrid.es/museoartecontemporaneo

MUSEUM OF PUBLIC ART
Paseo de la Castellana, 40
(+34) 91 578 27 22

RUBÉN DARÍO
Open daily

CASA DE LA MONEDA MUSEUM
Doctor Esquerdo, 17
(+34) 91 547 36 46

PLAZA DE ESPAÑA / VENTURA RODRÍGUEZ
Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 3 pm.
Thu 9:30 am to 3 pm and 5 to 8 pm.
Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
Mon closed
fnmt.es

CERRALBO MUSEUM
Ventura Rodríguez, 17
(+34) 91 547 36 46

PLAZA DE ESPAÑA / VENTURA RODRÍGUEZ
Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 3 pm.
Thu 9:30 am to 3 pm and 5 to 8 pm.
Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
Mon closed
museocerralbo.mcu.es

Cerralbo Museum

Lope de Vega House Museum

Museum of Public Art
**WAX MUSEUM**
- Paseo de Recoletos, 41
- (+34) 91 319 93 30
- **COLOM**
- Mon-Fri 10 am to 2:30 pm and 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Sat, Sun and holidays 10 am to 8:30 pm.
- museoeceramadrid.com

**RAILWAY MUSEUM**
- Paseo Delicias, 61
- 902 22 88 22
- **DELICIAS**
- 1 October to 31 May: Mon-Thu 9:30 am to 3 pm. Fri-Sun and holidays 9:30 am to 6 pm. 1 June to 30 September: Tue-Sun 10 am to 3 pm. Mon closed
- museodelferrocarril.org

**GEOMINERAL MUSEUM**
- Ríos Rosas, 23
- (+34) 91 349 57 59
- **RÍOS ROSAS**
- Every day 9 am to 2 pm.
- igme.es/museo

**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MADRID**
- Fuencarral, 78
- (+34) 91 701 18 63
- **TRIBUNAL**
- Tue-Sun and holidays 9:30 am to 8 pm.
- madrid.es/museodehistoria

**LA NEOMUDÉJAR MUSEUM**
- Antonio Nebrija, s/n
- **MENÉNDEZ PELAYO / ATOCHA RENFE**
- Wed-Sun 11 am to 3 pm and 5 to 9 pm
- www.laneomudejar.com

**LÁZARO GALDIANO MUSEUM**
- Serrano, 122
- (+34) 91 561 60 84
- **RUBÉN DARÍO**
- Tue-Sat 10 am to 4:30 pm. Sun 10 am to 3 pm. Mon closed
- fig.es

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY**
- Alfonso XII, 68
- (+34) 91 530 64 18
- **ATOCHA**
- Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 8 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm. Mon closed
- mnanthropologia.mcu.es

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE**
- José Gutiérrez Abascal, 2
- (+34) 91 411 13 28
- **GREGORIO MARAÑÓN**
- Tue-Fri, Sun and holidays 10 am to 5 pm. Sat 10 am to 8 pm. July and August: Sat 10 am to 3 pm.
- Mon closed
- mncn.csic.es

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Railway Museum

Lázaro Galdiano Museum

National Museum of Natural Science
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROMANTICISM
📍 San Mateo, 13
📞 (+34) 91 448 01 63 / 91 448 10 45
🌐 TRIBUNAL
📅 1 November to 30 April:
   Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 6:30 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
   1 May to 31 October:
   Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 8:30 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
   Mon closed
🌐 museoromanticismo.mcu.es

MUSEUM OF SAN ISIDRO
📍 Plaza de San Andrés, 2
📞 (+34) 91 366 74 15
🌐 LA LATINA
📅 Tue-Sun and holidays 9:30 am to 8:30 pm.
   Mon closed
🌐 madrid.es/museosanisidro

SOROLLA MUSEUM
📍 General Martínez Campos, 37
📞 (+34) 91 310 15 84
🌐 IGLESIA / GREGORIO MARÁNÓN
📅 Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 8 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
   Mon closed
🌐 museosorolla.mcu.es

BLIND MUSEUM
📍 La Coruña, 18
📞 (+34) 91 589 42 19
🌐 ESTRECHO
📅 Tue-Fri 10 am to 2 pm and 5 to 8 pm. Sat 10 am to 2 pm.
   Sun, Mon and holidays, closed
🌐 museo.once.es

GARMENT MUSEUM
📍 Avda. de Juan de Herrera, 2
📞 (+34) 91 550 47 00
🌐 CIUDAD UNIVERSITARIA
📅 1 September to 30 June:
   Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 7 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
   1 May to 30 October: Tue-Sat 9:30 am to 7 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
   Thu 9:30 am to 10:30 pm.
   Mon closed
🌐 museodeltraje.mcu.es

SAN FERNANDO ROYAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS
📍 Alcalá, 13
📞 (+34) 91 524 08 64
🌐 SOL / SEVILLA
📅 Tue-Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
   Mon closed
🌐 realacademiabella-sartessanfernando.com

Blind Museum

Garment Museum

San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts

Sorolla Museum
CULTURAL CENTRES

Matadero Madrid
MATADERO MADRID
📍 Paseo de la Chopera, 14
📞 91 517 73 09
🚇 LEGAZPI
🕒 Tue-Fri 4 pm to 10 pm. Sat-Sun 11 am to 10 pm.
🌐 www.mataderomadrid.org

The former ‘matadero’ or slaughterhouse consists of a series of neo-Mudéjar pavilions built in the early 20th century along the banks of the Manzanares River. Today it is a vast complex dedicated to culture and emerging trends, featuring theatre (Naves del Español), exhibitions, concerts and the like. It is also home to the Cineteca cinemathque and the Design Centre.

CONDE DUQUE
📍 Conde Duque, 9-11
📞 91 722 05 73
🚇 NOVICIADO / PLAZA DE ESPAÑA
🕒 Tue-Sat 10 am-2 pm and 5:30 to 9 pm. Sun and holidays 10:30 am to 2 pm.
🌐 www.condeduquemadrid.es

This is a cultural centre for art, knowledge and the world of entertainment. The building has been comprehensively refurbished and now features an auditorium, theatre and exhibition hall. It retains many of its original features, such as the 18th-century Churrigueresque-style entrance by Pedro de Ribera.
CÍRCULO DE BELLAS ARTES

📍 Alcalá, 42
📞 91 360 54 00
📍 SEVILLA
⏰ Tue-Sat 11 am to 2 pm and 5 to 9 pm.
    Sun 11 am to 2 pm.
🔗 www.circulobellasartes.com

This is one of Europe’s most prestigious cultural centres and often showcases the latest avant-garde movements in its exhibition rooms. The building was designed by Antonio Palacios in 1925.
LA CASA ENCENDIDA
📍 Ronda de Valencia, 2
📞 902 43 03 22
📍 LAVAPIÉS / ATOCHA
📍 Tue-Sun 10 to 9:45 pm.
   Mon closed
📍 www.lacasaencendida.es

This open and dynamic social and cultural centre offers everything from the most avant-garde artistic expressions to courses and workshops on topics such as the environment and solidarity.

MEDIALAB PRADO
📍 Alameda, 15 (Plaza de las Letras)
📞 91 219 11 57
📍 ATOCHA
📍 Mon 4 to 9 pm. Tue-Fri 10 am to 9 pm. Sat 11 am to 9 pm.
📍 medialab-prado.es

The former Serrería Belga, or Belgian Sawmill, is today home to the citizens' laboratory for the production, research and dissemination of cultural projects that explore the forms of experimentation and collaborative learning that have emerged from digital networks.
SIGHTS AND MONUMENTS

Royal Palace
ROYAL PALACE
📍 Bailén (no number)
📞 91 454 88 00
🎫 ÓPERA
📅 1 October to 31 March: Mon-Sun 10 am to 6 pm.
📅 1 April to 30 September: Mon-Sun 10 am to 8 pm.
🌐 www.patrimonionacional.es

Commissioned by King Philip V, this 18th-century palace houses a magnificent art collection (including Goya, Velázquez and Caravaggio) as well as an impressive armoury.

Changing of the Guard
At 12 noon on the first Wednesday of each month, visitors can watch the ceremonial changing of the guard (except in summer or during official events). Throughout the rest of the year, the changing of the guard takes place at 11 am every Wednesday at the Puerta del Príncipe entrance.

TEATRO REAL & PLAZA DE ORIENTE
📍 Plaza de Oriente (no number)
🎫 ÓPERA
🌐 www.teatro-real.com/

Inaugurated in 1850, the Teatro Real opera house stands in the Plaza de Oriente square, which is presided by Pietro Tacca’s equestrian sculpture of Philip IV. There are also two rows of statues depicting twenty Spanish monarchs. The building is open for guided tours, and also features an interesting programme of operas.
In 1617 Juan Gómez de Mora was commissioned by Philip III to renovate the medieval square of El Arrabal and adapt it to accommodate public spectacles. The result was one of the largest squares in Europe, a vast open area accessed through three arches, nine gateways and open-air passages. Subsequently damaged by fire, in 1790 the space was enclosed and refurbished by Juan de Villanueva. The equestrian statue of Philip III and the Casa de la Panadería or Baker’s Guild building are its most symbolic features.
**LA ALMUDENA CATHEDRAL**

📍 Bailén, 10

🔗 ÓPERA

🕒 From 1 September to 30 June: Every day from 9 am to 8:30 pm
   - From 1 July to 31 August: Every day from 10 am to 9 pm

🔗 www.catedraldealaalmudena.es

Building began in the late 19th century and was finally completed in 1993, the year in which it was consecrated by Pope John Paul II. There is a museum inside and visitors can also access the dome to admire the stunning views of the city against the backdrop of the Sierra de Guadarrama mountains.

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**DESCALZAS REALES MONASTERY**

📍 Plaza de las Descalzas (no number)

📞 91 454 88 00

🔗 CALLAO

🕒 Tue-Sat 10 am to 2 pm and 4 to 6:30 pm.
   - Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.

🔗 www.patrimonionacional.es

This convent was founded in the 16th century by Princess Joanna of Austria, the daughter of the Emperor Charles V. It contains fabulous works of art donated by the noble families whose daughters entered the institution.
PLAZA DE LA VILLA
SOL / ÓPERA

This square is located in the area known as Hapsburg Madrid and is home to buildings dating from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries: the Los Lujanes houses and tower (the oldest civic building in Madrid), the Casa de Cisneros building, and the Casa de la Villa or old City Hall.

ROYAL BASILICA OF SAN FRANCISCO EL GRANDE
Plaza de San Francisco (no number)
LA LATINA / PUERTA DE TOLEDO
From 1 September to 30 June: Tue-Sun 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and 4 to 6 pm. From 1 July to 31 August: Tue-Sun 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and 5 to 7 pm

This building dates from the 18th century, and has a spectacular dome 58 metres high and with a diameter of 33 metres, making it one of the largest in Europe.

ROYAL MONASTERY OF THE INCARNATION
Plaza de la Encarnación, 1
91 454 88 00
ÓPERA
Tue-Sat 10 am to 2 pm and 4 to 6:30 pm.
Sun and holidays 10 am to 3 pm.
www.patrimonionacional.es

This monastery was designed by the architect Juan Gómez de Mora in 1611 at the request of Queen Margaret of Austria, wife of King Philip III, as an annexe to the Royal Alcázar Palace. Its church has a beautiful facade crowned by a single gable, the model for what would later be known as the Madrid Baroque style.
SAN ANTONIO DE LA FLORIDA CHAPEL
📍 Glorieta de San Antonio de la Florida, 5
📞 PRÍNCIPE PÍO
📞 91 542 07 22
🕒 Tue-Sun and holidays 9:30 am to 8 pm.
    Mon closed

The chapel is dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua and was designed in the neoclassical style by the Italian architect Filippo Fontana between 1792 and 1798. It is decorated with frescoes by Francisco de Goya, whose mortal remains are also buried there.

TEMPLE OF DEBOD
📍 Ferraz, 1
📞 91 366 74 15
📍 PLAZA DE ESPAÑA / VENTURA RODRÍGUEZ
🕒 1 October to 31 March:
    Tue-Fri 9:45 am to 1:45 pm and 4:15 to 6:15 pm.
    Sat, Sun and holidays 9:30 am to 8 pm.
1 April to 30 September:
    Tue-Fri 10 am to 2 pm and 6 to 8 pm.
    Sat, Sun and holidays 9:30 am to 8 pm.
    Mon closed
📍 www.madrid.es/templodebod

This structure was built in Egypt in the days of Ptolemaic Dynasty and is over 2000 years old. It was a gift from the Egyptian government in gratitude for Spain’s collaboration in moving priceless monuments during the construction of the Aswan Dam and was brought stone by stone from the lower Nubian region. This site is the best place in the whole city to watch the sun go down.
This is the most famous street in Madrid. Designed in the 19th century and begun in 1910, this was the great urban project that modernised the city and linked the historic centre to the new neighbourhoods of Salamanca and Argüelles. Its most outstanding landmarks include the Metrópolis, Telefónica and Carrión buildings.

Along with those of Neptune and Apollo, this fountain has adorned the Paseo del Prado since the 18th century. It was designed by Ventura Rodríguez, although the lions were the work of Roberto Michel. This is the place where the Real Madrid football team celebrates its victories.
**LINARES PALACE**

📍 Plaza de Cibeles, 2  
📞 91 595 48 00  
📍 BANCO DE ESPAÑA  
🌐 www.casamerica.es

The mission of this institution is to strengthen the ties between Spain and Latin America through exhibitions, lectures and a range of other activities. Its main site is the Linares Palace, built in 1900 and featuring various elegant function rooms that are open to visitors.

**PUERTA DE ALCALÁ**

📍 Plaza de la Independencia  
📍 RETIRO

This neoclassical-style gate was built by Francisco Sabatini to commemorate King Charles III's triumphal entrance into Madrid in 1778.

**NATIONAL LIBRARY**

📍 Paseo de Recoletos, 20  
📞 91 580 77 59  
📍 COLÓN  
⏰ Tue-Sat 10 am to 9 pm. Sun and holidays 10 am to 2 pm.  
🌐 www.bne.es

The library was built between 1866 and 1892 and is home to the largest bibliographic collection in Spain. It also has a Book Museum containing a number of rare items.

**LAS VENTAS**

📍 Alcalá, 237  
📍 VENTAS

Opened in 1929, this bullring in the neo-Mudéjar style holds over 23,000 people and is the work of the architects José Espeliú and Muñoz Monasterio. The best way to see it from close up is to take the Las Ventas Tour, an official guided visit around the whole site that offers a different view of the bullring (www.lasventastour). Las Ventas has a Bullfighting Museum inside.
MADRID VIEWPOINT
† Cibeles Palace. Plaza de Cibeles, 1
☎ 91 480 00 08
❖ BANCO DE ESPAÑA
🕒 Tuesday-Sunday 10:30 am to 1:30 pm and 4 to 7 pm.
This point is located on the eighth floor at a height of 70 metres. It offers views over the whole of the city centre and the Salamanca district... Visits take place every 30 minutes but prior reservations are required at the ticket offices on the second floor of the building.

ROOFTOP OF THE CÍRCULO DE BELLAS ARTES
† Alcalá, 42
☎ 91 360 54 00
❖ SEVILLA
🕒 Mon-Thu 9 am to 9 pm. Fri 9 to 12 am. Sat and holidays 11 to 12 am. Sun 11 am to 9 pm
The rooftop in the Círculo de Bellas Artes has one of the most spectacular views of Madrid, and affords a unique perspective of the city's urban layout with the buildings of the Gran Vía avenue just a stone's throw away. A lift with glass doors from the lobby, stopping on the top floor, gives direct access to this special space. Tickets can be obtained in reception.
**FARO DE MONCLOA**
📍 Avenida Arco de la Victoria, 2
📞 91 550 1252
嵬 MONCLOA
🕒 Tue-Sun 9:30 am to 8:30 pm
Mon closed

The panoramic lifts take visitors 92 metres up to the impressive Faro de Moncloa viewpoint, standing tall over the heart of Madrid’s Ciudad Universitaria. This former transmission tower that was built in 1992 (the year the city was named European Capital of Culture) is 110 metres tall.

**VIEWPOINTS AT MADRID RÍO**

**PIRÁMIDES / PRÍNCIPE PIO**
The Royal Palace and the Cathedral can also be seen very well from the Huerto de la Partida viewpoint in the Madrid Río Park, also the site of other interesting vantage points such as the Puente de Segovia bridge, with views to the north and south of the Manzanares River and of the new monumental fountains in its lower gardens. The Puente de Monumental de Arganzuela bridge has a terrace viewpoint from where you can see the 18th-century Puente de Toledo bridge to the north, and Arganzuela Park and urban beach to the south.

**DOME OF LA ALMUDENA CATHEDRAL**
📍 Plaza de la Almudena (no number)
📞 91 559 28 74
嵬 OPERA
🕒 Mon-Sat 10 am to 2:30 pm.
Sun and holidays closed

Only visitors to the museum can access the cathedral dome with its views over the Royal Palace directly opposite and the Casa de Campo Park and Sierra de Guadarrama mountains forming the backdrop.
Madrid, food capital of Spain, is home to a vast array of culinary options ranging from traditional national dishes to the most sophisticated and avant-garde creations. The whole of Spain is well represented in its restaurants, where specialities from other cities and regions are lovingly prepared, sending your taste buds into overdrive and allowing you to travel across the entire country without getting up from your seat.
Gastronomy and history go hand in hand in restaurants that have been serving traditional local dishes and the region’s best wines for over 100 years. Cocido madrileño (Madrid-style stew), callos (tripes), soldaditos de Pavia (battered cod with red peppers), tortilla de patatas (potato omelette) and other traditional Castilian dishes have proven their popularity over the years.

**BODEGA LA ARDOSA**
- Colón, 13
- 91 521 49 79
- TRIBUNAL / CHUECA / GRAN VÍA

Specialising in potato omelette, it is considered the best place for Pilsen on the tap in Spain.

**BOTÍN**
- Cuchilleros, 17
- 91 366 42 17 / 91 366 30 26
- SOL / TIRSO DE MOLINA / LA LATINA

Opened in 1725 and specialising in roast suckling pig and lamb, it is recognised as the oldest restaurant in the world.

**CAFÉ GIJÓN**
- Paseo de Recoletos, 21
- 91 522 37 37 / 91 521 54 25
- COLÓN / BANCO DE ESPAÑA

Before you order a coffee in this café, a hub for intellectual activity since it opened in 1888, it’s worth trying the Mediterranean cuisine.

**CASA ALBERTO**
- Huertas, 18
- 91 429 93 56 / 91 429 07 06
- ANTÓN MARTÍN

The restaurant walls are full of reminders that the building was once the home of Cervantes, author of Don Quixote. It is famed for its oxtail stew.

**CASA CIRIACO**
- Mayor, 84
- 91 548 06 20
- ÓPERA

The star of the show is the chicken fricassee, but don’t miss out on the Madrid-style stew, served on Tuesdays, or the homemade egg crème caramel.

**CASA LABRA**
- Tetuán, 12
- 91 531 00 81
- SOL

Its soldaditos de Pavia battered cod sticks and croquettes are legendary.

**CASA PEDRO**
- Nuestra Señora de Valverde, 119
- 91 734 02 01 / 91 358 40 89
- FUENCARRAL

Roasts, stews, game dishes and regional products are all featured on their menu.
LA BOLA
📍 La Bola, 5
📞 91 547 69 30
📍 ÓPERA / SANTO DOMINGO
A must-visit for fans of Madrid-style stew, the restaurant cooks this traditional dish in individual terracotta casseroles at a low temperature over oak charcoals.

LA CASA DEL ABUELO
📍 Victoria,12
📞 91 521 23 19
📍 SOL / SEVILLA
Such renowned artists as Andy Warhol have visited this establishment, where ordering prawns, king prawns and sweet wine is nothing short of compulsory.

LA POSADA DE LA VILLA
📍 Cava Baja, 9
📞 91 366 18 60
📍 LA LATINA / TIRSO DE MOLINA
Serving Castilian cuisine, their speciality is young lamb roasted in a wood-burning oven.

LHARDY
📍 Carrera de San Jerónimo, 8
📞 91 522 22 07 / 91 521 33 85
📍 SOL / SEVILLA
Opened in 1839, this Madrid restaurant is living history. Its most outstanding dishes are the consommé and its famous cocido Madrid-style stew.

LOS GALAYOS
📍 Botoneras, 5, on the corner of Plaza Mayor, 1
📞 91 366 30 28
📍 SOL / ÓPERA
First-rate Castilian food, featuring traditional and modern dishes served in an unbeatable location, the old Plaza Mayor square.

MALACATÍN
📍 Ruda, 5
📞 91 365 52 41
📍 LA LATINA
Three generations have run this tavern which, since 1895, has remained loyal to its traditional Madrid style, with bullfighting posters lining the walls.

TABERNA ANTONIO SÁNCHEZ
📍 Mesón de Paredes, 13
📞 91 539 78 26
📍 TIRSO DE MOLINA
Zinc counter tops and marble pedestal tables; nothing here has changed since 1830. Their specialties include stewed escargots and oxtail soup.

TABERNA OLIVEROS
📍 San Millán, 4
📞 91 354 62 52
📍 LA LATINA / TIRSO DE MOLINA
The original Cartuja de Sevilla tiling and the bar itself date back to 1857. Neither have changed over the years and the same can be said of their delicious battered cod sticks, stew and tripe.

Casa Labra

La Bola
Historical records show that back in the Middle Ages taverns were already very popular, in particular among the lower classes. People would gather there to have a chat and drink wine which was served in jugs covered by a slice of bread to avoid the liquid spilling everywhere. Many believe that it is because of this custom (tapar means to cover in Spanish) that the term tapas is now used to refer to a little morsel of food often served with a drink.

Traditional areas for eating tapas and raciones (dishes to share) are La Latina, the Literary Quarter, Malasaña and Lavapiés. Try some old favourites like potato omelette, fried squid, patatas bravas (spicy fried potatoes) and marinated anchovies. Also worth visiting are gastro-bars, designer venues serving top-notch food in tapas format.
Callos a la madrileña
The staples of Madrid's traditional cuisine are what Spaniards call "spoon foods", hearty stews like cocido madrileño (made with chickpeas, vegetables and meat), tripe and Castilian garlic soup. However, fried delicacies such as calamari or churros (sweet fritters) are also quite typical. Traditional sweet treats include torrijas (rather like French toast soaked in honey, typical of the Easter season), doughnuts during the San Isidro festivities, and the buñuelos de viento (fluffy fried dough balls, often with filling) enjoyed on 1 November.

**BOCATA DE CALAMARES**

What could be more traditional than eating some fried squid in crusty bread in any of the bars around Plaza Mayor? It’s very difficult to determine the origin of this culinary tradition, in view of the fact that there is no sea in Madrid, although eating fish in batter is a Sephardic custom.

**SOLDADITOS DE PAVÍA**

When the Hussars, under the command of General Pavía, dissolved Parliament on 3 January 1874, bringing an end to the First Republic, the people of Madrid identified the reddish hue of the soldiers' uniforms with the snack of battered cod strips wrapped in red pepper served in the legendary Casa Labra.

**SOPA DE AJO**

This soup is made from water, ground red pepper, bay leaves, garlic, olive oil and old bread. These are the main ingredients needed to prepare this soup, with its humble and 100% Castilian pedigree. It was served at the start of the 20th century in Madrid with two eggs per portion in cafés and just one egg in taverns.

**COCIDO MADRILEÑO**

First, the soup... then the chickpeas and the vegetables... and finally, the meat. This Madrid-style stew is served in two or three stages and is the result of the evolution of two medieval dishes: the "olla podrida"—often mentioned in Golden Age literature—and the adafaina prepared by Jews on Friday nights so as not to light the fire on the Sabbath, the day of rest.
HUEVOS ESTRELLADOS

This is a very simple dish which is also a quintessential speciality of old Madrid. The eggs are fried in a frying pan but making sure that the yoke is still soft before breaking it over fried potatoes.

CALLOS A LA MADRILEÑA

The first written reference to this dish goes back to 1599, the date of publication of Guzmán de Alfarache, a novel by Mateo Alemán which mentions “callos” (tripe) as veal revoltillos or scramble. It is typically served in an earthenware dish.

RABO DE TORO

The festivities of San Isidro in May are also the date of the most important bullfighting festival in the world, making this the perfect time to enjoy oxtail, if possible marinated in red wine and stewed with vegetables.

SWEETS

The city’s miniature doughnuts known as rosquillas come in two varieties: listas, or smart ones, with a sugar coating, and tontas, stupid ones, served plain. Both are typically eaten during the festivities of San Isidro. An understanding of the gastronomy of Madrid would not be complete without its sweets, highlights of which include churros and porras— strips of fried dough dunked in hot chocolate for the perfect breakfast—, barquillos (wafers), and huesos de santo (“saints’ bones”) and buñuelos de viento (fluffy profiteroles) which are always eaten on 1 November—All Saints’ Day. Come Easter, everyone tucks into torrijas, slices of bread soaked in milk or wine and deep-fried.

USEFUL VOCABULARY

> Menú del día
This is a daily set menu with a fixed price available in hotels and restaurants, featuring a limited number of dishes.

> Chato
Wine served in a small chunky glass.

> Caña
Draught beer served in a straight or stemmed glass.

> Tapa
Small portion of food served to accompany a drink.

> Ración
A culinary speciality served in a larger portion than a tapa and which is usually ordered to share between several people.

> Pulga
Small sandwich.
MARKETS

MERCADO DE SAN MIGUEL
📍 Plaza de San Miguel (no number)
📍 SOL / ÓPERA
📍 Sun-Wed 10 am to 12 midnight. Thu-Sat 10 am to 2am

This building stands beside Plaza Mayor. It is one of the finest examples of cast-iron architecture in Madrid, and was built in 1915. It is currently home to a wide variety of appetising gourmet stalls.

MERCADO DE SAN ANTÓN
📍 Augusto Figueroa, 24
📍 CHUECA / GRAN VÍA
📍 First floor (traditional market):
  Mon-Sat 10 am to 10 pm.
 Secod floor (show cooking and take-away):
  Every day 10 am to 12 midnight
 Third floor (restaurant-terrace):
  Sun-Thu 10 am to 12 midnight
  Fri-Sat and the eve of holidays 10 am to 1:30 am

Located in the heart of the Chueca district. For shopping, having a drink and taking in the atmosphere.

MERCADO DE SAN FERNANDO
📍 Embajadores, 41
📍 EMBAJADORES / LAVAPIÉS
📍 Winter: Mon-Fri 9 am to 2:15 pm and 5 to 8 pm.
  Saturdays 9 am to 2:30 pm.
 Summer: Mon-Fri 9 am to 2:15 pm and 5:30 to 8:30 pm.
  Saturdays 9 am to 2:30 pm.

An alternative style in the Lavapiés district. In addition to the traditional range of fresh food, visitors will find everything from clothes shops to a charming bookshop.
FASHION FOR ALL TASTES
Exclusive boutiques in Calle de Serrano, alternative outlets in Chueca and bohemian shops in the Literary Quarter. Madrid has many styles, as do the plethora of stores that are dotted around the city. Stroll its neighbourhoods and find trends to suit all tastes and to fit all occasions.

**SOL-GRAN VÍA**

Having recently turned 100, Madrid’s Gran Vía is busier than ever. The same is true of Puerta del Sol and the nearby streets of Carmen, Preciados and Arenal. Sunday shopping has become a tradition in this area where national and international fashion chains and department stores line the streets.

**HAPSBURG MADRID**

A labyrinth of charming streets surrounds Plaza Mayor and the Royal Palace. This area, known in Spanish as ‘Madrid de los Austrias’, is home to many of the capital’s centuries-old shops, where you can buy anything from hats to capes, similar to those Picasso once wore. Long-standing craftsmen reside next to cake shops selling typical pastries.
LITERARY QUARTER
(SEVILLA / ANTON MARTIN)

After visiting the Art Walk, many may prefer to wander through the streets of the neighbourhood Madrilenians refer to as Barrio de las Letras and take home a long sought-after antique book. Once the residence of the great writers of the Spanish Golden Age, the Literary Quarter, now almost entirely pedestrianised, is living a new era. Old and new businesses rub shoulders with each other, including second-hand bookshops, vintage furniture stores and even 21st century artisan craft workshops.

TRIBALL-MALASAÑA
(TRIBUNAL)

Just behind Gran Vía avenue lies Triball, a laid-back area home to original stores filled with alternative fashion items, bars and unique restaurants. It’s hard to define exactly where it starts and ends, since it melds with its neighbour Malasaña, a favourite among young designers.
Calle de Fuencarral has turned into a showcase of the latest trends. Trendy clothes and accessories are displayed in the shop windows which extend as far as Chueca, a cosmopolitan and diverse neighbourhood, packed with small, designer stores. But it’s not only clothes you can find here; the area boasts home furnishing shops, specialised bookshops and much more. Just a short walk from Chueca lies Las Salesas, a bohemian alternative to the Salamanca district filled with multibrand stores and gourmet bakeries.

Top national and international fashion firms and designers all have their stores in this elegant district. Exclusive restaurants, jewellers and shoe shops line streets like Calle Serrano, with its wide pavements, José Ortega y Gasset and Jorge Juan. Get ready to witness a veritable fashion parade.
**EL RASTRO**
† Ribera de Curtidores and surrounding area
❖ LA LATINA / TIRSO DE MOLINA / PUERTA DE TOLEDO
Θ Sun and holidays 9 am to 3 pm

Dating back to the 16th century and selling everything from furniture to antiques and books, El Rastro is Madrid’s most popular flea market. Stores in the area open every day.

**CUESTA DE MOYANO**
† Claudio Moyano (no number)
❖ ATOCHA / ATOCHA RENFE
Θ Lun-dom / Mon-Sun 9:30-14:00 h & 17:00-20:00 h

This pedestrianised walkway runs next to the Royal Botanical Gardens and El Retiro park and is lined with stands where passers-by can stop to purchase old, new and second-hand books. This is a tradition dating from 1925.

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**OPENING HOURS**

Madrid has no restriction on opening hours. That means that all the shops and department stores can open all year round, even on Sundays and most public holidays. In the centre around Gran Vía and Puerta del Sol square, people traditionally go shopping on the last day of the week. Opening time tends to be at 10 am and closing time at 8:30 pm (small businesses) or 10 pm (shopping centres).
NIGHTLIFE

Madrid after Sunset
Madrid is one of the most exciting and liveliest cities in the world both by day and night. Clubs, jazz venues, cafés, tablaos (flamenco bars) and typical taverns attract a rich variety of people—particularly at weekends—ready and willing to have a great time. With the arrival of spring and summer, the best atmosphere is to be found outdoors in the streets, in the multitude of busy street cafés.

**LITERARY QUARTER**
Plaza Santa Ana square is home to some of the most traditional beer halls in Madrid. The area around Calle de Huertas is packed with lively pubs and clubs, some offering live music.

**MONCLOA-ARGÜELLES**
This area has a youthful atmosphere thanks to its proximity to a number of student residences and university halls. It lies mainly between Plaza de la Moncloa and Calle Alberto Aguilera, and is home to a range of pubs, bars and clubs in various styles.

**BARRIO DE SALAMANCA**
This area is delimited by the Paseo de la Castellana and the streets of Alcalá, María de Molina and Francisco Silvela. This is an area with an urban chic style, characterised by elegant venues and predominantly commercial, dance and house music.

**LA LATINA**
This quarter in the very heart of Madrid has a wide variety of restaurants and tapas bars, and is the perfect place to spend a pleasant evening which can be continued later in any of the numerous clubs around the area.

**MALASAÑA Y CHUECA**
The “Movida Madrileña” counter-culture movement emerged in the early 1980s in Malasaña, a district located between Gran Vía, Fuencarral and San Bernardo and the Glorieta de Bilbao. Today the epicentre is Plaza del Dos de Mayo, and its distinctive feature is its alternative style. Its soundtrack features rock, singer-songwriters and indie pop, which can all be enjoyed in intimate venues. It’s difficult to determine where the Malasaña district begins and ends, as it is cheek by jowl with Conde Duque—which itself has bars and street cafés catering to the bohemian crowd—and Chueca, Madrid’s gay-friendly district par excellence. Its narrow, bustling and liberal-minded streets are packed with an array of bars, restaurants, pubs and clubs.

**LA NOCHE EN VIVO**
Madrid’s nightlife is legendary. This is partly thanks to the Association of Live Music Venues which, under the name of La Noche en Vivo, represents over 45 venues. These are places not to be missed where you can hear the new voices destined to be the stars of tomorrow, as well as established bands and singers who still remember the places where they started out. You’ll find pop rock, jazz, flamenco, singer-songwriters...

More information: www.lanocheenvivo.com
LIVE SHOWS
Madrid is the capital of flamenco, the place where all up-and-coming flamenco artistes must make their name in order to achieve international fame. The city has some of the best flamenco clubs in Spain, offering live flamenco shows accompanied by delicious dinners every night. Madrid's cultural programme also includes various festivals and encounters throughout the year featuring modern and classical dance and music.
At the top of a roller-coaster, eye to eye with a shark, whirling on a merry-go-round... There are thousands of ways of enjoying the city from a child's point of view. What to do with the kids is a question parents are always asking themselves, but there's no doubt that Madrid offers an ever greater array of entertainment options aimed at younger visitors. This offer combines both culture and play, and also enables adults to have a good time while they accompany their children. It is worth remembering that Madrid's major museums also organise special workshops for children.
Come along with friends and family and be prepared for heart-stopping roller coasters, vertiginous heights and the spine-chilling The Walking Dead Experience.

Marvel at the smallest insects and the largest mammals. Here you'll find over 6,000 animals, including Xiang Bao, a giant panda who kids just love.

Catch a glimpse of the world's richest ecosystems, as well as a variety of habitats and natural environments.

Feel like a film star for a day, experience the risky task of Hollywood stunt people or have your photo taken with your favourite cartoon character.
TELEFÉRICO DE MADRID
📍 Paseo del Pintor Rosales & Casa de Campo
 بهذا ARGÜELLES / BATÁN / LAGO
様々 www.teleferico.com

Madrid’s cable car goes from Paseo de Rosales to Casa de Campo and back. Travelling 40 metres up in the air, it takes you on a special sightseeing tour that offers a bird’s eye view of the city. A recorded voice describes everything you see en route, from the Royal Palace and La Almudena Cathedral to the San Antonio de la Florida chapel.

RATÓN PÉREZ HOUSE MUSEUM
📍 Arenal, 8. 1st floor
📍 91 522 69 68
📍 SOL / ÓPERA / CALLAO
📍 Mon 5 to 8 pm. Tue-Fri 11 am to 2 pm and 5 to 8 pm. Sat 11 am to 3 pm and 4 to 7 pm.
様々 www.casamuseoratonperez.es

Luis Coloma wrote a story about Pérez the Mouse—the Spanish equivalent of the tooth fairy—to comfort King Alfonso XIII when he was a child and had just lost one of his milk teeth. This much-loved character used to live right here, where a museum now delights youngsters from far and wide.

PLANETARIO DE MADRID
📍 Avda. del Planetario, 16
📍 91 467 34 61
📍 MÉNDEZ ÁLVARO
様々 www.planetmad.es

The primary aim of the planetarium is to strengthen our connection with the cosmos and to encourage this through the dissemination of astronomic knowledge in a way everyone can enjoy.

DREAMS PALACIO DE HIELO
📍 Silvano, 77
📍 91 716 04 00
📍 CANILLAS

A 1.800m² rink where you can learn to ice skate.
CARLOS SAINZ CENTER
📍 Sepúlveda, 3
📞 902 170 190
📍 PUERTA DEL ÁNGEL
🌐 www.kartcsainz.com

Feel like a true racing driver in one of the best indoor kart circuits in Europe, with more than 3,000m² of track and lots of thrilling bends.

MICROPOLIX
📍 San Sebastián de los Reyes
📞 91 799 00 00
🌐 www.micropolix.com

Kids will love this educational theme park: a town for 5 to 13 year olds with everything from a town hall, supermarket and hospital to a university, theatre and recreational area.

MADRID SNOW ZONE
📍 Arroyomolinos
📞 902 361 309

The only indoor snow slope in Spain is open for skiing all year round.

TEATRO CIRCO PRICE
📍 Ronda de Atocha, 35
📞 91 527 98 65
📍 ATOCHA /EMBAJADORES / LAVAPIÉS

Madrid's great resident circus has a full all-year-round programme of children's shows and circus acts featuring the best companies on today's circus scene.
El Retiro Park
Madrid as a city offers culture, monuments, entertainment and fine food. But it is also green and environmentally-friendly. Strolling around parks like El Retiro and Oeste, or through gardens like the Sabatini and the Campo del Moro, is a pleasure that everyone should make a point of experiencing.

**EL RETIRO PARK**
- Plaza de la Independencia (no number)
- RETIRO / PRÍNCIPE DE VERGARA / IBIZA / ATOCHA
- October to March: Mon-Sun 6 am to 10 pm
  - April to September: Mon-Sun 6 am to 12 midnight

Created in the 17th century as the garden of the Palace of El Buen Retiro during the reign of Philip IV, this is the most important historical-artistic park in the city, and one of the most beautiful green urban spaces in the world. Its most interesting features are the gardens of Cecilio Rodríguez, the monument to Alfonso XII, the pond, the Crystal Palace and the fountain of the Fallen Angel. A unique place for strolling, cycling, taking a boat trip or watching a puppet show at the permanent theatre. Another interesting option is to visit the National Astronomical Observatory.

**SABATINI GARDENS**
- Bailén (no number)
- ÓPERA / PLAZA DE ESPAÑA
- October to April: every day 9 am to 9 pm.
  - May to September: every day 9 am to 10 pm.

These classicist-style gardens with trimmed hedges are located opposite the north facade of the Royal Palace. They were created around 1930 on a site once occupied by the Royal Stables built by Francisco Sabatini.
CAMPO DEL MORO
📍 Paseo Virgen del Puerto (no number)
📍 PRÍNCIPE PÍO
📅 October to March: every day 10 am to 6 pm.
📅 April to September: every day 10 am to 8 pm.

Located along the west facade of the Royal Palace, the park was built by Isabella II in 1844. Its name alludes to the fact that it was the place where the Muslim armies once camped when laying siege to the city. Two fountains, the Tritons and the Seashells, form the central axis of the gardens, intersected by gently curving paths. It offers excellent view of the Royal Palace.

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS
📍 Plaza de Murillo, 2
📍 ATOCHA / ATOCHA RENFE
📅 Open every day from 10 am
  (closing time varies each month).
🌐 www.rjb.csic.es

On 17 October 1755, Ferdinand VI ordered the creation of the Royal Botanical Gardens of Madrid, containing over 2,000 plants collected by the botanist José Quer. In 1774, Charles III ordered it to be transferred to its current site on the Paseo del Prado, where it opened in 1781. Designed by Juan de Villanueva, its three stepped terraces are home to plants from America, Europe and the Pacific. This is the best place in Madrid to enjoy the changing seasons.
CASA DE CAMPO
Avda. de Portugal (no number)
LAGO / CASA DE CAMPO

This space, with an area of over 1,722 hectares, is the largest park in Madrid and the genuine green lung of the city. Philip II bought the estate in 1562, and it became the favourite hunting reserve of the Spanish monarchs. It was declared a Royal Forest in 1746 and in 1931 became public property. It also has a large lake and paths for walking and cycling.

OESTE PARK
MONCLOA / ARGÜELLES / PRÍNCIPE PÍO

Designed at the start of the last century by Cecilio Rodríguez, this park has a monumental and landscaped style with marked changes in level and curving naturalistic paths.

FUENTE DEL BERRO PARK
O’DONNELL / MANUEL BECERRA

This former country estate is a fine example of naturalistic landscape gardening.

LA QUINTA DE LOS MOLINOS PARK
SUANZES

Built in the early 20th century, the 25 hectares of this park include large expanses of wooded areas and a wide variety of species such as olive trees, pines, eucalyptuses, etc. Its almond trees are particularly famous, and offer a spectacular display when they bloom in February.
EL CAPRICHÒ
📍 Paseo de la Alameda de Osuna (no number)
📍 EL CAPRICHÒ
🕒 October to March: Sat, Sun and holidays 9 am to 6:30 pm.
          April to September: Sat, Sun and holidays 9 am to 9 pm.

These romantic French-style gardens date from the 18th century. Fountains, mazes, a pavilion dedicated to Bacchus, a jetty... all these were the fruit of the imagination of the Duchess of Osuna.

JUAN CARLOS I PARK
📍 Glorieta Don Juan de Borbón (no number)
📍 CAMPO DE LAS NACIONES

The design of this Park recalls the growth of a city around an estuary, surrounded by a symbolic city wall. There is a free bicycle loan service for use in the park, which is also the perfect place for flying kites.

MADRID RÍO
📍 PIRÁMIDES / PRÍNCIPE PÍO

Madrid Río park is the perfect place for strolling, cycling, enjoying its sports facilities and children’s playgrounds which have slides and zipwires. It even has its own urban beach: a site with three oval spaces where on hot days –although you can’t swim– you can cool down thanks to different sized water jets and clouds of water spray.

CERRO DEL TÍO PÍO PARK
📍 BUENOS AIRES / PORTAZGO

This park is one of the best place in the whole city to watch the sun go down.
Secret gardens

PRÍNCIPE DE ANGLONA GARDEN
📍 Príncipe de Anglona (no number)
📍 LA LATINA

Small and delicate, this garden was created in 1920 as a private garden for the palace next door and has some of the distinctive features of the neoclassical and Andalusian courtyard styles. However, the most interesting element is its hanging structure, as the garden is raised on an artificial embankment that spans the difference in level with Calle de Segovia street. This is the perfect place for escaping with a book.

GREENHOUSE AT ATOCHA STATION
📍 Plaza del Emperador Carlos V (no number)
📍 ATOCHA RENFE

This tropical garden is located inside the actual train station. It is home to 7,200 plants from 500 species originating in America, Australia, Asia and Africa.

HUERTO DE LAS MONJAS GARDEN
📍 Sacramento, 7
📍 ÓPERA

After walking through a passageway under modern buildings you'll come to this charming garden in the heart of Hapsburg Madrid, which until 1972 was protected by the high walls of a convent. This secluded corner was used by the nuns for their vegetable and kitchen garden, and evokes the atmosphere of the cloisters of Madrid in the Golden Age.
In Madrid you can watch premier football almost all year round. The Real Madrid and Atlético de Madrid teams, both with more than 100 years of history behind them, play in the first division of the Spanish football league. Other teams from Madrid that also play in the league are Rayo Vallecano and Getafe. The Spanish league begins in early September and ends in June. Matches are held on Saturdays and Sundays, and European tournaments and the King’s Cup are played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
BERNABÉU TOUR
📍 Santiago Bernabéu Stadium
   Concha Espina, 1 (entry at Tower B)
📞 902 31 17 09
📍 SANTIAGO BERNABÉU
📅 Mon-Sat 10 am to 7 pm.
   Sun and holidays 10:30 am to 6:30 pm.
   On match days: tour available until five hours before the start of the match.
📍 www.realmadrid.com

The tour of the Real Madrid stadium includes access to the trophy room, the players’ tunnel, the dressing rooms, the president’s box, the press room and a stroll around the edge of the pitch itself.

ATLÉTICO DE MADRID MUSEUM
📍 Vicente Calderón Stadium (Gate 23)
   Paseo de los Melancólicos, 69
📞 902 26 04 03 / 91 365 09 31
📍 PIRÁMIDES / MARQUÉS DE VADILLO
📅 Mon-Sun 11 am to 7 pm.
   On match days, from 11 am to kick-off.
📍 www.clubatleticodemadrid.com

Atlético de Madrid has an official museum showcasing its hundred years of history and the evolution of Spanish and world football. Trophies, shirts, photographs and collections of football boots are just a few of the exhibits on display. Visitors can also take the guided tour of the Vicente Calderón stadium.

Horse racing

The horse races at the Zarzuela racecourse take place every Sunday morning during the spring and autumn seasons, and in summer there are usually night races on Thursdays. Its location near the Monte del Pardo makes this the perfect place for spending the day doing something different. Sport, nature and lots of excitement are guaranteed.

📍 La Zarzuela Racecourse
   A-6 road (road to A Coruña), exit 8
📞 91 740 05 40
The Plaza Mayor Tourist Center is much more than a tourist information office, it’s a meeting and exhibition point reflecting the city’s dynamic character and the diversity of its people. Based inside the Salón de Columnas in the Casa de la Panadería, it is open 365 days a year, from 9.30am till 9.30pm.

Here you can keep your finger on the pulse of the city of Madrid and discover all the things you shouldn’t miss during your stay here: neighbourhoods, traditions, family leisure activities, cultural routes, events calendar, etc. Here, in the Madrid Shop, you can buy more than 150 tourist services. These include the Madrid City Tour, the bus that transports you through the streets of Madrid, and the Madrid Card tourist pass, which you can use in many of the city’s cultural and leisure attractions. The Centre, which complies with the UNE 170001-2 Universal Accessibility standard, has a Spanish Sign Language interpreter as well as a free and publicly accessible Wi-Fi network.

**Plaza de Callao**
- CALLAO

**Atocha**
- Ronda de Atocha.
  - Next to Reina Sofía Museum
- ATOCHA

**Santiago Bernabéu Stadium**
- Paseo de la Castellana, 138.
  - Next to Santiago Bernabéu
- SANTIAGO BERNABÉU

**Recoletos-Colón**
- Paseo de Recoletos, 23 (boulevard)
- COLOM

**Paseo del Prado**
- Near Neptune Fountain and
  - The Prado Museum
- BANCO DE ESPAÑA / ATOCHA

**CentroCentro**
- Palacio de Cibeles
- BANCO DE ESPAÑA

**Faro de Moncloa**
- Av. Arco de la Victoria, 2
- MONCLOA

**Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport**
- T4. Arrivals lounge 10
  - (baggage claim area)
- T2. Arrivals lounges 5 and 6
- AEROPUERTO T1-T2-T3 / AEROPUERTO T4
- Mon-Sun 9 am to 8 pm

**Foreign Tourist Service (SATE)**
- Leganitos, 19. Centro police station
- SANTO DOMINGO / PLAZA DE ESPAÑA
  - Mon-Sun 9 am to midnight
- satemadrid@esmadrid.com
**Useful Information**

**TRAINS**
- Information and bookings: 902 24 02 02
- www.renfe.com

**Chamartín**
- Agustín de Foxá (no number)
- CHAMARTÍN

**Puerta de Atocha**
- Glorieta del Emperador Carlos V
- (no number)
- ATOCHA RENFE

**Príncipe Pío (Cercanías)**
- Paseo de la Florida (no number), on the corner of Cuesta de San Vicente
- PRÍNCIPE PÍO

**Sol (Cercanías)**
- Puerta del Sol
- SOL

**METRO**
- 902 44 44 03
- Mon-Sun 6 am to 1:30 am
- www.metromadrid.es

**BUSES**

**Buses (EMT)**
- 902 50 78 50
- Mon-Sun 6 am to 11:30 pm
- www.emtmadrid.es

Madrid has an extensive bus service (207 lines) operating from 6 am to 11:30 pm. Route maps are displayed at the bus stops. Night buses or Búhos (Owls) operate along twenty-seven routes and leave Plaza de Cibeles every 20-30 minutes from 11.45pm to 6am.

**BUS STATIONS (NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL)**

**Estación Sur de Autobuses**
- Méndez Álvaro, 83
- 91 468 42 00 / 91 468 45 11
- MÉNDEZ ÁLVARO
- www.estacionsurdeautobuses.com

**Estación de Avenida de América**
- Avenida de América, 9
- AVENIDA DE AMÉRICA

**Estación de Plaza Elíptica**
- PLAZA ELÍPTICA

**Intercambiador de Príncipe Pío**
- Paseo del Rey (no number)
- Príncipe Pío

**Madrid City Tour**

Madrid City Tour is one of the easiest and most convenient ways to see the city. Just buy a ticket and get on the bus, plug in your headset for the audio guide, sit back and enjoy all the streets, monuments and other interesting sights. Plus, you can get on and off whenever you like. There are two routes (Route 1 and Route 2) and information in 14 languages.

**Tickets can be purchased** on the buses themselves, at hotels, travel agents, the Madrid City Tour (MCT) office (on Felipe IV, next to the Prado Museum), the Plaza Mayor Tourist Center and at www.madridcitytour.es. Tel. 902 02 47 58
TAXIS
Radio Taxi Asociación Gremial
☎ 91 447 32 32 / 91 447 51 80
Radio Teléfono Taxi
☎ 91 547 82 00
Tele Taxi
☎ 91 371 21 31 / 902 50 11 30

EMERGENCIES
☎ 112

LOST PROPERTY
☎ Paseo del Molino, 7
☎ 91 527 95 90
❖ LEGAZPI
❖ Mon-Fri 9 am to 2 pm

TICKETS SALE
❖ www.entradas.com
❖ www.elcorteingles.es
❖ www.ticketea.com

ADOLFO SUÁREZ MADRID-BARAJAS AIRPORT
❖ Ctra. de Barcelona, km 16
☎ 902 40 47 04
❖ AEROPUERTO T1-T2-T3 / AEROPUERTO T4
Cercanías (train): AEROPUERTO T4

Metro line 8 connects Nuevos Ministerios to T4 in under 20 minutes and all other terminals in 12 minutes. From Nuevos Ministerios, you can get to the city centre and surrounding areas on the Cercanías local rail network.

Bus: The Airport Express bus runs from Atocha station to Barajas Airport during the day (6 am to 11:30 pm) and from Cibeles to Barajas Airport at night (11:30 pm to 6 am). Buses run every 15 minutes from Atocha and every 35 minutes from Cibeles. Bus number 200 runs from Barajas Airport to the transport interchange hub on Avenida de América every 12 minutes from 5am to 11:30 pm (T1, T2 and T4). Buses number 827 and 828 run to T4 and 822 to T1, T2 and T3.

Shuttle buses: A special free service links all four terminals.

Madrid card
The must-have sightseeing pass. Over 50 museums and monuments, discounts on purchases and in restaurants, and priority access to the main museums. Cards are available for 24, 48, 72 and 120 hours and can be purchased in:
❖ Plaza Mayor Tourist Center
Plaza Mayor (no number)
❖ www.madridcard.com

If you’re calling from outside Spain, please use the prefix +34 (except for 902 numbers)
EVENTS CALENDAR

GASTROFESTIVAL
January
Held to coincide with Madrid Fusión - the spectacular international food fair -, this great food and cultural event takes place in Madrid in January and offers a wide range of activities. The programme features tasting sessions, courses and sampling events arranged by restaurants, museums, art galleries and delicatessen shops, and the presence of renowned chefs.

ARCOMADRID
February
Every year the Madrid trade fair ground hosts the Madrid International Contemporary Art Fair, a meeting point for gallery owners, collectors and the general public.

ROCK ‘N’ ROLL MADRID MARATÓN & 1/2
April
The Madrid Marathon takes place the last Sunday in April and is Spain’s number one urban running event. The chance to enjoy live music all along the route is yet another incentive to support the runners.
**MUTUA MADRID OPEN**
*May*
Together with Roland Garros and Wimbledon, Mutua Madrid Open is the only mixed tennis tournament (featuring both men's and women's competitions) in Europe. It takes place in a spectacular venue: Caja Mágica, by the architect Dominique Perrault.

**FESTIVITIES OF SAN ISIDRO**
*May*
A series of concerts and cultural and leisure activities take place throughout the streets of the city centre to mark the feast day of Madrid's patron saint on 15 May. This is also the date (from 10 May to the end of the month approximately) of the world’s most important bullfighting festival, held in the Las Ventas bullring.

**PHOTOESPAÑA**
*June-August*
A vast photography festival featuring dozens of exhibitions around the whole city over a period of two months.

**GAY PRIDE DAY**
*June-July*
Madrid joins in the celebrations with the LGBT community and the Chueca district puts on its finest display to mark these festivities. The highlight of the event is the parade, which is accompanied along the route by throngs of people.

**VERANOS DE LA VILLA FESTIVAL**
*July-August*
Summer nights are the perfect time for enjoying theatre, dance and live music events by international artists.

**DECORACCION**
*June*
This festival covers every aspect of jazz and features artists from all around the world who perform in different settings and venues around the city.

**CHRISTMAS**
*December*
Street markets, designer lights, nativity scenes and themed shows are all part of the run-up to Christmas each year in Madrid. On New Year’s Eve people gather in Puerta del Sol square to follow the tradition of eating 12 grapes as the clock chimes above the square.