

Madrid



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CONTENTS

THE ROYAL PALACE AND LA ALMUDENA CATHEDRAL

Introduction	3	The hidden city	19
Discover Madrid neighbourhood by neighbourhood	4	Parks and gardens	
Malasaña		Museums with a special charm	
Chamberí		Monuments	
Chueca		The rooftops of Madrid	
Gran Vía and Sol		Experience Madrid's nightlife	21
Princesa		Routes and walks in the city	22
Salesas		Cervantes' Madrid - The Golden Age	
Barrio de las Letras Quarter		A stroll around Almodóvar's Madrid	
Madrid de los Austrias		Madrid by bike	
Lavapiés and DELICIAS		Eight cities to visit near Madrid	23
La Latina		Alcalá de Henares	
El Retiro		Aranjuez	
Football in Madrid		El Escorial	
Madrid, a great cultural centre	10	Toledo	
Madrid: a city of museums		Segovia	
Art centres		Cuenca	
Tasting Madrid	13	Avila	
Traditional cuisine		Salamanca	
Avant-garde cuisine		How to get there	25
Madrid for every season	15	Airport	
Summer		AVE	
Autumn		Car	
Winter		Getting around Madrid	
Spring		Madrid Tourist Office	
Things to do with the kids	17		
Amusement Park			
Parque Warner Theme Park			
Zoo Aquarium			
Faunia			
Planetarium			
National Museum of Natural Sciences			
Museum of the Americas			

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Front: Monument to Alfonso XII, Retiro park
 Back: Plaza Mayor square

INTRODUCTION

Come to Madrid, a modern and welcoming city with a multitude of things to see and do. You can wander through streets steeped in history, discover some of the more than 90 museums, stroll around beautiful parks and gardens, explore its **Landscape of Light**, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and enjoy exciting cultural options. And of course, sample the legendary Madrid nightlife.

Spain's capital is culture. There's nowhere else in the world with as many masterpieces in such a small area. We're talking about the **Paseo del Arte** Art Walk: in a little over one kilometre you can visit the **Prado**, **Thyssen-Bornemisza** and **Reina Sofía** museums.

Immerse yourself in the city's rich historical heritage: head for the **Plaza Mayor** or enjoy a tapa in a bar near the **Casa de la Villa** while you relive Madrid's medieval past. Wander at dusk through the gardens, fountains and palaces of the **Madrid of the Bourbon Dynasty**.

Madrid will also captivate your taste buds. Enjoy the charm of its bars and taverns, savour the vast offering of Spanish and international cuisine in its restaurants and foodie destinations, or try some typical Madrid dishes like “chocolate con churros” (hot chocolate with fritters), “cocido madrileño” (a hearty chickpea stew) or a squid sandwich.

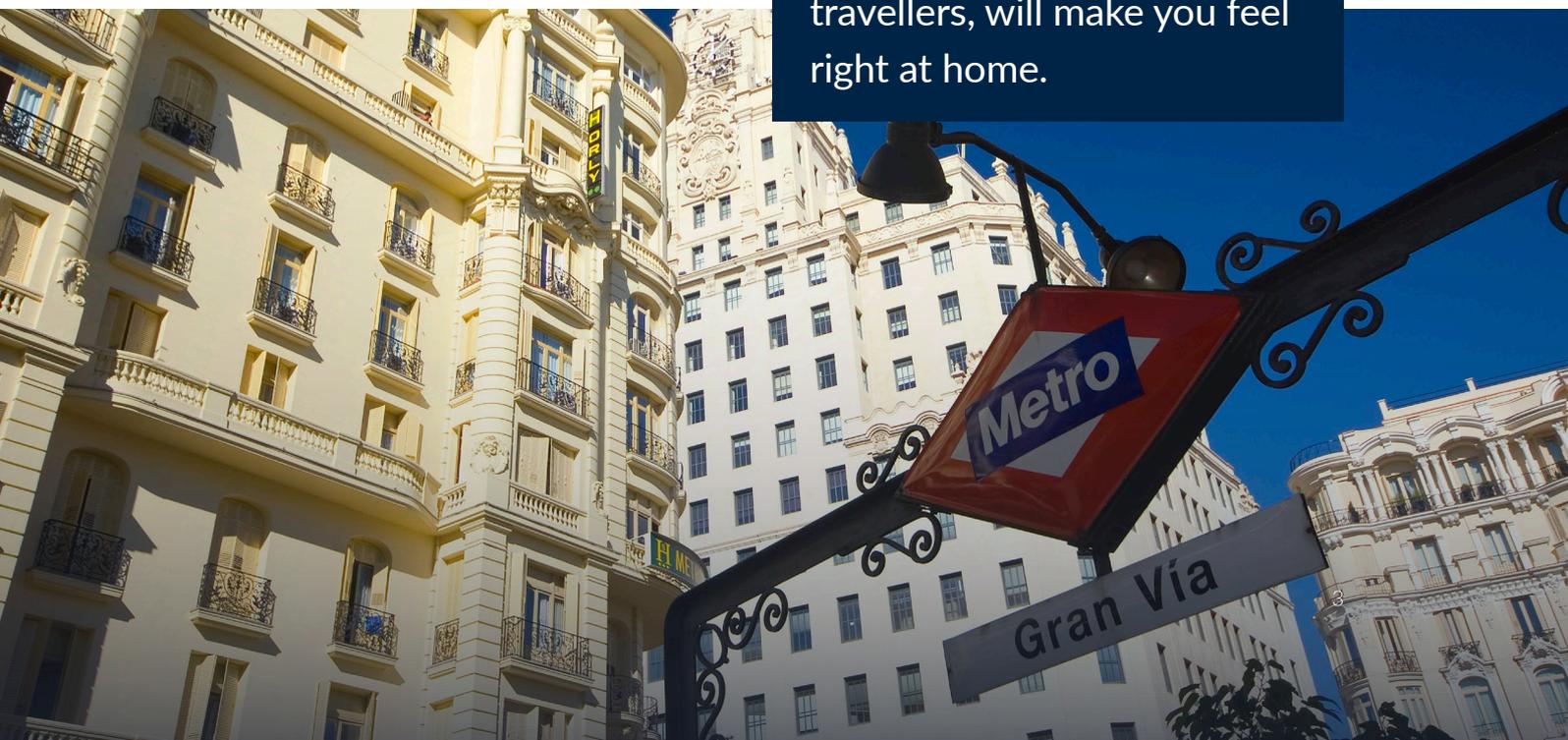
Lounge in the sun or ride a bike in one of the greenest cities in Europe. You can stroll around vast natural areas like the **Retiro**, **Casa de Campo** and **Madrid Río** parks. The mountains near Madrid are a great place for snow sports and for immersing yourself in nature.

Don't miss a visit to a **flamenco tablao** to really experience “Spanish passion”.

Fun, culture, gastronomy... Whatever you're looking for, you'll always find it in Madrid.

The friendly nature of the locals, always happy to help travellers, will make you feel right at home.

▼ GRAN VÍA



MADRID

↖ T
TEATRO

← S3
SALA 3 EXPOSICIONES

→ A
AUDITORIO

CONDE
DUQUE

DISCOVER MADRID NEIGHBOURHOOD BY NEIGHBOURHOOD

▲ CONDE DUQUE CULTURAL CENTRE
Photo: José Barea © Madrid Destino

Explore all the neighbourhoods in this incredible city and experience the special character of each one for yourself. They're all different, but they all have one thing in common: the open character of the Madrileños.

MALASAÑA

You'll find all the latest trends in **Malasaña**. Take a stroll around some of the legendary bars near the historic **Plaza del Dos de Mayo** and learn about the phenomenon known as the *Movida Madrileña*, a counter-cultural and musical movement that revolutionised the 1980s. Stroll around Madrid's *hipster and alternative* area and discover a paradise of *vintage shopping*. Browse its second-hand bookshops and its markets featuring the work of young designers, and take a tour of one of the

main shopping areas in the capital: **Calle Fuencarral**. Then you can restore your strength after *shopping* with a little something on **Calle Ballesta** or in **Plaza de San Ildefonso**, and check out some of the concerts and cultural events on offer in the **Conde Duque Contemporary Culture Centre** in a magical architectural building.



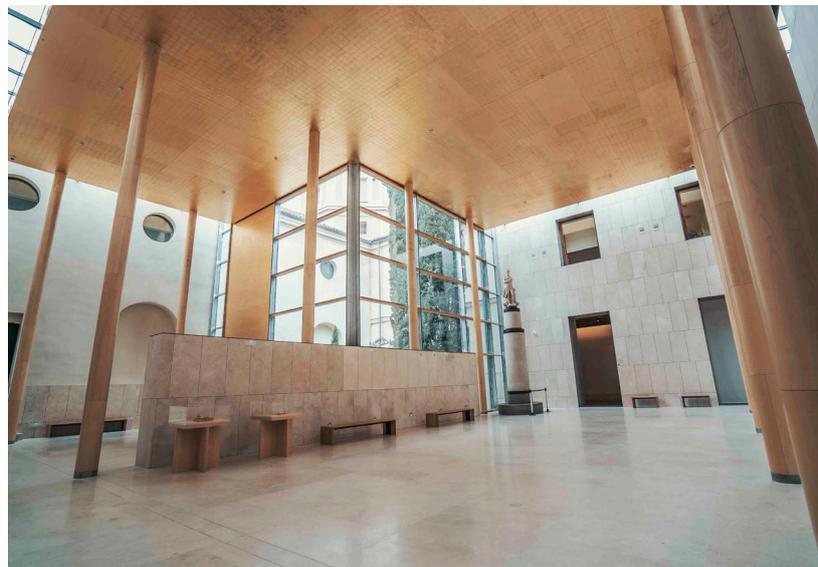
▲ PLAZA DEL DOS DE MAYO

CHAMBERÍ

Very near Malasaña you'll find **Chamberí**, the most typical of all of Madrid's neighbourhoods. This is where you'll see aristocratic Madrid as you stroll around **Alonso Cano**, **Ponzano** and **Zurbarán** streets and the surrounding area, with their spectacular mansions, boutiques and gourmet shops. Travel back in time by visiting the **Metro Museum** in the **old Chamberí station**, a former underground station that was closed in 1969. The modern **Canal Theatres** are an excellent place to see plays and dance productions to suit all tastes. A good option is to relax in one of the pavement cafes in the peaceful **Plaza de Olavide**.

CHUECA

Enjoy the nightlife in the modern and avant-garde neighbourhood of **Chueca**. You'll find traditional taverns, cutting-edge cafés and bars, clubs with DJs and shows. Chueca is the capital's **LGBTI+ Quarter**. Come and join the explosion of high spirits, freedom and colour by taking part in one of the most popular **Gay Pride** parades in the world, hosted in June. Here you'll really feel the city's immense cultural heritage. This is a chance to see one of the few modernist buildings in the city, **Longoria Palace**, and to visit the **Madrid History Museum**, a Baroque building dating from the 18th-century.



► **METRO MUSEUM, FORMER CHAMBERÍ STATION**
Photo: Hiberus © Madrid Destino

► **GAY PRIDE**
Photo: Biniam Ghezai © Madrid Destino

► **MADRID HISTORY MUSEUM**
Photo: Hiberus © Madrid Destino

GRAN VÍA AND SOL

A walk up and down the vibrant thoroughfare of the **Gran Vía**, known as **Madrid's own Broadway**, will give you an idea of its endless offering of culture and leisure. You'll find hit musicals, the latest cinema releases, a whole range of bars and restaurants and a multitude of shops and businesses. In the **Puerta del Sol** square you can spot the “kilometre zero” sign from which all roads in Spain are measured, and you can welcome the New Year like millions of Spaniards: by eating twelve grapes to the chimes of its clock.

PRINCESA

One of the treasures of Madrid, the **Temple of Debod**, awaits you in the lovely **Oeste Park**. This ancient Egyptian funerary monument is the best place to take in one of the most magical sunsets you'll ever see. Very close by you can visit the **Palacio de Liria** and its impres-

sive art collection, or spend some time in the **Plaza de España**, with its attractive gardens and relaxing fountains, you can take a photo beside the monument to **Don Quixote and Sancho Panza**. And if you like *shopping*, this neighbourhood is where you'll find some major shopping streets and *boutiques*.

SALESAS

We recommend a leisurely stroll past the statues and fountains on the **Paseo de Recoletos** Avenue in the Las **Salesas** neighbourhood, or whiling away some time in the **Mapfre Foundation** exhibition space. You can relax in the gardens of the **Plaza de la Villa de Paris**, next to the impressive **Supreme Court** building, or drop into **Santa Bárbara Church**. If you like shopping, the best idea is to head for the streets of **Piamonte and Almirante**. You can watch the world go by on the pavement cafés in **Plaza de Santa Bárbara**, or treat yourself in a Michelin-starred restaurant.

▼ TEMPLE OF DEBOD



BARRIO DE LAS LETRAS QUARTER

Come and experience the **Madrid of the Golden Age** by wandering through the **Barrio de las Letras** (“the Literary Quarter”), where you can stroll through its cobbled streets and browse shops selling arts, crafts, antiques, and *vintage items*. You can resume your walk through its alleyways with their historic literary



▲ CUESTA DE MOYANO BOOKSELLERS MARKET

connections and stop at any of its typical taverns. Another great idea is to visit the **Teatro Español**, which was created as an open-air theatre in the 16th century and is the oldest continuously active theatre in the world. If you'd like to take home part of the essence of this neighbourhood, what about an out-of-print book or an old comic in the open-air book market on the **Cuesta de Moyano**?

MADRID DE LOS AUSTRIAS

This must be one of the most charming areas in the whole city for browsing. A good idea is to start in the **Plaza Mayor**, a wonderful Renaissance space with a rich architectural heritage. Highlights here include the **statue of Philip III**, the exterior frescoes on the Casa de la Panadería building and the **Cuchilleros Arch**. You can sample some of the popular tapas in the numerous taverns and wander through the arcade while you browse the interesting *souvenir shops*. **Plaza de la Villa** is the medieval part of this neighbourhood, and nearby you can see a fine example of 18th-century Baroque in **San Miguel Church**. If you continue along the narrow cobbled streets you'll arrive at the **Monastery of the Descalzas Reales**. Enjoy spectacular views from the dome of **Almudena Cathedral** before visiting the **Royal Palace**, also known as the **Palacio de Oriente**, the old residence of the Spanish monarchs throughout history, and the venue for important state events and ceremonies.

An excellent treat in some of the cafes around the **Opera House** is a cup of hot chocolate with “picatostes” (crispy sticks of fried bread for dipping). At sunset, you can look out over the **Sabatini Gardens** and see the changing colours as the light falls on the façade of the Royal Palace.



▲ PLAZA DE LA VILLA

Photo: Brian Kinney/123rf.com

LAVAPIÉS AND DELICIAS

Lavapiés is a lively, multiracial quarter that's now the height of fashion. The best idea is to wander through its steep and narrow streets and discover the “**corralas**”, the typical indoor courtyards in the buildings in this area. This is a place where you can mingle with local inhabitants who've come from all over the world. Treat yourself to some organic coffee, browse its numerous bookshops, check out its small galleries and art spaces, such as **La Casa Encendida**, and visit some of its social centres.

In this epicentre of alternative and avant-garde theatre, you'll come across small venues like **La Escalera de Jacob**. If you're looking for something *cool*, you'll find it in the **Motor Market**, between the platforms in the Railway Museum. This is the place to listen to live music, sample gourmet tapas, and buy alternative products. Visit it during the second weekend of each month.

LA LATINA

Sights to see in the neighbouring quarter of **La Latina** include **San Cayetano Church**, and don't miss a visit to the **Rastro**, the largest and oldest street market in the city, with Medieval roots, which is open every Sunday and every public holiday. And any other day you can wander around this area and discover its shops brimming with antiques and curiosities.

▼ EL RASTRO





▲ CRYSTAL PALACE
EL RETIRO PARK

EL RETIRO

As you stroll around **Retiro** Park you'll feel you really belong to this great city. Another option is to explore it by bike, take a boat out on the lake, or relax in a secluded corner and watch the clouds go by. A few minutes' walk away, the **Salamanca** district is sure to tempt you with its exclusive *shopping* opportunities: the **Golden Mile**, near **Calle Serrano**, is a showcase of luxury. Food is another major attraction here. You can choose from the tempting restaurants on Calle Jorge Juan and the Paseo de la Castellana, for example.

FOOTBALL IN MADRID

If you love football, whichever team you follow, you can visit the legendary **Santiago Bernabéu** Stadium, the home of **Real Madrid**, and **Atlético de Madrid's** modern new stadium, the **Civitas Metropolitano**. You can visit the museums in each stadium and relive some of football's greatest moments.





MADRID, A GREAT CULTURAL CENTRE

You'll find an exciting array of cultural options on offer in Madrid. Where shall we start?

MADRID: A CITY OF MUSEUMS

You can choose from a wide variety of museums. A good idea is to visit the magnificent array of national art museums in what is known as the Art Walk or Golden Triangle, with its museums of history, archaeology and others.

THE PRADO

Come and see one of the ten most visited museums in the world. It contains the best of Spanish, Italian and Flemish paintings from the 12th to the 18th centuries. This is a chance to appreciate the genius of **Velázquez, El Greco, Goya, Tiziano, Van Dyck** and **Rembrandt**. Velazquez's *Las Meninas*, Goya's *Majas* and the fabulous *Garden of Earthly Delights* by Hieronymus Bosch are some of the outstanding works on display.

REINA SOFÍA NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

It's best to take your time to explore the **Guernica** by the genius Picasso, the jewel in the crown of this museum of contemporary art. This is also a chance to see the works of other great artists such as Dalí, Tàpies, Juan Gris, René Magritte and Chillida.

THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA MUSEUM

This is one of the most fascinating and valuable private collections in the world. It will take you on a journey through Western art from the 13th century all the way to the 19th- and 20th-century movements. In its rooms you'll find pictures by Monet, Van Gogh, Cézanne, Klee, Kandinsky and Degas, amongst others.



▲ THE PRADO
Photo: José Barea © Madrid Destino

GALLERY OF THE ROYAL COLLECTIONS

This selection of over 650 important pieces offers an extraordinary tour of the riches of Spain's Patrimonio Nacional. You will discover paintings, sculptures, armour, fans, watches and tapestries signed by artists including **Velázquez**, **Goya** and **Caravaggio**.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

It contains items from prehistoric times through to the 19th century. This is in addition to a spectacular collection of mummies and sarcophagi.

NAVAL MUSEUM

Discover Spain's naval history, from the end of the Middle Ages to the present, and its important contribution to social, cultural, economic, military and scientific progress.

COSTUME MUSEUM

This is the place to see clothes from different periods in history, Spanish regional costumes, and avant-garde design. You can also see creations by the masters of haute couture like **Fortuny**, **Balenciaga** and **Pertegaz**.

HOUSE-MUSEUMS

Beauty and history come together in the mansions and homes of major artists and collectors, including the **Lázaro Galdiano**, **Cerralbo** and **Sorolla** museums.



ART CENTRES

If you want to see some of the latest trends, the best idea is to visit some of the city's cultural centres.



MATADERO

We recommend a leisurely stroll round this old slaughterhouse, now transformed into a centre for dissemination, research and cultural creation. You'll see exhibitions, an avant-garde arts programme and a whole range of activities. There are also fairs and exhibitions on gastronomy and design.

SERRERÍA BELGA

Exhibitions, music, literature, workshops... you'll be surprised by the offering at this cultural space. It is housed in a unique building with industrial architecture dating from the first quarter of the 20th century in the Barrio de las Letras.

LA CASA ENCENDIDA

This social and cultural centre is the place to see new artistic expressions by young creators.

You can meet up with the artists themselves, attend concerts, or sign up for any of its activities. Its rooftop offers some unique views over Madrid.

CAIXAFORUM

Don't miss Spain's first vertical garden on the wall as you go in. This landmark cultural centre is a chance to see exhibitions of ancient, modern and contemporary art, concerts and lectures, and to take part in a variety of other activities.

CONDE DUQUE CULTURAL CENTRE

It's worth pausing a moment to take in its spectacular, Churrigueresque-style doorway. Its large central courtyard is the venue for concerts, exhibitions, fairs and film seasons. In summer many of them take place outdoors.



TASTING MADRID

▲ SAN ANTÓN MARKET
Photo: Jose Barea © Madrid Destino



This an opportunity to savour dishes with history, discover flavours from other worlds and sample innovative creations: Madrid is sure to surprise you with its vast array of culinary options.

TRADITIONAL CUISINE

A stroll around its taverns and bars is a great way to sample typical dishes such as “**huevos estrellados**” (fried eggs and potatoes), “**callos a la madrileña**” (tripe in a spicy sauce) and “**soldaditos de Pavía**” (cod in batter). Make a point of trying “**cocido**”, a traditional dish consisting of soup, followed by chickpeas and vegetables, and finally an assortment of meats. You can also try popular tapas like potato omelette, fried anchovies and “**patatas bravas**” (fried potatoes with a spicy sauce). Any occasion is a good excuse to order a “**caña**” (a small glass of beer) or some good Spanish wine with the Vinos de Madrid denomination of origin.

How would you like to dine in the world's oldest restaurant? Then take a trip to **Casa Botín** and order roast suckling pig in a stone oven or some of the restaurant's other specialities: fillet steak, scrambled eggs, clams... You'll be surprised by the setting: a spectacular underground cave with bare brick vaulted ceilings.

▼ **TRIFE 'À LA MADRILEÑA'**
Photo: Paolo Giocosso © Madrid Destino



Madrid boasts a network of old restaurants steeped in history serving traditional dishes that are waiting for you to discover.

AVANT-GARDE CUISINE

Another exciting option is to try signature cuisine by chefs such as **David Muñoz**, holder of three Michelin stars, or treat yourself in one of the fashionable **gastrobars**. Madrid is home to numerous restaurants serving **international, multicultural** and **fusion** cuisine, and catering to all types of diets (vegan, vegetarian, coeliac, etc.). You can also find new spaces combining gastronomy with live music, dance and flamenco, for example.

An unconventional way to see for yourself the quality of Spanish cuisine is to visit the **city markets**. **San Miguel Market** will amaze you with its designer bars and gourmet shops. **Antón Martín Market** offers a mixture of restaurants and art. For a place with a spectacular rooftop and lots of atmosphere for your pre-lunch drinks, head for **San Antón Market**.

You will be surprised by the **Galería Canalejas food hall**, a gastronomic space where you can try restaurants featuring a range of specialities and nationalities, some recognised with Michelin stars.



YOU CAN ENJOY MADRID IN EVERY SEASON OF THE YEAR

Santiago Bernabéu Stadium

Festivities, celebrations, cultural events... Madrid offers something special at any time of year.

SUMMER

Come and enjoy the popular festivities with all the other local residents. The **Fiestas of La Paloma**, one of the most traditional festivities of all, takes place on 15th August. You can sample typical dishes and drinks in the marquees set up in the streets and squares.

Come and take part in one of the most modern and international celebrations: the **Gay Pride festivities**. You can join in with the massively attended demonstration and parade of floats that goes through some of the main streets in the centre to champion the rights of the LGBTI+ community.

Concerts, theatre, dance... Immerse yourself in the varied programme of the **Los Veranos de la Villa Summer Festival**: it takes place in different venues around the city and features a wide variety of genres and styles to suit all tastes.

There are loads of options to choose from if you like music festivals: **Mad Cool**, **Primavera Sound Madrid**, the **Noches del Botánico**, **Río Babel**... At the end of summer there is the **DCODE Festival Madrid**, where you can bid farewell to the heat to the rhythm of big names in indie, pop and rock.

AUTUMN

Reward yourself with a relaxing stroll through the parks and gardens of Madrid: the mild climate makes this the ideal time to enjoy the display of red and gold leaves as they fall from the trees. Follow the aroma of roast chestnuts and pick up a few for yourself at a street stall. Fancy something sweet? Why not find a bakery and try some of the traditional “**huesos de santo**”, or “**saint's bones**”, made with almond paste.

If you're a *jazz* fan, you're in just the right place at the right time: between October and November the **Madrid International Jazz Festival** is hosted in the city.

▲ PASEO DEL PRADO

WINTER

'Tis the season of good cheer and the time to enjoy Madrid's Christmas decorations. The best way to experience the festive spirit is to take a walk along the main thoroughfares at night and see all the lights: Gran Vía, Serrano, the Puerta de Alcalá Arch... In the **Plaza Mayor Christmas Market** you'll find nativity scene figures, party hats, typical sweets and pastries, and much more.

Madrid at Christmas offers a whole host of spectacles for young and old alike.

On **New Year's Eve**, tradition demands you eat the 12 good-luck grapes to the sound of the bells striking midnight on the clock in the Puerta del Sol.

Don't miss the **Three Kings Parade** on 5 January, which offers a chance to share in the children's excitement as they wait to receive their presents on this magical night.

SPRING

Spring is the perfect time of year to appreciate the open character of the people of Madrid. People take to the streets to join in with the multiple activities laid on for the festivities of **San Isidro**, the city's patron saint, on 15th May. If you go to the **Pradera de San Isidro**, you'll see Madrileños dressed in typical costume, and you can learn to dance the “**chotis**” and try fried doughnuts known as “**rosquillas**” at the street party.

Are you planning to be in Madrid on 2nd May? Then you'll be there for the special activities laid on to mark the **Day of the Region of Madrid**. The Malasaña neighbourhood is the best place to join in with the popular festivities.

In May, you can also catch the best flamenco artists at the Madrid Flamenco Festival. And if you go for a walk around **Retiro** Park you'll come to the **Book Fair**, where you can see all the latest new books and have them signed by your favourite authors.

IDEAS FOR THINGS TO DO WITH THE KIDS

Come to Madrid with the family and you're guaranteed to have a great time. The city offers a multitude of ideas to have fun with children. Here are a few examples:

PARQUE DE ATRACCIONES AMUSEMENT PARK

Dare to ride on spectacular roller coasters, take your chances on the Abyss, the Tornado and the Lanzadera freefall attraction. There are attractions especially for younger visitors like bumper cars or the pirate ship. You can ensure your family adventure starts before you even enter the amusement park by taking a cable car. You can get on it at the Paseo del Pintor Rosales and enjoy the fabulous aerial views of the city.

PARQUE WARNER THEME PARK

The Warner Brothers theme park is a great place to visit. From the glamour of Hollywood Boulevard or the magic of Cartoon Village to the live *superhero displays* or the action in the Old West Territory and the excitement of the Gotham City Scape: the fun is guaranteed. And if it's summer, the Parque Warner Beach awaits you with water attractions for children and adults.

FAUNIA



Invite your family to observe animals in their different habitats. You can walk through the heart of the jungle to the frozen deserts of the poles. This spectacular natural theme park can be reached by bus from Plaza de Manuel Becerra, which drops you at the entrance.

ZOO AQUARIUM

Would you like to see giant pandas, koala bears, or marvel at the acrobatics of the dolphins? Don't miss this zoo located in the heart of the Casa de Campo, only a few minutes from the centre.



PLANETARIUM

Set off on an authentic journey through the cosmos in the Planetarium. This is a chance to see exhibitions, lectures and films. There's also an interactive room where younger visitors can have fun exploring.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Children will love the enormous dinosaur and whale skeletons in this museum in the city centre, and can learn more about the history of the biodiversity of our planet by seeing animals of all sizes, from insects to a giant squid.

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAS

Located on the university campus, it contains an extensive collection of artworks, archaeology and ethnography from the Americas.



▲ MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAS

THE HIDDEN CITY

If you're still curious to explore the other treasures to be found in Madrid, there are numerous charming and unusual corners that are guaranteed to captivate you.

► EL CAPRICHIO PARK



PARKS AND GARDENS

Take a stroll through Madrid Río park and enjoy some of its many leisure and recreation areas, or try one of its green routes by bike or on foot. Bring along your favourite book and find a bench in **El Capricho Park**. Or wander its romantic paths with its profusion of botanical species as you admire its lovely sculptures, fountains and pavilions. You'll feel in perfect harmony with nature in **Quinta de los Molinos Park**. Towards the end of winter, if you're lucky, you'll catch the spectacular phenomenon of the almond trees in blossom. Another good place to relax is in **Príncipe de Anglona Gardens**, a beautifully landscaped secluded green enclave in the centre of the capital.

MONUMENTS

Cibeles Palace, the current site of the City Hall, is home to the **Cibeles CentroCentro** and the **Crystal Gallery** with its spectacular glass dome. Or a short walk will take you to the **shrine of San Antonio de la Florida**: you can see frescoes painted by Goya on its dome.

Other unique buildings you can discover in the city include the **Royal Observatory**, on the edge of the Retiro park, the church of **San Antonio de los Alemanes** and the pavilions of **Matadero Madrid**.



SOROLLA MUSEUM
Photo: Visions of America LLC / 123rf.com

Would you like to see how carpets and tapestries are traditionally made? Then sign up for a visit to the Royal Tapestry Factory. You'll find it surprising.

MUSEUMS WITH A SPECIAL CHARM

There are some spectacular small museums in Madrid. One is the **Sorolla Museum**, dedicated to the Valencian painter Joaquín Sorolla, located in a lovely mansion with a garden which was once the artist's home and studio. The **Lázaro Galdiano Museum** is another magnificent mansion hosting an exquisite art collection. You can see how 19th-century aristocrats lived in the **Cerralbo Museum**. The **Museum of Romanticism** is a chance to see the daily life and customs of that period. To take a trip back to Madrid in the 17th century the best idea is to visit the **Lope de Vega House-Museum**.



FARO DE MONCLOA
Photo: Hiberus © Madrid Destino

THE ROOFTOPS OF MADRID

See another side of Madrid with a panoramic view. If you visit at dusk, you'll see how everything is transformed by the light of the "witching hour". From the **Faro de Moncloa** viewing platform you can see the Royal Palace, Almudena Cathedral, the Four Towers, and the Guadarrama Mountains.

Climb up to the dome in **Almudena Cathedral** and you'll be rewarded with some fabulous views of the city. The rooftop of the **Círculo de Bellas Artes**, between the streets of Gran Vía and Alcalá, is one of the best places to look out over the city centre. For a different perspective, you can see the whole of the remodelled area of the Manzanares River from the viewing platform in the **Huerta de la Partida** in the Madrid Río riverside promenade, against the majestic backdrop of the Royal Palace and the Almudena.

EXPERIENCE MADRID'S NIGHTLIFE



Legendary, wild, everlasting...? Come and enjoy the nightlife in Madrid and think up some of your own adjectives. You can choose whether to sit at a terrace in the **Plaza de Santa Ana**, dine in a charming restaurant in the **La Latina** quarter or in **Chueca**, or discover a bar in the Plaza del Dos de Mayo in **Malasaña**, or in the streets of Ave María and Argumosa in **Lavapiés**.

Another option is to explore **Gran Vía** and the surrounding area. You can sing and dance in bars and clubs, or thrill to the passion of flamenco in a typical "*tablaó*". You can follow the example of the locals and try several options in one night then carry on until dawn.

FLAMENCO 'TABLAO' CORRAL DE LA MORERÍA
Photo: Hiberus © Madrid Destino





MADRID

TOURS AND WALKS IN THE CITY

Madrid is a city made for strolling. It's a great place to wander round the neighbourhoods and discover very different architectural styles.

PLAÇA D'ESPANYA

CERVANTES' MADRID - THE GOLDEN AGE

If you love literature, the Cervantes tour is an excellent choice: the best idea is to start at the **printer's** at Calle Atocha, 87 where in 1605 the first edition of **Don Quixote** was issued, then stroll through the **Las Letras Quarter** to the old **Corral del Príncipe**, today the Teatro Español Theatre. Carry on until you reach the **Convent of the Trinitarias Descalzas**, which contains his mortal remains, then visit the **Cervantes Institute** and the **National Library**. To finish, take a photo with Don Quijote and Sancho Panza at the imposing **monument to Cervantes** in the Plaza de España.

MADRID BY BIKE

Experience the pleasure of pedalling around the streets of Madrid. The bike lane will take you to numerous interesting places. There are several routes to choose from which will ensure your experience is fun and safe.

A STROLL AROUND ALMODÓVAR'S MADRID

The universe of Pedro Almodóvar can't be understood without Madrid. This route takes in some of the sites in the capital that have appeared in scenes by one of our most international film directors. Discover the settings for films like *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, *Broken Embraces*, *Volver...* <https://www.esmadrid.com/madrid-de-almodovar>

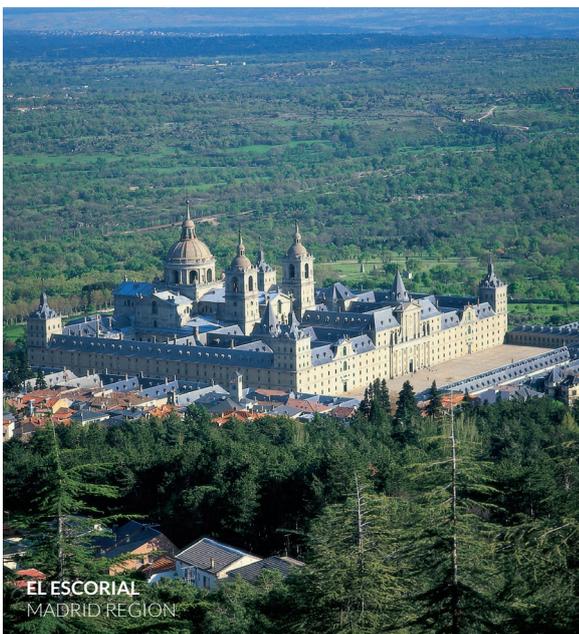
And if you love films, try the Ava Gardner or Ernest Hemingway routes to discover the Madrid of these legendary characters.

EIGHT CITIES TO VISIT NEAR MADRID

If you've already seen the best of Madrid, it's time to get to know other destinations near the city, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

ALCALÁ DE HENARES

This city, the birthplace of **Miguel de Cervantes**, is a perfect place to wander through its cobbled streets. You'll feel like you've been transported back to the **Golden Age** as you walk around the open-air theatres, churches and convents. Don't miss the cloisters and courtyards of its famous university.



ARANJUEZ



In the old quarter you'll find a beautiful historic-artistic site. Stroll around the wooded landscapes on the banks of the Tagus, visit the **Royal Palace** and take a walk along its famous streets with their grid layout. You can get there on board the **Strawberry Train**, a railway gem with old-fashioned wooden carriages. On your way you'll have the chance to try the famous strawberries from Aranjuez. When you arrive you'll be taken by bus to the historic site.

EL ESCORIAL

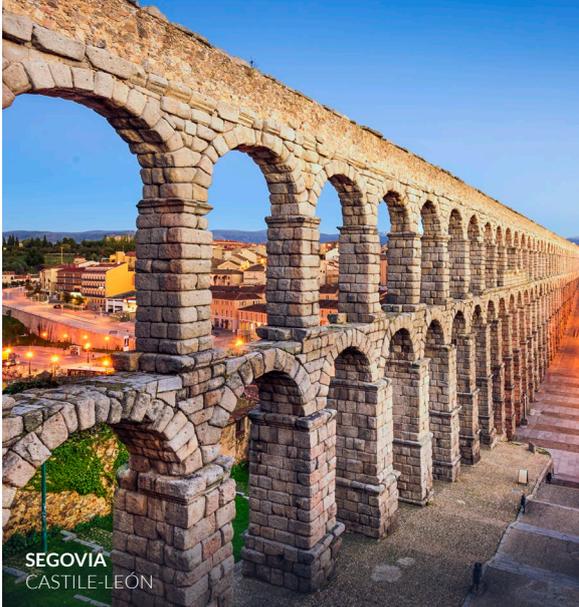
When you see the cultural richness of this place, you'll understand why it's been declared a World Heritage Site. The imposing **Monastery and Royal Site of San Lorenzo de El Escorial** were built in the style of Herrera with the work being overseen by Felipe II. It is a key work of the Spanish Golden Age in an outstanding setting in the mountains near Madrid.

TOLEDO



You cannot miss the city of the three cultures: Christian, Arab and Jewish. A walk around its streets will transport you back in time. It's a great place to browse ancient shops and try its mazapanes, delicious almond sweets.

SEGOVIA



You will fall in love with this city's historic quarter, its majestic Alcázar castle and its spectacular aqueduct. It is also famous for its gastronomy, with roast suckling pig a particularly delicious highlight. Don't leave without trying it!

CUENCA

Immerse yourself in this picture-postcard city. The highlight here are the famous "hanging houses" perched on the rock, with balconies that appear to be looking out over the void. Other places to visit include the cathedral and a wide variety of museums and exhibitions. And don't forget to taste some of its culinary delights, such as morteruelo and alajú.

AVILA



This walled city is a place of medieval streets and squares, Renaissance houses and ecclesiastical art in honour of Saint Teresa of Avila. When you're feeling peckish, just drop into any tavern and sample some of the traditional dishes: roast meats, steaks and "yemas de Santa Teresa" (sweetened egg yolks).

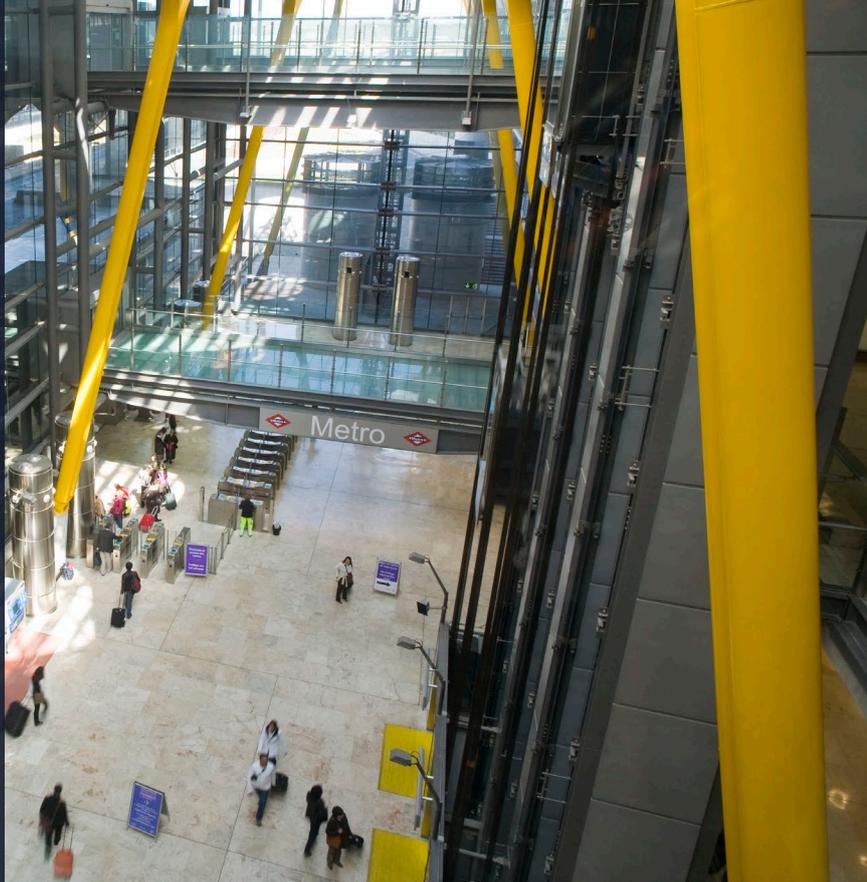
SALAMANCA

The best idea is to take a leisurely walk and enjoy all its architectural treasures. The city is famous for the old university, and its academic reputation attracts thousands of students. Choose a bar or restaurant to sample the succulent culinary tradition.

HOW TO GET THERE

Choose any mode of transport on your visit to Madrid: the city has a modern infrastructure.

► ADOLFO SUÁREZ MADRID-BARAJAS AIRPORT
Photo: Paolo Giocosio © Madrid Destino



PUERTA DE ATOCHA STATION



PUERTA DE ATOCHA STATION

AIRPORT

Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport is approximately 30 minutes away from the city centre. You can get there by train, underground or express bus.

AVE

This is Spain's high-speed train. The cities it serves include Barcelona, Valencia, Alicante and Seville, among others. After a fast and comfortable journey you'll arrive in Atocha, right in the heart of the city. There are various passes and discount cards available, such as the Renfe Spain Pass, valid for up to ten trips on all AVE high-speed trains.

CAR

Spain has an extensive and modern network of roads, motorways and dual carriageways criss-crossing the entire country on which you can travel from end to end in total comfort and safety.



GETTING AROUND MADRID

To get around Madrid we recommend the **metro**, an extensive and modern underground network comprising 12 lines that cover almost all the points in the capital and some of the nearby towns.

The city buses of the **Empresa Municipal de Transportes (Municipal Transport Company)** are another good transport option. The service generally runs every day of the year from 6 am to 11:30 pm. In the early morning hours there is a nocturnal service known as the **Búho**, or night owl. For more information, visit the EMT website: www.emtmadrid.es.

Tourist buses, like Madrid City Tour, are one of the most convenient and easiest ways to enjoy the monuments and the sites of interest in the city. You can hop on and off as many times as you want.

If you're interested in going to any of the nearby destinations, the best option is the **Cercanías or commuter train**, which has nine lines that serve the Madrid Region. All the trains go through, or leave from, Atocha Station.

BiciMAD runs a loan service for electrical bicycles. You can get a card instantly for one, three or five days.

You can also use a motorcycle and electrical car hire system to get around the whole city.

Madrid City Card: this card includes the Tourist Transport Card, which gives you unlimited use of public transport (zone A) while it is valid, and offers benefits and discounts at the city's leading attractions.



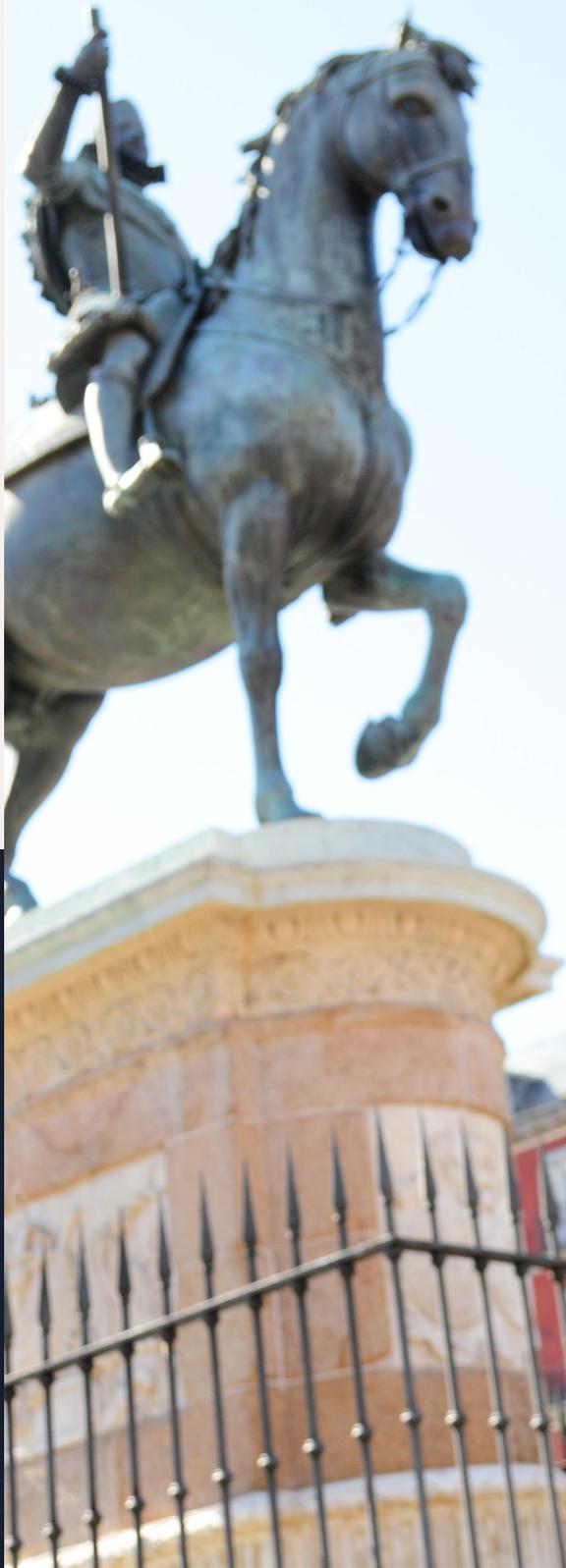
MORE INFORMATION:

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SPAIN'S OFFICIAL TOURISM PORTAL

www.spain.info



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