



- Underground interchange station
- Underground interchange station with longer distance between lines
- Station with restricted opening times
- Station with disabled access. Lift
- Ramp access
- RENFE commuter train station
- RENFE Spanish Rail train station
- Intercity coach terminal
- Madrid Barajas Airport
- Free car park at station
- Pay car park at station
- Customer help desk



MINISTERIO DE INDUSTRIA, TURISMO Y COMERCIO
 SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE TURISMO Y COMERCIO
 SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE TURISMO
 TURESPAÑA



Spain

Madrid



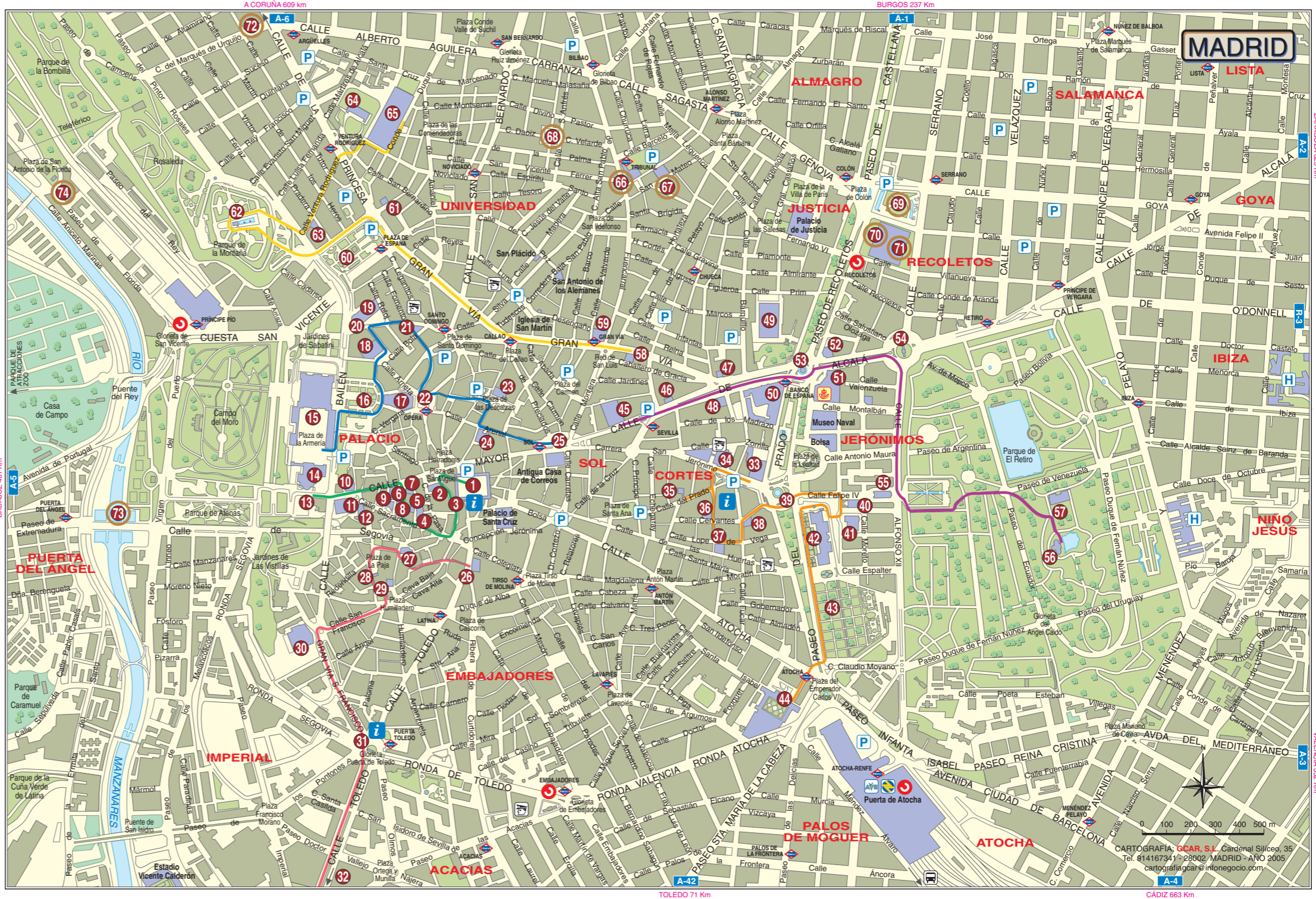
Spain

Madrid



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
City tours	8
Art and culture	34
Side-trips through the region	38
Leisure and entertainment	46
Three World Heritage Cities an hour from Madrid	52
Useful information	56



Front cover: Cibeles y Puerta de Alcalá
 Back cover: San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Text: Carlos Aganzo

Translation: Michael D. Benedict

Published by: Turespaña
 Secretaría de Estado de Turismo y Comercio

Ministerio de Industria, Turismo y Comercio

Photographs: TURESPAÑA Photographic Archives

Layout and design: P&L MARIN

Printed by: EGRAF, S.A.
 D.L. M. 30244-2006

NIPO: 704-06-082-2

Printed in Spain

3rd edition

CARTOGRAFIA: GEAR, S.L. Cardenal Silíceo, 35
 Tel. 914167341 - 28902 MADRID - AÑO 2005
 cartografía@gear.com

Introduction

THE TERRITORY

Majestic and stylishly dignified, the archway known as the *Puerta de Alcalá* (*puerta*; gate), designed by the architect Sabatini in Spain's Age of Enlightenment, is at once a symbol of a city eager to welcome the world, and a veritable gateway to Spain for millions of visitors from all around the globe.

Five and half million people live in the Madrid Region (*Comunidad de Madrid*), with approximately three million concentrated in the metropolitan area. This region is situated at the geographical centre of mainland Spain, and is bordered by Castile & León, whose domains extend northwards as far as the Cantabrian Range and westwards to nearby Portugal. Stretching away to the south and east are the plains of Castile-La Mancha, which convey the traveller down to the beaches of the Mediterranean.

Madrid stands on the Castilian high plateau or tableland (*meseta*) at a height of 646 metres (2,119 ft.) above sea level, where Barajas Airport is one of the most popular focal points for the forty-nine million tourists who flock to Spain every year. Radiating out from the city's inner hub is a complex rail and road network that speeds travellers to any corner of Spain, to neighbouring France and Portugal, or to the sea frontier with North Africa. Surrounded by mountains and impressive scenery, the Madrid Region enjoys a temperate continental climate, with spectacular springs, hot summers, long, mild, brilliant autumns, and winters that, while not overly cold, bring snow to the nearby summits, thereby providing additional leisure and fun.

HISTORY AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE

Behind the modern region that meets the eye today, there lies a significant body of history, which is undoubtedly one of its main attractions.



Puerta de Alcalá



(Spanish operetta), drama and outdoor shows. It was King Alfonso VI, two hundred years later, who won the citadel for the Kingdom of Castile, a citadel that, with its long-vanished *alcázar* (fortress-palace) was thenceforth to become one of the bastions in the line held by the Christian kingdoms against the Moors. In 1110, the fortress courageously withstood the siege of the Almoravids, and in 1202 Alfonso VIII granted Madrid its **Charter**, thereby formally constituting the commonwealth of the city and its domains (*Comunidad de Villa y Tierra*, *villa* being equivalent to the French *ville*).

Although the capital city of Madrid harks back to settlements on the banks of the River Manzanares in the remote past, its foundation as such did not take place until the arrival in the 9th century, of Mohammed I, the fifth Omayyad Emir of Cordoba. Testimony to that era of conquest and splendour of **Moorish Spain** is still visible in the remains of the Moorish walls, now converted into a venue that in summer stages *zarzuela*

Madrid witnessed the court intrigues to secure the throne of **Castile**, initially for Juana la Beltraneja, and only subsequently for **Isabella the Catholic**. The so-called *Comuneros* (16th-century Segovian insurgency movement) passed through Madrid at the time of King Charles I of Spain,



better known as the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, and it was here too that the Court sat in 1561, under Philip II, with the town becoming the capital of an empire on which the sun never set, the centre of the then “civilised” world. Two principal royal houses, the **Hapsburgs** and the **Bourbons** (present to this day in the person of the present King Juan Carlos I), experienced the vagaries of fortune in the capital city of Madrid, an “old rambling town” transformed over the years into a royal and illustrious city. Today, with the Hapsburgs as your guide, you can visit the Madrid of the Plaza Mayor (main square) or Retiro Park. In Bourbon company, on the other hand, you can take in the Royal Palace, Prado Museum, Cibeles fountain or Puerta de Alcalá, on which the enlightened Charles III -nicknamed “Madrid’s best mayor”- left his indelible mark. In addition, there are just so many streets and avenues steeped in history, and so many lovely churches, under the protective umbrella of

La Almudena Cathedral and the Church of St. Isidore, the legacy of a city that for centuries was the very image of spirituality for the Christian kingdoms.

Madrid, city of kings, is also the starting point for the highways and byways that lead to the Royal residences, namely, palaces, mansions or lodges that the monarchs had built in exquisite settings, and whose grandeur has come down to us intact. The **Monastery of El Escorial**, a short drive from Madrid on the Royal Way to Avila, is indisputably the jewel in the crown. Ensclosed in the mountains, it is an impressive sight, the power base from which Philip II held sway over his boundless domains. Altogether more stylish, flanking the romantic delights of the Tagus riverside, **Aranjuez Palace** stands as the prime example of the splendour and refinement of a Spanish Court that set the standard in Europe in matters of lineage. Standing in part of what

Aranjuez Palace



were once extensive hunting grounds in the environs of the capital is the **Pardo Palace**: in Franco's Spain it was the centre of power but now, aside from being a popular sight visited by scores of tourists, it is reserved for the use of visiting foreign dignitaries. It lies very close to both the Zarzuela Palace, the residence of King Juan Carlos, and the Moncloa Palace, the official residence of the Spanish Prime Minister.

A place that, without a shadow of a doubt, warrants a quick side-trip is **Alcalá de Henares**, which enjoyed a pinnacle of splendour from the latter part of the 15th century (coinciding with the foundation of the university) up until the 17th century. Birthplace of Cervantes, the universally acclaimed author of *Don Quixote*, Alcalá de Henares is a

university city that has produced some of the most superlative examples of Spanish culture of all times. It has joined the ranks of the select group of officially declared **UNESCO World Heritage Cities**, just recompense indeed for the effort made by this town in recent years to rescue its enormous heritage. When travelling through Madrid Province, be sure not to miss certain gems, such as the town squares of **Chinchón** and **Colmenar de Oreja**, or the countless Madrid mountain villages and hamlets that have somehow managed to conserve their rustic charm despite their proximity to the capital.

NATURAL HERITAGE

If the Madrid metropolitan area is the indisputable administrative and business centre of Spain, with its core centred on the AZCA complex, Castellana boulevard and industrial belt to the south, then it would be no less true to say that Madrid, as a region, is a genuine ecological paradise. It has impressive natural areas and a booming agricultural sector, which in recent years has developed a number of foodstuffs bearing Madrid's own seal of origin. Likewise, if Madrid is the institutional capital that is the seat of the country's parliament,



La Pedriza



Peñalara Tarn

government and king, then it is no less true that the city is the greenest capital in Europe, with its two magnificent oases -**Retiro Park** (*Jardines del Buen Retiro*) and the heath-like **Casa de Campo**- which together head a long list of parks and gardens.

A stone's throw from the major sights and bustling thoroughfares, the Madrid region also boasts singularly scenic spots that are being ever better protected and have made this part of Spain into one of the most ecological areas in Europe. There are innumerable green routes criss-crossing the region, and the wide range of activities on offer includes hiking, mountain climbing, mountain biking and cycling, horse and pony trekking. The **Peñalara cirque and tarn**

possess a silent high-mountain beauty, in which the crystal-clear air and omnipresent greenery compete with the curiously weathered rocks and glinting sheen of the water. The same applies to the **La Pedriza** area, where delightful spots are to be found along the Manzanares River. For tree lovers, autumn in the **Montejo Beech Tree Grove** (*hayedo*) is a riot of colour, as it is in **Fuenfria Valley** and **Herrería Woods** (*bosque*). Without an idea of the evocative natural areas that surround the city, it is difficult to form an accurate picture of Madrid.

ESSENTIAL MADRID

Exploring its various routes, sure in the knowledge that a snack bar, restaurant, café or gathering

point (a great number of which still remain) will always be at hand, bears out that Madrid is a city that permits visitors to admire the splendour of the past without sacrificing any of the comforts of the present.

Admittedly, Madrid is its history. Nevertheless Madrid today, at the outset of the 21st century, is essentially a vibrant, dynamic metropolis, a bustling city, a permanent backdrop for art and culture from around the world. A short distance from the so-called "Avenue of Art" -which leads from the **Prado Museum** to the **Centro de Arte Reina Sofia** via the **Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum** and contains one of the finest collections in the world-street artists form a living art gallery in the **Plaza Mayor**. Coexisting with the **Theatre Royal (Teatro Real)** and **National**

Concert Hall, which together host some of the best opera and orchestral performances in the world, are countless live-music venues. Jazz, folk and blues, to say nothing of flamenco, take turns in providing the theme music for Madrid by night. This is a city that, in terms of its autumn festival (among others) is at a peak of cultural splendour, with music and drama as the main attraction. Walking the same streets once trodden by **Cervantes** and **Quevedo** are the most eminent writers working in Spanish today. Indeed, it is by no means uncommon to catch sight of one or more of them at some café or cultural event.

Yet , beyond all of this -the sights, the parks and the culture-Madrid's main charm lies in Madrid itself, i.e., the city and its

Outdoor café in Madrid



people. Innumerable traces of the traditional, typical or *castizo* Madrid, with its old buildings and their galleried courtyards, images that might have been lifted straight from the stage set of some comic opera, co-exist with a city that is easy to get around, thanks to its broad avenues, boulevards and shopping malls. The patron saint festivities in honour of **San Isidro** (St. Isidore) -a ploughman saint who, according to Gómez de la Serna, "*convida a rosquillas*" (invites one to have the local, small doughnut-like pastries) in May of every year- afford a matchless opportunity to discover the typical Madrid, including its famous bullfighting festival.

Men and women in traditional dress -*chulos* or *chulapos* sporting the chequered Madrid cap (*parpusa*) and *manolas* with an exuberant carnation in their hair- take part in a colourful mass fiesta in and around St. Isidore's Hermitage Chapel and meadow, site of open-air dances, stalls, booths and picnic areas, in a way that is reminiscent of the revelry of another age.

Madrid is city of outdoor cafés in summer (*terrazas*) and taverns and good food. It is a city that never sleeps, day or night, where people enjoy talking and joking, where people tend to live at a



San Isidro festivities

fast pace and yet always have time for friendship, conversation and relaxation.

The open and convivial nature of the townsfolk is the best visiting card of a cosmopolitan city where no-one is a foreigner. Within just a few hours of first setting foot in its streets, newcomers get the feeling that they have lived here all their lives or have finally found their own particular niche in the world. The local saying and its traditional rejoinder run as follows, "*De Madrid al cielo... y un agujerito para verlo*", i.e., the only possible improvement on Madrid would be heaven, provided that, once there, one had a spy hole through which to continue seeing it.

City tours

From the Plaza Mayor to La Almudena Cathedral

That age-old marketplace and backdrop for Madrid life, scene of autos-da-fé, proclamations, bullfights and festivities, the **Plaza Mayor** (main square) (1) is arguably the ideal meeting or starting point for any tour of the capital. While the writer Gómez de la Serna described it as “Spain’s back yard”, Alexandre Dumas (Sr.) claimed it had “the most beautiful and best painted vault” of all the theatres he had known, viz., the Madrid sky. Since its inauguration in 1620, the Plaza Mayor has been the symbol *par excellence* of

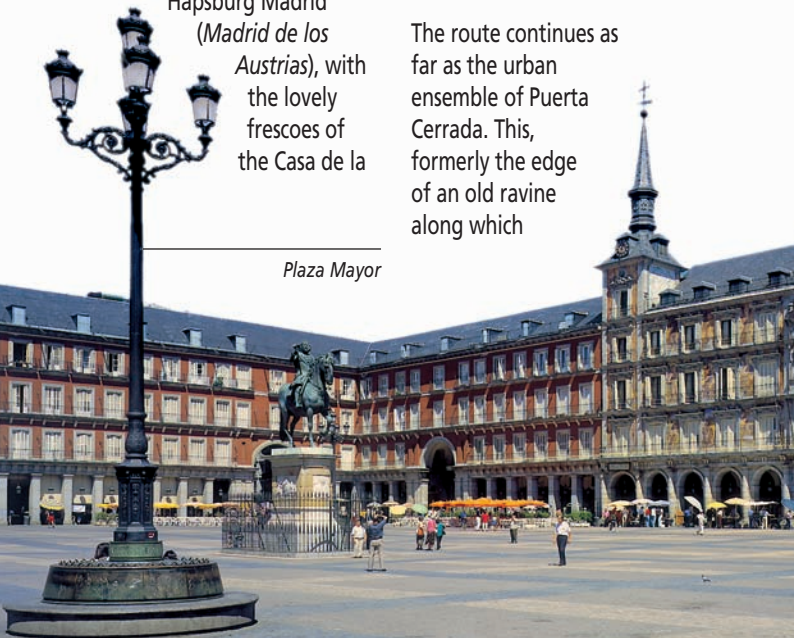
Hapsburg Madrid
(*Madrid de los Austrias*), with the lovely frescoes of the Casa de la

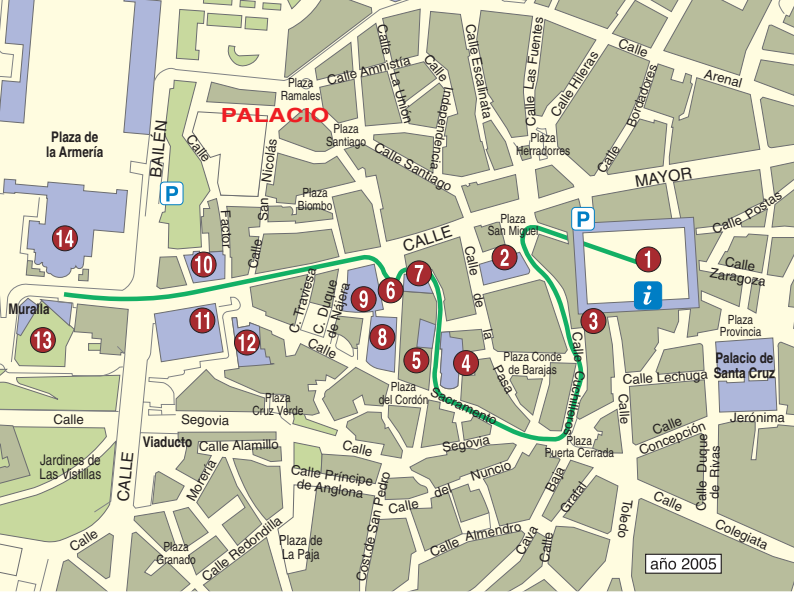
Plaza Mayor

Panadería (bakery) and the equestrian statue of Philip III as its most noteworthy features.

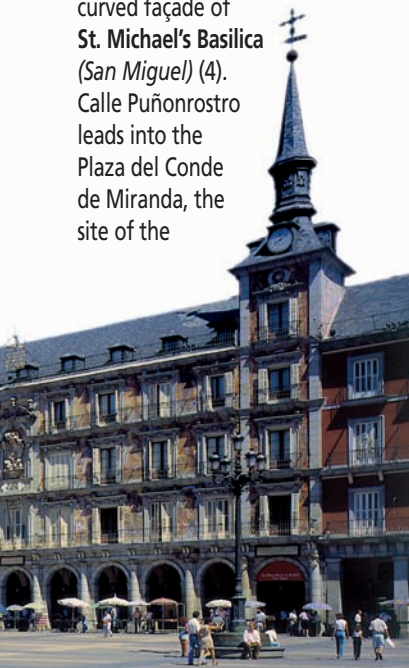
A total of nine archways afford access to this arcaded square flanked by shops and marquee-shaded outdoor cafés, where street artists continue to lend a touch of the Bohemian Madrid found hereabouts, the Madrid depicted by Benito Pérez Galdos. The Calle de Ciudad Rodrigo (*calle*; street) leads to the charming **San Miguel Market** (2). Walk down Cava de San Miguel to the **Arco de Cuchilleros** (3). Here, up a flight of stairs, the El Pulpito Bar and Las Cuevas de Luis Candelas Restaurant conjure up the romantic atmosphere of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Madrid, when royalty might easily cross paths with tough swells and bandits.

The route continues as far as the urban ensemble of Puerta Cerrada. This, formerly the edge of an old ravine along which





Segovia Street now runs, once marked the boundary of mediaeval Madrid. Continuing down San Justo Street, you come to the base of the original curved façade of **St. Michael's Basilica (San Miguel) (4)**. Calle Puñonrostro leads into the Plaza del Conde de Miranda, the site of the



- 1 Plaza Mayor
- 2 San Miguel Market
- 3 Arco de Cuchilleros
- 4 St. Michael's Basilica
- 5 Convent of Las Jerónimas del Corpus Christi
- 6 Plaza de la Villa
- 7 Lujanes Tower
- 8 Cisneros House
- 9 Casa de la Villa (City Hall)
- 10 Abrantes Palace
- 11 Duke of Uceda's Palace (or *Palacio de los Consejos*)
- 12 Convent of the Holy Sacrament
- 13 Emir Mohammed I Park
- 14 La Almudena Cathedral





Plaza de la Villa

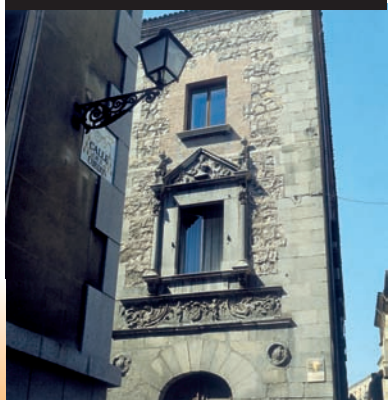
cloistered convent of the Hieronymite nuns, **Las Jerónimas del Corpus Christi** (5), better known as *Las Carboneras* (by reason of a miraculous image of the Virgin Mary found in a coal yard and donated to the convent) where a splendid “Last Supper” by Vicente Carducho (Vicenzo Carducci) is on display in the chancel, and delicious home-made cookies can be purchased through the agency of a turntable.

At this point, Calle del Codo turns sharply and opens out into Madrid’s “other” town square, the **Plaza de la Villa** (6), at the centre of which Philip II’s legendary admiral, Don Álvaro de Bazán, continues to preside over the capital’s public life. It was here, in the **Lujanes Tower** (7), the city’s oldest civil building and a rare 15th-century example of the Mudejar style in Madrid (*mudéjar* being the term used to describe the style favoured by

the Moorish minorities), that the French king, Francis I, was imprisoned after being defeated at Pavia by the Emperor Charles V. What was at one time the municipal newspaper and periodicals archive is now home to the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences. Bridged high up by a narrow passage, **Cisneros House** (8) and the **Casa de la Villa** (City Hall) (9) complete the remaining sides of the square.

On the right, at the lower end of Calle Mayor, stands the **Abrantes Palace** (10), a 17th-century structure that, after acting

Cisneros House





La Almudena Cathedral

as the Italian Embassy and headquarters of the Italian battalions of the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War, is now home to the Italian Cultural Institute. Directly opposite is the **Duke of Uceda's Palace** (also called the *Palacio de los Consejos*) (11), which houses the Madrid Regional Military Headquarters. It was built by Philip III's favourite, Cristóbal Gómez de Sandoval, the son of the Duke of Lerma, who added the **Convent of the Holy Sacrament** (*Santísimo Sacramento*) (12) to the palace, with the intention of creating an ensemble that would rival the royal complex formed by the Alcázar and the Convent of the Incarnation. Facing the church is a monument to the victims of the assassination attempt that targeted King Alfonso XIII at this very spot on 31 May 1906.

From **Emir Mohammed I Park**, on the other side of Bailén Street, Madrid drops away and descends almost to the banks of the Manzanares River. This, the site of the Moorish **Walls of Maherit** (13) (the city originally founded by the fifth Omayyad Emir of Cordoba), is now a venue for holding outdoor shows and concerts in summer. Across the way from the park is the entrance to the neo-Gothic crypt of **La Almudena Cathedral** (14), designed by the Marquis of Cubas in 1879. Rising above the crypt, the rest of the church was concluded by Fernando Chueca Goitia in the closing years of the 20th century, thus making it an altogether contemporary cathedral standing on a site that dates back to the earliest history of Madrid.

■ From the Royal Palace to Puerta del Sol

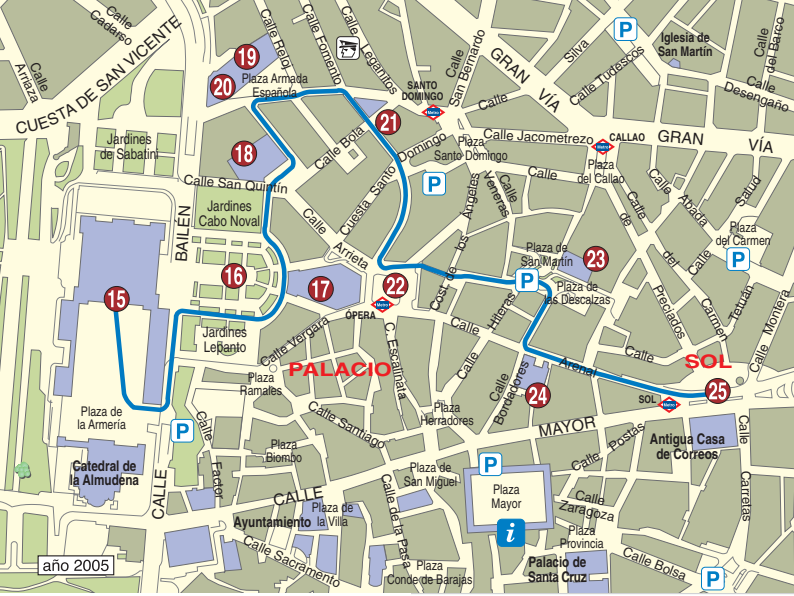
Madrid's **Royal Palace** (*Palacio Real*) (15) is the starting point for this tour. Built over the old Hapsburg fortress, which was razed to the ground in 1734, it combines its Baroque style with the tradition of Spanish royal residences. The stairway, Throne Room, Hall of Columns, Royal Chapel, and tapestries and paintings by the likes of Mengs, Goya and Luca Giordano are complemented on the exterior by the Sabatini and Campo del Moro Gardens, Plaza de la Armería (Armoury Square), and the spectacle of the changing of the guard at the main gate. The building was designed by Filippo Juvara, Juan Bautista Sacchetti and Francisco Sabatini for

Philip V and Ferdinand VI, neither of whom was ever to take up residence here. Those who did reign here however included Charles III, Charles IV, Ferdinand VII, Isabella II, Alfonso XII and Alfonso XIII.

At the behest of Napoleon's brother, the unpopular Joseph Bonaparte I, the **Plaza de Oriente** (16) was intentionally laid out to keep possible uprisings at bay from the population's rulers. For the equestrian statue of Philip IV that presides over the plaza, the king's face was based on sketches by Velázquez, who lived on the square before it was remodelled. Indeed, no less a personage than Galileo Galilei was involved in the project: he was enjoined to study the problem of balance posed by the horse rearing up on its hind legs.

Royal Palace





Opposite the palace, on the far side of the square, is the **Theatre Royal (Teatro Real) (17)**, which was revived as an opera house in 1997, and has now recovered the splendour enjoyed by opera under Isabella II in the 19th century. Flanking the northern side of the square is the **Royal Monastery of the Incarnation (Real Monasterio de la Encarnación) (18)**, a religious complement to the Royal Palace. The reliquary room, scene every

- 15 Royal Palace
- 16 Plaza de Oriente
- 17 Theatre Royal
- 18 Royal Monastery of the Incarnation
- 19 Senate House
- 20 Palace of the Marquis of Grimaldi
- 21 Convent of Las Reparadoras
- 22 Plaza de Isabel II
- 23 Descalzas Reales Monastery
- 24 Church of San Ginés
- 25 Puerta del Sol



27 July of the working of the "miracle" of the liquefaction of the blood of St. Pantaleon, is indubitably its most popular attraction, but the gatehouse, Kings' Room, cloister, paintings by Ribera, Carreño Miranda and Antonio Pereda, as well as



Plaza de Oriente. Theatre Royal



Royal Monastery of the Incarnation

Gregorio Fernández's sculptures of a "Recumbent Christ" and "Christ tied to the column" are of exceptional calibre.

Immediately behind the Convent of the Incarnation, built on the site of an old Augustinian convent, is the **Senate House** (19) or Upper Chamber of the Spanish Parliament, in which the Debating Chamber and Library are the leading sights. To the building's left, stands the former **Palace of the Marquis of Grimaldi** (20) which was designed by Sabatini and today houses the Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies.

Stroll down Calle Torija, past the **Convent of the Reparadoras** (21) –dating from 1782, designed by Ventura Rodríguez and intended to house the Tribunal of the Holy Inquisition– as far as the **Plaza de Isabel II** (22), where a different façade of the Theatre Royal looms into sight. A short walk away lies the **Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales** (Discalced, i.e., barefoot Carmelites) (23), yet another of the Spanish Crown's religious gems. Founded in the 16th century, the monastery is tantamount to a condensed "chronicle of Europe" under Hapsburg rule; the chapels surrounding the cloister, the

Descalzas Reales Monastery



Senate House





Puerta del Sol

spectacular Royal Staircase, the mock balcony from which Philip IV and his family appear to look down, and the Tapestry Room are just a tiny sample of the exquisite, secluded atmosphere in which Tomás Luis de Victoria, the Royal Chapelmaster, composed some of his most sublime pieces.

The route now crosses Arenal Street to pass by the popular **Church of San Ginés** (24). Standing on the remains of an old mediaeval church and rebuilt after successive fires in the 17th and 19th centuries, the church houses a magnificent El Greco. Outside, the lane known as the Pasaje de San Ginés, with its *Chocolatería* (selling hot chocolate and the typical fried pastries known as *churros*) and second-hand bookshops, is an

enduring landmark of the Madrid of the Romantic Age.

The last stretch of the street brings you to the very heart of Madrid, the zero kilometre mark for all Spanish roads, the ***Puerta del Sol*** (25). A modern equestrian statue of Charles III stands opposite the ***Casa de Correos***, the former post office which now acts as the seat of the Madrid Regional Authority and has featured prominently in a good few episodes of the city's recent history.

ROYAL PALACE

Calle Bailén

Underground station

(Metro): Ópera

www.patrimoniacionacional.es

■ From St. Isidore's Church to Toledo Bridge

Starting in the most typical part of Madrid, at **St. Isidore's Church** (*San Isidro*) (26), this route follows in the steps of the patron saint of all *Madriños* (the term applied to the city's denizens). The retablo of the Holy Family by Sebastián Herrera, and the chapel of Jesús del Gran Poder are some highpoints of a church which was designed along the lines of Il Gesù in Rome by Pedro Sánchez, and whose foundation stone was laid by Philip IV.

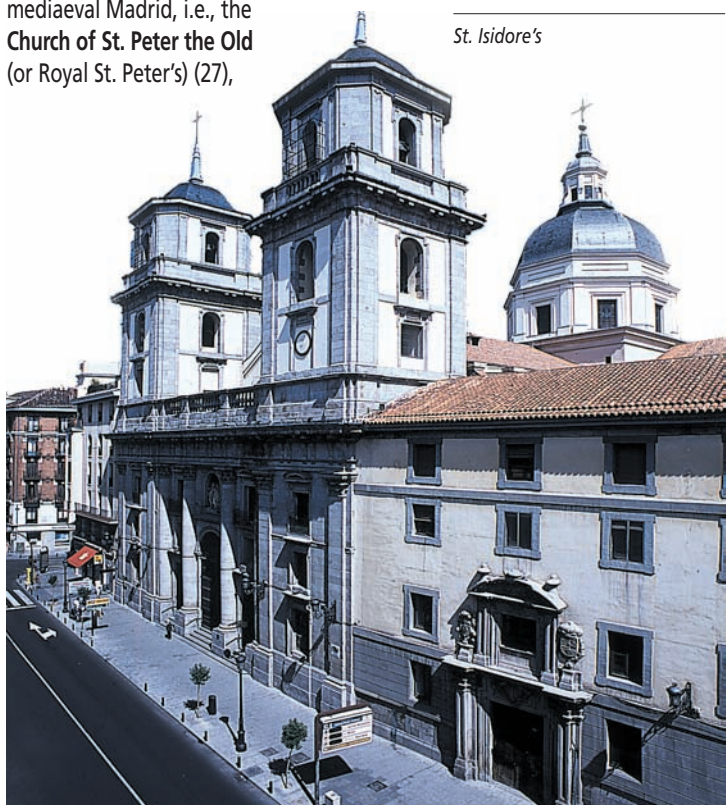
Close by, is one of the very few remaining examples of mediaeval Madrid, i.e., the **Church of St. Peter the Old** (or Royal St. Peter's) (27),

built by Alfonso XI over the erstwhile Morería Mosque. Its old Mudejar tower was rebuilt in the 14th century.

From St. Peter's make your way to the Plaza de la Paja, the site of the **Bishop's Chapel** (*Capilla del Obispo*) (28) built in 1518 by Francisco de Vargas and Inés de Carvajal, and an almost unique example of the transition from Gothic to Renaissance.

At No. 2 Plaza de San Andrés, the former site of the Count of Paredes' Palace where the worker saint once lived as a servant, is the present-day **San Isidro Museum** (29). It houses the miraculous well where the saint

St. Isidore's





saved his son from drowning, as well as an interesting collection of palaeontological and archaeological remains of Madrid.

From here, the itinerary continues down Carrera de San Francisco as far as the Church of St. Francis the Great (*San Francisco el Grande*) (30).

- 26 St Isidore's Church
- 27 Church of St. Peter the Old (or Royal St. Peter's)
- 28 Bishop's Chapel
- 29 San Isidro Museum
- 30 Church of St Francis the Great
- 31 Toledo Gate
- 32 Toledo Bridge

Bishop's Chapel



Building on this church of cathedral-like dimensions began in 1761, on the site of a Franciscan convent where, legend has it, St. Francisco of Assis once stayed. In 1776, Sabatini put the finishing touches to the initial design produced by the friar-architect Francisco Cabezas, who had certain difficulties with the dome –the fourth largest in the world. This stunning church boasts an important collection of paintings, with Goya’s “San Bernardino de Siena” heading the list.

The Gran Vía de San Francisco leads to the **Toledo Gate** (*Puerta de Toledo*) (31), designed by Joseph Bonaparte. To one side of the roundabout (*glorieta*), the former central fish market has been converted into a shopping and cultural centre known as the Puerta de Toledo Market.



Church of St. Francis the Great

Heading in the direction of the Manzanares River, Calle de Toledo descends majestically to the monumental **Toledo Bridge** (*Puente de Toledo*) (32). At the centre of the bridge, constructed by Pedro Ribera in the 18th century, St. Isidore and his wife, Santa María de la Cabeza, still beckon passers-by to continue onwards to the other side of the river, to the meadow and **Hermitage Chapel of San Isidro**.

Toledo Gate





Prado Museum

■ The Avenue of Art and Carrera de San Jerónimo

Distributed over its three floors, the **Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum (33)**, our starting point for this intensive art-filled itinerary, brings together a select, permanent art collection, which is further enriched by intensive exchange of temporary exhibitions with leading galleries around the world. In 1992, the architect Rafael Moneo managed to preserve the neoclassical façade of the former Villahermosa Palace and yet transform the building into a modern art gallery that holds one of the world's finest private collections, with over 800 paintings, sculptures, tapestries

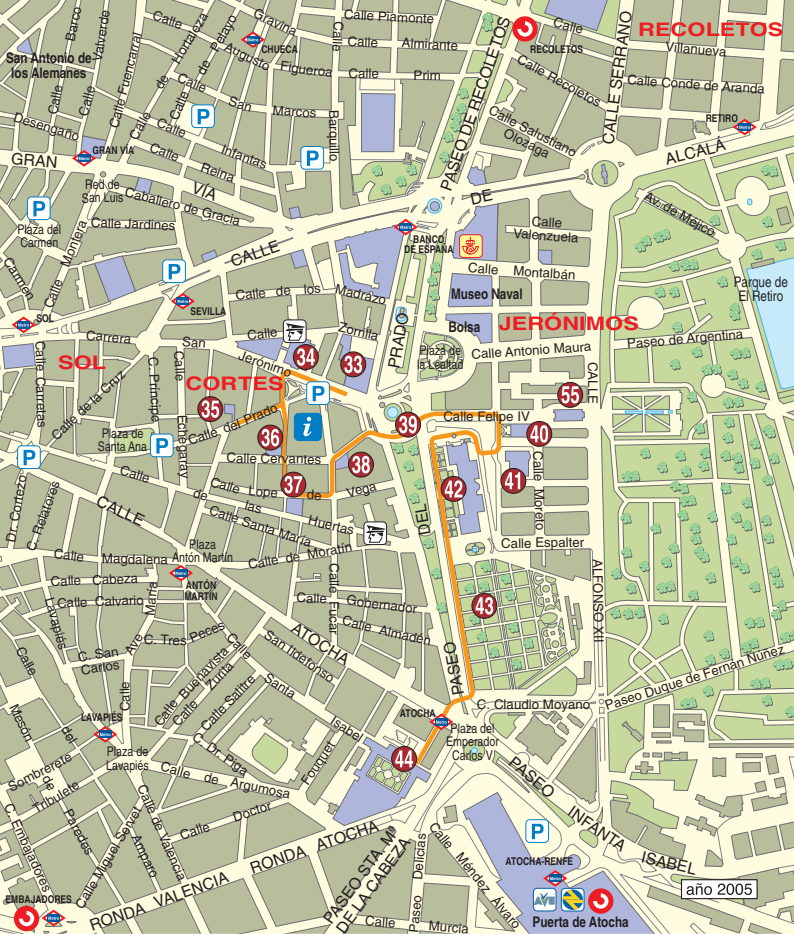
and objets d'art, dating from the 13th through to the closing years of the 20th century.

Just around the corner from the Thyssen is the **Spanish Parliament (Congreso de los Diputados) (34)**, a 19th-century structure with clear Renaissance echoes, designed by Narciso Pascual y Colomer.

Cross the Plaza de las Cortes and walk up Calle del Prado to get to the mansionhouse that is the **Madrid Athenaeum (35)**, a regular venue for cultural events and home to a large and

Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum





- 33 Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum
- 34 Parliament
- 35 Madrid Atheneum
- 36 Lope de Vega House-Museum
- 37 Church and Convent of the Trinitarians

- 38 Church of Jesus of Medinaceli
- 39 Neptune Fountain
- 40 Royal Academy of the Spanish Language
- 41 Church of San Jerónimo el Real
- 42 Prado Museum
- 43 Botanical Gardens
- 44 Centro de Arte Reina Sofía National Museum





Parliament

interesting portrait gallery. Close at hand - a short walk along León Street and down to No. 11 Cervantes Street- is the **Lope de Vega House-Museum** (36). Also in the immediate neighbourhood is the 17th century **Church and Convent of the Trinitarians** (37), where Cervantes lies buried.

The itinerary continues through the Plaza de Jesús and along Calle de Duque de Medinaceli, site of the **Church of Jesus of Medinaceli** (38), which traditionally enjoys a strong and devout following among *Madrileños*. Diagonally opposite Parliament is the **Hotel Palace**, which dates from the early 20th century and maintains the glamour of the grand European hotels, complete with liveried doormen.

Coming full circle, you get to the Plaza de Cánovas del Castillo, presided over by the **Neptune Fountain** (39), portraying the god of the sea resplendent in his chariot. In the adjoining Plaza de la Lealtad, the monument to the fallen is flanked by the classical **Stock Exchange** building and the elegant **Hotel Ritz**, built in 1910. Nearby is the Royal Academy of the **Spanish Language** (*Real Academia Española de la Lengua*) (40) and the striking **Church of San Jerónimo el Real** (St. Jerome) (41), traditionally the setting for events of great significance in the life of Spain's Bourbon monarchy.

Heir to the royal collections, the **Prado Museum** (42) has been fulfilling its role as an art gallery since 1818 and is without rival in the world. It is installed in a building that was originally designed and constructed in 1785 by Juan de Villanueva to act as a Museum of Natural Sciences. The Prado, with facilities that have already been extended as far as Los Jerónimos to allow it to display its vast collections, houses masterpieces by Goya, Velázquez, Murillo, Ribera and Zurbarán. In addition, it is unique for its Flemish and Italian works, the legacy of Spain's imperial era in Europe. The Museum's three main doors are respectively guarded by like statues of Goya, Velázquez and Murillo.

To accompany what was intended to be the Museum of Natural Sciences, the **Botanical Gardens** (43) in the Plaza de Murillo are imbued with romanticism and possess an interesting variety of plant species. Running along the far side of these gardens is the incline known as the Cuesta de Moyano, lined with stalls dealing in old and second-hand books.

Overlooking the Glorieta de Carlos V, but with its entrance on Calle de Santa Isabel, the **Centro de Arte Reina Sofía National Museum** (44) completes this art tour. In addition to its splendid collection of contemporary art, it also holds a number of temporary exhibitions. Built on the site of an old hospital, the

centre combines its eye-catching, avant-garde elevator shafts with neoclassical lines, thereby converting itself into hallmark of modern Madrid. Picasso's world-renowned painting, "Guernica", is, without doubt, one of the gallery's most visited exhibits.

THE THREE GREAT ART GALLERIES

PRADO MUSEUM

Paseo del Prado, s/n

Underground station: Banco de España or Atocha

www.museoprado.es

CENTRO DE ARTE REINA SOFÍA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Santa Isabel, 52

Underground station: Atocha

www.museoreinasofia.es

MUSEO THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA

Paseo del Prado, 8

Underground station:

Banco de España

www.museothyssen.org

Centro de Arte Reina Sofía National Museum



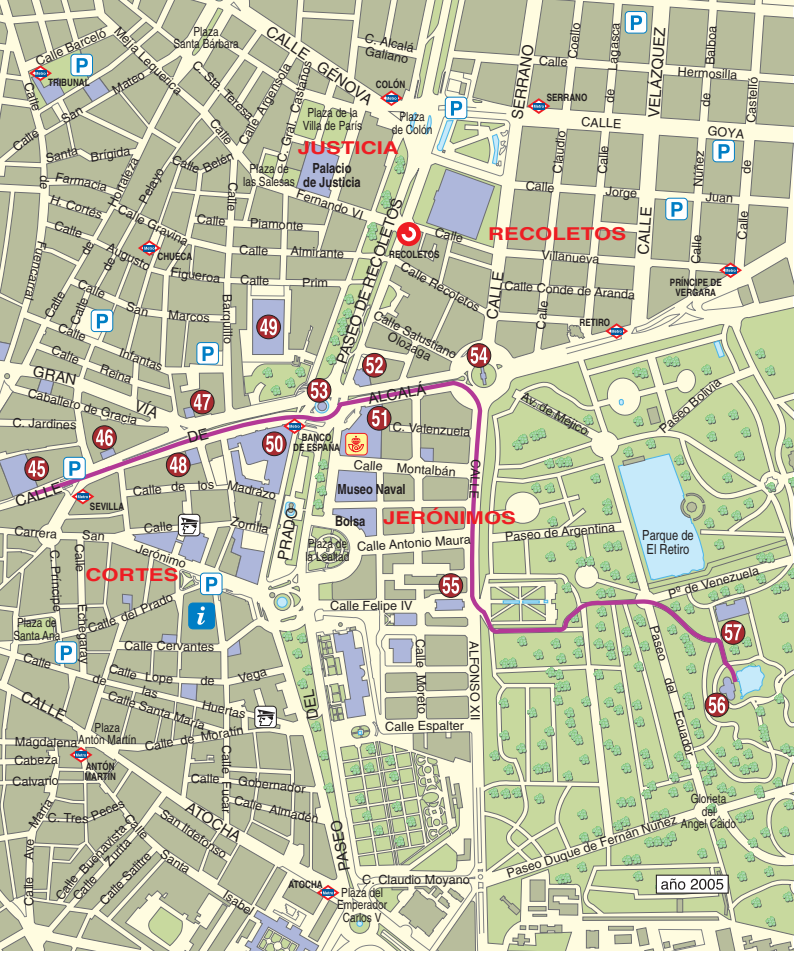


Crystal Palace. Retiro Park

■ From calle de Alcalá to Retiro Park

At the point where Alcalá Street begins, the area around the **Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando (45)** is one of Madrid's most monumental spots, dotted with large artistic buildings, the head offices of banks and major companies. Though founded in 1744, it was not until 1773 that the Academy took up lodgings in its present premises, a former palace designed by Churriguera. The Academy's superb art gallery prides itself on its Goya's and a priceless collection of over 15,000 drawings, ranging from Raphael through Rubens, Tiepolo, Velázquez and Rodin, all the way to Picasso.

On the left-hand side of this initial section of Calle Alcalá is the 17th-century **Church of Las Calatravas (46)**, which features a lovely dome and a high altar piece, posthumously attributed to Churriguera. Marking the end of this particular stretch is the **Metrópolis Building**, a paradigm of the entire area, which was erected between 1905 and 1911 for La Unión y el Fénix Insurance Company, and which divides Alcalá from Gran Vía. Grouped around this same intersection are **St. Joseph's Church (San José) (47)**, the **Ministry of Education**, and the **Fine Arts Circle (Círculo de Bellas Artes) (48)**. The latter, which was designed by Antonio Palacios and is considered to be the prime example of art deco in Madrid, is spectacularly



- 45 Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando
- 46 Church of Las Calatravas
- 47 St. Joseph's
- 48 Ministry of Education and Fine Arts Circle
- 49 Army General Headquarters
- 50 Bank of Spain

- 51 Palacio de las Comunicaciones
- 52 Americas House
- 53 Cibeles Fountain
- 54 Puerta de Alcalá
- 55 Casón del Buen Retiro
- 56 Crystal Palace
- 57 Velázquez Palace

crowned by a tower and Vasallo's statue of the goddess, Athena Pallas.

Madrid's symbolic centre and landmark, the Plaza de Cibeles, is flanked by a series of notable buildings. These include: the **Army General Headquarters** (49), housed in the Buenavista Palace, which dates from 1769; the country's central bank, the **Bank of Spain** (*Banco de España*) (50), built along Renaissance lines in the 19th century; the **Palacio de las Comunicaciones** (General Post Office) (51), an early 20th century design by Otamendi and Palacios; and the former Linares Palace, a late 19th century neo-Baroque building which is now home to the Spanish-Latin American cultural centre known as **Americas House** (*Casa de América*) (52). **Cibeles Fountain** (53), designed by Ventura Rodríguez and built by Roberto Michel and Francisco Gutiérrez, represents the Earth Mother, Cybele or Sybil.

The Cibeles Fountain is directly aligned with the **Puerta de Alcalá** (54), and at night this short walk acquires all the grandeur of a magical stage set. Designed by Francisco Sabatini and erected in 1778, this gate stands as a reminder that Charles III was "Madrid's best mayor". Continue down Alfonso XII Street: bordering **Retiro Park** and keeping the **Casón del Buen Retiro** (55) as your reference point, turn into these royal gardens, originally created for Philip IV. The oversize hothouse known as the **Crystal Palace** (*Palacio de Cristal*) (56), the pavilion-like **Velázquez Palace** (57), the **Cecilio Rodríguez Gardens**, the artificial lake –presided over by Alfonso XII's haughty figure– or any of the many paths with their birds and darting squirrels, are sure to transport you far from the roar of the big city to a bucolic world which functions as a veritable green "lung" in Madrid's urban anatomy.



Cibeles Fountain



Monument to Alfonso XII. Retiro Park

■ From Gran Vía to the Conde Duque Barracks

As it proceeds along Gran Vía, a street that goes back to the turn of the twentieth century, this itinerary passes through one of Madrid's leading leisure and entertainment areas, lined with cinemas, theatres, cafés, restaurants and department stores. From the start, the street is flanked on either side by large buildings. Rising to your left, directly opposite the **Museo Chicote bar** -a traditional haunt back in the Bohemian Madrid of Ava Gardner and Orson Welles- is the **Caballero de Gracia Oratorio** (58). This elegant neoclassical building designed by Juan de Villanueva in the latter years of the 18th century, stands on the street of the same name.

Farther on, the **Telefónica Building** (59), designed in 1929 by the American architect, Weeks, was the first skyscraper in Madrid, and marks the end of Red de San Luis and the beginning of new stretch of Gran Vía that leads as far as Plaza del Callao. Here, giant cinema hoardings look down from stylish buildings, such as the **Palacio de la Prensa**, influenced by the Chicago School, and the **Carrión Building** which, like the Capitol Cinema it houses, dates from the early years of the 20th century.

The last leg leads down to **Plaza de España** (60), a square dominated by two tall buildings, the **Edificio España** and **Torre de Madrid**, which command sensational city views. Before entering the Plaza de España, a short detour is recommended to

Gran Vía





see the Baroque-style Church of **St. Mark (San Marcos)** (61), designed by Ventura Rodríguez. A monument to **Cervantes** and **Don Quixote** stands in the middle of the square, which affords welcome respite in this busy part of Madrid. Nearby, the **Ferraz Gardens**, which eventually lead into the Parque del Oeste, and the **Temple of Debod** (62), brought stone by

- 58 Caballero de Gracia Oratorio
- 59 Telefónica Building
- 60 Plaza de España
- 61 St. Mark's Church
- 62 Temple of Debod
- 63 Cerralbo Museum
- 64 Liria Palace
- 65 Conde Duque Barracks



Conde Duque Barracks

stone from Egypt, are a superb vantage point from which to see how Madrid is expanding. On the other side of Calle Ferraz is the **Cerralbo Museum** (63), a stately 19th-century mansion containing an important collection of furniture and art treasures.

Once again the traveller is confronted by the great architect, Ventura Rodríguez,

since the street that bears his name leads back to Calle de la Princesa and the **Liria Palace** (64), the Duke of Alba's Madrid residence, designed by him in 1780. Behind the palace, the **Conde Duque Barracks** (*Cuartel del Conde Duque*) (65), graced by a fine Baroque portal, no longer act as military quarters. Instead, the building houses the Municipal Gallery of Contemporary Art, the Municipal Newspaper and Periodicals Archive (*hemeroteca*), Municipal Historical Archive, a number of exhibition rooms and other municipal departments, and in summer, its quadrangle becomes a venue for evening concerts and shows.



St. Mark's

Monument to Cervantes and Don Quixote. Plaza de España



Other places of interest

THE MADRID OF MALASAÑA AND DOS DE MAYO

To all intents and purposes, the rectangle formed by Fuencarral, Carranza and San Bernardo streets and the area to the rear of Gran Vía encloses the district which served as the setting for the famed Spanish "scene" (*movida*) of the 1980s, and which continues to be one of Madrid's choice nightlife areas. The Churches of **St. Placidus** (*San Plácido*), **St. Martin** (*San Martín*) and **San Antonio de los Alemanes**, the **Municipal Museum** (66), the Architect Ribera Gardens leading to the **Romantic Museum** (*Museo Romántico*) (67), and the Theatre Museum, are all concentrated around the **Plaza del Dos de Mayo** (68), the name of which commemorates the townsfolk who rose up in the insurgency against the Napoleonic invasion in 1808.



PLAZA DE COLÓN AND THE SALAMANCA DISTRICT

Stretching from the Puerta de Alcalá almost all the way to María de Molina Street, and covering the streets running parallel and perpendicular to Calle de Serrano, is the elegant Salamanca District (*barrio*),

Salamanca District



Plaza de Colón





- 66 Municipal Museum
- 67 Romantic Museum
- 68 Dos de Mayo Square
- 69 Descubrimiento Gardens
- 70 National Library
- 71 National Archaeological Museum
- 72 Americas Museum
- 73 Segovia Bridge
- 74 San Antonio de la Florida

designed in the 19th century by the Marquis of Salamanca. Fashionable boutiques and furniture shops, art galleries, cafés and offices line this quarter, with its stately buildings and spacious avenues that flow past the **Descubrimiento Gardens (69)**

in the Plaza de Colón (Colón; Christopher Columbus), flanked by the splendid architectural group formed by the **National Library (70)** and **National Archaeological Museum (71)**.

THE FARO DE MONCLOA AND AMERICAS MUSEUM

In the vicinity of the university campus at the north-western approach to Madrid, the Moncloa district combines urban expansion, large parkland areas –from the Parque del Oeste across to the Dehesa de la Villa– with a motley, irrepressible university atmosphere. From the **Faro de Moncloa** (*faro*; lighthouse), which is over the way from the **Americas Museum** (*Museo de América*) (72), the views are extraordinary and reveal Madrid as truly being the “green” capital of Europe. The **Triumphal Arch** and Herrerian-style **Air Force General Headquarters** are architectural points of interest in a district dominated by students.

FROM SEGOVIA BRIDGE TO SAN ANTONIO DE LA FLORIDA

The **Puente de Segovia** (73) is the oldest of the city’s bridges over the Manzanares River. Designed by Juan de Herrera in the late 16th century, it affords the best view of the Royal Palace and La Almudena Cathedral.

Moving upstream, through parks and groves of trees, you get to the district of **San Antonio de la Florida** (74). The church’s outstanding features include its twin chapels, housing the remains of Goya and his spectacular frescoes.

LITERARY MADRID

Madrid is a city where it is hard to find a single spot that does not have its own literary reference, ranging from major symbols such as the National Library or Royal Academy of the Spanish Language, to cultural centres such as the Fine Arts Circle, Atheneum, Centro Cultural de la Villa or the eternally restless university halls of residence. What is more, history is at hand to confirm it.

The Golden Age of Spanish literature is present in the so-called literary quarter, delimited by the Plazas of Cánovas del Castillo and Carlos V. Góngora, Quevedo and Tirso de Molina once walked the streets hereabouts, not far from the Lope de Vega House and

Segovia Bridge



Convent of the Trinitarians. Close by, in the Plaza de Santa Ana, the statue of Calderón contemplates the Teatro Español, whose façade recalls some of the country's most celebrated playwrights. This was also the site of the Corral de la Pacheca and Café del Príncipe, haunts of the intellectual circle known as the Peña el Parnasillo -a symbol of literary Madrid in the 19th century- which numbered Larra, Espronceda, Ventura de la Vega and Mesonero Romanos among its members.

The Madrid of Benito Pérez Galdós still survives in the environs of the Plaza Mayor. Similarly, in and around the Puerta del Sol it is still possible to witness scenes that might have been taken straight from Valle-Inclán's play, "Luces de Bohemia". In his book "La sagrada cripta del Pombo", Ramón Gómez de la Serna heaps praise on the café that used to be on Carretas Street and for many years was the paragon of all Madrid cafés, genuine circles of discussion (*tertulias*) and power, some of which, like the Café Comercial on the Glorieta de Bilbao or the Café Gijón on Paseo de Recoletos, continue the tradition to this day.

Here in Madrid, the writers of the Generation of 98 -Azorín, Baroja, Unamuno, Machado and



Valle-Inclán- passed the torch to the Generation of 27, all of whom were based at the *Residencia de Estudiantes* on Pinar Street. It was here too that Juan Ramón Jiménez, Pablo Neruda and, in particular, the group comprising Lorca, Alberti, Dámaso Alonso, Gerardo Diego, Vicente Aleixandre, Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí, left their mark.

Dotted about the city are sculptures that honour writers of all eras and from all parts of Spain who at some time or other made Madrid their literary centre.

As a general rule, museums and art galleries are open from Tuesday to Saturday, mornings and afternoons, on Sundays and Public Holidays during the morning only, and close on Mondays. For fuller information kindly consult the nearest tourist information office.

Art and culture

Museums and art centres

Hermitage Chapel of San Antonio de la Florida

Chapel in which the world-renowned Spanish painter, Francisco de Goya, lies buried. The dome was designed by the artist himself.

Glorieta San Antonio de la Florida, 5. Underground station: Príncipe Pío

Descalzas Reales Monastery

Collection of paintings, tapestries, religious images, relics.

Plaza de las Descalzas Reales, 3. Underground station: Sol or Ópera.

Royal Monastery of the Incarnation

Painting and sculpture dating from the 16th to 17th centuries.

Plaza de la Encarnación, 1. Underground station: Ópera

Americas Museum

American archaeology and ethnography, from prehistory until the present. Valuable collection of pre-Columbian art.

Avda. de los Reyes Católicos, 6. Underground station: Moncloa

National Archaeological Museum

Valuable archaeological pieces from all over Spain, along with coins and ceramics.

Serrano, 13. Underground stations: Serrano or Colón

Waxworks (Museo de Cera)

Wax figures of famous personalities down the ages, set against faithfully re-created backdrops.

Plaza de Colón. Underground station: Colón

Natural Sciences Museum

Permanent Exhibition of Natural Sciences.

José Gutierrez Abascal, 2. Underground station: Nuevos Ministerios or Gregorio Marañón

Municipal Museum

Housed in an old hospice built by Pedro de Ribera, the museum is a fine example of Baroque civil architecture. Different collections of prints, paintings, drawings, porcelain, coins, medals and photographs, connected in some way with Madrid.

Fuencarral, 78. Underground station: Tribunal

Sorolla Museum

House-Museum that displays works by Joaquín Sorolla and

Municipal Museum



paintings that the artist collected over his lifetime.

General Martínez Campos, 37
Underground station:
Rubén Darío

Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando

The Academy houses one of the finest collections of the 16th- to 19th-century Spanish School. In addition there are drawings, sculpture and porcelain.

Alcalá, 13
Underground station: Sol or Sevilla



Exhibition rooms

National Library

Founded by Philip V in 1712, the library acquired most of its valuable old books in the 19th century. It holds exhibitions, lecture cycles and book presentations.

Paseo de Recoletos, 22
Underground station: Colón

Fine Arts Circle

Antonio Palacios' building has been officially declared a national monument. The *Círculo de Bellas Artes* devotes itself to holding exhibitions and cultural events of the highest order.

Alcalá, 42.
Underground stations:
Sevilla or Banco de España

Juan March Foundation

Private institution created in 1955 by the financier,

Juan March, to act as a modern cultural centre.

Castelló, 77
Underground station:
Núñez de Balboa

Classical music

National Concert Hall (*Auditorio Nacional de Música*)

This building, designed by the architect, José María García de Paredes, is home to the Spanish National Orchestra & Choir (*Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España*).

Príncipe de Vergara, 146
Underground station:
Cruz del Rayo

Zarzuela Theatre

Built in the 19th century at the instance of composers such as Barbieri, Gaztambide and Arrieta, this theatre sets the standard for

staging zarzuela and other Spanish musical genres.
Jovellanos, 45
Underground station: Banco de España or Sevilla

Teatro Monumental

Home base of the Spanish Radio & Television Orchestra (*Orquesta de la Radio Televisión Española - RTVE*).
Atocha, 65
Underground station: Antón Martín

Theatre Royal (Teatro Real)

Since the Teatro Real was refurbished and restored as Madrid's Opera House in 1997, its programme of operas, recitals, concerts, zarzuelas and ballet has come to epitomise the wide range of culture on offer in Madrid.
Plaza de Oriente
Underground station: Ópera

Night live-music venues

Sala Clamores

A "must" for all leading jazz bands and an occasional venue for singer-songwriters and blues groups.
Alburquerque, 14
Underground station: Bilbao

Casa Patas

This is the night spot for live flamenco.
Cañizares, 10
Underground station: Antón Martín

Café Central

One of the capital's jazz Meccas.
Plaza del Ángel, 10
Underground station: Sol or Antón Martín

In addition to the above, there are innumerable nightspots featuring flamenco acts, restaurants with floor shows and live music, concert halls, nightclubs and places to dance to live bands. Madrid also hosts annual Jazz and Flamenco Festivals.

Theatre

Bellas Artes

Marqués de Casa Riera, 2
Underground station: Banco de España

Calderón

Atocha, 18
Underground station: Tirso de Molina

Centro Cultural de la Villa

Plaza de Colón
Underground station: Colón

Español

Príncipe, 25
Underground station: Sol or Antón Martín

Infanta Isabel

Barquillo, 24
Underground station: Banco de España

Teatro Clásico

Embajadores, 9
Underground station: La Latina



Teatro Español

Teatro María Guerrero

Centro Dramático Nacional.

Calle Tamayo and Baus, 4

Underground stations: Banco de España, Chueca and Colón

Special events held in the city include a renowned Autumn Festival, an Alternative Theatre Festival and a Dance Festival. During the summer, a series of open-air concerts are scheduled as part of the "Los Veranos de la Villa" cycle.

Cinema

While Madrid's two main cinema areas are on and around Gran Vía (Callao and Plaza de España Underground stations) and Calle de Fuencarral (Bilbao Underground station), there are a

number of cinemas in other parts of the city and the suburbs. Cinemas in the *Plaza de España* area screen subtitled films in the original version. Likewise, the *Filmoteca Nacional* (National Film Institute) holds original version cycles, with subtitles or simultaneous translation, at the Doré Cinema (calle de Santa Isabel, 3; Antón Martín Underground station). 3-D movies are shown at Imax Madrid (*Parque Tierno Galván; Méndez Álvaro Underground station*).

Entertainment guides listing films, times and cinemas can be found in the appropriate section of all mass circulation dailies, which usually publish leisure supplements on Friday. There are also specialist publications that carry information on all shows and events taking place in Madrid each week.

Side-trips through the region

Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, La Herrería and Valle de los Caídos

Situated 50 kilometres (30 miles) north-west of Madrid on the A-6 motorway, the **Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial** is the purest example of the heart of Castile over which Philip II ruled his vast empire. The style of this monumental complex, begun by Juan Bautista de Toledo and finished by Juan de Herrera in 1563, came to exert a strong influence on many other Spanish Hapsburg buildings. Apart from the splendour of its fourteen courtyards, one thousand doors and two thousand windows it has acted, as a Pantheon of the Kings and Queens of Spain, from Charles I up until the present.

The main façade, facing west, features three entrance ways. The most important of these, crowned by a pediment with the figure of St. Lawrence and the royal coat of arms of Philip II, leads into the *Patio de los Reyes* (Courtyard of the Kings). This, in turn, discloses the spectacular portal of the basilica, on which David and Solomon -in the centre- preside over the cortège of the six kings of Judea who tower over the courtyard. The basilica's ground plan is in the shape of a Greek cross, with a nave and two aisles. The dome measures ninety-two metres (301 ft.) and was modelled on that of St. Peter's at the Vatican. The interior has frescoes by Luca Giordano and Luca Cambiasso, a magnificent altarpiece by Juan de Herrera, royal oratories, and cenotaphs to Philip II and the Emperor Charles V.

The cloister and Patio de los Evangelistas connect the basilica to the monastery. Special mention should be made here of the main staircase by Gian Battista Castello, the vault with frescoes by Luca

Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial





Giordano, and the vestry and chapterhouses, with paintings by Titian, El Greco, Ribera, Velázquez and Tintoretto.

In the palace area, there is a surprisingly stark contrast between the spartan-like austerity of Philip II's quarters –with notable portraits by Sánchez Coello and Pantoja de la Cruz– and the sheer luxury of the Bourbon palace of Charles III and Charles IV –decorated with rich tapestries by Goya, Bayeu and Castillo. The Throne Room, Library and chamber where King Philip II died in September 1598, complete the tour through this monumental complex.

In the grounds of El Escorial, you can also visit the pleasure palaces known as the Casita del Príncipe and Casita del Infante, designed by Juan de Villanueva for Charles IV and Prince Gabriel

respectively. The "*Silla de Felipe II*", a natural seat formed in the rocks, and the Herrería Woods form a scenic counterpoint to a town that boasts a long cultural tradition, complete with market, cafés and local handicrafts. Here too, Madrid's Complutense University holds summer courses, intended to bring universal knowledge to students through the medium of participants actively involved in the decision-making process.

The return trip to Madrid affords the chance to compare the imperial dreams of Philip II against that other dream nurtured by General Franco in the Spain of the 20th century, viz., the *Valle de los Caídos*.

Royal Palace of Aranjuez and Town Squares of Chinchón and Colmenar de Oreja

The Royal Residence of Aranjuez (an officially declared World Heritage Cultural Landscape) stands on the River Tagus, 47 kilometres (30 miles) south of Madrid via the A-4. On a spot that the Catholic monarchs, Isabella and Ferdinand had used as a retreat, Juan de Herrera built the Royal Lodge (*Cuarto Real*) and Botanical Gardens for Philip II, taking advantage of the mildness of the climate in the river valley. In the 18th century, as a token of gratitude for the town's support of his cause in the War of Succession, the Bourbon King, Philip V, moved his court to Aranjuez. His son Charles III had the two wings of the present

Royal Palace built over the remains of Philip II's Lodge, destroyed by fire in 1655. Charles IV put the finishing touches to the whole with the *Jardín del Príncipe* and *Casa del Labrador*.

The stairway, Throne, Porcelain and Moorish Rooms are some of the chief attractions of this sumptuous palace. The east overlooks the French-style Parterre Garden, with the late 18th-century Hercules Fountain as its centrepiece. Head for the Jardín de la Isla, where plants, statues and gushing water jets make for a magic, fairy-tale atmosphere.

On the site of Ferdinand VI's orchard-garden, Charles IV charged Villanueva to design the adjacent Jardín del Príncipe, now home to the Falúas Museum (testimony to Spain dream of a link between the interior and the sea), and the fanciful Casa del Labrador.

Aranjuez Gardens



From May to October, the so-called Strawberry Train (*Tren de la Fresa*) follows the 19th-century railway line and, in a pleasant trip that takes a little under an hour, covers the distance between Madrid and Aranjuez. For those who prefer to go by road, however, the route continues as far as the Mar de Ontígola, a dam with its ecological footpath and bird observatory, near Oreja Castle, where the Military Order of St. James (*Santiago*) had its first convent

After passing through **Villaconejos**, the centre of a rich melon-growing area where there is even a melon museum, and –if you feel inclined– making a short detour to take an ecological stroll along the Laguna de San Juan, the itinerary moves onwards to **Chinchón**, with its slogan of “*plaza, castillo y mesón*” (square, castle and tavern). The town’s outstanding feature is its stunning 16th-century Plaza Mayor, which has served as the stage-set for films such as “Around the World in 80 days” and Orson Welles’ “Chimes at Midnight”: 234 balconies (called *claros* by the locals) overlook a square which has been a marketplace, the scene of mystery plays and the setting for an ancient form of bullfighting using lances, and which is still used today as a bullring and venue for all manner of shows. Sights worth seeing include: the



Chinchón Parador

Church of the Assumption, which was built between the 16th and 17th centuries, and has a Goya, attesting to the fact that the artist spent considerable periods of time here in the company of his brother, the chaplain; St. Augustin’s Convent (today a Tourist Parador); and the castle.

The vineyards lining the road from Chinchón are a sure sign that, apart from its 18th-century buildings, Ulpiano Checa Museum and 16th-century fortress-church of St. Mary Major (*Santa María la Mayor*), good wineries await in **Colmenar de Oreja**. The town’s jewel, however, is the lovely Plaza Mayor, a typical two-tier Castilian square of superb proportions built from the local stone used in a number of other Madrid monuments, such as the Palace of Aranjuez and La Almudena Cathedral.

Alcalá de Henares

Officially declared a World Heritage Site in 1998, Alcalá de Henares, lying 20 miles from Madrid on the A-2 highway, still displays all the splendour of its rich past as a model Renaissance university city. Alcalá, the birthplace of Cervantes, keeps the memory of the world-famous author of "Don Quixote" alive in a 16th-century House-Museum. Furthermore it is the city of Nebrija, who penned the first Spanish grammar, and –above all– a reflection of Cardinal Cisneros' innovative Christian humanist vision.

Alcalá, which first appeared as an Iberian settlement known as *Iplacea* and then became the Roman city of *Complutum*, received its present name of "*Al-Kala en-Har*" (castle or citadel) under the Moors. Alfonso VII retook the city in 1129, and in 1293 Sancho IV founded the *Estudios Generales*, the forerunner of the future university. The first academic course imparted by Cisneros' university took place in 1508. The institution was to come directly under the king's purview, was to have its own charter, police and gaol, and in the years that followed, Calderón, Quevedo, Lope, St. John of the Cross (*San*

Façade of the University of Alcalá de Henares



Juan de la Cruz), St. Ignatius of Loyola and Jovellanos were all destined to study here. Its brilliant trajectory was cut short in 1836 when the University was moved to Madrid, from which it did not return until 1968, coinciding with the city centre's designation as an Historical Artistic Ensemble.

The *Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso*, built by Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón from 1541 to 1553, is a superb example of the Plateresque style (*plata* denoting the style's resemblance to silver filigree) and has become a symbol synonymous with the University. Moving inside, be sure to see the Santo Tomás de Villanueva Quadrangle (*patio*), the *Patio Trilingüe* (Three Languages Quadrangle where Latin, Greek, and Hebrew were taught), the Great Hall and the magnificent lecture podium. Monuments to Cisneros and Nebrija, and the former's imposing tomb are to be found in the San Ildefonso Chapel. The Jesuit Colegio Máximo, Colegio de San Francisco de Paula and Carmen Calzado building, among others, form the impressive complex of university centres which today house the different faculties.

Important though its university may be, Alcalá de Henares is much more. Shining with a light of its own is St. Justus' Cathedral (*Catedral Magistral*, a

title conferred upon collegiate churches whose canons were also University professors –*magister*). This Cathedral, where the remains of the child martyrs Justus and Pastor are venerated, was rebuilt by Cardinal Cisneros in the 16th century and features a beautiful portal containing Late Gothic and Plateresque elements. The Archbishop's Palace, designed by Covarrubias, has a Renaissance façade of note. Other sights include several sections of the old town walls, as well as the Madre de Dios and San Bernardo Convents. In today's busy, modern city, this ensemble renders it possible to recapture all the charm and magic of one of the foremost examples of the Renaissance.

■ El Pardo Palace and Montes de El Pardo

Although practically annexed to the city of Madrid now, the El Pardo district formed part of 20th-century Spanish history. For more than forty years, General Franco controlled Spain's destiny from El Pardo Palace. In the midst of this magnificent holm-oak forest, the largest in Europe, populated by wild boar, roe deer, common deer and birds of every kind, stands the Zarzuela Palace, the permanent residence of the Spanish Royal Family.



El Pardo Palace

A string of sports and leisure clubs, and numerous restaurants serving good food and game line the road, which winds through the rolling countryside that has traditionally been a royal hunting ground. The Emperor Charles V and Philip II were frequent occupants of the Pavilion of Enrique el Doliente, built in 1405 and transformed by Juan de Mora into a palace for Philip III, after a fire had destroyed the old building. Murals by Bayeu and Maella and rich tapestries from the Royal Tapestry Factory adorn this well-proportioned palace, where King Alfonso XII died. Today, it is used as accommodation for foreign dignitaries paying official visits to Spain.

Gregorio Fernández's moving carving of the recumbent Christ in the Holy Christ Hermitage Chapel is one of the highlights of any a

visit to the Montes de El Pardo. The suburb of El Pardo, which lies along the Manzanares River, is a small village from which different trails lead off to outdoor eating spots, the Quinta Palace and the heart of the woods.

Lozoya Valley and El Páular Monastery

The Laguna Grande and Laguna de los Pájaros are both glacial lakes lying in the bowl of a sizeable fertile valley where nature has combined with history to form one of the most singular areas in the Madrid Region. In fact, the tour through the Lozoya River Valley, the source of Madrid's drinking water for the last 150 years, commences at the foot of the valley, namely, at the village of **Buitrago de Lozoya**, on the Madrid-Burgos road. Probably Celtic in origin, the town reached

its zenith in the 15th century, when it paid allegiance to the Mendozas. Completing a visit to the walled Medieval Quarter, which includes the Clock Tower (*Torre del Reloj*), Church of Santa María del Castillo and Plaza de Armas -now transformed into a bullring- are the views to be had of the town and its moat-like river, as well as a somewhat unexpected Picasso Gallery, with sixty of the artist's works collected by his friend Eugenio Arias, a native of these parts.

Before continuing, it is well worth your while -time permitting- to make a side-trip from Buitrago to see the magnificent Montejo Beech Tree Grove in **Montejo de la Sierra**, and the upper reaches of the Jarama River, characterised by scenic mountain villages and reservoirs. Otherwise, the original itinerary goes, as planned, via **Villavieja del Lozoya**, **San Mamés**, a village with a splendid twenty-metre high waterfall an hour's walk away, Navarredonda and Gargantilla del Lozoya, to the intersection with the M-604. From

the crossroads, the route then continues onwards to Rascafría, passing through Lozoya which, with its emblazoned houses and 16th-century church, lies alongside La Pinilla Dam.

You pass **Alameda del Valle** and **Oteruelo del Valle** on the left and eventually come to the picturesque mountain village of **Rascafría**, a departure point for many outings in the area, thanks to its location at the foot of the region's highest peaks: Mt. Peñalara -2,428 metres (just under 8,000 ft.)- and Mt. Cabezas del Hierro -2,383 metres (7818 ft.). From here, one can either continue up to the Navacerrada Pass or complete the circle by returning to Madrid via Miraflores and Canencia. A "must" before going back, however, is a visit to **El Paular Monastery**, founded by John I. Highlights include the Plateresque portal, 16th-century cloister, church door attributed to Juan Guas and high altar piece. Adjoining the monastery, Henry III's handsome palace is now used as a hotel.

Paular Monastery



Leisure and entertainment

Local cuisine

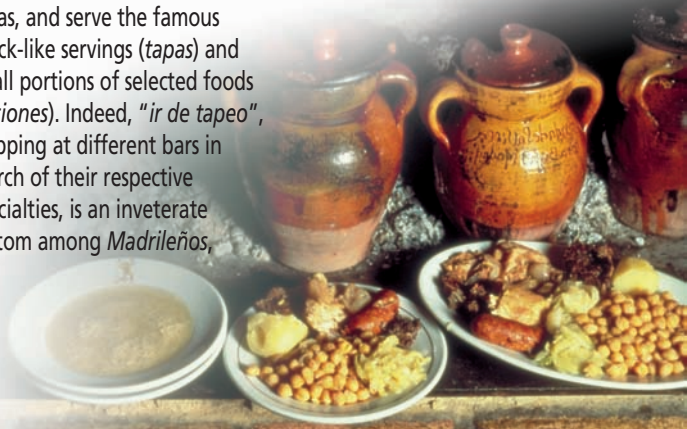
For centuries, Madrid has been famed for its good food.

The capital's *nouveau cuisine* successfully manages to produce a menu that combines typically Madrid dishes with painstakingly prepared domestic and international recipes. Two of the local highlights are *callos* (tripe) and *cocido madrileño* (Madrid-style stew), a tasty stockpot of chickpeas and vegetables enriched with meat and sausage, which calls for a veritable rite when eaten. Other dishes, such as *besugo al horno* (baked sea-bream) or cod (*bacalao*) in its many guises, compete with T-bone and fillet steak (*chuletones* and *solomillos*) and the Castilian *sopas de ajo* (soups containing garlic, paprika, egg, bread, ham and sausage).

A good way to get to know Madrid food is to visit some of the innumerable bars that line the city streets and outlying areas, and serve the famous snack-like servings (*tapas*) and small portions of selected foods (*raciones*). Indeed, "ir de tapeo", stopping at different bars in search of their respective specialties, is an inveterate custom among *Madrileños*,

who are given to accompanying their food with generous amounts of beer or wine, be it local or from another region. *Tortilla de patatas* (Spanish omelette), sausage and pressed meats, pickles and all types of stews are served along with very traditional *tapas*, such as *entresijos* and *gallinejas* (fried lamb offal and tripe), *oreja* (pig's ear) or the humble mushroom.

Special mention must be made of the local sweets and desserts, which are often linked to different festivities during the year. A breakfast of *churros* and *porras* (fried pastries) can be had at any time of year, but at Christmas time *turrón* (a nougat-like sweetmeat) and *mazapán* (marzipan) reign supreme. During Easter week, *torrijas* (sweet fritters) and *huesos de santo* ("saint's bones", a marzipan-based pastry) are traditional fare. The Feast of San Isidro brings *barquillos* (wafers) and the doughnut-like *rosquillas*, while another favourite, preferably in winter, are the delicious *buñuelos de viento* (round cream-filled fritters).



Specialties made throughout the country's rich gastronomic geography are easily come by. It is no coincidence that *Madrileños* claim to have the best fish and seafood, plus the choicest meat, in Spain. Indeed, some of the city's best restaurants are Basque, Galician, Asturian or Andalusian.

Here, it is only right to add that, along with the range of "domestic" food on offer, there has been an upsurge in the variety and quality of restaurants serving foreign cuisine –from Chinese to European, Latin American, and Arab.

Shopping

Large department stores and megastores specialising in CDs, books and videos can be found in and around the Puerta del Sol, on Princesa and Goya Streets or along the Paseo de la Castellana, as well as in all the major shopping malls on the city outskirts. The most select fashion boutiques, jewellery, footwear, furniture and gift shops of all kinds are to be found in the Salamanca, Salesas and Chueca Districts.

Keep your eyes peeled, and in the Old Quarter of Madrid it is still possible to come across numerous traditional shops which have managed to survive for years, or even centuries, and which still have a clientele that

ensures their continuity. Shops selling espadrilles, rope, hats and religious objects are located around the Plaza Mayor, where shopping still retains the flavour of old. The same can be said of Madrid's street market *par excellence*, the *Rastro*, the popular Sunday morning open-air flea-market (extending from Tirso de Molina, Cascorro and La Latina, as far down as Embajadores), where anything and everything is bought, sold and bartered at outdoor stalls and colourful local shops.

Madrid is also a good place to purchase art and antiques. The art galleries which tend to congregate in the Salamanca District, Calle Barquillo and the area around the Centro de Arte Reina Sofía are a true reflection of the worldwide importance of Spanish art, past and present. The modern "art supermarkets" provide an outlet for works by young and upcoming as well as better-established artists. In addition, a wide range of antiques can be found in the Salamanca District, Puerta de Toledo Market or any of the permanent shops in and around the *Rastro*. Coin- and stamp-collecting have their "GHQ" in



the Plaza Mayor, the scene every Sunday of a market under the arcades. Over the course of the year, booklovers can look forward to a number of regular events in Madrid, such as the Book Fair in Retiro Park, at the end of May and early June, and the Old and 2nd-hand Book Fair on the Paseo de Recoletos, at the beginning of May. There are also large, specialised bookshops scattered throughout the city, together with the old and antique book dealers, whose shelves are stocked with genuine treasures for the collector.

■ **Nightlife**

Going out at night is a way of life in a city that never sleeps, where the customs of night owls seem to merge seamlessly with those of early risers. Given that lunch in Madrid is eaten late in the day (usually at about 2:30 p.m.), it follows that dinner at a restaurant can often last until midnight, after which the city's innumerable attractions lie waiting to be enjoyed, with many night spots remaining open till well into the small hours.

Apart from cinemas, clubs and shows of every hue and colour, Madrid nightlife tends to be a thing of *bares de copas*, which tend to congregate in a few specific areas. The pedestrian precinct from **Huertas Street** to **Plaza de Santa Ana**, is one of the liveliest of these "strips". The same can be said of the **Alonso Martínez, Bilbao** and **Plaza de Santa Bárbara** area, which practically merges with that of **Malasaña**, in the streets leading off from **Plaza del Dos de Mayo**. **Moncloa** and **Argüelles** are frequented by a somewhat younger, university crowd. The **Castellana, Recoletos** and **Prado boulevards** are likewise dotted with fashionable spots, which in the hot months multiply, thanks to the appearance of the popular outdoor *terrazas* which have become such a symbol of the Madrid summer season. At this time of year too, **Paseo del Pintor Rosales** turns into a parade of pavement cafés and marquees where only the sea breeze is missing; in its place, there is the cool fragrance wafting in from the Parque del Oeste.

Outdoor café on Paseo de Recoletos



Yet Madrid's best night spectacle takes place in its streets. Except in the depth of winter, the prevailing good weather means that *Madrileños* can venture outdoors at the slightest opportunity, going from one bar to the next, between dinner and a concert, or between dates at some fashionable nightspot.

In such cases, there is a wide and varied range of music on offer, whether recorded -with different venues specializing in different styles- or live -with rock clubs, singer-songwriters and jazz.

■ Festivities

Christmas time in Madrid has a special flavour, with the typical Christmas market in the Plaza Mayor, the New Year's Eve celebration in the Puerta del Sol and all the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping. At this time of year, the fairy-tale decorations transform the city into a fantastic light show. The traditional procession of the Three Magi (*Cabalgata de Reyes*) takes place on 6th January.

With each passing year the Madrid **Carnival** has grown in terms of participants and onlookers to the point where it has become a very popular celebration, outstanding for the imaginativeness of the costumes and the sheer number of scheduled events.

The Region's festivities, centred on 2nd May, are a foretaste of the outdoor dances and spectacles to come on 15th May, the feast day of Madrid's patron saint, **San Isidro**. An outdoor pilgrimage (*romería*) sees thousands of people gathering at St. Isidore's Hermitage Chapel and meadow, as well as the holding of the world's most important bullfight festival. Organ grinders, sugary "rosquillas", and typically dressed *chulos* and *manolas* make for a colourful fiesta with a deeply traditional atmosphere.

On **St. Anthony's** day, 13th June, at the Hermitage Chapel of San Antonio de la Florida down by the Manzanares riverside, marriageable young girls seeking suitors continue the seamstresses' tradition of depositing thirteen pins in the baptismal font in the hope of finding favour with the saint.

August is the month when traditional *castizo* Madrid takes to the streets for the festivities of **St. Cayetano**, **St. Lawrence** and the **Virgin of La Paloma**, with processions, open-air dances and pavement cafés open until late into the night.

Other long-standing festivals are held in the Madrid Region, such as the **Chinchón Passion Play**, the **Romería de la**

Virgen de Gracia in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, and the historic **Aranjuez mutiny** (*motín*).

■ Trade Fairs

Madrid's status as the capital of Spain has made it the traditional venue for national and international trade fairs and conventions, with an intense year-round schedule.

The Juan Carlos I Showgrounds (*Parque Ferial*) cover an area marked by trade-fair pavilions, modern office buildings and the Municipal Convention Centre, plus two hotels and a large park. Being strategically located and well connected by Underground, the showgrounds are easily and readily accessible from Barajas International Airport and the major train junction of Chamartín Railway Station. In the Casa de Campo, a handful of regional restaurants and pavilions are a reminder that this once served as the showground site. Indeed, certain trade fairs are still held here.

The International Tourism Fair (*Feria Internacional del Turismo - FITUR*), held early in the year, is one of the best showcases of

world tourism. ARCO, held in February, is an international barometer of trends in contemporary art; and enjoying the same standing in its particular field is SIMO TCI, the International Computer, Multimedia and Communications Fair held in November. Yet the range is enormous, spanning over 70 fairs from almost all sectors of the economic and social fabric of western society. The Madrid Trade Fair Board (*Institución Ferial de Madrid - IFEMA*) is in charge of scheduling and coordinating all the various trade fairs. Juan Carlos I Park, adjoining the showgrounds, is itself worth exploring.

PARQUE FIERAL JUAN CARLOS I (IFEMA) *Underground station: Campo de las Naciones.*
www.ifema.es

■ Sports

Madrid is a city that hosts important sports events, particularly in the case of football. Every weekend, Madrid's three most famous soccer stadiums -the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium (home of nine-time European Champions, Real Madrid), the Vicente Calderón Stadium (where Atlético de Madrid is based), and the Teresa Rivera Stadium (Rayo Vallecano's home ground)- are the scene of important matches watched by thousands of fans.

Juan Carlos I Showgrounds



Similarly, the Madrid Popular and San Silvestre Vallecana Marathons are races with a big following. The same can be said about the final stage of each edition of the Tour of Spain Cycle Race.

The region has close on one hundred outdoor sports facilities, over a hundred tennis clubs and a score or more of golf courses, in addition to any number of municipal sports centres. There are also major skiing facilities: less than an hour's drive away are the ski resorts of Valdesquí –at Cotos, with 22 kilometres of ski runs– and Navacerrada, at the Navacerrada Pass, with 10 kilometres of pistes.

■ Theme and other parks

Completing its leisure and entertainment facilities, Madrid boasts: three aquatic parks, i.e., Aquasur, Aquamadrid and Aquópolis; a Zoo Aquarium, which is one of the world's foremost zoos, in terms not only of the number of different species and animals, but also of its constant work in the fields of

research, conservation, reproduction and education; an animal safari park (Safari Madrid); and the Fun Fair (*Parque de Atracciones*), with more than forty rides catering to all tastes and concerts in summer.

Faunia is a biological nature park, where fauna and flora combine with the very latest, environment-friendly technology to create different natural ecosystems. Warner Bros. Movie World, one of the most spectacular theme parks in the world and the largest in Europe, reproduces the fantasy world of Warner Brothers films with a series of attractions spread over a 250-hectare plot, located near the town of San Martín de la Vega and easily accessible by road or rail.

PARQUES REUNIDOS Fun fair (*Parque de Atracciones*), Zoo Aquarium, Aquópolis, etc.
www.parquesreunidos.com

FAUNIA (Madrid Biological Park)
www.faunia.es

MOVIE WORLD. WARNER BROS
www.warnerbrospark.com

Golf course



Three World Heritage Cities an hour from Madrid

Lying approximately one hour from Madrid by road or rail, Avila and Segovia in the Castile & León Region, and Toledo in the Castile-La Mancha Region, are a trio of world-famous historical and artistic gems, officially accorded World Heritage City status by UNESCO.



ÁVILA

Ringed by its town walls, Avila's striking medieval beauty comes as a surprise. From its possible beginnings as a Celtic *castro* (fortified encampment), the former Roman city of Avila had become an impregnable stronghold by the time of the Reconquest. The Cathedral, which was begun in the 12th century and whose apse (known as the *Cimorro* by the townsfolk)

forms an integral part of the defensive structure of the walls, houses an authentic treasure trove. Outstanding features include the high altar piece, with works by Pedro Berruguete, the ambulatory by Fruchel, the richly-carved retrochoir, the tomb of Alonso Fernández de Madrigal, "*El Tostado*" by Vasco de la Zarza, and the Cathedral Museum.

Outside the wall's nine gates –some of which, such as the

City walls. Avila





Alcázar (palace-fortress). Segovia

Alcázar and San Vicente Gates, are veritable masterpieces—stand the Romanesque Churches of St. Vincent (*San Vicente*), St. Peter (*San Pedro*), St. Stephen (*San Esteban*) and St. Andrew (*San Andrés*). Accompanying them is the impressive Monastery of St. Thomas, perpetual reminder of the Catholic monarchs and the premature death of their son and heir, Prince Juan, whose tomb is here. While the Velada, Verdugo, Serrano, Águila mansionhouses and the Guzman Tower (*torreón*) eloquently attest to the earthly power of the city in the 15th and 16th centuries, millions of pilgrims from around the world flock to the Monastery of the Incarnation and the Convents of San José and La Santa to follow in the footsteps of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross.



SEGOVIA

Presided over by its Roman aqueduct, the city's immediately recognisable landmark, Segovia can also lay claim to other unique sights, such as: its Gothic Cathedral, built over the old cathedral that was burnt to the ground in retaliation for giving safe haven to the *Comunero* insurgents; and its Alcázar, majestically perched atop the Rivers Eresma and Clamores, a royal residence since the 13th century which, despite its incomparable location, has always been used more as a palace than as a defensive redoubt.

Seemingly made for walking and famed for its excellent food, Segovia also possesses a good

number of stately houses and prize churches, such as those of St. Andrew, St. Martin, the Knights of St. John (*San Juan de los Caballeros*) and the splendid Romanesque Church of St. Stephen, with its bell tower and atrium, used for church services. The Plaza Mayor is a lively meeting place, around which it is easy to lose oneself meandering along lanes and alleys of another age.

Close by, nestling in the neighbouring Guadarrama Mountains, is La Granja Palace, where Philip V was intent on establishing his own Versailles-type court. The palace, begun by Ardemans and completed by Sachetti and others, is only rivalled by its lovely park and gardens, whose fountains provide a constant spectacle.



City view of Toledo



TOLEDO

In the middle ages, Toledo was the model *par excellence* of co-existence of the three great cultures, namely, Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Its towers, walls and gates such as the Puerta de Bisagra, are evidence of a warlike city, which also enjoys the privilege of being the site of Spain's Primatial Cathedral. This, one of the most stunning Gothic cathedrals in the country, was begun in the 13th century by Ferdinand III (*Fernando III el Santo*), over the remains of what had once been the great mosque of the Moors. San Juan de los Reyes, a spectacular monastery commissioned by the Catholic Monarchs, and the Holy Cross Museum (*Santa Cruz*), housed in the old 15th-century hospital of the same name, together

Roman aqueduct. Segovia





mark left by the Jews is still visible in the Jewish Quarter and Tránsito and Santa María la Blanca synagogues.

Convents and palaces, as well as the Tavera Hospital, the El Greco House-Museum and the artist's powerful rendering of "*El entierro del Conde de Orgaz*" (Burial of the Count of Orgaz) in St. Thomas' Church (*Santo Tomás*), and the Alcázar, where the Army Museum recalls the defence of this position during the Spanish Civil War, make Toledo and its monumental sights an absolute "must".

provide a magnificent sample of the cultural wealth of Christian Toledo. Moorish influence can be traced to the Bab al Mardum and Tornerías Mosques, whilst the

Toledo Cathedral



USEFUL INFORMATION

International Dialling Code ☎ 34

TURESPAÑA TOURIST INFORMATION

www.spain.info

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

MADRID CITY

☎ 902 100 007 www.esmadrid.com

Plaza Mayor, 3

Duque de Medinaceli, 2

Chamartín Railway Station – Central Concourse, Gates 14-16

Atocha Railway Station – Commuter Station Concourse (*Cercanías*)

Barajas Airport - Terminal T1/T4

MADRID REGION

www.madrid.org

Alcalá de Henares Callejón de Santa María ☎ 918 892 694

Plaza de los Santos Niños

☎ 918 810 634

Aranjuez Plaza de San Antonio, 9

☎ 918 910 427

Chinchón Plaza Mayor, 6

☎ 918 935 323

San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Grimaldi, 2 ☎ 918 905 313

Avila Pedro Dávila, 4

☎ 920 211 387

Segovia Plaza Mayor, 10

☎ 921 460 334

Toledo Puerta de Bisagra

☎ 925 220 843

International dialling code ☎ 34

TOURIST INFORMATION TURESPAÑA

www.spain.info

Turismo de Canarias

www.canarias-turismo.com

Tourist Board

Almirante Lallermond, 1

35600 Puerto del Rosario

☎ 928 530 844

www.fuerteventuraturismo.com

Fuerteventura Inter-Island Council

Rosario, 7

35600 Puerto del Rosario

☎ 928 862 300

www.cabildofuer.es

TOURIST PARADORS (State-run hotels)

Central booking office Requena, 3

28013 Madrid ☎ 902 549 979

☎ 902 525 432 www.parador.es

Chinchón Parador

Avenida Generalísimo, 1

☎ 918 940 836 ☎ 918 940 908

Alcalá de Henares Hostería

Colegios, 3

☎ 918 880 330 ☎ 918 880 527

Avila Parador

Marqués Canales de Chozas, 2

☎ 920 211 340 ☎ 920 226 166

Segovia Parador

Carretera de Valladolid

☎ 921 443 737 ☎ 921 437 362

Toledo Parador

Cerro del Emperador

☎ 925 221 850 ☎ 925 225 166

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergencies ☎ 112

Hospital emergencies ☎ 061

Civil Guard (*Guardia Civil*) ☎ 062

National Police ☎ 091

Municipal Police ☎ 092

Municipal Information Service ☎ 010

Regional Information Service ☎ 012

Post ☎ 902 197 197 www.correos.es

TRANSPORT

In-city transport: there is a reduced-rate ticket. This is the "Bono Metro-Bus", valid for ten trips on both bus and underground. It can be purchased at all Underground stations, official tobacconist shops (*estancos*) and municipal transport booths (*Empresa Municipal de Transportes –EMT*). There is also a

combined museum-and-transport ticket (kindly consult:

www.madridcard.com

RENFE (Spanish Rail)

Information and telephone

bookings ☎ 902 240 202

International information

☎ 902 240 202

www.renfe.es

AENA (Airport) Information Office
☎ 902 404 704 www.aena.es

Road & Highway Information
☎ 900 123 505 www.dgt.es

SPANISH TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES ABROAD

CANADA. Toronto

Tourist Office of Spain
2 Bloor Street West Suite 3402
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3E2
☎ 1416/961 31 31
☎ 1416/961 19 92
www.tourspain.toronto.on.ca
e-mail: toronto@tourspain.es

JAPAN. Tokyo

Tourist Office of Spain
Daini Toranomom Denki Bldg.6F.
3-1-10 Toranomom. Minato-Ku
TOKYO-105-0001
☎ 813/34 32 61 42
☎ 813/34 32 61 44
www.spaintour.com
e-mail: tokio@tourspain.es

RUSSIA. Moscow

Spanish Tourist Office
Tverskaya – 16/2, 6°
Moscow 125009
☎ 7495/935 83 99
☎ 7495/935 83 96
www.tourspain.ru
e-mail: moscu@tourspain.es

SINGAPORE. Singapore

Spanish Tourist Office
541 Orchard Road
Liat Tower # 09-04
238881 Singapore
☎ 65/67 37 30 08
☎ 65/67 37 31 73
e-mail: singapore@tourspain.es

UNITED KINGDOM. London

Spanish Tourist Office
2nd floor, 79 Cavendish Street
London W1A 6XB
☎ 44207/ 486 80 77

☎ 44207/486 80 34
www.tourspain.co.uk
e-mail: londres@tourspain.es

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Los Angeles

Tourist Office of Spain
8383 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 960
Beverly Hills, California 90211
☎ 1323/658 71 95
☎ 1323/658 10 61
www.okspain.org
e-mail: losangeles@tourspain.es

Chicago

Tourist Office of Spain
Water Tower Place. Suite 915 East
845 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60/611
☎ 1312/642 19 92
☎ 1312/642 98 17
www.okspain.org
e-mail: chicago@tourspain.es

Miami

Tourist Office of Spain
1395 Brickell Avenue
Miami, Florida 33131
☎ 1305/358 19 92
☎ 1305/358 82 23
www.okspain.org
e-mail: miami@tourspain.es

New York

Tourist Office of Spain
666 Fifth Avenue 35th floor
New York, New York 10103
☎ 1212/265 88 22
☎ 1212/265 88 64
www.okspain.org
e-mail: nuevayork@tourspain.es

EMBASSIES IN MADRID

Canada. Núñez de Balboa, 35 - 3°
☎ 914 233 250 ☎ 914 233 251

Japan. Serrano, 109

☎ 915 907 600 ☎ 915 901 321

Republic of Ireland. Claudio Coello, 73

☎ 915 763 500 ☎ 914 351 677

Russia. Velázquez, 155

☎ 915 622 264 ☎ 915 629 712

United Kingdom.

Fernando El Santo, 16

☎ 913 190 200 ☎ 913 081 033

United States of America.

Serrano, 75

☎ 915 872 200 ☎ 915 872 303

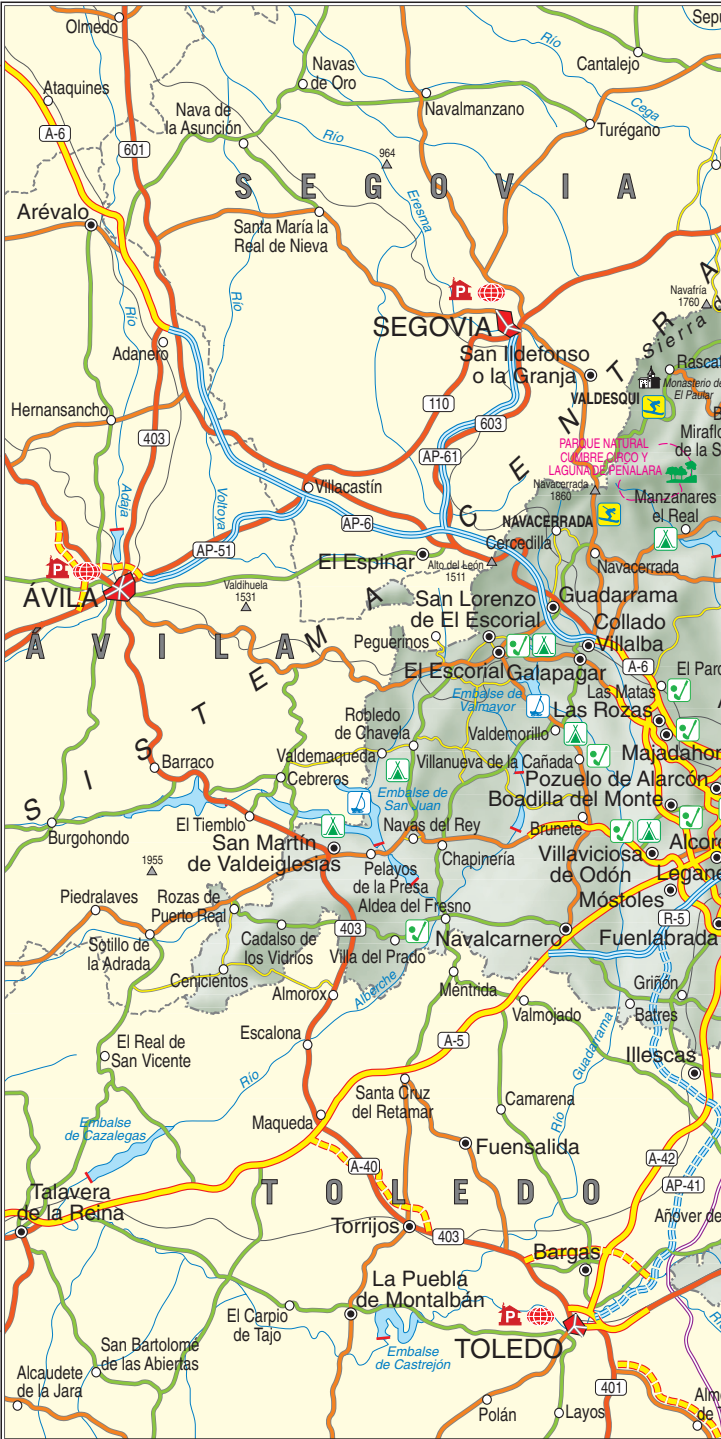
VALLADOLID 43 km

A CORUÑA 495 km

SALAMANCA 97 km

PLASENCIA 156 km

BADAJOS 285 km



BURGOS 142 km



SEVILLA 459 km

ALBACETE 151 km

CARTOGRAFÍA: GCAR, S.L. Cardenal Silíceo, 35
Tel. 914 167 341 - 28002 MADRID - AÑO 2005
cartografiagcar@infonegocio.com

Itinerary I

1. Plaza Mayor
2. San Miguel Market
3. Cuchilleros Arch
4. St. Michael's Basilica
5. Convent of Las Jerónimas del Corpus Christi
6. Plaza de la Villa
7. Lujanes Tower
8. Cisneros House
9. Casa de la Villa (City Hall)
10. Abrantes Palace
11. Duke of Uceda's Palace (or *Palacio de los Consejos*)
12. Convent of the Holy Sacrament
13. Emir Mohamed I Park
14. La Almudena Cathedral

Itinerary II

15. Royal Palace
16. Plaza de Oriente
17. Theatre Royal Opera House
18. Royal Monastery of the Incarnation
19. Senate House
20. Palace of the Marquis of Grimaldi
21. Convent of Las Reparadoras
22. Plaza de Isabel II
23. Descalzas Reales Monastery
24. Church of San Ginés
25. Puerta del Sol

Itinerary III

26. St. Isidore's
27. Church of St. Peter the Old (or Royal St. Peter's)
28. Bishop's Chapel
29. St. Isidore's Museum
30. Church of St. Francis the Great
31. Toledo Gate
32. Toledo Bridge

Itinerary IV

33. Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum
34. Parliament
35. Madrid Atheneum
36. Lope de Vega House-Museum
37. Church and Convent of the Trinitarians
38. Church of Jesus of Medinaceli
39. Neptune Fountain
40. Royal Academy of the Spanish Language
41. Church of San Jerónimo el Real
42. Prado Museum
43. Botanical Gardens
44. Centro de Arte Reina Sofia National Museum

Itinerary V

45. Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando
46. Church of Las Calatravas
47. St. Joseph's
48. Fine Arts Circle
49. Army General Headquarters
50. Bank of Spain
51. General Post Office
52. Americas House
53. Cibeles Fountain
54. Puerta de Alcalá
55. Casón del Buen Retiro
56. Crystal Palace
57. Velázquez Palace











Itinerary VI

58. Caballero de Gracia Oratorio
59. Telefónica Building
60. Plaza de España
61. St. Mark's
62. Temple of Debod
63. Cerralbo Museum
64. Liria Palace
65. Conde Duque Barracks

Itinerary VII

66. Municipal Museum
67. Romantic Museum
68. Dos de Mayo Square
69. Descubrimiento Gardens
70. National Library
71. National Archaeological Museum
72. Americas Museum
73. Segovia Bridge
74. San Antonio de la Florida

SYMBOLS USED

-  Tourist information office
-  Post
-  Hospital
-  Car park
-  Police station
-  Bus & Coach station
-  Railway station
-  Bullet train (*Tren Alta Velocidad- AVE*)
-  Commuter train station
-  Underground (*Metro*) station