



GUIDE OF MADRID

*Discover the places,
museums, monuments,
squares, curiosities and
secrets of the city!*



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LEYENDA / KEY

- METRO (Blue diamond icon)
- CRUCIANAS / TOURS (Red diamond icon)
- INFORMACION TURISTICA / TOURS INFORMATION (Orange circle icon)
- COMANDAMIA STATE / POLICE STATION (Green square icon)



ARGANZUELA

This inset map provides a detailed view of the Arganzuela neighborhood in Madrid. It shows the Manzanares river and the Arganzuela Bridge. Key locations marked include the Museo de Arganzuela, the Plaza de Arganzuela, and the Plaza de la Libertad. The map also shows the surrounding streets and the location of the Estación de Arganzuela.



*«**Madrid** is a city of a thousand colors, it is lively, full of vitality and that never sleeps! There are so many things to see and do in Madrid, it depends a little on your tastes, your needs and the days you stay in the city. ..»*



When to go to Madrid?

Madrid is located in the center of Spain near the Sierra de Guadarrama , which is why it is characterized by very harsh and cold winters and very hot and scorching summers with temperatures that in the months of July and August can even exceed 38 degrees. Did you know that Madrid is one of the sunniest cities in Europe? The city boasts around 250 days of sunshine a year! We therefore recommend that you visit the city in spring or autumn.



How many days to stay in Madrid?

In our opinion, it takes 4 or 5 days to visit Madrid, its neighborhoods, monuments, main museums and even have some fun. However, if you also want to visit the surroundings of Madrid with El Escorial or other cities such as Toledo and Segovia we recommend that you stay a week.



How to get around Madrid?

The transport system in Madrid is super efficient but we recommend that you visit the city by walking. Here are some options for getting around the city:

- **The Metro:** The Metro system of the city is really modern and reliable and allows you to reach all the main tourist attractions of the city. For all rates you can visit our transport page. [You can find the metro map of the city here.](#)
- **Bus:** The city has a good connection with buses even if knowing the lines often makes you prefer to use the Metro. However, you can visit the city with the HopOn panoramic bus HopOff that will allow you to see all the most important tourist places in the city. This bus costs from 22 euros depending on the route and the days.
- **Bicycle:** If you are a bicycle lover Madrid offers a modern electric bicycle bike sharing service called [BiciMAD](#) . It is possible to make an annual or occasional pass of 1,3 or 5 days, ideal for tourists. Bike rental costs € 2 for the first hour and € 4 for the second. The limit allowed is two hours then you will have to take another one at the end of the two hours.

Want to know more about Madrid's transport system? Visit our [website](#) !



Where to eat in Madrid?

Madrid's gastronomy is authentic and traditional, with simple dishes that have evolved from a cuisine based primarily on meat. Attention, the capital does not live only on Madrid gastronomy! In the city it is also easy to find typical dishes from practically all over the country (and from all over the world of course) such as paella, gazpacho and creme brulee.

If there is anything typical of Spanish gastronomy, it is tapas! Also in Madrid you can find many famous bars and places to eat tapas, in particular one of the most famous is the "El Tigre" bar which is located in the city center. Below you can find a list of the five best typical dishes of Madrid:

- **El cocido madrileño:** this is the most typical dish in Madrid, you can't leave without trying it! This delicious single dish is a stew made with chickpeas, different types of meat and vegetables. Especially popular in the winter.
- **Bocadillo de calamares:** it is one of the most famous sandwiches in the city. The Plaza Mayor (we suggest in particular Calle de Postas) and its surroundings are the "zone 0" of these sandwiches that you can try together with a beer. Take advantage!
- **Tortilla de patata:** The potato omelette is ideal in a sandwich, as a portion to share at the table, or as a tapas. Try it at the "Pez Tortilla" restaurant, one of the best in town.
- **Patatas bravas y aioli:** on any list of dishes to eat in Madrid, you can't miss the patatas bravas or aioli . Although the former are perhaps the most popular, we recommend that you try them both. You will tell us what you think!
- **El Bacalao:** Cod has always been one of the most popular fish to eat in Madrid, probably due to its ease of storage and transport. In the Spanish capital, delicious cod croquettes are very typical. One of the most famous restaurants where you can taste them is Casa Labra which is located in Sol in the city center.

We could not forget the **churros con chocolate**, the sweetest of the typical Madrid dishes. This sweet dish is also very typical in the rest of Spain and in many parts of Latin America.

Do you want to know other dishes of the typical cuisine of Madrid or find some tapas, traditional, Italian, ethnic or vegan restaurant? Visit our [website](#) !





Where to sleep in Madrid?

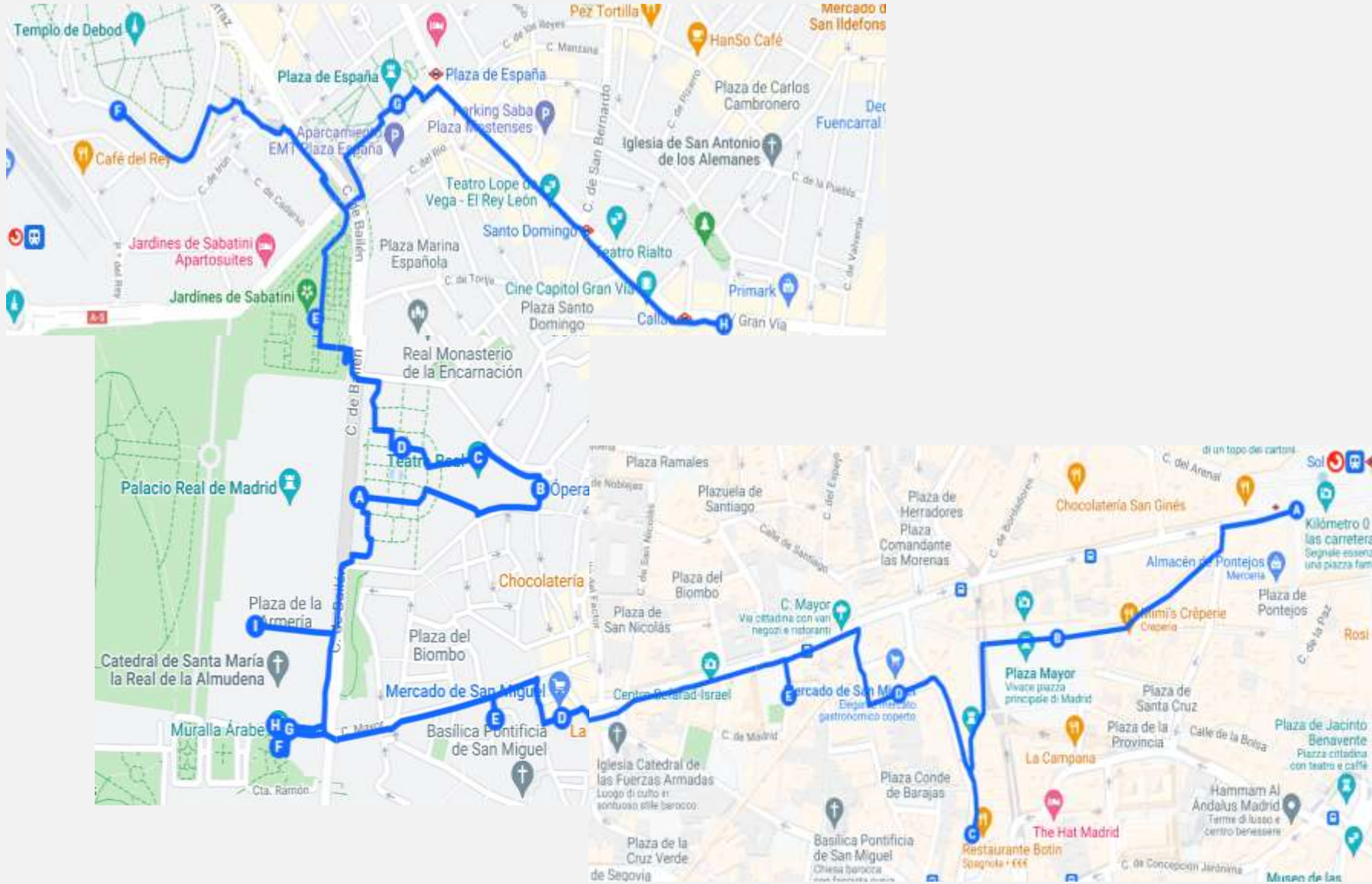
Madrid has a modern public transport network so tourists can also book a hotel or hostel far from the center, perhaps taking advantage of the cheapest prices. However, we recommend that you stay in a particular downtown hotel located in the districts of Sol, Gran Via, Opera, Chueca , Malasaña , La Latina, Lavapiés and Salamanca.

- **Sol, Gran Via and Opera:** tourists usually prefer to book hotels in these areas because they are the central districts of Madrid. Prices are slightly higher but you could save on transport costs.
- **Chueca:** if you want to stay in one of the trendiest places and loved by the **LGBTQ+** community, the best choice is definitely Chueca which is located a stone's throw from the main clubs and tourist attractions of the city.
- **Malasaña:** This area is somewhat reminiscent of London's Camden Town. It is an economy area and is recommended for younger people looking for proximity to the center and nightlife.
- **La Latina and Lavapiés:** the hotels in these districts are slightly cheaper than those in the center and with little time you can reach all the main tourist attractions.
- **Salamanca:** in this district there are the most expensive residential areas of the city as well as being the luxury shopping area. For this reason, hotels are also priced higher than in other areas of the city. The neighborhood is recommended for those who want to stay in an elegant area away from the most crowded and touristic streets of the center.

Not sure where to stay? On our [website](#) you can find some of the best hotels and hostels in the city!



FIRST DAY





FIRST DAY



Let's start from the center and heart of Madrid: **Puerta del Sol (A)**. Within this square we can find the zero kilometer which represents the 0 Km of the Spanish road network. You can also see the clock that sets the time for the whole of Spain and famous for “*las campanadas*” which mark the arrival of the New Year. The symbol of the city found in this square is the statue of the bear with the strawberry tree. Did you know that she is actually a bear? Tourists are used to taking a picture with this statue!

We recommend that you have breakfast with the typical chocolate with churros in one of the oldest chocolate shops in the city: **the Chocolatería de San Ginés**.



You can then continue the itinerary towards the **Plaza Mayor (B)**, the most emblematic square in Madrid which dates back to the end of the 1500s. The square is rectangular in shape with nine entrances of which the Arco de Cuchilleros is the most impressive. Here you can find the Casa de la Panadería, a Baroque-style building that dates back to 1590.



Close to the Plaza Mayor, a visit to the **Mercado de San Miguel (D)**, the most famous market in the city, is a must. Here you can find different types of tapas and more substantial foods according to your tastes. Near this market you can also find the **Sobrino de Botín (C)** restaurant founded in 1725 which is the oldest restaurant in the world.



We continue the visit with the **Plaza de la Villa (E)** which was one of the main centers of Madrid in the medieval era. Along the perimeter of the square you can find three buildings of great historical and artistic value including the Baroque-style Casa de la Villa which is one of the headquarters of the Madrid City Hall. This area is called **Madrid de los Austrias** due to the presence in the past of the Habsburgs (called “los Austrias”) and includes the Plaza Mayor, the Plaza de Oriente and reaches as far as La Latina.



PRIMER DÍA



From here we resume the visit to the **Muralla Árabe (F)** the first walls of Madrid built during the emirate of Muhammad I between 850 and 866. This is an important point of the city, because in addition to being one of the oldest, it is also the one where the nickname “gatos” was created, given to the inhabitants of many generations of Madrid. In 1085 Madrid was under the control of the Arabs; the Spanish troops were at the gates of the capital, ready to besiege and retake it, when one of the Spanish soldiers decided to climb the wall alone. With the agility worthy of a cat he reached the highest part of the walls and replaced the Moorish flag with the Christian one. Thus he earned the nickname of Gato which since then has identified the inhabitants of the city.

Next to the walls you can find the **Crypt (G)** and the **Cathedral de la Almudena (H)** which was built in 1883 but was consecrated by John Paul II only in 1993. In this cathedral the marriage between the current king and the queen of Spain was celebrated. Admission to the cathedral and crypt is free, however a minimum donation of € 1 is required. For a fee, it is also possible to climb the dome and have a view of the city. Between the cathedral and the Royal Palace is the **Plaza de Armeria (I)** which is one of the most scenic spots to observe **Casa de Campo**.



*For **lunch** you can go back to the Mercado de San Miguel or to some bars / restaurants in the center. We recommend a quick lunch in the Plaza Mayor area where you will find plenty of bars and restaurants to eat tapas.*



PRIMER DÍA



In the afternoon you can continue your visit of the city with the **Royal Palace (A)** which is the official residence of the Royal family. Here you can observe the palace from the outside or [buy tickets for a guided tour](#). Near the Palace you can also see the **Jardines de Sabatini (E)** and the **Plaza de Oriente (D)** where you can reach the **Royal Theater (C)** which is located near the Opera **(B)** metro station.

Continuing the tour you can go to the **Templo de Debod (F)**, an Egyptian time given by Egypt to Spain in 1968 as a symbolic recognition for the archaeological mission that saved some of the Nubian Valley temples from the flooding of the Aswan Dam. From here you can observe one of the best sunsets in the city and for this reason many engaged couples ask their partner for a marriage proposal. Admission is free.

You can end the day by visiting **Plaza de España (G)** and **Gran Vía (H)** which is the most emblematic street in Madrid in terms of tourism and shopping. Close to Gran Vía you will also be able to observe numerous theaters such as Cine Callao and monuments such as the Telefonica Building.

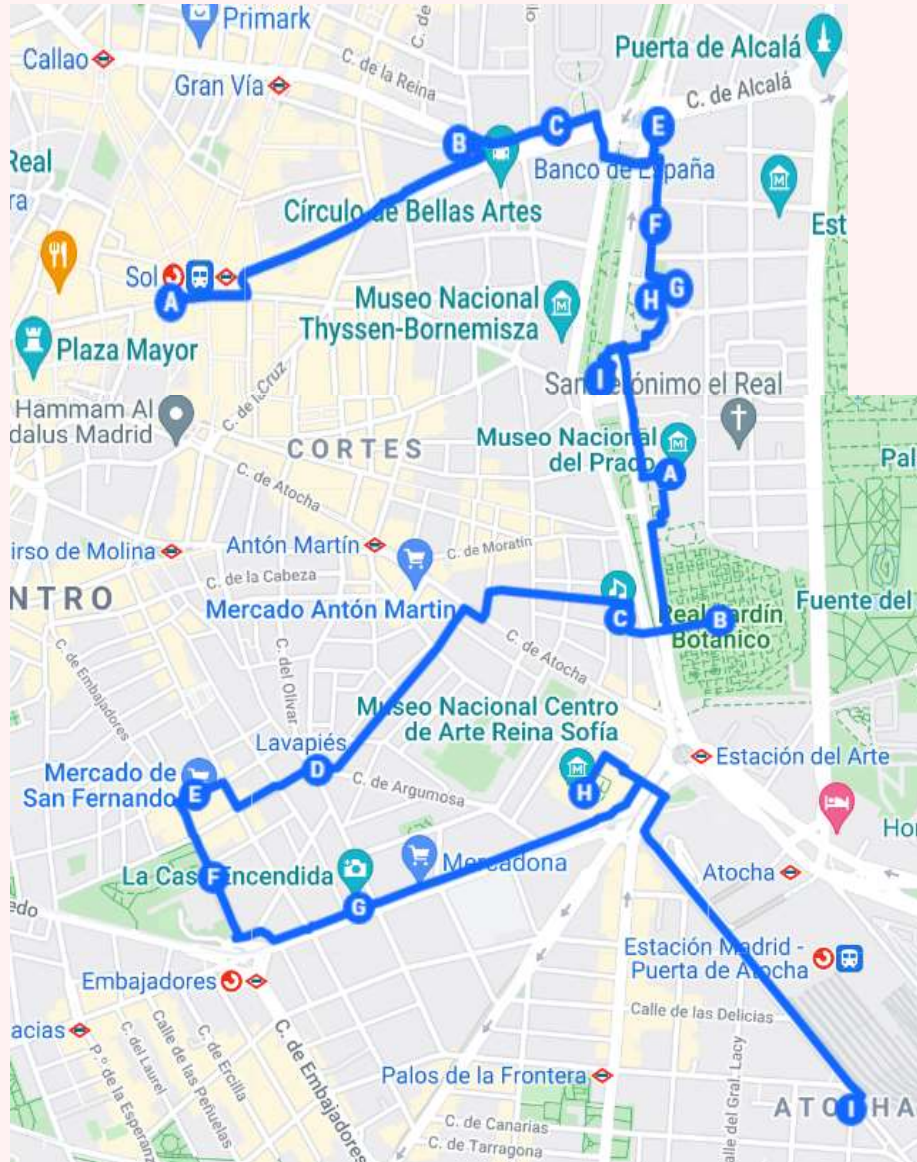
*For **dinner** you can eat in one of the restaurants in the center and then continue the evening walking through the streets of the **Barrio de las Letras, Chueca, Malasaña** and **La Latina** where most of the fun of the city is concentrated or you can have fun and dance in a club or in a nightclub in the center.*

*If you are a student or a university student, in addition to the downtown areas, we also recommend **Argüelles y Moncloa**. In these areas live many university students who very often organize numerous parties and events where you can have fun until the next morning!*





SECOND DAY





SECOND DAY

Are you ready to leave? Today you will discover some of the most important museums in Madrid that you absolutely cannot miss! In fact, we will go to **the Prado Museum** and the **Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia** as well as many other places and monuments in the city! Let's go!



We leave from Puerta del Sol **(A)** and head towards the Sevilla metro station for the Calle de Alcalá here we can find the **Metropolis Building (B)** and continuing along the same street the **Banco de España (C)**, the **Fuente de Cibeles (D)** where Real Madrid celebrates the victories of the Champions Leagues and the **Palacio de Cibeles (E)**.

The **Palacio de Cibeles** dates back to the early 1900s and has been the seat of the Post Office while since 2007 it has been the seat of the municipality of Madrid. The Palacio de las Comunicaciones, with 12,000 square meters and 70 meters high, became the largest post office building in the world. In 2007 it became the official building of the Madrid City Council.

We then go down through the Paseo del Prado where you can find the **Naval Museum (F)**, the **Bolsa de Madrid (G)** and the **Monument to the fallen of the May 2 uprising (H)** until we arrive at the **Fuente de Neptuno (I)** where Atletico Madrid fans gather to celebrate the own team and the Prado Museum.



On the sixth floor you will find the **Cibeles Terrace** with a bar open to the public and on the eighth floor a mirador (3 €) that will allow you to have a 360 degree view of the city.



SECOND DAY



The **Prado Museum (A)** is one of the largest and most famous museums in the world. Inside you can find more than 20,000 works of art known all over the world, including those of Velázquez (eg. Las Meninas), Rubens (eg. The Three Graces), Goya (eg. Maja vestida and Maja desnuda) , El Greco (Knight with his hand on his chest) and many others. The museum is really big, you could even stay all day or just a few hours. For this reason, we recommend that you first find out about the most important works and [buy tickets](#) for an individual visit or book a guided tour. The cost for the general visit to the museum is € 15 while for the guided tour with the museum guide as a gift it is € 24. You can book tickets on the official website of the Prado Museum.

If you are passionate about gardens and botany, we also recommend a visit to the **Real Jardín Botánico (B)** which is located next to the Prado Museum and the first vertical garden in Spain: that of the **CaixaForum Madrid (C)** which you can find in front of the botanical garden. The general entrance to the Real Jardín Botánico costs € 4 for the garden, while a visit to the Villanueva pavilion costs € 6. The price for general admission is reduced for students aged between 18 and 25 (€ 2), for large adult families and for those over 65 (€ 0.50).



*After the visit to the Prado Museum you definitely need to rest and eat something. There are plenty of bars and restaurants in this area, but we recommend having lunch near the next stop: **Lavapiés (D)**! Here you can find many bars to eat at or we recommend the **Mercado de San Fernando (E)**, one of the most famous markets in the city. If you are in Madrid on a Sunday (morning only) don't miss the **Mercado del Rastro** in the **La Latina** neighborhood (near Lavapiés) which is the largest and oldest second-hand market in the city!*



SECOND DAY



In the early afternoon you can get lost in the narrow streets of this area with colorful houses and numerous paintings and graffiti on the walls. Following the Calle de Embajadores, you will find **the Tabacalera (F)** and a little further on the Ronda De Valencia Street, **La Casa Encendida (G)** both cultural centers for the promotion of art and culture in which very often there are temporary exhibitions of numerous artists.

Following the same street Ronda de Valencia, you will arrive at one of the most important and in our opinion the most beautiful museums in Madrid: the **Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (H)**! The museum of contemporary and modern art houses over 21,700 works but in particular, Pablo Picasso's **Guernica** which is one of the most famous works in the world. In the museum you can also see works by Dalí , Picasso, Miró , Magritte and many others. We also recommend that you go up to the top floor where you can have a view of the city. You can buy entrance tickets and a guided tour of the museum on [the official website](#) . Leaving the museum you can also visit the **Biblioteca Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía**. Full admission with a visit to the collection and temporary exhibitions is € 10 (€ 8 online). Entrance to the museum is free every day from Monday to Saturday except Tuesdays, from 18:00 to 20:00 and on Sundays from 13:30 to 14:30.

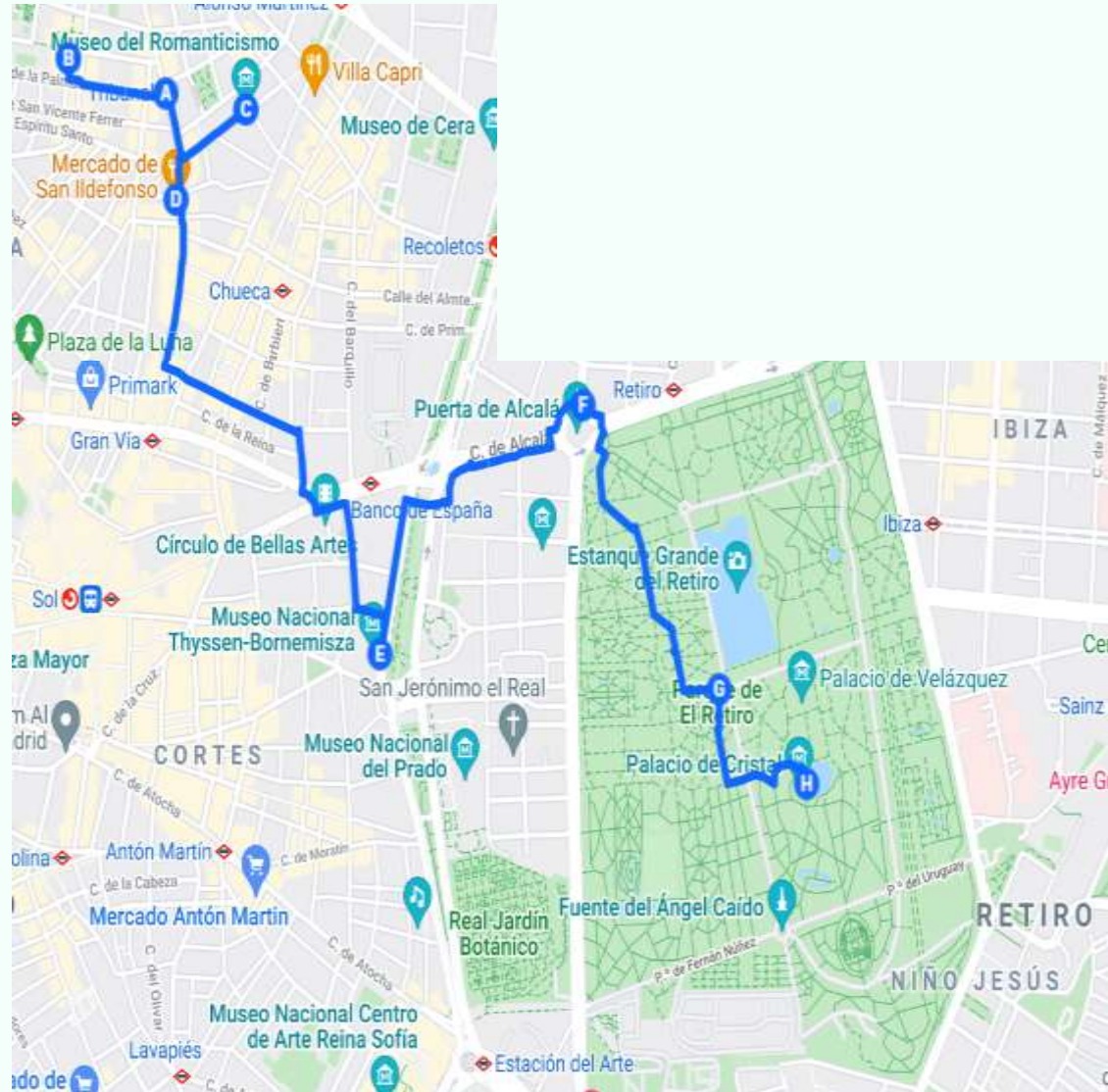
Close to the Reina Sofia Museum you will find the famous **Atocha Renfe (I)** train station. We recommend that you enter and visit the garden inside. Outside you can see the **Monument to the victims of 11 March** which you can access from inside the station.



*To end the day you can have **dinner** in one of the restaurants near Atocha or in a restaurant / terrace in the center. Among the most famous terraces we recommend that of the **Círculo de Bellas Artes , Picalagartos** and that of the **Hotel Riu Plaza de España** all located on Gran Vía . You can then continue the evening with a flamenco show or have fun in one of the clubs in the center.*



THIRD DAY





THIRD DAY

Today we will visit two of the most emblematic museums in Madrid: **the Museum of Romanticism** and the **Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza** and the **Buen park Retiro** which is the largest and most famous park in the city.



Tribunal metro (A) station where you can find the **Plaza del Dos de Mayo** (B) and the **Museum of Romanticism** (C). The Plaza del Dos de Mayo is located in the center of the **Malasaña** district. The name of the square refers to the uprising of May 2, 1808, when the inhabitants of Madrid rebelled against Napoleon's invading troops.

Tribunal metro stop you can also find the **Museum of Romanticism** (C) which contains a collection of 19th century paintings and furniture that will allow you to learn more about the cultural, political and daily life of the city in the Romantic era. Admission costs € 3.

Walking on foot you can reach one of the most famous museums in Madrid: **the Museo Nacional Thyssen – Bornemisza** (E) which together with the Prado and the Reina Sofia Museum forms the triangle of Madrid's art. The Thyssen contains one of the most extraordinary private art collections in the world. In this museum you will find works by artists ranging from Van Gogh to Matisse, but also Picasso, Goya, Kandinsky, Munch and Roy Lichtenstein. The cost of this museum for a standard ticket is 13 €. You can also visit the three museums (Museo del Prado, Reina Sofia and Thyssen- Bornemisza) together by purchasing the **Card Paseo del Arte** at a cost of € 30.40 (not available until the museums recover 100% of their capacity).

*Did you know that you can find a **beach** in Madrid?*

If you want to have a snack or eat something for lunch you can go to Ojalá restaurant which is a place with a beach! Or you can visit the **Mercado de San Ildefonso** (D), a famous market in Madrid.





THIRD DAY



In the afternoon, relaxation and shopping! Close to the Thyssen Museum you can relax in Madrid's largest and most famous park: **Parque del Buen Retiro**. In July 2021 the Paseo del Prado and the Buen Retiro have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Before entering the park you can admire the **Puerta de Alcalá (F)** which is one of the five gates that allowed access to the city.

The **Parque del Buen Retiro (G)** was inaugurated in the late 1700s and covers 118 hectares. Inside there is an artificial lake where if you want you can also rent a boat.

Near the lake is the Casita del Pescador and the famous **Crystal Palace (H)** made entirely of glass and where you can also find temporary exhibitions. The Retiro is also a favorite place for anyone who likes to go for a walk or play sports. If you are with children you can have fun with them in one of the different play areas that are located inside the park.

After a relaxing day in the park, we recommend you go shopping in the streets of the center and in particular on Gran Vía or go to the Moncloa metro stop in the university area of the city where you can go up to the **Mirador del Faro in Moncloa** and have a panoramic view of the city and in particular of the Royal Palace, the Almudena cathedral, the four towers and the Sierra de Guadarrama in the background.



*For dinner, we recommend that you dine in one of the restaurants in the center or in the **Malasaña** district where you can find several restaurants, including cheap ones, for all tastes. After dinner you can't miss the madrileña nightlife in one of the clubs or discos in the center!*



One more day: TOLEDO or SEGOVIA



If you have an extra day you could visit the city of **Toledo** which is located about 70km from the capital. The city is known by many as the Second Rome and has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. In the city we can find a Roman aqueduct, the Plaza Mayor and Alcázar of Segovia which is an important 12th century fortification. Toledo is also defined as the city of three cultures due to the presence, over the centuries, of three different cultures: Christians, Jews and Muslims. Toledo is also famous because it is the city where El Greco died, the famous painter who lived between the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and whose works are exhibited in museums all over the world including the Prado museum. You can reach Toledo by train in just 35 minutes or by bus (1 hour). The train (€ 13.90 each way) is slightly more expensive than the bus (€ 5.50 each way) but it's worth it if you don't have much time to visit the city.

The city of Toledo can also be combined with a visit to **Segovia** which is a city characterized by one of the best preserved city walls in Spain. In the medieval-style citadel you cannot miss a visit to the Cathedral of Avila and the Basilica of San Vincente as well as the Roman necropolis.

The visit of the city of Segovia does not take much time for this you can dedicate the morning or the afternoon to visit the **El Escorial Monastery** which is located 50Km from the city of Madrid. The Monastery was built at the behest of Philip II to guarantee the memory and affirm the House of Austria in Spain and was declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1984.



If you are a football fan you cannot miss a visit to the Real Madrid stadium: the **Santiago Bernabeu**. We also recommend a visit to the Museum where you can learn about the history of the club and many other curiosities! If you are a fan of Atletico Madrid you cannot miss the stadium of this team: the **Wanda Metropolitano**.

There are still many places and curiosities about the city that are not present in this guide but we are sure that despite these few days in the capital you will certainly have understood the elegant, free and multicultural spirit of this metropolis.

Your opinion is important to us! How did you find this guide? Did you like the places we recommended to you? What would you add and what would you take away?

Write your comment on our [BLOG!](#)