

Syracuse University Madrid

VISITOR'S GUIDE

A GUIDE TO EXPLORING MADRID



S
Madrid





ABOUT

From recommended hotels to popular museums, hidden gems, delicious restaurants and more, we hope this guide will serve as a foundation for you to explore and experience Madrid. Our recommendations come from past students and visitors, local staff and faculty, and popular Madrid blogs and websites.

We hope you enjoy your time exploring Madrid, our exciting, surprising, beautiful city.

- THE SYRACUSE MADRID TEAM



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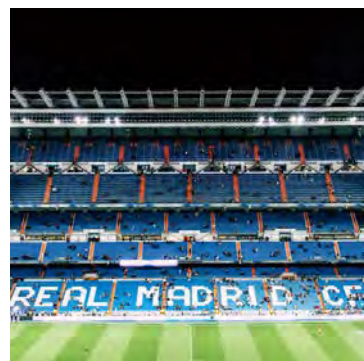
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An aerial photograph of Madrid, Spain, taken at sunset. The city's dense urban landscape is visible, with numerous buildings and a prominent red-tiled roofline. In the foreground, a busy street with multiple lanes of traffic, including cars and a bus, is shown. On the left, a large, ornate building with a dark dome and classical architectural details is prominent. A large, semi-transparent orange rectangle is centered over the image, containing the text "INTRO TO MADRID" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, indicating the time is either dawn or dusk.

INTRO TO MADRID

HELPFUL PHRASES

GREETINGS

- Hola - Hello
- Buenos días - Good morning
- Buenas tardes - Good afternoon/good evening
- Buenas noches - Good night
- ¿Cómo está? - How are you? (formal)
- ¿Cómo estás? - How are you? (informal)
- Bien, gracias - I'm fine, thank you
- ¿Cómo te llamas? - What's your name?
- Me llamo... - My name is...

AT A RESTAURANT

- ¿Cuánto cuesta? - How much is it?
- La cuenta, por favor - The bill, please
- Una entrada - an appetizer
- Un plato principal (primer plato) - a main dish
- Un postre - a dessert
- Una bebida - a drink
- ¿Qué me recomienda? - What do you recommend?
- Soy vegetariano/a - I'm a vegetarian
- Tengo alergia a [las nueces] - I have an allergy to [nuts]

OTHER PHRASES

Polite Phrases:

- Perdón/disculpa - Excuse me
- ¿Habla inglés? - Do you speak English?

If you get stuck in your Spanish conversation:

- No entiendo - I (don't) understand
- ¿Puede repetir? - Can you repeat?

DIRECTIONS

- ¿Dónde está el baño? - Where is the bathroom?
- ¿Dónde está el banco? - Where is the bank?
- ¿Dónde está la calle [de Alcalá]? - Where is [Alcalá] Street?
- Aquí - here
- Allí - there
- A la derecha - on the right
- A la izquierda - on the left
- Derecho/recto - straight ahead
- En la esquina - at the corner
- A una manzana - in one block
- ¿Cuánto cuesta un billete para ... ? - How much does a ticket to ... cost?
- Un billete para ... , por favor. - A ticket to ... , please

QUESTION WORDS

- ¿Quién? - Who
- ¿Qué? - What?
- ¿Dónde? - Where?
- ¿Cuándo? - When?
- ¿A qué hora? - When/what time?
- ¿Por qué? - Why?
- ¿Cómo? - How?
- ¿Cuánto? - How much?
- ¿Cuántos? - How many?

SPANISH CULTURE

RESTAURANTS & EATING



HOW MUCH DO I TIP?



The tip is included in the bill; however, it is common to round up and leave the change. At a nicer restaurant it isn't unusual to leave a bit more, but this up to your discretion.

ASKING FOR WATER



If you ask for water, you will have to pay for it unless you ask for "un vaso de agua" or "agua del grifo" (tap water/sink water - both 100% safe to drink in Madrid).

VEGETARIAN/ VEGAN OPTIONS



BE CAUTIOUS: It is very probable that a "sandwich vegetal" or an "ensalada mixta" (salad) will contain tuna and eggs. If you do not want tuna on your salad you can ask: "sin atún por favor."

SERVICE CULTURE

Service in Spain is typically slower than in the US and the waiters may not be as attentive as you are used to. The key is to be patient and understand that a servers salary does not rely on tips, as is custom in the US; therefore, customer service is not as high of a priority. Don't be surprised if a server doesn't fill your water glass without you asking or if it takes longer to order your food or to get your bill.

Pro tip: use hand gestures to get your waiter/waitresses attention.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES & SPANISH MANNERISMS

Soccer (Fútbol) Matches



Soccer (fútbol), the national sport of Spain, is an extremely important part of the Spanish culture, and Madrid is no exception. While there are many teams across the country, Madrid has two important teams/rivals: Real Madrid and Atlético de Madrid.

Bull Fights



Bullfighting in Spain became popular at the end of the 18th century. It's a well-known Spanish custom as well as an important part of the country's history and culture. However, over the recent years, bullfighting has become a topic of controversy and discussion.

Flamenco



Flamenco originated in Andalusia but Madrid has one of the most famous tablaos. There are a variety of places you can watch a show with a nice meal and drink on the side. Some that have been recommended are: Corral de la Moreria, Casa Patas, Torres Bermejas, and Cardamomo.

Greetings

Spainards will almost always greet you with dos besos (two kisses) even when meeting someone for the first time. This may happen with any gender, but it isn't uncommon for two men who do not know each other to shake hands.

Directness + Staring

Eye contact is a big part of the Spanish culture. Don't be surprised if you catch someone staring directly at you while you are on the metro, or just walking down the street.

Also, Spaniards tend to be more direct than U.S. Americans. For example, if you look tired or unwell, they will tell you without hesitation.

Spatial Awareness

In Spain, spatial awareness is minimal, especially in touristy areas, crowded sidewalks, and on public transportation. On metros and busses you might find people pressing up against each other, pushing, or reaching across one another to grab ahold of things for support.



GETTING AROUND



The Madrid metro is the fastest and most efficient way to get around the city. With 12 lines and over 300 stops it's one of the largest metropolitan public transportation systems in Europe. The metro is open from 6:00am to 1:30am.



**EMT MADRID
BUSSES**

Madrid's busses are extremely efficient and can take you almost everywhere. They generally pass every 4 to 15 minutes, although frequency depends on the line and the time of day. Most likely, there is a train every 5 minutes. There are also night buses (búhos) which start at Plaza Cibeles.

Pro tip: Busses only stop at designated stops and upon request. If you are waiting for a bus be sure to wave it down, even if there are many other people waiting around you. It's possible they are waiting for a different bus line! Also, always hit the "stop button" before your stop.

TICKETS:



All pay-per-ride tickets must be loaded onto the Tarjeta Multi, a contactless, transferable plastic smartcard that is valid for up to 10 years. You can purchase it for 2.50€ at all Metro and Metro ligero stations from ticket machines that have a red sticker saying Tarjeta MULTI Disponible AQUÍ.



Single Metro tickets expire on the day they are purchased.

Single bus tickets cannot be loaded on to the Tarjeta Multi smartcard, they must be purchased on the bus.

SINGLE TICKET Metro ticket: 1.50€

10-TRIP TICKET Metro Zone A, EMT (bus) and ML1 ticket (Metrobús) 12.20€

CERCANÍAS



Cercanías Madrid is the commuter rail service that serves Madrid, and its metropolitan area. These trains will take you to the outer Madrid areas with no metro connections. There are 8 different zones, and the more zones you cross, the more you'll pay in fares. The cercanías trains connect with the metro at certain stations: Atocha, Chamartín, Príncipe Pío, Nuevos Ministerios, Delicias, Méndez Alvaro and Pirámides.

The trains operate between 6am and 11pm, roughly every 3-7 minutes.

For more information on Cercanías go to <http://www.renfe.com/viajeros/cercanias/madrid/>.



TAXIS IN MADRID

There are many forms of traveling in Madrid but a big one is by taxi. Madrid has many options for how to maneuver through the streets in a way that best accommodates to your needs. Free Now, Uber, and public taxi's are some of the options many pedestrians can use.

RECOMMENDED TRANSPORTATION APPS



Free Now

A safe, fast and flexible app (similar to Uber) where you pay for the official rate in each city. It has options between ECO, Accessible, XL and more. You will be traveling with licensed official taxi drivers.



Metro de Madrid Official

An app that contains up-to-date information of the metro system, the stations closest to your location with waiting times, and Metro network and tourist maps.



City Mapper

This app provides the best/fastest options for traveling through the city from point A to point B. It gives you walking, bike, bus, train, taxi, etc. routes for the location you wish to go to.



Adif

This app allows you to view real time train (cercanías) schedules. If there are any service changes or delays on the trains, the app will notify you with an alternate route.



WHERE TO STAY



HOTELS NEAR OUR CENTER



HESPERIA MADRID

Paseo de la Castellana, 57 | 28046

Rates approximately: 200€/ night

Telephone: +34 91 398 4661

Email: hotel@hesperia-madrid.com

Nearest Metro: Gregorio Marañón
- Lines 7 / 10



HOTEL NH ZURBANO

Calle de Zurbano, 79-81 | 28003

Rates approximately: 150€/ night

Telephone: +34 91 441 4500

Email: nhzurbano@nh-hotels.com

Nearest Metro : Gregorio
Marañón - Lines 7 / 10



LEONARDO BOUTIQUE HOTEL MADRID

Calle de Vallehermoso, 65, 28015

Rates approximately: 80€/ night

Telephone +34 915 93 97 77

Email:
info.boutiquemadrid@leonardo-hotels.comNearest

Nearest Metro: Canal - Lines 2/7



MADRID'S NEIGHBORHOODS



PUERTA DE SOL

- Located in the center of Madrid, Puerta de Sol holds the most famous sites in the city like the 'Oso y el Madroño' and the Plaza Mayor.
- You can also find the kilometer zero plaque, which is that point from which all distances were traditionally measured in Spain.

CHUECA

- One of the most stylish and vibrant neighborhoods of Madrid. It's also known as the LGBTQIA+ neighborhood.
- Home to trendy bars, cafes and stores.
- Explore the gastronomical stands and grab a coffee or drink on the rooftop terrace in the San Anton Market.



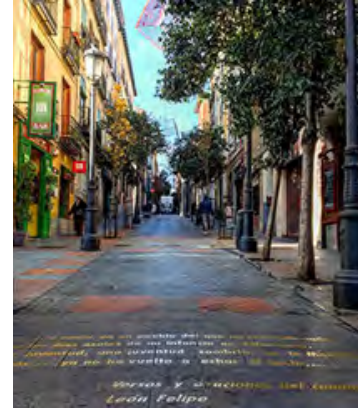
LA LATINA

- One of the oldest areas in Madrid.
- On Calle de Cava Baja you can enjoy your day by going to a number of tapas bars.
- Sunday's are the most popular day to go to this neighborhood.
- A lot of Madrid's history is here with the San Isidro museum (free)!



BARRIO DE LAS LETRAS

- This is Madrid's literary neighborhood (also known as Huertas).
- It is home to great writers of the Golden Age of Spain. Miguel de Cervantes and Ernest Hemingway lived & worked here, as well as playwright Lope de Vega.
- It attracts an older crowd with its many museums and tapas bars.



LAVAPIÉS

- This is one of Madrid's multicultural neighborhoods.
- There are many international restaurants, bars and cafes. You can find many local artists here (a street-art tour or Tabacalera).
- You can watch classic films at the Cine Doré.

MALASAÑA

- This neighborhood is where traditional and modern coincide. It's historical past has shaped it to be a trendy area with lots of thrift shops, quirky markets, and modern restaurants.
- The streets are lined with street art (graffiti) are which has not only survived city cleanings but is treated as art.



MADRID DE LOS AUSTRIAS

- This is Madrid's historical neighborhood, also considered the "old center."
- Home to the Royal Palace, Almudena Cathedral, and the Gardens of Sabatini.
- The area is located south of the Calle Mayor, in between the Metro stations Sol and Ópera.

A close-up photograph of a white ceramic bowl filled with a thick, red, creamy soup. A silver spoon is partially submerged in the soup. The bowl sits on a white plate. In the background, there are several golden-brown, fried food items, possibly fish or chicken, arranged on a white surface. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background.

ALL THINGS FOOD

TYPICAL SPANISH DISHES

BREAKFAST

PAN CON TOMATE

The healthiest option: a toasted baguette slice topped with freshly grated tomato, garlic and olive oil. The quintessential Mediterranean-style breakfast!

COFFEE (CAFÉ)

Coffee is served in cups as well as in small glasses similar to those used in canas (small draught beers). The latter option is very typical in popular bars around Madrid. Remember: you should order "un cafe solo" if you want an espresso, "un cortado" if you prefer your coffee with a splash of milk and "un cafe con leche" if you want half coffee half milk.

CHOCOLATE CON CHURROS

Churros, which are cylindrical doughnuts made of deep-fried flour, are typically eaten dipped in hot chocolate. You'll find them at street stalls and cafes, and they also make great late afternoon snack. Check out typical churro locations such as San Ginés & Valor.

LUNCH & DINNER

BOCATA DE CALAMARES

Although Madrid is over 300 kilometers from the sea, battered calamari is a staple on the menu of any bar worth its salt. The popular version in a baguette is the capital's typical fast-food dish. Go to Plaza Mayor for a typical bocata de calamares experience!

PINCHO DE TORTILLA

A small serving of any food is known as a pincho. The most ubiquitous of these is the tortilla de patata, a potato omelette which is also known as a tortilla española, or Spanish omelette, due to its undeniable status as one of Spain's most esteemed and iconic foods. Absolutely everyone likes it!

MONTADITOS

A montadito is small, tapa-sized sandwich using bread similar to a baguette. 100 Montaditos is a great place to for cheap (1-2€) montaditos!

JAMÓN SERRANO Y QUESO

A pulga is a bite-sized sandwich generally gilled with cold meats or cheese. A montadito is usually a bit bigger. 100 Montaditos is a great place to for cheap (1-2€) montaditos!

CROQUETAS

Croquettes consist of battered and fried béchamel filled with ham, meat or boletus, and are feature prominently in Spain's gastronomy.

ARROCES

Spain is famous for its rice. Examples are the typical "paella," a less known "arroz negro" which is tinted black by squid ink and is served with alioli (garlic mayonnaise), the "el caldero" made with dried peppers and fish, and arroz con castra, which is baked in the oven. You can try them all in Madrid thanks to the extensive menus of most "arroceras," restaurants specializing in rice dishes.

MIGAS

This traditional dish was eaten by shepherds, and typically consists of migas de pan (breadcrumbs) fried in a pan with paprika, bacon and chorizo.



CAFÉ CON LECHE



TORTILLA DE PATATA



MIGAS

Information and text on this page has been taken and adapted from the ["Eating in Madrid" guide](#).

RESTAURANTS

VEGAN & VEGAN-FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS

For more information and restaurants, check out Devour Madrid's
["Complete Guide to Eating Vegan and Veggie in Madrid."](#)



B13

Address: Calle de la Ballesta, 13

A super casual small restaurant serving vegan versions of Spanish cuisines.
No reservations accepted

VEGA

Address: Calle de la Luna, 9

Casual vegan sit down restaurant featuring handmade food
No reservations accepted

FREEDOM CAKES

Address: Calle de la Luna, 14, 28004 Madrid

First vegan bakery in Madrid, offering everything from
cheesecake to milkshakes
No reservations required



AY MI MADRE

Address: Calle de la Palma, 41

Great pizzeria with vegan and non-vegan food options alike (it's
more than just pizza!).
No reservations accepted

BUMP GREEN

Address: Calle de Velázquez, 11, 28001 Madrid

Sit down restaurant focused on health, sustainability and flavor
with vegan and non vegan menu items
Reservations accepted

LA HUMMUSERIA

Address: Calle Hernán Cortés, 8

A fun, hip restaurant that specializes in Middle Eastern cuisine
with a focus on fresh & healthy hummus. They also serve salads and
vegan sweets.
Reservations accepted



TAPAS & OTHER RESTAURANTS

Popular for Tapas



El Tigre
Calle Infantas 30, 28004



La Petisquería II
Calle Mejia Lequerica 17,
28004



Pontepetz
Ponte Pez 18, 28004



Taberna Malaspina
Calle de Cádiz, 9, 28012

On a Budget



100 Montaditos
Many locations



La Sureña
Many locations



Mercadona
Many locations (grocery store)



Tragatapas
Calle Cava de San Miguel, 8,
28080 Madrid

Sit Down Restaurants



Sobrino de Botín
Calle de Cuchilleros, 17, 28005
Madrid



La Bola
Calle de la Bola, 5, 28013
Madrid



Lhardy
Carrera de S. Jerónimo, 8, 28014
Madrid



Casa Lucio
Calle de la Cava Baja, 35,
28005 Madrid

A photograph of the Royal Palace of Madrid (Palacio Real) in Spain, featuring a large orange text box in the center. The palace is a grand, light-colored stone building with multiple stories, arched windows, and a central entrance with columns. A Spanish flag flies on a tall pole to the left of the central tower. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The foreground shows a paved plaza with a checkered pattern and several people walking.

THINGS TO DO

PARKS AND PLAZAS

Parque del Retiro

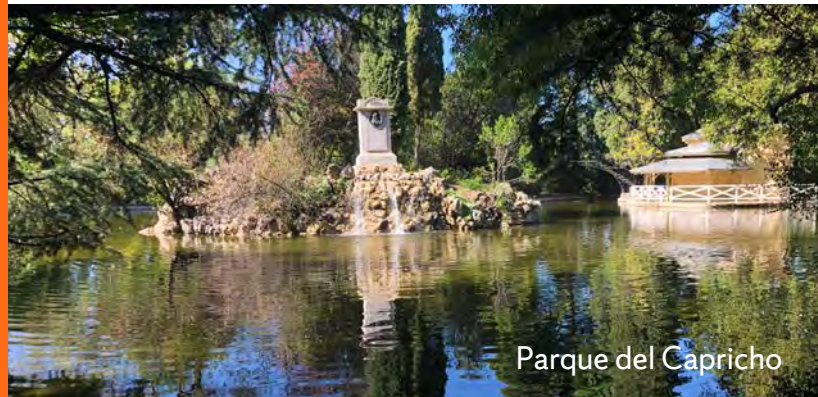
This is one of Madrid's most famous parks. Here you can rent a rowboat for a few euros and paddle around the lake, or take a stroll and visit the many fountains, statues and the beautiful Crystal Palace.



Parque de Retiro

Parque del Capricho

This is one of Spain's most beautiful parks. It is divided into 3 spaces: the jardin a la francaise, an english romantic style area, and a space filled with italian fountains and statues.



Parque del Capricho

Madrid Río

At the Madrid Río you can go on a run, rent a bike or simply enjoy a walk along the river. Here you can also visit the Matadero, a cultural space with activities such as cinemas, exhibitions, restaurants and outdoor markets.



Madrid Río

Plaza Mayor

The most famous plaza in Madrid. It is surrounded by cafes and restaurants, and the center piece of the plaza is a statue of King Philip III.



Plaza Mayor

Plaza de Cibeles

Home to the Palacio de Cibeles, this is one of the most visited plazas in Madrid. In this plaza you can also find the Banco de España and the Cibeles fountain, where Real Madrid soccer fans gather after winning important matches.

Plaza de la Villa

This plaza has buildings dating back from the 1400s. You can find 'Casa y Torre de los Lujanes,' 'Casa de Cisneros,' and 'Casa de la Villa.'

Plaza de Oriente

Located in the historical center, this plaza holds some of the most important buildings in Madrid; the Royal Palace, and the Royal Theater.



Plaza de Cibeles

GASTRONOMICAL MARKETS

El Rastro Market

Metro:
La Latina

El Rastro is the biggest and most popular outdoor flea market in Spain! It occurs every Sunday from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Here you can find everything from socks, to souvenirs, to clothing and more.

Mercado de San Miguel

Metro:
Opera/Sol

A historical market which retains its original 20th century iron structure in the center of Madrid. Here you can find an array of stands with traditional Spanish food and beverages. It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Madrid!

Mercado San Antón

Metro:
Chueca

This charming indoor market also features an outdoor terrace and restaurant. Located in the vibrant Chueca neighborhood, this is a great place to grab a bite or simply explore the various food stands.

Mercado San Fernando

Metro:
Lavapiés

This market has food stands of all types including but not limited to traditional food from the north of Spain, paella, sushi, tacos, and sandwiches. This market is especially popular on Sunday's after a visit to the famous Rastro market.

Mercado Platea

Metro:
Colón

Platea, located in a former cinema, is the biggest gastronomical and leisure center in Europe. Here you can enjoy not only the food, but also live entertainment and the beauty of the space itself.



TERRACES & LOOKOUT SPOTS

**Metro:
Callao**

Gourmet Experience - Corte Inglés

On the top floor of the Corte Inglés in Callao you can find the Gourmet Experience section. Here you can shop for international items, stop by diverse food stands, or grab a beverage on the outside patio and enjoy the views of the city!



PC: Esmadrid

**Metro:
Banco de
España**

Círculo de Bellas Artes Terrace

The views from the Círculo de Bellas Artes Terrace are some of the most spectacular in the city. The cost to go up is 4€ but it's worth it!



PC: Por Solea

**Metro:
Plaza
España**

RIU Hotel Terrace

The terrace at the RIU hotel was opened recently and has become a favorite of tourists and locals alike. With 360 degree views of the city and a glass walkway you'll be sure to get some amazing pictures. It's 5€ to go up.



PC: Rutas Alter Matrice

**Metro:
La Latina**

Cielo de Alcalá Terrace

This terrace is above the H10 Hotel Puerta de Alcalá, right near retiro park. When the weather is nice t's a great place to go to see the sunset and have a beverage after a stroll in the park.



PC: Timeout Madrid

**Metro:
Tirso de
Molina**

The Hat Terrace

Located above the Hat Hostel, this terrace has unique views of the La Latina and Tirso de Molina area. It's nestled between buildings giving it a cozy Spanish vibe. You do not have to be staying at the hostel to visit!



PC: Tripadvisor

MUSEUMS & MONUMENTS



Royal Palace of Madrid

The Royal Palace used to be the residence for the Royal Family. Now, they only use it for ceremonies.

Info:

Hours: Mon-Sun 10am-8pm

Location: Calle Bailen

General Price: 12euros



Almudena Cathedral

This is the largest cathedral in Madrid. It was consecrated by Pope John Paul II in 1993, making it the first cathedral to be consecrated outside of Rome.

Info:

Hours: Mon-Sun 9am-8:30pm

Location: Plaza de la Almudena

General Price: 6 euros



Reina Sofia Museum

This museum was founded in 1992. It has large collection of art from Spanish artist like Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and Joan Miro.

Info:

Hours: Mon and Wed-Sat 10am-9am

Location: Calle Santa Isabel 52

General Price: 10 euros



Prado Museum

El Museo del Prado features Spanish, Italian, Flemish and French paintings from Antiquity to the romantic era.

Info:

Hours: Mon-Sat 10am-8pm

Sun and holidays 10am-7pm

Location: Calle Ruiz de Alarcon 23

General Price: 15 euros



Thyssen Museum

El Museo del Prado features Spanish, Italian, Flemish and French paintings from Antiquity to the romantic era.

Info:

Hours: Mon-Sat 10am-8pm

Sun and holidays 10am-7pm

Location: Calle Ruiz de Alarcon 23

General Price: 15 euros



OTHER ACTIVITIES



TOURS AROUND MADRID

SANDEMANS FREE TOURS

A free, highly-rated walking tour of Madrid that can be done in English or Spanish. Times are at 10:00am, 11:00am, or 2:00pm.

Reservations: <https://www.neweuropetours.eu/sandemans-tours/madrid/free-tour-of-madrid/>

Prices: FREE (tip the guide at the end of the tour)

Meeting point: In front of Tourist Information in the Plaza Mayor

Duration: Approximately 3 hours

HOP-ON HOP-OFF CITY TOUR

This tour offers you the chance to get on and off the tour-bus as many times as you like and includes an open-top deck so that you can enjoy the views from above. There are various routes and ticket packs (1-day, 2-day, etc.) you can choose from.

Reservations: <https://madrid.city-tour.com/>

Prices: Prices vary, see website

DEVOUR FOOD TOURS

Support local food business, learn about and taste Spanish gastronomy's age-old traditions.

Reservation: madridfoodtour.com

Ticket price: From 75€ - 125€ for adult tickets

Nearest metro: Depends on the tour selected.

Check website for more information



FÚTBOL (SOCCER)



FÚTBOL IN MADRID - A LIFESTYLE

In Spain, soccer is one of the most popular and celebrated sports. For many people, watching and attending the games is a lifelong tradition. It's very common to see matches playing on bar and restaurant televisions and large groups of friends or family members gathered together to watch.

The two biggest rivals in Madrid are Real Madrid and Atletico de Madrid. However, one of the biggest rivals in Spain is between Real Madrid and Barcelona FC. These matches are watched nationally and internationally and are often the most expensive matches of the season. If you are interested in seeing a Real Madrid vs Barcelona game, it is recommended that you do your research and book well in advance.

Tickets for Real Madrid and Atletico de Madrid matches vary in price depending on who they play against. If you are very interested in watching a more economical match, there are other lower division teams which are also popular to watch such as Rayo Vallecano or Getafe FC.