

A Weekend in Madrid

Madrid is a city full of life, culture, history and tradition.

Take advantage of your stay in Madrid to see first-hand what the city has to offer.



1. MUSEUM ROUTE

Madrid houses the art avenue, internationally renowned for having three of the most famous galleries in the world on the same street:



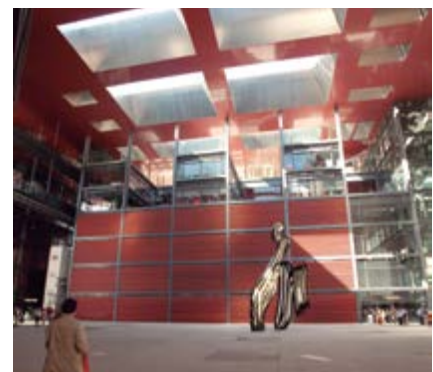
Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum

Visitors can contemplate the major periods and pictorial schools of western art such as the Renaissance, Mannerism, Baroque, Rococo, Romanticism and the art of the 19th and 20th centuries leading up to Pop Art.



The Prado Museum

It is probably the biggest tourist attraction in Madrid and one of the most important art galleries in the world. It houses the great works of Goya, Velázquez, El Greco and many more.



Reina Sofía Museum

This museum houses modern and contemporary art works such as those of painters Salvador Dalí and Joan Miró. Its most famous work is the incredible Guernica painting by Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

2. LA PUERTA DE ALCALÁ:

La Puerta de Alcalá is another of the symbols of Madrid. This door is made up of three arches and includes an open quadrangle at each end. It leads into the Retiro Park, one of the biggest green spaces of the city. Some of the most beautiful parts of the park and must-sees are the Walk of Statues, the Rosaleda and the Crystal Palace.



3. THE GRAN VÍA

This is one of the most famous streets in Madrid and it starts on Alcalá street. The Gran Vía is home to cinemas, musical theatres (for this reason it is known as the “Broadway of Madrid”) and important shops. There are many interesting architectural works such as the Unión Fénix building or the Metrópoli building.

4. THE PLAZA DE ORIENTE SQUARE

This is the location of spectacular historical and artistic gardens and an important collection of sculptures. Here you can find:



The Teatro Real Opera House

This luxurious theatre is one of the most valuable opera houses in all of Europe. Its classical style construction was initiated by Queen Isabel II.



The Royal Palace

The Royal Palace is also known as the Palace of Oriente. On the inside the King and Queen of Spain host official ceremonies. A guided visit through the inside of the palace is highly recommended.

5. THE ALMUDENA CATHEDRAL

This cathedral was built in honour of the patron of the city, the Virgin of Almudena. It is made up of different architectural styles: neo-gothic on the inside, neoclassical on the outside and neoromanic in the crypt.



6. THE PUERTA DEL SOL

The Puerta del Sol is a square in which you can currently find the Kilometre Zero: the point to which all Spanish roads are measured. The clock from the Post Office is also found here, where its 12 chimes bid farewell to each year on the 31st of December. The Plaza Mayor square is near the Puerta del Sol and in the surrounding area, there are numerous bars, restaurants and taverns that are very picturesque and typical of the city.



7. THE RASTRO MARKET

The Rastro is an enormous street market full of stands where you can find everything from books to clothes to antiques. It is open every Sunday and on holidays and can be found in the historical centre of Madrid. You should avoid going by car and should instead use public transport, due to its proximity to the market. The closest metro stop is La Latina.

8. THE TEMPLE OF DEBOD

This temple is an ancient Egyptian one. It was a gift from the government of Egypt to the Spanish government and was transferred, rock by rock, to avoid it becoming covered following the construction of the Aswan Dam.



9. THE CIBELES FOUNTAIN

This is the most famous fountain in Madrid and a symbol of the city. It is located in the Square of Cibeles on Alcalá street. It represents the goddess Cibeles being pulled in a carriage by lions. It is the meeting point of the Real Madrid supporters after football victories. Nearby is the Neptuno fountain, a sculpture of the God of the Sea over a carriage and the meeting point of the Atlético de Madrid supporters.



10. GOURMET MARKETS

The «gourmet» markets are design spaces with quality products where products can be tried and purchased. Amongst all the ones that can be found in Madrid, the following are worth checking out.

- a. San Ildefonso Market, on Fuencarral street.
- b. San Miguel Market, right by the Plaza Mayor
- c. San Antón Market, in the area of Chueca
- d. Platea, in Colón square