

Madrid City Tour

City Tour of Madrid, in which you will enjoy Paseo de la Castellana, Plaza de Colón, Puerta de Alcalá, Cibeles, Gran Vía, Plaza de España, Templo de Debod, Plaza de Oriente, Calle Bailén, Calle Mayor, Puerta del Sol, Paseo del Prado, Atocha, Alfonso XII and Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas.

The visit includes movements in private bus. It does not include the tickets.

Minimal group of 30 persons.



The Puerta de Alcalá was built on the initiative of this enlightened monarch, said to be the best mayor in Madrid's history; the monument is to Madrid what the Eiffel Tower is to Paris, or the Statue of Liberty to New York.



Cibeles. This fountain, named after Cibeles (or Ceres), roman goddess of nature, is seen as one of Madrid's most important symbols. The Cibeles fountain depicts the goddess in a chariot pulled by two lions. The fountain was built between 1777 and 1782 by Ventura Rodriguez. Whenever the local football team Real Madrid wins a cup, fans flock around the fountain to celebrate.



Gran Vía. The lively street is one of the city's most important shopping areas. It also contains a large number of hotels and large movie theaters. But what makes this street so special is the architectural design of many of the large buildings. While walking through this crowded street make sure you look up once in a while and admire the often lavishly decorated grand 'edificios'.



Plaza de España. The square is located at the end of the beautiful Gran Vía, one of Madrid's busiest streets. The green square is surrounded by streets, but it is still a very relaxing place during daytime. It features a large fountain and famous statue honoring the Spanish writer Cervantes.



Templo de Debod. This authentic Egyptian temple was built in the fourth century B.C. at the village of Debod, near the sacred temple island of Philae. The Debod Temple was dedicated to the gods Amon and Isis.



Palacio Real. Soon after the Royal Fortress burned down on Christmas Eve of 1734, King Philips V wanted to replace the fortress by a palace, this time built from limestone and granite to make it fireproof. It was to be modeled loosely on the Versailles Palace near Paris, where Philips V had spent part of his youth.

Construction of the new palace started in 1738 based on a design by the Italian architect Juan Bautista Sachetti. 26 Years and three kings later, the huge palace, covering an area of 135,000m², was completed. Construction of the new palace started in 1738 based on a design by the Italian architect Juan Bautista Sachetti. 26 Years and three kings later, the huge palace, covering an area of 135,000m², was completed.



Plaza de la Villa. The largest building at the square is the Casa de la Villa or Town Hall (ayuntamiento). Construction started in 1644 by Juan Gómez de Mora, the architect of the Plaza Mayor. Over time a number of architects were in charge of the construction of the Town Hall until it was finished in 1696 by Teodoro Adremans. The building served both as town hall and prison, hence the two symmetrical doors. The left one gave entrance to the prison, the other one to the town hall.



Puerta del Sol. Now the heart of Madrid's historic center, this site used to be on the eastern border of the city. The plaza's name originates from the eastern city gate located here in the 15th century. The gate was probably called after a sun drawn on it, hence the name Puerta del Sol or 'Sun Gate'. The current semi-oval square was created in the 19th century.



Atocha Station. The first railroad in Spain was built three years earlier and connected Barcelona with Mataró. The railway station was originally named Estación de Mediodia but it is now known as Estación de Atocha or Atocha Station.



Las Ventas Bullring. From about 1915 to 1920, the city of Madrid saw a huge rise in popularity of the sport of bullfighting. They soon found that it would be necessary to build a grand, new bullring. Architect Jose Espeliu was chosen to design the new bullring. A wealthy family donated the land and the first stone was placed in 1922. It was completed seven years later and the inaugural bullfight was eventually held in June 1931.