

What to see in Madrid

➤ Iconic Landmarks

1. Royal Palace of Madrid
2. Almudena Cathedral
3. Puerta del Sol
4. Plaza Mayor
5. Gran Vía

➤ Must-See Museums (the "Art Triangle")

1. Prado Museum
2. Reina Sofía Museum
3. Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum

➤ Parks and Nature

1. Retiro Park
2. Casa de Campo
3. Madrid Río (along the Manzanares River, metro: Legazpi)

➤ Gastronomy and Markets

1. San Miguel Market, next to Plaza Mayor and the Basilica of San Miguel.
2. Botín, the oldest restaurant in the world (*founded in 1725!*).
3. San Antón Market.
4. Cava Baja Street (La Latina) – classic Madrid tapas route.
5. San Ginés Chocolatería – churros with chocolate, a true local tradition.

➤ Atmosphere and Culture

1. Barrio de las Letras – where writers like Cervantes and Lope de Vega once lived.
2. Malasaña – alternative, vintage, and full of unique bars.
3. Chueca – modern, cosmopolitan, and the epicenter of nightlife.
4. Lavapiés – multicultural, filled with street art and world cuisine.

➤ Scenic Viewpoints

1. Círculo de Bellas Artes (Rooftop) – one of the best views of Gran Vía.
2. Temple of Debod – at sunset, one of the most magical spots in Madrid.
3. Royal Palace Cornice Viewpoint – overlooking the west side of the city.
4. Riu Hotel Rooftop – enjoy one of the best sunsets in Madrid.

➤ Nightlife

1. Teatro Kapital – a famous seven-story nightclub.
2. Bar Cock or Museo Chicote – historic cocktail bars.
3. Flamenco Shows (Tablaos) – such as *Corral de la Morería* or *Casa Patas* (more traditional).

➤ Major Shopping Areas and Classic Streets

These are the most emblematic shopping areas in Madrid, where you can easily combine sightseeing with shopping:

1. Gran Vía and Callao

Stores: Zara, Primark (the largest in Spain), H&M, Mango, Nike, Sephora, Pull & Bear, etc.

Tip: Visit the Gran Vía Primark—it has a spectacular dome (worth seeing even if you don't buy anything).

2. Calle Fuencarral (between Gran Vía and Tribunal)

Stores: Levi's, Urban Outfitters, Adidas, Decathlon, JD Sports, etc.

Tip: Combine your shopping with a walk through Malasaña (cafés, vintage shops, bookstores).

3. Barrio de Salamanca (Calle Serrano, Goya, Velázquez)

Stores: Louis Vuitton, Loewe, Gucci, Prada, Massimo Dutti, El Corte Inglés de Serrano.

Tip: If you're looking for something more exclusive or a “premium outlet” experience, combine it with a visit to Las Rozas Village (20 minutes by car or bus).

➤ Outlets and Discounts

If you're visiting from outside Madrid and want to take advantage of lower prices, these are the best options:

1. Las Rozas Village: luxury and international brands (Gucci, Bimba y Lola, Sandro).
2. San Sebastián de los Reyes the Style Outlets → more sporty and casual brands (Nike, Levi's, Reebok, Desigual).

➤ Convenient shopping malls (if it rains or you want everything in one place)

1. **Centro Commercial Príncipe Pío:** by the river, stores + cinema + restaurants.
2. **Plaza Río 2:** view of the Madrid Río skyline, brands like H&M, Guess, Bershka.
3. **La Vaguada (north zone, Barrio del Pilar metro):** classic mall with all types of stores.
4. **Plenilunio:** wide variety of shops, making it ideal if you want to combine well-known brands with dining and leisure.

➤ Extra Tips

- The best way to explore Madrid is on foot or by metro — the network is clean and safe.
- Local meal times: lunch 2–3 PM, dinner 9–10 PM.
- Tap water is perfectly safe — and delicious!
- On Sundays, visit *El Rastro*, the famous open-air market in La Latina.

Day Trips from Madrid

➤ One-Day Excursions

Toledo – A medieval city and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Segovia – Famous for its Roman aqueduct and roast suckling pig.

El Escorial – A monumental royal monastery and palace.

Ávila – Renowned for its perfectly preserved medieval walls.

Option 1 – Balanced Madrid (4 Days)

Day 1 – The Heart of Madrid

- **Morning:**
 - Start at Puerta del Sol (take a photo with the *Bear and the Strawberry Tree* statue).
 - Walk to Plaza Mayor → stop by San Miguel Market to try tapas and vermouth.
- **Lunch:** *Casa Lucio* (famous for “huevos rotos”) or *Los Galayos* (traditional).

- **Afternoon:**
Visit the Royal Palace and Almudena Cathedral.
Take a stroll through the Sabatini Gardens.
- **Dinner:** *Botín* (the oldest restaurant in the world — try the roast suckling pig).
- **Evening:** Enjoy a quiet cocktail at *Del Diego* (classic drinks on Gran Vía).

Day 2 – Art and Elegance

- **Morning:**
Visit the Prado Museum (book tickets online to avoid queues).
Walk through the Botanical Garden.
- **Lunch:** *El Paraguas* (excellent Asturian cuisine near Retiro Park).
- **Afternoon:**
Relax or rent a boat on Retiro Park's lake.
Visit the Crystal Palace (free entry).
- **Dinner:** *Platea Madrid* (a gourmet food hall with live music).
- **Evening:** Watch the sunset from the *Círculo de Bellas Artes* rooftop.

Day 3 – Neighbourhoods with Character

- **Morning:**
Stroll through the Literary Quarter (Barrio de las Letras) – Cervantes and Lope de Vega once lived here.
Visit the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum.
- **Lunch:** *Casa Mortero* (modern take on classic Madrid cuisine).
- **Afternoon:**
Explore Malasaña – vintage shops, cafés, and street art.

Optional coffee stop: *HanSo Café* or *La Bicicleta*.

- **Dinner:** *Triciclo* or *Rosi La Loca* (modern fusion, fun atmosphere).
Evening: Visit cozy bars in Chueca or enjoy a flamenco show at *Casa Patas*.

Day 4 – Viewpoints and Farewell

- **Morning:**
Visit the Temple of Debod (beautiful at sunrise or mid-morning).
Walk along Madrid Río or take the cable car to *Casa de Campo*.
- **Lunch:** *Casa Mingo* (traditional roast chicken and natural cider).
- **Afternoon:**
Shopping or souvenirs on Gran Vía or *El Rastro* (if it's Sunday).
Dinner: *DiverXO* (Michelin-star experience) or *La Trainera* (excellent seafood).

Option 2 – Relaxed Madrid with Charming Restaurants

Day 1 – A Leisurely Historic Walk

- **Breakfast:** *Café de Oriente* (terrace with views of the Royal Palace).
Walk: *Plaza Mayor* → *San Miguel Market* → *Sabatini Gardens*.
- **Lunch:** *El Anciano Rey de los Vinos* (terrace with a view).
- **Afternoon:** Coffee at *El Jardín Secreto de Salvador Bachiller* (beautiful setting).
- **Dinner:** *Taberna Los Gallos* or *Ten con Ten* (elegant and relaxed atmosphere).

Day 2 – Art, Parks, and Rooftops

- **Breakfast:** *Motteau Patisserie* (in the Huertas area).
Visit: *Reina Sofía Museum* (spend 1–2 hours and see *Guernica*).
- **Lunch:** *La Barraca* (one of the best paellas in Madrid).
- **Afternoon:** Long, peaceful walk through *Retiro Park*; optional boat ride.
- **Dinner:** *La Castela* (excellent traditional bar) or *El Jardín de Orfila* (elegant terrace).

Day 3 – A Day of Beautiful Neighborhoods

- **Breakfast:** *Federal Café* (Conde de Barajas or Malasaña).
Walk: *Malasaña* → *Chueca* → *Literary Quarter*, stopping at shops and galleries.
- **Lunch:** *Celso y Manolo* (classic tavern reinvented).
- **Afternoon:** Siesta or coffee at *La Colectiva Café*.
- **Dinner:** *Aarde* (African fusion cuisine near Retiro, beautifully decorated).
- **Evening:** Cocktail at *1862 Dry Bar* or *Salmon Guru* (among the best in Europe).

Day 4 – Madrid Farewell

- **Breakfast:** *Chocolatería San Ginés* (churros with chocolate, a Madrid classic).
Walk: *Temple of Debod* – perfect for photos and views.
- **Lunch:** *Casa Mono* (lovely terrace and modern cuisine).
- **Afternoon:** Last-minute shopping at *El Corte Inglés (Callao)* or along *Gran Vía*.

