



Flag of Madrid

The seven stars represent the stars of the constellation Ursa Major, visible over the Guadarrama mountain range, north of Madrid.

Travelogue for Madrid

from Tuesday 2 April 2024 to Monday 8 April 2024



The bear and the strawberry tree

PLANO TURÍSTICO

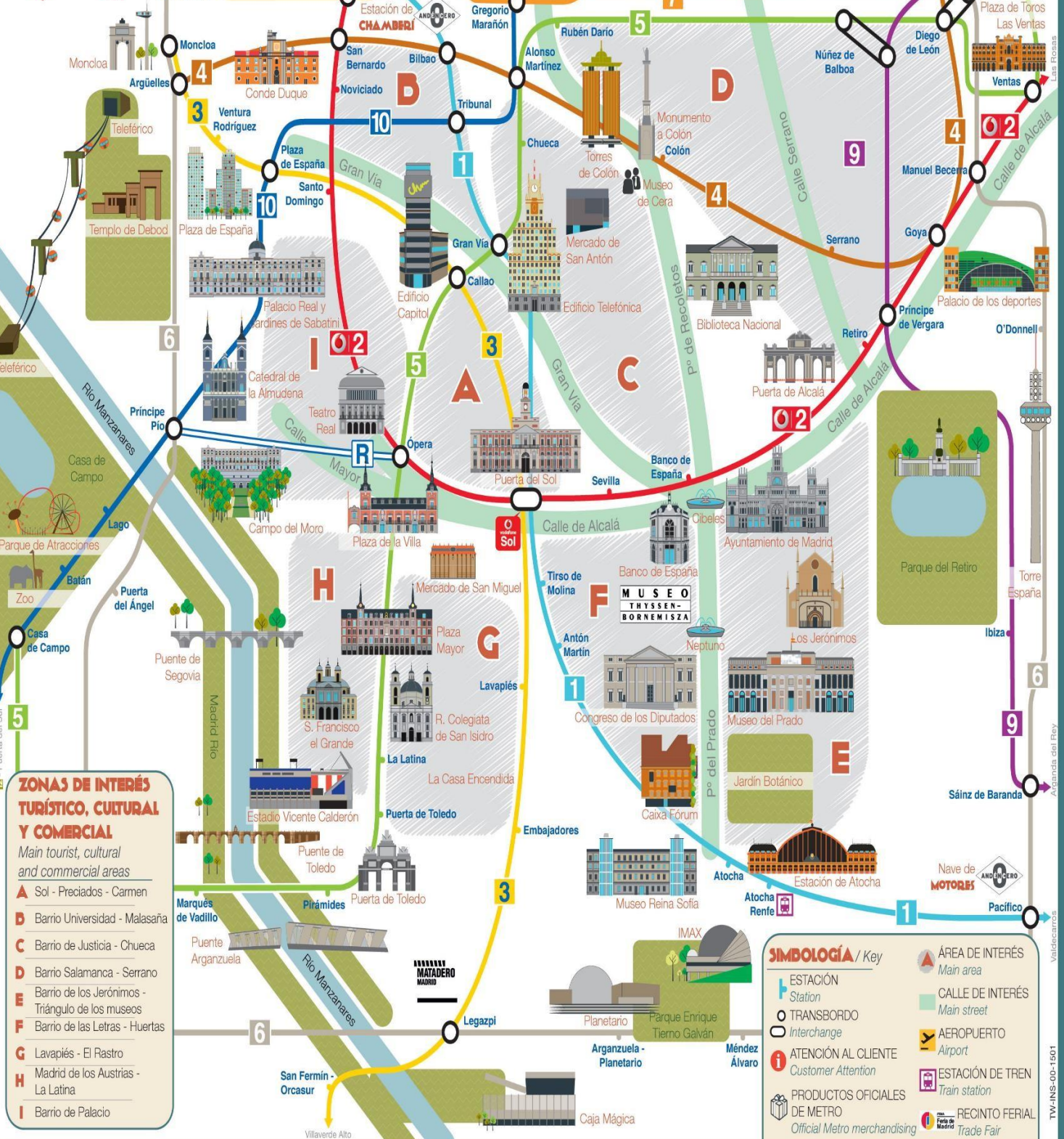
Tourist map

LÍNEAS / Lines

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Pinar de Chamartín
Valdecarros | 7 Hospital del Henares
Pitis |
| 02 Las Rosas
Cuatro Caminos | 8 Nuevos Ministerios
Aeropuerto |
| 3 Moncloa
Villaverde Alto | 9 Paco de Lucía
Arganda del Rey |
| 4 Argüelles
Pinar de Chamartín | 10 Hospital Infanta Sofía
Puerta del Sur |
| 5 Alameda de Osuna
Casa de Campo | R Ópera
Príncipe Pío |
| 6 Circular | |

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ZONAS DE INTERÉS TURÍSTICO, CULTURAL Y COMERCIAL

Main tourist, cultural and commercial areas

- A** Sol - Preciados - Carmen
- B** Barrio Universidad - Malasaña
- C** Barrio de Justicia - Chueca
- D** Barrio Salamanca - Serrano
- E** Barrio de los Jerónimos - Triángulo de los museos
- F** Barrio de las Letras - Huertas
- G** Lavapiés - El Rastro
- H** Madrid de los Austrias - La Latina
- I** Barrio de Palacio

SIMBOLOGÍA / Key

- ESTACIÓN Station
- TRANSBORDO Interchange
- ATENCIÓN AL CLIENTE Customer Attention
- PRODUCTOS OFICIALES DE METRO Official Metro merchandising
- ÁREA DE INTERÉS Main area
- CALLE DE INTERÉS Main street
- AEROPUERTO Airport
- ESTACIÓN DE TREN Train station
- RECINTO FIERAL Trade Fair

Alameda de Osuna, Hospital del Henares, Las Rosas, Calle de Alcala, Arganda del Rey, Valdecarros

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Discovering Madrid



The history of the Plaza de Cibeles dates back to 1777, when the first of its magnificent buildings, the Palacio de Buenavista, was built. A few years later, in 1782, so was the current centrepiece of the square, the Cibeles Fountain - originally located outside the Prado Museum, however, it was not moved to the square until 1895.

Over the next century, the rest of the buildings that decorate the Plaza de Cibeles sprang up around the square. The Banco de España was completed in 1891, the Palacio de Linares in 1900 and, finally, the crown jewel of the square - the Palacio de Cibeles itself - in 1919.

As one of Madrid's most emblematic and iconic squares, Plaza de Cibeles has become as much a symbol of the city as Puerta del Sol or Plaza Mayor. This neoclassical square in central Madrid is many things: a major traffic hub, home to a handful of spectacular buildings, even the unofficial home of Spanish football's victory celebrations, but it also boasts a rich history and cultural heritage.



Cervantes Institute, Madrid

The Instituto Cervantes is the public body created by Spain in 1991 to promote and teach the Spanish language and the co-official languages and to disseminate Spanish and Latin American culture. It is present in 90 cities and 43 countries on five continents.



The Metrópolis Building is a building in the city of Madrid, Spain.

The building was constructed from 1907 onwards on the land left free during the construction of the Gran Vía, after the collapse of the Casa del Ataúd (so called because of the narrowness of the site on which it stood), between the streets of Alcalá and Caballero de Gracia. Built according to plans by the French architects Jules Favier and his son Raymond for the insurance company La Unión y el Fénix (es), it was completed in 1910 by the Spanish architect Luis Esteve Fernández-Caballero and inaugurated on 21 January 1911.

Acquired in 1972 by the Metropolis insurance company, it was restored in 1996.

We went to the Puerta del Sol square to play an escape game, using phrases and clues given to us by our teacher to find the name of the monument in question.



The Bear and the Strawberry Tree



The Sun Gate

The Bear and the Strawberry Tree, the emblematic statue of the city of Madrid, has returned to its original location after the extensive works carried out in the square. In fact, it had stood at the beginning of Calle del Carmen since 1986 for... 23 years! Its two protagonists, the bear and the strawberry tree, are a reminder that the capital was once surrounded by large expanses of strawberry trees inhabited by bears and other game animals. Legend has it that the bear was incorporated into the city's coat of arms as a tribute to King Alfonso XI, who killed a bear on the outskirts of Madrid. It is believed that the strawberry tree appeared between the 13th and 14th centuries, after the Church ceded pastures and wooded areas on the outskirts of Madrid to the city. It became one of the symbols of the city. Obviously, it is present on the flag and coat of arms of the capital, but also on the coat of arms of the Atlético de Madrid football club, for example. This work by the Spanish architect Antonio Navarro Santafé was inaugurated in 1967. Standing 4 metres high (including its cubic granite pedestal), it is made of stone and bronze and weighs some 20 tonnes. And when you set foot on Puerta del Sol for the first time, one thing is immediately clear: it is the most photographed star in the city.

The statue of the bear and the strawberry tree is made of stone and bronze. It weighs about 20 tons and is 4 metres high. It stands on a cubic stepped granite pedestal. It realistically represents the two figures on the coat of arms of Madrid, with a bear resting its front paws on a protruding strawberry tree and its mouth searching for a piece of fruit.

In the Puerta del Sol square you will find three emblems that are well known to Spaniards:

The Puerta del Sol has also witnessed some important events in Madrid's history, such as the proclamation of the Second Republic in 1931.

Statue of the Bear and the Shrub: at the beginning of Alcalá Street, you will find the statue of the symbol of Madrid: the Bear and the Shrub. It was created in 1967 and is one of the most popular meeting points in the capital.

Clock of the Casa de Correos : known throughout Spain for being the place where every year, since 1962, the famous carillon of the Puerta del Sol sounds. It is at the Puerta del Sol where thousands of people gather every year to eat the twelve grapes and celebrate the New Year.

Kilometre zero : starting point of the Spanish radial roads. The kilometre zero of the Puerta del Sol is marked on the ground, and tourists do not usually leave Madrid without taking a photo of it.



Kilometro zero



Royal Palace of Madrid

The Royal Palace of Madrid or Palacio de Oriente is the official residence of the King of Spain.

It is the official residence of the King of Spain, but is really only used for receptions and official ceremonies. It was originally a defensive building built in the 9th century by the Muslim kingdom of Toledo, later reused by the kings of Castile. It was then reused by the kings of Castile until the 16th century. However, following a fire at Christmas 1734, the old Alcázar was almost completely destroyed and Philip V decided to build the new Alcázar on the same site. On the same site, Philip V decided to build the new palace, this time in stone and brick, without using wood as before.

In 1735, the architect Filippo Juvarra was commissioned to draw up the general plan; Juan Bautista Sacchetti and Francesco Sabatini began work in 1738 and completed the building. When it was completed in 1755, it was one of the largest palaces in Europe.

It had 500 square metres and more than 2,800 rooms occupying an area of 100,000 square metres.



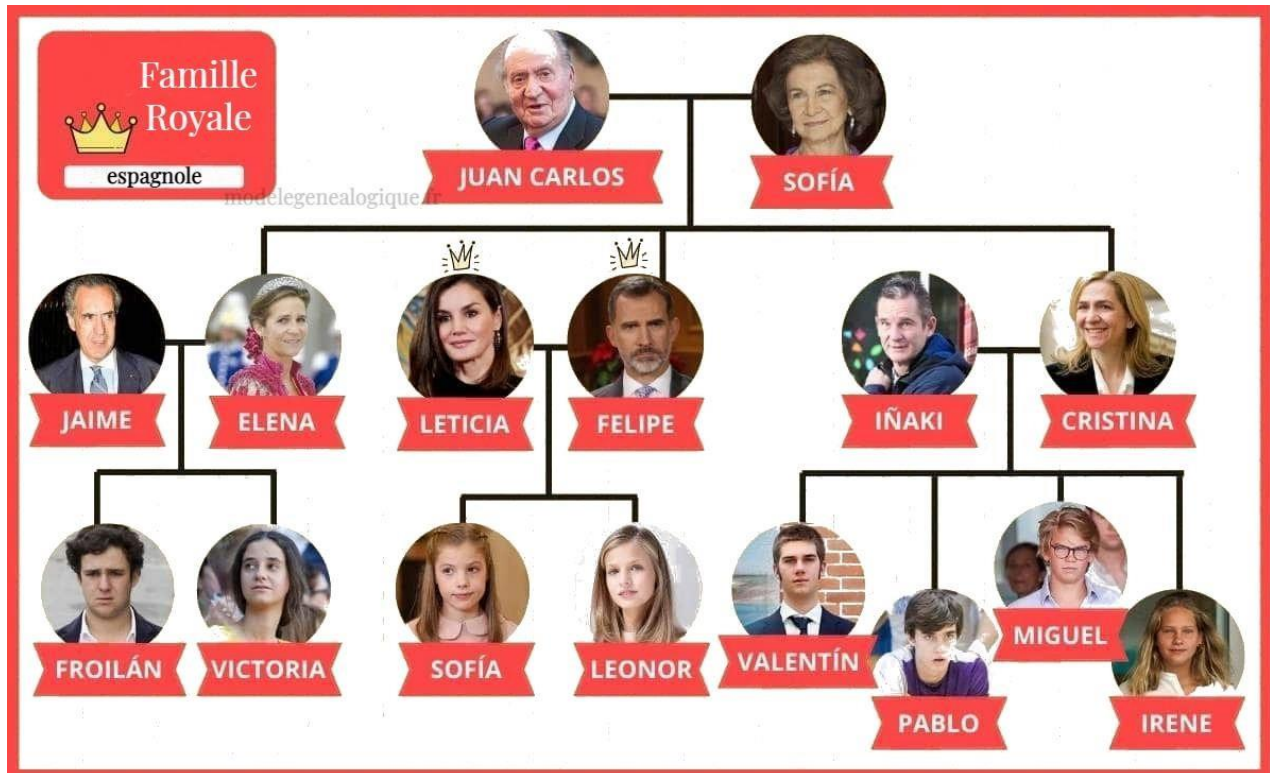
Royal Palace of Madrid

The Royal Palace in Madrid is the official residence of the King of Spain. The current King and Queen do not reside here, but in the Zarzuela Palace. The Royal Palace is used for ceremonies.



King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia

The Royal Family in Madrid



The Prado Museum



The Museo Nacional del Prado is one of the largest museums in the world (5th in size, 11th in number of visitors), one of the most beautiful and one of the richest: it has some 900 works on display out of a total collection of almost 8,000.

The Prado building dates from the 18th century and was originally conceived to house a natural history museum. but in 1819 Ferdinand VII decided to house the works collected by the Spanish royal family since Charles V. (Spanish painting, of course, but also Italian, Flemish and Dutch, French, English and German). Dutch, French, English and German), which makes it one of the oldest museums in the world. one of the oldest museums in the world.

Thanks

I would like to thank Ms CARDOSO for organising the entire trip, before, during and after, and for her availability and invaluable advice in ensuring that it went off without a hitch.

I would also like to thank Mr Allegra and Ms Helena for accompanying us throughout the trip. To my penfriend Julia and her parents for the warm welcome and kindness with which they welcomed me into their home. I would also like to thank my parents for their support in this exchange project and Mr Chataigner, without whom this trip would not have been possible.

I wanted to prepare things that she liked so that when she came to stay with me she wouldn't miss her parents too much, so that she could find some comfort and feel at home with my family.

I'm delighted because her stay went really well, she felt very much at home with me, she talked to all my family and enjoyed playing board games with us, we went shopping, we went to the Jardin d'Acclimatation in Paris, we went to the Champs-Élysées. She corrected me when I made mistakes in Spanish and I corrected her when she made mistakes in French. We had a wonderful week exploring Paris, and when she left she left a big hole. But we continued to exchange ideas.

When I left to join my penfriend in Madrid, I was delighted to discover her world, and her family were very kind and welcoming to me. They took time to show me around the towns around Madrid and take me to restaurants in Madrid. I was able to revise my Spanish.

This trip went really well thanks to my penfriend's family for their warm welcome and kindness; to my penfriend for her kindness and friendship; to our teachers: Mme CARDOSO, M. ALEGRA and Mme Hélène who gave up their time to accompany us and to my family. Thank you again!

This exchange has been, and will continue to be, a wonderful adventure and an excellent experience. It has enabled us to be less shy and reserved, to become more independent and to be able to talk to each other in Spanish, although we know that we may make mistakes in the language. We discovered a different civilisation, the history of Madrid, a different way of life, wonderful architecture, museums and a way of governing a country that is different from our own. We came back from this trip richer intellectually.

I recommend this exchange and this trip to everyone!

An unforgettable stay Thank you all