

SUMMARY

Madrid is open to all the world	4
Introduction.....	5
Brief history of Madrid	6
Map of Madrid	16
Itinerario I: Old Madrid.....	18
Itinerario II: Madrid of the Hapsburgs.....	32
Itinerario III: Walkaway of art.....	46
And more.....	58
Map of Metro	62
Gastronomy.....	64
Festivals and events.....	69
Helpful phone numbers and addresses.....	72



MADRID IS OPEN TO ALL THE WORLD

Madrid is a city that is open to all of the world. Madrilenians are famous for welcoming anyone with open arms, without asking where they are from. In Madrid, there is an unusual sense of double nationality, where one is originally from and the pride of being Madrilenian. This is because everyone that comes to this beautiful and lovely city feels at home:

Basques, Galicians, Catalonians, Andalusians, natives of Extremadura, North Americans, English, Germans, French...no one feels like a foreigner in this "City of the Bear and the Strawberry Tree," and anyone who comes and stays to live here, is just one more Madrilenian.

As Calderon de la Barca said:

"Madrid is home to all
and in this small world,
all children are loved equally
born here or foreign born."



INTRODUCTION

The province of Madrid is located in the center of Spain and the city of Madrid is also located in the center of the province. The average altitude is 600 to 700 meters above sea level. The total area of Madrid is 60,708 hectares, including 15,000 from Monte del Pardo and 1,727 from the Casa del Campo. The capital city of Madrid is made up of 21 districts that are subdivided into 215 neighborhoods. Madrid has a population of three and a half million inhabitants. The Manzanares River, which crosses the city, is disparagingly known as “a river in training,” and starts ten kilometers from the town of Manzanares el Real and flows through El Pardo and Madrid.

The climate of the Castilian *meseta* is known for its cold winters and hot summers. In winter, Madrid's temperatures drop a few degrees below zero and the maximum temperature in summer is over 40° C. Winters are getting milder and summers are getting hotter. There is generally little rainfall.

The best time to visit Madrid is in the spring, between the months of April and June, when the temperatures are mild. In summer, especially between July 15 and August 15, the weather is the hottest, with the highs surpassing 40 C. Therefore, in August, the Madrilenians abandon the city and go to beaches or to the country where it is cooler and during this time Madrid is invaded by tourists from all over the world.



BRIEF HISTORY OF MADRID

The Manzanares Valley was inhabited by Paleolithic and Neolithic man, according to the remains found in sites along the Manzanares River where it passes through Madrid. The old Cerro de San Isidro is considered to have the most important Paleolithic deposits of the southern part of Europe, due to the quality of the remains that were found there. In the Museo de Ciencias Naturales (Natural Science Museum), the Museo Municipal (City Museum), or the Museo Arqueológico Nacional (National Archeological Museum), one can view remains of tools, carved stones, and ceramics found in the Casa del Campo and in the Manzanares River, as well as bones of savage animals such as mammoths and bulls that looked like bisons, and deer with big horns.

In the 2nd century BC, the Romans began the conquest of the Iberian Peninsula. Remains of small towns or country houses built by the Romans have been found in the areas of Carabanchel and Villaverde.

In the 6th century, the Visigoths, taking advantage of the weakness in the Roman Empire, settled in Spain and it is believed that there could have been a small village of them, dedicated to hunting and shepherding, situated on both sides of the San Pedro ravine. A small creek flowed through the ravine between two hills, which are today occupied by the Palacio Real and the Vistillas Park. The former creek was a tributary of the



Manzanares River and once it was covered in the 16th century, it became the present day Calle de Segovia. Nevertheless, at present, no vestiges whatsoever have been found to confirm the pre-Islamic existence of La Villa (the area now known as Madrid).

The Islamic conquest of the Iberian Peninsula began in the year 711 in the south of Spain. From the very beginning, due to the central location of the province of Madrid, it was a point of passage and an important communication center during the time of the Romans, thus the strategic importance of the enclave of Madrid later on for the Moors. In the times of the Moors, the Sierra of Madrid became the border area between Muslim Spain and Christian Spain.

In the 9th century Mohammed I built a lookout tower on the spot where the Palacio Real now stands, in order to watch for the passing of the Christian troops around the Sierra of Madrid. He also ordered built a solid wall around it that went from the Alcázar Calle Mayor and went around Calle Factor and Calle Rebeque to connect them with the Alcázar. There were three entry gates: Vega, Almudena, and Sagra. This first settlement was named Mayrit, which means place of water, or mother creek in Arab, in reference to the creek of Calle Segovia. The Castilians called it Magerit.



MADRID IN 2 DAYS

The remains of this Arab wall, as well as the foundation of the Vega Gate can still be seen in the present day "cuesta de la Vega" in the Park of Emir Mohammed I, in memory of the founder of the city.

In 1085, Alfonso VI conquered the kingdom of Toledo, including the province of Madrid, and annexed it to the kingdom of Castile. Upon taking over Madrid, one of his soldiers climbed along the Arab wall with great skill and tied a rope to one of the crenels, allowing the other soldiers to climb up and open the gates of the city. Upon seeing him climb up the extremely high wall with such agility, the others exclaimed, "he looks like a cat!" The man was given the name "The Cat" and Madrilenians have been nicknamed cats ever since.

Between the end of the 11th century and the beginning of the 13th century the Christians built a new wall that enlarged the perimeter of Madrid. This wall included part of the Arab wall in the "cuesta de la Vega" and ran parallel to the streets of Don Pedro, Cava Baja, Cuchilleros, Cava de San Miguel, Mesón de Paños, Escalinata, the Plaza of Isabel II, and in the Plaza de Oriente it met up with the Alcázar. There were five gates: Vega, Moros, Cerrada, Guadalajara, and Valnadú. There were two very defined zones: the "ciudadela" or the "Almudaina" and the "Medina." Inside the first wall, where the soldiers and warriors



lived there was a fortress and a mezquita, located on the corners of Calle Mayor and Calle Bailén. Inside the second wall lived the civilian population.

According to tradition, after the conquest the search for the lost statue of the Virgen began. Almost 400 years earlier, a blacksmith had hidden it to avoid its being profaned by the Moors upon their entrance into Madrid. After nine days of prayer and praise, a turret in the wall shattered into tiny pieces, uncovering the statue of the Virgen that had been hidden there for 373 years with two candles that had illuminated it for almost four centuries. The statue was given the name Virgin of la Almudena because it had been hidden in the wall of the almudaina, and it was adopted as the patron saint of La Villa (another name for Madrid). In "la cuesta de la Vega" there is a replica of the statue, in honor of the memorable event.

In 1202 Alfonso VII granted La Villa the "Fuero de Madrid", a series of laws for governing the city. In the mid 14th century, Alfonso XI changed the form of government in La Villa and established for the first time ever 12 magistrates, two mayors, and one constable.

Between the 12th and 15th centuries the suburbs of San Martín, San Francisco, Santo Domingo, San Millán, San Ginés, and Santa Cruz were formed around the convents and churches of the same names. These neighborhoods were separate from one another in the beginning and later grew together over the years. Around the 15th century a new wall was built to embrace these suburbs. It had a total of eight





gates: Vega, Moros, Latina, Postigo of San Millán, Atocha, Sol, Postigo of San Martín, and Santo Domingo. Some buildings still remain from this time period, such as the Cathedrals of San Nicolás and San Pedro el Viejo, the Torre de los Lujanes and the Cathedral of San Jerónimo el Real.

In the first quarter of the 16th century, the population of Madrid was around 30,000, occupying 4,600 homes.

In 1561, Felipe II moved the Corte de Toledo to Madrid, and since that time, except for the years from 1601 - 1606 when Felipe III moved it to Valladolid, Madrid has been the capital of Spain.

After this move, the population quickly doubled in size to 60,000 inhabitants.

The area of Madrid grew and Felipe II built a new wall with eight entry gates: Vega, Segovia, Toledo, Antón Martín, Sol, Red de San Luis, Postigo de San Martín, and Santo Domingo.

As a consequence of the move from Toledo to Madrid, La Villa soon lost much of its natural characteristics. In the 15th century there were abundant forests, but a hundred years after the establishment of the Court in Madrid, vast numbers of the trees had been cut down in order to build palaces for the nobility and to provide for the homes of the Court population.

The most important construction during the reign of Felipe III is the Plaza Mayor, which substituted the pre-Roman Plaza del Arrabal, and it became the most important hub of the city for various uses:





fiestas, commerce, autos-da-fe (public spectacles in which “heretics” were burned), bullfights, etc.

During the reign of Felipe IV, Madrid was a large city, that occupied what is now the Central District, and a new wall was built with exits flanked by five royal doors or points of registry where one paid taxes: Segovia, Toledo, Atocha, Alcalá and Bilbao (or Pozos de la Nieve) and 14 smaller gates of lesser importance which have all disappeared. Of these, only the Puerta de San Vicente has been rebuilt. At the time Madrid had around 100,000 inhabitants and 11,000 buildings.

Some of the most notable monuments of the 16th and 17th centuries are the Casa de Cisneros (Cisneros’ Home), la Capilla del Obispo (the Bishop’s Chapel), el Puente de Segovia (the Segovia Bridge), la Plaza Mayor (the Main Plaza), el Palacio de los Concejos (the Palace of Royal Council) (currently Capitanía General), the Cárcel de la Corte (the Court Jail) (currently Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the Casa de la Villa (currently City Hall).



MADRID IN 2 DAYS



In 1700 Felipe V took the throne as the first monarch from the House of Bourbon. His reign had a great deal of French influence due to his birth in this neighboring country, as well as Italian influence because of his marriage to the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Parma. Felipe V ordered the building of the Palacio Real, substituting it for the former Alcázar that had been destroyed in a fire on Christmas Eve in 1734. He is also credited with the Royal Factory of Tapestry, the Royal Academy of Language, History, and Medicine, as well as the Royal Library.



Along with his son, Fernando VI he created the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando. It was not until Carlos III when Madrid changed its appearance: nine thousand septic tanks were added, the streets were paved, work mules were replaced with horses, the streets were illuminated with oil lamps, etc. This reign gave Madrid a splendor that it had never before attained. Carlos III ordered the construction of many buildings, such as the Natural Science Museum (today the Prado Museum), the Cathedral of San Francisco el Grande, the Puerta de Alcalá, the Astronomy Observatory, the Salón del Prado (today the Paseo del Prado), the fountains of Cibeles, Neptuno, and Apolo, etc. At the time Madrid had around 150,000 inhabitants, occupying 7,500 homes in 557 blocks.



The reign of Carlos IV was cut short by the French invasion and the War of Independence (1808 - 1814), which proved to be disastrous for the nation.



During the short reign of José I, Napoleon Bonaparte's brother, Madrid underwent some changes. Two cemeteries were built outside of the city and from then on it was forbidden to have burials inside churches as well as in their respective cemeteries. Plazas or squares were built by demolishing convents and churches and the streets were widened, thus giving José I the nickname of "King of the Little Plazas." Several convents and churches disappeared as well.

When Fernando VII returned to Spain, it was impossible to carry out his urban reforms because the Treasury was in such a precarious financial state, and the monarch's plans were too expensive and overly ambitious. The only notable construction during his reign was the new and present day Puerta de Toledo.

During the reign of Isabel II reforms were made to the Puerta del Sol in order to resolve traffic problems.

