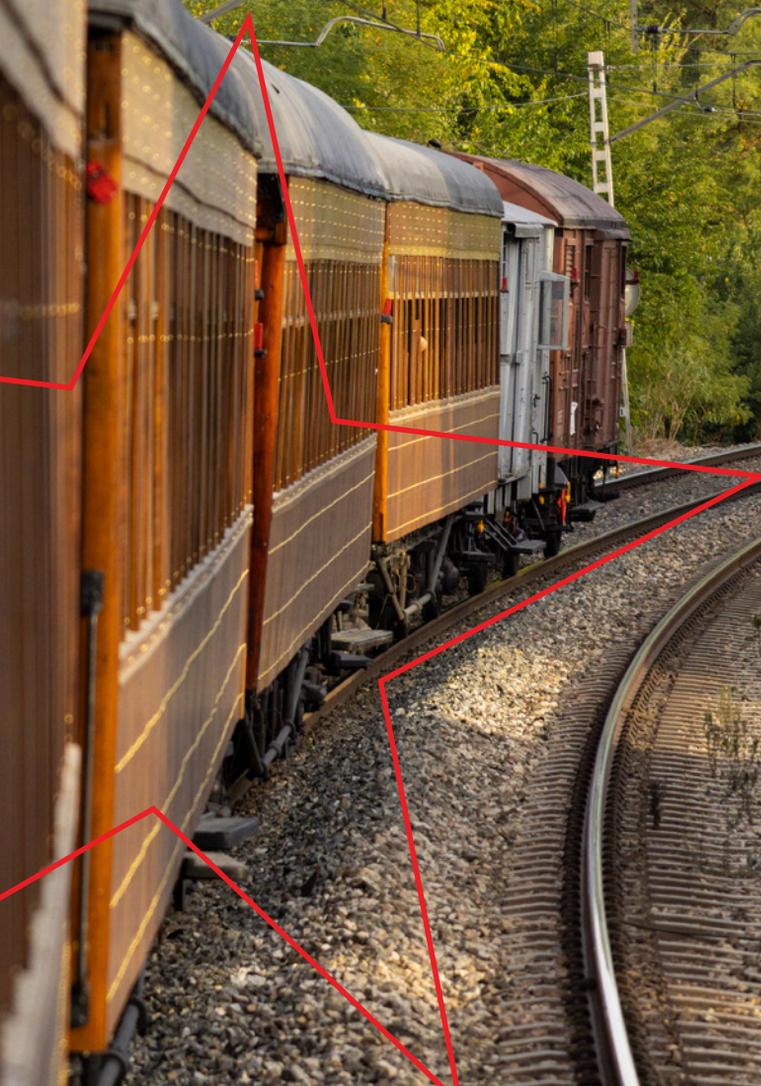




# World Heritage in Madrid. Tourist trains



Comunidad  
de Madrid



## Tourist trains bound for Madrid's World Heritage. Three trains. Three eras. Three destinations

San Lorenzo de El Escorial and El Escorial, Aranjuez and Alcalá de Henares are all located less than 50 kilometres (31 miles) away from Madrid's city centre. The three towns were declared World Heritage Sites by Unesco, which means that their landscape, gastronomy, architecture and traditions are unique and based on universal values. They are international points of reference and great examples of our planet's cultural diversity.

Taking a historical train from Madrid to visit these towns is an original way to learn about their past and to discover their surroundings. An authentic journey back in time that will make your visit an absolutely unique experience.

These trains are singular not only because of their design, but also because they offer touristic and educational activities to show us the railway's past and present. It was the mode of transport that opened modernity with the communications revolution. At the time, a new era was ahead. Now, they are an invitation to learn about our past.

Are you willing to travel in time? Let's get started!

## The pioneer's time

The first train travellers knew that those rails would make progress possible. Journeys that took weeks on a horse carriage were down to a few hours by train. The ability to transport people and goods that fast was unprecedented and a great progress. The times were moving towards the future.

Everything changed with the train, which moreover became the symbol for the wish for adventure. The clattering, whistling and the locomotive's smoke changed the way people travelled and discovered new and unique landscapes.

Madrid's citizens and those from other big capitals were amazed at these steam engines that rushed through the fields in record time. What would be next? Maybe flying?

## Palaces of progress

A new type of building emerges and becomes part of 19th century cities and villages skyline: train stations. Sites made of iron that put the novelties of engineering on display and that thanks to their exquisite decoration were considered real palaces. The big buildings welcomed and distributed the passengers.

This is the case of the Estación de Atocha, that is today considered a work of art of railway architecture. Or the Estación del Norte —today Príncipe Pío—, strategically located nearby Madrid's Royal Palace so that the King and Queen could easily use it. Another example is Aranjuez old station that had an exclusive branch for the Crown that directly led to the Puerta de Damas



*Tren de la Fresa*



(a door to the Palace). Legend has it that those tracks were forged in silver.

## All aboard!

Anyone who gets on one of Madrid tourist trains today can feel like those early passengers. Historical locomotives, wagons and seats made of wood, guillotine windows and balconies on the ends.

At our pioneers pace we will contemplate trees, plants, birds, geology and towns full of history. In short, a wonderful heritage and landscape is waiting for us in Madrid's region.

## Strawberries, palaces and literature

The Tren de la Fresa was so named when it was opened in 1851 since it transported strawberries (fresas in Spanish) that were grown on the Tagus and the Jarama riverbeds. It was the second railway in the Iberian Peninsula, it connected Madrid and Aranjuez and it was frequently used by the aristocracy in their outings to the countryside.



*Tren de Felipe II*

The Royal Site of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, a colossal building built in the middle of Guadarrama mountains was the best destination for 19th century travellers in love with adventure and mystery with a romantic perspective. The Tren de Felipe II is ideal to experience that kind of excitement

The arrival of the railways to Alcalá de Henares in 1859 helped the city's revival and its great cultural heritage was rediscovered. Today, the Tren de Cervantes invites us to get to know the great past of this City of Knowledge where the author of Don Quixote, a masterpiece of the world's literature, was born.

While travelling on these trains, many characters from our times and from past times will come with us. Miguel de Cervantes or King Philip the Second will tell modern travellers what was their life like back then. Listen carefully, look closely and enjoy the taste of local products that kind locals will offer us.

# Small guide for the time traveller

Three trains, Three  
eras, Three destinations.  
Which one is yours?  
You can know them all!



## Information and ticket sales

### Tren de Felipe II

<https://www.trendefelipeii.com>

### Tren de la Fresa

<https://trendelafresa.es>

### Tren de Cervantes

<https://www.renfe.com/es/es/experiencias/trenes-tematicos/tren-de-cervantes>

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## El Tren de Felipe II

Mountains and the Renaissance

### Departure

21st century - Príncipe Pío Station

### Destination

Late 16th century - San Lorenzo  
de El Escorial and El Escorial

**Travel companions:** Philip the Second!  
The builder of the palace-monastery, the  
very same King of the Spanish Empire  
at its height where “the sun never set”.

**During the journey:** You will enjoy  
the beauty of landscape, the train’s  
singularity and a fun and entertaining  
history lesson.

### In San Lorenzo de El Escorial

**and El Escorial you will see:** The  
Royal Monastery, the historical site,  
the Bosque de Felipe II (La Herrería,  
a forest) and the Jardines del Fraile  
(the Palace Gardens).

**Fun fact:** The Monastery has more  
than 4,000 rooms, 2,673 windows,  
1,250 doors, 45,000 books and 1,600  
paintings.

**You will love it if you like:** Natural  
landscapes, historical buildings and big  
monuments.

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## El Tren de la Fresa

Bound for the palace  
in first class wagons

### ○ **Departure**

21st century - Delicias Station  
(Train Museum)

### ○ **Destination**

Mid-19th century - Real Sitio  
de Aranjuez

**Travel companions:** Great Madrid's bourgeoisie who travels to Aranjuez to enjoy the Royal Palace gardens and other charms, and the farmers offering their products.

**During the journey:** Tasting of strawberries from Aranjuez and beautiful landscapes. Be enthralled by the soft train rattle!

**In Aranjuez you will see:** The Royal Palace, the Jardín del Rey (King's Garden), Jardines del Príncipe (the Prince's Gardens) and the Parterre (Flower Garden), together with the Museo de las Falúas (Museum of Longboats).

**Fun fact:** Aranjuez Palace hides several passages and tunnels that connect the Palace with some city spots. That is how the monarchs could leave the Palace and come back to it without anyone noticing.

**You will love it if you like:** Romantic strolls, old time picnics and strawberries with home-made cream.

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## El Tren de Cervantes

Knights adventures in the city of letters

### ○ **Departure**

21st century - Atocha Station

### ○ **Destination**

Beginning of the 17th century - Alcalá  
de Henares

**Travel companions:** Miguel de Cervantes, the Price of Wit and author of Don Quixote, together with characters from his novels.

**During the journey:** Poetry, theatre and sense of humour! You will personally meet Don Quixote who will make you laugh with his craziness.

**In Alcalá you will see:** Alcalá de Henares historical town center, the Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso (the old University), the Corral de Comedias (a 17th century theatre), the Catedral de los Santos Niños, the Museo de la Casa Natal de Cervantes (Cervantes Birth House Museum). Don't miss the Museo Arqueológico Regional: Madrid's history will impress you.

**Fun fact:** Alcalá's Corral de Comedias is one of the oldest in Europe. Throughout its history it has been a theatre, a museum, a cinema, and then again, a theatre! Just like the one in 1605.

You will love it if you like: Knights tales, poetry and charming towns.



*renfe*

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Cercanías Madrid



[www.turismomadrid.es](http://www.turismomadrid.es)  
[www.trenespatrimonio.es](http://www.trenespatrimonio.es)

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