DISCOVERING & ENJOYING

SPAIN

MADRID

REGION

EXPERIENCES 2018 · 2019

MADRID FEELS IN SPANISH

Comunidad de Madrid

LANGUAGE TOURISM
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Madrid feels in Spanish

A language that awakens passions, a place to come back to

Hemingway learned Spanish by living it first-hand. Here he was passionately involved in it, tasted and loved it. Where else in the world will you be able to live and feel it like this?

We feel that here we learn it, here where we have the institutions that best look after the language—the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language; those that best certify it—the Cervantes Institute; and those that teach it most and best—our universities, schools and language centres.

Learning Spanish in the Madrid Region means to take in the multiplicity of Spanish-speaking cultures in a small region where everything is to hand: the pace of the great city, the peace of rural life, forests, plains, rivers, museums, terraces, traditions and avant-garde.

We feel that we learn it through new friends, practicing in the capital’s endless availability of leisure, culture and sporting choices, the important heritage quality of its towns and villages, its traditional and cutting-edge cuisine.

We feel that we understand it when we observe its exceptional natural, industrial and innovative environment.

We feel that we master it when we shop in its stores, use its infrastructures, when we are looked after by its superb professionals, fit-outs and services.

We feel that we have been enriched by thinking in Spanish, by having enjoyed Madrid’s charms, the jewels of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Alcalá de Henares or Aranjuez, the Santiago Bernabéu stadium, the routes around our natural parks, the country’s exhaustive cuisine, its terraces, squares and fountains, the tremendous quality of choice in the teaching of Spanish... and above all, because we perceive the mark this experience leaves on us.

As well as learning, practicing and enjoying culture in Spanish, in Madrid you will feel that you need to come back... to feel in Spanish.
Learning Spanish in Madrid

Madrid feels and makes you feel

Our region is a crucible of sounds, voices, words, colours, stories and novelties from all the Spanish-speaking cultures scattered around all the corners of the Madrid Region.

The Spanish felt by the people from Andalusia and Catalonia, Basque Country and Castile, Galicia and León, Valencia and Murcia, Asturias and Cantabria, Navarre and Rioja, the eastern regions and Aragón, Extremadura, the Canaries and Balearics; Latin Americans and Spanish speakers from all corners, merged into the crucible that is the region of Madrid. The definitive, global Spanish language is learned in the Madrid Region.

The Spanish that has been distilled in all the towns of Spain, the one that makes a student of Spanish global, is learned in the Madrid Region, where the sensations transmitted in the regional houses, the activities in Casa América, the regional and Latin American cuisines, the Pan-Hispanic dictionaries, the exhibitions and congresses of the Spanish-speaking world, the Cervantes Prizes for literature in Spanish, everything... is done... is lived... in the Madrid Region.

Learning Spanish in the Madrid Region is the guarantee that you will master a global language, be a cosmopolitan citizen in the universe that shares that language, knowing how to empathise with the world’s Spanish-speaking peoples.

Feel yourself a Spanish-speaking citizen, learn Spanish in the Madrid Region!

Feel yourself a Spanish-speaking citizen, learn Spanish in the Madrid Region!

Connected, welcomed and safe in Madrid

Enjoy the freedom and mobility of learning Spanish in Madrid. A Region with an integrated, world-class public transport system. Go easily and quickly to every corner of Madrid and its region while practicing your Spanish.

Closeness...

You can come from anywhere in the world to learn Spanish in the Madrid Region. Feel safe and close to home, to your country of origin, because our Adolfo Suárez-Madrid Barajas airport connects you with the world, every day of the year. It is the largest airport with international connections in southern Europe.

Situated 12 km. from Madrid, it is linked to the city via the metro, the commuter train service and numerous public transport bases. It also has a taxi and car-sharing service. In under an hour you can be anywhere in the Madrid Region. Every university in the region is less than 50 km. from the airport.

Practicing Spanish while touring the Madrid Region is a very simple matter. Madrid’s metro and bus network connect the whole city, day and night, while the commuter trains reach almost every town in the Region, with a punctual and frequent service.

Meet people, discover villages, corners, traditions, practice the whole time you are with us. Live in the centre of Madrid or, if you prefer, live on the outskirts, in the countryside, without losing out on the convenience of reaching the centre in a very short time and little cost.

As well as classic transport modes there is a good bicycle service with cycle lanes and cycling tracks, providing a great cycling network that confirms Madrid as the capital of cycling. Ciclalmadrid is the key that opens up the whole territory to you.

Cordiality...

Our Region is renowned around the world for its hospitality and tolerant spirit: at any time and anywhere you will experience a feeling of security, surrounded by people who are prepared to help you when you need it. Don’t doubt it: assurance, serenity, safety, connectivity, mobility, education, healthcare...

The best Spanish for learning and the best setting for feeling it!

Accredited quality training

The Madrid Region has a broad choice of universities, centres, schools and language academies offering a comprehensive variety of courses and training projects whose primary feature is the quality of their facilities, of their teaching staff and of their programmes and contents as well as the possibility of certifying all the Spanish learned.

The training centres that await you have been awarded quality accreditation by the Cervantes Institute: students can obtain the DELE Spanish diplomas, official certification of the degree of competence and mastery of the Spanish language, or SIELE preparedness, which certifies the degree of mastery of Spanish through electronic means aimed at students and professionals from the five continents.

In the Madrid Region you will find the widest quality selection in specific courses for teachers of English, representing a great opportunity for increasing the capabilities and knowledge of professionals not only in terms of language but also in contents and methodologies for teaching our language.

But if you wish to learn Spanish and obtain a degree, an official post-graduate degree, a specialized diploma in business, tourism, gastronomy, events production, dramatic art, music, etc., in the Madrid Region you will be able to study it and obtain certification.

Learn Spanish and take the opportunity for gaining specialization in an effective professional competence for life!
Way of feeling Spanish

Language tourism and nature

Do you want to find out which nature activities are on offer in the Madrid Region and where you can practice them? Here we give you the information. From summer camps in Spanish to canoeing on the region's rivers and reservoirs to horse-riding on the natural expanses of the Sierra Norte, climbing in La Pedriza, trekking to the Peñalara lake, mountain biking… and much more. Don't miss out!

The Madrid Region boasts nine protected natural spaces that occupy as well as a other 39% corresponding to the Natura 2000 Network.

• The "Montejo Beech Forest" was declared a Natural World Heritage Site in 2017 by UNESCO for being one of Europe's southernmost beech woods.
• The Sierra de Guadarrama National Park includes Peñalara, the Region's highest peak, as well as the cirque and pools of the same name, which are glacial in origin.
• The Regional Park of the Upper Manzanares Basin is inhabited by species of high environmental value.
• The Regional Park of the Lower Reaches of the rivers Manzanares and Jarama are interesting not only from a paleontological and archaeological viewpoint.
• The Scenic Expanse of the Abantos Pine Forest and the Area of La Herreria is a lush pine forest with wonderful views of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, with its breathtaking Palace-Monastery built by Philip II, the king on whose empire "the sun never set".
• The natural Reserve of El Regajal-Mar de Ontigola is located in a protected wetland area inhabited by a multitude of aquatic birds.
• The Laguna de San Juan Wildlife Refuge is a wetland expanse of huge ornithological value.
• Finally, the Natural Monument of National Interest "Peña del Arcipreste de Hita" (Crag of the Hita Archpriest) is so called for having been described in the 14th-century "Libro del Buen Amor" (The Book of Good Love). Considered to be one of the all-time crowning masterpieces of Spanish literature, the book contains a purported autobiographical narration of the author's own love affairs in which all the layers of Spanish early medieval society appear represented through his lovers.

As you see, if you are a nature enthusiast you can enjoy pure air and a rich flora and wildlife less than 100 kilometres from Puerta del Sol in central Madrid. Even in the city itself, parks and gardens such as El Retiro or the Casa de Campo allow you to enjoy many other outdoor activities.

The entire Region is crisscrossed by a network of green paths and itineraries for practicing hiking or cycling in the mountains, the meadowlands or the banks of rivers such as the Tagus, the Henares or the Alberche. If you like nautical tourism you are in luck, because some reservoirs in Madrid are equipped for kayaking, sailing, rowing, etc.

Ornithological tourism, too, is another attraction in the Region thanks to the vast quantity of observatories set up for watching waterfowl, migratory and native birds. And don't forget that you can also practice winter sports such as skiing or snowboarding in the upper areas of the Guadarrama Mountain Range.

Madrid is much more than a great city: it is nature in a state of freedom. Join the adventure of Spanish culture in Madrid!

Language tourism, leisure and cultural activities

The Madrid of the Arts and Humanities; Madrid's museums and temporary exhibitions; Madrid through its cuisine; Literary Madrid; Architectural Madrid; Madrid through photography; Cultural teambuilding; World Heritage cities in the environs of Madrid; Film sets in Madrid; Madrid through music; the District of the Muses and Alcalá de Henares; Spanish for flamenco and Spanish culture lovers; and much more.

In the capital's surroundings are a series of municipalities of considerable heritage interest: Buitrago del Lozoya, Chinchón, Colmenar de Oreja, Navalcarnero, Nuevo Baztán, Rascafría, Torrelaguna, Patones, Villarejo de Salvanés, San Martín de Valdeiglesias or Manzanares El Real.

As for the leisure offer, the variety of choices will never leave anyone unsatisfied. In Madrid you will find from theme parks such as the Safari in Aldea del Fresno, Faunia, the Warner Park or the Parque de Atracciones amusement park to theatres such as the Teatro Real, the Teatro Español, the Teatro de la Zarzuela or the musicals staged on Gran Vía, the numerous concert halls, the clubs, the activities of the LGBT collective, the bars with their famous tapas, etc.

In the capital is also a shopper's paradise. Not for nothing is Madrid, thanks to its varied retail offering, placed as the second best European shopping destination according to a report drafted by The Economist Intelligence Unit for 2014.

Not is there any danger of enthusiasts of gastro-nomic tourism being disappointed by the quantity and quality of Madrid’s restaurants, which specialize as much in typical cuisine as in innovative fare. Many of them are centuries old. Furthermore, in the region we have 18 Michelin-starred restaurants. What more could one wish for?

Try the cocktail of history and modernity, of art and diversion that Madrid proposes: festivities and culture on all its streets, in all its villages, in all its corners.

The museums and bars also speak and feel Spanish!
Language tourism and sports

The choice in sports encompasses from a tour around the Real Madrid museum at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium to sports centres, gyms, swimming pools, fitness centres, golf courses, motor sport circuits, sports clubs in which to play tennis, paddle tennis, skiing or any other sports modality... all of them fun settings in which to practice Spanish while enjoying a sporting activity.

But this is only a small sample of what is on offer...

In the Madrid Region there is an opportunity for practicing and viewing sport for every enthusiast. The city of Madrid is committed to sport, and this is demonstrated by the endless number of sports clubs situated among the elite of their modalities.

In Spain, football is the sports spectacle that attracts the most enthusiasts, so you shouldn’t miss out on the museums of the most successful Madrid clubs nationally and internationally. Real Madrid has its own museum in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. Atlético de Madrid also welcomes you into its own museum. Furthermore, the region is represented in the highest categories by other top-level teams such as Leganés, Getafe or Rayo Vallecano.

The same can be said of basketball, a sport in which three teams, Real Madrid, Estudiantes and Fuenlabrada, display the region’s flag in the ACB league, the top professional basketball division of the Spanish basket league system. Moreover, the Real Canoe and the Club Cisneros also compete in the first division in their respective sports: water polo and rugby.

Every month of May sees the staging of the Mutua Madrid Open, which forms part of the ATP World Tour Masters 1000, attracting the top tennis players in both the men’s and the women’s sport on their way to Roland Garros. The tournament has a spectacular site, the clay courts of the Magic Box designed by Dominique Perrault. Are you going to miss out?

If you are a golf aficionado, then the Madrid Region is your destination since it boasts more than 25 courses: a broad and comprehensive choice.

Running is an on-trend sport and Madrid has three events in which you can put yourself to the test: the Rock’n Roll Madrid Marathon, the Asics Half Marathon Villa de Madrid and the San Silvestre Vallecana run on New Year’s Eve in the Vallecana district, one of Spain’s most multi- dinous and popular races: 10 kilometres in which fun and sport go hand in hand.

You can also attend horseracing at the La Zarzuela Hippodrome, one of the best places in Madrid for enjoying outdoor sport.

Incidentally, Madrid is characterized by such a broad variety of landscapes that you will be able to enjoy nature in all kinds of outdoor activities: hiking, mountain hiking, nautical sports, climbing and even skiing, a sport you can practice all year round thanks to the Madrid Snow Zone piste situated in the Xanadú Shopping Centre in Arroyomolinos.

Whichever sport interests you, you will be able to practice it in the Madrid Region.

Madrid is football and much more. If you like sport, you can practice it in Madrid. Learn Spanish among other sports enthusiasts like yourself.

Learn Spanish here, where it was learned by Beckham, Ronaldo, Griezmann, Courtois, Benzema... and many others...

Language tourism and business

We offer you programmes that cater for learning business Spanish as well as international master’s courses for both foreign and Spanish students. Spanish continues to grow as one of the most widely spoken languages worldwide, and completing a one-year Master’s degree in Spain, with its wide choice of universities and learning centres, can be a way of changing your life. Another option, of which you will find wide availability in this portfolio, is doing an internship in the fields of both gastronomy and hospitality and in teacher training, where you will be able to practice the knowledge you have acquired as well as learn with the support of expert Spanish-speaking tutors.

Madrid is the country’s prime economic powerhouse and is currently among the top ten worldwide destinations in business meetings, trade fairs and conventions. A conglomerate of companies and industries, the headquarters of large multinationals, industrial estates, business schools and a choice of products and services focusing on learning technical and business Spanish make of the Madrid Region the ideal destination for learning our language, fully adapted to professional and market needs.

Many of our learning centres and companies engaged in teaching Spanish feature this kind of specialized content as well as internship programmes in companies to provide real language immersion in a working environment.

The capital is the host city of FITUR, the world’s foremost tourism trade fair, and Madrid’s calendar is completed with internationally renowned gatherings such as ARCO [the International Contemporary Art Fair], SIMO Network, Madrid Golf, the Book Fair, etc. It is actually in this last one, which showcases both antique and current books, where students of Spanish will find a comprehensive catalogue of appropriate publications for learning.

Thanks to its modern infrastructures, Madrid has a wide-ranging availability of venues for staging events, congresses and conventions. The city boasts several locations for organizing this type of event such as the IFEMA Trade Fair Site, the Palacio de Deportes sports hall, the Municipal Congress Hall, facilities in Casa de Campo, etc.

An important point is the more than sixty-five thousand hotel beds available in Madrid, from luxury hotels to more modest accommodation. Some of these hotels specialize in staging work meetings or industry conventions, such as the Hotel Auditorium Madrid, which has 59 rooms occupying 15,000 m2 intended for meetings, congresses and all kinds of events.

Another factor that contributes to encouraging language and business tourism is the earlier-mentioned closeness to Adolfo Suárez-Madrid Barajas airport, the first Spanish airport in passenger traffic and situated a mere 12 kilometres from the city centre. The airport is well connected by bus, metro and commuter train.

In the Madrid Region we also find a comprehensive and varied network of spaces that complement those companies and organizations that are looking not only to manage their businesses or sell their products but also to enjoy natural settings, cuisine or culture outside the capital. It is in fact very easy to combine business, tourism and the learning of Spanish in towns such as Alcalá de Henares, Aranjuez, Tres Cantos, Coslada, etc.

Discover and practice the dynamic entrepreneurial spirit of a city brimming with businesses and retail: a gateway to the rest of Spain and Latin America.

Madrid is the capital of business in Spanish!
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