

Cervantes Square, Alcalá de Henares

Seven experiences of accessible tourism in the region of Madrid



**Comunidad
de Madrid**

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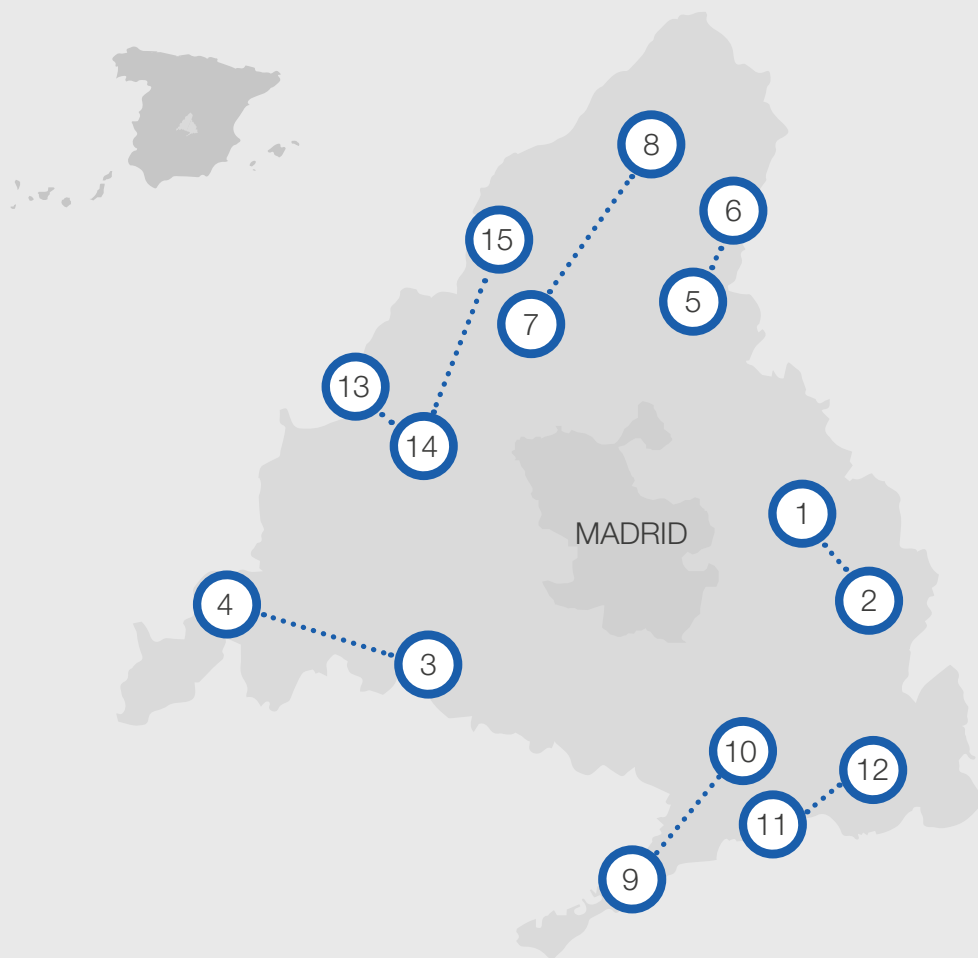
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Seven experiences of accessible tourism in the region of Madrid

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Project: Beyond Accessibility

The region of Madrid is a landmark destination for domestic and international tourists. Beyond the capital city, the region possesses many places of interest for tourists, with a wide range of offers: from active tourism and nature excursions, to culinary and wine tourism, in addition to cultural activities, entertainment and shopping. This extensive offer makes a visit to our region a unique experience.

And this unique experience must be available for all. For this reason, the Autonomous Region of Madrid is firmly committed to developing a fully accessible model of tourism.

The General Directorate for Tourism and PREDIF, the Representative State Platform for Physically Disabled People, have prepared this accessible tourism guide with seven routes that take you to some of the most singular places in this region.

This is an innovative guide which is based on the concepts of inclusive and accessible tourism. It includes additional information on the level to which tourist sites are adapted to the needs of differently-abled persons. This guide provides you with a more inclusive way of discovering our region. In short, it is a new way of living and enjoying Madrid.

How can I use this guide?

This is the first Accessible Tourism Guide developed for the Autonomous Region of Madrid. It seeks to enable users to travel across the region by means of seven unforgettable tourist experiences. These routes have a general duration of two days, ample time for visitors to fully experience the charm of these towns called the “Villas de Madrid”. Some of them are also UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Alongside visits to monuments, visitors can also learn about the local culture and cuisine, taste wines from the vineyards of Madrid, delicious traditional cheeses or other local produce from this region.

The goal of these trips with overnight stays is to provide tourists with a slow travel (or conscious travel) experience with enough time to learn about the culture and everyday life of their destination. It tells them about the history, the people, the cuisine and the local “zero kilometre” produce. In short, this is a guide for sustainable and inclusive travel that is accessible by all. It promotes destinations closer to home and a tourism model that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

PREDIF has assessed the accessibility level of the resources and routes keeping in mind the needs of persons who use wheelchairs, senior citizens, and persons with physical or sensory disabilities. When designing each experience, all steps involved in the trips have been considered: transportation, urban itineraries, guided tours, accommodation, entertainment, restaurants, tourist services and new technologies available to people.

For each route, the user will find a short summary of the location and history of the proposed destination. A pedestrian route is also proposed, along with an overview of the most important monuments and charming spots in town. Tips and suggestions on local produce are included, as well as additional references for a better-informed start to your trip.

For more detailed information on the suggested experiences, please visit the Accessible Tourism website www.tur4all.com or the website of the Autonomous Region of Madrid turismomadrid.es. These websites also include a PDF version of this guide.



APP DE TURISMO ACCESSIBLE TUR4ALL



INFORMACIÓN DE DESTINO COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

Acronyms and key terms

In order to keep this guide short and user-friendly, indications on how to reach and get around each destination have been included at the end of each experience, along with other useful information for planning your trip.

Acronyms and other terms used for accessibility:

PRM: Person with Reduced Mobility

PWD: Person with a disability

SSL: Spanish Sign Language

Sign language guide: tablet or portable device with subtitles and SSL which allow persons who are deaf to enjoy self-guided tours.

Hearing loop: a sound-amplifying device which facilitates listening for persons who use hearing aids. This assistive technology may be either fixed (on information point counters or in auditoriums) or portable. Portable models are used in guided tours.

In the Autonomous Region of Madrid, **PWDs** are guaranteed right of access to public facilities accompanied by their **guide dogs** or **assistance dogs**.

Symbols

A series of **symbols** have been created to assess the accessibility level of each facility. These symbols and colours show, at a glance, the level of adaptation of each resource and proposed activity to different physical, visual, hearing and cognitive needs of visitors.

The following symbols denote the accessibility of services and facilities available at these tourist destinations:



*Services and facilities for persons
with reduced mobility*



*Services and facilities for visually
impaired persons*



*Services and facilities for hearing
impaired persons*



*Services and facilities for persons
with intellectual disabilities*



Wheelchair-accessible toilet

However, the information represented by these symbols is may be subject to change, so that it is recommended to check the detailed information of the accesibility conditions in each touristic acommodation, trough the website www.tur4all.com. It is also recommended to contact with every establishment in order to confirm their conditions of accesibility.

How to get to the Region of Madrid?

By plane

Adolfo Suárez Madrid–Barajas International Airport Tel. AENA
Assistance for PRM: Tel. 902 404 704 / 913 211 000



AENA

The airport is located at a 20-minute drive from the capital city. It can be reached by different means of transportation:



Metro

Line 8 (Nuevos Ministerios-Aeropuerto T4)



Bus

Bus: 24-Hour Airport Express Bus Service, with departure from Atocha Railway Station and Plaza de Cibeles. Bus stops in Calle O'Donnell (at the corner with Calle Doctor Esquerdo), T1, T2 and T4.

City bus: 101, 200, interurban lines: 822, 824, 827, 828

Bus shuttle: free special service which connects the four airport terminals. It has a frequency of 5 minutes from 6:30 am to 11:30 pm, of 20 minutes from 11:30 pm to 01:50 am and of 40 minutes from 1:50 am to 6:30 am.



Regional Railway Network

The new C-1 line of the Regional Railway Network connects the **Príncipe Pío** railway station and **Barajas T4** terminal. Trains leave the station every 30 minutes. AVE ticket holders can board the C-1 train to the airport free of cost.

Car: Barajas airport has highway connections to Madrid's major roads and orbital highways.

To use public transportation to move around Madrid, you must possess a Tarjeta Multi. This is a transferable, rechargeable, contactless card for accessing public transport, which is valid for ten years and may be charged with any non-nominal transport ticket for the public transport network of the Autonomous Region of Madrid.

By train

The two main railway stations in the city of Madrid are Atocha and Chamartín. These stations provide access to the Middle Distance, Long Distance, High Speed (AVE) and Regional railway networks, and may be reached by the metro. Madrid has international railway connections with France and Portugal.

Free Customer Assistance Service for Passengers with disability and PRM (ATENDO), Tel.: 912 320 320 / 912 140 505.



Customer Assistance Service of RENFE 900 400 555

By road

A-1 highway to Irún (Basque Country, French border). **A-2 highway** to Barcelona. **A-3 highway** to Valencia. **A-4 highway** to Seville. **A-2 highway** to Badajoz (Extremadura, Portuguese border). **A-2 highway** to Corunna (Galicia).

General Directorate of Traffic DGT: www.dgt.es

By bus

Estación Sur Bus Station (Méndez Álvaro)

Regular connections with domestic and international destinations

Regular metro, bus and taxi services

Avenida de América Bus Station

Connections with many domestic destinations

Regular metro, bus and taxi services

By taxi

Eurotaxi / Radio Taxi services: Tel. 915 478 600 / 915 478 200 / 902 478 200 / 010.

It is worth booking ahead and specifically requesting accessible taxis. The average waiting time is 15-20 minutes.

Cabify Access

The private company Cabify has a fleet of accessible cars for passengers in wheelchairs. Use the Cabify app to book a car. More information at: <https://cabify.com/spain/cabify-access>

Emergency telephone numbers

General and medical emergencies: **112**

Information about the region of Madrid: **012**



Tourism Office in Puerta del Sol, Madrid

Sol Tourism Centre, meeting point

It is well-known that most of the routes that are proposed on this guide begin in the city of Madrid.

For this reason, the best choice for you is to visit the Sol Tourism Centre, to get a complete picture of the touristic proposals contained in this guide.

The Sol Tourism Centre was inaugurated in the last quarter of 2019 has become in a hub for tourism in the region, and the best starting point to plan all the trips available around the region. You will be able to check that Madrid is a safe destination for everyone.



Sol Tourism Center

Puerta del Sol, nº 5

28013 Madrid

Tel. 91 272 34 00

turismo@madrid.org



www.turismomadrid.es



Courtyard of the College of San Ildefonso, University of Alcalá de Henares

Architecture on a human scale

Alcalá de Henares and Nuevo Baztán

The eastern section of the Region of Madrid is home to several towns with a rich cultural heritage such as Alcalá de Henares and Nuevo Baztán. Additionally, it has great natural wealth resulting from the rivers Henares and Jarama. Alcalá de Henares has been granted World Heritage Site status thanks to its University and its historic centre; and Nuevo Baztán, one of the eleven towns in Madrid to boast of “Villa” status, is a feat of architecture that is at once functional and harmonious.

Both towns were designed with two goals in mind: one, to be suitable for the purpose they were built or the goal of their development (the university in the former, work and social life in the latter) and secondly, to be practical, tasteful and respectful of architectural proportions.

For this experience we propose a two- or three-day route, depending on your available time. The first two days are devoted to Alcalá de Henares and the third day, to Nuevo Baztán.



Cervantes Square, Alcalá de Henares

Day 1. Alcalá de Henares

A scant 30 km from the capital city and 14 km from the Barajas Airport, Alcalá de Henares is easy to reach. In addition to public transport (please remember to consult accessible services and required contacts at the end of this chapter), if you are travelling by road, you can take the R-2 toll road or the A-2 highway (Madrid-Barcelona). Exit 23 leads to the historical centre. Public parking is available at multiple locations in the town.

There is another option to get Alcalá de Henares. The Cervantes train is available in different periods of the year. Check the availability and the conditions of accesibility at the RENFE website.

A bit of history...

Before it became the hometown of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, one of the world's literary giants, Alcalá de Henares existed and thrived under the Roman name of "Complutum". After the period of Islamic rule in Spain, it was governed by the successive Archbishops of Toledo from the 12th century onwards, who often stayed there. This city that bears the traces of all three cultures achieved its peak in 1499, when Cardinal Cisneros founded the University of Alcalá de Henares.

Subsequently, Alcalá became a university town and a lively cultural hub which, many centuries later, made it eligible for UNESCO World Heritage status as "the world's first planned university city".

Out and about...

On the first day, we propose a circular route beginning at the **Tourist Information Office**, at the southern side of *Plaza de Cervantes*, in the *Capilla del Oidor*. Public toilets with accessible stalls are available just across the square. To the western side of the *Plaza de Cervantes* is the **Town Hall** and the **Corral de Comedias**, where theatrical performances were held.

At the end of the square we turn left and take *Calle Mayor* to the **Museo Casa Natal de Cervantes**, the house where Cervantes was born and is now a museum. From there, *Calle Imagen* to the right and then *Calle de Santiago* to the left will lead us to the **Regional Archaeological Museum** and the *Plaza de las Bernardas*, which takes its name from the nearby **Monasterio de San Bernardo**.

We cross *Plaza Palacio* and taking *Calle Cardenal Sandoval y Rojas*, we encounter the **Interpretation Centre for Alcalá in the Middle Ages**. Further ahead, we reach the ancient walls at **Puerta de Madrid**. Then we can double back by taking *Calle Cardenal Cisneros*, and continue on to the *Plaza de los Santos Niños*, where the **Cathedral-Magistral** is located.

Upon returning to *Calle Mayor*, we turn right at *Calle Ramón y Cajal* and then left into *Calle Cerrajereros* until we reach *Plaza de Cervantes*, where today's tour ends.



Paraninfo auditorium of the University of Alcalá de Henares

Day 2. Alcalá de Henares

The morning of this second day will be spent travelling back to the Roman era and visiting its most characteristic traces. We take a look at important Roman remains such as **the House of Hippolytus**, located just outside the city. A short 15-minute walk takes us to the **Roman Town of Complutum**, the origins of the city which was to become Alcalá de Henares.

Back at the city centre (it is advisable to drive or take public transportation), we rest and enjoy a nice meal. Then it is time to devote our afternoon to visiting the **University of Alcalá**. The chapel, the three courtyards and the historic Paraninfo hall are open to visitors, with certain Quixotic vibes in the air.

Not to be missed...

To visit the old University of Alcalá complex is to have an encounter with culture. On the 23rd of April every year the King and Queen of Spain bestow the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, considered by some to be the Nobel Prize for Literature in Spanish, in the historic Paraninfo hall

To stroll down the streets and corners where the medieval past still shines is another of the pleasures to be had in Alcalá de Henares.

When shopping for gifts, don't forget to buy some *almendras garrapiñadas*, the candied almonds that have been an Alcalá culinary icon for over two centuries.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the Region of Madrid website
City council of Alcalá de Henares website
Tur4all Spain
Accessibility in Alcalá de Henares

Municipal Tourism Offices

Capilla del Oidor. Plaza de Rodríguez Marín, s/n

Tel. 91 889 26 94

otcervantes@ayto-alcaladehenares.es

Casa de la Entrevista. Calle San Juan, s/n

Tel. 91 881 06 34

otssnn@ayto-alcaladehenares.es



Corral de Comedias, Alcalá de Henares



Cervantes House, Alcalá de Henares

A World Heritage Site

The UNESCO granted Alcalá de Henares its World Heritage Site status as “the world’s first planned university city”, which refers not only to the city’s architectural and historical heritage, but also to its enormous cultural significance ever since the University was founded by Cardinal Cisneros. Of course, the fact that it was the hometown of Miguel de Cervantes only heightens the cultural value of Alcalá de Henares.

Must-see attractions...

Corral de Comedias: one of the oldest functioning theatre playhouses in Europe. Built in the classical style in the 17th century, it has a cobblestone floor, a balcony for stage prop handlers (*balcón de apariencias*), boxes for the nobility (*aposenos*) and a separate space for female viewers called *cazuela*. In its heyday, it

staged the finest plays of the Spanish Golden Age. Over time, it withstood several transformations and served different purposes until it was restored for its original use at the end of the last century.

Plaza de Cervantes, 15



Corral de Comedias Theatre



partially accessible



partially accessible



Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra Birthplace Museum: located at the house where the famous writer was born, it serves two purposes: it recreates the everyday life of a well-off family in the 15th and 16th centuries. It also houses a library and is the site of many cultural activities related to Miguel de Cervantes.

Calle Mayor, 48



Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra Birthplace Museum



partially accessible



accessible



Cathedral-Magistral of Saints Justus and Pastor: next to the *Plaza de los Santos Niños*, it was formerly called the “Pillory Square”, as it was the site of public punishment and execution of offenders. The Cathedral, which is dedicated to the two boys martyred for their Christian faith in Alcalá de Henares in the year 305, was a personal project of Cardinal Cisneros. It features Gothic, Mudéjar and Renaissance styles of architecture. It is one of only two churches to be called Cathedral-Magistral, the other being Saint Peter’s Church in Leuven, Belgium.



Cathedral-Magistral of Alcalá de Henares



partially accessible



partially accessible



Hippolytus House Museum, Alcalá de Henares

Hippolytus House: Nearly 2000 years old, it was built as a school for the children of wealthy Romans, who were trained to hold important positions in the municipal government of the Empire. Built in the late 3rd century CE, it possesses a public bathing area, an area for worship dedicated to the goddess Diana, and a magnificent mosaic of a fishing scene, executed by Master Hippolytus, after whom the house is named. The archaeological site of the Roman town of Complutum is complemented by the ancient Forum, which once served as the main square and where the main city buildings stood..

Avenida de Madrid, 28.

 Roman city of Complutum



accessible

University of Alcalá: founded by Cardenal Cisneros and formerly known as *Universidad Complutense*, it was the alma mater of some of the most important writers of the Spanish Golden Age, such as Francisco de Quevedo, Lope de Vega and Calderón de la Barca. In the 19th Century, Queen Isabella II ordered the *Universidad Complutense* to be transferred to Madrid. It was not until 1977 that academic activities were resumed in the University now renamed the University of Alcalá. However, considering its academics-focused design and urban planning, Alcalá de Henares can truly be considered the world's first university campus. The main building of the University is the **Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso**, which consists of three courtyards (the Courtyard of Saint Thomas of Villanova, the Philosopher's Courtyard and the Trilingual Courtyard) and the Paraninfo, which hosts the awarding ceremony of the Miguel de Cervantes Prize for Literature in Spanish on the 23rd of April. We recommend taking a few moments to admire the Plateresque façade by Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón.

Plaza de San Diego, s/n



partially accessible

A little refreshment...

Exploring Alcalá de Henares' cuisine is all the more pleasurable since it boasts a wide range of high-quality cuisine. Around the *Calle Mayor*, many restaurants and bars offer a very interesting selection of tapas, based on the best Castilian cuisine; some even reference the food mentioned in Cervantes' works. We've included below a short list of restaurants, however, we strongly recommend that you explore the town's many wining and dining possibilities for yourself.

TEMPRANILLO WINE BAR AND RESTAURANT	 accessible	 accessible
LÍA RESTAURANT	 accessible	 partially accessible
MACANDÉ RESTAURANT	 accessible	 wc
EL SEXTO SENTIDO	 partially accessible	 wc
LOS HERMANOS	 accessible	 wc

As we've already mentioned, don't forget to taste the typical candied almonds, *almendras garrapiñadas*. Although they can be found in any traditional candy store, the ones made by the Poor Clares of Convento de San Diego (*callejón de Santa María, 3*) are truly special; the cloistered nuns prepare their almonds according to a delicious recipe and they can only be bought at a grilled window. Additionally, Alcalá's bakers are always ready to tempt you with other typical sweets, such as *costrada* (a multilayer cake of flaky pastry, custard, meringue and almonds) and *rosquillas de yema* (doughnut-shaped pies with an egg yolk and sugar glaze).

Take it slow...

Being there, living mindfully, taking the slow lane...or as the Roman poet Horatius said, "carpe diem", which means "seize the day". Whatever you call it, seize this opportunity to escape from the stress of everyday routine and seek peace and serenity in any of the hotels in Alcalá de Henares. The Parador, located in a 17th century college-convent, is an especially interesting option.

EVENIA ALCALÁ BOUTIQUE HOTEL (****)	 <i>accessible</i>	 <i>accessible</i>	 <i>accessible</i>
ISLA DE LA GARENA HOTEL	 <i>accessible</i>	 <i>partially accessible</i>	
RAFAEL HOTELES FORUM ALCALÁ	 <i>partially accessible</i>	 <i>accessible</i>	
PARADOR DE ALCALÁ DE HENARES	 <i>accessible</i>	 <i>accessible</i>	  <i>accessible</i>

Save the date...

Every Saturday in spring and autumn, the **Cervantes Train** takes you on a ride with actors that recreate the customs of the Spanish Golden Age.

In autumn, during the **Semana Cervantina** dedicated to Miguel de Cervantes, the entire historic centre travels back into time to the Spanish Golden Age and is transformed by a wealth of cultural and gastronomic activities.

In November it is time to attend the annual staging of the play **Don Juan Tenorio**. Alcalá becomes an enormous stage for passionate declarations of love, duels between gentlemen, and the immortal words of Zorrilla.

You can also plan your thematic visit to Alcalá de Henares according to your very own interests:

- Route of the Three Cultures: the Muslim, Jewish and Christian Quarters
- Route of Cervantes
- Alcalá in literature
- A city of white stork

You can also attend any of the guided tours offered by the Town Council as well as private companies.



Parador de Alcalá de Henares

Further information:



Tourism of the Region of Madrid website
Information about the City Council of Alcalá de Henares

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

A thousand reasons to return...

The Regional Archaeological Museum is housed in the building that was once the Dominican convent of the Dominicos de la Madre de Dios, in *Plaza de las Bernardas*. It displays interesting archaeological remains from all over the Autonomous Region of Madrid. It has an especially noteworthy collection of Roman mosaics.



accessible



partially accessible





Cervantes Square, Alcalá de Henares

Monastery of San Bernardo is the most important enclosed convent in the town. It was built by the Archbishop of Toledo, Bernardo de Sandoval y Rojas, as an enclosed nunnery for Cistercian nuns, and was dedicated to St. Bernard in honour of its patron. It houses the **Cloistered building of the Cisterian Museum**, which depicts the life of enclosed nuns living here; a monastic cell and kitchen are open to visitors.



partially accessible

Next to the San Bernardo Monastery is the **Palace of the Archbishop**, currently the seat of the Bishop of Alcalá. This palace dates back to the 13th century and was built as a defensive fortress at the same time as the city walls. Over the centuries, it was subsequently expanded until it became one of the finest palaces of its age. Sadly, it was almost entirely destroyed by a fire and only the Renaissance façade remains.










The Interpretation Centre for Alcalá in the Middle Ages offers a tour of the town and its surroundings as they were in the Middle Ages. It is worth visiting if we want to learn about the town's past and its medieval monuments.



accessible

In the emblematic *Plaza de Cervantes* stands the **Oidor Chapel**, with its rich stucco decorations in Mudéjar style. Its south end once held the **Parish Church of Santa María la Mayor**, however, it was partially destroyed in the Spanish Civil War and only the bell tower, the apses and several annex chapels, such as the aforementioned Capilla del Oidor, remain. This chapel features the baptismal font where Miguel de Cervantes was baptised.

Other tourist attractions are the **Centre for Interpretation of The Universes of Miguel de Cervantes**, the **Prayer Centre of de San Felipe Neri**, the **Centre for Interpretation of El Burgo de Santiuste**, the **Ancient Hospital of Santa María la Rica**, or the manor called **Ancient manor house of the Lopez de la Flor family**.

OIDOR CHAPEL	 partially accessible	 accessible		
PARISH CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA LA MAYOR			 partially accessible	
PRAYER CENTRE OF DE SAN FELIPE NERI			 partially accessible	
CENTRE FOR INTERPRETATION OF EL BURGO DE SANTIUSTE			 accessible	
ANCIENT HOSPITAL OF SANTA MARÍA LA RICA			 accessible	
ANCIENT MANOR HOUSE OF THE LOPEZ DE LA FLOR FAMILY			 partially accessible	



Church of San Francisco Javier, Nuevo Baztán

Day 3. Nuevo Baztán

We leave Alcalá de Henares and proceed to Nuevo Baztán. It is best to leave Alcalá by the M-300 and then proceed along the M-204 for approximately thirty minutes. This area to the Alcarria region within the borders of the Autonomous Community of Madrid. Our destination is one of the highlights of industrial development in Spain in the 18th century, and may help us to understand its relevance.

By car, Nuevo Baztán can also be reached by:

N-III road, Arganda del Rey-Campo Real-Pozuelo del Rey-Nuevo Baztán exit

R-3 road, Arganda del Rey-Campo Real-Pozuelo del Rey-Nuevo Baztán exit

N-II road, Torrejón de Ardoz-Loeches-Pozuelo del Rey-Nuevo Baztán exit

N-II road, Alcalá de Henares-Villalbilla-Valverde de Alcalá-Nuevo Baztán exit



Goyeneche Palace, Nuevo Baztán

A bit of history...

In the 18th century, Juan de Goyeneche, a man ahead of his time, entrusted José Benito de Churriguera with the planning and design of a manufacturing town according to the principles and ideas of the Enlightenment. Goyeneche was a businessman and politician from Navarre who founded a town that included not only mills and factories (mainly textile, glass and hat factories) but also houses for factory workers. And thus, Nuevo Baztán became the embodiment of the dreams of a new progressive statesman. Additionally, it was a slice of his native Navarre in the Region of Madrid.



Centre for Interpretation, Nuevo Baztán

Out and about...

The best place to start your visit is the **Centre for Interpretation** located in what used to be the factory warehouse. Nuevo Baztán is a pleasant town to walk in, since all its streets and squares are pedestrians-only and completely flat.

The urban grid is designed around three virtually connected squares meant to serve as the town's hubs: *Plaza de la Iglesia*, which holds the church and the Palacio de Goyeneche with their beautiful façades, in addition to the Tritons Fountain; the *Plaza del Mercado*, or market square, also called *Plaza del Secreto*, where the ancient textile mill stands, and the *Plaza de Fiestas*, at the back of the palace.



partially accessible



partially accessible

Not to be missed...

In the middle of the town's carefully planned urban design, is its crowning glory, the monumental square with the Church and Goyeneche's palace. Don't miss it!

Did you know that some of the films of the Hollywood golden age were filmed here? "Zorro", "Return of the Magnificent Seven" and "The Three Musketeers" are just some of them. Its streets have witnessed talented performances by international actors such as Alain Delon, Charlton Heston and Lucía Bosé, and national actors such as Fernando Rey and Esperanza Roy.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Nuevo Baztán City Council website
Accessibility in Nuevo Baztán

Tourist office – Goyeneche Palace

Plaza de la Iglesia, nº 3

Tel. 699 063 809

turismo@ayto-nuevobaztan.es

Nuevo Baztán is one of the towns in Madrid awarded the "Villa" status

When the House of Bourbon ascended to the throne of Spain, they favoured the French architectural styles of the time. Nuevo Baztán is the perfect example of urban planning in the early Enlightenment. The monumental square dominated by the Palacio de Goyeneche and the church dedicated to San Francisco Javier has been recognised as a Site of Historic and Artistic Interest and granted Site of Cultural Interest status, which makes Nuevo Baztán a worthy recipient of the Villa status.

Must-see attractions...

Goyeneche Palace: which shares a façade with the adjacent church. A fine example of harmonious urban planning and clean and unadorned architecture. The tower includes a stone balcony decorated with the famous spheres of Herrerian architecture, as an explicit homage to the famous architect of San Lorenzo de El Escorial.



accessible



partially accessible

Church of San Francisco Javier: A small church especially noteworthy for its main altarpiece by Churriguera, although nothing like his particular over-embellished style. The altarpiece is framed by golden stucco panels that simulate curtains, as a concession to the Baroque style.



partially accessible

Centre for Interpretation: it is located in what was originally the Palace cellars. It features an exhibition on Juan de Goyeneche and his links to José Benito de Churriguera, as well as the impact of the latter's work in the town. It also features a sample of the products manufactured in this area.



accessible



partially accessible

A little refreshment...

Nuevo Baztán's local cuisine is based on the local produce; some of its highlights are roasts and *cocido* (chickpea and pork stew), cooked in an earthen pot. Try these culinary delights and much more in the restaurants listed below:

LA CASA VIEJA DEL ABUELO RESTAURANT

MESÓN EL CONDE RESTAURANT

LA OLMEDA TAVERN

We recommend tasting some of the local wines with provenance “Vinos de Madrid”, such as those from “Cuarto Lote” (2019 white and rosé and 2018 red in oak), as well as locally produced olive oil. Don't forget to enjoy local sweets such as *repápalos* (fried dough made with sugar, flour, oil, white wine and aniseed, very similar to the more widely known *pestiños*), prepared according to a recipe passed on from generation to generation since Nuevo Baztán was founded.

Save the date...

Take a walk around the town to appreciate its urban grid planning, with the square dominated by the Palacio de Goyeneche and the church at its centre. Enjoy its pretty squares *Plaza de Fiestas*, *Plaza del Mercado*, *Plaza de la Iglesia*...y and finally *Plaza de la Cebada*, the enclosure where farmers lived, apart from the high classes of the town.

Don't forget to pay a visit to the **Old Elm**. Back in the day, Goyeneche had elms be planted along the main roads. They were appreciated for their shade in scorching summers. However, Dutch elm disease, caused by a fungus, killed all of the trees except one. This solitary elm, which is over three centuries old, is listed in the Catalogue of Outstanding Trees of the Autonomous Region of Madrid, as are the Aleppo pines in the *Plaza de la Iglesia*.

Further information:



Villas of Madrid
City Council of Nuevo Baztán

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain
Accessibility in Nuevo Baztán

A thousand reasons to return...

Did you know that, Nuevo Baztán also celebrates **La Javierada**? La Javierada is a pilgrimage to the Castillo de Javieravier, in Navarre, in honour of San Francisco Javier. owing to the Navarrese heritage of its founder, Nuevo Baztán has a Madrid version of this pilgrimage, which is held in March and organised by the Navarrese community in Madrid. Pilgrims traverse the Way of the Cross, attend a solemn mass in the square and eat together in front of the Palace.

The **The Valmores Path** trail begins at the historical centre of Nuevo Baztán and continues across the landscape of the Madrid section of Alcarria, dotted by buildings that once where products were once manufactured and subsequently finished in the town's factories. Pure nature and fresh air to clear your head and lungs.



Nuestra Señora de la Asunción Church, Navalcarnero

A wine landscape for sophisticated travellers
Navalcarnero and San Martín de Valdeiglesias

To the south-east of the Autonomous Region of Madrid are hills that run down to the valleys of the Alberche and the Perales rivers. This is the best environment for high-quality grapes and exquisite wines that, since 1990, have been recognized and included in the denomination of origin Vinos de Madrid.

We propose a two-day route starting in Navalcarnero, half an hour away from Madrid. This wine region is the smallest in the area (it holds approximately fourteen percent of all registered vineyards) but their wineries yield approximately twenty percent of the production under this denomination of origin. The cultural heritage of Navalcarnero, consists mainly of religious and civil architecture and interesting museums such as the Wine Museum.

Forty five kilometers away from Navalcarnero, and following the intoxicating aroma of wine, we come to San Martín de Valdeiglesias, which had its peak in the 13th century. It holds thirty five percent of all registered vineyards and produces almost thirty percent of all Vinos de Madrid wine.



Segovia Square, Navalcarnero

Day 1. Navalcarnero

Situated in the south-west of the Autonomous Region of Madrid and only 45 km away from central Madrid, it can be reached by the 4-5 highway or the R-5 toll highway.

A bit of history...

Navalcarnero emerged in the late 15th century under the authority of the powerful city of Segovia that established this and other towns in an attempt to defend itself from the expansionist designs of neighbouring domains. A plea against a neighbouring ruler - Don Gonzalo Chacón, Lord of Casarrubios – would last decades. After the Revolt of the *Comuneros*, Segovia lost its ascendance as did many other towns of Castille and Navalcarnero became an independent town.

Established as a “Villa”, it further became a “Villa de Villa Real” when it was chosen to host the royal wedding between the King



Segovia Square, Navalcarnero



Philip IV and his niece Maria Anna of Austria. Subsequently and with some historical highlights (as the town's support for the Bourbon cause during the War of the Spanish Succession) Navalcarnero grew as an agricultural town, especially with regard to vineyards. It was the largest provider of wine to the markets of Madrid and Segovia. Wine-making has always been the town's hallmark and together with the tourist industry, one of the two main industries of the town.

Out and about...

Taking a stroll about Navalcarnero is to explore the history and tradition of a typical Castilian town. This “Villa de Villa” has a surfeit of history, so our advice would be to begin the tour at the Tourism Office (*Plaza de Segovia, 1*) which can provide a lot of information about the town. The Centre for Interpretation of Navalcarnero is also worth visiting.

The streets of Navalcarnero hold many secrets and surprises, for example, many sculptures of contemporary artists.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website
Information about the City Council of Navalcarnero
Accessibility in Navalcarnero

Tourist office

Plaza de Segovia, nº 1

Tel. 91 91 810 11 41 / 42

Opening hours: 9 am to 2 pm.

Weekends: 11 am to 1 pm, 5 pm to 6 pm.

Closed on Sunday afternoons.

Not to be missed...

Although only partially accessible, especially for visitors on wheelchairs, the caves are one of the most famous and surprising attractions of Navalcarnero. Possibly used to store wine and food, they are the town's true "hidden architecture". The Centre for Interpretation provides more in-depth information on these caves.

Navalcarnero is one of the towns in Madrid awarded the "Villa" status

A town whose full name is "Villa Real de Navalcarnero" was always going to enjoy "Villa" status. A visit to Navalcarnero provides a good dose of rest and relaxation. The medieval town dotted with squares, and its surrounding landscape of pine groves, are the perfect destination for a wine-tasting trip.

Must-see attractions...

Segovia Square: one of the town's main attractions, recipient of the 2001 Europa Nostra Award. Three of its four sides are porticoed, and have overhanging balconies of wood and wrought iron. The **Casa Consistorial** or town hall is the town's most emblematic building and stands next to the **Asunción Church**, thus creating an architectural ensemble which was awarded Site of Cultural Interest status in 2000.



Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, Navalcarnero

Parish church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción: The Mudejar tower of this parish church is an especially noteworthy element. The church features several frescoes and three paintings dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Its altarpiece by Pedro de la Torre representing the Virgen de la Concepción is considered one of the Baroque masterpieces of the Region of Madrid.

Plaza de la Veracruz, s/n



partially accessible

Centre for Interpretation: It is located in a traditional farmstead whose main structure is still standing. The courtyards, the cellar, the stables and the cave can be easily identified. Although the building has been renovated to house a modern exhibition space, a walk through the house allows us to appreciate the history, culture and heritage of Navalcarnero.

Calle San José, 4



partially accessible

Casa de la Lonja: This 18th century manor house stands in one of the town's busiest squares. Behind its façade, an unadorned but beautiful courtyard houses a shop-museum that depicts the shops of the past.

Plazuela del Mercado, 18.



Alonso Arreo Square: a reminder of Navalcarnero's revolutionary past, this square is named after the town's mayor at the time of the Revolt of the Comuneros, a hero who fought under Juan Bravo. IT is currently closed to visitors and access is only granted to guided tours.

















A little refreshment...

Notwithstanding the fact that Navalcarnero is located in the Autonomous Region of Madrid, its ties to Segovia cannot be overlooked. Proof of this is that the speciality in most restaurants is, of course, the roast. However, visitors should also try game, lamb, and especially the local chickpea stew, Called *olla del segador*, it is a variation of Madrid's better-known *cocido madrileño* and an exquisite traditional dish.

But of course, the most iconic product is wine. And nothing pairs better with these delectable dishes as a good local wine. Malvar whites, Garnacha reds and rosés... Navalcarnero wineries offer a wide range of wines, from young wines to more complex *crianza*, *reserva* and signature wines.

These are some of the most famous restaurants:

LA POSADA			
	partially accessible	partially accessible	
PERI TAVERN			
	accessible	partially accessible	
LAS TORRES TAVERN			
	partially accessible	partially accessible	
LAS CUEVAS DEL CARNERO RESTAURANT			
REINA BAKERY AND CAFÉ			
	accessible	partially accessible	
VICENTE TAVERN			
	accessible		
WINERY MUÑOZ MARTÍN			
	partially accessible	partially accessible	

For a sweet finish, don't forget to try their oil and lard buns, sprinkled with sugar.



Centre for Interpretation, Navalcarnero

Save the date...

In late August-early September, the **Real Mercado del Siglo de Oro**, a festival of regional tourist interest, marks the anniversary of the wedding between Philip IV and Maria Anna of Austria with a street market in the style of the Spanish Golden Age. For a few days, the entire town takes on 17th century trappings, and artisans set up stalls to sell products to visitors. Shows, music, plays and traditional games complete the festivities just before the feast of the town's patron saint.

In the summer, **Wine and Jazz Evenings** constitute a perfect blend of music and wine tasting that should not be missed.

Further information:



Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Navalcarnero

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tu4all Spain

Accessibility in Navalcarnero

Volverás..tienes mil razones....

Casa de la Cadena, is the palace where Philip IV and Maria Anna of Austria spent their wedding night. The current façade is a replica of the original one. The name of the house refers to a chain that used to hang from two granite guard-stones to protect the door.

Plaza de don Francisco Sandoval Caballero

The historical San Sebastián Park occupies the place where the Church of Saint Sebastian once stood. Today, it is a park that celebrates the history of Navalcarnero and at the same time is a place of leisure for locals and visitors.



accessible



Coracera's Castle, San Martín de Valdeiglesias

Day 2. San Martín de Valdeiglesias

After visiting Navalcarnero, an option would be to spend the night in San Martín de Valdeiglesias and spend the second day visiting this town. To get to San Martín de Valdeiglesias, which is 68 km away from the capital city, take road M-507 for 45 minutes. The town's personality has been shaped by its history, culture and nature. Its historical centre remains largely unchanged since the Middle Ages which makes this a remarkable visit. Although walking the steep streets is not easy, , a stroll around the beautiful historic centre is definitely worth the effort.

A bit of history...

The county originally called “*Val de Iglesias*”, or “the Vale of Churches”, is rich in history, as evidenced by its monumental heritage which include the Castillo de la Coracera, the Parish Church, and the seven shrines that give the town its name. The oldest remains are Visigoth tombs carved in granite, located in the areas of Andrinoso, Vernabeleba and Molino Quemado. Additionally, this area was inhabited by the Vettonees in the 3rd century BCE, as the famous sculptures of the Bulls of Guisando are nearby.

After the reconquest of Castille from Islamic rule, King Alphonse VII ordered to the valley to be repopulated by people from other areas and founded the Monasterio de Santa María la Real de Valdeiglesias, now located in the municipality of Pelayos de la Presa, which brought all the monks in the area under one roof. Until 1434, the hamlet that emerged around the shrine dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours was governed by the Monasterio de Santa María la Real, but, later that year, these lands were bought for the price of 30,000 *maravedíes* by Don Álvaro de Luna, Constable of Castille and Grand Master of the Order of St. James of the Sword, and vassal to King John II. The order to build the Castillo de la Coracera is attributed to Don Álvaro de Luna. After his fall from grace and subsequent beheading in Valladolid and his estate passed from one owner to another until it was finally acquired by the Duque del Infantado, a nobleman who belonged to the powerful Mendoza family and was married to Don Álvaro de Luna’s daughter.

In the Middle Ages, successive lords of the town used it as a place of recreation, and, occasionally, as their residence. The town derived its economic wealth from the production of oil, figs and honey. also It also produced wine, which was very much appreciated by the royal court and the writers of the time: Cervantes and Lope de Vega devoted many pages to extolling the virtues of these wines. These wines were already being exported back in the day and today they have become all the more famous worldwide.

Out and about...

The best place to start the tour is the Tourism Office, at the entrance to **Castillo de la Coracera**, in one of the most accessible areas of the town. As recommended before, try and take a stroll through the historical centre. Other areas worth visiting are the old **Railway Station** now a Youth Centre, the **Auditorio Gustavo Pérez Puig**, the **Town Hall** (dating back to 1834) or the **Bullfighting Ring**, built on 1859 on the site of an ancient monastery. And, of course, the **Plaza de la Corredera**, the town's true hub.

Not to be missed...

The Coracera's Castle, today an attractive museum, is the true symbol of the town and represents everything that makes San Martín de Valdeiglesias a truly special place: history, tourism and nature. It houses the **Tourism Office**, and has magnificent views of a unique natural landscape. It is rich in history. In addition to the history of Don Álvaro de Luna and his descendants, it was also the



Coracera's Castle, San Martín de Valdeiglesias

residence of Isabella I of Castile when she was confirmed as the successor to the throne of Spain in the ceremony known as the Treaty of the Bulls of Guisando.

During the Peninsular War, the town was occupied by Napoleonic troops and in the Spanish Civil War, it served as a base for the German Condor Legion.



partially accessible

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Information about the City Council of San Martín de Valdeiglesias

Information about the west mountains range area

Tourist office – Castillo de la Coracera

Plaza del castillo, s/n

Tel. 670 640 313 (only weekends)

info@castillodelacoracera.com

San Martín de Valdeiglesias is one of the towns in Madrid awarded the “Villa” status

This town includes a series of tourist attractions that make it unique. A true nature reserve in the western reaches of the Sierra de Madrid, its historic importance is underscored by the medieval remains in the town centre and, of course, by the Castillo de la Coracera. San Martín de Valdeiglesias can also claim to have the one Blue Flag beach in the entire Autonomous Region of Madrid, the beach of the San Juan reservoir, an ideal spot for water sports.

Must-see attractions...

Coracera’s Castle: the popular name for the officially designated Castillo de Don Álvaro de Luna who, history suggests, commissioned the building of the castle in the mid-15th century after he purchased the land from the monks of the Monastery of Santa María de Valdeiglesias. However, other sources suggest that the castle was built on the remains of a previous keep from the 3rd century. In any case, it was a defensive, not residential castle, although noblemen did use it as a hunting box. It has a square floor plan surrounded by narrow cubes. The sturdy keep, or Torre del Homenaje, is especially noteworthy.

The Tourism Office, as well as halls to be leased for events, are located within the castle’s precinct.

Plaza del Castillo, s/n



Coracera’s Castle



partially accessible

Bishop Martín's Church: this church stands before the Town Hall, and is built in the Herrerian style with a rectangular floor plan typical of basilicas and three naves with barrel vaulted roofs. The high altar is decorated with a Baroque altarpiece dedicated to St. Martin of Tours and attributed to Lucas Jordán, a student of Diego de Rivera. The other main attraction is the 16th century Plateresque altarpiece dedicated to the Virgen de la Nueva, and a small status of the Virgen de la Estrella which, according to the *Cantigas de Santa María*, was the property of King Alfonso X, who lost it during a hunting trip.

Plaza Real, s/n

The Bosque Encantado (The Enchanted Forest), or enchanted forest, is defined as a “theme park for plant sculptures”. It is a truly magical and unique garden where hedges have been masterfully trimmed to represent mythological images or animals. It also houses the largest geode collection in Spain.

Camino de Marañones.

Teléfono 608 74 54 00



El Bosque Encantado

Chapel of Ecce Homo, is one of the original shrines that give the area its name. Still standing, it was built in the 15th century in the Gothic style.



Sight of San Martín de Valdeiglesias

A little refreshment...

As early as the 17th century, the town's chronicles mentioned its oil, figs and honey. The cuisine of San Martín de Valdeiglesias is shaped by its proximity to the Sierra de Gredos: rich dishes, an abundance of high-quality beef and local delicacies such as *patatas revolconas* (mashed potatoes, seasoned with garlic and *pimentón*, and topped with fried lardons or pork rind). An overview of the town's specialities would not be complete without mentioning game and mushrooms.

Or without pointing to sweets such as *arrope* (fruit in grape syrup), or *retorcidos*, fried twists made from wheat and almond flour, white wine, pomace and orange juice.

This is one of the best establishments in terms of accessibility:

SIETE CAPILLAS RESTAURANT



partially accessible

Notwithstanding the above, the flagship product of San Martín de Valdeiglesias is wine: **Cervantes** mentioned the wines of San Martín de Valdeiglesias in “The Dialogue of Dogs” as “*the most abundant wine in the Spanish Court*”. So did **Arturo Pérez Reverte** in the first chapter of “Crossing the Assassin’s Bridge,” in the Captain Alatriste book series: *Alatriste took another look at Quevedo. The poet nodded to him, friendly as ever, as if they had shared half a gallon of San Martín de Valdeiglesias wine at the Turk’s inn just the evening before...*”


The town has its own subdenomination of origin within “Vinos de Madrid”. Several wineries are open to visitors, who can learn about the traditional methods of production and taste a nice glass of wine.

Some wineries offer guided tours. Check availability at:

 Wine Tourism in Madrid

Take it slow...

San Martín de Valdeiglesias is synonymous with nature, calm and tranquility to all who lodge in its hotels. We recommend this 18th-century mansion in the centre of the town.

 Hacienda La Coracera



Save the date...

Why not go hiking in the area to better enjoy nature?

Even if you dislike bullfighting, the **bullfighting ring** is worth a visit. It sits in the middle of the town due to the fact that it was built almost a century and a half ago on the remains of an old Franciscan convent. The gate of the bullring consists of a round arch reinforced by granite pilasters and lintel, and is the only remaining trace of the former convent.



partially accessible

Further information:



Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of San Martín de Valdeiglesias

Information about the west mountains range area

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in San Martín de Valdeiglesias

A thousand reasons to return...

Did you know that the streets of San Martín de Valdeiglesias were used as the setting for films such as *The Red Squirrel* or *El oro de Moscú*? The town has close links to culture. In fact, the **Teatro Municipal** or the **Cultural Centre La Estación** often put on interesting theatre, music and exhibition programmes.

CULTURAL CENTRE LA ESTACIÓN



partially accessible

The town takes its name from its numerous churches such as the aforementioned **Ecce Homo Church**, the **Ermita del Rosario**, the **Ermita de la Salud** or the **Ermita del Cristo del Humilladero**.



Sight of Patones

The treasures of Sierra Norte: **Patones and Torrelaguna**

The Sierra Norte of the Region of Madrid is a wide area including the Sierra del Rincón y Sierra de la Cabrera, as well as towns that enjoy the status of “Villa de Madrid”. This is one of the most protected areas in the region, and home to a wide variety of ecosystems such as high mountains, water environment and the sources of the two most important rivers of the area.

Two of the towns granted Villa status are Patones and Torrelaguna, two sites that best represent the ecological and tourist value of the region. They allow visitors to connect with stunningly beautiful landscapes just one hour away from the capital city. These two towns are surrounded by lush nature and also boast a rich cultural and historic heritage.

What we propose is a two-day route, best made by car (although information on public transportation is provided at the end of the chapter), through the particular charm and heritage of the villages in this part of the mountains. The visit can be limited to a single day if necessary, although spending a night in this pretty landscape is certainly worth it.



Sight of Patones

Day 1. Patones

When travelling from Madrid, visitors must first go to Torrelaguna to reach Patones. However, strange as it may seem, our advice is to make Patones your starting point. In this case, you must take the A-1 motorway (Northern Motorway) and at the 50 km marker, take the exit to Torrelaguna via the National Highway 320. After leaving Torrelaguna behind, take the M-102 to Patones.

The town is divided in two neighbourhoods (Patones de Arriba and Patones de Abajo). Most local inhabitants live in Patones de Abajo, where all public services are located. Conversely, **Patones de Arriba** is a pretty village which has earned Villa de Madrid status

for its representative architectural style in slate called *arquitectura negra* (literally, “black architecture”) which is unique to this area in the Autonomous Region of Madrid. The city centre maintains the appearance of a town built entirely in this style.

To access Patones de Arriba we recommend using the convenient car parking in Patones de Abajo and walking to Patones de Arriba through the Senda del Barranco. This route can be made by minibus 913 (departure at 11 am) although the way back must be traversed on foot. The minibus service is available on weekends. Only vehicles with the corresponding disability authorisation may park in Patones de Arriba, in any of the parking spaces for visitors marked in blue.

A bit of history...

Maybe due to its architectural singularity, the town had the air of an independent kingdom in the 18th century and legend has it that it resisted invasion by Napoleonic troops in the 19th century. According to legend, this resistance was based, in fact, on the ability of the town to pass undetected, so that not even Napoleon himself, in his advance through Spain, could find its location.

The oldest human remains in the area have been located in a cave called **Reguerillo Cave** (now closed for conservation reasons) and date back to the Upper Palaeolithic age. Just above the cave is the **Dehesa de la Oliva Archaeological Site**, where archaeological evidence ranging from Prehistorical times to Roman and Visigoth times has been found.

Many centuries after, in the 18th century, Patones was under the dominion of the Villa of Uceda. The fact that Uceda is not particularly close to Patones forced the locals to make long walks to the Villa every time they needed to fulfil any administrative procedure, encouraged Patones to proclaim its “independence” and even appoint a “King”, who acted as a governor or justice of the peace and was in charge of delivering justice in town.

Years later, during the Peninsular Wars, Patones escaped invasion. Legend has it that the Napoleonic troops could not find the town; however, a series of documents located in the Town’s Archive are proof that taxes were paid to the French troops staying in nearby Torrelaguna.

Currently, the town is divided in two neighbourhoods: Patones de Abajo was built in the mid-20th century, next to the main road and by the Jarama river. In any case, the peculiar layout of Patones de Arriba and its rich history has made it one of the most picturesque towns in Sierra Norte. For this reason, the town was granted Site of Cultural Interest status in 1999.



Streets of Patones



Bridge in Patones

Out and about...

Patones de Arriba is a perfect example of a town built in the *arquitectura negra* style. It is a very similar experience to visiting an open-air slate museum. Slate is abundant here, which is the reason why it has been used for building for centuries. A stroll about Patones is a walk to the past.

Not to be missed...

If you can, the ecological route **El Barranco** is not to be missed. Besides logistic reasons (it is easier to park your car in Patones de Abajo), this ecological path that joins the two neighbourhoods (Patones de Arriba and Patones de Abajo) is designed as an interpretation path that allows to enjoy a unique landscape: a true natural and geological gem along barely 800 m.

The path is parallel to the Patones stream, which runs deep between limestone walls. As you go up, you can admire the different ecosystems in the area, or the hydraulic works using communicating vessels techniques from the Canal de Isabel II, using the steep landscaped to displace water naturally.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website
Information about the City Council of Patones

Municipal Tourism Office

Plaza del Llano, nº 1

28189 Patones de Arriba

Opens Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 11 am to 6 pm

Tel. 91 843 29 06

turismo@patones.net



partially accessible

*Patones is one of the towns in
Madrid awarded the “Villa” status*

When visiting Patones, you find yourself in a Madrid landscape very different of what you'll have in mind. Patones combines a rich historical and artistic heritage, a lush natural landscape and a very distinct personality due to the traditions and identity of the town, which was the first in the Autonomous Region of Madrid to fight rural exodus by inventing what would become country tourism. Nowadays, most locals work in the tourism and hospitality sectors especially since Patones de Arriba was granted Site of Cultural Interest status and classified as an Historical Site in 1999.

Must-see attractions...

Old San José Church: born as a stone and lime shrine, it became a proper church in 1753. It includes several altarpieces and images of saints, including St. Joseph, Our Lady of the Mount Carmel, or the patron saint of Patones, la Virgen de las Candelas (literally, Our Lady of the Candles). A good part of them are now gone. After Patones de Abajo was built, the church was abandoned until, fortunately, it was restored at the end of the 20th century as a centre for Tourist, Educational, Cultural and Leisure Initiatives (CITECO). Now it also houses the Office for Tourist Information, which organizes guided routes of the town.

Wash-house and Fuente Nueva (The New Fountain): The traditional wash-house, which doubled as a place of meeting for women at a time when a woman in a tavern was frowned upon,

is perfectly conserved, and two distinct areas can be identified: one for washing and one for rinsing clothes. The Fuente Nueva or news fountains dated from 1908 and is a source of excellent water, channelled from the slate conduits to be used in the wash-house.

Pontón de la Oliva Reservoir: This impressive engineering works was, back in the time, the first water reservoir in the Autonomous Region of Madrid. Today is no longer in use, albeit it can be visited to enjoy its beautiful surroundings. The reservoir can be accessed from Patones de Abajo, taking the M-134 route to El Atazar, where you can park.

El Atazar Reservoir: the El Atazar Reservoir is the biggest in the area. It includes a vantage point from where to admire the impressive double-curved arch dam. To reach El Atazar from Patones de Abajo, take the M-34 route to El Atazar.

A little refreshment...

Towns in Sierra Norte take their food very seriously. Local cuisine consists in simple recipes in which meat, vegetables, pulses, honey and seasonal products really shine. This pretty location has many fine restaurants; we advise you to reserve beforehand in order to secure a table., Of the town many restaurants, PREDIF recommends the ones listed below according to their accessibility for physically disabled persons:



Sight of the countryside of Patones



partially accessible

PICOTEO BAR (RAFAEL'S BAR)

PICOTEO BAR (RAFAEL'S BAR)

EL RINCÓN DE PATONES RESTAURANT

LAS ERAS RESTAURANT

LA CABAÑA RESTAURANT

Take it slow...

If you wish to spend the night in Patones, the following accommodation premises are accessible according to PREDIF:



accessible

MELONES COTTAGE

RURAL TOURISTIC APARTMENTS

Further information:



Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Patones

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in the north mountain range of Madrid (Sierra Norte)



Main Square, Torrelaguna

Day 2. Torrelaguna

After enjoying what nature and gastronomy had to offer in Patones, next to the next step of your adventure: Torrelaguna. Barely 6 km away from Patones, this town, also a Villa, boasts an important past, and is the hometown of important historical figures, such as the Cardinal Cisneros or María Toribia, later known as Santa María de la Cabeza. At present, it is still a remarkable town, with a rich artistic and historic heritage, lush natural surroundings and a fine cuisine.

A bit of history...

This area was populated since Prehistoric times, as evidenced by an Iberian *castro* (hillfort) and other archaeological remains. For centuries, Torrelaguna was ruled from nearby Uceda until it became a free Villa in 1930. The town's heyday came at the end of the 16th century, marked by the accession to power of Cardinal Cisneros, the most important local.

After suffering the devastating effects of the Peninsular War, the town thrived again in the 20th century thanks to the building of the Canal de Isabel II, whose presence is evident in the town.

Out and about...

This Villa was granted Historical Site status in 1973. It was no wonder. It only takes a walk around its streets to appreciate that the town is a living catalogue of architectural styles. Coming from Patones, you can take *Calle de la Cava* and then park in *Plaza de Mayo*. Regardless of where you have booked a guided tour or not, the best place to start your route is *Plaza Mayor*, where you can find the **Tourism Office**.





St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Torrelaguna

Not to be missed...

Torrelaguna was the hometown of important historical figures such as Cardinal Cisneros, Archbishop of Toledo, Grand Inquisitor of Castille and twice regent of Castille during the sickness spells of Queen Joanna the Mad. María Toribia, the wife of patron saint of Madrid Saint Isidore the Labourer, and later known as Santa María de la Cabeza lived here, as did Juan de Mena, poet and author of *Laberinto de Fortuna* (*Labyrinth of Fortune*), a remarkable medieval epic poem. Mena, a good friend of el Marqués de Santillana and close to the Mendoza family and to Don Álvaro de Luna, died in Torrelaguna when he fell from his donkey. He is buried in the town's church.

In the 20th century, the town served as the stage for Cary Grant and Sofia Loren's love, under the suspicious look of Frank Sinatra, in *The Pride and the Passion*. Besides these classic movies, many other pictures and ads have been filmed in Torrelaguna.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Torrelaguna

Municipal Tourism Office

Plaza Mayor, nº 8

28180 Torrelaguna

Tel. 91 843 14 03 / 636 614 872

turismotorrelaguna@gmail.com

*Torrelaguna is one of the towns in
Madrid awarded the “Villa” status*

Acknowledgement of the historic and artistic heritage of Torrelaguna, evidenced in its religious and civil architecture, and the abundance of important historical figures that lived or were born here are many of the reasons to grant this town the status of “Villa de Madrid”. Its genuine streets and its unique landscape make a trip to Torrelaguna a magical experience to remember for years to come.



Aerial view of Torrelaguna

Must-see attractions...

Church of St. Mary Magdalene: works on this church began in the 15th century, but it was not completed until the 17th century. It is one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the Autonomous Region of Madrid. In the interior of the Church, Gothic elements coexist with others in Renaissance style. Altarpieces are remarkable, especially the high altarpiece, in Churrigueresque style.

Town Hall: Housed in an old granary founded by Cardinal Cisneros to prepare for grain shortages.

Take it slow...

The area surrounding Torrelaguna is very much appreciated by speleologists and paragliders, but also by trekkers and nature lovers. After completing the visit, we advise you to rest in a small rural hotel located in the town centre, which also has a restaurant.

RURAL HOTEL POSADA DEL CAMINO REAL



Further information:



Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Torrelaguna

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in Torrelaguna

A thousand reasons to return....

The Shrine of Nuestra Señora de la Piedad, sometimes called the Shrine of Santa María de la Cabeza, is the oldest church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Community of Madrid, since it predates the Arab invasion. Today, only the single-nave layout remains, together with a part of the walls and the apses. It is said that Santa María de la Cabeza took care of this shrine so dutifully that, at her death, she was buried within its walls. However, in the 18th century, her remains were moved to Madrid and buried next to those of her husband, Saint Isidore the Labourer. Every year, a pilgrimage is held in her honour.

A good time to visit Torrelaguna is during the Cruces de Mayo festivities. With this occasion, the entire town is decorated by flower crosses, which are visited by the locals. This type of festivities, liked by some historians to nature and tree worships in European pre-Christian rites, is especially popular in Torrelaguna.

The **Corpus Christi** festivities were recovered in 2010 and are increasingly popular. The associations and confraternities prepare carpets and altars for the processions, which is worth seeing. At the Tourism Office they will give you more information.



Aerial view of Manzanares El Real

The lands of the Mendoza family:
Manzanares El Real and Buitrago del Lozoya

The noble Mendoza family has its origin in Alava, in the southern Basque Country, but came to Castille under the rule of King Alfonso XI, in the 14th century. In the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance, many of the members of this family came to prominence thanks to their close association with the House of Trastámara. Besides being one of the main supports of the House of Trastámara in Castille thanks to their notorious skill for political intrigue, they were also important patrons of the arts.

These two skills were common in the family and they come together at the headquarters of this powerful family, fine Palacio del Infantado in Guadalajara, but the architectural heritage of the Mendoza family in the Autonomous Region of Madrid is vast. From an historic point of view, two of the most important estates of the Mendoza family are the castles at **Manzanares el Real** and **Buitrago de Lozoya**.

Here, we propose a two-day route, visiting first Manzanares el Real and then Buitrago de Lozoya.



La Pedriza, Manzanares el Real

Day 1. Manzanares El Real

Located in the north-west of the Autonomous Region of Madrid, less than an hour away from the capital city, Manzanares el Real is a magical place in which nature and history come together in a landscape shaped by the rocks eroded by time. This area is known as **La Pedriza**. Manzanares el Real is 53 km away from the capital city. The best route is to take road M-607 (Road to Colmenar) and, after passing Colmenar Viejo, take M-609 to Soto del Real/ Miraflores. After 3 km, take the road up to the right which crosses the highway on the left side (M-862). In the following roundabout, take the third exit to road M-608 and in the next one, take again the third exit. After 5 km you will arrive to Manzanares el Real.

There are more options, either by car or by public transportation. More information at the end of the chapter.



Manzanares El Real Castle

A bit of history...

The history of Manzanares el Real extends way beyond that of its castle. Archaeological research and findings suggest that this spot was already populated in prehistoric times, and had important Carpetani, Vettone and Visigoth settlements. However, the town did not thrive until the mid-13th century, well into the Arab rule, when it was repopulated with people from Segovia. A fight for the area ensued, and did not end until Alfonso X took the town and its surroundings under his own rule, from which the area's original name, "El Real de Manzanares", is derived. In the 14th century, the area was granted to the Mendoza family, which marked the beginning of its heyday, which lasted throughout the 15th and 16th centuries.

Out and about...

At the feet of Sierra de Guadarrama, close to La Pedriza massif and by the waters of the Santillana, Manzanares el Real is typical sierra town with all the mountain charm and the good cuisine of the area. Although the reservoir was not built until the early 20th century - however, it seems to have been there forever. Now, it creates a habitat for many plants, fish and birds, and provides the city of Madrid with clean water.

The surroundings of the town are as relevant as the town is. This area is paradise for mountain climbers, trekkers or bikers, and horse rides are available too. Sadly, a stroll in its deeply steep streets may not be available to all. But taking a walk, or watching the sunset from one of the benches by the castle walls, is an attraction in itself and accessible for all.

Not to be missed...

Did you know that the region of Madrid was born in Manzanares el Real? The ceremony of constitution of the Regional Parliament and the appointment of the Committee in charge of preparing the Statute of Autonomy were held in the Mendoza Castle in 1982.

This makes the town all the more relevant in the history of the region of Madrid.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Cultural Heritage in Manzanares El Real

Information about the City Council of Manzanares El Real

Tourist office

Calle del Cura, nº 5

Tel. 91 878 01 96

oficina.turismo@manzanareselreal.es

*Manzanares el Real is one of the towns
in Madrid awarded the “Villa” status*

This is not only for its fairy-tale castle, but also to the fact that it is one of the best-preserved villages in the Autonomous Region of Madrid. Manzanares el Real is a genuine place boasting a rich historical heritage, beautiful natural landscapes and delicious cuisine, and offers many open-air activities. All this makes Manzanares el Real a really special, unforgettable town.



Church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves, Manzanares El Real

Must-see attractions...

Castle of Manzanares el Real: the best-preserved castle in the entire Autonomous Region of Madrid, its first stone was laid in 1475 next to the Romanesque-Mudéjar shrine dedicated to Santa María de la Nava. This palace-fortress held by the Mendoza family was built in Isabelline style and is a perfect example of military architecture in 15th century's Castille- Its interior is not entirely accessible, but you can admire the views from the walls or enjoy its tranquil garden, which recreates the gardens of its heyday. The castle offers an intense activity schedule throughout the year. You can visit the castle website for more information.

Calle Cañada, s/n

Tel. 91 853 00 08



Information about the Castle of Manzanares El Real

Church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves: this small church was built in the late 15th century by order of the nobleman II Duque del Infantado, Don Íñigo López de Mendoza y Luna, after the shrine of the village was included in the enclosure of the castle, depriving the village of a place of worship. Its layout includes three naves separated by Renaissance arches, and is roofed by a ribbed vault attributed to Juan Guas. In the southern side, the original layout was changed in the 16th century to include a chapel with an impressive vault.



partially accessible

Peña Sacra Shrine: It rises on a rock on the way to La Pedriza and is linked to old Druidic rites. The original shrine was built in the 16th century, and was enlarged in the next century. Particularly striking is its Gothic ribbed vault, designed to look like a flower.

Old Castle of Manzanares el Real: Mentioned for the first time in mid-14th century, when King Alfonso XI, who was a keen hunter, requested carpenters “to work on my palaces in Manzanares”, it was mostly dismantled and its masonry reused to build the new Mendoza Castle and avoid having an empty fortress for anyone to occupy. It is believed that the Marqués de Santillana, Don Íñigo López de Mendoza, who was also a poet, wrote some of the poems called Serranillas here.

A little refreshment...

The cuisine of the area reminds us that, back in the day, the main activity of the upper valley of the Manzanares river was livestock farming. The meats of the area are particularly tender and tasty, and the true speciality of the town. Surprisingly, its fish dishes are also famous, based on sophisticated recipes prepared with high quality fish from the nearby river. Some of the delicacies you may taste include *patatas en caldero con cabrito* (potato and goat stew), *cocido* soup with a hint of spearmint, and rabbit in a bay and vinegar sauce called *escabeche*. Where to taste all this? Try any of the following restaurants:

CASA GOYO RESTAURANT

LA JARA RESTAURANT

LA CHARCA VERDE RESTAURANT

THE MONTAÑA TAVERN AND LA REUNIÓN RESTAURANT

Take it slow...

The town of Manzanares el Real and its surroundings are an invitation to rest and relaxation. It has plenty cosy hotels and cottages. Why not try one of them?

RURAL ACCOMMODATION LA PEDRIZA   
 partially accessible *partially accessible*

RURAL ACCOMMODATION EL MIRADOR DE LA MALICIOSA 
 partially accessible

Further information:



Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Manzanares El Real

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in Manzanares El Real

A thousand reasons to return....

The Ethnological and Archaeological Museum, includes a room for the different remains found in the town archaeological sites and effectively constitutes a walk along the town's history.

ETHNOLOGICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



partially accessible

FOUNTAIN "LAS ERMITAS"

THE OLD BRIDGE AND THE ANCIENT GLEN



The Mendoza's Castle, Buitrago del Lozoya

Day 2. Buitrago del Lozoya

If you come in your own car, take the road M-608 from Manzanares el Real to Soto del Real. Continue by this road for about 15 km until reaching the A-1 (the Northern Highway). Drive to Burgos and take exit 74 to Buitrago de Lozoya.

In the middle valley of the Lozoya river, at the feet of the Somosierra mountains, Buitrago rises over a hill almost entirely surrounded by the river, which protects and shelters the town. This is a unique location due to its surrounding landscapes of pine, oak and white oak woods gently leading to orchards irrigated with the waters from the Riosequillo and Puentes Viejas reservoirs.

A bit of history...

Although there is no certainty about this, the origins of Buitrago seem to date back to pre-Roman times. What is certain is the Arab presence in a highly strategic site, as evidenced by the Arab walls that surround the city, probably since the 10th century. However, the first historic documents date to the Christian conquest of the area, at the end of the 11th century, when King Alfonso VI ordered the area to be repopulated.

Alfonso VII gave the town its coat of arms, an oak and a bull, as well as the motto "*Ad alenda pecora*", Latin for "for feeding the sheep". Such coat of arms, which remains to be the coat of arms of the town, confirms the livestock tradition of the area.

In the 14th century, Buitrago de Lozoya was placed under the rule of the Mendozas. Notable visitors flooded then to the town, as King John II and all his court, at the invitation of the first Marqués de Santillana, Íñigo López de Mendoza. Another visitor was the heir of Castile, Princess Joanna *la Beltraneja*, who spent part of her childhood in the castle of Buitrago, as a guest of the Mendozas... or was she their prisoner?

Out and about...

The best place to start your tour is the *plaza de la Constitución*, where a curious bell clock from the early 20th century adorns the watchtower off the walls. Continue along the *calle Cadena* until reaching the bridge called **Puente del Arrabal**, or **Puente Viejo**. This bridge was used by transhumant flocks to cross the river; however, we will use to admire a panoramic view from the west of the walled enclosures. It is best to continue by the **Arco del Piloncillo** until reaching *Calle de la Villa*, where, at your left, you will find the **Medieval Garden**. If it is possible for you, you can climb to the *chemin de ronde* of the walls. Otherwise, you can continue along the wall, by the *Calle de Los Mártires*, at the end of which you will find the **Mendoza Castle**. There you can admire the portion of the walls called the *Coracha*, which actually went into the river water and was designed so that it was possible to fetch water even if the town was sieged.

Now, turn around to go around the castle to the church officially named **Santa María del Castillo** but also known as “the church of the three cultures”. Cross the **Arco de las Nieves** (just at the base of the **Torre del Reloj**), to leave the walled enclosure and you will find yourself again in the *Plaza de la Constitución*. A last walk along the *Calle Real* will take you to the **Museo Picasso**.

PUENTE DEL ARRABAL

MEDIEVAL GARDEN

SANTA MARIA DEL CASTILLO



partially accessible



partially accessible

Not to be missed...

The historic centre of Buitrago de Lozoya is surrounded by an 800 m long wall, the best-preserved defensive construction in the Autonomous Region of Madrid- In many of its sections its moat is the Lozoya river. It was classified as a National Monument in 1931.

The wall was built in the 10th century, under the Arab rule. Its purpose was to protect the town against attacks from the Christian troops hiding in Somosierra. It has been modified several times in the centuries afterwards, but the original tracing has been observed.

You can enter the entirely accessible walled enclosure through the Puerta de las Nieves.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Buitrago del Lozoya

Tourism Office and Exhibition Hall

C/ Tahona, 19 - 28370 Buitrago del Lozoya

Tuesdays to Fridays, 10 am to 2 pm, and 4 pm to 6 pm

Saturdays, 10 am to 2 pm, and 4 pm to 7 pm

Sundays, 10 am to 2 pm Closed on Mondays

Tel. 674 38 12 44 - 918 680 056

turismo@buitrago.org



accessible

Tourism Office on the Walls

Plaza de Angelines Paino, s/n

Tel. 918 681 615



accessible



Sight of Buitrago del Lozoya

Buitrago de Lozoya is one of the towns in Madrid awarded the “Villa status

The walled town was classified as National Monument in 1931 and awarded Site of Cultural Interest status in 1993. A visit to Buitrago de Lozoya takes us back to the Middle Ages. The Museo Picasso containing the Eugenio Arias Collection completes this visit, providing with yet more artistic heritage this beautiful town, stunning under the sun or under the snow.

Must-see attractions...

Puente del Arrabal or Old Bridge: Built in granite and combining masonry and stonework. It is the oldest bridge in town and was used to join the town centre with the outskirts. Although it is difficult to date, it is believed that it could be built around the turn of the 15th century.



Torre del Reloj, Castle of Buitrago del Lozoya

Church of Santa María del Castillo: Built in Gothic style and located within the walls, it dates from the early 16th century, possibly on the site of a predating Mosque, although its different renovations, especially the one carried out after the Spanish Civil War, have given it the appearance of a church mostly built in the Mudejar style. In its interior, the 15th century original Mudéjar coffered ceiling is especially worthy; it was transferred from the old Hospital de San Salvador.

Calle de la Villa, nº2



partially accessible

Torre del Reloj: It is a 16 m-high watchtower off the walls, which marks the main entrance to the walled enclosure. It is believed that it was used as a vantage point and was an important part of the defensive system. The access itself is interesting, since it features a horseshoe arch on the inside and a pointed arch on the outside.



Aerial view of Buitrago del Lozoya

Los Mendoza's Castle and Arco de la Coracha: the castle Buitrago del Lozoya, as we said, is linked to the Mendoza family, and it dates back to the 16th century, a time in which the Mendozas, especially the Marqués de Santillana, were very relevant for the town. The castle itself has a quadrangular layout and its fortified by seven towers. In its heyday, it hosted kings such as John II and Philip II, as well as other important figures, all guests of the Mendoza. However, its longest-staying guest was Joanna *la Beltraneja*, who spent her childhood here.



accessible

The Picasso's Museum, the Eugenio Arias Collection: This Museum, which opened in 1985, is located in the ground floor of the town hall and was created to showcase the collection of Eugenio Arias, who was Picasso's barber and friend. For 26 years, Arias collected an interesting collection of posters, ceramic, lithography and drawings by Picasso. They met and become friends as exiles in France, and, when the barber came back to his hometown, his collection caused the creation of this small but interesting museum.

Plaza de Picasso, nº1.

A little refreshment...

Buitrago de Lozoya offers many examples of cuisine typical of the Sierra. Beef T-bone steak with tender seasonal vegetables, broad beans with *morcilla* (blood sausage) and chorizo, and local vegetables are some of the most exquisite dishes. Castilian influence is patent in the typical roast, which calls to be accompanied by local Madrid wines. In sum, a gastronomic visit to Buitrago de Lozoya will surely be unforgettable.

EL ESPOLÓN RESTAURANT



partially accessible

ART BREAD CAFÉ



partially accessible



partially accessible



REAL CAFÉ



partially accessible



RICKS CAFÉ



partially accessible



QUÉ OS PASA RESTAURANT



partially accessible



ÁLVAREZ BREWERY

LAS MURALLAS RESTAURANT



partially accessible



LA RECOVA PIZZERIA

EL ANDARRIO

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF BUITRAGO DEL LOZOYA

Further information:



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Buitrago del Lozoya

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

Information of accessibility in Buitrago del Lozoya

A thousand reasons to return....

Buitrago de Lozoya's **live Nativity**, although relatively recent (1988), has become an important festivity that attracts more visitors each year. In 2001 it was classified as a Regional Festivity of Tourist Interest. Brilliantly, the live Nativity uses the entire enclosed walls as its stage.



The Prince Garden, Aranjuez

At the heart of the revolution:
Aranjuez and Chinchón

This area, located at the meeting of the rivers Jarama y Tajuña is known as Las Vegas (Spanish for The Groves) and has been linked to the Kings of Spain since the times of Emperor Charles V, albeit it was first spotted by his grandparents, Ferdinand and Isabella, called the Catholic Monarchs. Charles' son, Philip II, ordered works to be started to build the old Palace of Aranjuez. After being destroyed twice by fire, the rulers of the House of Bourbon built the palace as it is today. Its grounds were carefully designed and groomed for centuries, which has earned Aranjuez the status of UNESCO Cultural Landscape.

The name of the town will strike a chord with music lovers, but Aranjuez is also a symbol of revolution, as the place where the so-called Tumult of Aranjuez started. Today, this event is celebrated in a festivity which has been classified as Regional Festivity of Tourist Interest. Revolution is also in the air in the nearby Chinchón.

Here, we propose a two-day experience, visiting Aranjuez in the first place, a World Heritage town just a stone's throw away from Madrid, and end ending by enjoying the tasted and smells of Chinchón.



The Royal Palace of Aranjuez

Day 1. Aranjuez

Aranjuez is 49.3 kilometres away from the city of Madrid by the A-4 (Andalusia highway) and taking exit 37. It can also be reached by the C-3 train of the Regional Railway Network: El Escorial - Chamartín - Atocha - Aranjuez

A bit of history...








The history of Aranjuez goes way back before the kings of the House of Bourbon or the House of Habsburg: prehistoric remains have been found as well as references in Roman documents. However, the town does not become important until the Middle Ages. In the 13th century it was awarded to the Order of St. James of the Sword, and under the rule of the House of Habsburg construction of the palace and gardens began. Aranjuez sided with the winning House of Bourbon in the War of the Spanish Succession, and the subsequent Bourbon kings, in appreciation, made the town their preferred summer headquarters.

The rebellious nature of town became evident after the Treaty of Aranjuez, signed here, by which Spain joined Napoleon's troops against the English. Seven years later, in March 1808, Prince Ferdinand fled to France, and a mob loyal to the king assaulted the house of his Prime Minister, Manuel Godoy, blaming him for instigation the Prince's decision to flee. The Prince had to intervene personally to save Godoy from being lynched, and seized the opportunity to convince his own father, King Charles IV, to abdicate and make him King. These events are known as the Tumult of Aranjuez and are now celebrated in a festivity which has been awarded Regional Festivity of Tourist Interest status.

Out and about...

Centuries ago, Aranjuez was only inhabited by the visiting courts and its servants; any other settlement was forbidden. When, centuries later, King Ferdinand VI allowed a town to be built, intense previous urban planning was carried out in order to plan an urban layout according the modern standards of that age. Street layout was made by Santiago Bonavía, who empathised straight lines, homogeneity and monumentality. Subsequent contributions by Sabatini and Juan de Villanueva gave the finishing touches to a town which was to become an important industrial and trading hub.

This urban layout, still identifiable today, made Aranjuez to be recognized in 1984 as a Site of Cultural Interest under the category of Artistic and Historic Site. The best place to start your tour is *Plaza de San Antonio*, where you can also find the **tourist office**. A guided tour of the **Royal Palace** and the **Jardín de la Isla** are also very interesting.

TOURISM OFFICE				
	partially accessible	parcial		
THE ROYAL PALACE OF ARANJUEZ				
	accessible	accessible	accessible	
THE ISLAND GARDEN				
	accessible			

Not to be missed...

A very romantic way to make the trip to Aranjuez and its areas is on-board the **Strawberry Train** or **Tren de la Fresa**. This historic train was inaugurated in 1984 to celebrate the second-oldest railway line in the Iberian Peninsula, which made the trip from Madrid to Aranjuez and made its maiden trip on 8 February, 1951. The train is a replica of a mid-19th century train, with wooden wagons and stewardesses in Victorian attire, which offer passengers typical Aranjuez strawberries to snack on.

The Strawberry Train is operation in spring and autumn, and makes an unforgettable visit, although unfortunately it not accessible for passengers in wheelchairs. Even the starting point is charming: the old Delicias Station in Madrid, that today houses the Railway Museum. More information and schedules in the Museum web page.

 The Railway Museum

Anticipation is half the pleasure...

 Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Tourism office

Plaza de San Antonio, 9

Tel. 918 91 04 27

infoturismo@aranjuez.es

Street tourist information:

Look out for people in a yellow vest: they are tourism agents. They are ready to help you with a brochure, a map or any information you need.

Mobile Tourism Office: It travels along tourist areas and is easy to identify.

 Tourism information about the City Council of Aranjuez

World Heritage

Site Status

In December 2001, UNESCO granted Aranjuez World Cultural Landscape status. This was a recognition of one of the most important tourist destinations in the Autonomous Region of Madrid, marked by its monumental palace and harmonious historic centre, and located in a lush natural environment characterized by gardens, orchards and riverside woods. The town showcases the typical architectural elements of French baroque and the principles of urban planning in the Enlightenment. Aranjuez's long streets and round square evidence a careful planning with an evident aesthetic goal.

Must-see attractions...

The Royal Palace: this building was the preferred place by Bourbon Kings to spend their springs, but was also used as the administrative buildings for the Royal Sites. It stands on what used to be a manor for the Masters of the Order of St. James of the Sword, built by Juan Bautista de Toledo and Sabatini under the orders of Philip II). However, its structure was made in wood and it was twice burnt to the ground. For this reason, in 1717 King Philip V ordered architect Pedro Caro Idrogo to build an entirely new palace. The main façade was authored by Giacomo Bonavia under the rule of Ferdinand VI, while the two lateral wings and the open church were built by Sabatini under the rule of Charles III. The front side of the palace is adorned by statues celebrating the three kings that contributed to its construction: Philip II, Ferdinand VI and Charles III.



The Royal Palace of Aranjuez

The ornaments are made in bare red brick which makes a striking contrast with the white stone from Colmenar de Oreja used in plinths, angles, ledges and balconies. Inside the palace, one of the most striking elements is the Rococo stairway banister, the Mirror Hall and the Porcelain Room, which is considered the masterpiece of the porcelain factories of the Fábrica de Porcelanas del Buen Retiro. Besides, the Palace houses paintings by Lucas Jordán and Vicente López y Esquivel, furniture in many styles and an impressive collection of clocks, lams and sculpture that give an idea of how everyday life was for a royal family. However, the Palace's true gem is not inside the Palace but outside: its beautiful gardens!



Information provided by Patrimonio Nacional about the Royal Palace of Aranjuez

Accessibility in the Royal Palace of Aranjuez



accessible



partially accessible



Gardens: Considered one of the most beautiful gardens in the worlds, it is composed by four distinct gardens: el **Jardín de la Isla (Island Garden)**, the **Jardín del Rey (King's Garden)**, the **Jardín del Parterre (Hedge Garden)** and the **Jardín del Príncipe (Prince's Garden)**. The first two combine Spanish artistic elements with other from Italian, Flemish and Arabic traditions. The Jardín del Parterre was inspired by French gardens. All of them showcase a wide range of vegetal species, dotted by stone and marble foundations and classic mythological sculptures. A stroll through these gardens can become a walk from the Renaissance to the Romantic era, passing by the Baroque. It is no wonder that composers such as Joaquín Rodrigo or painters such as Santiago Rusiñol were inspired by them. Rusiñol, in fact, contributed to make these beautiful gardens known in a time where, abandoned by the royals, had become an almost secret spot. Rusiñol's love for Aranjuez and its gardens never faltered and he died here in 1931.



accessible

Fountains: The fountains in the garden are worth mentioning. In the Jardín del Parterre, the spectacular Heracles and Antaeus or the Ceres fountain are especially noteworthy. IN the Jardín de la Isla, the Heracles and the Hydra or the Boy with Thorn fountains are also very interesting. However, the most special fountain is the Clock Fountain, which tells the time by projecting the shadow of its water jet on the marks carved on its rim.



Aranjuez Gardens

Accessibility in the Parterre Gardens and the Island Garden

Accessibility in the Prince Garden in Aranjuez



The Royal Riverboat Museum, Aranjuez

The Royal Riverboat Museum: The Jardín del Príncipe has a hidden attraction: a museum showing the centuries-old barges used by royals for recreational trips in the river Tagus. Long and thin, they were designed and decorated in the style of the age according to the tastes of its distinguished passengers.



The Royal Riverboat Museum

Accessibility in the Royal Riverboat Museum



partially accessible

A little refreshment...

In Aranjuez's cuisine, the abundant and high-quality produce of the fertile groves by the Tagus river shines. Its asparagus and strawberries are especially famous, but attentions should also be paid to its Brussels sprouts, tomatoes, artichokes or potatoes. These are complemented by rich pheasant, quail or partridge dishes, or by its famous garlic rabbit or *conejo al ajillo*.

GASTROBAR TAMIZ RESTAURANT

EL HORREO ARANJUEZ RESTAURANT




partially accessible

Save the date...






The Spanish musical piece most played in the world, and which made Aranjuez known worldwide, is the guitar concerto composed by **Joaquín Rodrigo** in 1939. Its adagio has been played by great artists such as Paco de Lucía, Plácido Domingo o Carlos Santana So did Miles Davis, who stated that the melody of its adagio was “so strong” that the softer you play it, the stronger it gets, and the stronger you play it, the weaker it gets”.

Aranjuez is closely related to music. Nowadays, it holds the Festival for Antique Music and also offers the unique experience of musical routes which combine nature, history and music. Depending on your taste and conditions, you can live so many experiences here.

 Festival for Antique Music

Take it slow...

Accommodation in Aranjuez matches its impressive heritage. Some accessible hotels are listed below:

OCCIDENTAL ARANJUEZ HOTEL			
	accessible	partially accessible	
CASTILLA'S HOSTEL			
NH COLLECTION PALACIO DE ARANJUEZ	accessible	partially accessible	

Further information:



Tourism of the region of Madrid website
Patrimonio Nacional in Aranjuez

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:




Tur4all Spain
Accessibility in Aranjuez

... Volverás, tienes mil razones...

The Recreation of the Tumult, has been declared a Regional Festivity of Tourist Interest and it reproduces the events of March 1808, when a riot caused the disgrace of Prime Minister Manuel Godoy, accused of being a sympathiser of French ideas, and the abdication of King Charles IV in his son, future King Ferdinand VII. Inspired by the description of the Tumult in **Benito Pérez Galdós'** *Episodios Nacionales*, locals dress as in the 18th century and re-enact the events, which culminate in the assault to Godoy's House. The celebrations include a Goyaesque bullfight, in the manner conducted in the 18th century, and a pirate descent of the river Tagus.

Historical Routes across the riverside woods, in a buggy, on horseback, by bike or on foot, are also very inspiring. Those are the most complex and valuable ecosystems in Aranjuez, and are the home of many wildlife and flora species. From the mid-16th century, geometrical paths were designed with the twofold purpose of fencing off farming land and being used by royals for recreation. Some of them remain almost unaltered since then.

The Casa del Labrador, or the Labourer's House, is located within the Jardín del Príncipe. It was designed by Juan de Villanueva and Isidro González Velázquez as a private pavilion for King Charles IV. A visit to its rooms and halls, superbly decorated with marble, bronze, paintings, porcelains and clocks, is highly recommended.

 Casa del Labrador

The Charles III Royal Theatre was built in 1768, under the auspices of King Charles III and it is a work by architect Jaime Marquet. Barely nothing from the original theatre has made it to this day. The theatre we admire today is a work by Mariano Bayón. Be sure to check its attractive cultural programme.

 The Charles III Royal Theatre in Aranjuez





Sight of Chinchón

Day 2. Chinchón

You can then proceed to Chinchón and spend the night there, or spend the night in Aranjuez and go to Chinchón in the morning. Either way, the fastest route is taking the M-305 road to Villacanejos. The two towns are 24 km away, a trip that will take about half an hour. The town of Chinchón is 45 km to the south-east of the capital city.

If you are travelling by public transport, please see the relevant information at the end of this chapter.



Main Square, Chinchón

A bit of history...

The first traces of Chinchón date back to the Neolithic, as evidenced by the remains of an Iberian settlement in the Salitral hill. Vestiges of its time as a Roman agricultural time and of the three hundred and fifty years of Arab rule also have made it to this day. It was conquered by King Alfonso VI and placed under the rule of Segovia.

The modern history of the town began in 1480, when Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, the Catholic Monarchs, appointed Doña Beatriz de Bobadilla, a friend and counsellor of Queen Isabella, and her husband Don Fernando de Cabrera as the Lady and Lord of Chinchón. Their son became the Conde (earl) de Chinchón thanks to the help provided to Emperor Charles V during the Revolt of the *Comuneros*.

The rebellious disposition of the locals became evident in over the next centuries. In the War of the Spanish Succession, the town sided with aspirant Philip of Bourbon against Archduke Charles of Habsburg. Philip was proclaimed King in the *Plaza Mayor* of Chinchón and he named his own son Conde de Chinchón; thus, the town was linked to the House of Bourbon for over a century. Besides, Philip granted the Villa the motto of “very noble and very loyal”. One hundred years later, during the Peninsular War, Napoleonic troops raided and set fire to the village, and took revenge for the death of four soldiers by executing almost a hundred of locals.

In the 20th century Chinchón maintained its loyalty to the Crown, which made King Alfonso XIII grant it its city status and its Mayor to be addressed to as “*su Excelencia*”. The town remains almost unchanged in terms of population, but what used to be an agricultural town is nowadays focused in tourism.

Out and about...

The heart of the town is its *Plaza Mayor*, and what better starting point for our route? In the Plaza Mayor stands the Town Hall and the **tourist office**. Sadly, the town’s steep, cobblestoned streets are hardly accessible in a wheelchair.

The other side of the *Plaza Mayor* features the church of Nuestra Señora de la Virgen de la Asunción, the Torre del Reloj and the Lope de Vega Theatre. And, just off the town, you can admire the castle of the Condes de Chinchón.

Not to be missed...

Chinchón's **Plaza Mayor de Chinchón** is one of the most famous in the world, and its harmonious proportions, even on an irregular tracing, making it one of the most beautiful squares in the Autonomous Region of Madrid Built in the late 15th century following the medieval models of square, the houses that surround it were gradually built over the centuries. The architectural ensemble includes even a church, Nuestra Señora de la Virgen de la Asunción, visually integrated in the square. The current design is a result of the restoration of 1968. The square is a porticoed, closed space surrounded by three-story houses adorned with wooden balconies.

Over the centuries, many activities have been held here: markets, cattle fairs, theatre plays, acts of worship and bullfights. In fact, the square is still used for bullfighting, and on these occasions bulls are kept on the ground floor of the Town Hall.

Celebrities such as Orson Welles, Rita Hayworth, John Wayne or Cantinflas have been in this square, as many movies have been filmed here.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Tourist office

Plaza Mayor, nº 6

28370 Chinchón

Tel. 91 893 53 23

Información.turistica@ciudad-chinchon.com



Accessibility in Chinchón

*Chinchón is one of the towns in
Madrid awarded the "Villa" status*

In 1974, the historic centre of Chinchón was declared a Site of Historic and Artistic Interest. Thanks to this, the tourist and hospitality sectors thrived, but the town has maintained its singular personality and is one of the most picturesque towns in the Madrid region. Its landscape, dominated by grey and brown hues, its peculiar layout, its narrow streets... The beating heart of Chinchón is felt everywhere.

Must-see attractions...

National Tourism Parador (Convent-headquarters of St. Agustín).

Founded by the Condes de Chinchón in mid-17th century, originally this was a convent which provided education in the arts, including grammar, Latin and theology. A fun fact about this building is that, during the War of the Spanish Succession, Archduke Charles of Habsburg stayed here. Later, it became the administrative headquarters of the Ecclesiastical Confiscation promoted by Prime Minister Mendizábal. And finally, at the end of the 20th century, it was repurposed as Parador Nacional. Attached to the Parador is the Chapel of Nuestra Señora del Rosario, which used to be the convent's church..

c/ de los Huertos, 1



Accessibility in the National Tourism Parador of Chinchón



accessible

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. Built in the 15th century in a mix of architectural styles that range from Gothic to Baroque. The high altarpiece showcases the picture “*La Asunción de la Virgen*”, painted by **Francisco de Goya** at the request of his brother, who, at the time, was a priest of this church. Goya had a close relationship with Infante Luis, Conde De Chinchón, the youngest son of the King.

c/ Arco de Palacio, 9



Accessibility in the church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción



partially accessible



Castle of the Counts of Chinchón

Torre del Reloj. Only this tower remains of the church Nuestra Señora de Gracia, destroyed in the Peninsular War. The tower was rebuilt, but not the church. As the local saying goes, “in Chinchón there is a belltower without a church and a church without a belltower”.

c/ Tahona, s/n



Accessibility in the Torre del Reloj



partially accessible

Castle of the Counts of Chinchón. Built in the 17th century on the remains of a previous fortress, which was partially destroyed in the Revolt of the *Comuneros*. The castle has a quadrangular layout and four round defensive towers at the corners. By the 18th century, the Condes de Chinchón no longer inhabited it and currently it is destined to liquor-making.



Accessibility in the Castle of the Counts of Chinchón



Main Square in Chinchón



Centre for Interpretation, Chinchón

Centre for Interpretation. A good place to start, since it offers an attractive display of Chinchón's tourist attractions. This is a space in which technology has been designed at the service of visitors.

c/ Los Huertos, 36



Accessibility in the Centre for Interpretation of Chinchón



partially accessible



partially accessible

Lope de Vega Theatre Built in the late 19th century by the Sociedad de Cosecheros, loosely translated as the Farmers' Association, on the space where the palace of the Marqueses de Mora stood at the time that they were made the Lord and Lady of Chinchón by the Catholic Monarchs. It was in this palace that the famous poet and playwright Lope de Vega, called the Phoenix of Wits, wrote "*El blasón de los Chaves de Villalba*". Today, here stands a theatre for 400 spectators named after him.

Plazuela del Palacio, s/n



partially accessible



partially accessible

A little refreshment...

Chinchón has a cuisine with healthy, seasonal dishes based on the vegetables grown on the nearby groves. As first course, traditional garlic soup or local beans are also delicious. Meats are roasted until tender in a wood oven. Lamb and piglet are the most common, but you can find poultry and game too. To end on a sweet note, try local chocolates or *leche frita* (fried custard cubes) flambéed in anisette.

Anisette is the star of local products. Sweet or dry, it is used as an ingredient in local sweets, or served, as locals drink it, in a “*palomita*” (on the rocks), best enjoyed chatting with friends or in the local festivities,

COMENDADOR RESTAURANT

Save the date...

Do not forget to visit the convent of the Poor Clares, known as the **Convento de las Clarisas**. Founded in 1653 by the fifth Conde de Chinchón, it consists on an architectural ensemble including a church in Herrerian style and a convent with a fine two-storey cloister. However, the sweetest reason to visit this place is to buy some of the delicious pastries made by the nuns: their *rosquillas* (aniseed-flavoured doughnuts), *almendrados* (almond cookies), pastries or cakes, are examples of a truly glorious cooking.



Take it slow...

If you wish to spend the night in Chinchón, the best place is the convent-turned Parador

NATIONAL TOURISM PARADOR OF CHINCHÓN



accessible



partially accessible



WC

Further information:



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Chinchón

Tur4all Spain

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in Chinchón

A thousand reasons to return...

The Passion of Christ. On the evening of Holy Saturday, Chinchón magically becomes Jerusalem. More than two hundred locals recreate the Passion of Christ. Since 1963, this live representation of the Passion of Christ, the oldest in the Autonomous Region of Madrid, attracts many visitors. It is composed by eight acts, represented in different scenarios, the last of which takes place in the *Plaza Mayor*. It was recognized as a Regional Festivity of Tourist Interest in 1980.

The **Charity Bullfighting Festival** is held in the *Plaza Mayor* in the month of October and marks the end of the bullfighting season. The proceeds are donated to the Poor Clares, a tradition held since the times of the famous bullfighter Salvador Sánchez a.k.a. Frascuelo, who in 1871 held a bullfighting festival in the benefit of the poor.

In the town's website you can find out more about guided and theatrical visits, as well as other routes and events:

 Activities in Chinchón



Main Square, Colmenar de Oreja

Spaces of renown for food and wine tourism
Colmenar de Oreja and Villarejo de Salvanes

The largest of the four sub-areas that hold the denomination of origin “Vinos de Madrid” lies in the south-east of the Region of Madrid. Several centuries ago, this fertile land full of vineyards and vegetable gardens was under the authority of the Order of Santiago. The region expanded under the king’s protection and the new settlers adopted grape farming as their livelihood, which they maintained throughout the centuries. Although the ostensible purpose of the Order of Santiago was to defend Christianity, it also provided stability that these new settlements required in order to flourish. The continental climate and fertile lands helped to cultivate grapevines that produce the *Tempranillo* reds and *Malvar* whites.

We recommend exploring two of the municipalities within the Arganda sub-area. We begin our journey at Colmenar de Oreja and end it at Villarejo de Salvanés. Both municipalities offer high-quality food and wine tourism for visitors, but that’s not all they have to offer.



View of the Church of Santa María la Mayor, Colmenar de Oreja

Day 1. Colmenar de Oreja

A scant 50 km from Madrid, Colmenar de Oreja is located near the floodplains of the Tagus River. To its north lies Chinchón and to its east, Aranjuez. This is an agriculturally rich area where wine, olive oil and other products play an important role.

To get to Colmenar de Oreja, take the R-3 (toll road) or the A-3 (road to Valencia) and then take Exit 41. You can also take the highway to Andalusia (A-4), Exits 29 or 37. More details on public transportation and car routes are available at the end of this chapter.

A bit of history...

Colmenar de Oreja would not be the same without the Oreja castle, whose remains can still be seen a few kilometres away from the town, in the province of Toledo. This pre-Roman fortress was later known by the Latin name “*Aureliae*”, a centre around which several settlements arose. One of these settlements was the “*Apis Aurelia*” settlement, thus called because of the numerous bee hives that were present in the area. Only later did it come to be known as Colmenar de Oreja.

After it fell into Islamic hands, it was subsequently reconquered by King Alfonso VII in 1139, who granted the town the “Oreja Privilege” decreeing the repopulation of this area. New settlers received further benefits as part of this Privilege. Later, when the territory was unified as the Commandery of Oreja, it fell under the rule of the Order of Santiago, which left a significant mark on the municipality.

In 1883, when Spain was divided into provinces, Colmena de Oreja was assigned to Madrid. The trading and industrial prosperity of the municipality throughout the 19th century and until the mid-20th century is illustrated by the fact that it was one of the most populous municipalities in Spain. Its limestone quarries provided the raw materials for the royal palaces of Madrid and Aranjuez. The best jars for storing wine and oil were fired in their ovens.

In the early 20th century, the railway network reached the Villa, which was recognised as a city in 1922 by Alfonso XIII. This railway line, which ceased to be operational in the 1940s, can be travelled today as part of the Tajuña greenway, which connects the municipalities of Colmenar de Oreja, Chinchón, Morata de Tajuña and Perales de Tajuña.



Panoramic view of Colmenar de Oreja

Out and about...

We can start our route from the **Tourism Office**, visiting the **Ulpiano Checa Museum**. From there, there are many available options, such as wineries, squares and churches ... even the beautiful **Diéguez Theatre**. We remind wheelchair users that they will need to travel along the road, since the sidewalks in this municipality, have a medieval layout that are not suitable for persons who use this equipment. Another important point to note is that many areas have steep slopes, therefore we would suggest that if possible, choose a wheelchair with an electric motor.

In any case, taking the *Bajada de las Monjas* street behind the Museum will lead you to the *Convento de la Encarnación* (currently not accessible). On the other hand, if you wish to visit the **Church of Santa María la Mayor** and the iconic **Plaza Mayor**, we recommend you enter *Calle Francisco de Pablos* and continue to the left along *Calle Ulpiano Checa*, which leads to the *Market Square*. The church can be accessed from there. Next to the *Plaza del Mercado* is the *Plaza Mayor*, a beautiful example of a porticoed plaza built on the *Barranco del Zacatín*. The *Camino del Cristo* which starts at the *Plaza Mayor*, leads to the **Stone Museum** and the **Ermita del Cristo del Humilladero**, 600 meters away from the *Plaza Mayor*.

Behind the *Plaza Mayor* are the **Jardines del Zacatín** (Gardens of *Zacatín*). To access the Gardens, it is advisable to take *Calle Aranjuez* or *Calle Barranco* (pay close attention to the slopes) or the *Camino del Cristo* (visitors must climb a staircase in this case).

The *Plaza* can be a good starting point to visit the completely traditional **wineries and the cheese factory**, which are located in the surrounding area of *Calle Convento* Street, *Calle Soledad* and *Calle Bajada de las Monjas*.

Not to be missed...

Declared as an Asset of Cultural Interest within the category of historic site, the heart of Colmenar de Oreja lies in its **Plaza Mayor**, an enclave that is better known for having served as the setting of several film and television series. It is a typical Castilian plaza, with arcades supported by Colmenar limestone columns and wooden balconies. Its construction, which took place between the 18th and the 19th centuries, was long and difficult because it sought to cross the precipice that separated the old town from the suburbs. This is the reason for its singularity which cannot be left unadmired. Not only because it is located on top of the *Zacatín* bridge, but also because of its urban vistas. The square has five entrances. The City Hall and the Casa del Pósito, the ancient communal granary are the most remarkable buildings in the square.

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Colmenar de Oreja

Tourist office

Calle Costanilla de Silleros, 1 (junto al Museo Ulpiano Checa)

Tel. 91 808 93 32

turismo@colmenardeoreja.com.

Colmenar de Oreja is one of the towns in Madrid awarded the “Villa” status

As a municipality that has maintained its traditions and its essence, and because of its historical site, with the Church of Santa María la Mayor and the Ulpiano Checa Museum, both declared of cultural interest, this town has earned the right to be awarded the Villa status. Additionally, its town square is an example of an architectural system of arches and bridges built over the stream named Zacatín. All in all, this town has known how to reinvent itself as a top-class culture and tourism destination without losing its authenticity.

Must-see attractions...

Church of Santa María la Mayor: built by the Order of Santiago during the second third of the 13th century and expanded throughout the 16th and the 17th centuries. It is one of the most remarkable churches in the region and is located at the *Plaza del Mercado* (Market Square) near the *Plaza Mayor* (Main square). It has undergone several restorations due to fires and the Civil War. This is the reason behind the different styles of the three façades: the central façade is Ionic, whereas the sides are Tuscan and Doric. Inside, the sober design in three sections was the work of Cristóbal Adonza, Enrique Egeas and Martín de la Vaca. The sacristy, the bell tower and the façades were designed by Juan de Herrera.

Plaza del Mercado, 1.





Ulpiano Checa Town's Museum



Ulpiano Checa Town's Museum: it houses the largest collection of the most celebrated *colmenarete* artist in the 19th century and the early 20th century. A historical painter, he was famous for large paintings that were deft reflections of movement and dynamism. Ulpiano Checa also created works with Roman or Biblical themes. Likewise, his dexterity may be enjoyed in the murals of the church of Santa María la Mayor. This is undoubtedly the best collection devoted to a single artist.

c/ María Teresa, Freire, 2

Tel. 91 808 90 02

museocheca@colmenarte.com



Ulpiano Checa Town's Museum



partially accessible



partially accessible





Gardens of Zacatín, Colmenar de Oreja

Zacatín Arch and Barranco's Fountain: It allows visitors to ascend the slope between the town and the suburbs. At the *Jardines de Zacatín* (Zacatín Gardens) you can enjoy the Fuente del Barranco (or Fountain of the Precipice), one of the most important fountains in the municipality. This is because Colmenar de Oreja is an area where fountains play an important role. Other fountains that can be found are the *Pilarejo* fountain, on the way to the Ermita del Cristo (shrine of Christ), or the *Concejo* well together with the fountain of the *Cosecheros* (fountain of the harvesters), in the town centre at the *Plaza del Mercado* (Market Square). Further ahead are the fountains *Valdegrero* and *Huertos* whose waters were used to obtain the clay to produce clay jars.



Cristo del Humilladero Shrine. A bare 600 meters away from the Plaza Mayor, you can find this shrine to the town's patron saint, surrounded by inviting gardens and pine forests. This architectural ensemble contains two chapels, one built in the 16th century and the second one, the largest, in the 17th century. Other shrines of the Villa are also worth a visit, such as the shrine of **San Roque**, located in the small square that bears the saint's name. It has a single section with a remarkable arcade that is supported by two imposing columns.



A little refreshment...

Just like many other municipalities in the area, Colmenar de Oreja is famous for its traditional garden products. It has its own specialities such as the “*patatas chulas*”, that is to say, potatoes coated with olive oil and dressed with garlic, parsley, and a few drops of vinegar. Another speciality is “*pozas*”: durum wheat sandwiches where the centre of the bread is removed and the bread is filled with a picadillo made of onion, tomato and a marinade.

In terms of meats, veal and kid are the most demanded.

We recommend the “*carne al desarreglo*”, or veal cooked with white wine, garlic and tomato. And why not accompany these delicacies with a wine from the municipality’s wineries - registered in the D.O. Vinos de Madrid-, they pair perfectly. *Malvar* whites and *tempranillo* reds are two outstanding varieties. For dessert, we can opt for a good sheep’s cheese, but another choice might be “*pelotas de frailes*” (“friar’s balls”), ball-shaped sweets flavoured with grated lemon and anise. To round it all off, we suggest a shot of “*limoncillo*”, a digestive drink that should be taken in moderation because it has an alcohol content of 24.

Wine tourism: An experience that is worth the effort is to visit the wine cellars in the historical centre. Urban wineries that preserve their essence, with their limestone caves and traditional clay jars.

PEDRO GARCÍA’S WINERY

SOLERA WINERY

FIGUEROA’S WINERY

JESÚS DÍAZ E HIJOS WINERY

PERAL’S WINERY

NARCISO’S WINERY AND RESTAURANT




partially accessible

Save the date...

Guided tours of the town can be booked at the **Tourism Office**.

Ask for more information to see which one is more suitable for you.

 Accessibility in Colmenar de Oreja

Museo de la Piedra (Stone Museum) If you want to take a little tour to learn more about the history of the Colmenar quarries and how these big wine jars were manufactured, head to this place.

Camino del Cristo, 9

 Accessibility in Museo de la Piedra

As we have said before, pure Colmenar sheep's cheese is highly appreciated. If you're looking for a present or wish to learn more about traditional cheesemaking, you can visit a cheese factory that not only sells cheese and conducts cheese tasting events, but also offers guided tours.

c/ Convento, nº 8

CIRIACO'S DAIRY

Further information:

 Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Colmenar de Oreja

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:

 Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in Colmenar de Oreja

A thousand reasons to return...

The Diéguez Municipal Theatre is located in what was once the Hospital de la Caridad. In the 19th century, when the institution was about to disappear, a group of enthusiasts decided to refurbish the building's courtyard as a *corral de comedias* (open-air playhouse). In the 20th century and after some major reforms, it acquired its final look and now it has three floors and multiple boxes. It hosts music, dance, theatre and film shows. It owes its name to the actor Antonio Diéguez Cruz, a native of the Villa.

C/ Convento, nº5

The Convento de la Encarnación del Divino Verbo, (Convent of the Incarnation of the Divine Word), known to *colmenaretes* as “the convent of the nuns”, is an enormous architectural complex designed by the Fray Lorenzo de San Nicolás for the Augustinian nuns. It dates back to the 17th century and consists of three main buildings, in addition to the garden used by the cloistered nuns. Next to the convent church is the monastery itself and a palace-house that once belonged to the counts of Colmenar de Oreja, the lords of the town and the founders of this Augustinian residence.

Plaza de la Solana.



Aerial view of Villarejo de Salvanés

Day 2. Villarejo de Salvanés

We recommend travelling to Villarejo de Salvanés (just 13 kilometres away from Colmenar de Oreja) and spending the night there. If you choose this option, take road M-311 to Belmonte de Tajo, and then onto road M-404 to Villarejo de Salvanés. The whole journey lasts no more than 16-17 minutes.

If you decide to take public transport, Bus 430 (Aranjuez-Villarejo de Salvanés) takes a direct route there. It is a 40-minute journey, as it first passes through Chinchón. For a speedier trip faster, take Bus 337 (Madrid-Chinchón-Colmenar de Oreja-Torrelaguna) to Belmonte de Tajo, and take Bus 430 from there.

A 25-minute ride later, you'll be in Villarejo



Sight of Plaza de la Constitución, Villarejo de Salvanes

A bit of history...

Although archaeological remains have been found that suggest humans have inhabited this area for a long time, the first data on Villarejo dates back to the 11th century, when we find references to the enclave then called “*Salvanés*” as well as the awarding of the *Salvanés* Valley by Alfonso VI to the church of Toledo. This was the beginning of several jurisdictional disputes over the town and, already in the 13th century, evidence can be found regarding the existence of “*Villarejo*”. In the late 15th century, the Commandery of Villarejo de Salvanes was included in the Great Commandery of Castille. With this new administrative division, the town was incorporated into the province of Madrid, and ceased to belong to Ocaña and Toledo. It was a time of consolidation and population growth, which led to the construction and improvement of many of its most emblematic buildings.

Out and about...

The route through the municipality allows the visitor to see different manor houses together with the remains of the city wall and the castle that still stand today. Regardless, our recommendation is to start this tour at the **Tourism Office**, located in the Interpretation Centre, in the *Torre del Homenaje* (the Castle Keep). It provides access to all the tourist resources of the municipality and its history. Almost within the same area are the **Casa de la Tercia**, the **Convent of Victoria de Lepanto**, and the **Church of San Andrés**.

From the church, take *Calle de José Domingo Ayuso* and continue along *Calle del Pozo Marcos* to reach the fountain and laundries that bear the same name. Finally, head back to the Church of San Andrés and, from there, walk through *Calle de Jacinto Benavente* to reach the Museum of Cinema.

Not to be missed...

The impressive sight of the Torre del Homenaje gives an idea of the size of the **castle of Villarejo de Salvanés**. The Castle Keep today hosts the Interpretation Centre, where one may experience a part of the medieval past of the municipality as the capital of the Encomienda Mayor de Castilla. The building, whose first enclosure dates back to the late 13th century, had a noticeable defensive character. In addition to the palace, it also contained a moat, a tower and a wall. The tower and some remains of the wall are the only constructions that are still standing. It is a one-of-a-kind building, with a quadrangular structure and eight attached towers.



Castle of Villarejo de Salvanés

It is indeed the castle and the Casa de la Tercia that better serve to illustrate the relevance of Villarejo as head territory at that time. Both buildings, together with the **church of San Andrés Apóstol**, were awarded the status of Historic-Artistic Site in 1974 and, later, in 1992, the walled enclosure and La Tercia, were further declared a Site of Cultural Interest, under the category of Archaeological Zone.

Wheelchairs can access the building through the ground floor. Visitors who climb the highest part of the tower (22 meters) will be able to enjoy a relaxing view of the municipality.



Accessibility in the Castle of the Military Order of Santiago

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism in Villarejo de Salvanés

Tourist office – Torre del Homenaje

Plaza de la Iglesia, s/n

Tel. 638 21 35 15 (general information)

Tel. 646 59 28 25 (visitas concertadas)

turismo@ayto-villarejodesalvanes.es

reservas@turismovillarejodesalvanes.com

*Villarejo de Salvanés is one of the towns
in Madrid awarded the “Villa” status*

Villarejo de Salvanés reflects the importance of the military orders in Castilian politics and social life. Its artistic heritage and natural background, including a variety of landscapes, are sufficient reasons to be awarded the status of “Villa”. However, it is also a town that has learnt to preserve the authenticity of a municipality where remnants of its medieval power, the glory of Lepanto and the riots that occurred at the end of the 19th century may be found hidden in all corners.



Sanctuary and convent of Nuestra Señora de la Victoria de Lepant, Villarejo de Salvanes

Must-see attractions...

Sanctuary and convent of Nuestra Señora de la Victoria de Lepanto (Our Lady of the Victory in Lepanto): When Luis de Requesens held the position of Commander, he made a pledge to the Virgin that he would build a convent if the Holy League ever defeated the Ottoman Empire in the engagement that would later be known as the *Battle of Lepanto*. This XVI-century building also holds a church. This temple, home to the patron saint of Villarejo, has an austere design, as was typical of the Franciscan order that was assigned the construction.



partially accessible

Casa de la Tercia: This construction built approximately in the 16th century was the property of the Encomienda Mayor de Castilla (Great Commandery of Castille). It has two floors and a courtyard with columns and has had several uses, including a storage room and a wine cellar. Today, it is house to the Ethnographic Museum and displays several traditional processes for producing grain, wine and olives, all widely known products of the region.

c/ de la Encomienda, 1

Museo del Cine: This Museum of Cinema is a walk through more than a century of cinematographic evolution. It contains, inter alia, the first projectors that were used in Villarejo de Salvanés together with an exhibition that revolves around the figure of Jacinto Benavente, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1922, a scriptwriter, director, and producer whose mother was from Villarejo. It also has a very complete pre-cinematographic exhibition, "The Origins of Cinema", a collection of posters of the most awarded Spanish films, a set of devices - mostly from the 19th century - that are indeed quite ingenious, and all kinds of accessories such as usher uniforms, plans, slides, turntables, pianos, cameras, sound systems, etc.

c/ Mayor, 48

Tel. 918 745 017

museodelcine@museodelcine.com



Museum of Cinema



partially accessible



partially accessible





The Pozo Marcos wash-house, Villarejo de Salván

Church of San Andrés Apóstol. This church to Saint Andrew the Apostle was built in the 14th century, from a previous construction. It has undergone several changes and renovations, but its outer section maintains the appearance of a church-fortress, typical of military orders. Interesting shields have survived over time on its façade, such as that of the Military Order of Santiago or that of the Council of Orders.

Pozo Marcos wash-house. Considering the mentality of those times, the construction of wash-houses was a step forward for the women back then. They no longer had to go to nearby rivers or streams, but could carry out their task in the municipality itself. Two of these wash-houses, which also became meeting places, are in Villarejo. One of them, El Cañuelo, dates from 1746 and is on the outskirts of the municipality. The other, the Pozo Marcos, is set up in a porticoed patio and can be admired from the outside.

A little refreshment...

Although Villarejo de Salvanés was a town mainly dedicated to the production of cereal, the presence of vine cultivation has been proven since the 15th century. A century later, in fact, the grape harvest continues to be an important part of the municipality's economy. Its wines, included in the sub-zone of Arganda, of the "Vinos de Madrid" denomination of origin are highly appreciated.

These wines, together with the oils, ensure a perfect pairing with the local gastronomy: porridge, rabbit with garlic or potatoes, roast lamb, or beans with partridge.

CARMELO'S RESTAURANT



CASA DE LA TERCIA RESTAURANT



If you also want to take a sweet souvenir with you, we recommend the so-called "*Tía Javiera donuts*". For those with a sweet tooth, these are the true gastronomic heritage of the municipality.

Take it slow...

As we indicated above, you can spend the night in Villarejo de Salvanés, before starting the tour of the municipality (or afterwards, if that was your plan):

CARMELO'S HOSTEL

Further information:



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Villarejo de Salvanés

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in Villarejo de Salvanés

... A thousand reasons to return....

The Live Passion of Christ in Villarejo de Salvanés, is a regional festival that has been declared a Regional Festival of Tourist Interest. It uses the architectural ensemble as the setting of the scene, with the castle and the church square as main the main centres of the play. The story begins with the Last Supper at the atrium of the church and ends at the highest part of the square with the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ.



Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Retreats for Spanish royalty

San Lorenzo de El Escorial and Rascafría

San Lorenzo de El Escorial and Rascafría, are part of the sentimental and historical legacy of the kings of Spain. They also have a privileged natural environment that is part of the Sierra de Guadarrama. Unique landscapes inhabited by wolves, mountain goats, black vultures and imperial eagles surround unique examples of our architectural heritage. In this environment, the Spanish monarchs in the mid-1000's, found the perfect setting for both temporary and permanent retreat. San Lorenzo de El Escorial was initially chosen by Felipe II to commemorate the battle of San Quintín, but it soon became the monarch's favourite place of retreat. It also started to be used to keep the tombs of the kings and consorts of the Austria and Bourbon dynasties.

Likewise, Rascafría has also been part of this royal rest destination. The monastery of Santa María del Páular is the centrepiece of the municipality, Rascafría, a region that is famous both for having been witness to a very important part of Spanish history and for its spectacular landscape.

Our proposal is a two-day route at the very least, starting at San Lorenzo de El Escorial and ending in Rascafría.



Sight of the Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Day 1. San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Only 50 km away from the city, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, as stated before, offers the visitor not only an amazing landscape, but also a remarkable artistic heritage. Unsurprisingly, both the Monasterio and the Sitio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial have been included on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Indeed, it was the first of the four enclaves of the Heritage of the Community of Madrid to receive this award, back in 1984. Also, in 2014, the UNESCO acknowledged its Outstanding Universal Value.

The easiest way to access this enclave is by road, from the city of Madrid, through the highway A-6 (Autovía de La Coruña) and then taking exit 47 El Escorial. Road M-600 to Guadarrama will then take us right to San Lorenzo de El Escorial after some 9 kilometres. Options to reach this municipality on public transport appear at the end of this chapter.

A bit of history...

The first historical references to this territory date back to the 12th century, when this area of the Sierra de Guadarrama was colonised by Segovian settlers who, under the momentum of the Reconquest, delimited different lands for cattle, creating a network of cattle trails around the so-called *Cañada Real Leonesa* (Leon Royal Droving Right of Way)

It was not until the 16th century, however, that this region started to flourish. The transfer of the capital of the kingdom to Madrid led Felipe II to acquire the land where the Royal Monastery was to be erected, whose custody was awarded to the Hieronymite monks. As a result of the erection of the monastery, a multitude of buildings sprouted in order to house the different craftsmen and workers that were hired for the task.

The Bourbons would become attached to this edification as well in later centuries. Carlos III made the Reales Sitios the capitals of the itinerant court and he would stay there depending on the time of the year, usually staying at San Lorenzo de El Escorial in Autumn.

By early XIX, with the invasion by the Napoleonic troops and the subsequent loitering, the area experienced a period of decadence, and it was not until later in the century that the bourgeoisie of the capital started to choose San Lorenzo de El Escorial as a retreat destination. This reconfiguration has evolved throughout the years, with many cultural attractions added to the many things to there, all of which have made El Escorial a cultural, educational and artistic centre both for the Madrilenian people and for visitors.

Out and about...

A walk through the historical-artistic ensemble of San Lorenzo de El Escorial is a plan that no one will want to miss. By walking through its streets, admiring the magnificent buildings of the 16th and 18th centuries - many of them designed by Juan de Herrera and Juan de Villanueva-, by contemplating its squares full of light and all the corners crowded with trees, a memory is carved out in one's mind that cannot be forgotten.

We suggest starting the visit at one of the trade houses located next to the Lonja of the monastery, where the **Tourism Office and the Interpretation Centre** are located. From there, a stroll through the streets such as *Floridablanca*, *Reina Victoria* and *Rey* or the small squares named *de la Constitución* and *Jacinto Benavente*, can spark an appetite for knowledge - and why not, for food- as well as for absorbing the atmosphere of the municipality.

LA POSADA RESTAURANT



partially accessible

Not to be missed...

The Real Monasterio (Royal Monastery) is, beyond a doubt the most remarkable masterpiece both for architect Juan de Herrera and for the municipality. It is not a coincidence that the Monastery gave rise to the surge of the “Herrerian” style, an architectural school that was of an important relevance in Europe.

Felipe II was the promoter of the monument, which he conceived with the triple function of monastery, palace and royal pantheon. It was dedicated to San Lorenzo, as a reminder of the victory achieved in the battle of San Quintín, which occurred on the day of San Lorenzo in 1557.

Much as the exterior is imposingly sober, the interior stands out for the richness of its ornamentation, namely the Palaces of the Habsburgs and of Bourbons, the Patio de Reyes (Courtyard of the Kings), the Basilica, the Library, the Pantheon of Kings, the Pantheon of Infants, and the impressive collection of canvases by Claudio Coello, El Bosco, Titiano or Dürer, among others famous painters.

Felipe II, a great lover of nature, put the landscape at the centre of the ensemble. You can be easily imbued by nature at the Garden of the Friars - framed by the Gallery of the Convalescent-, or the Private Gardens of the King. They can be accessed for free.



Information provided by Patrimonio Nacional

Accessibility in the Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Information about the City Council of San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Municipal Tourism Office in San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Calle Grimaldi, 4

Tel. 91 890 53 13

info@sanlorenzoturismo.org

City Council of El Escorial

Plaza de España, 1

Tel. 91 890 10 80

Ayuntamiento de El Escorial

San Lorenzo de El Escorial as World Heritage Enclave

San Lorenzo is not only a unique enclave but also hosts an important collection of art produced by the many geniuses whose talents were requested by the Crown. The monumental aspect of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, together with the privileged landscape that surrounds it, crowned by the Abantos Mount, conform this genuine this must-visit Royal Site. The place is a reflection of a very important part of European history and of the religious and cultural beliefs, whose most flourishing moment occurred during the golden age of the Spanish monarchy.



The Charles III Royal Colosseum, San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Must-see attractions...

Real Coliseo Carlos III (Royal Colosseum): It is a theatre space that dates back to the 18th century. It is the most ancient sheltered theatre in Spain and one of the few “theatres of the court” that is still standing in Europe and the only one to be in use. This project, devised by French architect Jaime Marquet, regained notoriety in the first years of the 20th century, partly thanks to the Nobel laureate Jacinto Benavente, and started to experience its last “renaissance” in the last quarter of this past century.



partially accessible

Calle Floridablanca, 20

Tel. 918 904 411 / 655 170 212 / 91 890 45 44



Theatre Charles III Royal Colosseum

Casita del Príncipe (The Prince's House): also called “*Casita de Abajo*” (Lower House), was devised as Marquette a place of retreat for Carlos IV, the then Prince of Asturias. Its main façade served as an inspiration for the façade at the Prado Museum and is surrounded by gardens, fountains, ponds, waterfalls and bushes in the fashion of other palaces from that same time.

Avenida de los Reyes Católicos

Tel. 918 905 903



Information provided by Patrimonio Nacional

Casita del Infante (Infante's House): Also called the “*Casita de Arriba*” (Upper House), built for the infante Gabriel de Borbón, son of Carlos III. Its style is inspired by Italian villas. Located in the area called Dehesa de La Herrería, to the west of the monastery, it is a spectacular place to enjoy a beautiful sight of the enclave.

Paseo de Carlos III, s/n

Tel. 918 905 903



Information provided by Patrimonio Nacional

Cocheras del Rey (Royal Carriage House): An interesting history museum and carriage museum, located within a 18th-century building that also hosts a restaurant and a bookshop. The collection includes a rich and varied sample of unique pieces, such as sledges, saddles, harnesses, maps, books, paintings, travel objects, etc., apart from the referred carriages.

Calle del Rey, 41

Tel. 629 939 581



Royal Carriage Museum

Museo Coliseo (Colosseum Museum): located in the old Residencia de Cómicos (Comedians' Residence), at the back of the very Real Coliseo de Carlos III. Walk through the 250 years of history that are contained within its walls and breath in its artistic and musical atmosphere. The Collection displays an original selection of original ornaments and furniture that belong to the Colosseum, along with mock-ups, photographs, oil paintings, aquarelles, scenographies, models, sets, costumes, etc.

Plaza de Jacinto Benavente

Tel. 91 890 70 93 / 629 93 95 81



Colosseum Museum

A little refreshment...

San Lorenzo de El Escorial offers a varied gastronomic offer. Both modern dishes and the most traditional Castilian recipes coexist in the surrounding restaurants. However, El Escorial is notorious for its roasted veal meat from the pastures of the Guadarrama mountain range. Lamb meat, pork meat, home-made croquettes and fish complete this attractive offer. For dessert, we recommend *bizcoletas de San Lorenzo* (exquisite sponge cakes made with egg yolk and coated with chocolate), *Rosquillas de anís* (Doughnuts made with anisette), *mantecados* (almond cakes made with lard) or *canutillos de crema* (cream rolls) can also be purchased from the local bakeries as a souvenir of your visit.

CASA DE JUAN RESTAURANT



partially accessible

LOS LANCEROS RESTAURANT



accessible

KUATRO'S RESTAURANT



accessible



Sight of the Royal Monastery of
San Lorenzo de El Escorial



Tourist office de San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Take it slow...

The surrounding area of San Lorenzo de El Escorial is perfect to let your mind wander and enjoy one of the many cosy hotels in the vicinity.

SAN LORENZO SUITES



accessible



accessible



accessible



LOS LANCEROS HOTEL



partially accessible



Further information:



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Information about the City Council of San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Information about the City Council of El Escorial

Patrimonio Nacional

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:



Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in San Lorenzo de El Escorial

A thousand reasons to return...

The Romería de la Virgen de Gracia (Pilgrimage of the Virgin of the Grace), on the second Sunday of September is a fine time to visit San Lorenzo de El Escorial again. During this festivity, which has been declared of National Touristy Interest, the figure of the patron saint, a work by Mariano Benlliure, is carried by the people of San Lorenzo.

Tren de Felipe II (Philip II's Train): Since the Summer of 2017, San Lorenzo de El Escorial can be accessed by a historic train: Philip II's Train. It leaves from the Principe Pío station, crosses the mountain range of Guadarrama and offers a new way to visit the area. The journey can also include guided tours to several historical spots in the municipality.



The Philip II's Train



Aerial view of the Monastery of Santa María de El Paular, Rascafría

Day 2. Rascafría

In the event you have accessed San Lorenzo de El Escorial by car, you can spend the night there, admiring the night views of the monastery, and visit Rascafría the next day. Or you can go directly to Rascafría and spend the night there. In any event, take route M-600 to Guadarrama. Before taking the AP-6 (Autopista del Noroeste-Northwest toll highway) continue to Guadarrama through road M-614. Go through Los Molinos on that very road and, once you arrive in the municipality of Navacerrada, take M-601 (Carretera de Colmenar Viejo) to Puerto de Navacerrada. Once you reach the Puerto de Navacerrada, take the diversion to the right through road SG-615 that will take you to the Puerto de Cotos. You will enjoy a magnificent view of the mountains from there. Now, from Cotos, road M-604 will take you to Rascafría. Within an hour, you will have made the 52 kilometres that separate San Lorenzo de El Escorial from Rascafría and, at the same time, you will have breathed the fresh air of the Madrilenian mountains from Madrid's "sky".

If you decide to go back to Madrid directly, take A-1. Stay on that road until exit 69, then take Road M-604.

A bit of history...

The *Villa de Rascafría*, to the northwest of the Region of Madrid, is located at the centre of the Lozoya valley and to its north lies the mountain range of Guadarrama. The foundation of this Villa dates back to the Middle Ages, when some Segovian settlers decided to spread over the valley. Already Rascafría was famous for its rich nature. With the construction of the Carthusian hermit Nuestra Señora de Santa María de El Paular in 1390 two kilometres away from the city centre, all the life of the community became attached to the monastery, which was under the protection of the Castilian monarchy and preserves its influence until the 19th century. It was precisely in 1833 when Rascafría became a part of the province of Madrid.

Out and about...

The surrounding area of Rascafría contains dense forests with oaks and pine trees. All tension goes away while walking through its pathways. The mix of nature and spirituality does not go unnoticed either at the centre of the town. We suggest that you start your visit at the **Iglesia parroquial de San Andrés Apóstol** (Church of Saint James the Apostle) near the *Trastámara* square, where you will be able to admire **La Casona**, one of the most relevant public buildings of the municipality whose façade still preserves 14th-century elements.



Grounds of the Monastery of Santa María de El Páular, Rascafría

You will need to be very patient if you are a wheelchair user. The municipality has paved streets with small pavements but the stroll is definitely worth it. If you take the *calle de los Reyes*, you can reach the *plaza de la Villa*, where you will find the Neomudejar building that is the seat of the City Council nowadays. Almost attached to the plaza de la Villa, the *plaza de España* will serve us to reach the *Avenida del Páular*. Whether you go by car or on foot (it is easy to park in this municipality), you will reach the monastery in less than two kilometres. However, we recommend that you take a stroll to there, as the pathway is full of trees and always nice to walk regardless of the time of the year. Once you visit the monastery, take the chance to visit the Puente del Perdón (Bridge of Forgiveness)

Not to be missed...

The Monastery of Santa María de El Páular is the gem of the High Valley of the Lozoya River. Its history is deeply linked to the history of the Castilian kings and queens of the Trastámara House. At the foot of the Peñalara peak, the construction works of this National



Sight of the Monastery of El Paular, Rascafría

Artistic Ensemble began in 1390 and it became the first Carthusian hermit in Castille. Many important architects were involved in its construction, including Juan Guas or Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón.

It soon became a cultural and economic centre right until the 19th century expropriation, which led to its decadence. Already in the 20th century a Benedictine community settled there to lead a monastic life that included the hosting of guests. The building contains Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements. It hosts interesting pieces such as the main altarpiece of the church, the Baroque chapel, the courtyards and the library. It also contains a collection by Baroque painter Vicente Carducho.



accessible



partially accessible



accessible



accessible



Monastery of Santa María de El Paular

Accessibility in the Monastery of Santa María de El Paular



The Finnish Forest, Rascafría

Anticipation is half the pleasure...



Tourism of the region of Madrid website
Information about the City Council of Rascafría

Municipal Tourism Office

Avenida de El Páular, 32- 28740 Rascafría

Monday to Friday, 10:00 to 14:00 (Friday afternoon: 18:00 to 20:00h)

Saturday: 10:00 to 14:00 and 17:00 to 19:00h.

Sunday 10:00 to 14:00h.

Tel. 918 691 804

turismo@rascafria.org



Accessibility in Rascafría

*Rascafría is one of the towns in Madrid
awarded the "Villa status"*

Together with the peaks and the lakes of Peñalara, it is the most beautiful sight in the Lozoya Valley and includes an example of monastic art at its best. Rascafria has never lost its charm and its nature of a true mountain village. Art and nature go hand in hand to rule over a scenery where beauty lingers in every corner. Not to mention its gastronomy...

Must-see attractions...

Puente del Perdón (The Bridge of Forgiveness): (14th century), thus called because prisoners who were being conducted to the gallows could make a last appeal against their sentence. The bridge joined the monastery and the *Batanes* mill, where Carthusian monks used to manufacture paper, and where the sheets that would later be used to write the first edition of "*Don Quijote de la Mancha*", back in 1605, were produced. It is in front of the Monastery of Santa María de El Pualar.

Carretera M-604 - Km. 27,6



Accessibility in the Bridge of Forgiveness



partially accessible partially accessible

Church of San Andrés Apóstol (Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle): Although it is a 15th-century construction, it has undergone several restorations at several times, which is the reason why it offers an interesting mixture of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and contemporary elements. It hosts many interesting pieces of art from the Carthusian hermit, such as a statute of Saint Michael, dated XVIII, a creation by Luis Salvador Carmona.

Plaza de la Iglesia, 47



Accessibility in the Church of San Andrés Apóstol



partially accessible

La Casona: used to be a hospital but today we can only admire the gates and the porch of this house, built on a plot that was the property of the Trastámara family back in the 14th century. Constituyen uno de los pocos ejemplos de la arquitectura urbana de la época.

Plaza de los Trastámara, s/n

A little refreshment...

The gastronomy of the mountains in Rascafría is based on the cattle industry of the region. Therefore, the quality of their meats, together with the greens and the large beans of the area make up the gastronomy of this town. In Autumn, mushrooms and game take centre stage. The exquisite trouts of the Lozoya River are worth a mention as well. Relevant wines in this area are the wines from the sub-area of El Molar, under the qualification of D.O. wines of Madrid.




To top it all, traditional desserts such as the sweets called *Monasterios*, yoghurts or cheese or a visit to the natural and traditional chocolate bakery.


PERANCHE'S RESTAURANT			
	accessible	partially accessible	

EL PILÓN TAVERN		
	accessible	

Take it slow...

If you want to forget about your daily life and enjoy a brief yet refreshing pause, Rascafría and, more precisely, one of its many lovely hotels is the place to be.

EL VALLE RURAL ACCOMODATION			
	accessible	partially accessible	

EL CAMPANARIO BED AND BREAKFAST	
	partially accessible

Further information:



Tourism of the region of Madrid website

Villas de Madrid website

Information about the City Council of Rascafría

Information about the touristic area of Sierra Norte

Full accessibility information and other resources can be found at:

Tur4all Spain

Accessibility in Rascafría

A thousand reasons to return...

Visitor Centre of the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park and Giner de los Ríos Arboretum: next to the Puente del Perdón,

in an enclave of great historical and environmental relevance. A visitor information point and a multipurpose area are available in the building. Guided tours and other activities related to the conservation of the environment are usually organised. The Giner de los Ríos Arboretum is especially remarkable, with more than two hundred species of trees and shrubs from all over the world.

Carretera M-604 – Km.27,6

Tel. 918 691 757

Accessibility in the Giner de los Ríos Arboretum



accessible



partially accessible





Tourism of the region of Madrid

www.turismomadrid.es

Photos

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Amador Toril: 12, 15, 20.b, 22, 27, 32, 40.b, 46, 48, 51, 54, 63.b, 89, 101, 107, 114, 120, 125, 142, 152, 156, 157

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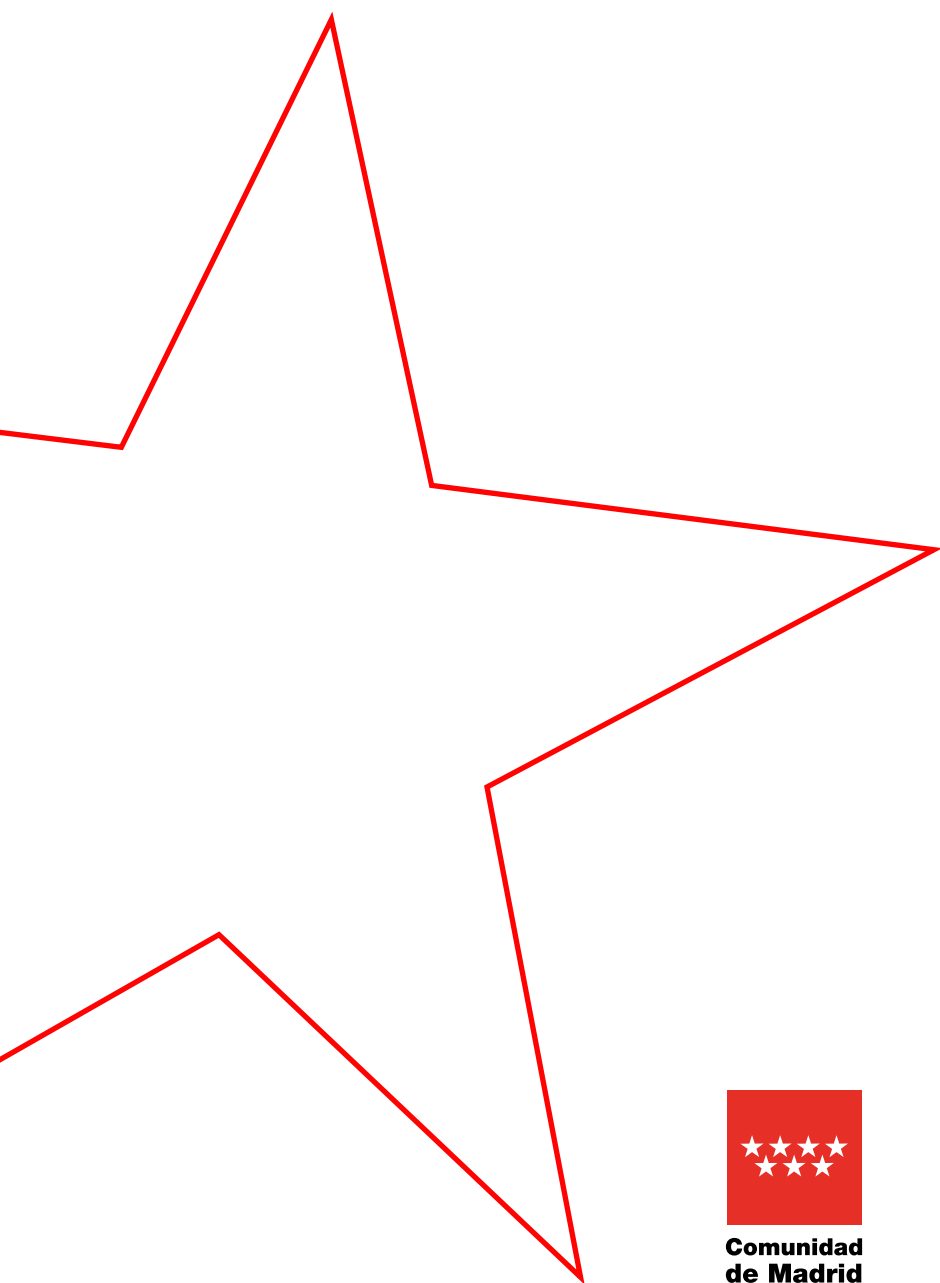
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