

Madrid Travel Guide 2024: The Locals' Guide to Madrid, Spain



Madrid Travel Guide 2024 - The Locals Travel Guide to Madrid Spain by Rick Bragg

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Madrid is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city with a rich history and culture. There's something for everyone in Madrid, from world-class museums and art galleries to lively nightlife and delicious food.

This guide will help you plan the perfect trip to Madrid, whether you're a first-time visitor or a seasoned traveler. We'll cover everything from the best things to see and do to where to eat and stay.

Must-Visit Attractions

- **Prado Museum:** Home to one of the world's finest collections of European art, including works by Goya, El Greco, and Velázquez.
- **Royal Palace of Madrid:** The official residence of the Spanish royal family, this opulent palace is a must-see for any visitor to Madrid.
- **El Retiro Park:** A sprawling park that's perfect for a relaxing stroll or a picnic. Be sure to visit the Crystal Palace, a beautiful glass and iron structure that houses art exhibitions.
- **Gran Vía:** Madrid's most famous street, Gran Vía is lined with shops, restaurants, and theaters. It's a great place to people-watch and soak up the city's atmosphere.
- **Temple of Debod:** An ancient Egyptian temple that was gifted to Spain in 1968. It's located in a park near the Royal Palace and offers stunning views of the city.

Hidden Gems

- **Mercado de San Miguel:** A gourmet food market with a wide variety of stalls selling everything from cheese and ham to seafood and pastries.
- **El Rastro:** Madrid's famous flea market, El Rastro is a great place to find unique souvenirs and antiques.
- **La Latina:** A charming neighborhood with narrow streets, tapas bars, and live music venues.
- **Casa de Campo:** A large park on the outskirts of Madrid, Casa de Campo is a great place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. You can go for a hike, bike ride, or boat ride, or visit the zoo or amusement park.
- **Madrid Río:** A beautiful park that follows the banks of the Manzanares River. It's a great place to go for a walk, run, or bike ride, or to simply relax and enjoy the scenery.

Where to Eat

Madrid is a foodie's paradise, with a wide variety of restaurants to choose from. Here are a few of our favorites:

- **Botín:** Founded in 1725, Botín is the oldest restaurant in the world. It's known for its traditional Spanish dishes, such as roast suckling pig and Castilian soup.
- **Sobrino de Botín:** Another historic restaurant, Sobrino de Botín is also known for its roast suckling pig. It's a popular spot with tourists, so be sure to make a reservation in advance.
- **Casa Lucio:** A traditional Spanish restaurant that's known for its delicious seafood dishes. It's a favorite of celebrities and politicians, so

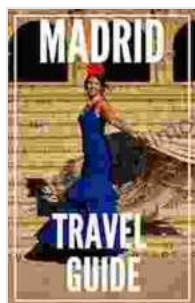
be prepared to see some famous faces.

- **La Bola:** A classic Madrid restaurant that's known for its stews and cocido madrileño, a traditional Spanish stew.
- **Mercado de San Miguel:** In addition to being a great place to buy food, Mercado de San Miguel is also a great place to eat. There are a variety of stalls selling everything from tapas to pastries, so you're sure to find something to your taste.

Where to Stay

Madrid has a wide range of hotels to choose from, from budget-friendly options to luxury hotels. Here are a few of our favorites:

- **Hotel Urban:** A stylish hotel located in the heart of Madrid, Hotel Urban is a great choice for those who want to be close to the city's main attractions.
- **Hotel Santo Mauro:** A luxurious hotel located in a quiet neighborhood, Hotel Santo Mauro is a great choice for those who want to relax and unwind.
- **Hotel**



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