

MADRID

# SEVEN EXPERIENCES FOR SEVEN DAYS

1. FIND INSPIRATION IN THE LANDSCAPE  
OF LIGHT



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# 1.

## **Find inspiration in the Landscape of Light**

Encompassing a set of green spaces and first-class cultural institutions, including Paseo del Prado and El Retiro Park, the Landscape of Light is a place that will inspire you. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021, the area draws hundreds of *Madrileños* every day, who head here to enjoy the great weather, get some exercise, meet friends, visit exhibitions, watch the sun go down and take part in major cultural and sports events. This urban landscape devoted to the arts and sciences grew up around a recreational palace owned by Spain's monarchy and is an expression of the ideals of the Age of Enlightenment. It also served as a model for other similar avenues and parks that later appeared in Latin America. The Royal Botanical Gardens, the Royal Observatory, the Glass Palace, Apollo Fountain and Puerta de Alcalá gate are just some of the classic landmarks in this area of Madrid, which is part of our universal heritage in addition to being the Spanish capital's green lung and the setting of many of its historic events.



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2. EXPLORE OVER 2,000 YEARS OF ART  
IN LESS THAN 2 KM



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## 2.

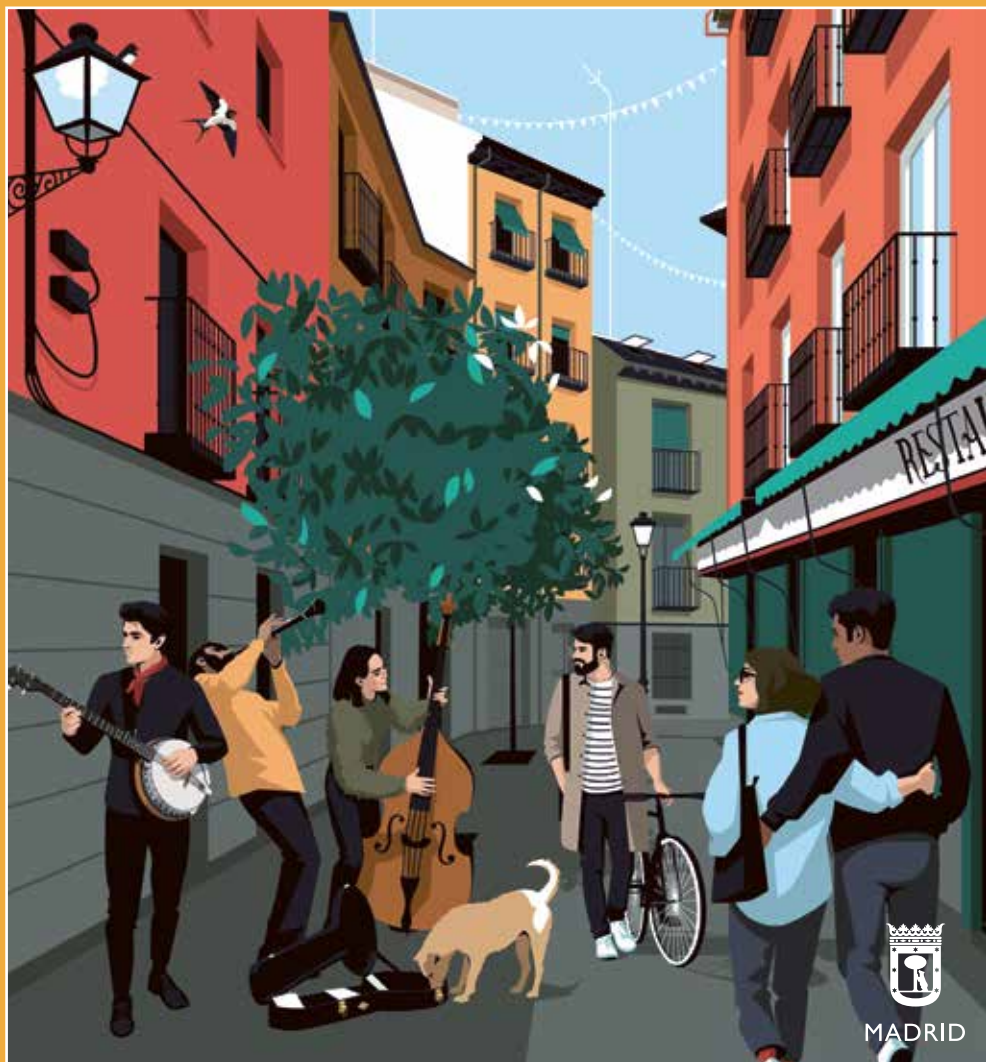
### **Explore over 2,000 years of art in less than 2 km**

A walk down Paseo del Prado and Paseo de Recoletos takes you on a journey back in time. Start at the National Archaeological Museum, which exhibits magnificent pieces like the Iberian bust *Lady of Elche*, and finish up at the Reina Sofía Museum, where you'll find works by Dalí, Miró and Picasso, including the iconic painting *Guernica*. There are lots of other memorable stops along this trip through art history, such as the rooms devoted to Bosch, Velázquez, El Greco and Goya at the Prado Museum and the Impressionist and Expressionist paintings of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum. But Paseo del Arte (Art Walk), as we call it, is also home to other cultural institutions, including the María Cristina Masaveu Peterson Foundation, Fernán Gómez - Centro Cultural de la Villa, the National Library, the Mapfre Foundation, Casa de América, CentroCentro, the Decorative Arts Museum, CaixaForum Madrid, Serrería Belga (The Belgian Sawmill), La Neomudéjar Museum and La Casa Encendida. Our cultural offerings are among the most comprehensive in the world, so we suggest you check out the programmes of all these centres before you arrive. We can tell you right now that one day won't be anywhere near enough time to get an idea of the fantastic treasures to be found in our city.

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3. ENJOY THRILLING ENCOUNTERS WITH  
MUSIC AND SPORTS IDOLS



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# 3.

## **Enjoy thrilling encounters with music and sports idols**

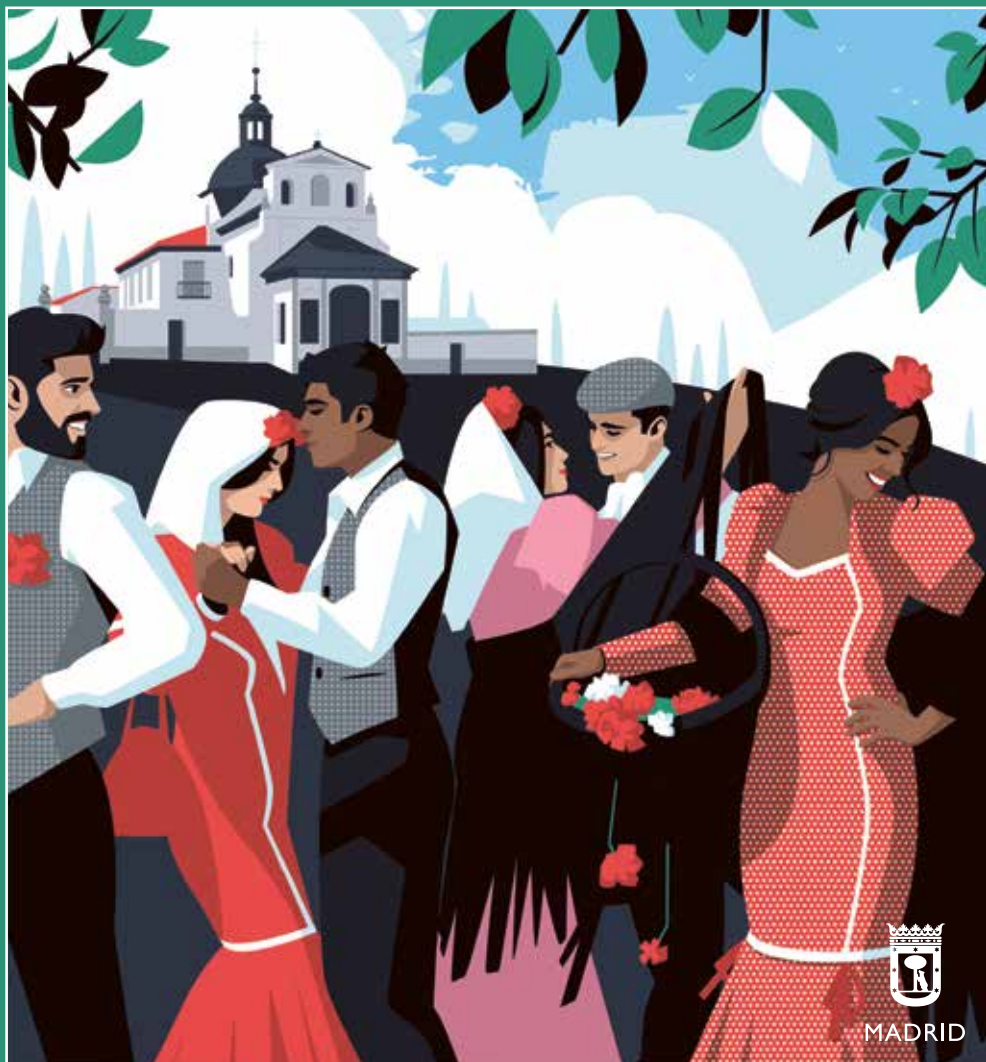
Real Madrid, Atlético de Madrid and Rayo Vallecano are more than just football clubs, not least because they have millions of fans around the world and their players are global idols. For precisely this reason, Santiago Bernabéu and Cívitas Metropolitano are more than mere stadiums; they are meccas of sport that transform with each match to offer one-of-a-kind spectacles. Every year, the city also hosts other major sporting competitions like the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament and Zurich Rock 'n' Roll Running Series Madrid, in addition to holding a range of crowd-pulling events to suit every taste. You can also enjoy different types of contests and attend music festivals like Mad Cool, Río Babel and Las Noches del Botánico. In the city of Madrid, you'll be in the company of music stars, top athletes and pop icons. The concerts and competitions calendar is so broad, we're sure that no matter when you come you'll find hundreds of reasons to extend your stay by a few days.



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## 4. FEEL EVERY ASPECT OF TRADITION



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## Feel every aspect of tradition

In Madrid, history has left an indelible mark not only on the city's most important museums and monuments but also on its shops, bars, restaurants and artisan workshops, some of which were founded over a century ago. Decade after decade, tradition survives in dishes like *cocido* (chickpea stew), *roscón de reyes* (Epiphany cake) and Madrid-style tripe, and in trades such as esparto grass weaving, hatmaking and guitar crafting. Madrid will make you feel like you're in a living museum where you can buy handmade shoes or try a classic *aperitivo* of cod fritters—a dish known as *soldaditos de Pavía*—just as people enjoyed in the era of Alfonso XIII. We still go to the city's most traditional *verbenas* (festive outdoor celebrations), like San Isidro, San Cayetano, San Lorenzo and La Paloma, wearing flat caps and carnations. At the Royal Tapestry Factory, you can see how artisans restore and continue to weave original pieces which later decorate palaces and public institutions. Christmas, Carnival and Easter have their own unique personalities in Madrid and feature can't-miss events like the San Silvestre Valleccana race, the Burial of the Sardine and the procession held by the Brotherhood of Jesús de Medinaceli.





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## 5. APPRECIATE THE FINER DETAILS



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# 5.

## Appreciate the finer details

Many writers, artists, collectors and politicians have lived in our city. Over time, some of the homes in which they once resided have been turned into museums. You won't want to miss the ones that once belonged to Lope de Vega, Sorolla, Lázaro Galdiano and the Marquis of Cerralbo, as well as the Museum of Romanticism which recreates a spectacular 19th-century mansion. You can also visit more sumptuous residences such as Liria Palace, which has been the ducal home of the Alba family for several generations, and Linares Palace, which has some of the most lavish rooms in the capital. Others, like the Royal Palace, with its Royal Collections Gallery, and El Pardo Palace, are also historical settings where time seems to have stood still. In their rooms you can view paintings by Goya and Tiepolo as well as precious furniture, pottery and lamps. The Descalzas Reales Monastery and the Royal Monastery of the Incarnation, religious institutions which for centuries were home to ladies of the royal court, still house precious collections of art in which little details are of key importance.

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## 6. SAVOUR FLAVOURS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



# 6.

## Savour flavours from all over the world

In addition to 22 Michelin-starred restaurants, Madrid has a vast range of culinary offerings. There are countless Latin American eateries, bars that serve tapas and dishes to share, and chefs who have given traditional recipes a modern twist. During your visit, make sure to try a calamari sandwich in Plaza Mayor and a cup of hot chocolate with *churros*. We also recommend that you explore the city's municipal markets, family *mesones* (old-style restaurants), and neighbourhoods that are off the beaten tourist track. Bear in mind that timetables in Spain are very different to those of the rest of Europe. It's typical to eat five times a day, which is not only healthier but also allows you to take the day slow and enjoy different culinary delights.



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7. DON'T LET THIS MAGICAL NIGHT END



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## Don't let this magical night end

Here, the night begins when the sun dips below the rooftops—you can go up to many of them for a drink or a bite to eat—and the curtain rises in the theatres along Gran Vía avenue, where every new season brings the premiere of some of the productions that have made Madrid the capital of Spanish-language musicals. It's then that all sorts of stories come together in a city that offers endless opportunities to keep on dreaming, whether in its flamenco venues called *tablaos*, parties that go on past dawn or DJ sessions. The capital's famous nightlife has something for everyone. You'll see people leaving work only to stay out until the early hours of the morning, because there's always an excuse to keep the night going. When you get here, don't be afraid to let yourself get swept away, because creativity, passion, friendship and joy continue to be our hallmarks, even in the wee hours of the morning.

