

# ACCOMMODATION



At **Just Explore**, we understand one of the biggest worries when booking a holiday is the standard for your hotel. That's why we only use pre-viewed character historic buildings converted into charming and cosy accommodations for a real feel of the Spanish architecture and lifestyle.

With great locations and top-notch services to instantly make you feel at home and help you relax and fully enjoy your stay with us!



## ***At Just Explore, we make the difference...***

*"One of the reasons I chose 'Just Explore' is because I really like your choice of authentic Spanish accommodation.*

*The other tours I considered just didn't meet the 'cut', they didn't offer the type of accommodation which would make me feel I was actually in Spain, Just Explore does!*

*With the other tours I was considering, I think I would wake up, and not even know I was in Spain".*

***Michele, Australia***

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## *The Essentials of Spain*

Destination:

# MADRID

No city on earth is more alive than Madrid, a beguiling place whose sheer energy carries a simple message: this city really knows how to live. Few cities boast an artistic pedigree quite as pure as Madrid's: many art lovers return here again and again. For centuries, Spanish royals showered praise and riches upon the finest artists of the day, from home-grown talents such as Goya and Velázquez to Flemish and Italian greats. Masterpieces by these and other Spanish painters such as Picasso, Dalí and Miró now adorn the walls of the city's world-class galleries. Three in particular are giants – the Museo del Prado, Centro de Arte Reina Sofía and Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza – but in Madrid these are merely good places to start.

Rising above the humble claims of its local cuisine, Madrid has evolved into one of the richest culinary capitals of Europe. The city has wholeheartedly embraced all the creativity and innovation of Spain's gastronomic revolution. But this acceptance of the new is wedded to a passion for the enduring traditions of Spanish cooking, for the conviviality of the eating experience and for showcasing the infinite variety of food from every Spanish region. From tapas in sleek temples to all that's new to sit-down meals beneath centuries-old vaulted ceilings, eating in Madrid is a genuine pleasure.

Madrid nights are the stuff of legend, and the perfect complement to the more sedate charms of fine arts and fine dining. The city may have more bars than any other city on earth – a collection of storied cocktail bars and nightclubs that combine a hint of glamour with non-stop marcha (action). But that only goes some way to explaining the appeal of after-dark Madrid. Step out into the night-time streets of many barrios and you'll find yourself swept along on a tide of people, accompanied by a happy crowd intent on dancing until dawn.

Madrid may lack the cachet of Paris, the monumental history of Rome, or Barcelona's reputation for Modernist masterpieces. And no, there is no equivalent of the Eiffel Tower, Colosseum or La Sagrada Família that you can point to and say 'this is Madrid'. But Madrid has nothing to be envious of. Spain's broad sweep of architectural history provides a glorious backdrop to city life, from medieval mansions and royal palaces to the unimagined angles of Spanish contemporary architecture, from the sober brickwork and slate spires of Madrid baroque to the extravagant confections of the belle époque. Put simply, this is A beautiful city!

Nearby Madrid, there are some interesting historical sites to visit as a day trip such as El Escorial monastery, the Royal Palace of Aranjuez castle or must see cities of significant relevance for the Spanish history as the Imperial city of Toledo or the Roman architecture of Segovia.





## Madrid: 5-Star Accommodation

This luxurious 5-star hotel set in a lavishly remodelled palace is wonderfully located on a quiet street right in the city centre, with the Teatro Real opera house and the Royal Palace just at a five-minutes' walk. There is a Velázquez theme throughout the hotel with large reproductions of the great master's paintings and the colour scheme is inspired by the tones of his palette, with shimmery fabrics in hues of ochre, indigo and maroon. The rooftop pool, surrounded by decking with sunbeds and a hot tub, has panoramic views across the city to the mountains. The gym is open 24 hours and spa is an exotic, luxurious space with a sauna and a steam room. The 160 rooms are elegantly decorated with a gold, champagne, charcoal and midnight blue décor and sumptuous beds with goose feather and down pillows (there is a menu offering other choices as well). The walls behind the beds feature different Velázquez portraits. The stylish and spacious lounge bar and restaurant sprawls through the heart of the hotel. Breakfast is served here with an excellent buffet and à la carte choices. Another restaurant, located in the former stables, is run by the renowned Torres brothers, who have a Michelin star at their restaurant in Barcelona. Although the open-brick décor and a laidback vibe suggest this is a casual place, the food and service are very high-end with a mix of traditional and creative cuisine with Catalan and Madrilenian influences.

Another option is the bistro-style restaurant with a menu of light, contemporary dishes inspired by the Belle Époque.

### Facilities

- Free Wi-Fi
- Swimming pool
- Spa
- Bar
- Restaurant
- Air conditioning & Heating
- In-room safety deposit box
- Lift
- All non-smoking rooms
- Central location.



## Madrid: 4-Star Accommodation

Set in a 19th-century palace featuring arched windows, Juliette balconies, window shutters, and awnings. This Hotel was refurbished and restored to offer guests a cosmopolitan experience with effortless interior design, stylish bedrooms, and a great location. The hotel's interior was designed by Barcelona's Lázaro Rosa-Violán. Each room has the comfort of the guest at heart with great beds and goose-feather duvets, allowing guests to escape the hustle and bustle of Madrid's city life. Bathrooms are modern and sleek, with white metro tiles, a glass-walled rainforest shower, Hierbas de Ibiza toiletries and giraffe-print bathrobes. Breakfast is served throughout the day and there is also an Express bar for those wanting to grab a quick bite on their way out. Snacks, tapas, and meals are available as well, all day in the light-filled covered courtyard – or wherever else you like in the hotel - and are prepared by chefs who previously worked at top Spanish restaurants. The hotel also has a British-style cocktail bar and Colonial/Mediterranean-style lounge offering a buzzing ambiance.

Centrally located, you will find Madrid's trendiest boutiques, restaurants & bars all at your doorstep.

### Facilities

- Free Wi-Fi
- Spa
- Bar
- In-room safety deposit box
- Restaurant
- Air conditioning & Heating
- Lift
- All non-smoking rooms
- Central location





## Madrid: 3-Star Accommodation

This recently renovated hotel is located in a very central spot right in the midst of Madrid's grand architecture. It is within walking distance of the metro as well as major historic landmarks such as Plaza de Colon ( just a 15-minute walk down the well-known Calle de Genova) and the prestigious tree-lined Paseo de la Castellana (also only a few blocks away).

As for the building itself, it's an architectural gem dating back to 1919 providing guests with a real sense of the beauty and history of Madrid. This classic façade is wonderfully complemented by the modern amenities and services offered. The rooms are bright and beautifully decorated with some offering views of the tree-lined street leading to the Alonso Martinez roundabout. The hotel also houses a bar where you can relax in the evening with a drink.

### Facilities

- Free Wi-Fi
- In-room safety deposit box
- Central location
- Bar
- Air conditioning & Heating
- Lift
- All non-smoking rooms
- Gym

# Additional information



Please note that all the pictures and descriptions in this document are from hotels that we normally use.

Once you have confirmed the booking, we will provide you with the name, address and complete details in a hotel list.

If, for whatever reason, you are not fully satisfied with the hotels that we have picked, we will gladly give you other alternatives within the same category and comfort standard for you to choose from (subject to availability). In which case, please note that certain features and facilities may vary.



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