

EXCLUSIVO MADRID

MADRID RELOCATION GUIDE

by
brs relocation services

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WELCOME TO MADRID

Madrid is the third largest capital in Europe (after London and Berlin). Madrid is also the European capital located at the highest altitude, towering a staggering 650m above sea level.

Madrid is also the political and financial center of Spain, with the government and most major Spanish companies having their headquarters in Madrid.

Although prehistoric and Roman remains have been found, Madrid was first mentioned in written sources during the 10th century. At that time it was called Margerit and was a Moorish fortress. It was conquered for the first time in 939 by Ramiro II of León. In 1083, Margerit fell to Alfonso VI of Castile and became a Spanish fortress maintaining the border against the Moors. Occasionally it served as a meeting place for the Castilian court.



1. HISTORY

The Habsburgs

The rule of Habsburg dynasty in Spain began in 1516 when Carlos I was crowned King of Spain. During the battle of Pavia in 1525, Francis I of France was captured by the Spaniards and held captive in Madrid for a year. He was imprisoned in the Torre de los Lujanas (today the oldest preserved building of Madrid).

After the Spanish victory over the French in the battle of Saint Quentin on 10 August 1557, King Felipe II ordered the construction of El Escorial Monastery 30 miles northwest of Madrid in the foothills of the Sierra de Guadarrama. In 1561, he made Madrid his capital because of its central position within the Iberian Peninsula. During the reign of Felipe II, the city was expanded,

the streets widened, and several squares built. However, he preferred to spend most of his time at El Escorial from where he ruled his vast empire until he died there in 1598.

During the rule of Felipe III (1598-1621), the Court was briefly moved to Valladolid, but in 1607 Madrid finally became Spain's permanent capital. In the 17th century, known as the "Siglo de Oro" (Golden Century) Madrid began to grow rapidly. The royal court attracted many of Spain's leading artists and writers to Madrid, including Cervantes, Lope de Vega, and Velázquez. In 1605, the first part of Cervantes' Don Quijote was printed in a house in the Calle Atocha by Juan de la Cuesta. The Plaza Mayor (Main Square) was built in 1619.

The Bourbons

In 1734, Felipe V ordered the construction of a new Royal Palace on the same site of the former Alcázar that had been previously destroyed by a fire. Construction began in 1738 and lasted until 1764. During the reign of Carlos III (1759–1788), many of Madrid’s finest buildings and monuments, including the Prado, and the Puerta de Alcalá were constructed. In 1789, Madrid had a population of 140,000.

In 1808, during the Peninsular War, Napoleon’s troops took Madrid. The French were driven out briefly by a popular uprising on May 2, but they stifled the rebellion and occupied the city until 1813. During the French occupation extensive building took place in Madrid, but the war left the country devastated.

In 1868, the old city walls were taken down in order to enlarge the city, and by 1884, the population of Madrid had reached 400,000.

The 20th Century

In 1910, the construction work of the new Gran Vía began. Hundreds of houses and blocks were leveled and construction lasted for more than 10 years.

In 1919, the King Alfonso XIII inaugurated the first line of the metro underground between Puerta Del Sol and Cuatro Caminos. The new city bullring called Las Ventas was built in 1929, and the first bullfight took place in 1931. The Telefónica building (88 meters high) in the Gran Vía was also built in 1929 and remained the tallest building in the city until 1953.

During the II Republic, in the early 30s, the whole country was in a state of turmoil that led to the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939). Madrid was the major republican stronghold during the conflict, and the city was besieged by Francisco Franco’s Nationalist forces for two and a half years. Madrid finally fell in late March 1939 and the war ended on April 1.

After the war, General Franco centralized political and economic power in Madrid and the city grew rapidly. In 1947, the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, home of the Real Madrid, was inaugurated. In the late 1950’s the first two skyscrapers were built at the Plaza de España. The Torre de Madrid (Madrid’s Tower) became the tallest building in the city at 142 meters (465 feet). In 1960, the city reached 2.2 million inhabitants, and 10 years later to 3.1 million. Franco died in 1975, and Spain was transformed into a democratic constitutional monarchy with Juan Carlos I as King.

On 23 February 1981, a military coup d’état took place when armed men stormed the “Congreso de los diputados” holding all congressmen hostage, but King Juan Carlos denounced the coup on television and it soon failed. That same year, Picasso’s Guernica returned to Spain from the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City, and was put on display at the Prado Museum. In 1992, the painting was moved to the Reina Sofía Museum where it is today on display.

The 21st Century

On March 11, 2004, Madrid was shocked by a series of train bombings on the commuter train system that resulted in the deaths of 191 people and wounded more than 1,500. Two months later, in May, Prince Felipe, the eldest son of Juan Carlos, married former TV news presenter, Letizia Ortiz at the Almudena Cathedral.

To the north of Madrid, where the former Real Madrid’s training grounds were located, four new skyscrapers have been built and the whole complex is known as «Cuatro Torres Business Area». The Caja Madrid Tower (250 meters), Cristal Tower (249 meters), Sacyr Vallehermoso Tower (236 meters) and Space Tower (223 meters) are the tallest buildings in Spain.

Madrid was one of the cities that bid to be the host of the 2016 Summer Olympics, although the honor was finally awarded to Rio.



2. MADRID CULTURE

You will find the vast majority of Madrid's inhabitants to be very friendly, open and approachable on the street. The people are very sociable and do not spend a lot of time at home. The bars and cafes are full of people talking and enjoying themselves. There are many different types of bars and restaurants in Madrid: theme bars, traditional Spanish bars and all kinds of restaurants.

Don't be surprised if people greet you with two kisses on each cheek, as this is the traditional greeting, not just in Madrid but throughout Spain.

Family life in Spain is considered very important.. In restaurants, cafés and bars, you will often see many families with young children staying late into the night.

You will also find that your own "personal space" will virtually disappear when you take to the streets. People will not think twice about almost bumping into you from any and all directions, so do not be offended, there is no ill intent. It is just their way of doing things, and it can even be quite fun, you just never know who you are going to bump into.



3. VISITING MADRID

Madrid is located right in the center of the Iberian Peninsula. Its geographical location ensures easy access to other Spanish regions.

Things to do in Madrid

Every week there are different events happening around the city. The best way to keep posted about what is going on are the newspapers, either free or paid, that can be found at the news

stands or in the bars. The most famous ones are the "Guía de Ocio" and the "Metropoli", both of which are issued on a weekly basis. The latter is sold along with the newspaper "El Mundo" which is one of the main Spanish newspapers together with "El País" and "ABC".



Alcalá de Henares

Alcalá de Henares is a picturesque Spanish city around 30 kilometers away from Madrid. Famous for its culture and historical landmarks, the city is a wonderful destination for a day trip. In its medieval center, meandering along cobbled streets you'll find many historic buildings.

San Lorenzo Del Escorial

El Escorial has many impressive pieces of architecture and was traditionally the residence of the reigning King and Queen. The most architecturally important building is the Monastery of El Escorial, which was named a site of world interest by UNESCO in 1982.

SURROUNDINGS

The City of Madrid

One of the main tourist information offices is the Municipal Office of Tourist Information, which can be found at Plaza Mayor (address: Plaza Mayor, 3). You can reach them on the telephone or fax at: 91 366 54 77.

If you are planning to see as much as possible on your stay, then this tourist information office should be the first stop on your itinerary. You'll find also very useful information about the tourism in Madrid region in the following link: www.turismomadrid.es/en

Madrid region

Aranjuez

Aranjuez is a Royal City south of Madrid. It is located on the riverside of the Tajo, and it has the distinction of having many points of cultural interest owing to the Spanish kings' fondness for the city as a royal retreat during the XVIII century.

Segovia

Segovia is only 87 km away from Madrid and it lies 750m above sea level. Segovia has a long history and the monuments we can see today are evidence of Celtic, Roman and Germanic cultural influences. The most famous landmark of Segovia is its aqueduct ("acueducto") from Segovia's Roman times. It also has an impressive castle

called "Alcázar". UNESCO declared Segovia «Heritage of Mankind» in 1985.

Salamanca

Salamanca is a typical university city with streets packed with young people. Its historic centre is full of famous and impressive monuments from all eras that you can enjoy on a trip to Salamanca: Gothic cathedrals, Roman arches, artistic palaces and much more.

Sierra de Guadarrama

When "madrileños" yearn for some fresh country air and respite from the urban commotion, they flee south to the "Sierra de Guadarrama". This mountain range offers a number of nice hiking trails, charming little towns, prime picnic spots, skiing in the winter or lake swimming in the summer. Below we've highlighted some of the most popular regional destinations.

Ávila

Avila is the place to go if you're in search of historical beauty and relaxed tranquility. Still retaining a majority of its heritage, it's entirely enclosed within its defensive walls, which boast an impressive 88 watchtowers! An excellent place for a day trip from Madrid.

Granada

Granada is at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and has 3 rivers feeding into it ("Beiro, Darro and Genil"). This incredible city has a strong Islamic influence that will constantly remind you of the exquisite culture that surrounds you. It has an energetic nightlife, thanks to a vibrant university crowd.





4. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

RESIDENT PERMITS

EU citizens—NIE Provisional

European Union (EU) citizens and those from Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are not required a visa for entry to Spain, only a passport or an official valid ID.

If you are a citizen of an EU country and you are thinking of living in Spain for an uninterrupted period of more than three months, you have to get an European Certificate with a "número de identificación de extranjero" (NIE), which is a unique identification number given to all foreigners in Spain. You need this number for almost all administrative tasks, such as filing taxes, buying property, opening a business, getting a Spanish bank account, signing a mobile-phone contract, etc.

Make sure to get your NIE within at least one month of your arrival in Spain.

Bear in mind that obtaining the NIE is not a simple one-day step as it used to be. Since the summer of 2013, you have to schedule an appointment online and they will give you a date during the following three or four weeks in order to proceed with the NIE application.

You will be asked to present an employment offer in which your Company states that you are going to work and receive your payroll in Spain. If you are not going to be working in Spain, you will have to present a Spanish bank certificate that proves that you have sufficient economic means to support yourself and your family. It is also mandatory to show that you have a private health insurance in Spain.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You can get the EX-15 application from the police station or download it from: www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/Modelos-Solicitudes/Mod_solicitudes2

At the police station you will be given a form in triplicate. Take these forms to any Spanish bank and pay the administration fees. Although it takes longer, it is also possible to apply for a NIE at the Spanish Consulate in your country. But remember to contact the consulate first, as this service is not available in all consular offices.

Oficina de Extranjeros
Calle Manuel Luna n) 29
Tel: 91 2729500

 **TIPS**
Go to www.investinspain.org for more information.

Non-EU citizens

Those whose country of citizenship has an existing agreement with Spain can stay in the country for up to three months within a six month period or for a transit stay of a maximum of five days. Citizens of all other countries are required to have a visa to enter Spanish territory. Visas are issued by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its consular representatives abroad.

For more information about entry and visa requirements: (MAEC) www.maec.es once you have entered Spain with your visa, you should apply for a residence card ("tarjeta de residencia") at

the Foreigners' Office ("Oficina de Extranjeros") within 90 days.

Oficina de Extranjeros de Madrid
C/ AVENIDA DE LOS POBLADOS S/N - 28024 Madrid (Metro ALUCHE).

Tel: 902 247 364 (Cita previa, DNI y Pasaporte)
Tel: 902 102 112 (Denuncias turistas extranjeros) / 060 (Información general) www.policia.es

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Depending on your situation, you have to apply for a specific type of residence permits.

Remember to have non-EU foreign documents authenticated and notarized, and all foreign language documents translated into Spanish by a "traductor jurado", or a government-accredited translator. Sworn translations ("traducción jurada") can be obtained from most translation companies in Madrid. Apply for a residence permit as early as possible and have all documents ready, since the whole process can take several months. The process can be shorter for non-EU citizens married to an EU citizen.

City Hall registration
("Certificado de empadronamiento")

Another document that you need to obtain is the "certificado de empadronamiento", or proof of registration in your city or town's official record of residents ("Padrón Municipal de Habitantes"). You can apply for your "empadronamiento" as an individual or with your family at the Citizen's Assistance Office ("Oficina de Atención al Ciu-

dadano") of your district (go to www.madrid.es for a complete list). All applicants must present a valid passport and an original rental contract. This certificate is also issued on the spot. The "empadronamiento" is required as proof of residency when applying for a "tarjeta de residencia", applying for a local health card, getting married, enrolling your children in local schools, and in a number of other transactions with the state.

How to make use of this registration?

"Certificados de Empadronamiento" (registration certificate) can be required for some official formalities and are especially useful in getting price reductions when registering for any of the various activities offered by local municipalities (sports, artistic activities, children's extra-curricular activities, etc.).

Social Security Number
(Número de "afiliación" a la Seguridad Social)

Spanish Social Security covers public healthcare, including sickness and maternity benefits, as well as unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, industrial-injury compensation, invalidity and death benefits. To enjoy these benefits, you have to contribute to the Spanish Social Security system and be a Spanish tax resident. You can apply for this number upon your arrival, even before you start working.

To do this, go to your nearest Social Security office ("Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social"). INSS.

 **TIPS**
Go to www.seg-social.es for a complete list of Social Security offices in Madrid and to know more about Spain's Social Security system.

For the rest of the family, assuming the spouse is not working, social security cover is obtained in two stages:

1-Obtaining a health card

www.seg-social.es
You need to go to the social security card ("tarjeta de la tesorería general de la seguridad social") of the person working in Spain, plus the passports (including photocopies) of each person economically dependent on him/her.

2-Requesting a health card "tarjeta

sanitaria"
www.madrid.org

This health Card is essential if you need to see a doctor. To obtain it you go to your designated "centro de salud" (depending on where you live) and show your social security card and your spouse's social security number. A card is required for each member of the family. To find out which center you should go to, consult the web link member of the family. To find out which center you should go to, consult the web link.

European health insurance card

The card gives you access to free medical care when traveling within Europe, regardless of the reason for your visit (holiday, studies, work placement, business trip etc.). And is valid for