

MADRID

Recommendations and tips to make the most out of your visit
April 30, 2027

Thank you to my friend Bru for such a wonderful guide <3

Welcome to Madrid

Madrid is a large, vibrant city — and late April/early May is one of the best times to visit. The cold of winter is gone, the parks are in bloom, terraces are open, and the city is busy without the oppressive heat and tourist crowds of summer.

Below you'll find our personal favorite spots, restaurants, and tips for getting around. This guide is by no means exhaustive, but everything listed comes with a personal recommendation. We hope you love Madrid as much as we do.

General Tips

Weather in Late April

Late April/early May brings comfortable spring temperatures, typically between 15–22°C (59–72°F), with plenty of sunshine. No heavy coats needed, but bring a light jacket for evenings. The city is not yet crowded with summer tourists, so you'll have a more relaxed experience.

Getting Around

Madrid is a wonderfully walkable city — you can cover most of the centre on foot. For longer distances, public transport is excellent:

- **Metro & Bus:** Get a metro card and use it for both the metro and buses. Clean, fast, and cheap.
- **Car services:** Uber, Free Now, and Cabify are all available.

Getting in from the airport:

- **Airport Express Bus (Line 203):** Runs 24/7. Cost: €5
- **Metro (Line 8):** Connects all terminals to the city centre. Cost: ~€5
- **Train (Renfe C-1/C-10):** From Terminal 4 only — goes to Atocha or Chamartín. Cost: €2.50
- **Taxi:** Fixed rate to any point in the city centre: €33
- **Uber/Cabify:** Usually slightly cheaper — around €25 to the recommended hotels

Where to Stay

We've recommended a few hotels below — they're ideally located in the Atocha area, one of the best-connected parts of the city. Atocha is Madrid's main railway hub, which makes it perfect for day trips to Toledo, Seville, Córdoba, or Granada. You're also within easy walking distance of the Retiro Park, the Prado museum, and several other top attractions.

If you prefer other neighbourhoods, the best areas to base yourself are: Salamanca, Ibiza/Retiro, Malasaña, and Sol/Gran Vía (the latter if you don't mind being right in the buzzing heart of the city).

Hotel NH Madrid Nacional

Calle del General Ferrándiz, 1, 28012 Madrid

[Book NH Madrid Nacional](#)

Hotel Mediodía

Calle de Mediodía, 2, 28009 Madrid

[Book Hotel Mediodía](#)

Radisson RED Madrid

Calle de Alcálá, 476, 28027 Madrid

[Book Radisson RED Madrid](#)

Museums

Most Madrid museums have at least one free-entry day per week. It's worth checking in advance which day is free before planning your visit.

Travelling Around Spain

April is genuinely one of the best months to explore Spain — better than summer in many ways. The whole country is accessible and enjoyable: no extreme heat, fewer crowds, and everything is open and in full swing.

A key practical note: the recommended hotels are right next to Atocha station, Madrid's main high-speed rail hub. This makes day trips and weekend escapes incredibly easy.

The South (Perfect in April)

Unlike summer, when southern Spain can be brutally hot, April is ideal for visiting Andalusia and the coast. Temperatures are warm and pleasant.

- **Sevilla:** One of Spain's most spectacular cities, with stunning architecture and streets. In summer it's one of the hottest cities in Europe, but in April it's quite pleasant. Don't miss the Alcázar and the Cathedral.
- **Córdoba:** Charming and relatively compact, with the awe-inspiring Mezquita. Easily combined with Sevilla in a trip.
- **Granada:** Home to the Alhambra — one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Book tickets well in advance.
- **Marbella:** If you want beaches, Marbella is a great choice. It benefits from a mild microclimate, beautiful coastline, great dining, and a lively atmosphere.
- **Málaga, Cádiz, Costa de la Luz:** Sunny, historic, and far more relaxed than peak tourist spots.

The North (Cooler & Lush)

Northern Spain is cooler and greener — perfect for hiking, coastal drives, and some of the best food in the country. In summer it's the place to escape the heat; in April it's simply beautiful.

- **Santander:** A charming coastal city with stunning beaches and great cuisine. A personal favourite.
- **Asturias & Galicia:** Wild, green, and spectacular. World-class seafood.
- **Basque Country (San Sebastián & Bilbao):** Must-see destinations. San Sebastián has more Michelin stars per capita than almost anywhere on earth. Bilbao has the Guggenheim.

Barcelona

Barcelona in April is excellent — unlike July/August, when it is swelteringly hot and absolutely packed with tourists, April offers pleasant weather, manageable crowds, and the full Barcelona experience. We recommend spending 2–3 days there. While you're in the area, consider a day trip to Girona: one of the most beautiful towns in Spain, with stunning medieval architecture and easy access to incredible beaches and coastal scenery (the Costa Brava).

Madrid Highlights

Parks & Neighbourhoods

- **Retiro Park:** Probably the most beautiful park in the world (we're a little biased). Right in the city centre, it's in full spring bloom in late April — an absolutely magical setting for a picnic, a boat ride on the lake, or a leisurely stroll.
- **Serrano:** One of the most elegant areas of the city — luxury boutiques, beautiful tree-lined streets, great restaurants, and some interesting smaller museums. Perfect for a leisurely afternoon walk.

Museums

The three big museums — the Prado, Reina Sofía, and Thyssen — are all within walking distance of each other (and of the recommended hotels), making it easy to visit two or even three in a day.

- **Museo del Prado:** One of the greatest art museums in the world.
- **Museo Reina Sofía:** A personal favourite — home to Picasso's Guernica and other modern masterpieces.
- **Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza:** Covers everything from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

City Centre

- **The Royal Palace:** The largest royal palace in Western Europe. Right next door is the Almudena Cathedral, worth a visit on its own. Tickets can be bought on the spot, but check online just in case.
- **La Puerta del Sol:** The symbolic heart of Madrid. Great for people-watching and soaking up the atmosphere.
- **Plaza Mayor:** A grand 17th-century square. A tip: the bars and restaurants right on the square tend to be overpriced and lower quality — explore the side streets for much better options.
- **Gran Vía:** Madrid's main boulevard, with virtually every store you could need. In late April, spring collections are in full swing and the street is at its liveliest.
- **Calle Fuencarral:** A great alternative shopping street with a more local feel, plus plenty of tapas bars and cafés perfect for an aperitivo stop.

Day Trips from Madrid

The recommended hotels are right next to Atocha station, making these trips incredibly convenient:

- **Toledo:** About 1 hour by train. UNESCO World Heritage site. Former capital of Visigoth Spain and one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe — known as the 'City of Three Cultures' for its shared Christian, Muslim, and Jewish history. Very hilly, so wear comfortable shoes. Gary recommends.
- **El Escorial:** A 16th-century royal monastery and palace built by King Philip II — one of the largest Renaissance buildings in the world. About 45 minutes from Madrid, easiest by car.

Favourite Restaurants

Madrid's food scene is one of its greatest strengths. Here are personal recommendations across different styles — ranging from casual tapas to cosy dinner spots.

Spanish Food

- **Lateral:** Excellent tapas with a slightly gourmet twist. Several locations around central Madrid — easy to pop in after a museum or a walk.
- **Vrro:** Another great tapas option. Cosy, creative, and perfect for a casual evening.
- **Casa Dani:** Famous for what many consider the best tortilla de patata in Madrid. A classic Spanish experience, highly recommended by locals.
- **Rosi La Loca:** A fun, loud, and wonderfully chaotic restaurant — the decoration is overwhelming in the best possible way.
- **Arzabal:** Spanish restaurant right by the Retiro Park — ideal for drinks and tapas on a sunny April terrace, or a proper sit-down meal.
- **Sazón-arte:** Spanish food with a creative twist. Very cosy vibes — highly recommended. The place is tiny and gets fully booked, so make a reservation.
- **Pazo Coruña:** If Madrid is your only stop but you want a taste of the north, come here. Try the cachopo — you will not regret it.
- **Pimiento Verde:** Several locations around the city. Delicious, reliable Spanish food.
- **Taberna Y Media:** Gary's favorite.
- **Honest Greens:** Fresh, healthy, and affordable. Perfect for a lighter lunch mid-sightseeing. Great for dietary restrictions or allergies.

Other Cuisines

- **Belmondo:** Beautiful Italian restaurant with a stunning interior terrace. Perfect for a relaxed dinner in a stylish setting.
- **Toto e Pepino:** Italian restaurant close to the recommended hotels — a great option if you're eating near your base.
- **Acqua in Bocca:** Another excellent Italian option near the hotels area.
- **Empanadas Malvón:** Not really a restaurant — small, simple spots selling the best Argentine empanadas. You can eat in if there's space, or grab them and have a picnic in the Retiro. Highly recommended.
- **HUNDRED:** Awarded the best hamburgers in Spain by professional food critics. Book ahead.
- **Llao Llao:** The best frozen yogurt in the world. Perfect for a warm April afternoon stroll.

We can't wait to celebrate with you in Madrid.

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