



- 1 -



MADRID

TRAVEL GUIDE

How to enjoy the best **Madrid** has to offer when attending the **DSD Residency**

So, you've chosen Madrid for your DSD Residency! You won't regret it; the fascinating Spanish capital is sure to capture the heart of even the most seasoned traveler. One of the largest cities in Europe, Madrid is not just the capital of Spain but also of the Community of Madrid, one of the country's several autonomous communities. The city lives life with a passion that is hard to resist: visible in the streets, in the inhabitants, and in the lifestyle.

Despite its size, you'll find that getting around the Spanish capital couldn't be simpler. You'll be able to explore the different areas of the city during your downtime by using the easy-to-navigate subway system and overground buses to get around. Easy! As convenient as it may be to stick to the metro though, don't forget to grab a city map while you're here: a stroll through the city is definitely the best way to come across an unexpected gem on your travels.

*a stroll through the
city is definitely the
best way to come
across an unexpected
gem on your travels.*



When it comes to culture, Madrid doesn't disappoint. The city is home to more than 40 museums, some of which include the world-famous Prado Museum and the National Library, along with buildings whose stunning architecture dates back centuries, and monuments dotted through the streets. For example, make sure to visit the historical Puerta del Sol square, where you'll find not only the iconic Bear and Tree statue, but "Kilometer Zero" -- the center of the entire country and the location from which Spain's national roads are measured.

Madrid doesn't disappoint

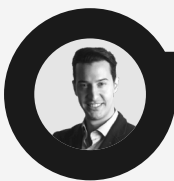
For some time out, Madrid's green spaces are a tranquil spot where you can join the locals relaxing or getting some exercise. Just a few options include el Parque del Buen Retiro, once used only by the Spanish Royal Family before it was opened for general public use; Parque Oeste, whose cable cars provide a unique view of the capital; and sprawling Casa de Campo, a popular spot for cycling. The choice is yours! If you have more time to spend in Spain, Madrid also makes a great base for day trips. Historical cities such as Segovia, Toledo, and Alcalá de Henares are easily reached by train from here, and it's not far from the Sierra de Guadarrama.

Whatever your interest, and however long you have to spend here, we know that the city will win you over. Take a look at our tips and suggestions for how to spend a night, a few hours, a half day, or a full day in Madrid to really make the most of your time here. Enjoy!

Madrid for a night

If I say "Spain" and you say "Flamenco", a visit to El Corral de la Moreria is a must! This prestigious flamenco tablao, widely considered one of the best in the world, will treat you to a vibrant evening of music and rhythm you'll never forget. There are performances every day, starting at around 17:30 each night, and you can choose between just watching the show or also dining in the restaurant. As El Corral de la Moreria is located in the city center, close to the Royal Palace, it is easy to reach on foot from metro stations such as La Latina or Tirso de Molina.

If you would prefer to just see the show, you won't be stuck for food options nearby. For example, just a 7-minute walk from El Corral de la Moreria is Calle Cava Baja, a street in Barrio La Latina full of places to eat -- we suggest Casa Curro or Casa Lucio.



Luken recommends:

Madrid terraces are the place to be for a cocktail at sunset! Some incredible options are the rooftop terraces at the Riu Hotel or El Círculo de Bellas Artes, both found on Gran Vía.

TOP tip: As well as the metro, you can use a cab service to get around Madrid quickly; Cabify is a reliable option.



JJ recommends:

For the adventurous...

"Streetxo - Owned by Dabiz Muñoz, top international Spanish chef, who was awarded 3 Michelin Stars in his restaurant Diverxo. Streetxo is Diverxo's little brother! Affordable, high-quality cuisine which pays tribute to Hong Kong street food."

Madrid in three hours

Visit this: You could begin the morning with a visit to Madrid's sprawling Parque Oeste and Templo Debod, an ancient Egyptian temple which, after being donated to Spain in the 1960s, was transported piece by piece to Madrid where it was then reconstructed. It's free to look around, and one of the main highlights of a visit is the chance to see some stunning views across the city from the lookout point.

Another option is to visit Madrid's 18th-Century Palacio Real: it's an easy 15-minute walk from here so if you plan to view both buildings only from the outside, you could even do both within a couple of hours. Though no longer the residence of the Spanish Royal Family, it is a beautiful place to visit with a striking exterior and incredible gardens. Las Meninas, which is one of the world's most famous paintings, was even painted here. The palace is open most days for those who want to visit the inside -- you can either explore the many magnificent rooms at your own pace, or pay a little extra to join a guided tour. There is also an app you can download for the most comprehensive information about what to see.

Walk here: If you find yourself with time to spare, now would be a good time for a stroll through the bustling Puerta del Sol! This busy square in the heart of the city, surrounded by shops and cafés, is around a 10-minute walk from the palace.

See this: While at Sol, don't miss the Bear and Tree Statue (where you'll need to take the obligatory tourist photo) or Plaza Mayor, Madrid's Main Square, which is just a couple of streets away.

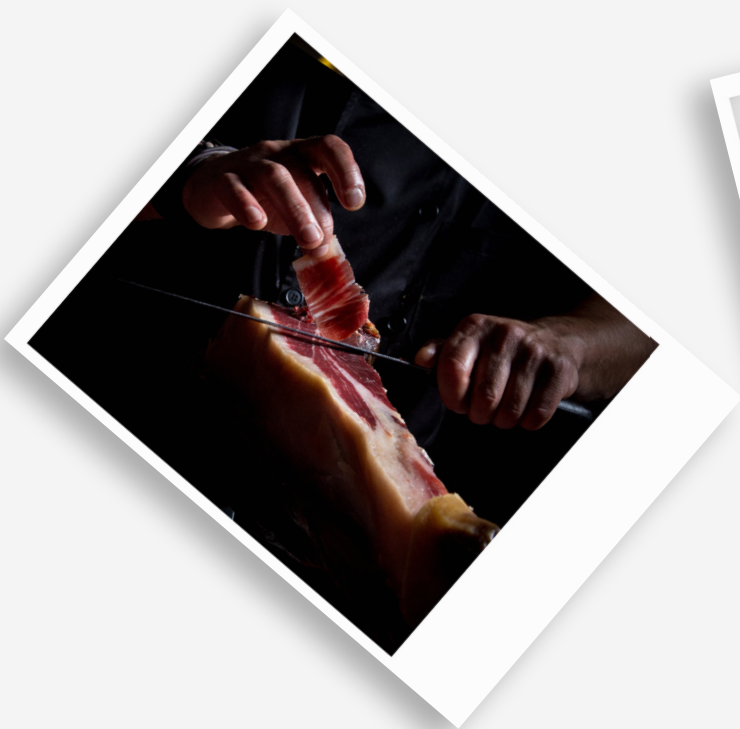
Eat here: As early afternoon approaches, your thoughts are bound to be turning to food, so here's our chance to tell you about a few dishes you can't miss while in Madrid: a pincho of tortilla de patata (potato omelette), salmorejo, some mouthwatering fried croquetas stuffed with ham, cheese, or mushrooms, and of course, a plate of delicious jamón ibérico.



JJ recommends:

"An important note about Jamón Ibérico: There IS a difference between jamón serrano and jamón ibérico. Serrano is worse quality. Ibérico is the one that's good and more expensive. BUT don't pay more than €18-24 for a single plate of jamón ibérico!!"

Luckily for you, if you've reached Plaza Mayor you'll be just steps away from the popular Mercado de San Miguel food market! Browse the stalls before picking up your food to go, or take a load off while you enjoy a drink and a bite to eat and watch the mix of tourists and locals enjoying the market. Mercado de San Miguel is also a great choice if you're coming to the end of your visit in the early evening, when it is often full of people enjoying an after-work drink.



JJ recommends:

"You 100% wanna go to 'Mercado de San Miguel'. For tourists and for everyone. It will be packed, but it's worth it" Another great choice for an evening meal nearby is Casa Lucio, said to be the favorite Madrid restaurant of former King Juan Carlos I. It's a wonderful place to savor some classic Spanish flavors in an authentic setting.





See Madrid in half a day

Visit this: How about a walking tour of the sights? If you start off close to the iconic Retiro Park you'll find yourself at one of the city's most famous landmarks: the Puerta de Alcalá arch on the Plaza de la Independencia. Walking a little further on will then take you to the Fuente de Cibeles fountain -- which you might recognize as the spot for the Real Madrid soccer team's celebrations -- and Cibeles Palace at the top of the Paseo del Prado.

See this: As you continue your tour, just before you turn off onto Gran Vía you'll come to the beautiful Círculo de Bellas Artes building on your left. If you head inside and pay the small fee of €4, you can take the elevator up to its impressive rooftop terrace where you'll be treated to some stunning panoramic views across the city. Not to be missed!

Walk here: After you pass by the Círculo de Bellas Artes, you'll turn onto Gran Vía, one of Madrid's most iconic avenues lined with shops, theaters, and places to eat, not to mention incredible buildings. From here, you can then stroll over to Sol and Plaza Mayor, or maybe the Royal Palace.

Eat here: The trendy neighborhood of Malasaña close to Gran Vía is great for tapas when hunger strikes! When it gets to lunch time (around 2-3pm in Madrid), you'll also find that many typical places advertise a "menu del dia" which offers two or three delicious courses at, normally, a very reasonable price.

Or, if you're coming to the end of your tour in early evening, head to Platea!!



Tatiana recommends:

Platea is a great evening of high-quality food and entertainment. At Platea, you can feast your eyes and then your taste buds on dishes from around the world, grab some tapas and a drink, or enjoy an end-of-the-day cocktail with friends or colleagues. While you eat, don't take your eyes off the main stage where you'll see entertainment that ranges from music to acrobatics; check the website ahead of time to see what's going on and when!

The background image of the top section is a photograph of the Cibeles Fountain in Madrid. The fountain features a central statue of Cybele seated on a chariot, pulled by two lions. Water is spraying upwards from the base of the fountain. The text "See Madrid in a full day" is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

See Madrid in a full day

Visit this: You could start your day by exploring the city center and some of the top spots we've talked about so far: Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, the Royal Palace, Gran Vía, the Cibeles Fountain, and the Puerta de Alcalá arch are just some of the must-see sights to include on your list.

If you're an art lover, however, maybe you'd prefer a morning at one of the three art museums which comprise the city's famed "Golden Triangle". The Prado and Thyssen museums are both found on the Paseo del Prado and the Reina Sofia is close by, so all three are easily reachable on foot from metro stations such as Estación del Arte, Atocha, or Banco de España.

or Atlético de Madrid? For example, the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, home to the legendary Real Madrid soccer team, is open almost every day of the year for fans to experience the squad's success up close. Tickets start at €25 and get you some panoramic views of the stadium and pitch; access to the dressing rooms, tunnels, and benches; and a visit to the multimedia "sensations" room. A must for all those with a passion for the beautiful game!

If you want to go to a match while you're in Madrid, you can check out upcoming fixtures in the city **here**.

Walk here: Early afternoon is the ideal time for a leisurely stroll in Retiro Park, one of Madrid's largest and most beautiful public parks. Whether you're in Madrid in spring, summer, or fall, the park is a popular spot for locals and tourists who come to breathe the fresh air, go for a run (or a cycle), or just chill out on the grass with a book. You'll also find places to grab a drink or a snack as you enjoy the sunshine.



Tatiana recommends:

"Salamanca is the best neighborhood for taking a walk, doing some shopping, and having a drink."

The neighborhood of Salamanca is found just to the north of Retiro Park. As it's home to some of the biggest names in Spanish and international haute couture as well as high street brands, it's an ideal place to go if you're in the mood for shopping -- or just dreaming! There are some beautiful buildings to admire as you wander, and plenty of bars and cafés if you feel like taking a break for a drink or something to eat.

See this: As you walk around Retiro Park, you'll come across some hidden gems which are well worth a visit! You're sure to spot the large lake where you can hire small rowing boats, but make sure to also keep an eye out for the beautiful glass Palacio de Cristal and the Rose Garden, as well as the Paseo de las Estatuas, which is lined with statues of past kings.

Eat here: If you end your day in the Salamanca district, you'll have some great places to eat close by. Try Restaurante Ten Con Ten, a classic and upscale restaurant offering incredible Spanish food.



JJ tip:

"Amazonico - trendy place, cool food with a brazilian twist. They have a hidden jazz club at the basement. Ask for it!"



- 1 -