

SHORT BREAKS & EXCURSIONS

AROUND THE REGION OF MADRID

SIERRA DE GUADARRAMA
NATIONAL PARK

ALCALÁ DE
HENARES &
ARANJUEZ

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

SAN LORENZO
DE EL ESCORIAL


SIERRA
DEL RINCÓN

REAL VILLAGES
AND NATURE

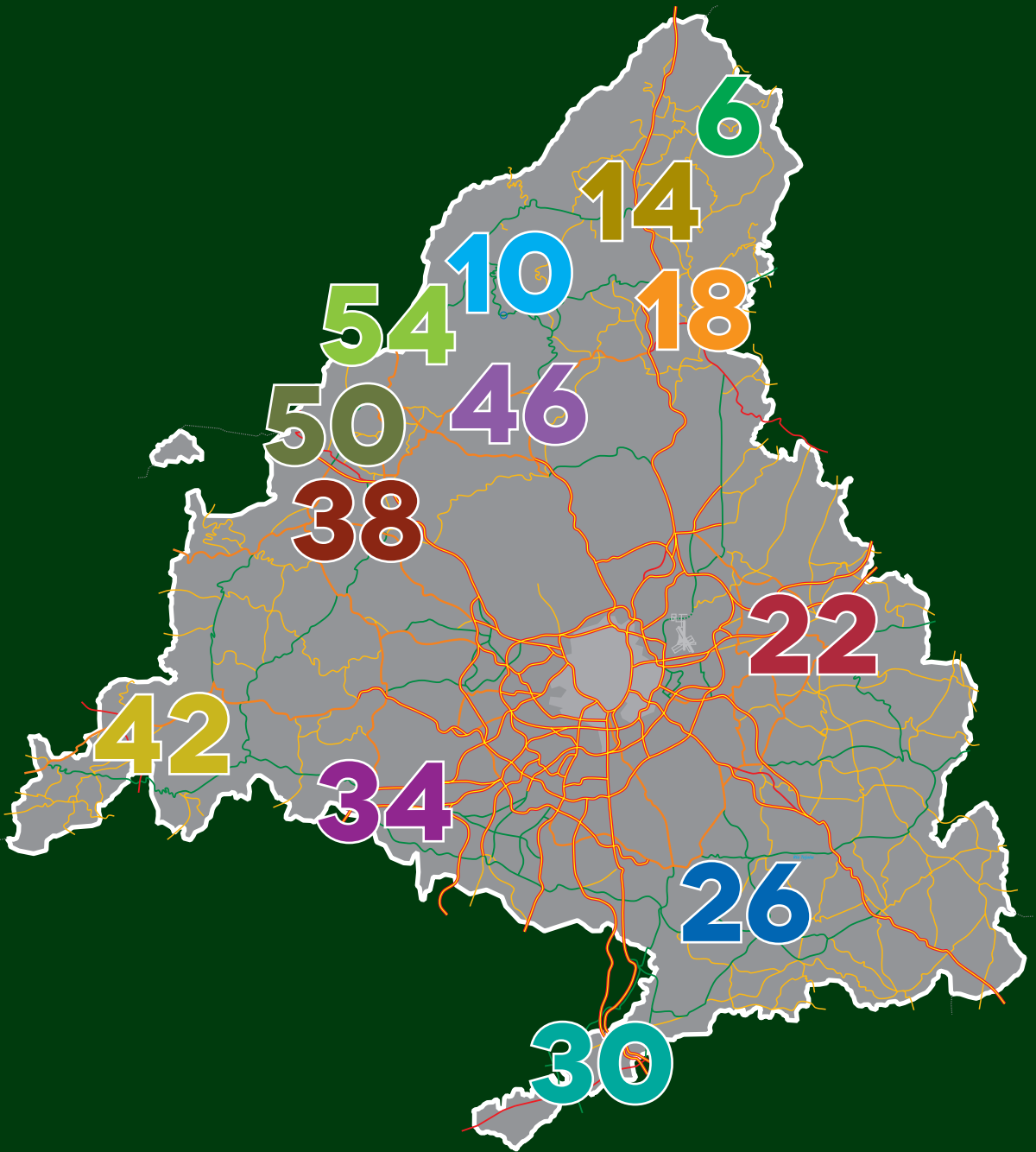
PATHS
& ROUTES

MADRID'S
LOCAL CUISINE


La Suma de Todos

 Comunidad de Madrid

www.madrid.org



Edited by: Dirección General de Turismo. Comunidad de Madrid / April 2015

Texts and layout: TurMedia Turismo - www.grupoagd.es

Photographs: Photographical database of **TurMedia Turismo** excluding:

Turismo Madrid: front cover, pages 22-23, 25 cent, 26-27, 27 bot, 29 top, 30-31, 32, 34-35, 38-39, 39, 42-43, 44 top, 46-47, 50-51, 57

Turismo Madrid (Juan Vaquero): pages 4-5

Museo Casa Natal de Cervantes: pages 24 bot

Turismo de Navalcarnero: pages 35 bot, 37

SnowZone: page 59

El Corralón del Embalse: pages 62-63

Printed by: Boletín Comunidad de Madrid / **D.L.:** M-5469-2015

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AROUND THE REGION OF MADRID



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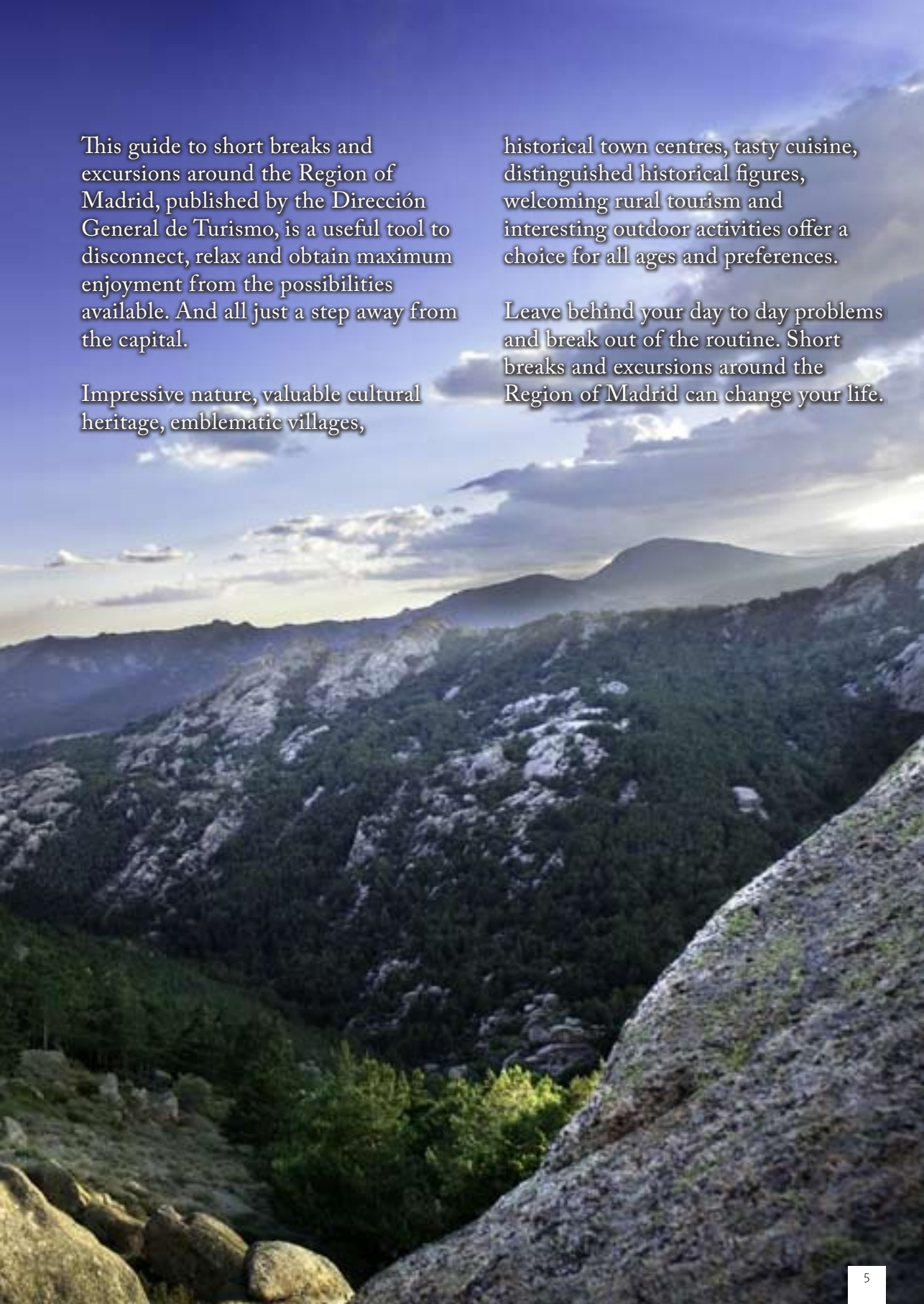


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Culinary breaks and excursions

SHORT BREAKS & EXCURSIONS AROUND THE REGION OF MADRID





This guide to short breaks and excursions around the Region of Madrid, published by the Dirección General de Turismo, is a useful tool to disconnect, relax and obtain maximum enjoyment from the possibilities available. And all just a step away from the capital.

Impressive nature, valuable cultural heritage, emblematic villages,

historical town centres, tasty cuisine, distinguished historical figures, welcoming rural tourism and interesting outdoor activities offer a choice for all ages and preferences.

Leave behind your day to day problems and break out of the routine. Short breaks and excursions around the Region of Madrid can change your life.

La Sierra del Rincón

REAL VILLAGES
AND NATURE



It is easy to reach the Sierra del Rincón!

- Take the A-1 to Buitrago (Km. 76)
- Then the M-137 (towards Montejo)
- Arrive at Prádena del Rincón, and from here you have access to all the other villages of the Sierra del Rincón

A visit to the five villages of the Sierra del Rincón will draw you into a genuine mountain setting with its traditional houses and landscapes of old .

The Sierra del Rincón mountain range is one of the most charming enclaves in the Region of Madrid. Here, the natural landscape hosts five small villages which keep the rural spirit alive and preserve centuries-old traditions.

DON'T MISS!

The Church of Santo Domingo de Silos (12th century) and the Salmoral lagoon in → **Prádena del Rincón**.

The village centre, the ethnological museum, and the Church of San Nicolás de Bari in **Horcajuelo de la Sierra**.

The Hayedo de Montejo beech grove and the town centre (old shoeing frame, Tres Cantos fountain and 16th century Parish Church) in **Montejo de la Sierra**.

The valley, the old centre, Arabic fountain and shrine of Ntra. Sra. de la Soledad in **Puebla de la Sierra**. →

← The picturesque architecture, old mill and oak groves of **La Hiruela**.



BIOSPHERE RESERVE

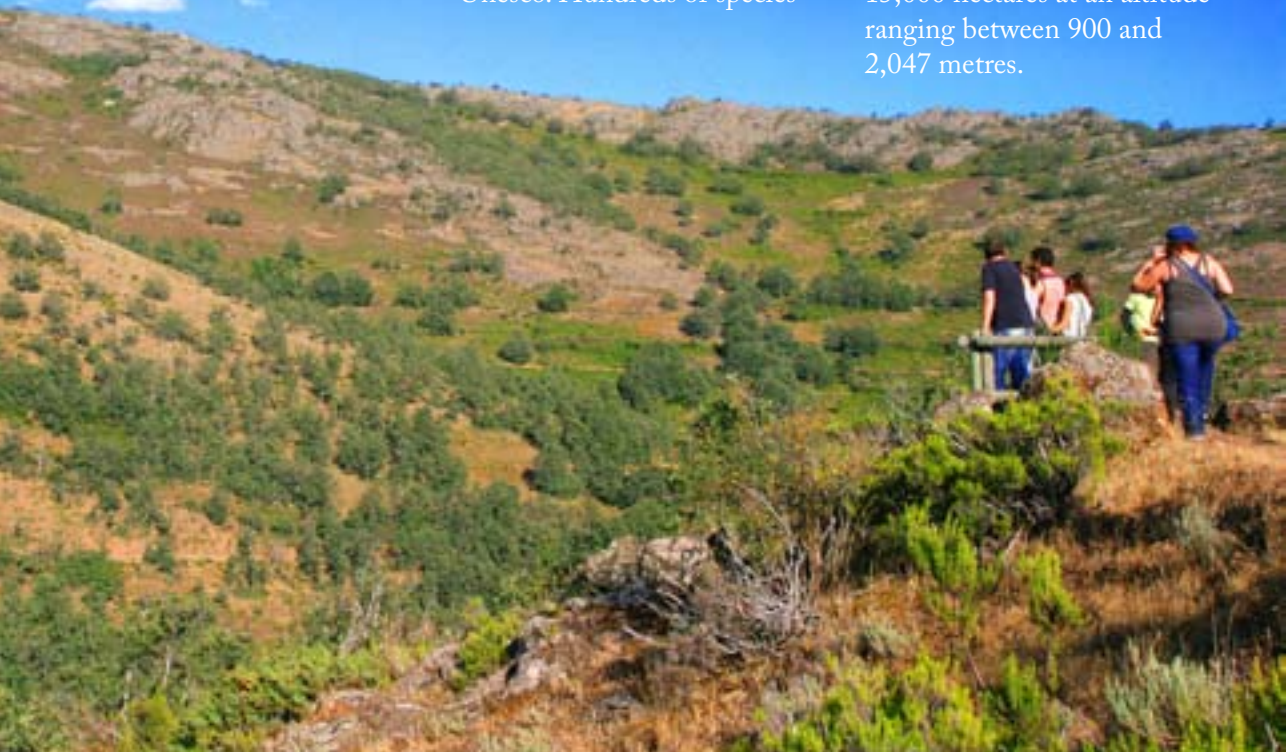
www.sierradelrincon.org



The impressive natural wealth of the Sierra del Rincón received worldwide acknowledgement in 2005 when it was classified as a Biosphere Reserve by the Unesco. Hundreds of species

of flora and fauna can be found here, some of which are at risk of extinction.

The Sierra del Rincón occupies a surface area of just over 15,000 hectares at an altitude ranging between 900 and 2,047 metres.



LA SIERRA DEL RINCÓN

Eating and sleeping

The Sierra del Rincón pioneered rural tourism in Madrid and offers a wide range of lodgings and rural hotels. It also provides cosy restaurants where you can taste mountain cuisine, with specialities including broad beans, meats of the Sierra de Guadarrama protected geographical indication, and vegetable garden produce.

Active tourism

The Sierra del Rincón is ideal for practicing active tourism, offering outdoor activities while enjoying valuable natural surroundings. There are numerous free trails which can be toured with specialised guides and also itineraries for travelling alone at your own pace. Both types of routes have a choice of distance and level of difficulty to cater for all ages and levels of fitness.

Festivals

The Sierra del Rincón celebrates its festivals in a proudly traditional manner, especially at carnival time, with La Vaquilla bull runs in **Puebla**, the religious procession of the Virgen de Nazaret in **Montejo**, and the Pero Apple Harvest festival in **La Hiruela**. This festival takes place every autumn and pays homage to a local fruit tree. The pero is a variety of apple which has an exquisite taste and intense aroma. The event is celebrated with numerous traditional activities.

THE HAYEDO DE MONTEJO BEECH GROVE

One of the most spectacular spaces in the Sierra del Rincón is the Montejo Beech Grove, in Montejo de la Sierra. It is one of the southernmost beech groves in Europe and its 250 hectares feature not only beeches, but also oak, Pyrenean oak, and holly trees.

Visits are restricted with a limited number of passes, therefore you are advised to book in advance over the phone or by Internet, although you can also obtain a pass on the day for small numbers of people. During the free guided tours you will come across centuries-old beech trees and numerous environmental curiosities.



Resource and Information Centre on the Sierra del Rincón Biosphere Reserve. Real, 64. Montejo de la Sierra. Tel. 91 869 70 58. www.sierradelrincon.org

ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM



To learn about the traditions of the Sierra del Rincón visit the ethnological museum and the forge of Horcajuelo de la Sierra.

In a rural building made of stone and slate, you can see the stables, farming tools, and utensils used for bread-making and the pig slaughter. Also,

the traditional dwelling, with its rooms and furniture and characteristic décor, along with an exhibition of the region's traditional garments.

At the Horcajuelo forge we can see how the forger worked and how important his role was for the local farming and cattle-rearing activities.

Tel. 91 869 70 22
www.sierradelrincon.org

Valle Alto del Lozoya

PEAKS, WATER
AND IMPRESSIVE VIEWS



It is easy to reach the Valle Alto del Lozoya!

- Take the A-1 to Km. 69 followed by the exit to Rascafría via the M-604
- The M-604 is the road that takes you to all the villages in the valley

The Peñalara mountain peak, Madrid's natural rooftop, crowns the Valle Alto del Lozoya, or Upper Valley of the Lozoya river, as the water which flows into the river fills the valley with life.

The first time you visit the Valle Alto del Lozoya you feel impressed; in subsequent visits this feeling turns to admiration. And no wonder, as this is an area of mountain peaks (among them Peñalara, the highest in the Region), typical mountain scenery, an abundance of water, and picturesque villages.

DON'T MISS!

← The **Pinilla reservoir** is the star attraction of this valley. The waters of the Lozoya river are home to an abundance of biodiversity.

Together with the **Monastery of El Poular**, make sure to visit the **Puente del Perdón** (the 14th century Bridge of Forgiveness), a curious place which receives its name because convicts being led to the Casa de la Horca (Hangman's House) could make their last appeal while standing on it.

Alameda del Valle, Canencia, Garganta de los Montes and El Cuadrón, Gargantilla del Lozoya and Pinilla de Buitrago, Lozoya, Navarredonda and San Mamés, Pinilla del Valle, → Rascafría and Oteruelo del Valle... all of them are genuinely attractive and unforgettable.





MONASTERY OF EL PAULAR

This is the cultural jewel of the Valle Alto del Lozoya and of all the Sierra Norte of Madrid. At the foot of Peñalara and just 2 km away from Rascafría we find the Monastery of El Paular, declared a National Historical Artistic Monument. It started to be built in 1390 and was the first Carthusian monastery in Castilla. Its history has seen moments of great splendour and other less prosperous times. The monastery has been very well preserved and contains interesting elements such as the Church's main altarpiece, the baroque chapel containing the tabernacle, the refectory, the patios, the library and a collection of baroque paintings by Vicente Carducho, from the 17th century.



Ctra. M-604, Km. 26,5
www.monasteriopaular.com

VALLE DEL LOZOYA NATURAL PATH



This path links the parishes of El Cuadrón and Rascafría and its approximately 29 km will also lead you past Garganta de los Montes, Lozoya, Pinilla del Valle, Alameda del Valle and Oteruelo del Valle. It is an ideal route for cycling, although it can also be done on foot in various stretches. This path offers contact with nature, beautiful views, historical bridges, shrines and many other elements of interest.

PEÑALARA NATURAL PARK

If El Paular is the cultural jewel of the Valle Alto del Lozoya, then Peñalara is undoubtedly its natural jewel. It is considered a Site of National Interest, a Natural Park and is also one of the most renowned enclaves of the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park. Its 768 hectares includes a high mountain ecosystem, with an enormous diversity of flora and fauna and natural lagoons. All crowned by the impressive Peñalara peak, with an altitude of 2,428

metres, the highest point of the Region of Madrid. The Peñalara Natural Park has a large number of paths marked out so you can follow routes to help you further enjoy this impressive scenery.

www.parquenaturalpenalara.org



VALLE ALTO DEL LOZOYA

Eating and sleeping

The Valle Alto del Lozoya offers endless possibilities for eating and sleeping. Rural tourism and local cuisine have evolved enormously, so you can now find hotels, country house lodges, and restaurants to suit every taste. Most venues respect traditional architecture and some are ancient barns or farming buildings which have been carefully converted into lodgings.

Active tourism

It is possible to ski over more than 22 km of marked slopes and also to practice cross-country skiing, snowboarding and walks on snowshoes. The horseback, bicycle and hiking trails are very pleasant and, in addition to nature, offer the possibility of seeing medieval bridges and other examples of heritage along the way. At the Pinilla reservoir, water activities such as rowing and canoeing are permitted.

Festivals

The villages in the Valle Alto del Lozoya celebrate their public holidays with great enthusiasm. Although there are several celebrations throughout the year, the most noteworthy dates include the carnival celebrations, and the patron saint festivities generally held over several days between June and October. These include activities for all ages, with concerts, sports events, religious acts, food tastings, etc.

Buitrago

TRAVEL TO
A MEDIEVAL
TOWN



It is easy to reach Buitrago!

→ Take the A-1 to Buitrago (Km. 74)

The A-1 motorway runs along villages and landscapes of enormous value, which often go unnoticed: nature and places steeped in history can be discovered without barely leaving the tarmac.

Buitrago del Lozoya has been enormously relevant for centuries. It was the centre of the so-called *Comunidad de Villa y Tierra de Buitrago* (Community of the Town and Lands of Buitrago), which grouped together various surrounding villages and was an important commercial nucleus in the Middle Ages. Enjoying its walled enclosure surrounded by the river Lozoya's waters, its historical buildings, wide cultural offer and surroundings is an experience that can only be described as magnificent.

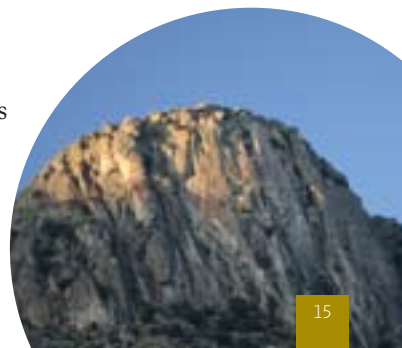
DON'T MISS!

← Take a walk through the town of **Buitrago del Lozoya**, visiting its walls and the **Picasso Museum** is a must.

Enjoy amazing views from the peaks of the **Somosierra** mountain range, and have a look at the **Chorrera de los Litueros**, the highest waterfall in the Region of Madrid.

The forests of **Robregordo** and **La Acebeda** are ideal places for enjoying moments of tranquillity and the colouring of the leaves, especially in autumn.

The granite mountain landscapes of the **Sierra de La Cabrera** are perfect for hiking, climbing or even just to look at.



THE OLD BUITRAGO

www.ayto-buitragodellozoya.es



The best way of becoming familiar with the old Buitrago is by walking through its streets and admiring its walls, the best preserved in the Region of Madrid. They were first erected in the Muslim period, the works continued during the Reconquista and there have been successive restorations in the centuries that followed.

The site has a perimeter of approximately 800 metres, three gates, solid towers, remains of the barbican and a coracha (a part of the wall that enters the river). On the wall a distinction can be made between the lower ramparts (parallel to the river, less wide and less thick) and the upper ramparts (with tall thick walls as they were considered to be more vulnerable).

The most noteworthy aspects of the ensemble are the clock tower and the remains of the castle, which had a rectangular layout, a central parade ground and several stone towers of different shapes.

PICASSO'S LEGACY

The legacy of Pablo Ruiz Picasso is present in Buitrago del Lozoya on account of the friendship between the artist from Malaga and his barber Eugenio Arias during his exile in France. Picasso dedicated to Arias, a native of Buitrago, drawings, pictures, pottery, posters, books and objects which he gave to him and which have been used to create the Picasso Museum Eugenio Arias Collection, which also includes photographs and handcrafted pieces. This collection in Buitrago del Lozoya consists of 75 objects.

Pza. Picasso, 1
Buitrago del Lozoya
Tel. 91 868 00 56
www.madrid.org/museopicasso



SIERRA DE LA CABRERA

South of Buitrago runs the Sierra de La Cabrera mountain range, with emblematic peaks such as El Cancho Gordo and El Pico de la Miel (at 1,394 m, and easily recognisable by its characteristic rounded shape). This mountain range has an abundance of granite formations, and vegetation and fauna that make up a valuable ecosystem and a peculiar landscape. Inhabited since the Visigoth period, buildings such as the convent of San Antonio (dating back to the 11th or 12th century) can still be found. Climbing enthusiasts also have plenty of routes to explore.

www.la-cabrera.es



BUITRAGO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping

Buitrago del Lozoya and the surrounding villages have numerous proposals for trying the local cuisine and taking a well-earned rest in their comfortable hotels and rural lodgings. There is plenty of choice to suit all tastes and budgets.

Active tourism

Around Buitrago del Lozoya there are endless possibilities for outdoor activities such as hiking, routes on horseback, mountain bike trails,

canoeing in the waters of the river Lozoya, or multi-adventure proposals...

Festivals

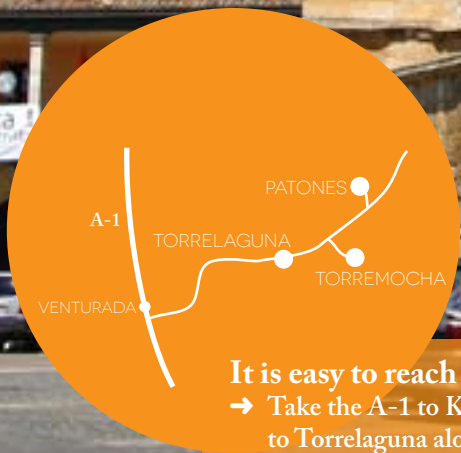
Two very famous festivals are particularly important in Buitrago del Lozoya. The **Living Nativity**, a Festival of Tourist Interest, has been held for over 25 years. At Christmas, hundreds of people dress up and parade along the streets and squares of Buitrago representing numerous scenes from the bible. The **Medieval Fair**,

held in September, uses this impressive walled town as the setting for handicrafts markets, leisure activities, exhibitions, shows and performances

Both Buitrago del Lozoya and the surrounding villages also celebrate their patron saint festivities, which usually take place in the summer months and offer a wide variety of entertainment for the general public.

Torrelaguna

HISTORICAL
BUILDINGS AND
ILLUSTRIOUS CHARACTERS



It is easy to reach Torrelaguna!

→ Take the A-1 to Km. 50, then take the exit to Torrelaguna along the N-320

Torrelaguna and the surrounding villages, such as Patones and Torremocha de Jarama, have the charm of history, the tradition of craftsmanship and are valuable natural enclaves.

Walking through Torrelaguna is to be soaked in its history. Its centuries-old civil and religious buildings have an outstanding cultural significance. Also, illustrious characters have walked down its streets and squares, for example, Cardinal Cisneros, San Isidro Labrador and Santa María de la Cabeza.

DON'T MISS!

The historical buildings of ← **Torrelaguna** and its impressive Church of **Santa María Magdalena**.

The picturesque streets and buildings of **Patones de Arriba**, → where time seems to stand still.

El **Pontón de la Oliva** and its surroundings, where you can practice climbing.

The tradition of craftsmanship that can be sensed in **Torrearte** and in the **Museum of Agriculture** of **Torremocha de Jarama**. →



THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS OF TORRELAGUNA

Torrelaguna has the distinction of being a Site of Historical Artistic Interest and deserves no less. Its rich heritage is the product of the remarkable development this town experienced between the end of the 15th century and the 16th century, mainly thanks to Cardinal Cisneros.

The stunning Church of Santa María Magdalena is the most outstanding building. Its construction began in the 15th century and inside it contains valuable altarpieces and a gothic baptismal font. The tower has a square floor plan and three bodies ending in a spire.

Also worthy of note are the former granary (founded by Cardinal Cisneros as a grain store but which now houses the Town Hall), the corn exchange (14th and 15th centuries) and the old Hospital de la Santísima Trinidad (currently used for a different purpose).

Many other buildings are of interest such as Palacio Arteaga, Palacio Salinas, Casa Vargas, Portada de los Quirós, the Convent of Las Carmelitas de la Caridad, the Franciscan Monastery of La Madre de Dios and the Convent of Las Concepcionistas Franciscanas Descalzas. Only

some architectural remains of these buildings have been preserved, but they are more than sufficient for us to admire the historical importance Torrelaguna once had.

www.torrelagunaweb.es



TORRELAGUNA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping

One of the major attractions of Torrelaguna is its cuisine and that of its surrounding villages. All of them provide fine food and plenty of choice. Rural tourism is also present thanks to small hotels and country lodges with all comforts.

Active tourism

Routes to become familiar with the natural surroundings of Torrelaguna are attractive both for walking and cycling.

This area is also well-known for caving and paragliding, and near Pontón de la Oliva there are spectacular natural walls of stone which are ideal for climbing.

Festivals

Torrelaguna has two main traditional festivities. The first are the patron saint festivities



in honour of the **Virgen de la Soledad** held the first weekend in September filled with religious events and tradition, and the famous bull runs.

The religious processions of the **Romería de Santa María de la Cabeza and San Isidro Labrador** started in the Middle Ages and are held in June. The figures of the saints are taken to the shrine of La Piedad, a place of prayer for both saints.

PATONES DE ARRIBA

This is one of the most unique and picturesque villages of Madrid and is recognised as a Place of Cultural Interest. Time seems to have stood still on its streets and you can stroll around calmly while admiring the typically rural constructions in slate and stone.

The oldest human remains to have been found in Patones date from the Palaeolithic. Tradition also refers to the figure of the King of Patones, who until the middle of the 18th century was in charge of administering justice among neighbours. The title was hereditary.



www.patones.net

PONTÓN DE LA OLIVA

This was one of the first and most emblematic constructions of the Canal de Isabel II. It played a very important role in the water system supplying the city of Madrid; building began in the middle of the

19th century. The Pontón de la Oliva dam dates back to that period and collects the waters of the river Lozoya (which were famous for their purity) just before it meets the Jarama river.




Alcalá de Henares

A CITY FULL OF CHARM AND
A WORLD HERITAGE SITE



It is easy to find Alcalá de Henares!
→ Take the A-2, then the exit to Alcalá de Henares, 30 kilometres from the capital



Alcalá de Henares has known how to preserve the legacy of the different cultures and illustrious characters that have crossed its lands. A fact that is evident from its impressive historical heritage.

Alcalá de Henares has so many attractions that all visitors leave satisfied and eager to return. Its history, culture, art, tradition, cuisine and events are just some of the elements that contribute to making it an unforgettable experience.

DON'T MISS!

The **high street**, or **calle Mayor**, is an essential walk for enjoying the architecture and touring the local shops.

← The **Casa de Cervantes**, where this great writer was born, and which recreates the rooms and atmosphere typical of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The **university** façade, dating → from the 16th century, is a jewel of the Renaissance period.

The **Corral de Comedias**, built as an open-air theatre in 1601 and now a regular theatre hall still preserving all of its original essence.

Plaza de Cervantes, marking the city centre, dates from the 13th century, although reformed in the 19th century to its current appearance.

Travel on the **Cervantes Train**, with stewards dressed in period costume and including a guided tour of Alcalá.

← **Complutum**, important in Roman times, was the origin of today's Alcalá de Henares.



CALLE MAYOR (HIGH STREET)

Calle Mayor is the most important street in Alcalá de Henares. It is an example of medieval planning and a peaceful walk down it is a magnificent experience. Undoubtedly, its charming colonnades contribute to this, along with its traditional shops, its lively atmosphere and the historical buildings that line the path. These include the Casa de Cervantes, the Corral de la Sinagoga and the former Hospital de Nuestra Señora de la Misericordia.
www.alcalaturismo.com

CASA DE CERVANTES

In the middle of the calle Mayor we find the house where researchers affirm that Miguel de Cervantes was born in 1547. Its interior has been carefully restored and allows us to observe what life was like in that period thanks to rooms such as the kitchen, the dining room, the bedrooms, the state room, the office of his father, Rodrigo de Cervantes, the ladies' room, etc. It also contains a bibliographical collections, which includes jewels such as the first edition of *El Quijote* (*Dom Quixote*), editions in other languages or printed with engravings or drawings. The building also plays host to various cultural activities.

Mayor, 48
Tel.: 91 889 96 54
www.museo-casa-natal-cervantes.org



COMPLUTUM

This is the origin of the current Alcalá de Henares. It was one of the main Roman cities of Spain's interior and comprised important infrastructures and buildings. Archaeological works carried out by the Region of Madrid now allow us to admire the remains of constructions such as the monumental façade, streets, el Paredón del Milagro (or Wall of the Miracle), the civil basilica, the market or the baths. Of special note is the House of Hippolytus, built towards the end of the 3rd century and discovered in 1991. This was a recreational building with baths, pools, a garden and a mosaic depicting a fishing scene by Hippolytus.

Camino del Juncal, s/n
Tel. 91 877 17 50
www.complutum.com



UNIVERSITY

Founded by Cardinal Cisneros in 1499, this was one of the most important universities in the world in the 16th and 17th centuries on account of both its professors and its students. Illustrious figures such as Nebrija, Calderón, Quevedo, Lope de Vega, San Juan de Ávila, Jovellanos or Tirso de Molina had a relationship with this university. The façade is impressive and a beautiful example of Renaissance architecture in Spain. It was conceived by Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón and erected in the years 1537 and 1553. Also, the Paraninfo hall of the university is used every year for the prestigious Cervantes Literature Award Ceremony.

www.uah.es



NUEVO BAZTÁN



Close to Alcalá de Henares, the town centre of Nuevo Baztán is considered a Historical-Artistic Site and a Site of Cultural Interest. This beautiful town has known how to preserve its original nucleus, designed by José Benito Churriguera at the request of Juan de Goyeneche. The latter was the true creator and promoter of Nuevo Baztán and provided the town with outstanding baroque buildings such as the Palace that carries his name and the Church of San Francisco Javier.



ALCALÁ AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping

Alcalá de Henares has a wide offer of food and accommodation along with its many cultural and historical attractions. Also, for lovers of good food, there are events throughout the year such as the “tapas” routes and gastronomic days starring the local dishes of Alcalá and traditional cuisine.

Active tourism

El Parque de los Cerros, declared woodland with public amenity value is

ideal for exploring its sign-posted routes, either walking or cycling. Another recommendation is the river corridor that runs along the right hand bank of the river Henares with its explanatory boards of the surrounding flora and fauna. Another essential place for practicing outdoor activities related to nature, education, culture and leisure is **Naturalcalá**.

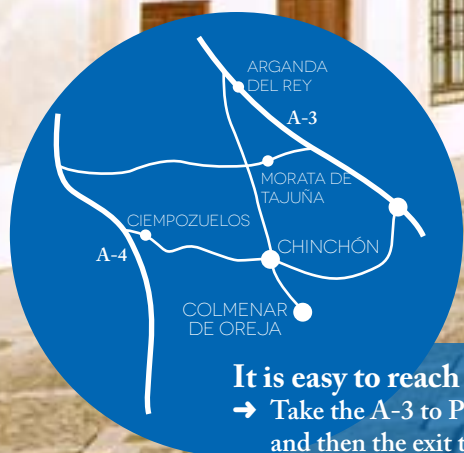
Ctra. A-2, exit 38
Tel. 91 835 09 00
www.naturalcalala.com

Festivals

Alcalá has festivals which have been declared of Touristic Interest such as the Alcalá de Henares **Holy Week**, the **Semana Cervantina** (Week of Cervantes in early October), and **Don Juan in Alcalá** (31 October and 1 November). Also traditional are the **Carnival**, the **patron saint festivities of Santos Niños Justo y Pastor** (in early August), the **Festivals and Fairs of Alcalá** (towards the end of August) and the **festival in honour of the Virgen del Val** (on the third Sunday in September).

Chinchón

PLAZA MAYOR,
HERITAGE AND
LOCAL CUISINE



It is easy to reach Chinchón!

- Take the A-3 to Puente de Arganda, and then the exit to the M-311/M-313, passing by Morata de Tajuña en route to Chinchón

One of the emblematic icons of Chinchón is its impressive Plaza Mayor (Main Square), but this town has many more attractions which make a visit here a must.



Chinchón

has so many charms that it is impossible to resist a visit. Its emblematic Plaza Mayor is considered to be one of the most beautiful in all the Region of Madrid. This town also harbours other impressive examples of architectural heritage, and its superb local cuisine boasts many delicious traditional products.

DON'T MISS!

← The impressive **Plaza Mayor**, where in addition to admiring its architecture you can eat in one of the restaurants on its wooden balconies.

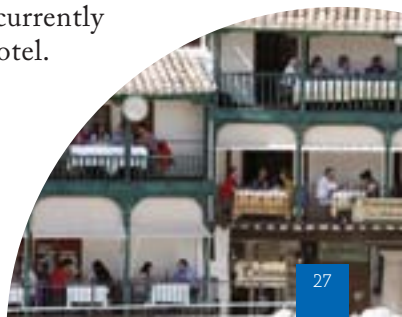
The imposing **Church → of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción**, which even contains a work by Goya.



The **Torre del Reloj** (Clocktower), the only element that remains standing of the old Church of Nuestra Señora de Gracia, destroyed during the War of Independence.

The **Monasterio de los Agustinos** (Augustine Monastery) was founded by the counts of Chinchón in the 17th century and is currently used as a Parador hotel.

Chinchón's tasty and varied local **cuisine** will have → you licking your fingers.



A large, light-colored stone church with a prominent arched entrance and a smaller arched window above it. The church is situated on a hillside overlooking a town with traditional Spanish architecture. The sky is clear and blue.

CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ASUNCIÓN

The Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción dates back to 1534, although works were not completed until 1626 due to the fact that they were interrupted for several years. It suffered damage during the War of Independence and was restored. The temple shows different architectural styles such as the Gothic, Plateresque, Renaissance and Baroque. Inside we can find elements of interest, among which we would highlight La Asunción de la Virgen, painted by Francisco de Goya at the request of his brother Camilo, who was the chaplain of this Church.



www.ciudad-chinchon.com

PLAZA MAYOR

The Plaza Mayor of Chinchón is considered to be one of the most important in all of Madrid. It does not deserve any less, anyone who knows it admires this square with its irregular layout and attractive surrounding buildings with their charming wooden balconies overhanging it.

Since it was created towards the end of the 15th century, the square has been given different uses, as a comedy theatre, for spear games, mystery plays, bullfighting events and even film shoots.

CHINCHÓN AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping

It is very easy to taste the local cuisine of Chinchón. There are numerous restaurants throughout the town, and some also offer exceptional views of the Plaza Mayor. In Chinchón you can have a pleasant night's stay at the Parador or other existing hotels and country lodges.

Active tourism

The surroundings of Chinchón are ideal for walking, cycling and enjoying nature. One of the most

famous routes leads to the Laguna de San Juan, on the banks of the river Tajuña, which is of outstanding birdwatching value, with species such as royal ducks, storks, herons, shovellers, and marsh harriers, among others.



Festivals

Chinchón offers a full programme of festivals and events throughout the year. The mystery play **La Pasión de Chinchón** is its most famous celebration and is declared of National Tourist Interest. We would also highlight the **Carnival** and its **medieval market**, the **festival in honour of the patron** saints in mid-August and the **Charity Bullfighting Festival** in October, which is the oldest in Spain (dating back to the 19th century).

CUISINE

To visit Chinchón and not taste its cuisine is unforgivable. Based on regional tradition, its restaurants cook stews and roasts as tasty as they are unforgettable. The dishes' main ingredients include suckling pig, lamb, kid, game and fowl, seasonal vegetables, etc.

Chinchón is also famous for select foods and gourmet products which you can also take home to lengthen the memory of your visit. Particularly worth noting are its renowned anisette liquor, traditional sweets and pastries, cheeses, olive oil, garlic and wine.

MONASTERIO DE LOS AGUSTINOS

Full of history, this monastery was founded by the counts of Chinchón in the 17th century. It was damaged during the War of Independence but recovered its splendour as an academic and cultural centre. The building was also affected by the disentailments of the 19th century which modified its use. The monastery has been appropriately restored and the part formerly occupied by the monks is now the Parador of Chinchón. Next to the convent, we find its old Church, the shrine of Nuestra Señora del Rosario, in the Baroque style.

TORRE DEL RELOJ

The Torre del Reloj clock tower is an architectural survivor. It was the only part of the Church of Nuestra Señora de Gracia that was spared when the temple was destroyed during the War of Independence. Originally, it had no clock, this was added in the 18th century. It was then restored in the 19th century.



COLMENAR DE OREJA



Very close to Chinchón, we find Colmenar de Oreja, a beautiful town with an attractive centre, with its magnificent Plaza Mayor and the spectacular Church of Santa María la Mayor (built

by the Order of Santiago in the 12th century) as its most outstanding elements. It is also essential to visit the Ulpiano Checa Museum, a homage to Ulpiano Checa (1860-1916), painter and

sculptor born in this town. Checa is one of the main representatives of the historical genre. His works are impressive and full of life.

ayto.cdo.colmenardeoreja.com

Aranjuez

WORLD HERITAGE SITE,
CULTURE AND ROYALTY
ON THE BANKS OF THE TAGUS



It's easy to reach Aranjuez!

→ Take the A-4. Aranjuez is 49 kilometres from Madrid

Aranjuez has everything you can wish for to enjoy a visit to the full: historical buildings, impressive gardens, a charming town centre, delicious cuisine and numerous cultural and outdoor activities.

Aranjuez is one of those places you fall in love with at first sight. This town, on the banks of the river Tagus, has starred in some of Spain's major historical episodes, a fact which is evident from many of its buildings, some as emblematic as the Royal Palace. Walking down its streets and enjoying its numerous possibilities is a magnificent experience.

DON'T MISS!

← The **Royal Palace**, an impressive building where you can admire the majestic nature of its architecture, rooms and decoration.

The **gardens of the Royal Site**, where along with → nature you can observe fountains and sculptures.

The **Falúas Museum** with its remarkable riverboats, used by royalty to sail down the Tagus.

Discover Aranjuez with the **Tren de la Fresa (Strawberry Train)** which allows you to taste its famous strawberries en route and includes a guided tour of the Royal Palace.

The **Casa del Labrador**, a beautiful building within the Prince's Garden.

The **Royal Church of San → Antonio**, which forms part of an incredibly beautiful town centre.



ROYAL PALACE

The Palacio Real de Aranjuez dates back to the 16th century during the reign of Philip II, although its current appearance is due to the reconstructions and additions received in later centuries.

However, all of them involved the intervention of the most prestigious architects and masters of the period, such as Juan Bautista de Toledo, Juan de Herrera, Santiago Bonavía and Francisco Sabatini.

If the outer architecture is impressive, its interior is genuinely marvellous. Its foyers, halls and rooms are authentic jewels whose value increases with the paintings, embroideries, sculptures, porcelains and furniture of their decor.

www.patrimoni nacional.es



GARDENS

The Jardín de la Isla, Jardín del Rey, Jardín del Parterre and Jardín del Príncipe gardens are considered to be among the most beautiful in the world.

The enormous variety of plants, fountains and sculptures blend to perfection. The result is superb and gives rise to magnificent natural and artistic creations, in different styles, from Renaissance and Baroque to Romantic, with oriental, French and English influences.



MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL FALÚAS

This museum situated in the Jardín del Príncipe or Prince's garden, contains an interesting collection of some of the riverboats used by royalty to sail down the river Tagus. These are centuries-old long slim vessels which were designed and decorated to suit the taste of their royal passengers.

CASA DEL LABRADOR

Located within the Jardín del Príncipe (Prince's Gardens) it was conceived as a country house for Charles IV. It is the work of Juan de Villanueva and Isidro González Velázquez and was built in several phases. Its interior is worthy of admiration, with halls and rooms richly decorated in marble, with bronze, paintings, porcelains and clocks.

ROYAL CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

This is the 18th century work of the architects Isidro González Velázquez and Santiago Bonavía. It started out as an oratory that Philip IV ordered to build provisionally because of the Royal Chapel's limited capacity. The Church, with its circular floor plan and a beautiful dome, is perfectly integrated in the plaza de San Antonio square and forms an ensemble of curved traces and arches that add great beauty.

www.aranjuez.es



ARANJUEZ

Eating and sleeping

The cuisine of Aranjuez is as amazing as its cultural heritage. In fact, as part of this visit a good restaurant meal is an absolute must. Fundamental ingredients include produce from the town's fertile lands (starring asparagus and strawberries) and meats such as rabbit and game. Aranjuez has a wide offer of hotels so that sleeping here is also a pleasure.

Active tourism

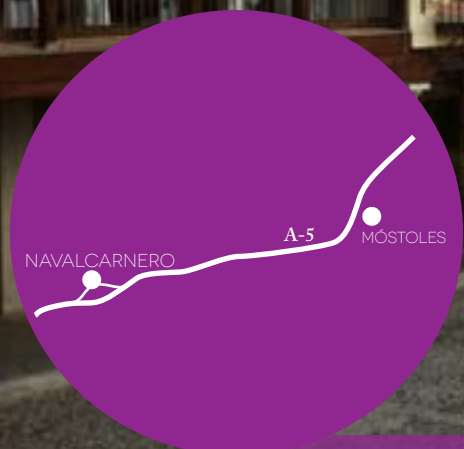
The Groves and **Historical Walks** of Aranjuez are ideal for touring on foot, horseback, or bicycle while enjoying an attractive landscape. Another place where you can feel close to nature is the **Mar de Ontígola**, an enclave of tremendous environmental value where it is possible to hike and birdwatch. Also, the **river Tagus** provides for water activities such as canoeing.

Festivals

A noteworthy festival is the commemoration of the **Riot of Aranjuez**. This festival, declared of International Tourist Interest, is held on the first weekend in September and relives the historical event of 1808. Also, throughout the year there are other events such as **San Isidro Labrador** (15 May) and the patron saint festivities of **San Fernando** (end of May).

Navalcarnero

A HISTORICAL SITE,
SPECTACULAR ROASTS



It is easy to reach Navalcarnero!

→ Take the A-5 to Navalcarnero,
31 kilometres from the capital

It is always comforting to travel to Navalcarnero. This town has a beautiful centre, outstanding food and established traditions which deserve to be known.

The Villa Real de Navalcarnero is full of history. It was the location of a royal wedding and the town centre comprising the Plaza de Segovia square and the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción is considered to be a Site of Cultural Interest. Plus its restaurants offer delicious roasts, which can be washed down with local wines.

DON'T MISS!

← The magnificent **Plaza de Segovia** square with its beautiful colonnades.

The 16th century **Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción**, with a very valuable interior and slender tower with a spire.

The **Casa de la Cadena**, where king Philip IV and Mariana de Austria were wed in 1649.

The **roasts and gastronomic products of the area** are really delicious and the result of careful preparation.

Walk through the streets of → the town, and note the sculptures by contemporary artists.



PLAZA DE SEGOVIA

Plaza de Segovia is Navalcarnero's most emblematic square. It has witnessed many of the town's events and remains full of life.

Declared a Site of Cultural Interest in the category of Historical Site of Cultural Interest, it was built in the 16th and 17th centuries, it has an irregular floor plan and portico structures on three of its sides. Its facades accentuate the beauty of the surroundings.



CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ASUNCIÓN

The Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, dated early 16th century, is considered to be a National Historical-Artistic Monument, and a Site of Cultural Interest in the Historical-Artistic Site category. Throughout the centuries it has been refurbished on several occasions so what we see is a combination of styles. Inside, the Chapel of the Virgin is worthy of note, with several extremely valuable Baroque altarpieces. The tower, with four bodies, is crowned with a spire and is reminiscent of the Toledo Hispanic-Moorish style.

www.turismo-navalcarnero.com



CASA DE LA CADENA

The Casa de la Cadena reveals the historical relevance of Navalcarnero. In 1649, King Philip IV and Mariana de Austria were wed and spent the following nights here. What we see today is a faithful reproduction of the original façade. The name of the house refers to the enormous chain in front of its door, secured to stone bollards made of granite.



LOCAL CUISINE

Navalcarnero is popularly known as the “land of wine, chickpeas and lamb”. Naturally, these three products are the major stars of the town’s local cuisine. Navalcarnero is the location of several wineries and its wines are included in the Designation of Origin Wines of Madrid. It also has a Wine Museum, where you can become better acquainted with the

winemaking art of this area. Chickpeas are the star ingredient of the Olla del Segador (Harvester’s Stew), a variation on the traditional cocido dish. The mainstay of the local cuisine are the savoury roasts, cooked slowly and carefully to achieve that unsurpassable taste.



NAVALCARNERO

Eating and sleeping

It is impossible to resist the local cuisine of Navalcarnero. Its roasts and stews are in greatest demand cooked following traditional recipes that must be paired with the famous locally produced wines. Sleeping in one of Navalcarnero’s hotels is also a pleasant experience, and helps us to become more familiar with this town and its surroundings.

Active tourism

The natural surroundings of Navalcarnero are ideal for tranquil enjoyment while practicing outdoor activities. A magnificent way of doing so is on foot or cycling, along existing paths. The area of the Guadarrama river is particularly valuable from an environmental standpoint.

Festivals

The **Mercado Real del Siglo de Oro** market, and **Bodas Reales**

(**Royal Wedding**) between Philip IV and Mariana de Austria are considered to be festivals of Tourist Interest and are held before the **patron saint festivities of Ntra. Sra. de la Concepción** (in early September). The **bull runs** (which date back to 1649) are traditional and very popular. Also, **Holy Week** is a traditional celebration. Other events include **San Isidro** (15 May), **San Roque** (16 August) and the **Covadonga festival** (in mid-August).

San Lorenzo de El Escorial

AN UNFORGETTABLE
EXPERIENCE



GUADARRAMA
COLLADO
VILLALBA
A-6
SAN LORENZO
DE EL ESCORIAL

**It is easy to reach San Lorenzo
de El Escorial!**

→ Take the A-6/AP-6 to exit 47, towards El Escorial, along the M-600, which leads to San Lorenzo de El Escorial

The countless historical, cultural and natural attractions of San Lorenzo de El Escorial captivate people from all over the world and are the starting point for an unforgettable visit.

San Lorenzo de El Escorial has everything for a perfect outing. Its outstanding historical-artistic heritage, its privileged location, its valuable natural enclaves, superb food, cultural events and festivals in a well-looked after environment, satisfy visitors every time.

DON'T MISS!

The majestic **Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial**, of incalculable value and worldwide fame.

The **Abantos** and **La Herrería** mountains → with their rich biodiversity ideal for being in contact with nature.

← Walking through the **old town** of San Lorenzo and admiring the numerous buildings which have witnessed the life of the town.



THE ROYAL MONASTERY OF SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL

This is the jewel of the town, its impressive historical-artistic value has crossed borders and it is declared a World Heritage Site. Philip II considered the setting of San Lorenzo de El Escorial to be ideal for erecting a majestic building that would commemorate the victory at the Battle of San Quintín and act as the mausoleum for both his parents and himself. Works began in 1563, and the king himself would supervise

them. Some of the most important architects of the time took part, such as Juan Bautista de Toledo and Juan de Herrera.

Inside, we would point out the basilica, the pantheon of Kings and Princes, the chapter houses, patios, the library, the palaces and the paintings and sculptures by artists of the stature of Goya, Velázquez, El Greco, Bernini, and Monegro. The monastery's gardens also have a value of their own with their blend of natural and artistic value.

www.patrimoniounacional.es



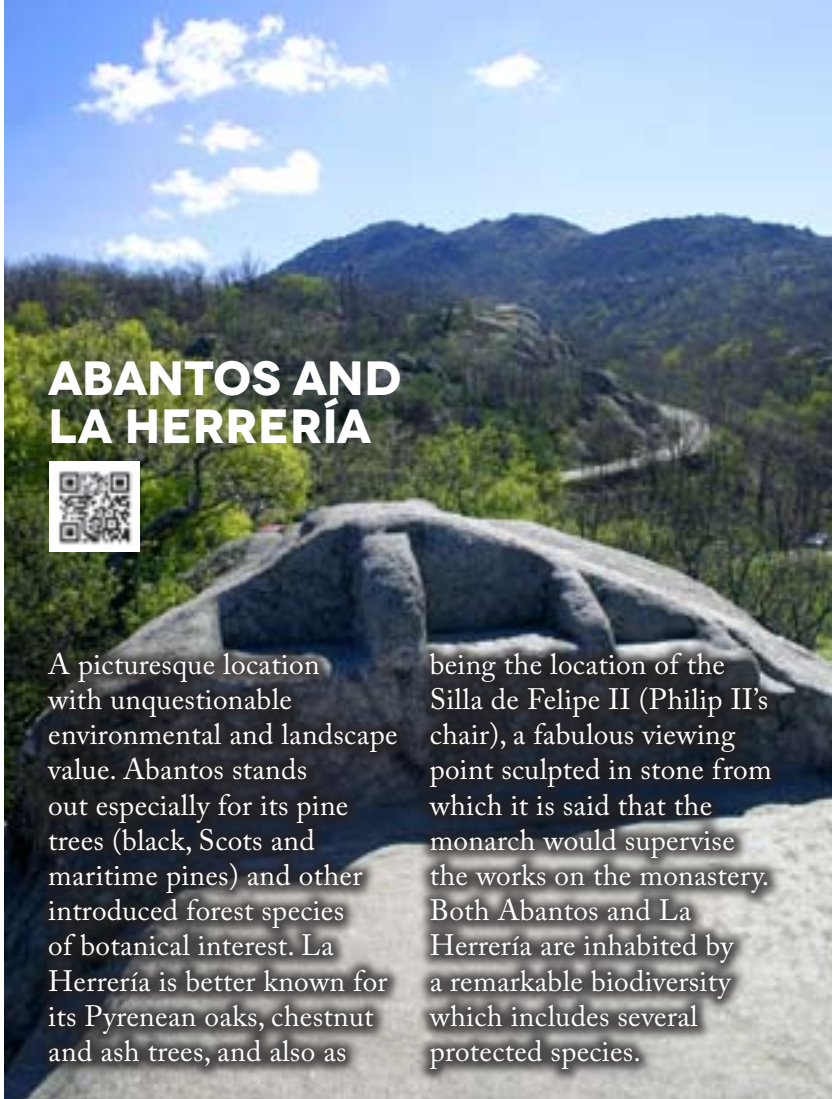
VALLE DE LOS CAÍDOS



This colossal monument was built between 1940 and 1958. Its most visible element is the impressive stone cross standing 150 metres tall.

However, its most valuable element is excavated deep into the rock. It is a basilica measuring 262 metres long, with numerous chapels and a dome with a mosaic by Santiago Padrós. The basilica is also the burial place of more than 33,000 people who fell on both sides during the Civil War. In the Valle de los Caídos (Valley of the Fallen) there is also a Benedictine Abbey and other annexes such as a library and a guesthouse.

ABANTOS AND LA HERRERÍA



A picturesque location with unquestionable environmental and landscape value. Abantos stands out especially for its pine trees (black, Scots and maritime pines) and other introduced forest species of botanical interest. La Herrería is better known for its Pyrenean oaks, chestnut and ash trees, and also as

being the location of the Silla de Felipe II (Philip II's chair), a fabulous viewing point sculpted in stone from which it is said that the monarch would supervise the works on the monastery. Both Abantos and La Herrería are inhabited by a remarkable biodiversity which includes several protected species.

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL

Eating and sleeping

The culinary offer of San Lorenzo de El Escorial is as extensive as its many tourist attractions. The traditional dishes of Castilla are very much present, although it is also possible to find other types of cuisine. The ample offer of hotels in San Lorenzo means sleeping in this town is just perfect.

Active tourism

Routes on horseback and bicycle routes are an excellent way of being in contact with nature

and enjoying the surroundings of San Lorenzo de El Escorial. The Abantos and La Herrería mountains are two frequently visited places. They are also the setting for the **Travesía de las Cumbres Escorialenses** (a Festival of Tourist Interest, a 22km mountain trail event crossing four mountain peaks).

Festivals

San Lorenzo de El Escorial has a full calendar of festivals throughout the year. The most emblematic include the religious

procession or **Romería of Nuestra Señora de la Virgen de Gracia** (declared of National Tourist Interest and held on the second weekend in September), **Carnival**, the **Holy Week** (Festival of Tourist Interest), the **San Lorenzo festival** (in August) and **Christmas** (during which a large nativity scene is set up in the main streets of the town centre).



San Martín de Valdeiglesias

MADRID'S
COAST

SAN MARTÍN DE
VALDEIGLESIAS

PELAYOS
DE LA PRESA

M-501

CADALSO DE
LOS VIDRIOS

It is easy to reach San Martín de Valdeiglesias!

→ Take the A-5, exit onto the M-501, and continue until you reach San Martín de Valdeiglesias

The waters of the Alberche river flow into the reservoirs of San Juan and Picadas. Next to them we find towns such as San Martín de Valdeiglesias and Pelayos de la Presa. This setting is ideal for enjoying water activities and a day at the beach, even if there is no sea.

San Martín de Valdeiglesias sits in a wide valley amidst abundant vegetation since long before the San Juan reservoir came into existence, with evidence of its founding dating back to the 12th century. History, culture and nature come together in this town to the southwest of Madrid.

DON'T MISS!

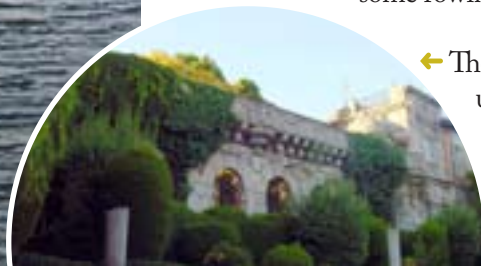
← The **San Juan reservoir**, with more than 50 kilometres of coastline and the only one where motorboats are permitted, is the nearest thing to a beach and is just a step away from the capital.

The **Castillo de la Coracera**, a → castle built by Álvaro de Luna in the 15th century as a symbol of power, is the most emblematic monument of San Martín de Valdeiglesias.

The ruins of the Cistercian **Monastery of Santa María la Real de Valdeiglesias**, in Pelayos de la Presa.

Walk around the **Picadas reservoir** on the Via Verde del Alberche (Alberche green path), or do some rowing there.

← The **Palacio de Villena**, used as a summer palace by Álvaro de Luna, in Cadalso de los Vidrios.





Containing the waters of the rivers Alberche and Cofio, this reservoir built in 1955, has more than 50 kilometres of coastline and 14 beaches which can be enjoyed as the only reservoir where swimming and motorised water activities are permitted.



EMBALSE DE SAN JUAN (SAN JUAN RESERVOIR)

www.amm.es/valdeiglesias

CASTILLO DE LA CORACERA

Catalogued as a Site of Cultural Interest, this castle was built by Álvaro de Luna in the middle of the 15th century to protect his lands and as a symbol of power against the Church, which had owned the estate previously. Built in stone with a robust tribute tower, it has a chapel and parade grounds, and is surrounded by walls. The castle can be visited and also rents out its premises for events, conferences and exhibitions.



Pza. Castillo, s/n
www.castillodelacoracera.com

MONASTERY OF SANTA MARÍA LA REAL



On the outskirts of Pelayos de la Presa we find the ruins of the Cistercian Monastery of Santa María la Real de Valdeiglesias. This is an impressive group of religious buildings built after the 12th century and combining numerous styles such as the Church with its Romanesque header, a Gothic cloister, a Mozarabic chapel and other quarters inspired in the Herrera style. Despite its state of disrepair, it is of considerable value.

www.santamarialarealdevaldeiglesias.com

EMBALSE DE PICADAS

This narrow reservoir, built on the waters of the river Alberche, starts at the foot of the dam of San Juan. It is a pleasant setting from which to discover what used to be the railway line and is now the Via Verde del Alberche, a route amongst pine trees which are reflected in the water and bridges joining the two banks.

SAN MARTÍN DE VALDEIGLESIAS

Eating and sleeping

Around San Martín de Valdeiglesias we can find a wide selection of accommodation, especially rural country lodges and apartments, as well as a large number of restaurants. Of note is the winemaking tradition of San Martín de Valdeiglesias, with its wineries that maintain their artisanal methods, producing especially young wines which are renowned among the wines of the Region of Madrid.

Active tourism

Around the Embalse de San Juan, in San Martín de Valdeiglesias, there is a wide variety of possibilities with water and multi-adventure activities. The marina, founded in 1958, promotes sailing as a sport, and it has a recognised school with frequent regattas. There are many pleasant routes on foot. Along with the Vía Verde del Alberche, we find others such as the Senda del Canto del Guarro which combine sport and scenery.

Festivals

San Martín de Valdeiglesias holds its traditional **patron saint festivities** in the month of September, along with the festival of the patron saint **San Martín de Tours**, on 11 November, in addition to **carnival** and the religious procession or **Romería** to the shrine of the Virgen Nueva. Another great tradition are the **festivals in honour of San Blas** in Pelayos de la Presa, as well as **Holy Week** and the patron saint festivities of **El Cristo del Humilladero** in Cadalso de los Vidrios.

Manzanares el Real

NOBILITY,
WATER AND
STONE



It is easy to reach Manzanares el Real!
→ Take the M-607 to Colmenar Viejo, then the M-609 to kilometre 5, before taking the exit to Manzanares along the M-862 followed by the M-608 to your destination

The nobility had a special connection with Manzanares el Real and left a legacy that can still be appreciated in many of the town's buildings and cultural elements.



Manzanares el Real is one of those places where history and nature merge and create a place that just has to be discovered. The Mendoza family, of noble descent, marked the evolution of the population. The castle, the best preserved in all of Madrid, lies at the foot of La Pedriza mountain range, where nature has eroded the rocks to create a unique landscape.

DON'T MISS!

← The **Mendoza Castle, or New Castle**, is the best preserved castle in the Region of Madrid.

The 14th century **Church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves** with its different styles.

La Pedriza, an → authentic work of nature, rising majestically above Manzanares el Real.



The **Santillana reservoir**, from the early 20th century, is the main reservoir on the river Manzanares, and is used to supply water to the city of Madrid.

Miraflores de la Sierra, → an interesting mountain town with old summer houses and a spectacular grotto.





THE MENDOZA OR NEW CASTLE

This is the emblem of Manzanares el Real and is declared a Historical-Artistic Monument. The Mendoza or New Castle was erected in the 15th century by the Mendozas, dukes of the Infantado, and one of the most influential families of the time. This beautifully restored castle is the best preserved in the Region of Madrid. It has a square floor plan and consists of three rounded turrets and one octagonal turret, a patio with porticos, a basement and six floors. Its rooms are full of tapestries, antique furniture and armour. The entire complex is surrounded by a barbican. Although originally this had a defensive function, it also catered to palace events. Visit the castle by taking a guided tour or attending any of the many cultural activities that take place inside.



www.manzanareselreal.org

MANZANARES AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping

Manzanares el Real offers tourists a wealth of options in terms of local food and accommodation. Its rural country lodges and hotels are welcoming and its restaurants offer gastronomic proposals for all tastes, although we would highlight the dishes of local traditional cuisine and roast meats.

Active tourism

Lovers of climbing, hiking or cycling have an unmissable appointment with the natural surroundings of Manzanares el Real, and La Pedriza as its emblematic enclave. Routes on horseback are also a possibility among many other activities.

Festivals

The **summer festival** (in the first week in August) is the most popular in Manzanares el Real. However there are also events throughout the year such as **carnival**, the **festival of Nuestra Señora Virgen de Peña Sacra** (on Pentecost), **la Noche de San Juan** (in June), and the **festival of Cristo de la Nave** (in September).

CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LAS NIEVES

Founded in the early 14th century, it presents a combination of different styles as a consequence of the many refurbishments it has seen throughout its history, which even modified the location of the portico in the middle of the 16th century of a purist Renaissance style. The Church has three naves, separated by arches on stone pillars and a tower of three bodies. Of note inside the church are a Gothic tombstone, a sculpture of the Virgen de la Correa, and a 16th century baptismal font.



LA PEDRIZA

A beautiful example of the force of nature, which has polished and shaped the impressive rocks forming La Pedriza, in the Regional Park of the Cuenca Alta del Río

Manzanares. This setting is completed with trees and shrubs which adapt to the stony characteristics of the soil and animal species including vultures and specimens of mountain goat.

EMBALSE DE SANTILLANA

The Santillana or Manzanares reservoir was built in the early 20th century although it was extended in 1969 with the construction of a new dam. This extension not only increased the reservoir's storage capacity but also revealed some of the

elements of the former dam, such as a neo-Gothic tower emerging from the waters and creating a curious image. The reservoir supplies Madrid and also serves as the habitat for numerous species of birds, fish and plants.



MIRAFLORES DE LA SIERRA

www.mirafloresdelasierra.es



Located close to Manzanares el Real, a walk through the town centre will take you past summer houses, the Town Hall building, the new fountain, or the Church of Nuestra

Señora de la Asunción, with a baptismal font dating back to 1492.

Don't forget to visit the grotto of Nuestra Señora de Begonia,

perched over the Miraflores river gorge, with its surprising gardens and image of the Virgin.


From Guadarrama to Navacerrada

VILLAGES LINKED BY
THE MOUNTAINS



It is easy to reach Guadarrama!

- Take the A-6/AP-6 to exit 47, follow signs to Guadarrama. From Guadarrama take the M-622 to Cercedilla. From Cercedilla, take the M-622, then follow the M-614 to Navacerrada.



Mountains are the link between three of the most emblematic villages in the Sierra de Guadarrama mountain range: Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada, with the most significant peaks in the Region of Madrid.

Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada are three charming mountain villages. They all have interesting examples of heritage, charming centres, an outstanding natural landscape which has been recognised since time immemorial, a superb local cuisine, and traditions well worth getting to know.

DON'T MISS!

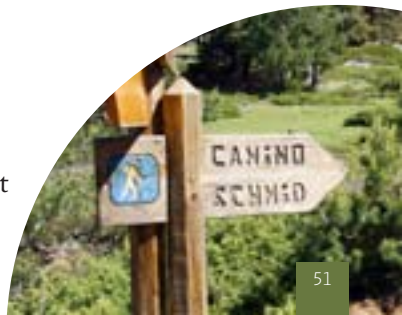
← Take a walk through the **town centres** of Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada.

The **Monument to the Arcipreste de Hita** offers privileged views.

The **Valle de la Fuenfría** → is one of the most important natural spaces in the Sierra de Guadarrama.

The **Tren de la Naturaleza** or **Nature Train** travels from Cercedilla to Puerto de los Cotos through a spectacular mountain landscape.

The **Navacerrada mountain pass**, → Madrid's ski slope and the starting point for many hiking trails.





SPECTACULAR NATURAL ENCLAVES

The natural surroundings of Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada possess an incalculable value, with emblematic peaks and countless elements of interest. In Guadarrama, the Natural Monument of National Interest dedicated to the Archpriest of Hita and comprised by large granite rocks pays tribute to this writer of the Middle Ages, who in his “Book of

Good Love” [Libro del Buen Amor], already describes the local trails. Another essential spot to visit is the Valle de la Fuenfría (Cercedilla), picturesque, with granite and gneiss formations, pine forests and fauna with abundant roe deer, boar, badgers and foxes. The views from its viewing points (“miradores”) are spectacular. The Valle de la Fuenfría has an Educational Centre on the Environment

for additional information. The Valle de La Barranca (Navacerrada) can be explored on a medium-difficulty, 10 km trail. Along the way it is possible to sight pine forests, rock roses, white broom, numerous birds, small reptiles and even some deer. The valley also has a recreational area of the same name, providing drinking water, benches and tables, waste bins and parking places.

GUADARRAMA, CERCEDILLA AND NAVACERRADA

Eating and sleeping

Traditional cuisine and mountain recipes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients are the hallmarks of the local cuisine of Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada. This and much more can be sampled in the area’s many restaurants. These three villages have a wide variety of hotels and rural lodgings to suit all tastes.

Active tourism

The Navacerrada mountain pass is the epicentre of all activities. Along with winter sports such as skiing, it is also

the starting point for a large number of hiking trails, for example the famous Camino Schmidt. The entire area is well-suited for walking, cycling and climbing, as well as for environmental education activities.

Festivals

Locals and visitors alike enjoy the numerous celebrations held throughout the year. In Guadarrama, the most renowned are the **August festivals**, the festivals in honour of **San Miguel** (29 September) and **San Francisco de Asís** (4

October) and the **Medieval Market** (in summer). Cercedilla is particularly known for the **festival of San Sebastián** (20 January), **San Antonio** (13 June), **La Virgen de las Nieves** (in August) and the patron saint festivities of **Nuestra Señora de la Natividad** (early September). In Navacerrada, the most representative festivals are **San Antonio de Padua** (13 June) and **Nuestra Señora de la Natividad** (early September).

GUADARRAMA

The centre of Guadarrama is particularly attractive. The Town Hall is built around a beautiful square with colonnades, two towers at the ends, and combining stone, slate and Arabic tile. Also worth a visit is the neoclassical Fuente de los Caños, dating from 1785, which bears the image of the Archangel Saint Michael. The village's local parish church, dating from the 18th century and built on the former royal bread store and granary, has this same name. The current cultural centre, La Torre, is housed in the former Church of the Archangel Saint Michael, built between the 15th and 16th centuries, of which only the tower and some older structures remain.

www.turismoguadarrama.com



CERCEDILLA

Cercedilla already existed many centuries ago, as demonstrated by the Roman path which crosses the Fuenfría mountain pass and still offers some visible remains. This town has kept the traditional structure of mountain villages and it is a delight to walk through its streets. The Plaza Mayor main square is full of activity and contains the Village Hall and Club for the Elderly. The Church of San Sebastián is of late Romanesque origin and has interesting elements such as the tower, entrance portico to the church and an altarpiece in the Churrigueresque style. Cercedilla also contains the Paquito Fernández Ochoa Ski Museum, devoted to this Olympic champion who is well-connected to the village. Worth a visit also are the Fuente del Bolo, Fuente del Tomillar and Fuente de los Geólogos, all of which are spring water fountains of great cultural and environmental value.

www.cercedilla.es



NAVACERRADA

Navacerrada's village centre is well integrated in its surroundings. Walking through its streets, in cobbled stone, and discovering some of its best examples of civil and religious architecture is a very pleasant experience. The Plaza de los Ángeles square is one of the most relevant locations and contains the Town Hall and the Fuente de los Ángeles, a stone fountain with four basins and a vertical pillar crowned with a lamp of several arms. Also of interest is the Church of la Natividad de Nuestra Señora, built in stonework with ashlar in the 16th century, although partially restored in the 18th and 20th centuries. Its entrance door consisting of an atrium with columns, the bell tower and its valuable interior are all worthy of note.

www.navacerrada.es



Sierra de Guadarrama National Park

WHERE NATURE SHINES
IN ALL ITS SPLENDOUR



It is easy to reach the National Park!

- Via Puerto de Navacerrada, take the M-601 from Navacerrada
- Via Puerto de los Cotos, take the M-604 from Rascafría
- Via La Pedriza, take the M-608 from Manzanares el Real

Declared a National Park on 13th June 2013, it is the fifteenth in Spain and the fifth largest by area. Its 33,960 hectares straddle the autonomous communities of Madrid and Castilla y León, and are home to numerous species of flora and fauna of significant importance.

The National Park comprises part of the municipalities of Alameda del Valle, Becerril de la Sierra, El Boalo, Cecedilla, Lozoya, Manzanares el Real, Miraflores de la Sierra, Navacerrada, Navarredonda-San Mamés, Pinilla del Valle, Rascafría and Soto del Real within the Region of Madrid, plus other neighbouring municipalities which belong to the Region of Castilla y León. It also contains some of the most valuable and emblematic natural sites of the Sistema Central, with unique landscapes, a peculiar characteristic flora, and protected animal species which can be extremely difficult to sight anywhere else.

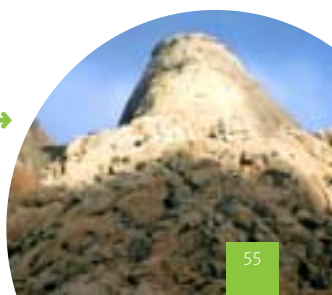
DON'T MISS!

← Via Puerto de los Cotos, note the **Peñalara Massif**, which along with the Peñalara peak (the tallest in Madrid at 2,428 metres) forms the Natural Park of Peñalara, with its lakes and circus and spectacular landscapes.

The **Siete Picos (Seven → Peaks)**, joining the Puerto de Navacerrada and the Puerto de la Fuenfria.

The **Cuerda Larga** mountain chain, which runs at altitudes of over 2,000 m for 16 km and joins the Puerto de Navacerrada and the Puerto de la Morcuera.

In Manzanares el Real, **La Pedriza**, a characteristic → granitic massif of whimsical shapes crowned by the mythical Yelmo.



The reservoirs of Madrid

WHERE WATER IS KEY



It is easy to reach the reservoirs of Madrid!

- To reach the reservoir of El Atazar, take the A-1 to Km 60, and then the exit to El Berrueco and from there to El Atazar
- To reach the reservoir of Valmayor, take the A-6 followed by the exit to the M-505 at Las Rozas
- To reach the reservoir of San Juan, take the A-5 followed by the M-501 in Alcorcón

Madrid has a network of reservoirs with a holding capacity of over 1,000 hm³ (a trillion litres). Although used mainly as water supplies, some allow certain nautical activities and swimming.

Madrid is crossed by many streams and rivers, most of which carry water from the mountains into the mighty Tagus. Many of them have been used for containing the water required to supply the population of the Region of Madrid. The river Lozoya, with five sizeable reservoirs, the rivers Guadarrama, and the Alberche are some of the most important, but there are more than thirty overall, both large and small.

DON'T MISS!

Following the course of the river Lozoya, take the “Ruta de los Embalses”, a route along the **reservoirs of Pinilla, Riosequillo, Puentes Viejas and El Villar** to reach the impressive reservoir of **← El Atazar** (the largest in the Region of Madrid). Next to **Cervera de Buitrago**, it has a nautical sports resort offering sailing and rowing among other activities.

Next to **San Martín de Valdeiglesias** is the **San Juan reservoir**, **→** the only one where swimming and motorised water activities are permitted.

The waters of the river Aulencia were contained between Colmenarejo, Valdemorillo and El Escorial forming the **reservoir of Valmayor**. It is the second largest by capacity in all of the Region of Madrid and as well as hosting important riverside vegetation along its banks, it also offers the possibility to practice sailing.




Winter activities in Madrid

A WHITE BLANKET CAPS THE MOUNTAINS IN WINTER



It is easy to enjoy the snow in Madrid!

- To Navacerrada, via the A-6 until Km. 40 then continuing along the M-601
- To Cotos and Valdesquí, from Navacerrada by continuing towards Rascafría
- To the covered ski slope, along the A-5 to exits 22 and 25



Madrid, just 50 kilometres away from high mountains, is one of the few European capitals with several months of snow less than one hour away. Downhill and Nordic skiing, walks in the snow or a moment of fun on a sledge are within everyone's reach.

Autumn sets in and before winter appears, the main peaks of the Sierra de Madrid are tinged in white and remain snow-capped well into spring. During these months, the snow offers the possibility of taking a break at a ski resort, cross-country skiing through places with unique landscapes in protected settings, and an endless number of hikes on snowshoes through plains filled with snow. And when the snow disappears from the mountains, Madrid works its magic so that the white stuff can be enjoyed all year round in an indoor ski slope.

DON'T MISS!

← The emblematic **Navacerrada mountain pass** has ski lifts and marked slopes ideal for practicing skiing and snowboarding, as well as areas for sledging and games in the snow. Just a few kilometres away heading towards Rascafría, you can find **Valdesquí**, with more than 20 kilometres of slopes on the north face of Las Guarramillas pass.

The **Puerto de los Cotos**, in the middle of the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, offers a 4km circuit for practicing cross-country skiing, along with marked areas for sledging, mountain skiing and walks on snowshoes.

In **Arroyomolinos**, skiing and snowboarding can be enjoyed all year round in the covered slope of **SnowZone**. →



Routes and trails across Madrid

THE BEST WAY
TO ENJOY
NATURE



Certainly, one of the best ways of enjoying nature up close is by walking. Even the shortest of walks can take you to incredible places, uncover the strangest of plants, or provide enjoyment from the sighting of a protected bird.

The Region of Madrid is crossed by a network of trails and paths that make it possible to reach any corner no matter how hidden. Whether cattle trails, rights of way leading to agricultural fields, simple paths linking two towns or part of major routes which cross the peninsula, paths and trails are a pleasant way of roaming in search of a landscape, a remote location, a hidden corner, or of simply enjoying a moment of peace and quiet among beautiful scenery.

DON'T MISS!

The network of public rights of way (**Vías Pecuarías**) of the Region of Madrid covers more than 4,000 kilometres, crossing through all municipalities, often through protected spaces of enormous natural value.

← The **Natural Trails** along old paths are well signposted and maintained and are used by hikers and cyclists alike. In Madrid, it is possible to travel the Valle del Lozoya and the Cañada Real Soriana Oriental.

The **GR-10** path is a long distance route spanning 1,600 kilometres and connecting the Valencian town of Puzol with Lisbon. It crosses Madrid between Patones and San Martín de Valdeiglesias.


The **Camino de Santiago** (or Way of St James) of Madrid connects the capital with the French Way in Sahagún, through the Puerto de la Fuenfría. →





Culinary breaks and excursions

SAVOURING LOCAL FLAVOURS IS
ANOTHER WAY OF GETTING TO
KNOW YOUR DESTINATION



Before, during or after a visit to any location, it is worth tasting the food produced there, whether in the form of sweets, stews, roasts, garden produce or elaborate dishes worthy of the highest cuisine. Madrid allows you to savour a wide range of tastes and textures.

Madrid is more than a great city. Around it there are pastures for feeding cattle, fields of carefully tended organic vegetable gardens, cereals swaying in the breeze, fussed over grapes and olives, and closely guarded bee hives. All with the aim of serving the best products in the many restaurants to be found in the Region of Madrid, or stocking local shops for buyers to try at home.

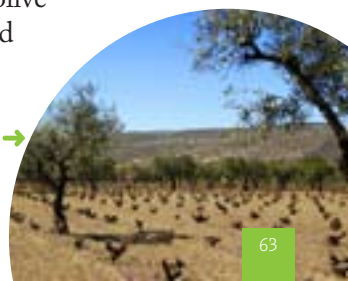
DON'T MISS!

← The **meats of the Sierra de Guadarrama**, of the highest quality, from selected breeds fed in pastures and with grains. Available in local shops and in many of the restaurants of Madrid.

The **Wines of Madrid**, produced especially in the south. The designation of origin and large number of small producers guarantee a quality product.

The **honey** obtained in many of the mountain villages, from approximately 17,000 hives, with tastes of rosemary, heather and blackberry, is usually sold locally.

The **oil** produced by the olive trees of close to a hundred municipalities. Its designation of origin protects a virgin olive oil → with a high content in oleic acid.



Tourist Information Offices

Tourist Information Offices of the Region of Madrid:

MADRID

Airport Tourism Offices

Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas

Terminal Internacional T1 Arrivals.

Tel. 91 305 86 56

Terminal Internacional T4 Lounge 10 & 11

Tel. 91 333 82 52 / 91 333 82 47

www.madrid.org

Chamartín Station Tourism Office

Agustín de Foxá, s/n

Hall - Gate 16

Tel. 91 315 99 76

www.madrid.org

Atocha Station Tourism Office

Pza. Emperador Carlos V, s/n

AVE Hall

Tel. 91 528 46 30

www.madrid.org

Sol Tourist Information Point

Foyer of the Sol Transport Interchange

(Intercambiador de Transportes de Sol)

Tel. 902 100 007

www.madrid.org

Duque de Medinaceli Tourism Office

Duque de Medinaceli, 2

Tel. 902 100 007/91 429 49 51

www.madrid.org

Alcalá 31 Tourism Office

Alcalá, 31. Tel. 91 276 71 87

www.madrid.org

IFEMA Tourist Office

Avda. Partenón, s/n

Feria de Madrid (central corridor)

Tel. 91 721 05 99/91 721 06 04

www.madrid.org

Tourist Information Offices of the Madrid About Info network:

ALCALÁ DE HENARES

Pza. Santos Niños, s/n. Tel. 91 881 06 34

Callejón de Santa María, 1

Tel. 91 889 26 94

www.ayto-alcaldehenares.es

ARANJUEZ

Pza. San Antonio, 9. Tel. 91 891 04 27

www.turismoaranjuez.com

ARGANDA DEL REY

Juan XXIII, 4. Tel. 91 871 13 44

www.ayto-arganda.es

EL ATAZAR

Nogal, 5. Tel. 91 868 60 98

www.elatazar.org/turismo

EL BERRUERO

Real, 47. Tels. 91 868 61 16 / 42

www.turismoberruero.net

BOADILLA DEL MONTE

Pza. Cruz, s/n. Tel. 91 602 42 00

ayuntamientoaboadilladelmonte.org

BRAOJOS

Pza. Calvo Sotelo, 1. Tel. 91 868 04 88

www.brajos.org

BUITRAGO DEL LOZOYA

Tahona, 19. Tel. 91 868 16 15

www.ayto-buitragodelozoya.es

CABANILLAS DE LA SIERRA

Pza. Ayuntamiento, 1. Tel. 652 482 749

www.turismocabanillasdelasierra.es

CANENCIA

Pza. Constitución, 1. Tel. 91 868 75 11

www.canencia.es

CERVERA DE BUITRAGO

Iglesia, 1. Tel. 91 868 71 17

www.cerveradebuitrago.org

CHINCHÓN

Pza. Mayor, 6. Tel. 91 893 53 23

www.turismo-chinchon.org

COLLADO MEDIANO

Pza. Mayor, 1

Tel. 91 859 81 05 (ext. 215 or 211)

www.aytocolladomediano.es

COLMENAR DE OREJA

Costanilla de Silleros, 1. Tel. 91 808 93 32

www.colmenardeoreja.org

COLMENAR VIEJO

Pza. Maestro Almeida, 1. Tel. 91 845 31 36

www.colmenar.es

COLMENAREJO

Inmaculada, 2. Tel. 91 858 90 72

www.ayto-colmenarejo.com

COSLADA

Avda. Príncipes de España, s/n

Tel. 91 627 82 00 (ext. 1625)

www.cosladaweb.es

FRESNEDILLAS DE LA OLIVA

Ctra. Colmenar del Arroyo, 12

c/v Alameda, 9

Tel. 91 898 90 09

www.fresnedillasdelaoлива.es

GUADARRAMA

Tourist Interpretation Centre

Pza. Mayor, 6. Tel. 91 849 47 03

www.guadarrama.es

LA HIRUELA

Herrerías, s/n. Tel. 690 865 132

www.lahiruela.es

HOYO DE MANZANARES

Pza. Mayor, 1. Tel. 91 856 60 04 (ext. 6)

www.hoyodemanzanares.es

LOECHES

Chorrera, 7. Tel. 91 885 17 78

www.loeches.es

LOZOYUELA

Avda. Madrid, 40 (Lozoyuela)

Tel. 91 869 45 61

www.lozoyuela.com

MADARCOS

Sala Polivalente. Panza, 2. Tel. 91 868 14 61

www.madarcos.org

MIRAFLORES DE LA SIERRA

José Yáñez, 7. Tel. 91 844 34 48

www.mirafloresdelasierra.es

EL MOLAR

Remolino, 4. Tel. 691 655 550

www.elmolar.org

MONTEJO DE LA SIERRA

Real, 69. Tel. 91 869 70 58

www.montejodelasierra.net/turismo

MÓSTOLES

Pza. Pradillo, s/n. Tel. 91 664 75 99

www.mostoles.es/es/mostoles-turistico

NAVACERRADA

Pza. Ángeles, 1. Tel. 91 856 00 06

www.navacerrada.es

NAVALCARNERO

Pza. Segovia, 1. Tels. 91 810 11 41/42

www.turismo-navalcarnero.com

NUEVO BAZTÁN

Plaza, s/n. Tel. 91 873 62 38

www.ayto-nuevobaztan.es

PATONES

Pza. Constitución, 1. Tel. 91 843 29 06

www.patones.net

PEDREZUELA

Pza. Constitución, 1. Tel. 91 843 30 53

www.turismopedrezuela.org

RASCAFRÍA

Avda. El Paular, 32. Tel. 91 869 11 17

www.rascafría.org

LAS ROZAS

Juan Ramón Jiménez, 3 (Las Rozas Village)

Tel. 91 640 49 06

www.lasrozras.es

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL

Grimaldi, 4. Tel. 91 890 53 13

www.sanlorenzoturismo.org

SANTA MARÍA DE LA ALAMEDA

Pza. Constitución, 1. Tel. 91 899 90 12

www.santamariadelaalameda.com

TORRELAGUNA

Pza. Mayor, 8. Tel. 91 843 14 03

www.torrelagunaweb.es/turismo

TORREMOCHA DE JARAMA

Torrearte, 3 (Polígono Artesanal)

Tel. 91 843 16 96

www.torremochadejarama.org

VALDELAGUNA

Pza. Valle de la Laguna, 1. Tel. 91 893 70 99

www.valdelaguna.org

VALDEMORILLO

La Paz, s/n. Tel. 91 897 85 78

www.aytovaldemorillo.es

VALDEMORO

Pza. Constitución, 7. Tel. 91 801 82 45

www.valdemoro.es

VENTURADA

Pza. Ayuntamiento, 2. Tel. 91 843 92 12

www.venturada.org

VILLA DEL PRADO

Avda. Constitución, s/n. Tel. 91 862 00 02

www.villadelprado.es

VILLAMANTILLA

Pza. España, 1

Tel. 662 611 616/91 813 73 95

www.villamantilla.org/turismo

VILLAREJO DE SALVANÉS

Pza. Iglesia, s/n

Tels. 91 874 40 02/638 213 515

www.turismovillarejodesalvanes.com

VILLAVICIOSA DE ODÓN

Pza. Constitución, 4. Tel. 91 616 96 16

www.villaviciosaodedon.es

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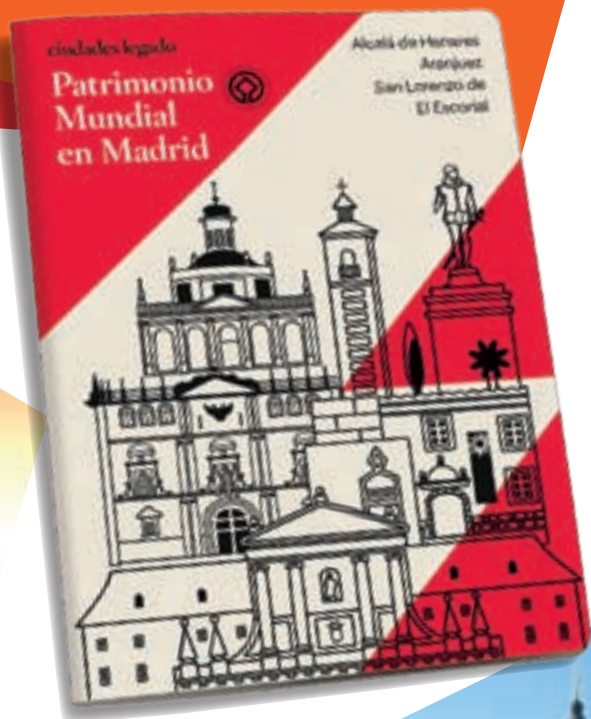
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Aranjuez



San Lorenzo de El Escorial



Infórmate en las Oficinas de Turismo y en Information available at Tourist Offices and in

www.turismomadrid.es



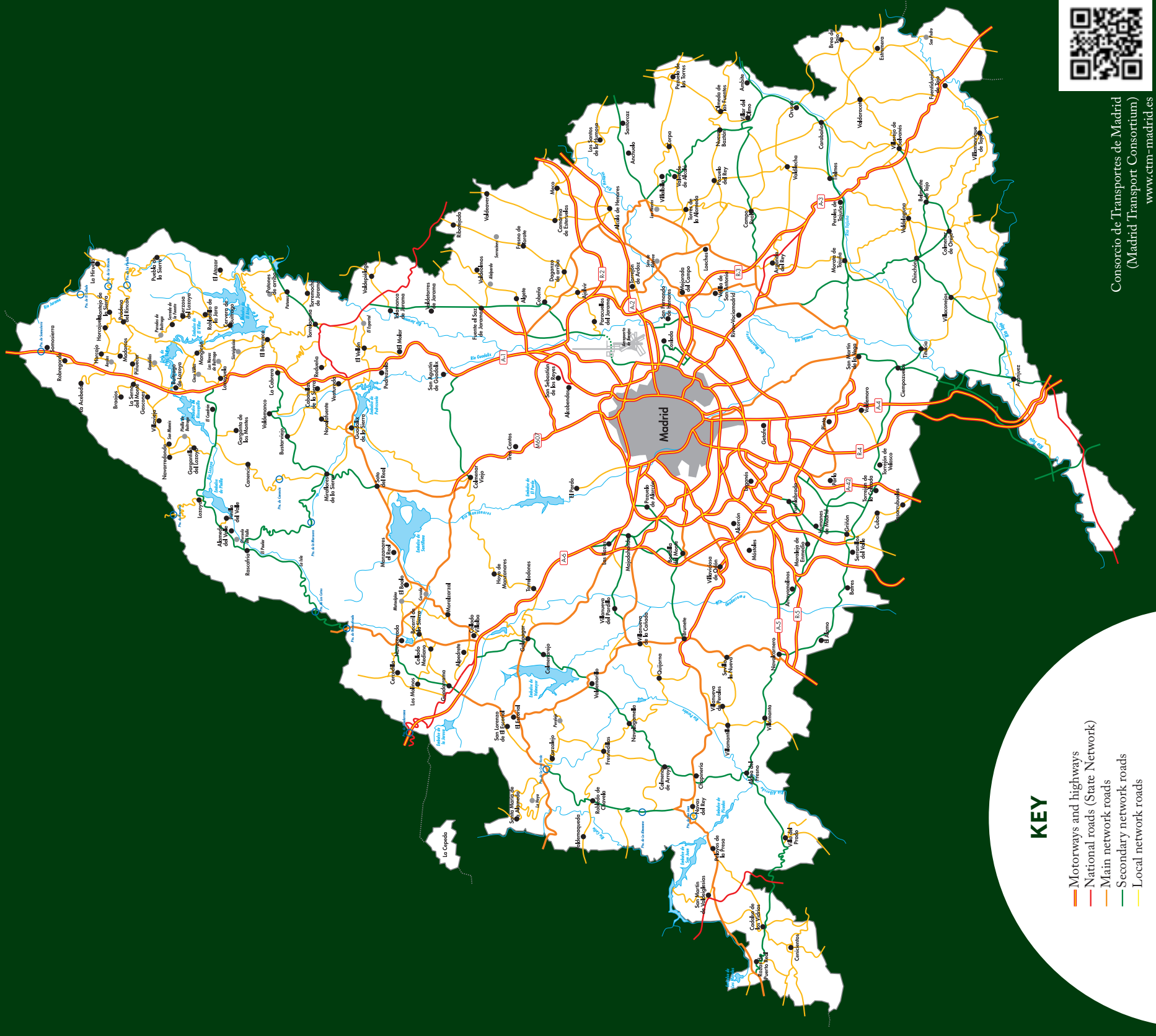
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Colabora:

renfe





KEY

- Motorways and highways
- National roads (State Network)
- Main network roads
- Secondary network roads
- Local network roads





SHORT BREAKS & EXCURSIONS

AROUND THE REGION OF MADRID
helps you to discover some of the region's
most emblematic locations and is
provided with the "Live Links" QR code
system offering access to updated content
even if the location changes.

This system can be used by any device
with a QR or BIDI code reader. This
reader can be downloaded free of charge
on any mobile device.

Scanning the QR codes provided gives
access to web pages offering further
information on the contents of this
publication. Some codes relate to specific
sections of the web pages printed next
to each code, but the shorter address has
been provided for ease of
space and clarity.

If these web pages are modified or
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