

DISCOVERING & ENJOYING

SPAIN

**MADRID**

REGION

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# TOWNS OF MADRID



Comunidad  
de Madrid



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[www.madrid.org/publicamadrid](http://www.madrid.org/publicamadrid)



# Towns of Madrid

## *Secrets to be discovered*

We all know Madrid... or do we?

There is a whole universe beyond the city, the Gran Vía, the museums and the districts –both the traditional and the modern ones- all of them brimming with life.

What not everyone knows is that Madrid offers countryside, peaceful spots, good eating venues, intimate nature only a step away from the big city. There is a secret Madrid to be discovered.

Madrid would not be Madrid without the Guadarrama Range (Sierra de Guadarrama) and without the rivers that flow through it: Lozoya, Manzanares, Henares, Jarama, Tajuña... creating a contrast between valleys and mountains. Here the landscape reveals all of its facets: from the high mountain chains to the flatlands, snow-covered firs in the tall summits and the holm oaks of La Alcarria.

Everything is here and we invite you to discover it by visiting the Towns of Madrid, an ensemble of destinations made unique by the recognized value of their Cultural Heritage sites, which have succeeded in preserving their rural authenticity while also having sufficient tourism infrastructure in place to provide quality and satisfaction.

If you like surprises, continue reading.



Arrow-hole in Manzanares el Real Castle

# Manzanares el Real

*A storybook castle*

- Castle
- Church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves
- La Pedriza
- Santillana Reservoir

The castle of Manzanares el Real brings to mind childhood stories of princesses under a spell. It is the best-preserved one in our Region and is fully museumized. Visiting it means taking a trip to the medieval world and the Renaissance. Manzanares el Real also has forests, a reservoir and a “magic” mountain: La Pedriza. Forming part of the Guadarrama Range Natural Park, it is one of the natural jewels of our Region. Here the crystal-clear water of the river Manzanares runs free before entering our capital city.

Its popular festivals are staged in early August, with much cheerfulness and above all with good food, delicacies for the most discerning palates. A cuisine that we can also taste throughout the year in any of its numerous restaurants specializing in meats, with the star being the certified Guadarrama Range Meat with its guaranteed quality seal.

[www.manzanareselreal.es/turismo](http://www.manzanareselreal.es/turismo)





Saint Mary of El Paular Monastery

# Rascafría

*Mountains, faith and art*

- Natural site
- Monastery of Santa María del Paular

These simple lines give no inkling of the beauty of Rascafría's natural setting, immersed in the most glorious part of the Lozoya Valley at the foot of the Guadarrama Range and next to the Peñalara peaks and lakes. All the beauty of this spot led Enrique II to the founding in the 14th century of the Monastery of Santa María del Paular, a jewel of monastic art that boasts a rich collection of paintings by Vicente Carducho. We can admire 52 of the 56 original paintings, on loan from the Prado Museum. Rascafría is a tremendously romantic spot, with a rich and varied architectural typology. In autumn, game and mushrooms become the stars of its restaurants' menus. Rascafría has all the charm of a mountain village in which to enjoy the cool waters of the river Lozoya in summer and hiking and skiing on its snow-capped peaks in winter.

[www.rascafriaturismo.org](http://www.rascafriaturismo.org)





Patones traditional architecture

# Patones

*A romantic getaway*

- 
- Historical Ensemble
  - Gastronomy
  - Nature
- 

Not even Napoleon found them... Patones de Arriba is a secluded spot where you can enjoy its landscape and extraordinary slate architecture, since its streets are a veritable open-air museum. Its gastronomic offering is different and unique, with rural, intimate and romantic restaurants, and its hotels provide the perfect touch of what is known as rural chic. Nothing better for whetting the appetite than to follow the eco-friendly trail of El Barranco that separates the two Patones, Patones de Arriba, the upper one, and Patones de Abajo, the lower one. A 750-m track from which the entire natural setting of this spot can be viewed, with its outstanding geological formations, its valleys, hydraulic infrastructures and its vibrant countryside. The two Patones, Arriba and Abajo, have their own history marked by its unique landscape and the welcoming character of their people.

<http://turismo.patones.net/>





Church of Santa María Magdalena in Torrelaguna

# Torrelaguna

*Cradle of illustrious Madrid personages*

- Historical Ensemble
- Church of Santa María Magdalena
- Corpus Festivities

Here were born Cardinal Cisneros –a prominent figure in Spanish politics in the time of the Catholic Monarchs, during the 15th century- and Santa María de la Cabeza, a local saint. And here lived Saint Isidore the Labourer (the patron saint of the capital city of Madrid), her husband. Its historic centre is a match for such illustrious personages. Cardinal Cisneros spared no expense in aggrandizing the Town. Particularly outstanding are the church of Santa María Magdalena, an example of Madrid's gothic architecture, El Pósito public granary, the old Hospital of La Santísima Trinidad, today the House of Culture, and the Franciscan Convent of La Madre de Dios. The Corpus Christi festivities have recovered the importance they had long ago and the neighbours decorate the altars, districts and streets with flowers for the parade of the Blessed Sacrament.

Here Cary Grant lived *The Pride and the Passion* with Sofia Loren, with Frank Sinatra as a witness, because Torrelaguna has been the stage for many films. After a good stew cooked in an earthenware pot, you can stroll around the natural setting of the Middle Valley of the Jarama: a landscape with a wealth of hydraulic heritage given that it was the first site of the Isabel II Canal, which provides the capital with its excellent and renowned waters.

[www.torrelagunaweb.es/turismo](http://www.torrelagunaweb.es/turismo)





A street, arch and part of the wall of the Buitrago del Lozoya's fortress

# Buitrago del Lozoya

*From the past to the avant-garde*

- Medieval Fortress
- Museo Picasso-Eugenio Arias Collection
- Living Nativity

Buitrago del Lozoya is a journey to medieval times in the peaceful, beautiful valley of the Lozoya river, which flows at the foot of its walled enclosure. The beauty of the landscape goes hand in hand with the quality of its natural products. The steaks, and the *judiones con morcilla*, beans with black pudding, are delicacies cooked on a low flame. Buitrago has everything: gastronomy, nature and history, all of which can be enjoyed along the 800 metres of walls that surround its lovely historic centre. And a surprise: the Picasso Museum-Eugenio Arias Collection, with more than 70 works that this prodigious artist bequeathed to his barber.

At Christmas, Buitrago is covered in the heavy snowfalls of yesteryear that provide the natural setting for the Living Nativity, which was declared of Regional Tourist Interest and which is staged along the entire length of the walls.

[www.ayto-buitragodelozoya.es](http://www.ayto-buitragodelozoya.es)





A column of Goyeneche's palace-church in Nuevo Baztán

# Nuevo Baztán

*A corner of the Enlightenment in Madrid*

- New-Build Historic Ensemble
- Javierada
- Foundation Festivities

One morning around the year 1700, Juan de Goyeneche y Gastón, a Navarre politician who settled in Madrid, determined that here he would establish a settlement of factories and workshops, with dwellings for their artisans. And that is what he did. Nuevo Baztán is a unique example of an Enlightenment town, newly built, with a monumental Baroque palace-church attached to a singular historic centre. A breathtaking architectural ensemble designed by José Benito de Churriguera –one of the most distinguished sculptors and architects of 18th century Spain- born of the dream and ambition of a man of the Enlightenment who wanted to change Spain. You can learn about his fascinating work in the interesting Interpretation Centre.

Nuevo Baztán is a little corner of Navarre in our Region given the origins of its founder; it therefore has its own Javierada, Madrid's version of the traditional pilgrimage staged throughout Navarre on the second weekend of March in honour of Saint Francis Xavier, the founder, together with Saint Ignatius of Loyola, of the Jesuit Order. Here, too, they have their own wines -prize-winners on several occasions- with which to pair the roast specialities of its rich cuisine.

[www.turismo.ayto-nuevobaztan.es](http://www.turismo.ayto-nuevobaztan.es)





Chinchón Main Square

# Chinchón

*A film set*

- Plaza Mayor
- Parador Hotel
- Holy Week
- Wineries

Orson Welles, Rita Hayworth, John Wayne, Cantinflas... they all filmed here. Because Chinchón's Plaza Mayor is a unique setting: an example of popular Castilian architecture where time appears to have stood still. It offers some of the best cuisine and hotels in the Region, a place to rest and restore energy after losing oneself in streets packed with history. Its castle affords the best panoramic views of Chinchón.

On Holy Saturday, at dusk, Chinchón turns into Jerusalem: more than 200 neighbours take part in the dramatization of the passion and death of Christ: a spectacle of light and sound declared of National Tourist Interest. And no-one can remember a Christmas festivity without the town's star product: aniseed liqueur, typical of our country and a companion of countless desserts and after-dinner conversation.

[www.ciudad-chinchon.com/turismo](http://www.ciudad-chinchon.com/turismo)





Colmenar de Oreja Main Square

# Colmenar de Oreja

*Wine and Art*

- 
- Plaza Mayor
  - Ulpiano Checa Museum
  - Wineries
  - Gastronomy
- 

Do you want to discover the paintings that inspired the scenes of *Ben-Hur* and *Quo Vadis*? You will find them in the Ulpiano Checa Museum. This is a top-notch museum in a municipality that is small in surface area but not in wealth. Its Plaza Mayor is another beautiful example of popular architecture. This is a place in which to taste a glass of good wine with Madrid Designation of Origin while visiting any of its centuries-old wineries. We recommend that you enjoy the wines during the Wine Fair staged in May, an excellent month for cycling along the old railway line between Chinchón and Colmenar de Oreja with CiclaMadrid, which has been reconditioned for countryside family cycling. Also staged in May are its picturesque bullfights in the Plaza Mayor. To regain your strength, try “las pozas”, a sandwich made from local soft-wheat bread in which the crumb is replaced with chopped onion, tomato and *escabeche* pickle; or some “patatas chulas”, potatoes in an olive oil confit dressed with garlic, parsley and a bit of vinegar. That and some good wine... enough said.

[www.colmenardeoreja.com](http://www.colmenardeoreja.com)





Keep of the Villarejo de Salvanés Castle

# Villarejo de Salvanés

*Films, monks and knights*

- 
- Castle Keep
  - Casa de la Tercia House
  - Wines and Oils
- 

When gazing at the breathtaking Keep, we can imagine how magnificent the castle of Villarejo de Salvanés must have been. This town was the capital of the Encomienda Mayor of Castile. Perhaps built on an old Muslim watchtower, it was the key piece in controlling accesses to the Southern Plateau by the Military Order of Santiago. It was in Villarejo where the Knight Commander of this Order installed his residence. You can learn about the importance of its history in the Casa de la Tercia House and in the Interpretation Centre located inside the Keep. From the top you can enjoy spectacular vistas over Madrid's Alcarria region: a landscape of olive and holm oak groves through which the Tajo and Tajuña streams flow. Villarejo also boasts a Film Museum containing a surprising collection of machinery and objects associated with the seventh art.

The town's patron saint festivities are in October, but in recent years its Living Passion has gained recognition. It is staged on Holy Thursday in the Historic Ensemble and has been declared a Festivity of Regional Tourist Interest. Villarejo cuisine has specialized in a very local tradition: the tapas round. Because big palates demand small pleasures.

[www.turismovillarejodesalvanes.com](http://www.turismovillarejodesalvanes.com)





Bell tower of Our Lady of the Assumption in Navalcarnero

# Navalcarnero

## *Wine and leisure*

- 
- Church of Our Lady of La Asunción
  - Plaza de Segovia
  - Wineries
  - Interpretation Centre
- 

We are in Madrid's wine-growing heart. A landscape of hills and knolls covered in vines, watered by the rivers Guadarrama and Alberche. Its Plaza de Segovia is another one of those spots around Madrid Region that are unexpected in their antiquity and peaceful atmosphere, an ideal place for enjoying the good wine of Navalcarnero, with Madrid Designation of Origin. Wine is so important here that it even has its own museum, a Jazz festival and a Tasting Route. Here king Felipe IV married Mariana of Austria and, to remember this exceptional occurrence, the Royal Market of the Golden Age is staged in late August to coincide with the town's patron saint festivities. The perfect occasion for tasting dishes such as the "olla del segador", the reaper's stew, a variant of the famed *cocido madrileño* stew and accompanied by the inevitable glass of good wine. Its caves, typical houses, medieval alleys, its squares, buildings covered in trompe l'oeil and its natural setting are a paradise for rest and relaxation.

[www.turismo-navalcarnero.com](http://www.turismo-navalcarnero.com)





Church of Saint Martin of Tours in San Martín de Valdeiglesias

# San Martín de Valdeiglesias

*Wine, sea and history*

- Castillo de la Coracera Castle
- San Juan and Picadas Reservoirs
- Western Range
- Wineries and Wines

A veritable ecological lung situated in Madrid's Sierra Oeste (Western Range). The wines of San Martín de Valdeiglesias have their own sub-designation within the Wines of Madrid D. of O. for the high quality of its wines made from *garnacha* grape (red) and *albillo real* (white). If you are a fan of wine tourism, come here to also enjoy its landscape and heritage. From the Keep of the historic Castle of La Coracera, there are wonderful views of the Gredos Mountain Range and the mantle of forest covering Madrid's Sierra Oeste. But there is more: the reservoirs of San Juan and Picadas are our very own seas in which to enjoy a summer's day, with many nautical sports and nature activities. The town stages its patron saint festivities in early September, with an important tradition in bullfights and fighting with young bulls.

[www.sanmartindevaldeiglesias.es](http://www.sanmartindevaldeiglesias.es)



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