



Towns of Madrid

*The Lozoya river
in its path by Buitrago*



**Comunidad
de Madrid**



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Madrid is much more than Madrid

We all know Madrid... or do we?

There is a whole universe beyond 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.



Buitrago del Lozoya



Picasso and Middle Age fortress
Historic-Artistic Site and Asset of Cultural Interest
Walled enclosure declared a National Monument

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. Inside it, a surprise: the Picasso Museum-Eugenio Arias Collection, with more than 70 works that this prodigious artist bequeathed to his barber. 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.

Chinchón



A film set
National Historical-Artistic Ensemble

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 – anise is its star product- and hotels in the Region, a place to rest and



Plaza Mayor of Chinchón



Plaza Mayor, Colmenar de Oreja

restore energy after losing oneself in streets packed with history. Its castle affords the best panoramic views of Chinchón.

Colmenar de Oreja



Wine and art Asset of Cultural Interest

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.



Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. Navacarnero



Goyeneche Palace facade in Nuevo Baztán

Navacarnero



Wine and leisure

Church of Our Lady of La Asunción declared National historical artistic monument and asset of cultural interest

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 Navacarnero, with Madrid Designation of Origin. Wine is so important here that it even has its own museum, a Jazz festival and a Tasting Route. 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.

Nuevo Baztán



***A corner of the Enlightenment in Madrid
National historical artistic monument and asset
of cultural interest***

One morning around the year 1700, Juan de Goyeneche y Gastón, a Navarre politician who settled in Madrid,



Manzanares el Real

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. You can learn about his fascinating work in the interesting Interpretation Centre.

Manzanares el Real



*A storybook castle
Sierra del Guadarrama National Park. UNESCO
Biosphere Reserve*

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.



Patones de Arriba



A romantic getaway
Asset of cultural interest

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.

Royal Monastery of Santa
María de El Paular



Rascafría



Mountains, faith and art *Sierra del Guadarrama National Park*

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. 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.

San Martín de Valdeiglesias



Wine, sea and history *Castillo de la Coracera Castle, Asset of cultural interest*

A veritable enological centre 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.



San Juan Swamp

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.

Torrelaguna



Cradle of illustrious Madrid personages *National Historical-Artistic Ensemble*

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



Church of Santa María Magdalena
in the Plaza Mayor of Torrelaguna



Castle of Villarejo de Salvanés

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.

Villarejo de Salvanés



Film, mons and knights
National Historical-Artistic Ensemble
and asset of cultural interest

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. The tower has recently housed the Museum of the Spanish Tercios, a permanent exhibition to learn about the history of this legendary 16th-century troop. 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.



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