NOA

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MADRID GUIDE · 10

Madrid beyond the tourist sights

You're going to live here, not just visit. Discover the city the way people from Madrid live it.



Built with you.

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Last reviewed: 25/11/2026

How to read the labels: Official information from a public administration. Checked by NOA checked in several sources, not official. Students' experience advice from the community.

Neighbourhoods to explore

- **Lavapiés:** multicultural, with small theatres, bars and lots of street life.
- **Malasaña and Conde Duque:** creative, with independent shops, cafés and the Conde Duque cultural centre.
- **Chamberí:** traditional, quieter Madrid, perfect for walks and tapas.
- **Usera:** the neighbourhood with the largest Chinese community in the city, and some of the best Asian restaurants.
- **Arganzuela / Madrid Río:** the riverside park and **Matadero Madrid**, a former slaughterhouse turned cultural centre.

Free or very cheap plans

- **El Rastro:** the Sunday morning flea market.
- **Museums:** many have **free time slots** and free or reduced entry for students. Check each museum's website before you go.
- **Sunset at the Temple of Debod** or at Las Vistillas.
- **Parks:** El Retiro, Casa de Campo, Madrid Río, Dehesa de la Villa.
- **Neighbourhood markets:** San Fernando, Antón Martín or your own local one, to eat well without spending much.

Nature nearby

- The **Sierra de Guadarrama** is less than an hour away by commuter train: hiking in autumn and spring, and snow in winter.

Day trips

- With the **Abono Joven** you can reach cities like **Alcalá de Henares**, a World Heritage Site, and towns in zones E1 and E2, such as Toledo or Guadalajara. Check with the CRTM exactly which journeys are covered.
- Segovia, El Escorial and Aranjuez are classic day trips.

From students

- Ask your Madrid classmates about "their" bar or "their" park. The best places rarely appear in guidebooks.
- Note down the neighbourhood festivals (like San Isidro in May or the August festivals in La Latina and Lavapiés): they're free and very authentic.

If you're family

If you come to visit, ask them to be your guide: it's a lovely way to see how much they've grown and to discover "their" Madrid.

Checklist

- [ ] A new neighbourhood every month
- [ ] A hike in the Sierra
- [ ] A day trip
- [ ] A museum during its free hours

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