

4-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

4 Days in Madrid: Art Walk, Toledo or Segovia

A 4-day Madrid itinerary pairing Gran Vía, El Retiro and the Bernabéu, and old Madrid with a final day of the Art Walk museums, Toledo or Segovia.



AT A GLANCE

01	<i>Day One</i> Gran Vía & City Views	úmami · Churros & Specialty Coffee / Gran Vía / Metropolis Building
02	<i>Day Two</i> Madrid Icons & a Paella Class	El Rastro flea market (Sundays only) / El Retiro Park / Crystal Palace
03	<i>Day Three</i> Old Madrid & Tapas	Syra Coffee / Royal Palace of Madrid / Plaza Mayor
04	<i>Day Four</i> Pick Your Adventure	OPTION A The Art Walk OPTION B Toledo Day Trip from Madrid OPTION C Segovia Day Trip from Madrid

GRAN VÍA · CALLAO · PLAZA DE ESPAÑA

Day One: Gran Vía & City Views

Today we're exploring Gran Vía, starting with churros and coffee before walking past the Metropolis building. We'll stop for lunch and shopping along the avenue, then end with dinner at Museo del Jamón and evening views from the 360 rooftop.



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

úmami · Churros & Specialty Coffee

úmami Churros & Specialty Coffee is a compact Callao café pairing churros with carefully made coffee and sweet bakes. I loved finding this low-key break from Gran Vía, and the banana bread totally...



STOP 2 / 10:00 AM

Gran Vía

Gran Vía is Madrid's century-old showpiece avenue, stretching through the center with major shops, theaters, cafés, and rooftop spots. The avenue was built in three stages between 1910 and 1931, connecting Calle de Alcalá with...

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STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Metropolis Building

The Metropolis Building sits where Calle de Alcalá meets Gran Vía, with an ornate façade and a dramatic slate-and-gold dome. We stopped to see it while walking nearby, and that silhouette was impossible to miss. The gold...



STOP 4 / 12:00 PM

Honest Greens Gran Vía 7

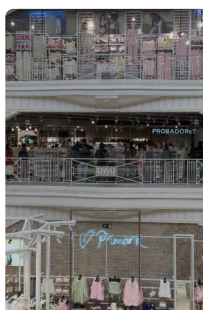
Honest Greens on Gran Vía is a bright, casual restaurant where you build your own plate from proteins, vegetables, bowls, and sides. It was one of my best meals in Spain—fresh, healthy, stylish, and surprisingly affordable!



STOP 5 / 1:30 PM

MYKA Greek Yogurt

MYKA is a Madrid-born frozen yogurt shop serving tangy Greek yogurt with more than 30 colorful toppings to choose from. I still think about how refreshing and how DELIGHTFUL it was—I genuinely wish we had one at home! We even...



STOP 6 / 2:00 PM

Primark

Primark's flagship on Gran Vía is basically a giant department store filled with affordable clothing, beauty products, luggage, and home goods. I was genuinely shocked by how ginormous it felt—clothes, suitcases,



STOP 7 / 3:30 PM

WOW Department Store

WOW Concept is a seven-story shopping playground mixing fashion, beauty, tech, home finds, and emerging brands. The Gran Vía location is great, but I loved the I loved the Serrano location even more! These stores have huge...



STOP 8 / 5:30 PM

Museo del Jamón

Museo del Jamón on Gran Vía is a traditional ham shop, bustling bar, and full restaurant stacked under a ceiling of hanging jamones. I loved the lively local vibe, and the beer was honestly the BEST of our entire trip—ice-cold...

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GRAN VÍA · CALLAO · PLAZA DE ESPAÑA

Day One: Gran Vía & City Views

Continued - stops 9-9



STOP 9 / 7:00 PM

Sunset city views at 360° Rooftop Bar

The 360° Rooftop Bar sits on top of Hotel Riu Plaza España, with panoramic city views, live music, and a glass walkway high above Madrid. We walked into the...

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LA LATINA · EL RETIRO · CASTELLANA

Day Two: Madrid Icons & a Paella Class

We're covering a lot of Madrid today, starting with the stalls at El Rastro and a walk through El Retiro to the Crystal Palace. Then it's off to the Bernabéu before we finish the day making paella.

01

STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

El Rastro flea market (Sundays only)

El Rastro is Madrid's huge Sunday flea market, stretching from Plaza de Cascorro into side streets filled with antiques, vintage clothes, books, records, art, and all kinds of random finds. The surrounding streets also have...



STOP 2 / 11:30 AM

El Retiro Park

El Retiro is Madrid's enormous green escape, filled with gardens, fountains, monuments, exhibition spaces, and an iconic lake that you can row a boat on! Walking here felt like paradise, especially when the rose garden burst...



STOP 3 / 2:30 PM

Crystal Palace

The Crystal Palace is a beautiful glass-and-iron exhibition pavilion beside a pond in El Retiro. Water reaches the palace steps, where ducks and turtles make the whole setting feel alive. I spotted the most beautiful black...



STOP 4 / 4:00 PM

Tour Bernabéu

Tour Bernabéu takes you behind the scenes at Real Madrid through trophy rooms, club history, changing rooms, dugouts, and panoramic stadium views. The interactive archives and player displays give you much more to explore...

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STOP 5 / 7:00 PM

Madrid Paella Cooking Class

This paella cooking class begins at Antón Martín Market, where you shop for ingredients before heading into the kitchen. Then you'll cook a starter, mixed...

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HABSBURG MADRID · SOL · LA LATINA

Day Three: Old Madrid & Tapas

Today we're eating our way through Habsburg Madrid, starting with coffee and the Royal Palace before wandering through Plaza Mayor, Mercado de San Miguel, and San Ginés. After Puerta del Sol, we'll see a flamenco show and keep the evening going with a tapas crawl through La Latina.



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Syra Coffee

Syra Coffee is a Spanish specialty roaster with small cafés around Madrid serving espresso drinks, cold brew, matcha, and single-origin coffee. I stopped in for coffee and absolutely LOVED the cortado! The quiet Sol...



STOP 2 / 10:00 AM

Royal Palace of Madrid

The Royal Palace of Madrid is Spain's official royal residence, with room after room of royal art and ceremony to explore. Walking through the ornate interiors felt like royalty had just stepped...

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STOP 3 / 12:00 PM

Plaza Mayor

Plaza Mayor is Madrid's grand central square, enclosed by red-brick buildings and arcades in the historic Austrias district. I came at 9 p.m. for sunset and kept checking my phone because the sk...

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STOP 4 / 12:30 PM

Mercado de San Miguel

Mercado de San Miguel is a historic glass-and-iron market beside Plaza Mayor, now filled with individual food and drink counters. My favorite bite was the octopus-and-potato skewer, and I also liked the mackerel toast. The...



STOP 5 / 2:00 PM

Chocolatería San Ginés

Chocolatería San Ginés has been serving churros and thick hot chocolate from the same little Madrid passage since 1894—and it's open 24 hours. The thin churros I had were SO crispy, and dipping them into that rich, flavorful...



STOP 6 / 2:30 PM

Puerta del Sol

Puerta del Sol is Madrid's fully pedestrian central square, where historic streets converge around the Real Casa de Correos. You can see the Bear and Strawberry Tree, Kilometer Zero plaque,...

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STOP 7 / 3:30 PM

Flamenco Show

If you're in Spain, you just have to see a flamenco show for yourself! Essential Flamenco was the one I went to. It's an intimate tablao in a tiny vaulted-brick cellar. It was my first flamenco show, an...

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STOP 8 / 5:30 PM

La Latina tapas crawl

A tapas crawl through La Latina means moving between the bars of Cava Baja and Cava Alta, ordering a drink and a small plate at each stop. You can mix traditional croquettes, bravas, boquerones, and huevos rotos with...

CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE

Day Four: Pick Your Adventure

Today you pick your own adventure. Choose Option A for Toledo's hilltop old town, Option B for Segovia's Roman aqueduct and Alcázar, or Option C for Madrid's three major Art Walk museums.

OPTION A

The Art Walk



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Museo Nacional del Prado

The Prado is Spain's powerhouse of historic painting, bringing Velázquez, Goya, Bosch, Titian, Rubens, and more...

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STOP 2 / 12:30 PM

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía

The Reina Sofía is Spain's national museum of modern art and one of the...

[BOOK THIS STOP >](#)


STOP 3 / 3:30 PM

Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza

The Thyssen-Bornemisza completes Madrid's "Golden Triangle of Art," with...

[BOOK THIS STOP >](#)

OPTION B

Toledo Day Trip from Madrid



STOP 1 / 8:00 AM

Toledo day trip

Toledo is a UNESCO-listed hilltop city above the Tagus River, with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim history woven...

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CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE

Day Four: Pick Your Adventure

Continued - choose Option A, Option B, or Option C

OPTION C

Segovia Day Trip from Madrid

Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 1 / 8:00 AM

Segovia day trip

Segovia's main historic route takes you from the towering Roman Aqueduct through the old town to the Gothic...

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