



SAS CITY PORTRAIT

Madrid

7th ed.

SAS SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES



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The information given in this booklet is based on facts available in August 1975.



Front cover: Plaza de España, with monument to Cervantes – the Royal Palace in the background.

Introduction

A cultural and artistic center, Madrid is a sedate Castilian city of flower-filled squares, fountains and elegant parks – and has a population of more than three million who add a gaiety and excitement to its atmosphere underlined by the colorful Flamenco dances and the roar of a bullfight crowd.

The capital of Spain – at the geographical center of the Iberian peninsula – has a wealth of intriguing attractions from the statue of Don Quixote and his companion Sancho Panza in the lovely Plaza de España, to the Prado Museum with its fabulous collection of Spanish masters and works of most of the great Flemish and Italian painters.

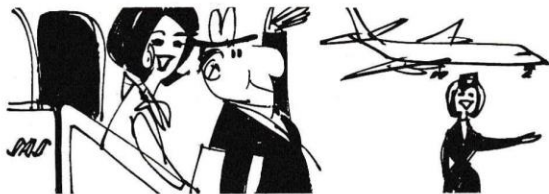
The main thoroughfare of the city is the tree-lined Calle de Alcalá linking Madrid in more ways than one – for it also joins the old and new sections of the capital. Other equally-famous and impressive avenues are the Calvo Sotelo, Avenue Paseo del Prado, Castellana and Generalísimo.

Madrid's history is partially reflected in many of its ancient buildings but it was a small, strongly fortified Moorish town as early as 939 A.D. when it was occupied by the Christian army of King Ramiro II of Leon. After changing hands again, the Moorish rule finally ended in 1083 when King Alphonso VI took over the town. It was chosen as the capital by King Philip II in 1561.

There are, of course, many "musts" on the sightseeing program of any Madrid visitor but be sure to see the National Museum of Modern Art with works by Pablo Picasso, the Latin America Museum with many treasures from Latin American civilization and the Naval Museum which has no less than 12,000 maps of the Americas and Philippines dating from 1600.

But even if you didn't visit one museum – and there are more than 30 of them! – you would find your stay in Madrid worth every peseta. You can nibble fried squid and wash it down with a tumbler of chato; stroll the El Rastro to look for antiques or bargain with the curbside vendors; join in the fun of one of the verbenas, street fairs, or visit a bar near the Plaza Mayor where you can watch a first class performance of flamenco dancing. There are so many ways to enjoy yourself in this ancient city.

And remember, too, the capital makes an ideal center for excursions into the scenically interesting, and history-rich surrounding countryside.



You will find the staff in the larger stores and hotels can speak English, and usually French and German, but even if your Spanish is limited to Buenos dias and Adiós this will not prevent you from enjoying your visit to Madrid where you will find the people – like the rest of the Spaniards – are hospitable, courteous and friendly.

Your arrival in Madrid

At Madrid Airport you will be met by an SAS representative who will accompany you to the Arrival Hall (Llegadas) where currency, passport and customs formalities take place. Here you will find facilities for currency exchange and an information desk.

There is a bus service – operated by public bus – leaving the airport for town v.v. every 10 minutes between 6 a.m. and 2 a.m., fare being 30 pesetas. Terminal located Plaza de Colon (K5) (underground parking).

"Tourist Cars" are also available at a cost of approx. 290 pesetas airport/city.

If you are flying on from Madrid with SAS, one of the first things to do after your arrival is to reconfirm your onward reservation. You can do this by contacting the SAS office at Edificio España, 88 Avenida José Antonio (tel. 247 17 00, 241 98 20 and 247 69 34) or at the Air Terminal (tel. 221 82 30/31).

The monetary unit in Spain is the peseta. Tourists may bring into the country up to pesetas 50,000 and an unlimited amount of foreign currency.

Hotels

There is a wide range of hotels of all classes in Madrid, many of them modern, luxurious and with excellent service.

Prices – including taxes and service charges – range from about Ptas 500–2,000 for a single room and Ptas 400–800 extra for full pension. (Full pension rates apply only if your stay in one hotel exceeds 2 days.)

Your travel agent or SAS office can offer you – through the special SAS Travel Planning Service – detailed information about hotels and can also provide the latest accommodation situation in most cases.

Alameda (close to the airport)
Carretera de Jalvir
Tel. 205 50 40

Barajas (close to the airport)
Carretera de Jalvir
Tel. 205 42 96.

Castellana (K1)
57 Paseo de la Castellana
Tel. 419 99 00.

Eurobuilding (off K1)
8 Juan Ramón Jiménez
Tel. 457 78 00.

Fenix (K4)
2 Paseo de la Castellana
Tel. 276 17 00.

Gran Versalles (I3)
4 & 6 Covarrubias
Tel. 223 29 21.

Luz Palacio (K1)
67 Paseo de la Castellana
Tel. 253 28 00.

Meliá Castilla (beyond J1)
Capitán Haya n/n
Tel. 270 80 00.

Meliá Madrid (D4)
27 Princesa
Tel. 241 84 00.

Menfis (E5)
74 Avenida José Antonio
Tel. 247 09 00.

Mindanao (beyond D1)
15 Paseo de S. Francisco de Sales
Tel. 449 55 00.

Palace (I8)
7 Plaza de las Cortes
Tel. 232 63 00.

Plaza (E5)
8 Plaza de España
Tel. 247 12 00.

Ritz (J8)
1 Plaza Lealtad
Tel. 221 28 57.

San Antonio (B6)
13 Paseo de la Florida
Tel. 247 14 00.

Villamagna (K4)
22 Paseo Castellana
Tel. 261 49 00.

Suecia (I7)
4 Marques de Casa Riera
Tel. 231 69 00.

Washington (E5)
72 Avenida José Antonio
Tel. 247 02 00.

Wellington (L5)
8 Velázquez
Tel. 275 54 07

Restaurants and cuisine

Spanish food is diverse and delicious. The services, as in most European countries, varies according to the standard of the restaurant. You can order international dishes in most restaurants, but there are many tasty Spanish dishes which you should try during your stay in Madrid.

WHAT TO EAT

Paella: This is rice, spiced and cooked with chicken and seafood.

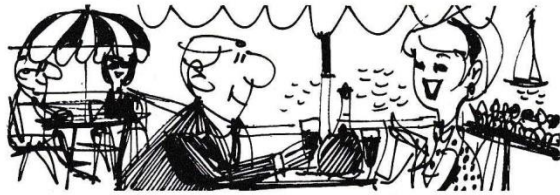
Bacalao a la Vizcaina: Biscayan codfish.

Gazpacho: Tasty Andalucian cold soup.

Cochinillo asado: Roast suckling pig.

Perdiz estofada: Braised partridge.





WHAT TO DRINK

Wines, of course, predominate here. Before lunch or dinner almost everyone enjoys an aperitif. Try the Manzanilla or any other dry sherry. With meals there is a wide variety of Spanish wines to choose from – those from the Rioja and Valladolid Districts are famous. Try Viña Pomal or Marqués del Riscal for red wines or Cepa Rhin or Monopol among the white.

MEAL TIMES AND PRICES

A complete meal consisting of hors d'oeuvres or soup, a fish or meat dish, cheese, pastry and fresh fruit will cost from about Ptas 500 in an inexpensive restaurant and about Ptas 1,000 or more in de luxe establishments. You will find the average price for lunch is about Ptas 700.

A continental breakfast of coffee, bread, butter and jam is eaten about 9 a.m. Lunch is served between 2 and 3.30 p.m. and dinner (often a lighter meal than lunch) starts at 10 p.m. or later – so you will probably have to adjust your eating habits when in Madrid, though there are restaurants which will serve you at an earlier hour if you desire.

Here are some restaurant suggestions which you may find useful:

De luxe class

Bajamar (E5)

78 Avda. José Antonio
Delicious sea food.

Balthasar (off K1)

8 Juan Ramón Jiménez
Excellent grill.

Bellman Restaurant (I7)

House of Sweden
19 Los Madrazo
Scandinavian specialities.

Club 31 (J6)

58 Alcalá
Excellent food.

El Bodegón (K1)

51 Paseo de la Castellana
Excellent food and service.

Horcher's (K7)

6 Alfonso XII
Another world class establishment.

Las Lanzas (J9)

8–10 Espalter
Excellent food.

La Puerta de Moros (E9)

10 Don Pedro
Very elegant setting in a former palace.

Lúculo (K2)

8 Marqués de Villamejor
Excellent food.

Mayte Commodore

(beyond L1)
9 Plaza República Argentina
Luxurious dining room.

Ruperto de Nola (off L1)

2 Corazón de María
On the top of the modern building, "Torres Blancas", good food, good views.

The Jockey Club (J3)

6 Amador de los Rios
A de luxe restaurant and acknowledged as one of the finest in the world.

All these restaurants are expensive – but give value for money!

First class

Alduccio (off K1)

8 Avda. Concha Espina
Good food and not expensive.

Botín (F8)

17 Calle Cuchilleros

House of Ming (K1)

74 Paseo de la Castellana
Chinese food.

La Barraca (H6)

29 Calle Reina

La Trainera (L3)

60 Lagasca
Excellent sea food at reasonable prices.

Nuevo Valentín (off K1)

8 Concha Espina
High quality food and service.

There are many other good restaurants. To mention just a few, for example:

Corral de la Morería (D8)

17 Calle Morería
Flamenco show.

Café de Chinitas (E6)

7 Torija
Flamenco show.

Edelweiss (H7)

7 Jovellanos
Centrally located. Great variety of food with moderate prices.

Tranquilino (H7)

3 Jardines
Steak house.

And one first class restaurant, only open during the summer season, is:

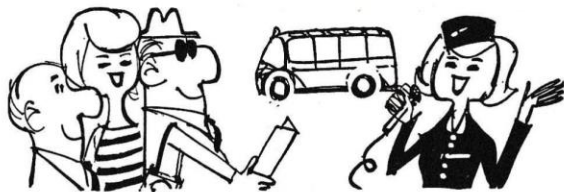
Los Porches (C4)

1 Paseo de Rosales

Sights and excursions

One of the easiest ways of seeing the city – and a pleasant way to get your bearings – is to join a guided sightseeing tour. There is a morning tour, starting at 9.30 a.m. – you are picked up at your hotel – which includes visits to the Royal Palace and the Prado Museum and ends at 1.30 p.m. and there is also an afternoon tour which takes in many of the interesting "sights" of the city. This tour starts at 2.45 p.m. and ends at 5.45 p.m. (winter), and starts at 3.15 p.m. ending at 6.15 p.m. in the summer. Cost is Ptas 325 each plus a tip of Ptas 25–50 to the guide and coach driver.





From March to October, the Travel Agencies also operate the two different tours on Sundays and holidays – when bullfights take place – “Pan y toros” (bullfight tour and lunch) and “Panorámica y toros” (sightseeing and bullfight), starting at 11.15 a.m. and 4.15 p.m., approx. 1 hr. 45 mins. before the bullfight, at a cost of Ptas 1,150 and 700 respectively. Both tours end after the bullfight.

You should not miss a tour by cable car offering a bird’s eye view of Madrid with a beautiful panorama of the city: Parque del Oeste (West Park), the Royal Palace, San Antonio de la Florida churches and the surrounding mountains of Madrid “Sierra”. Departures from Paseo Pintor Rosales (10 minutes from the main road, Gran Vía). The cable car operates from 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4.30 to 9.30 p.m. and the ride ends at “Casa de Campo” park, the largest park in Madrid, where there is a pleasure garden and Madrid’s Zoo.

THE CITY ON YOUR OWN

A few of the more important sights are listed below. The references correspond to the map:

Museo del Prado (J8). One of the world’s richest collections of paintings, more than 3,000 pictures. Foremost, naturally, rank the Spanish masters: Murillo, Velázquez, Goya, El Greco, Ribera and Zurbarán, but Dutch, Flemish, Italian, French and German painters are also represented. Here for example are works by Durer, Van Dyck, Rubens, Titian, Veronese, Rembrandt and more. Admission hours: Winter 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., summer 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays and holidays, from 10 am. to 2 p.m. Mondays closed.

El Retiro (K/L6/10). This park is the remaining part of the forests surrounding Madrid during the epoch of Philip II. The main entrance is on the Calle de Alfonso XII, near a small lake, El Estanque Grande, where you may hire boats. You will find pleasant walks in the park with its fountains, sculpture, temples and colonnades. The Botanical Gardens are just across Calle de Alfonso XII.

Museo del Ejercito (J8). (Army Museum, Calle Mendez Nuñez.) A weapon collection – from the harquebus to the

modern rifle – is the main feature of this museum. Admission hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., except Mondays.

Museo de Artes Decorativas and **Museo Naval** (Calle de Montalban – J7). In the first you will see collections of ceramics, textiles, tapestries, furniture, leather work, etc., mainly of Spanish manufacture. The Museo Naval is the Maritime Museum with interesting representations of Spain’s history. Admission 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., except Mondays and rainy days.

Puerta del Alcalá (K6). A triumphal arch from 1778 at what was then one of the city gates, created by the architect Sabatini to commemorate the entry of Charles III to the court.

Museo Nacional de Arte del Siglo XIX and **Museo de Arte Contemporáneo.** Temporarily closed as being transferred to new building close to University.

Museo Lázaro Galdiano (K1), (122 Calle de Serrano). Once a private art collection, and now owned by the state, it has a fine group of paintings and also furniture, china and moulded and chiseled silverware from the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission from 9.15 a.m. to 1.45 p.m.

Puerta del Sol (G7). The central square of the city.

Plaza Mayor (F8) was the center of life in Madrid during the 16th and 17th centuries, where bullfights took place on important feast days. The buildings framing the Plaza Mayor were originally erected by order of Philip III and it is estimated that approximately 50,000 spectators could watch the events. The equestrian statue of Philip III was the work of the sculptor Philip of Burgundy and has stood in the square since 1848. Walking south on Plaza Mayor by the lovely arcade of Cuchilleros, you will come across typical inns and restaurants such as El Pulpito, Casa Botín and Las Cuevas de Luis Candelas, Meson de la Tortilla and Meson de la Guitarra. Continuing along the Calle de Toledo, you will reach the Plaza de Cascorro where the famous Jumble Market (El Rastro) takes place and is, on Sundays especially, a great attraction for visitors.

Plaza de la Villa (E8). Surrounding the square are the Ayuntamiento or Town Hall built in the 17th century, and two 16th century buildings, the Casa de Cisneros and the Torre de los Lujanes.

Plaza de Oriente (E7). On Napoleon’s order this large square was built by demolishing a complete town district. Today the square is framed by statues of Spanish kings and in the center stands an old equestrian statue of Philip IV.

(cont’d on page 13)








Code numbers in this booklet refer to the above map. Thus (E5) is located lines drawn from "E" and "5" cross each other.

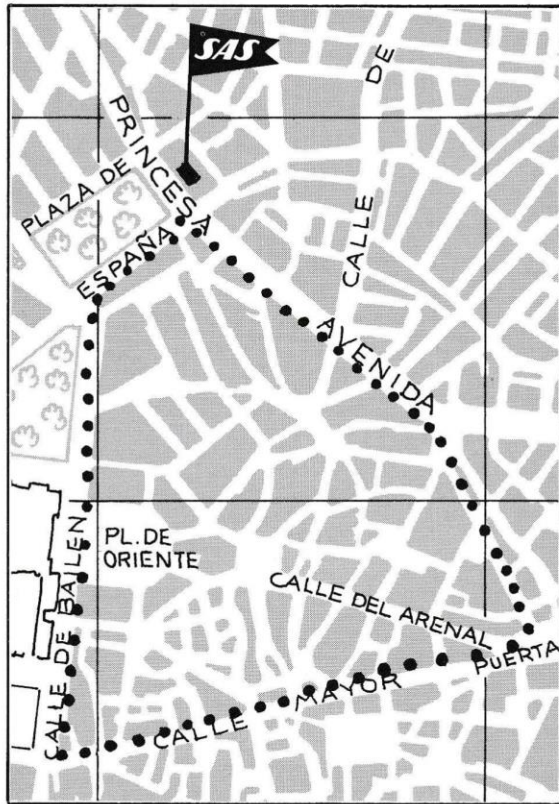
Interesting sights in Madrid

- | | |
|--|---|
| (J8) Museo del Prado. | (K1) Museo Lázaro Galdiano (Small Collection of Art and Furniture). |
| (K/L6/10) The "Retiro" Park. | (G7) Puerta del Sol. |
| (J8) Museo del Ejército (Army Museum). | (E8) Plaza de la Villa (with the City Hall). |
| (J7) Museo de Artes Decorativas, and Museo Naval (Maritime Museum). | (E7) Plaza de Oriente. |
| (K6) Puerta de Alcalá (City Gate). | (D7) Palacio Real (Royal Palace). |
| (J5) Museo Nacional de Arte del Siglo XIX and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo. | |

Useful addresses

-  **SAS Ticket Office:** Edificio España (E5), 88 Avenida José Antonio. Tel. 247 17 00, 241 98 20 and 247 69 34. Office hours: 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Summer time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. *Reservations:* 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (telephone service).
-  **Air Terminal:** Plaza de Colon (K4) (underground parking).
-  **Tourist Information Office:** 2 Medinaceli (near Palace Hotel - 18). Tel. 221 12 68 and 222 28 30. Torre de Madrid, Plaza de España (close to SAS office). Tel. 241 23 25.

Distance from city center to airport: 8 miles (13 km).



One hour's walk around Madrid

Start at the SAS office in Plaza de España. Here you can see the Spanish Building Edificio España, the Tower of Madrid (the highest building in Europe), and the Monument to Cervantes. Walk along Calle de Bailén, past the Royal Palace (now a Museum) and its gardens. Continue on Calle Mayor, as far as Puerta del Sol, the old center of Madrid. Follow Calle Preciados up to Plaza del Callao, and you will arrive at Avenida José Antonio – Gran Via – the center of modern life, with its elegant shops. At the end of Avenida José Antonio, you will be back at the Plaza de España.

(cont'd from page 9)

Palacio Real (D7) (the Royal Palace). The ancient Alcázar, which stood here previously, was destroyed by a fire in 1734. By order of Philip V, the Italian architect Giovanni Battista Sachetti built a new palace, which was started in 1736 and finished when the King took residence in 1764. The interior decorations are exquisite. From the Palace Square there is a wonderful view of the Palace Park. Entrance hours: June 15 to October 10: from 10 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6.15 p.m. From October 11 to June 14: from 10 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 3.30 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.

EXCURSIONS FROM MADRID

Madrid is an ideal base for excursions into the surrounding countryside. Some of the most popular excursions are:

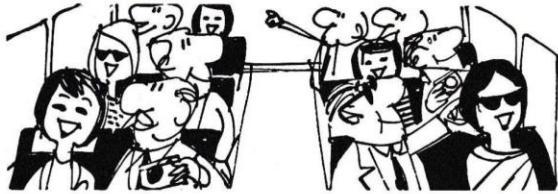
Aranjuez (28 miles – 45 km from Madrid). This small town, formerly called Real Sitio (Royal Residence) provides a perfect example of Spanish life. Its Royal Palaces and Gardens are very well known, as is the lavish Casita del Labrador. Coach departure at 2.45 p.m. (winter) and 3.15 p.m. (summer) – only Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. At other times of the year, an excursion to Aranjuez can be combined with a visit to Toledo, departure 8.15 a.m. (operated year round).

El Escorial (31 miles – 50 km) is noted for the architectural beauty of the monastery built by Philip II. This enormous building houses a notable collection of books and paintings, and you can also see the Royal tombs. Lunch is served on the terrace of the Philip II Hotel. El Escorial is beautifully situated at the foot of the Guadarrama range. Coach departure at 9.30 a.m., return at 7 p.m.

Valle de los Caídos – The Valley of the Fallen, near El Escorial is one of the greatest modern monuments in Spain. It was built in memory of the victims of the Spanish Civil War and is one of the most interesting sights in the surroundings of Madrid.

Toledo (42 miles – 67 km) is probably number one among excursions, and if your time is limited, this should be your choice. Toledo is generally regarded as the most characteristic remnant of the days of Spain's imperial glory and it bears as well the stamp of the Moorish period. The landscape is typical of the high Castillian plateau, abruptly cut by the River Tagus. Be sure to see the Cathedral, El Greco Museum, El Greco's





House, the Synagogues and the Alcázar. Toledo contains an abundance of El Greco's finest works. Sightseeing coaches leave at 9.30 a.m. and return at 7 p.m. It's a long day, but worth every minute.

Segovia (59 miles – 94 km) and **Avila** (68 miles – 109 km). The outstanding sight of Segovia is the huge Roman aqueduct. It is one of the oldest towns of Castille, with its romantic Alcázar and its Cathedral in purest Gothic style. See also the 12th century Romanesque Church of St. Martin and the Parral Monastery. **Avila** is another very old Castillian town which has preserved its ramparts from the Middle Ages. Inside the walls the streets are narrow. The old Cathedral is very interesting. Tour also includes visit to La Granja, summer residence of the Royal Family with beautiful gardens and fountains. Operated year round. Departure 8.15 a.m., return 7.30 p.m.

Tickets for these tours are available through any travel agency. If you prefer you can also visit some of these towns by local bus which is, of course, less expensive, though less informative than a guided tour. Should you wish to make a more extensive tour of the entire country, it is advisable to make arrangements beforehand as hotel accommodation during spring and summer is heavily booked.

Entertainment and night life

See a show, attend a concert, watch flamenco dancing, go night clubbing – Madrid offers an exciting choice of evening entertainment.

If you understand Spanish, don't miss performances, which begin at 7 and 11 p.m. at the three leading theaters of Madrid, The Español, La Zarzuela and the Maria Guerrero.

If you like music, the National Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra give concerts in Madrid during the season and in the spring and autumn concerts are often held in the Monumental Cinema, Teatro Real and the Palacio de la Música. During spring and summer the Municipal Band of Madrid plays in the Retiro Park.

If you prefer to see a movie you will find many cinemas showing international films (with most of them dubbed in Spanish).

Night life is of the late-late variety in Madrid. Among the best known night clubs are the Grill at Plaza Hotel, Pasapoga, and Riscal. And open only in the spring and summer seasons are the Florida and Pavillon.

For really exciting, authentic flamenco you may choose among: Corral de la Morería, 17 Morería and Zambra, 7 Ruiz de Alarcon (near the Ritz Hotel). Other places offering flamenco dancing are: Las Brujas, 15 Norte; El Duende, 3 Señores de Luzon and Café de Chinitas, 7 Torija.

Or you can easily join one of the escorted Night Tours. Standard tour (visiting two cabarets) costs approx. Ptas 600 and Ptas 850. De luxe tour costs Ptas 1,400 (including dinner).

Departure – for first two: approx. 10.15 p.m., return 1.30 and 3 a.m. respectively.

Departure – de luxe one: 8.45 p.m., return 2 a.m.

This is an ideal way of seeing the night life of Madrid as the tours visit the old part of the city as well as the new clubs.

For further details see your travel agent, your hotel porter or ask the SAS office.

Tipping

As a general rule, tip the chambermaid about Ptas 50 per day in first class hotels, and 25–40 in second class, the porter Ptas 75–100 per stay, and restaurant waiters Ptas 70–150. Tip theater ushers Ptas 50. Taxi drivers expect Ptas 5. If you use a valet, tip him Ptas 75 per call, give room waiters Ptas 30–40 per day, and the baggage porter Ptas 50 per suitcase.

Shopping hints and souvenir hunting

The principal shopping streets in Madrid radiate from the Puerta del Sol (G7) while the Avenida de José Antonio also has many excellent shops. There is a very elegant shopping quarter in Serrano Street (K3/4/5) and the surrounding streets where one can find exclusive fashion and leather articles for men and women.

Clothes, ceramics, leather goods, straw work, fans and Spanish brandy are good buys.

Hand-embroidered blouses cost from Ptas 500 to 1,000, tablecloths and napkins from Ptas 600 to 3,000, lace scarves about Ptas 500 to 1,500.





And if a Spanish fan is on your souvenir list you should be able to buy one for between Ptas 200 to 700, while dolls in colorful regional costumes costs Ptas 150 to 600.

For genuine handicrafts, try one of the following: Mercado Nacional de Artesanía, 1 Floridablanca and 32 Avenida José Antonio; Jardín de Modas, 74 Avenida José Antonio, near the SAS office; Selección Arte Español, 14 Mesonero Romanos and Galerias Fiesta, 19 Serrano Street. At all these shops you can purchase typical Spanish souvenirs including Toledo ware, jewelry and embroidery. The majority of the assistants can speak English and French.

Especially recommended for the ladies are: Pedro Rodríguez, Asunción Bastida, Bique and Comar. For leather goods visit Loewe's, 8 Avenida José Antonio and 26 Serrano, or Gil, 16 Serrano.

Among the prominent department stores are: Galerias Preciados, 2 Plaza del Callao and 87 Goya; El Corte Ingles, 3 Preciados, 9 Raimundo Fdez. Villaverde, 76 Goya Street and 56 Princesa; Galerias Arapiles, 10 Arapiles.

Business hours

Shops: Open throughout the year from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and from 4.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Banks: Open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the whole year round (Saturdays closing 1 p.m.).

Business houses: Office hours are for most firms and companies from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. During summer - early June to end of September - from 8 am. to 2.30 p.m. Most companies close all day Saturday and airline offices are closed Saturday afternoon.

Government offices work from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. all year round.

Transportation

You will find buses, trolleys and underground trains available at inexpensive fares, but they are almost always crowded. Taxis are available, pick-up fare is approx. Ptas 20 (Ptas 30 holidays) with Ptas 1 for each additional 166 meters or 34 seconds. The waiting charge is approx. Ptas 120 per hour. Remember you can also rent a self-drive car if you favor exploring the city and its environs on your own.

Avis

Where are you going, today, tomorrow, or in a few weeks time?

Wherever it is, Avis will almost certainly have a car there to meet you.

And not just an average car.

A clean, comfortable, low-mileage, smooth-running, nice-looking, easy-handling, reliable SIMCA or other fine car.

You can reserve your Avis car from our offices, or at any travel agent, or through any airline.

Together we can get places.

Avis

We rent SIMCA and other fine cars.

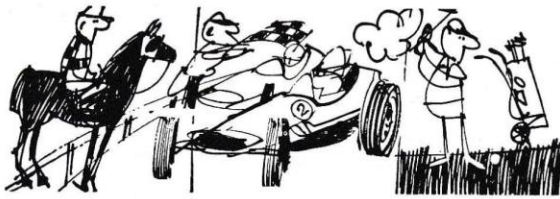
RESERVATIONS OFFICE IN MADRID

TELS. 457 97 06 - 457 97 07

457 97 13 - 457 97 17

TELEX 22410





Sports

Although today more Spaniards watch football (soccer) matches than bullfights, the latter are still highly popular, and are a traditional and very typical part of Spanish life. Before going to a bullfight, ask your travel agent or local tourist office for a booklet describing the rules.

Madrid's monumental arena is the biggest in Spain, with a capacity of 30,000. You may buy your tickets in the official booking office at 9 Calle de la Victoria but usually visitors prefer to pay a premium of 20% and obtain them in the appropriate agencies; in both places tickets are available about two days in advance. Your hotel porter can provide the tickets for you for a small tip. Note that there are two main categories of tickets: "Sol" (in the sun) and "sombra" (in the shade). There are usually 6 fights to a performance and the season runs from Easter to the end of October. Fights generally take place on Sundays, but in summer they are often held on Thursdays as well. Other well known bull rings are: Vista Alegre and at San Sebastian de los Reyes, a small village 12 miles (20 km) from Madrid.

There are two large football stadiums in Madrid, the Chamartín (125,000 seats) and the Manzanares (60,000 seats). The season runs from the first Sunday of September to the end of May.

If you are a tennis or golf fan, contact the Royal Club of Puerta Hierro or the Club de Campo for information about local facilities. Tennis may also be played at Real Madrid Club de Tennis.

Fishing is wonderful in Spain, especially for salmon, tuna and trout. Or you can shoot pigeons at Somontes, 6 miles (9 km) northeast of the city, and game in the mountains (Spanish ibex, chamois, stag, wolf, wild boar, deer, brown bear).

If you are a keen horseman, the Club de Campo will give you full information on riding and if you prefer to watch horse races you can see them on Sundays from March to the end of June, and from the middle of September to early November, in the Zarzuela Hippodrome, 5 miles (8 km) from the city, and in the Casa de Campo park.

A special feature of Spanish sport is Pelota (known in the U.S.A. as Jai-Alai). It is an old Basque game, played at a number of frontons or playgrounds in Madrid.

Climate and clothing

Located at an altitude of 1,907 feet (581 m), Madrid enjoys a dry though warm climate during the summer when the average temperature is 75°F (24°C). On the other hand, the nearby Sierra Guardarrama mountain range makes the winter months rather cool with an average temperature of 46°F (8°C). Spring is variable, but usually pleasant, and autumn has a most agreeable and uniform temperature. A topcoat is advisable for spring and fall evenings and a heavier coat should be taken along during the winter months.

Laundries are found throughout the city and generally provide two-day service. Should you wish to have your clothes back the same day you will have to pay an additional fee for express service. Dry cleaning facilities are variable.

Public holidays and special events

January 6	Epiphany.
March 19	St. Joseph.
May 1	Labor Day.
May 15	St. Isidro's Day.
June 29	St. Peter and St. Paul.
July 18	Feast of the Work.
July 25	Feast of St. James.
August 15	Feast of Holy Lady.
October 12	Hispanity Day.
November 1	All Saints' Day.
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
December 25	Christmas Day.

In addition to these are Easter and Whitsun, Ascension Day and Corpus Christi Day. Easter is an especially important celebration in Spain, and Holy Week is characterized by numerous religious processions, the most impressive taking place in the region of Andalucia, Murcia, Valladolid and Zamora.

Shortly after Easter, the *Feria* (Spring Carnival) takes place in Seville, a colorful and exciting event. The city is crowded and gay, and reservations for this period should be made well in advance.

May is a particularly interesting month in Madrid, with bullfights, concerts, open-air shows, motor races and many other events, culminating in the *Feast of St. Isidro*, Patron Saint of Madrid, on *May 15th*.

After Mid-June, small but typical kermesses take place in different parts of the city.

Edited by Mike Simon

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If your diet is governed by religion, health, or regional preference, or if you need something different from the regular menu, ask your SAS office or travel agent about the SAS Special Meal Service.

This extra SAS service allows you to preorder from eight different categories of special meals – 70 dishes, among which we are sure you will find a meal to suit your individual taste, or that of your children.

