

Malasaña & Chueca

MALASAÑA | CHUECA

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Passing under the fabulous doorway and spending an hour or two delving into Madrid's past at the **Museo de Historia** (p130).
- 2 Shopping for retro fashions in the true rebellious spirit of Malasaña at the **Mercado de Fuencarral** (p144).
- 3 Taking your pick for lunch along one of Madrid's best culinary streets, starting perhaps with **Bazaar** (p134).
- 4 Kicking back in true Malasaña style in one of the terrific restaurants along Calle de Manuela Malasaña, such as **Albur** (p132).
- 5 Following the footsteps of Hemingway and other *famosos* (celebrities) by ordering a mojito at the legendary **Museo Chicote** (p140).



For more detail of this area see Map p246 and p250 →

Explore: Malasaña & Chueca

Malasaña and Chueca are at their best in the evening and into the night – other than a flurry of activity around lunchtime as people hurry to and from their favourite tapas bar or restaurant, these *barrios* (districts) mostly live for the night. That said, the daytime shopping is fantastic in both *barrios*.

Calle de Fuencarral is the dividing line between the two, a narrow but nonetheless major city thoroughfare that has been pedestrianised for much of its length. West of that line in Malasaña, shopfronts announce names such as 'True Love Tattoo' and 'Retro City' alongside graffiti and posters of heavy-rocking bands that have become an integral part of its gritty urban charm. Slightly more refined and less clamorous, the sub-*barrio* of Conde Duque, to the west, has the best of Malasaña without quite the same grit and noise.

If Malasaña holds fast to its roots, Chueca, east of Calle de Fuencarral, wears its heart on its sleeve, a *barrio* that the gay and lesbian community has transformed into one of the coolest places in Spain. Sometimes it's in your face, but more often it's what locals like to call 'hetero-friendly'. The further east you go, the more sophisticated Chueca becomes.

Local Life

- ➔ **Neighbourhood hub** Plaza del Dos de Mayo is Malasaña's epicentre, at its best late afternoon when children pour out of nearby schools to play while their parents order beer and wine at adjacent outdoor tables.
- ➔ **Hang out** Antigua Casa Ángel Sierra (p141), right on Plaza de Chueca, has seen it all in almost a century of Chueca life and the crowds here stand six or seven deep on a busy Saturday night.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Chueca metro station (line 5) sits right in the heart of Chueca, while Tribunal (lines 1 and 10) serves a similar purpose in Malasaña. Noviciado (lines 2 and 10) is good for Conde Duque.
- ➔ **Metro** Other convenient metro stations around these neighbourhoods' perimeters include San Bernardo, Bilbao, Alonso Martínez, Gran Vía and Santo Domingo.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

In order to make the most of their popularity, some restaurants in Malasaña and elsewhere offer two sittings on Friday and Saturday nights, usually around 9pm and 11pm. Unless you can't wait (yes, we know that eating at 11pm and finishing dinner after midnight takes some getting used to), we recommend reserving a table for the second sitting – otherwise you'll often get the feeling that they're trying to hurry you along.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bazaar (p134)
- ➔ Albur (p132)
- ➔ Yakitoro by Chicote (p135)
- ➔ Casa Julio (p132)

For reviews, see p131 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Museo Chicote (p140)
- ➔ Le Cabrera (p140)
- ➔ Del Diego (p141)
- ➔ Café Belén (p140)

For reviews, see p137 ➔

Best Architecture

- ➔ Sociedad General de Autores y Editores (p130)
- ➔ Antiguo Cuartel del Conde Duque (p130)
- ➔ Museo de Historia (p130)
- ➔ Casa de las Siete Chimeneas (p131)

For reviews, see p130 ➔