

# Parque del Oeste & Northern Madrid

CHAMBERÍ | ARGÜELLES | NORTHERN MADRID

## Neighbourhood Top Five

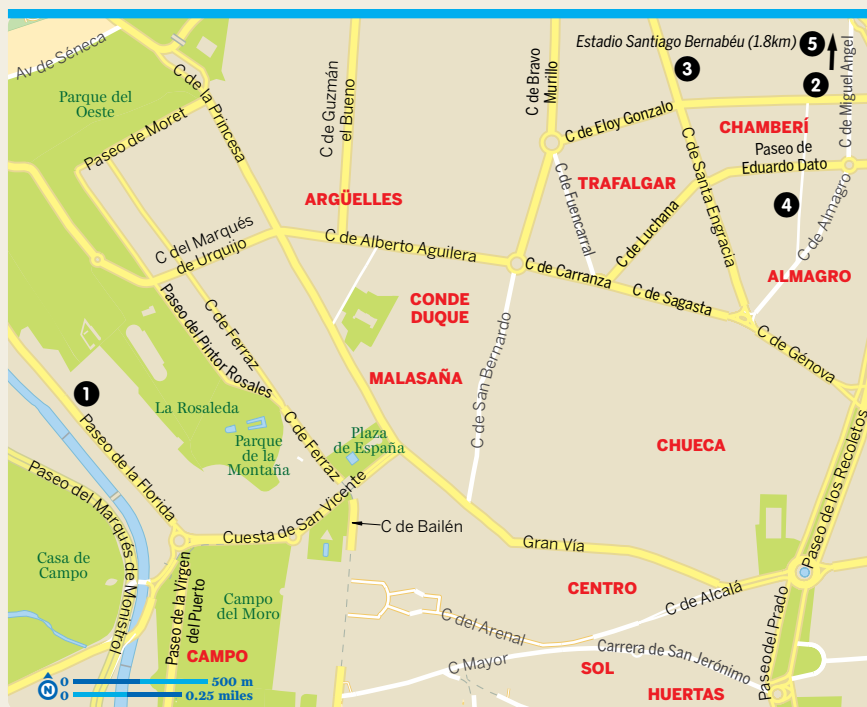
**1** Visiting the **Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida** (p150), a stunning collection of frescoes that remain exactly where Goya painted them.

**2** Surrounding yourself with paintings infused with the clear light of the Mediterranean at the **Museo Sorolla** (p151).

**3** Propping up the bar and ordering *patatas bravas* (fried potatoes with a spicy tomato sauce) and a vermouth at the ageless **Botega de la Ardosa** (p153).

**4** Discovering the weird-and-wonderful world of Spanish nouvelle cuisine by dining at **Sergi Arola Gastro** (p155).

**5** Watching Real Madrid play in front of 80,000 passionate fans at the **Estadio Santiago Bernabéu** (p154).



For more detail of this area see Map p252 and p255 ➔

## Explore: Parque del Oeste & Northern Madrid

Ranged around central Madrid to the north and west, these neighbourhoods cover a vast area and visiting here requires careful planning. Chamberí is worth visiting in its own right, a reasonably self-contained *barrio* (district) with enough sights, shops and restaurants to warrant at least half a day. Chamberí is good at any time of the day or night, but to understand its appeal as one of the more accessible slices of Madrid life away from the tourist crowds, late afternoon is our favourite time of the day.

The rest of the attractions are thinly spread. Catch the metro to Moncloa metro station, and then follow Parque del Oeste roughly south and then on down to Templo de Debod on the cusp of the city centre. Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida is more of a dedicated (though easily made) excursion – catch the metro to Príncipe Pío and walk to the hermitage, before returning via the same route.

Northern Madrid follows the path of that great Madrid artery, known for much of its length as Paseo de la Castellana. Again, you're more likely to come here as part of a surgical strike on a particular sight or restaurant, but metro connections are good.

## Local Life

- ♦ **Meeting point** Plaza de Olavide is the heart and soul of Chamberí, from the old timers watching the world go by from park benches and children in the playgrounds to the outdoor tables that encircle the plaza.
- ♦ **Hang out** Bodega de la Ardosa (p153) is one of the best places in Madrid to understand the appeal of the neighbourhood bar – utterly unpretentious, serving great food and drawing a cast of regulars; it's Madrid in microcosm.
- ♦ **Traditional shops** A Chamberí speciality are the shops that have been serving the *barrio* for decades, places such as Calzados Cantero (p158), Papelería Salazar (p158) and Relojería Santolaya (p158).

## Getting There & Away

- ♦ **Metro** The most convenient metro stations for Chamberí are Bilbao (lines 1 and 4), Quevedo (line 2) and Iglesia (line 1).
- ♦ **Metro** Other useful stations include Príncipe Pío (lines 6 and 10) for Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida, and Moncloa (lines 3 and 6), Argüelles (lines 3 and 4) and Plaza de España (lines 2, 3 and 10). Metro line 10 connects northern Madrid to the rest of Madrid.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

From 8am to around 2pm on Sundays, Calle de Fuencarral between the Glorieta de Quevedo and Glorieta de Bilbao is closed to traffic and all the *barrio* comes out to play. It's a nice alternative to touristy Madrid and you'll mingle with kids on bicycles and rollerblades, and see occasional jumping castles, puppet shows and the like. This has been a *barrio* tradition for over four decades, and also occurs on public holidays.

## Best Places to Eat

- ♦ DiverXo (p155)
- ♦ Santceloni (p155)
- ♦ Sergi Arola Gastro (p155)
- ♦ Mama Campo (p153)
- ♦ Costa Blanca Arrocería (p154)

For reviews, see p153 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ♦ Bodega de la Ardosa (p153)
- ♦ Real Café Bernabéu (p157)
- ♦ Honky Tonk (p157)
- ♦ Sala Clamores (p157)

For reviews, see p157 ➔

## Best Museums

- ♦ Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida (p150)
- ♦ Museo Sorolla (p151)
- ♦ Museo de América (p151)
- ♦ Templo de Debod (p152)

For reviews, see p151 ➔