

Salamanca



Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Shopping for Spanish fashions along Calle de Serrano, one of the most prestigious shopping boulevards in Europe, beginning with **Agatha Ruiz de la Prada** (p126).
- ❷ Gaining an insight into the old-money Salamanca world by visiting the extraordinary art collection at the **Museo Lázaro Galdiano** (p121).
- ❸ Finding out more about bullfighting by taking a tour at the **Plaza de Toros Monumental de Las Ventas** (p120).
- ❹ Catching the buzz of Spanish culinary innovation in stunning new **Platea** (p123).
- ❺ Discovering a whole new world of chocolates in the boutique of master chocolatier **Oriol Balaguer** (p126).

For more detail of this area see Map p244 ➔

Explore: Salamanca

One of the larger *barrios* (districts) that we cover in this book, Salamanca can look daunting on a map, but it's easily navigated for the most part on foot. Calle de Serrano and Calle de José Ortega y Gasset are the two main shopping strips, and if you're in town to shop then there's very little of interest that's more than a short detour from these two main axes. For the Museo Lázaro Galdiano, it's a stiff uphill climb from the rest of the neighbourhood, while the Plaza de Toros, out in the east of the neighbourhood, is a 30-minute walk from Calle de Serrano, also uphill for much of the way. For both of these major attractions, consider hopping on the metro.

Although you will find bars and nightclubs here, Salamanca is very much a daytime *barrio*. Salamanca's tapas bars and restaurants overflow with a busy lunchtime crowd during the week when eating is often a pit stop on part of a shopping itinerary. We suggest you do likewise to really get under Salamanca's skin. By evening, things are much quieter, with many people coming specifically to eat before heading elsewhere in Madrid to continue their night.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hang out** José Luis (p124), close to the Museo Lázaro Galdiano, is beloved by a wealthy crowd, its outdoor tables invariably inhabited by suits lingering over bottled mineral water.
- ➔ **Picnic** Mallorca (p123) has some fantastic takeaway foods, and it's ideal if you're planning a picnic in the Parque del Buen Retiro, which borders Salamanca to the south.
- ➔ **Slice of Andalucía** At El Nuevo Rincón de Jerez (p125) they sing *La Salve Rociera*, a song with deep roots in the flamenco and Catholic traditions of the south. Breathtaking.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Serrano and Velázquez (both line 4) or Núñez de Balboa (lines 4 and 5) are the most convenient metro stations; the last means a downhill walk to most of the *barrio*.
- ➔ **Metro** Gregorio Marañón (lines 7 and 10) is best for the Museo Lázaro Galdiano. Ventas (lines 2 and 5) is the station for the Plaza de Toros.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

María Luisa Banzo, the owner of **La Cocina de María Luisa** (p124), was formerly a prominent figure in the government of conservative Popular Party Prime Minister José María Aznar – keep an eye out for the former PM (also from Castilla y León) and other prominent politicians in her restaurant.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Platea (p123)
- ➔ Biotza (p123)
- ➔ La Colonial de Goya (p123)
- ➔ La Cocina de María Luisa (p124)

For reviews, see p123 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ El Lateral (p123)
- ➔ Geographic Club (p125)
- ➔ Almonte (p125)

For reviews, see p125 ➔

Best Shopping

- ➔ Agatha Ruiz de la Prada (p126)
- ➔ Manolo Blahnik (p126)
- ➔ Oriol Balaguer (p126)
- ➔ Gallery (p126)
- ➔ Calle de José Ortega y Gasset (p126)

For reviews, see p126 ➔