

On the Road





Madrid

POP 48.15 MILLION

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San Lorenzo de El Escorial	136
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Best Places to Eat

- Restaurante Sobrino De Botín (p110)
- DiverXo (p116)
- Platea (p113)
- Bazaar (p114)
- Mercado de San Miguel (p109)

Best Places to Sleep

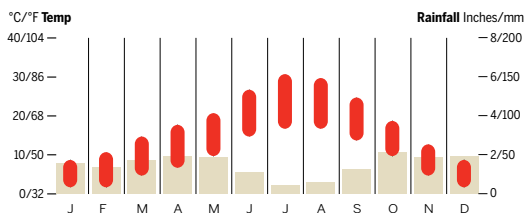
- Hostel Central Palace Madrid (p103)
- Posada del León de Oro (p106)
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Why Go?

Madrid is a miracle of human energy and peculiarly Spanish passions, a beguiling place with a simple message: this city knows how to live. It's true Madrid doesn't have the immediate cachet of Paris, the monumental history of Rome or the reputation for cool of that other city up the road. But it's a city whose contradictory impulses are legion, the perfect expression of Europe's most passionate country writ large. This city has transformed itself into one of Spain's premier style centres and its calling cards are many: astonishing art galleries, relentless nightlife, an exceptional live-music scene, a feast of fine restaurants and tapas bars, and a population that's mastered the art of the good life. It's not that other cities don't have these things: it's just that Madrid has all of them in bucketloads.

When to Go

Madrid



Jan–Feb Winter can be cold but glorious in Madrid when the weather's fine.

Mar–Apr Warmer spring weather brings *madriñeos* (residents of Madrid) out into the city's *terrazas*.

Sep Madrid shakes off its summer torpor with (usually) lovely autumn weather.