



MADRID

about you



La Suma de Todos

 Comunidad de Madrid

THE WALK OF THE ARTS



The background features a light gray, semi-transparent image of a building facade with Gothic arches and a statue. The arches have intricate tracery. To the right, a statue of a woman in classical attire stands on a pedestal. The sky is visible at the top.

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about culture

THE WALK OF THE ARTS

In Madrid, the tourist itinerary par excellence calls at three museums of international renown: the Prado Museum, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection and the Reina Sofia National Art Centre. They house the largest collection of paintings in the capital city of Madrid, which is destined to be a reference point in the world's cultural scene.

The three museums share a common element, i.e., the fact that they are situated inside originally civil buildings that, after a great many changes, were subsequently adapted to the cultural purposes they have nowadays. These buildings were involved in a great urban development action started under the reign of Charles III, whereby the king aimed to provide the capital of his various kingdoms with an urban and monumental space.

Therefore, the area, boasting of a wealth of trees, was decorated with fountains, monuments and imposing and exceptional buildings to be used for scientific purposes, an ever-present concern for the Enlightened of the times. Thanks to that, now we can enjoy within the so-called Walk of the Arts the presence of historic monuments and places, such as the fountains of Neptune and Cybele, the gate of Alcalá, the House of the Americas, the magnificent buildings housing the Post Office and the Central Bank of Spain, Retiro Park, the Monastery of the Hieronymite Order, the Royal Botanical Garden, Atocha Railway Station and the Spanish House of Parliament. It is also in this area that the most elegant hotels in Madrid are found.



THE PRADO MUSEUM

The project for the Natural History museum, as it was known at the time, was approved by King Charles III in 1785, and works started a short time later. Villanueva designed a long building, following the axis of a luminous gallery finished and cut in the middle by three elements with a bigger volume: two cubes at both ends of the gallery and a central building with a basilica-like plan. The north cube was arranged round a rotunda, with beautiful Ionic columns, and a semi-circular vault with panels for the main floor and a crypt on the ground floor. The south cube was arranged round a patio. As for the main body, which Villanueva designed for meetings and sessions held by Natural History academics and scholars, it was clearly a reproduction of the Roman basilica plan, long and finished with a curve apse.

The collection of paintings is organized into three main sets: paintings from royal collections (slightly over three thousand), paintings from the merger with the Museum of the Trinity (slightly over two thousand) and the fund called "New Acquisitions" (over three thousand five-hundred), which is the main base and contains works from early acquisitions made by the Prado Museum and the Museum of the Trinity, while it existed, to the latest acquisitions.



The works of a great many artists of universal fame - El Greco, Ribera, Zurbarán, Velázquez, Murillo, Goya, Van der Weyden, Rubens, Titian, Bosch - are found in the Prado Museum, one of the main museums worldwide for the quality and variety of its funds. Moreover, the Museum houses a splendid collection of classical sculptures, art objects, coins, medals and jewels, like those belonging to the Dauphin's Treasure.





THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA COLLECTION

The Collection is housed in an old neoclassic palace, the Palace of Villahermosa. This palace dates back to the urban development plans of king Charles III, a monarch of the Age of Enlightenment. Originally, the site was bought by a Court painter that built himself a big house. When the Prado Room became the trendy venue for Madrid's élite in the 18th century, the Duke of Villahermosa bought the house, had it pulled down and designed a new project in accordance with the new architectural criteria typical of French Neoclassicism. At present, the building houses a private collection, definitely assigned to the capital of Spain in 1993, which is considered to be quite important as it contains a sample representation covering a long period of time.

With close to 1,000 paintings, the collection offers visitors a walk down the history of European painting from its early beginnings in the 13th century to the last years of the 20th century. Through a chronological-stylistic tour, visitors can follow the main movements and currents of western painting, starting with the early Italians and reaching the late surrealism and the development of pop art in the 1960's, together with the survival of the figurative tradition of our times.



Exhibited in four rooms, the collection of American paintings from the 19th century is also exceptional, as it is practically unknown in Europe. Durer, Tintoretto, Degas, Kandinsky, Goya, Cézanne, Matisse, Dalí, Miró, Picasso or Renoir are just some of the artists whose works form part of the Collection.





REINA SOFÍA ART MUSEUM

The south angle where the so-called "Walk of the Arts" ends is taken up by the Reina Sofía Art Museum, where the permanent collection was opened in 1992. This 18th century old hospital is famous nowadays for housing a magnificent sample of contemporary painting, particularly Spanish, and for housing one of the most universal of Picasso's works - "Guernica".

However, the origins of the building housing this art collection go well back in time. It was already in 1566, under the reign of Philip II, that the idea of gathering in one building the many centres and hospices scattered about in the city of Madrid was conceived. Thirty years later, under the reign of Philip III, a first hostel was set up in Santa Isabel street. Other facilities were added on in the course of time: Saint Catherine's Hospital and the Hospital of the Passion, so the complex thus formed came to be called General Hospital.

After some ups and downs, in the second half of the 18th century, Charles III commissioned a hospital project from architect Francisco Sabatini on the basis of a project already started by Hermosilla and planned under the reign of Ferdinand VI. Sabatini, however, was unable to complete the building, only part of what was designed on the plans.



At present, the Art Museum fulfils three basic tasks: permanent museum, temporary exhibition hall and research department. For this, it houses a very significant permanent collection including works by outstanding artists such as Picasso, Miró, Julio González, Dalí, Millares, Equipo Crónica, Saura, Gargallo and many others, in the Spanish section. As for foreign artists, it has works by Max Ernst, Tanguy, Magritte, Newman, etc.





THE PRADO MUSEUM

Address

Museo Nacional del Prado.
Paseo del Prado, s/n.
28014 - Madrid.
Phone: +34 91 330 28 00.

Opening Times*

From Tuesday to Sunday and feast days: from 09:00 am to 20:00 pm.
24 December, 31 December and 6 January: from 09:00am to 14:00 pm.
Closed: Mondays all year round (including feast Mondays), 1 January, 1 May, 25 December and Easter Friday.

Prices*

General: 6 euros.
Reduced: 3 euros.

Free access days: From Tuesday to Saturday: from 18:00 pm to 20:00 pm. All Sundays from 17:00 pm to 20:00 pm, 12 October (Columbus Day), 19 November (Anniversary of the Prado National Museum), 6 December (Constitution Day), 2 May (Official Community of Madrid Feast Day), 18 May (International Day of Museums).

"Paseo del Arte" Ticket: 14,40 euros. Joint ticket for one visit to Prado Museum, Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection and Reina Sofia National Art Centre.

Annual Card for Prado Museum (it allows the cardholder to access the Prado Museum for one year).

General: 36 euros.

Reduced: 18 euros.

Annual Multiple Card: 36.06 euros. The following museums can be visited: Reina Sofia National Art Centre, the Prado Museum and the State Museums attached to the State Office

for Beaux Arts and Cultural Assets, as many times as the cardholder wishes, for one year.

How to get there

Metro: Line 2, Banco de España station and Line 1, Atocha station.

Bus: Lines 9, 10, 14, 19, 27, 34, 37 and 45.

Suburban train: Atocha Station.

Services

Recorded guides.
Cafeteria.
Restaurant.
Gift shop.
Wheelchairs.

www.museoprado.es

*Prices and opening times are for reference only and they are subject to changes.

THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA COLLECTION

Address

Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza.
Paseo del Prado, 8.
28014 - Madrid.
Phone: (Information): +34 91 369 01 51.
Phone: (Offices): +34 91 420 39 44.

Opening Times*

From Tuesday to Sunday: from 10:00 am to 19:00 pm. (The ticket office closes at 18:30 pm). The museum closes every Monday and on 1 January, 1 May and 25 December.

Prices*

General exhibition: 6 euros.
Reduced exhibition: 4 euros.
Students upon accreditation and visitors aged 65+: reduced exhibition.

Free entrance ticket for accompanied under 12-year-olds.

"Paseo del Arte" Ticket: 14,40 euros. Joint ticket for one visit to Prado Museum, Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection and Reina Sofia National Art Centre.

Annual Multiple Card: 36.06 euros. The following museums can be visited: Reina Sofia National Art Centre, the Prado Museum and the State Museums attached to the State Office for Beaux Arts and Cultural Assets, as many times as the cardholder wishes, for one year.

How to get there

Metro: Line 1, Atocha-RENFE station and line 2, Banco de España station.

Bus: Lines 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 27, 34, 37, 45, 51, 52, 53, 75, 146 and 150.

Suburban train: Atocha-RENFE station and Recoletos station.

Services

Gift Shop.
Bookshop.
Cafeteria.
Restaurant.
Access for people with disabilities.
Group bookings.

www.museothyssen.org

*Prices and opening times are for reference only and they are subject to changes.

REINA SOFÍA ART CENTRE

Dirección

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía.
C/ Santa Isabel, 52.
28014 - Madrid.
Phone: +34 91 467 50 62 / 468 30 02.

Opening Times*

From Monday to Saturday, from 10:00 to 21:00 hours
Sunday, from 10:00 to 14:30 hours.

The feast days when the Art Centre is closed are:

Every Tuesday.
24, 25 and 31 December.
1 and 6 January.
1 and 15 May.
9 September.

Prices*

General: 6 euros.
50% reduction: Youth Card, Student Card.
Free entrance ticket: Under 18-year-olds, visitors aged 65+ or retirees, and the unemployed.

Free access days: Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

18 May, 12 October and 6 December.

"Paseo del Arte" Ticket: 14,40 euros. Joint ticket for one visit to Prado Museum, Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection and Reina Sofía National Art Centre

Annual Multiple Card: 36.06 euros. The following museums can be visited: Reina Sofía National Art Centre, the Prado Museum and the State Museums attached to the State Office for Beaux Arts and Cultural Assets, as many times as the cardholder wishes, for one year.

How to get there

Metro: Line 1, Atocha station.

Bus: Lines 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, 26, 27, 32, 34, 36, 37, 41, 45, 46, 55, 57, 59, 68, 86, 119 and Circular Line.

Suburban train: Atocha station.

Services

Gift Shop.
Bookshop.
Cafeteria.
Restaurant.
Access for people with disabilities.
Group bookings.

www.museoreinasofia.es

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