SHORT BREAKS & EXCURSIONS
AROUND THE REGION OF MADRID

Sierra de Guadarrama National Park
Alcalá de Henares & Aranjuez World Heritage Sites
San Lorenzo de El Escorial
Sierra del Rincón Real Villages and Nature

Paths & Routes
Madrid's Local Cuisine

La Gama de Todos
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SHORT BREAKS & EXCURSIONS
AROUND THE REGION OF MADRID

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SHORT BREAKS & EXCURSIONS
AROUND THE REGION OF MADRID
This guide to short breaks and excursions around the Region of Madrid, published by the Dirección General de Turismo, is a useful tool to disconnect, relax and obtain maximum enjoyment from the possibilities available. And all just a step away from the capital.

Impressive nature, valuable cultural heritage, emblematic villages, historical town centres, tasty cuisine, distinguished historical figures, welcoming rural tourism and interesting outdoor activities offer a choice for all ages and preferences.

Leave behind your day to day problems and break out of the routine. Short breaks and excursions around the Region of Madrid can change your life.
La Sierra del Rincón
REAL VILLAGES AND NATURE

It is easy to reach the Sierra del Rincón!
→ Take the A-1 to Buitrago (Km. 76)
→ Then the M-137 (towards Montejo)
→ Arrive at Prádena del Rincón, and from here you have access to all the other villages of the Sierra del Rincón.
A visit to the five villages of the Sierra del Rincón will draw you into a genuine mountain setting with its traditional houses and landscapes of old.

The Sierra del Rincón mountain range is one of the most charming enclaves in the Region of Madrid. Here, the natural landscape hosts five small villages which keep the rural spirit alive and preserve centuries-old traditions.

DON’T MISS!

The Church of Santo Domingo de Silos (12th century) and the Salmoral lagoon in Prádena del Rincón.

The village centre, the ethnological museum, and the Church of San Nicolás de Bari in Horcajuelo de la Sierra.

The Hayedo de Montejo beech grove and the town centre (old shoeing frame, Tres Cantos fountain and 16th century Parish Church) in Montejo de la Sierra.

The valley, the old centre, Arabic fountain and shrine of Ntra. Sra. de la Soledad in Puebla de la Sierra.

The picturesque architecture, old mill and oak groves of La Hiruela.
The impressive natural wealth of the Sierra del Rincón received worldwide acknowledgement in 2005 when it was classified as a Biosphere Reserve by the Unesco. Hundreds of species of flora and fauna can be found here, some of which are at risk of extinction.

The Sierra del Rincón occupies a surface area of just over 15,000 hectares at an altitude ranging between 900 and 2,047 metres.

LA SIERRA DEL RINCÓN

Eating and sleeping
The Sierra del Rincón pioneered rural tourism in Madrid and offers a wide range of lodgings and rural hotels. It also provides cosy restaurants where you can taste mountain cuisine, with specialities including broad beans, meats of the Sierra de Guadarrama protected geographical indication, and vegetable garden produce.

Active tourism
The Sierra del Rincón is ideal for practicing active tourism, offering outdoor activities while enjoying valuable natural surroundings. There are numerous free trails which can be toured with specialised guides and also itineraries for travelling alone at your own pace. Both types of routes have a choice of distance and level of difficulty to cater for all ages and levels of fitness.

Festivals
The Sierra del Rincón celebrates its festivals in a proudly traditional manner, especially at carnival time, with La Vaquilla bull runs in Puebla, the religious procession of the Virgen de Nazaret in Montejo, and the Pero Apple Harvest festival in La Hiruela. This festival takes place every autumn and pays homage to a local fruit tree. The pero is a variety of apple which has an exquisite taste and intense aroma. The event is celebrated with numerous traditional activities.
THE HAYEDO DE MONTEJO
BEECH GROVE

One of the most spectacular spaces in the Sierra del Rincón is the Montejo Beech Grove, in Montejo de la Sierra. It is one of the southernmost beech groves in Europe and its 250 hectares feature not only beeches, but also oak, Pyrenean oak, and holly trees.

Visits are restricted with a limited number of passes, therefore you are advised to book in advance over the phone or by Internet, although you can also obtain a pass on the day for small numbers of people. During the free guided tours you will come across centuries-old beech trees and numerous environmental curiosities.

ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM

To learn about the traditions of the Sierra del Rincón visit the ethnological museum and the forge of Horcajuelo de la Sierra.

In a rural building made of stone and slate, you can see the stables, farming tools, and utensils used for bread-making and the pig slaughter. Also, the traditional dwelling, with its rooms and furniture and characteristic décor, along with an exhibition of the region’s traditional garments.

At the Horcajuelo forge we can see how the forger worked and how important his role was for the local farming and cattle-rearing activities.

Tel. 91 869 70 22
www.sierradelrincon.org
It is easy to reach the Valle Alto del Lozoya!

➜ Take the A-1 to Km. 69 followed by the exit to Rascafría via the M-604

➜ The M-604 is the road that takes you to all the villages in the valley
The Peñalara mountain peak, Madrid’s natural rooftop, crowns the Valle Alto del Lozoya, or Upper Valley of the Lozoya river, as the water which flows into the river fills the valley with life.

The first time you visit the Valle Alto del Lozoya you feel impressed; in subsequent visits this feeling turns to admiration. And no wonder, as this is an area of mountain peaks (among them Peñalara, the highest in the Region), typical mountain scenery, an abundance of water, and picturesque villages.

DON’T MISS!

The Pinilla reservoir is the star attraction of this valley. The waters of the Lozoya river are home to an abundance of biodiversity.

Together with the Monastery of El Paular, make sure to visit the Puente del Perdón (the 14th century Bridge of Forgiveness), a curious place which receives its name because convicts being led to the Casa de la Horca (Hangman’s House) could make their last appeal while standing on it.

Alameda del Valle, Canencia, Garganta de los Montes and El Cuadrón, Gargantilla del Lozoya and Pinilla de Buitrago, Lozoya, Navarredonda and San Mamés, Pinilla del Valle, Rascafria and Oteruelo del Valle... all of them are genuinely attractive and unforgettable.
This is the cultural jewel of the Valle Alto del Lozoya and of all the Sierra Norte of Madrid. At the foot of Peñalara and just 2 km away from Rascafría we find the Monastery of El Paular, declared a National Historical Artistic Monument. It started to be built in 1390 and was the first Carthusian monastery in Castilla. Its history has seen moments of great splendour and other less prosperous times. The monastery has been very well preserved and contains interesting elements such as the Church’s main altarpiece, the baroque chapel containing the tabernacle, the refectory, the patios, the library and a collection of baroque paintings by Vicente Carducho, from the 17th century.

This path links the parishes of El Cuadrón and Rascafría and its approximately 29 km will also lead you past Garganta de los Montes, Lozoya, Pinilla del Valle, Alameda del Valle and Oteruelo del Valle. It is an ideal route for cycling, although it can also be done on foot in various stretches. This path offers contact with nature, beautiful views, historical bridges, shrines and many other elements of interest.
If El Paular is the cultural jewel of the Valle Alto del Lozoya, then Peñalara is undoubtedly its natural jewel. It is considered a Site of National Interest, a Natural Park and is also one of the most renowned enclaves of the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park. Its 768 hectares includes a high mountain ecosystem, with an enormous diversity of flora and fauna and natural lagoons. All crowned by the impressive Peñalara peak, with an altitude of 2,428 metres, the highest point of the Region of Madrid. The Peñalara Natural Park has a large number of paths marked out so you can follow routes to help you further enjoy this impressive scenery.

www.parquenaturalpenalara.org

**VALLE ALTO DEL LOZOYA**

**Eating and sleeping**
The Valle Alto del Lozoya offers endless possibilities for eating and sleeping. Rural tourism and local cuisine have evolved enormously, so you can now find hotels, country house lodges, and restaurants to suit every taste. Most venues respect traditional architecture and some are ancient barns or farming buildings which have been carefully converted into lodgings.

**Active tourism**
It is possible to ski over more than 22 km of marked slopes and also to practice cross-country skiing, snowboarding and walks on snowshoes. The horseback, bicycle and hiking trails are very pleasant and, in addition to nature, offer the possibility of seeing medieval bridges and other examples of heritage along the way. At the Pinilla reservoir, water activities such as rowing and canoeing are permitted.

**Festivals**
The villages in the Valle Alto del Lozoya celebrate their public holidays with great enthusiasm. Although there are several celebrations throughout the year, the most noteworthy dates include the carnival celebrations, and the patron saint festivities generally held over several days between June and October. These include activities for all ages, with concerts, sports events, religious acts, food tastings, etc.
Buitrago
TRAVEL TO A MEDIEVAL TOWN

It is easy to reach Buitrago!
➜ Take the A-1 to Buitrago (Km. 74)
The A-1 motorway runs along villages and landscapes of enormous value, which often go unnoticed: nature and places steeped in history can be discovered without barely leaving the tarmac.

Buitrago del Lozoya has been enormously relevant for centuries. It was the centre of the so-called Comunidad de Villa y Tierra de Buitrago (Community of the Town and Lands of Buitrago), which grouped together various surrounding villages and was an important commercial nucleus in the Middle Ages. Enjoying its walled enclosure surrounded by the river Lozoya’s waters, its historical buildings, wide cultural offer and surroundings is an experience that can only be described as magnificent.

DON’T MISS!

Take a walk through the town of Buitrago del Lozoya, visiting its walls and the Picasso Museum is a must.

Enjoy amazing views from the peaks of the Somosierra mountain range, and have a look at the Chorrera de los Litueros, the highest waterfall in the Region of Madrid.

The forests of Robregordo and La Acebeda are ideal places for enjoying moments of tranquillity and the colouring of the leaves, especially in autumn.

The granite mountain landscapes of the Sierra de La Cabrera are perfect for hiking, climbing or even just to look at.
The best way of becoming familiar with the old Buitrago is by walking through its streets and admiring its walls, the best preserved in the Region of Madrid. They were first erected in the Muslim period, the works continued during the Reconquista and there have been successive restorations in the centuries that followed.

The site has a perimeter of approximately 800 metres, three gates, solid towers, remains of the barbican and a coracha (a part of the wall that enters the river). On the wall a distinction can be made between the lower ramparts (parallel to the river, less wide and less thick) and the upper ramparts (with tall thick walls as they were considered to be more vulnerable).

The most noteworthy aspects of the ensemble are the clock tower and the remains of the castle, which had a rectangular layout, a central parade ground and several stone towers of different shapes.
PICASSO’S LEGACY

The legacy of Pablo Ruiz Picasso is present in Buitrago del Lozoya on account of the friendship between the artist from Malaga and his barber Eugenio Arias during his exile in France. Picasso dedicated to Arias, a native of Buitrago, drawings, pictures, pottery, posters, books and objects which he gave to him and which have been used to create the Picasso Museum Eugenio Arias Collection, which also includes photographs and handcrafted pieces. This collection in Buitrago del Lozoya consists of 75 objects.

www.madrid.org/museopicasso

SIERRA DE LA CABRERA

South of Buitrago runs the Sierra de La Cabrera mountain range, with emblematic peaks such as El Cancho Gordo and El Pico de la Miel (at 1,394 m, and easily recognisable by its characteristic rounded shape). This mountain range has an abundance of granite formations, and vegetation and fauna that make up a valuable ecosystem and a peculiar landscape. Inhabited since the Visigoth period, buildings such as the convent of San Antonio (dating back to the 11th or 12th century) can still be found. Climbing enthusiasts also have plenty of routes to explore.

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www.la-cabrera.es

BUITRAGO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping
Buitrago del Lozoya and the surrounding villages have numerous proposals for trying the local cuisine and taking a well-earned rest in their comfortable hotels and rural lodgings. There is plenty of choice to suit all tastes and budgets.

Active tourism
Around Buitrago del Lozoya there are endless possibilities for outdoor activities such as hiking, routes on horseback, mountain bike trails, canoeing in the waters of the river Lozoya, or multi-adventure proposals...

Festivals
Two very famous festivals are particularly important in Buitrago del Lozoya. The Living Nativity, a Festival of Tourist Interest, has been held for over 25 years. At Christmas, hundreds of people dress up and parade along the streets and squares of Buitrago representing numerous scenes from the bible. The Medieval Fair, held in September, uses this impressive walled town as the setting for handicrafts markets, leisure activities, exhibitions, shows and performances.

Both Buitrago del Lozoya and the surrounding villages also celebrate their patron saint festivities, which usually take place in the summer months and offer a wide variety of entertainment for the general public.
It is easy to reach Torrelaguna!
➤ Take the A-1 to Km. 50, then take the exit to Torrelaguna along the N-320
**Don’t Miss!**

The historical buildings of **Torrelaguna** and its impressive Church of **Santa María Magdalena**.

The picturesque streets and buildings of **Patones de Arriba**, where time seems to stand still.

El **Pontón de la Oliva** and its surroundings, where you can practice climbing.

The tradition of craftsmanship that can be sensed in **Torrearte** and in the Museum of **Agriculture of Torremocha de Jarama**.

**Walking through Torrelaguna is to be soaked in its history. Its centuries-old civil and religious buildings have an outstanding cultural significance. Also, illustrious characters have walked down its streets and squares, for example, Cardinal Cisneros, San Isidro Labrador and Santa María de la Cabeza.**

Torrelaguna and the surrounding villages, such as Patones and Torremocha de Jarama, have the charm of history, the tradition of craftsmanship and are valuable natural enclaves.
THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS OF TORRELAGUNA

Torrelaguna has the distinction of being a Site of Historical Artistic Interest and deserves no less. Its rich heritage is the product of the remarkable development this town experienced between the end of the 15th century and the 16th century, mainly thanks to Cardinal Cisneros.

The stunning Church of Santa María Magdalena is the most outstanding building. Its construction began in the 15th century and inside it contains valuable altarpieces and a gothic baptismal font. The tower has a square floor plan and three bodies ending in a spire.

Also worthy of note are the former granary (founded by Cardinal Cisneros as a grain store but which now houses the Town Hall), the corn exchange (14th and 15th centuries) and the old Hospital de la Santísima Trinidad (currently used for a different purpose).

Many other buildings are of interest such as Palacio Arteaga, Palacio Salinas, Casa Vargas, Portada de los Quirós, the Convent of Las Carmelitas de la Caridad, the Franciscan Monastery of La Madre de Dios and the Convent of Las Conceptionistas Franciscanas Descalzas. Only some architectural remains of these buildings have been preserved, but they are more than sufficient for us to admire the historical importance Torrelaguna once had.

www.torrelagunaweb.es

TORRELAGUNA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping
One of the major attractions of Torrelaguna is its cuisine and that of its surrounding villages. All of them provide fine food and plenty of choice. Rural tourism is also present thanks to small hotels and country lodges with all comforts.

Active tourism
Routes to become familiar with the natural surroundings of Torrelaguna are attractive both for walking and cycling.

This area is also well-known for caving and paragliding, and near Pontón de la Oliva there are spectacular natural walls of stone which are ideal for climbing.

Festivals
Torrelaguna has two main traditional festivities. The first are the patron saint festivities in honour of the Virgen de la Soledad held the first weekend in September filled with religious events and tradition, and the famous bull runs.

The religious processions of the Romería de Santa María de la Cabeza and San Isidro Labrador started in the Middle Ages and are held in June. The figures of the saints are taken to the shrine of La Piedad, a place of prayer for both saints.
PATONES DE ARRIBA

This is one of the most unique and picturesque villages of Madrid and is recognised as a Place of Cultural Interest. Time seems to have stood still on its streets and you can stroll around calmly while admiring the typically rural constructions in slate and stone.

The oldest human remains to have been found in Patones date from the Palaeolithic. Tradition also refers to the figure of the King of Patones, who until the middle of the 18th century was in charge of administering justice among neighbours. The title was hereditary.

PONTÓN DE LA OLIVA

This was one of the first and most emblematic constructions of the Canal de Isabel II. It played a very important role in the water system supplying the city of Madrid; building began in the middle of the 19th century. The Pontón de la Oliva dam dates back to that period and collects the waters of the river Lozoya (which were famous for their purity) just before it meets the Jarama river.
It is easy to find Alcalá de Henares! ➔ Take the A-2, then the exit to Alcalá de Henares, 30 kilometres from the capital.
Alcalá de Henares has known how to preserve the legacy of the different cultures and illustrious characters that have crossed its lands. A fact that is evident from its impressive historical heritage.

DON’T MISS!

The high street, or calle Mayor, is an essential walk for enjoying the architecture and touring the local shops.

The Casa de Cervantes, where this great writer was born, and which recreates the rooms and atmosphere typical of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The university façade, dating from the 16th century, is a jewel of the Renaissance period.

The Corral de Comedias, built as an open-air theatre in 1601 and now a regular theatre hall still preserving all of its original essence.

Plaza de Cervantes, marking the city centre, dates from the 13th century, although reformed in the 19th century to its current appearance.

Travel on the Cervantes Train, with stewards dressed in period costume and including a guided tour of Alcalá.

Complutum, important in Roman times, was the origin of today’s Alcalá de Henares.
Calle Mayor is the most important street in Alcalá de Henares. It is an example of medieval planning and a peaceful walk down it is a magnificent experience. Undoubtedly, its charming colonnades contribute to this, along with its traditional shops, its lively atmosphere and the historical buildings that line the path. These include the Casa de Cervantes, the Corral de la Sinagoga and the former Hospital de Nuestra Señora de la Misericordia.

In the middle of the calle Mayor we find the house where researchers affirm that Miguel de Cervantes was born in 1547. Its interior has been carefully restored and allows us to observe what life was like in that period thanks to rooms such as the kitchen, the dining room, the bedrooms, the state room, the office of his father, Rodrigo de Cervantes, the ladies’ room, etc. It also contains a bibliographical collections, which includes jewels such as the first edition of *El Quijote* (*Dom Quixote*), editions in other languages or printed with engravings or drawings. The building also plays host to various cultural activities.
COMPLUTUM

This is the origin of the current Alcalá de Henares. It was one of the main Roman cities of Spain’s interior and comprised important infrastructures and buildings. Archaeological works carried out by the Region of Madrid now allow us to admire the remains of constructions such as the monumental façade, streets, el Paredón del Milagro (or Wall of the Miracle), the civil basilica, the market or the baths. Of special note is the House of Hippolytus, built towards the end of the 3rd century and discovered in 1991. This was a recreational building with baths, pools, a garden and a mosaic depicting a fishing scene by Hippolytus.

Camino del Juncal, s/n
Tel. 91 877 17 50
www.complutum.com

UNIVERSITY

Founded by Cardinal Cisneros in 1499, this was one of the most important universities in the world in the 16th and 17th centuries on account of both its professors and its students. Illustrious figures such as Nebrija, Calderón, Quevedo, Lope de Vega, San Juan de Ávila, Jovellanos or Tirso de Molina had a relationship with this university. The façade is impressive and a beautiful example of Renaissance architecture in Spain. It was conceived by Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón and erected in the years 1537 and 1553. Also, the Paraninfo hall of the university is used every year for the prestigious Cervantes Literature Award Ceremony.

www.uah.es

NUEVO BAZTÁN

Close to Alcalá de Henares, the town centre of Nuevo Baztán is considered a Historical-Artistic Site and a Site of Cultural Interest. This beautiful town has known how to preserve its original nucleus, designed by José Benito Churriguera at the request of Juan de Goyeneche. The latter was the true creator and promoter of Nuevo Baztán and provided the town with outstanding baroque buildings such as the Palace that carries his name and the Church of San Francisco Javier.

ALCALÁ AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping

Alcalá de Henares has a wide offer of food and accommodation along with its many cultural and historical attractions. Also, for lovers of good food, there are events throughout the year such as the “tapas” routes and gastronomic days starring the local dishes of Alcalá and traditional cuisine.

Active tourism

El Parque de los Cerros, declared woodland with public amenity value is ideal for exploring its sign-posted routes, either walking or cycling. Another recommendation is the river corridor that runs along the right hand bank of the river Henares with its explanatory boards of the surrounding flora and fauna. Another essential place for practicing outdoor activities related to nature, education, culture and leisure is Naturalcalá.

Ctra. A-2, exit 38
Tel. 91 835 09 00
www.naturalcalala.com

Festivals

Alcalá has festivals which have been declared of Touristic Interest such as the Alcalá de Henares Holy Week, the Semana Cervantina (Week of Cervantes in early October), and Don Juan in Alcalá (31 October and 1 November). Also traditional are the Carnival, the patron saint festivities of Santos Niños Justo y Pastor (in early August), the Festivals and Fairs of Alcalá (towards the end of August) and the festival in honour of the Virgen del Val (on the third Sunday in September).
Chinchón

PLAZA MAYOR, HERITAGE AND LOCAL CUISINE

It is easy to reach Chinchón!
⇒ Take the A-3 to Puente de Arganda, and then the exit to the M-311/M-313, passing by Morata de Tajuña en route to Chinchón
One of the emblematic icons of Chinchón is its impressive Plaza Mayor (Main Square), but this town has many more attractions which make a visit here a must.

Chinchón has so many charms that it is impossible to resist a visit. Its emblematic Plaza Mayor is considered to be one of the most beautiful in all the Region of Madrid. This town also harbours other impressive examples of architectural heritage, and its superb local cuisine boasts many delicious traditional products.

DON’T MISS!

← The impressive Plaza Mayor, where in addition to admiring its architecture you can eat in one of the restaurants on its wooden balconies.

The imposing Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, which even contains a work by Goya.

The Torre del Reloj (Clocktower), the only element that remains standing of the old Church of Nuestra Señora de Gracia, destroyed during the War of Independence.

The Monasterio de los Agustinos (Augustine Monastery) was founded by the counts of Chinchón in the 17th century and is currently used as a Parador hotel.

Chinchon’s tasty and varied local cuisine will have you licking your fingers.
PLAZA MAYOR

The Plaza Mayor of Chinchón is considered to be one of the most important in all of Madrid. It does not deserve any less, anyone who knows it admires this square with its irregular layout and attractive surrounding buildings with their charming wooden balconies overhanging it.

Since it was created towards the end of the 15th century, the square has been given different uses, as a comedy theatre, for spear games, mystery plays, bullfighting events and even film shoots.

CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ASUNCIÓN

The Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción dates back to 1534, although works were not completed until 1626 due to the fact that they were interrupted for several years. It suffered damage during the War of Independence and was restored. The temple shows different architectural styles such as the Gothic, Plateresque, Renaissance and Baroque. Inside we can find elements of interest, among which we would highlight La Asunción de la Virgen, painted by Francisco de Goya at the request of his brother Camilo, who was the chaplain of this Church.

CHINCHÓN AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping
It is very easy to taste the local cuisine of Chinchón. There are numerous restaurants throughout the town, and some also offer exceptional views of the Plaza Mayor. In Chinchón you can have a pleasant night’s stay at the Parador or other existing hotels and country lodges.

Active tourism
The surroundings of Chinchón are ideal for walking, cycling and enjoying nature. One of the most famous routes leads to the Laguna de San Juan, on the banks of the river Tajuña, which is of outstanding birdwatching value, with species such as royal ducks, storks, herons, shovellers, and marsh harriers, among others.

Festivals
Chinchón offers a full programme of festivals and events throughout the year. The mystery play La Pasión de Chinchón is its most famous celebration and is declared of National Tourist Interest. We would also highlight the Carnival and its medieval market, the festival in honour of the patron saints in mid-August and the Charity Bullfighting Festival in October, which is the oldest in Spain (dating back to the 19th century).
CUISINE
To visit Chinchón and not taste its cuisine is unforgivable. Based on regional tradition, its restaurants cook stews and roasts as tasty as they are unforgettable. The dishes’ main ingredients include suckling pig, lamb, kid, game and fowl, seasonal vegetables, etc.

Chinchón is also famous for select foods and gourmet products which you can also take home to lengthen the memory of your visit. Particularly worth noting are its renowned anisette liquor, traditional sweets and pastries, cheeses, olive oil, garlic and wine.

MONASTERIO DE LOS AGUSTINOS
Full of history, this monastery was founded by the counts of Chinchón in the 17th century. It was damaged during the War of Independence but recovered its splendour as an academic and cultural centre. The building was also affected by the disentailments of the 19th century which modified its use. The monastery has been appropriately restored and the part formerly occupied by the monks is now the Parador of Chinchón. Next to the convent, we find its old Church, the shrine of Nuestra Señora del Rosario, in the Baroque style.

TORRE DEL RELOJ
The Torre del Reloj clock tower is an architectural survivor. It was the only part of the Church of Nuestra Señora de Gracia that was spared when the temple was destroyed during the War of Independence. Originally, it had no clock, this was added in the 18th century. It was then restored in the 19th century.

COLMENAR DE OREJA
Very close to Chinchón, we find Colmenar de Oreja, a beautiful town with an attractive centre, with its magnificent Plaza Mayor and the spectacular Church of Santa María la Mayor (built by the Order of Santiago in the 12th century) as its most outstanding elements. It is also essential to visit the Ulpiano Checa Museum, a homage to Ulpiano Checa (1860-1916), painter and sculptor born in this town. Checa is one of the main representatives of the historical genre. His works are impressive and full of life.
Aranjuez

World Heritage Site, culture and royalty on the banks of the Tagus

It’s easy to reach Aranjuez!

→ Take the A-4. Aranjuez is 49 kilometres from Madrid
Aranjuez has everything you can wish for to enjoy a visit to the full: historical buildings, impressive gardens, a charming town centre, delicious cuisine and numerous cultural and outdoor activities.

Aranjuez is one of those places you fall in love with at first sight. This town, on the banks of the river Tagus, has starred in some of Spain’s major historical episodes, a fact which is evident from many of its buildings, some as emblematic as the Royal Palace. Walking down its streets and enjoying its numerous possibilities is a magnificent experience.

DON’T MISS!

The **Royal Palace**, an impressive building where you can admire the majestic nature of its architecture, rooms and decoration.

The gardens of the Royal Site, where along with nature you can observe fountains and sculptures.

The **Falúas Museum** with its remarkable riverboats, used by royalty to sail down the Tagus.

Discover Aranjuez with the **Tren de la Fresa (Strawberry Train)** which allows you to taste its famous strawberries en route and includes a guided tour of the Royal Palace.

The **Casa del Labrador**, a beautiful building within the Prince’s Garden.

The **Royal Church of San Antonio**, which forms part of an incredibly beautiful town centre.
ROYAL PALACE

The Palacio Real de Aranjuez dates back to the 16th century during the reign of Philip II, although its current appearance is due to the reconstructions and additions received in later centuries. However, all of them involved the intervention of the most prestigious architects and masters of the period, such as Juan Bautista de Toledo, Juan de Herrera, Santiago Bonavía and Francisco Sabatini.

If the outer architecture is impressive, its interior is genuinely marvellous. Its foyers, halls and rooms are authentic jewels whose value increases with the paintings, embroideries, sculptures, porcelains and furniture of their decor.

GARDENS

The Jardín de la Isla, Jardín del Rey, Jardín del Parterre and Jardín del Príncipe gardens are considered to be among the most beautiful in the world. The enormous variety of plants, fountains and sculptures blend to perfection. The result is superb and gives rise to magnificent natural and artistic creations, in different styles, from Renaissance and Baroque to Romantic, with oriental, French and English influences.
MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL FALÚAS

This museum situated in the Jardín del Príncipe or Prince’s garden, contains an interesting collection of some of the riverboats used by royalty to sail down the river Tagus. These are centuries-old long slim vessels which were designed and decorated to suit the taste of their royal passengers.

CASA DEL LABRADOR

Located within the Jardín del Príncipe (Prince’s Gardens) it was conceived as a country house for Charles IV. It is the work of Juan de Villanueva and Isidro González Velázquez and was built in several phases. Its interior is worthy of admiration, with halls and rooms richly decorated in marble, with bronze, paintings, porcelains and clocks.

ROYAL CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

This is the 18th century work of the architects Isidro González Velázquez and Santiago Bonavia. It started out as an oratory that Philip IV ordered to build provisionally because of the Royal Chapel’s limited capacity. The Church, with its circular floor plan and a beautiful dome, is perfectly integrated in the plaza de San Antonio square and forms an ensemble of curved traces and arches that add great beauty.

ARANJUEZ

Eating and sleeping

The cuisine of Aranjuez is as amazing as its cultural heritage. In fact, as part of this visit a good restaurant meal is an absolute must. Fundamental ingredients include produce from the town’s fertile lands (starring asparagus and strawberries) and meats such as rabbit and game. Aranjuez has a wide offer of hotels so that sleeping here is also a pleasure.

Active tourism

The Groves and Historical Walks of Aranjuez are ideal for touring on foot, horseback, or bicycle while enjoying an attractive landscape. Another place where you can feel close to nature is the Mar de Ontígola, an enclave of tremendous environmental value where it is possible to hike and birdwatch. Also, the river Tagus provides for water activities such as canoeing.

Festivals

A noteworthy festival is the commemoration of the Riot of Aranjuez. This festival, declared of International Tourist Interest, is held on the first weekend in September and relives the historical event of 1808. Also, throughout the year there are other events such as San Isidro Labrador (15 May) and the patron saint festivities of San Fernando (end of May).
Navalcarnero
A HISTORICAL SITE, SPECTACULAR ROASTS

It is easy to reach Navalcarnero!
 ➔ Take the A-5 to Navalcarnero,
 31 kilometres from the capital
It is always comforting to travel to Navalcarnero. This town has a beautiful centre, outstanding food and established traditions which deserve to be known.

The Villa Real de Navalcarnero is full of history. It was the location of a royal wedding and the town centre comprising the Plaza de Segovia square and the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción is considered to be a Site of Cultural Interest. Plus its restaurants offer delicious roasts, which can be washed down with local wines.

DON’T MISS!

The magnificent Plaza de Segovia square with its beautiful colonnades.

The 16th century Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, with a very valuable interior and slender tower with a spire.

The Casa de la Cadena, where king Philip IV and Mariana de Austria were wed in 1649.

The roasts and gastronomic products of the area are really delicious and the result of careful preparation.

Walk through the streets of the town, and note the sculptures by contemporary artists.
PLAZA DE SEGOVIA

Plaza de Segovia is Navalcarnero’s most emblematic square. It has witnessed many of the town’s events and remains full of life. Declared a Site of Cultural Interest in the category of Historical Site of Cultural Interest, it was built in the 16th and 17th centuries, it has an irregular floor plan and portico structures on three of its sides. Its facades accentuate the beauty of the surroundings.

CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ASUNCIÓN

The Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, dated early 16th century, is considered to be a National Historical-Artistic Monument, and a Site of Cultural Interest in the Historical-Artistic Site category. Throughout the centuries it has been refurbished on several occasions so what we see is a combination of styles. Inside, the Chapel of the Virgin is worthy of note, with several extremely valuable Baroque altarpieces. The tower, with four bodies, is crowned with a spire and is reminiscent of the Toledo Hispanic-Moorish style.

www.turismo-navalcarnero.com
CASA DE LA CADENA

The Casa de la Cadena reveals the historical relevance of Navalcarnero. In 1649, King Philip IV and Mariana de Austria were wed and spent the following nights here. What we see today is a faithful reproduction of the original façade. The name of the house refers to the enormous chain in front of its door, secured to stone bollards made of granite.

LOCAL CUISINE

Navalcarnero is popularly known as the “land of wine, chickpeas and lamb”. Naturally, these three products are the major stars of the town’s local cuisine. Navalcarnero is the location of several wineries and its wines are included in the Designation of Origin Wines of Madrid. It also has a Wine Museum, where you can become better acquainted with the winemaking art of this area. Chickpeas are the star ingredient of the Olla del Segador (Harvester’s Stew), a variation on the traditional cocido dish. The mainstay of the local cuisine are the savoury roasts, cooked slowly and carefully to achieve that unsurpassable taste.

NAVALCARNERO

Eating and sleeping

It is impossible to resist the local cuisine of Navalcarnero. Its roasts and stews are in greatest demand cooked following traditional recipes that must be paired with the famous locally produced wines. Sleeping in one of Navalcarnero’s hotels is also a pleasant experience, and helps us to become more familiar with this town and its surroundings.

Active tourism

The natural surroundings of Navalcarnero are ideal for tranquil enjoyment while practicing outdoor activities. A magnificent way of doing so is on foot or cycling, along existing paths. The area of the Guadarrama river is particularly valuable from an environmental standpoint.

Festivals

The Mercado Real del Siglo de Oro market, and Bodas Reales (Royal Wedding) between Philip IV and Mariana de Austria are considered to be festivals of Tourist Interest and are held before the patron saint festivities of Ntra. Sra. de la Concepción (in early September). The bull runs (which date back to 1649) are traditional and very popular. Also, Holy Week is a traditional celebration. Other events include San Isidro (15 May), San Roque (16 August) and the Covadonga festival (in mid-August).
San Lorenzo de El Escorial
AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

It is easy to reach San Lorenzo de El Escorial!

⇒ Take the A-6/AP-6 to exit 47, towards El Escorial, along the M-600, which leads to San Lorenzo de El Escorial
The countless historical, cultural and natural attractions of San Lorenzo de El Escorial captivate people from all over the world and are the starting point for an unforgettable visit.

San Lorenzo de El Escorial has everything for a perfect outing. Its outstanding historical-artistic heritage, its privileged location, its valuable natural enclaves, superb food, cultural events and festivals in a well-looked after environment, satisfy visitors every time.

DON’T MISS!

The majestic Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, of incalculable value and worldwide fame.

The Abantos and La Herrería mountains with their rich biodiversity ideal for being in contact with nature.

Walking through the old town of San Lorenzo and admiring the numerous buildings which have witnessed the life of the town.
This is the jewel of the town, its impressive historical-artistic value has crossed borders and it is declared a World Heritage Site. Philip II considered the setting of San Lorenzo de El Escorial to be ideal for erecting a majestic building that would commemorate the victory at the Battle of San Quintín and act as the mausoleum for both his parents and himself. Works began in 1563, and the king himself would supervise them. Some of the most important architects of the time took part, such as Juan Bautista de Toledo and Juan de Herrera.

Inside, we would point out the basilica, the pantheon of Kings and Princes, the chapter houses, patios, the library, the palaces and the paintings and sculptures by artists of the stature of Goya, Velázquez, El Greco, Bernini, and Monegro. The monastery’s gardens also have a value of their own with their blend of natural and artistic value.

www.patrimonionacional.es
This colossal monument was built between 1940 and 1958. Its most visible element is the impressive stone cross standing 150 metres tall. However, its most valuable element is excavated deep into the rock. It is a basilica measuring 262 metres long, with numerous chapels and a dome with a mosaic by Santiago Padrós. The basilica is also the burial place of more than 33,000 people who fell on both sides during the Civil War. In the Valle de los Caídos (Valley of the Fallen) there is also a Benedictine Abbey and other annexes such as a library and a guesthouse.

A picturesque location with unquestionable environmental and landscape value. Abantos stands out especially for its pine trees (black, Scots and maritime pines) and other introduced forest species of botanical interest. La Herrería is better known for its Pyrenean oaks, chestnut and ash trees, and also as being the location of the Silla de Felipe II (Philip II’s chair), a fabulous viewing point sculpted in stone from which it is said that the monarch would supervise the works on the monastery. Both Abantos and La Herrería are inhabited by a remarkable biodiversity which includes several protected species.

Eating and sleeping
The culinary offer of San Lorenzo de El Escorial is as extensive as its many tourist attractions. The traditional dishes of Castilla are very much present, although it is also possible to find other types of cuisine. The ample offer of hotels in San Lorenzo means sleeping in this town is just perfect.

Active tourism
Routes on horseback and bicycle routes are an excellent way of being in contact with nature and enjoying the surroundings of San Lorenzo de El Escorial. The Abantos and La Herrería mountains are two frequently visited places. They are also the setting for the Travesía de las Cumbres Escurialenses (a Festival of Tourist Interest, a 22km mountain trail event crossing four mountain peaks).

Festivals
San Lorenzo de El Escorial has a full calendar of festivals throughout the year. The most emblematic include the religious procession or Romería of Nuestra Señora de la Virgen de Gracia (declared of National Tourist Interest and held on the second weekend in September), Carnival, the Holy Week (Festival of Tourist Interest), the San Lorenzo festival (in August) and Christmas (during which a large nativity scene is set up in the main streets of the town centre).
It is easy to reach San Martín de Valdeiglesias!

➜ Take the A-5, exit onto the M-501, and continue until you reach San Martín de Valdeiglesias
Don’t miss!

The San Juan reservoir, with more than 50 kilometres of coastline and the only one where motorboats are permitted, is the nearest thing to a beach and is just a step away from the capital.

The Castillo de la Coracera, a castle built by Álvaro de Luna in the 15th century as a symbol of power, is the most emblematic monument of San Martín de Valdeiglesias.

The ruins of the Cistercian Monastery of Santa María la Real de Valdeiglesias, in Pelayos de la Presa.

Walk around the Picadas reservoir on the Via Verde del Alberche (Alberche green path), or do some rowing there.

The Palacio de Villena, used as a summer palace by Álvaro de Luna, in Cadalso de los Vidrios.

San Martín de Valdeiglesias sits in a wide valley amidst abundant vegetation since long before the San Juan reservoir came into existence, with evidence of its founding dating back to the 12th century. History, culture and nature come together in this town to the southwest of Madrid.
**Embalse de San Juan**
(San Juan Reservoir)

Containing the waters of the rivers Alberche and Cofo, this reservoir built in 1955, has more than 50 kilometres of coastline and 14 beaches which can be enjoyed as the only reservoir where swimming and motorised water activities are permitted.

www.anm.es/valdeiglesias

**Castillo de la Coracera**

Catalogued as a Site of Cultural Interest, this castle was built by Álvaro de Luna in the middle of the 15th century to protect his lands and as a symbol of power against the Church, which had owned the estate previously. Built in stone with a robust tribute tower, it has a chapel and parade grounds, and is surrounded by walls. The castle can be visited and also rents out its premises for events, conferences and exhibitions.

Pza. Castillo, s/n
www.castillodelacoracera.com
**MONASTERY OF SANTA MARÍA LA REAL**

On the outskirts of Pelayos de la Presa we find the ruins of the Cistercian Monastery of Santa María la Real de Valdeiglesias. This is an impressive group of religious buildings built after the 12th century and combining numerous styles such as the Church with its Romanesque header, a Gothic cloister, a Mozarabic chapel and other quarters inspired in the Herrera style. Despite its state of disrepair, it is of considerable value.

[www.santamarinarealdevaldeiglesias.com](http://www.santamarinarealdevaldeiglesias.com)

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**EMBALSE DE PICADAS**

This narrow reservoir, built on the waters of the river Alberche, starts at the foot of the dam of San Juan. It is a pleasant setting from which to discover what used to be the railway line and is now the Vía Verde del Alberche, a route amongst pine trees which are reflected in the water and bridges joining the two banks.

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**SAN MARTÍN DE VALDEIGLESIAS**

**Eating and sleeping**

Around San Martín de Valdeiglesias we can find a wide selection of accommodation, especially rural country lodges and apartments, as well as a large number of restaurants. Of note is the winemaking tradition of San Martín de Valdeiglesias, with its wineries that maintain their artisanal methods, producing especially young wines which are renowned among the wines of the Region of Madrid.

**Active tourism**

Around the Embalse de San Juan, in San Martín de Valdeiglesias, there is a wide variety of possibilities with water and multi-adventure activities. The marina, founded in 1958, promotes sailing as a sport, and it has a recognised school with frequent regattas. There are many pleasant routes on foot. Along with the Vía Verde del Alberche, we find others such as the Senda del Canto del Guarro which combine sport and scenery.

**Festivals**

San Martín de Valdeiglesias holds its traditional patron saint festivities in the month of September, along with the festival of the patron saint San Martín de Tours, on 11 November, in addition to carnival and the religious procession or Romería to the shrine of the Virgen Nueva. Another great tradition are the festivals in honour of San Blas in Pelayos de la Presa, as well as Holy Week and the patron saint festivities of El Cristo del Humilladero in Cadalso de los Vidrios.
Manzanares el Real

nobility, water and stone

It is easy to reach Manzanares el Real!

→ Take the M-607 to Colmenar Viejo, then the M-609 to kilometre 5, before taking the exit to Manzanares along the M-862 followed by the M-608 to your destination.
The nobility had a special connection with Manzanares el Real and left a legacy that can still be appreciated in many of the town’s buildings and cultural elements.

Manzanares el Real is one of those places where history and nature merge and create a place that just has to be discovered. The Mendoza family, of noble descent, marked the evolution of the population. The castle, the best preserved in all of Madrid, lies at the foot of La Pedriza mountain range, where nature has eroded the rocks to create a unique landscape.

DON’T MISS!

The Mendoza Castle, or New Castle, is the best preserved castle in the Region of Madrid.

The 14th century Church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves with its different styles.

La Pedriza, an authentic work of nature, rising majestically above Manzanares el Real.

The Santillana reservoir, from the early 20th century, is the main reservoir on the river Manzanares, and is used to supply water to the city of Madrid.

Miraflores de la Sierra, an interesting mountain town with old summer houses and a spectacular grotto.
THE MENDOZA OR NEW CASTLE

This is the emblem of Manzanares el Real and is declared a Historical-Artistic Monument. The Mendoza or New Castle was erected in the 15th century by the Mendozas, dukes of the Infantado, and one of the most influential families of the time. This beautifully restored castle is the best preserved in the Region of Madrid. It has a square floor plan and consists of three rounded turrets and one octagonal turret, a patio with porticos, a basement and six floors. Its rooms are full of tapestries, antique furniture and armour. The entire complex is surrounded by a barbican. Although originally this had a defensive function, it also catered to palace events. Visit the castle by taking a guided tour or attending any of the many cultural activities that take place inside.

MANZANARES AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Eating and sleeping
Manzanares el Real offers tourists a wealth of options in terms of local food and accommodation. Its rural country lodges and hotels are welcoming and its restaurants offer gastronomic proposals for all tastes, although we would highlight the dishes of local traditional cuisine and roast meats.

Active tourism
Lovers of climbing, hiking or cycling have an unmissable appointment with the natural surroundings of Manzanares el Real, and La Pedriza as its emblematic enclave. Routes on horseback are also a possibility among many other activities.

Festivals
The summer festival (in the first week in August) is the most popular in Manzanares el Real. However there are also events throughout the year such as carnival, the festival of Nuestra Señora Virgen de Peña Sacra (on Pentecost), la Noche de San Juan (in June), and the festival of Cristo de la Nave (in September).
CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LAS NIEVES

Located close to Manzanares el Real, a walk through the town centre will take you past summer houses, the Town Hall building, the new fountain, or the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, with a baptismal font dating back to 1492.

Don’t forget to visit the grotto of Nuestra Señora de Begoña, perched over the Miraflores river gorge, with its surprising gardens and image of the Virgin.

LA PEDRIZA

A beautiful example of the force of nature, which has polished and shaped the impressive rocks forming La Pedriza, in the Regional Park of the Cuenca Alta del Río Manzanares. This setting is completed with trees and shrubs which adapt to the stony characteristics of the soil and animal species including vultures and specimens of mountain goat.

EMBALSE DE SANTILLANA

The Santillana or Manzanares reservoir was built in the early 20th century although it was extended in 1969 with the construction of a new dam. This extension not only increased the reservoir’s storage capacity but also revealed some of the elements of the former dam, such as a neo-Gothic tower emerging from the waters and creating a curious image. The reservoir supplies Madrid and also serves as the habitat for numerous species of birds, fish and plants.

MIRAFLORES DE LA SIERRA

Located close to Manzanares el Real, a walk through the town centre will take you past summer houses, the Town Hall building, the new fountain, or the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, with a baptismal font dating back to 1492.
It is easy to reach Guadarrama!

➢ Take the A-6/AP-6 to exit 47, follow signs to Guadarrama. From Guadarrama take the M-622 to Ceredilla. From Ceredilla, take the M-622, then follow the M-614 to Navacerrada.
Mountains are the link between three of the most emblematic villages in the Sierra de Guadarrama mountain range: Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada, with the most significant peaks in the Region of Madrid.

Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada are three charming mountain villages. They all have interesting examples of heritage, charming centres, an outstanding natural landscape which has been recognised since time immemorial, a superb local cuisine, and traditions well worth getting to know.

Don’t Miss!

Take a walk through the town centres of Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada.

The Monument to the Arcipreste de Hita offers privileged views.

The Valle de la Fuenfría is one of the most important natural spaces in the Sierra de Guadarrama.

The Tren de la Naturaleza or Nature Train travels from Cercedilla to Puerto de los Cotos through a spectacular mountain landscape.

The Navacerrada mountain pass, Madrid’s ski slope and the starting point for many hiking trails.
SPECTACULAR NATURAL ENCLAVES

The natural surroundings of Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada possess an incalculable value, with emblematic peaks and countless elements of interest. In Guadarrama, the Natural Monument of National Interest dedicated to the Archpriest of Hita and comprised by large granite rocks pays tribute to this writer of the Middle Ages, who in his “Book of Good Love” [Libro del Buen Amor], already describes the local trails. Another essential spot to visit is the Valle de la Fuenfría (Cercedilla), picturesque, with granite and gneiss formations, pine forests and fauna with abundant roe deer, boar, badgers and foxes. The views from its viewing points (“miradores”) are spectacular. The Valle de la Fuenfría has an Educational Centre on the Environment for additional information. The Valle de La Barranca (Navacerrada) can be explored on a medium-difficulty, 10 km trail. Along the way it is possible to sight pine forests, rock roses, white broom, numerous birds, small reptiles and even some deer. The valley also has a recreational area of the same name, providing drinking water, benches and tables, waste bins and parking places.

GUADARRAMA, CERCEDILLA AND NAVACERRADA

Eating and sleeping
Traditional cuisine and mountain recipes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients are the hallmarks of the local cuisine of Guadarrama, Cercedilla and Navacerrada. This and much more can be sampled in the area’s many restaurants. These three villages have a wide variety of hotels and rural lodgings to suit all tastes.

Active tourism
The Navacerrada mountain pass is the epicentre of all activities. Along with winter sports such as skiing, it is also the starting point for a large number of hiking trails, for example the famous Camino Schmidt. The entire area is well-suited for walking, cycling and climbing, as well as for environmental education activities.

Festivals
Locals and visitors alike enjoy the numerous celebrations held throughout the year. In Guadarrama, the most renowned are the August festivals, the festivals in honour of San Miguel (29 September) and San Francisco de Asís (4 October) and the Medieval Market (in summer). Cercedilla is particularly known for the festival of San Sebastián (20 January), San Antonio (13 June), La Virgen de las Nieves (in August) and the patron saint festivities of Nuestra Señora de la Natividad (early September). In Navacerrada, the most representative festivals are San Antonio de Padua (13 June) and Nuestra Señora de la Natividad (early September).
GUADARRAMA

The centre of Guadarrama is particularly attractive. The Town Hall is built around a beautiful square with colonnades, two towers at the ends, and combining stone, slate and Arabic tile. Also worth a visit is the neoclassical Fuente de los Caños, dating from 1785, which bears the image of the Archangel Saint Michael. The village’s local parish church, dating from the 18th century and built on the former royal bread store and granary, has this same name. The current cultural centre, La Torre, is housed in the former Church of the Archangel Saint Michael, built between the 15th and 16th centuries, of which only the tower and some older structures remain.

www.turismoguadarrama.com

CERCEDILLA

Cercedilla already existed many centuries ago, as demonstrated by the Roman path which crosses the Fuenfría mountain pass and still offers some visible remains. This town has kept the traditional structure of mountain villages and it is a delight to walk through its streets. The Plaza Mayor main square is full of activity and contains the Village Hall and Club for the Elderly. The Church of San Sebastián is of late Romanesque origin and has interesting elements such as the tower, entrance portico to the church and an altarpiece in the Churrigueresque style. Cercedilla also contains the Paquito Fernández Ochoa Ski Museum, devoted to this Olympic champion who is well-connected to the village. Worth a visit also are the Fuente del Bolo, Fuente del Tomillar and Fuente de los Geólogos, all of which are spring water fountains of great cultural and environmental value.

www.cercedilla.es

NAVACERRADA

Navacerrada’s village centre is well integrated in its surroundings. Walking through its streets, in cobbled stone, and discovering some of its best examples of civil and religious architecture is a very pleasant experience. The Plaza de los Ángeles square is one of the most relevant locations and contains the Town Hall and Club for the Elderly. The Church of la Natividad de Nuestra Señora, built in stonework with ashlars in the 16th century, although partially restored in the 18th and 20th centuries. Its entrance door consisting of an atrium with columns, the bell tower and its valuable interior are all worthy of note.

www.navacerrada.es
Sierra de Guadarrama National Park
WHERE NATURE SHINES IN ALL ITS SPLENDOUR

It is easy to reach the National Park!
➤ Via Puerto de Navacerrada, take the M-601 from Navacerrada
➤ Via Puerto de los Cotos, take the M-604 from Rascafría
➤ Via La Pedriza, take the M-608 from Manzanares el Real
Declared a National Park on 13th June 2013, it is the fifteenth in Spain and the fifth largest by area. Its 33,960 hectares straddle the autonomous communities of Madrid and Castilla y León, and are home to numerous species of flora and fauna of significant importance.

The National Park comprises part of the municipalities of Alameda del Valle, Becerril de la Sierra, El Boalo, Cercedilla, Lozoya, Manzanares el Real, Miraflores de la Sierra, Navacerrada, Navarredonda-San Mamés, Pinilla del Valle, Rascafria and Soto del Real within the Region of Madrid, plus other neighbouring municipalities which belong to the Region of Castilla y León. It also contains some of the most valuable and emblematic natural sites of the Sistema Central, with unique landscapes, a peculiar characteristic flora, and protected animal species which can be extremely difficult to sight anywhere else.

DON’T MISS!

Via Puerto de los Cotos, note the Peñalara Massif, which along with the Peñalara peak (the tallest in Madrid at 2,428 metres) forms the Natural Park of Peñalara, with its lakes and circus and spectacular landscapes.

The Siete Picos (Seven Peaks), joining the Puerto de Navacerrada and the Puerto de la Fuenfria.

The Cuerda Larga mountain chain, which runs at altitudes of over 2,000 m for 16 km and joins the Puerto de Navacerrada and the Puerto de la Morcuera.

In Manzanares el Real, La Pedriza, a characteristic granitic massif of whimsical shapes crowned by the mythical Yelmo.
The reservoirs of Madrid
WHERE WATER IS KEY

It is easy to reach the reservoirs of Madrid!

➢ To reach the reservoir of El Atazar, take the A-1 to Km 60, and then the exit to El Berrueco and from there to El Atazar
➢ To reach the reservoir of Valmayor, take the A-6 followed by the exit to the M-505 at Las Rozas
➢ To reach the reservoir of San Juan, take the A-5 followed by the M-501 in Alcorcón
Madrid has a network of reservoirs with a holding capacity of over 1,000 hm³ (a trillion litres). Although used mainly as water supplies, some allow certain nautical activities and swimming.

Madrid is crossed by many streams and rivers, most of which carry water from the mountains into the mighty Tagus. Many of them have been used for containing the water required to supply the population of the Region of Madrid. The river Lozoya, with five sizeable reservoirs, the rivers Guadarrama, and the Alberche are some of the most important, but there are more than thirty overall, both large and small.

DON’T MISS!

Following the course of the river Lozoya, take the “Ruta de los Embalses”, a route along the reservoirs of Pinilla, Riosequillo, Puentes Viejas and El Villar to reach the impressive reservoir of El Atazar (the largest in the Region of Madrid). Next to Cervera de Buitrago, it has a nautical sports resort offering sailing and rowing among other activities.

Next to San Martín de Valdeiglesias is the San Juan reservoir, the only one where swimming and motorised water activities are permitted.

The waters of the river Aulencia were contained between Colmenarejo, Valdemorillo and El Escorial forming the reservoir of Valmayor. It is the second largest by capacity in all of the Region of Madrid and as well as hosting important riverside vegetation along its banks, it also offers the possibility to practice sailing.
Winter activities in Madrid

A white blanket caps the mountains in winter

It is easy to enjoy the snow in Madrid!

➜ To Navacerrada, via the A-6 until Km. 40 then continuing along the M-601
➜ To Cotos and Valdesquí, from Navacerrada by continuing towards Rascafria
➜ To the covered ski slope, along the A-5 to exits 22 and 25
Madrid, just 50 kilometres away from high mountains, is one of the few European capitals with several months of snow less than one hour away. Downhill and Nordic skiing, walks in the snow or a moment of fun on a sledge are within everyone’s reach.

A

utumn sets in and before winter appears, the main peaks of the Sierra de Madrid are tinged in white and remain snow-capped well into spring. During these months, the snow offers the possibility of taking a break at a ski resort, cross-country skiing through places with unique landscapes in protected settings, and an endless number of hikes on snowshoes through plains filled with snow. And when the snow disappears from the mountains, Madrid works its magic so that the white stuff can be enjoyed all year round in an indoor ski slope.

DON’T MISS!

The emblematic Navacerrada mountain pass has ski lifts and marked slopes ideal for practicing skiing and snowboarding, as well as areas for sledging and games in the snow. Just a few kilometres away heading towards Rascafría, you can find Valdesquí, with more than 20 kilometres of slopes on the north face of Las Guarramillas pass.

The Puerto de los Cotos, in the middle of the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, offers a 4km circuit for practicing cross-country skiing, along with marked areas for sledding, mountain skiing and walks on snowshoes.

In Arroyomolinos, skiing and snowboarding can be enjoyed all year round in the covered slope of SnowZone.
Routes and trails across Madrid

THE BEST WAY TO ENJOY NATURE
Certainly, one of the best ways of enjoying nature up close is by walking. Even the shortest of walks can take you to incredible places, uncover the strangest of plants, or provide enjoyment from the sighting of a protected bird.

The Region of Madrid is crossed by a network of trails and paths that make it possible to reach any corner no matter how hidden. Whether cattle trails, rights of way leading to agricultural fields, simple paths linking two towns or part of major routes which cross the peninsula, paths and trails are a pleasant way of roaming in search of a landscape, a remote location, a hidden corner, or of simply enjoying a moment of peace and quiet among beautiful scenery.

DON'T MISS!

The network of public rights of way (Vías Pecuarias) of the Region of Madrid covers more than 4,000 kilometres, crossing through all municipalities, often through protected spaces of enormous natural value.

The Natural Trails along old paths are well signposted and maintained and are used by hikers and cyclists alike. In Madrid, it is possible to travel the Valle del Lozoya and the Cañada Real Soriana Oriental.

The GR-10 path is a long distance route spanning 1,600 kilometres and connecting the Valencian town of Puzol with Lisbon. It crosses Madrid between Patones and San Martín de Valdeiglesias.

The Camino de Santiago (or Way of St James) of Madrid connects the capital with the French Way in Sahagún, through the Puerto de la Fuenfría.
Culinary breaks and excursions

SAVOURING LOCAL FLAVOURS IS ANOTHER WAY OF GETTING TO KNOW YOUR DESTINATION
Before, during or after a visit to any location, it is worth tasting the food produced there, whether in the form of sweets, stews, roasts, garden produce or elaborate dishes worthy of the highest cuisine. Madrid allows you to savour a wide range of tastes and textures.

**DON’T MISS!**

- The meats of the Sierra de Guadarrama, of the highest quality, from selected breeds fed in pastures and with grains. Available in local shops and in many of the restaurants of Madrid.

The Wines of Madrid, produced especially in the south. The designation of origin and large number of small producers guarantee a quality product.

The honey obtained in many of the mountain villages, from approximately 17,000 hives, with tastes of rosemary, heather and blackberry, is usually sold locally.

The oil produced by the olive trees of close to a hundred municipalities. Its designation of origin protects a virgin olive oil with a high content in oleic acid.
Tourist Information Offices

Tourist Information Offices of the Region of Madrid:

**CABANILLAS DE LA SIERRA**
Pza. Ayuntamiento, 1. Tel. 652 482 749
www.turismoabombaladelasierra.es

**CANENCIA**
Pza. Constitución, 1. Tel. 91 868 75 11
www.canencia.es

**CERVERA DE BUITRAGO**
Iglesia, 1. Tel. 91 868 71 17
www.cerveradebuitrago.org

**CHICHÓN**
Pza. Mayor, 6. Tel. 91 893 53 23
www.turismo-chichon.org

**COLLADO MEDIANO**
Pza. Mayor, 1
Tel. 91 859 81 05 (ext. 215 or 211)
www.ayto-colladomediano.es

**COLMENAR DE OREJA**
Costanilla de Silleros, 1. Tel. 91 808 93 32
www.colmenardeoreja.org

**COLMENAR VIEJO**
Pza. Maestro Almeida, 1. Tel. 91 845 31 36
www.colmenar.es

**COLMENAREJO**
Inmaculada, 2. Tel. 91 858 90 72
www.ayto-colmenarejo.com

**COSLADA**
Avda. Principes de España, s/n
Tel. 91 627 82 00 (ext. 1625)
www.cosladaweb.es

**FRESNEDILLAS DE LA OLIVA**
Ctra. Colmenar del Arroyo, 12
Alameda, 9
Tel. 91 898 90 09
www.fresnedillasdelaliva.es

**GUADARRAMA**
Tourist Interpretation Centre
Pza. Mayor, 6. Tel. 91 849 47 03
www.guadarrama.es

**LA HIRuela**
Herrerías, s/n
Tel. 690 865 132
www.lahiruela.es

**Hoyo de MANZANARES**
Pza. Mayor, 1. Tel. 91 856 60 04 (ext. 6)
www.hoyodemanzanares.es

**LOCHES**
Chorrera, 7. Tel. 91 885 17 78
www.loches.es

**LOZOYUELA**
**NAVAS SieteIGLESIAS**
Avda. Madrid, 40 (Lozoyuela)
Tel. 91 869 45 61
www.lozoyuela.com

**MADARCOS**
Salda Polivalente, Panza, 2. Tel. 91 868 14 61
www.madarcos.org

**MIRAFLORES DE LA SIERRA**
José Yáñez, 7. Tel. 91 844 34 48
www.mirafloresdelasierra.es

**EL MOLAR**
Remolino, 4. Tel. 691 655 550
www.elmolar.org

**MONTEJO DE LA SIERRA**
Real, 69. Tel. 91 869 70 58
www.montejodelasiera.net/turismo

**MÓSTOLES**
Pza. Pradillo, s/n. Tel. 91 664 75 99
www.mostoles.es/turismo

**NAVACERRADA**
Pza. Angeles, 1. Tel. 91 856 00 06
www.navacerrada.es

**NAVALENAR**
Pza. Segovia, 1. Tels. 91 910 76 41/42
www.turismo-navalenar.org

**Nuevo Baztán**
Plaza, s/n. Tel. 91 873 62 38
www.ayto-nuevoaztatan.es

**Patoness**
Pza. Constitución, 1. Tel. 91 843 29 06
www.patoness.net

**Pedrezuela**
Pza. Constitución, 1. Tel. 91 843 30 53
www.turismopedrezuela.org

**Rascafria**
Avda. El Paular, 32. Tel. 91 869 11 17
www.rascafria.org

**Las Rozas**
Juan Ramón Jiménez, 3 (Las Rozas Village)
Tel. 91 640 49 06
www.lasrozas.es

**San Lorenzo de El Escorial**
Gimilda, 4. Tel. 91 890 53 13
www.santolorenzotourism.org

**Santa María de la Alameda**
Pza. Constitución, 1. Tel. 91 899 90 12
www.santamarialadealameda.com

**Torrelaguna**
Pza. Mayor, 8. Tel. 91 843 14 03
www.torrelagunaweb.es/turismo

**Torremocha de Jarama**
Torrearte, 3 (Polígono Artesanal)
Tel. 91 843 16 96
www.torremohadejarama.org

**Valdealaguna**
Pza. Valle de la Laguna, 1. Tel. 91 893 70 99
www.valdealaguna.org

**Valdemorillo**
La Paz, s/n. Tel. 91 897 85 78
www.valdemorillo.es

**Valdemoro**
Pza. Constitución, 7. Tel. 91 801 82 45
www.valdemoro.es

**Venturada**
Pza. Ayuntamiento, 2. Tel. 91 843 92 12
www.venturada.org

**Villa del prado**
Avda. San Lorenzo, 1
www.aytovaldelapra.do.org

**Villamantilla**
Pza. España, 1
Tel. 91 856 00 02
www.villamantillato urismo.org

**Villar de salvanés**
Pza. Iglesia, s/n
Tel. 91 844 30 02/638 213 515
www.villaredesalvan.es

**Villaviciosa de Odón**
Pza. Constitución, 4. Tel. 91 616 96 16
www.villaviciosadeodon.es
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