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# TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour

## Tour Highlight:

December 2022  
Madrid, Spain



## Study Abroad Home Part 1

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## A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

(See Granada and Barcelona for more Spain politics)  
Madrid was the home of the Republican front during the Spanish civil war. Here many journalists lived and reported on the war between the Republicans against Franco and his army. An interesting fact is that while Gran Vía was being bombed by Franco, the rich area of Salamanca was spared since many of its residents were Franco supporters. Madrid is the capital of Spain having officially designated this in the 1978 constitution, and home to headquarters of the world tourism organization. Madrid was also home to many anti-austerity protests in 2011 that were a result of the great financial crisis in 2008. It is also home to a cultural movement in the 1980s called La Movida. The current mayor of the city is José Luiz Martínez-Almeida. Freedom House gives it a score of 90/100 meaning free and EIU gives it a 7.94/10 as a flawed democracy.

# Madrid, Spain



## Some quick tips for Madrid :

- Public transport and ubers are cheap and easy to get around
- Dinner is usually eaten around 9-10Pm and most restaurant will not be open until 6/7Pm
- Do not show up to the clubs here until Midnight at the earliest

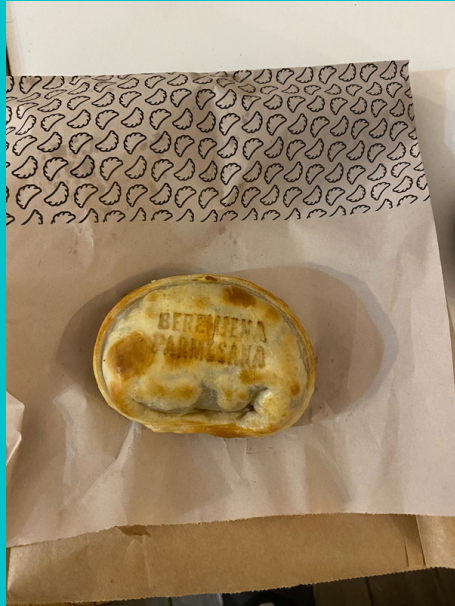
# FOOD & RESTAURANTS

## TORTILLA



Tortilla is a staple dish in Madrid and you are either team con or sin cebolla (with or without onion). I am team con cebolla, but either way the tortilla is delicious. There are many different cafes and restaurants to have tortilla but my personal favorite is Pez Tortilla in Malasaña. It was a block away from my house, so I ate there a decent amount, but expect long lines since it is so popular. Tortilla from the grocery store is not as good but surprisingly not that bad!

## EMPANADAS



Empanadas are also a popular dish in Madrid, and all over the city you can find stores and restaurants selling them. It is always the perfect snack after class or just if you are feeling a little hungry. My favorite place was Malvon Argentinian Empanadas. I am not lying when I say I probably went there 4 times a week it is that good. They just released a truffle empanada that is one of the best things I have ever had. If you are in Madrid you have to check this place out.

## MIDDLE EAST/KEBAB



This picture is from a restaurant in Malasaña called Byblos which I really liked and frequented. It is Lebanese food and is fairly priced and comes out really fast. On a similar note kebab is really popular in Madrid as well. My favorite place to go was Afghan Kebab in Malasaña. The lady that owns it is the sweetest person ever and her kebab meals are only \$6. The perfect drunk food or even dinner, and you can expect to be feeling very satisfied and full after.



# Madrid, Spain

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## BURGERS



Looking for a good burger? Juanchos and Goiko are definitely your two best options. I lived above Juanchos and it was always packed. Expect to pay more for burgers except it is totally worth it because they are so good. They have so many interesting toppings and twists that each time is a new experience. Also for my vegan/vegetarians friends they all have plant based options so you can enjoy these meals without worrying about what you can eat.

## PIZZA



Malasaña has a lot of great pizza options. The two best in my opinion are NAP and Lab84. I went to both these places multiple times with my friends and they both are so good. Be prepared to cut your own pizza though because most places that serve pizza in Madrid do not cut your pizzas for you. If pork is your thing they have a lot of Iberia ham on pizzas, but I usually chose the vegetarian pizzas. Either way if you are looking for a good pizza you can find it at either of these places.

## OTHER RESTAURANTS

### Malasaña Places:

Roost Chicken  
Ojala (brunch food)

### Nice Places to Break the Bank:

Ten con Ten  
Amazonico

### Indian:

Basmati

### Asian:

Wok to Walk  
Shangrilla

### Chipotle Style:

Tierra Burrito  
Burritos (in Malasaña)

### Other:

Mercadona (Grocery store but they have hot food, Poke Bowls are \$5 and amazing)  
El Rey (margaritas and tacos)  
Casa Alberto (historically famous went here for a class lol)

### Spanish Staple Dishes:

- Tortilla
- Croquetas
- Patatas Bravas
- Sangria and Tinto de Verano to drink
- Really anything with pork and ham



(Dessert at Amazonico, check out the monkey drink too)

# Madrid, Spain

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## NIGHTLIFE

Madrid is known for its nightlife and bars. Please do not show up until midnight or you will be the only person inside the entire club (from personal experience). Either pregame with your \$1 bottle of wine from the grocery store or check out one of the hundreds of bars that line the streets of Malasaña. Expect to leave most places around 3-4 on an average night and then 5-6 if its a crazy one.

### CLUBS

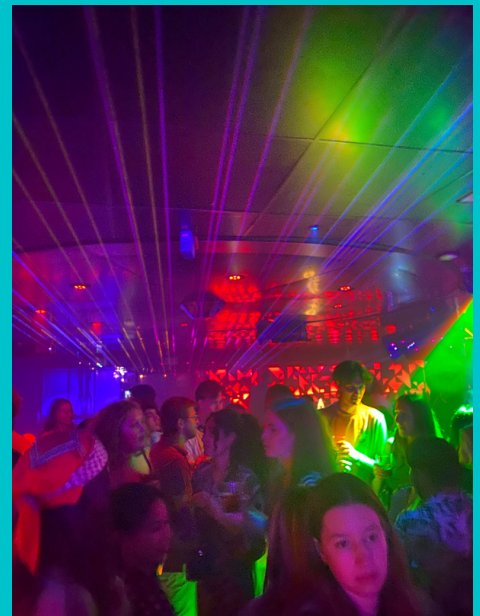
- Barcelo (featured in Netflix series Elite)
- Teatro Eslava (my personal favorite)
- Kapital (most famous multi-storied with different music on each floor)
- Fucking Mondays (biggest party is on... you guessed it Monday)
- Fabrik (outside of the city and really big)
- Vandido
- ICON (24 hour Subway across the street that saved me many nights)

I also want to note that near some of the clubs there are promoters on the street trying to get you to enter their places, ignore them! This can sometimes lead to dangerous situations and the places are never that fun. Also most clubs you need to pay an entrance fee but it usually comes with a drink.



### BARS

In a money saving/lazy effort I did not go to many bars and would pregame for the club in my apartment. If you are looking for a drink check out really any place in Malasaña they have bars and nice sit down areas all over the neighborhood. For themed bars check out Wall Street and for fancy drinks go to Salmon Guru.





# Madrid, Spain

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## THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Besides having a bunch of amazing restaurants and arguably the best night life scene in all of Europe, there is so much to do in Madrid during the day as well. From palaces to parks to museums there is literally so much this city has to offer.

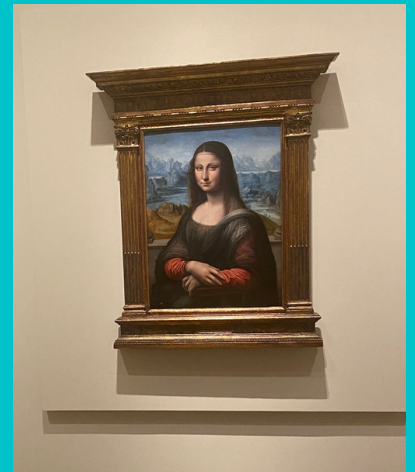
### RETIRO PARK



Probably my favorite spot in all of Madrid is Retiro Park. In the middle of the Salamanca neighborhood this giant park has a pond you can rent boats on, a crystal palace to go inside, and so much nature to enjoy the Spanish sun. I would run here when the temperature was not too hot and the views are just remarkable. It is also really to get to from the metro as well as generally walking from anywhere in Madrid. You could spend 4 hours here easily without even realizing.

### PRADO MUSEUM

No this is not the real Mona Lisa, but a replica. It is housed in the Prado museum which is home to a lot of old Spanish art and religious paintings. This museum was founded in 1819 and is home to sculptures and art of famous artists such as Goya and Velasquez. Entrance is free for students with a valid student ID so you really do not have an excuse to not go here. It is really expansive with over 7,000 paintings and 1,000 sculptures that you could spend the whole day walking around and looking. It is part of the Golden Triangle of Art (along with the Reina Sofia Museum and Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum) which is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. As of 2020, it was the 16th most visited museum in the entire world.



### PARQUE DE OESTE



Right by Plaza de España is the Parque de Oeste. It gives great views into the mountains outside of Madrid and also has butterfly garden. It is also home to the Temple of Debod which is an ancient Egyptian temple that was brought to Madrid as part of a campaign to save the monuments of Nubia. This park is smaller than Retiro but you can easily spend an hour or so here looking at the great views outside Madrid and enjoying the sun. There is also a cable car that you can take connected to the park which provides scenic views of the entire city.

# Madrid, Spain

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## PLAZA MAYOR



Dating back to the 15th century, the Plaza Mayor is an iconic destination in Madrid that is right by the Puerta de Sol (center of Madrid). Here expect to find souvenir shops, restaurants, and boutique stores. The plaza has suffered from three fires in 1631, 1670, and 1790. There are apartments in the buildings surrounding the plaza and there are 10 entrances/exits inside with 9 separate gates. Originally it was used as the main market in the city. In December there is a large Christmas market that takes place in Plaza Mayor (I guess some things do not change). It has been multi-purpose hosting soccer games, bullfights, and even executions in the past.

Here is the official resident of the Spanish royal family, but it is now only used for ceremonial purposes and state visits. The royal family moved its residence to a larger place slightly outside the city (honestly I would not want to be in the middle of the city living here either if I was them). The palace is owned by the Spanish State and is built upon the site of a Muslim era fortress that was constructed here during the 9th century (reconquista). It is over 1,000,000 square feet with almost 3,500 rooms making it the largest royal palace in all of Europe (go big or go home!). Some of the artists with paintings in the Prado also have their work displayed here. It is also home to the only Stradivarius string quartet.

## ROYAL PALACE



## OTHER PLACES TO SEE

- Reina Sofia Museum
- Plaza de España
- Largest Zara in the World next to Plaza de España
- Puerta de Sol and Bear Statue
- Shops on Gran Vía
- Corte Ingles (kinda like a target fun to walk around)
- Barrio de Letras (Many famous Spanish authors lived here)
- Thrifting in Malasaña
- El Rastro Market (only on Sundays)
- Real Madrid Stadium
- Day trips to Segovia and Toledo (easy and cheap to get to by train highly recommend)



Corte Ingles (Christmas Themed)



Reina Sofia Museum Exhibit

*See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!*