

# MADRID



A Bengals UK City Guide



# Bienvenido a Madrid!

Welcome to Madrid - one of the great capital cities in one of the world's great countries.

Developed from a ninth-century Moorish fortress, Madrid rose to prominence in 1561 when King Philip II moved his court there, establishing the city as the centre of his vast empire. Since then, it has grown into one of Europe's great cultural capitals, home to the 'Golden Triangle of Art' - the Prado, Reina Sofía, and Thyssen-Bornemisza museums - along with architectural treasures, grand boulevards, and vibrant neighbourhoods filled with rich history and character.

Yet Madrid is more than its past: It's a living, breathing city that celebrates life through food, music, festivals, and late-night conversations over vermouth. Locals (called Madrileños) are famously warm and welcoming. You're here to watch the Bengals game at the legendary Bernabéu, but Madrid offers a rich, deeply authentic Spanish experience that's worth both exploring and savouring.



Dear Bengals UK mates!

We're chuffed to bits to welcome you with open arms to Spain, a country where passion and warmth will bring us together for a cracking, unforgettable match.

This November, the legendary Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in Madrid will be the stage as we'll roar as one for our Cincinnati Bengals. We may not be playing at home, but with all of us together, we'll make sure the orange and black colours absolutely take over the stands.

La Jungla Hispana will be coming from every corner of Spain - from the proud lands of Aragon, vibrant and cosmopolitan Catalonia, storied Castilla y León, and the stunning Cartagena and Alicante, to the charming Castilla-La Mancha, magical Andalusia, gritty Extremadura, and the untamed Cantabria and beyond to join forces for a proper American football bash.

For us, watching legends like Joe Burrow, Ja'Marr Chase, and Tee Higgins in the flesh is a dream come true. Sharing this historic moment with you all is going to be absolutely epic.

The warmth and hospitality of the Spanish people, paired with the electric passion of La Jungla Hispana, will make you feel right at home as you enjoy the greatest show on earth. We invite you to join us for a few days packed with joy, camaraderie, and proper fun, celebrating our love for the Cincinnati Bengals together! Who Dey!

La Jungla Hispana  
<http://bengals.es>

# GETTING FROM MADRID-BARAJAS AIRPORT (MAD) TO THE CITY CENTRE



## FAST AND BUDGET-FRIENDLY: METRO (LINE 8)

- **Duration:** Approx. 20–30 minutes to central Madrid (Nuevos Ministerios)
- **Price:** €4.50–€5.00 (includes airport supplement)
- **How:** Board Metro Line 8 from Terminal 2 or Terminal 4. Transfer if needed at Nuevos Ministerios or other main lines

## 24/7 ACCESS TO CENTRAL MADRID: AIRPORT EXPRESS BUS

- **Duration:** 30–40 minutes, depending on traffic
- **Price:** €5 flat fare, payable on board (cash or contactless)
- **Stops:** O'Donnell, Cibeles, Atocha (day), with 24-hour service to Cibeles
- **Best For:** Those arriving at odd hours or staying near Atocha or Cibeles

## FLAT FARE CONVENIENCE: TAXI

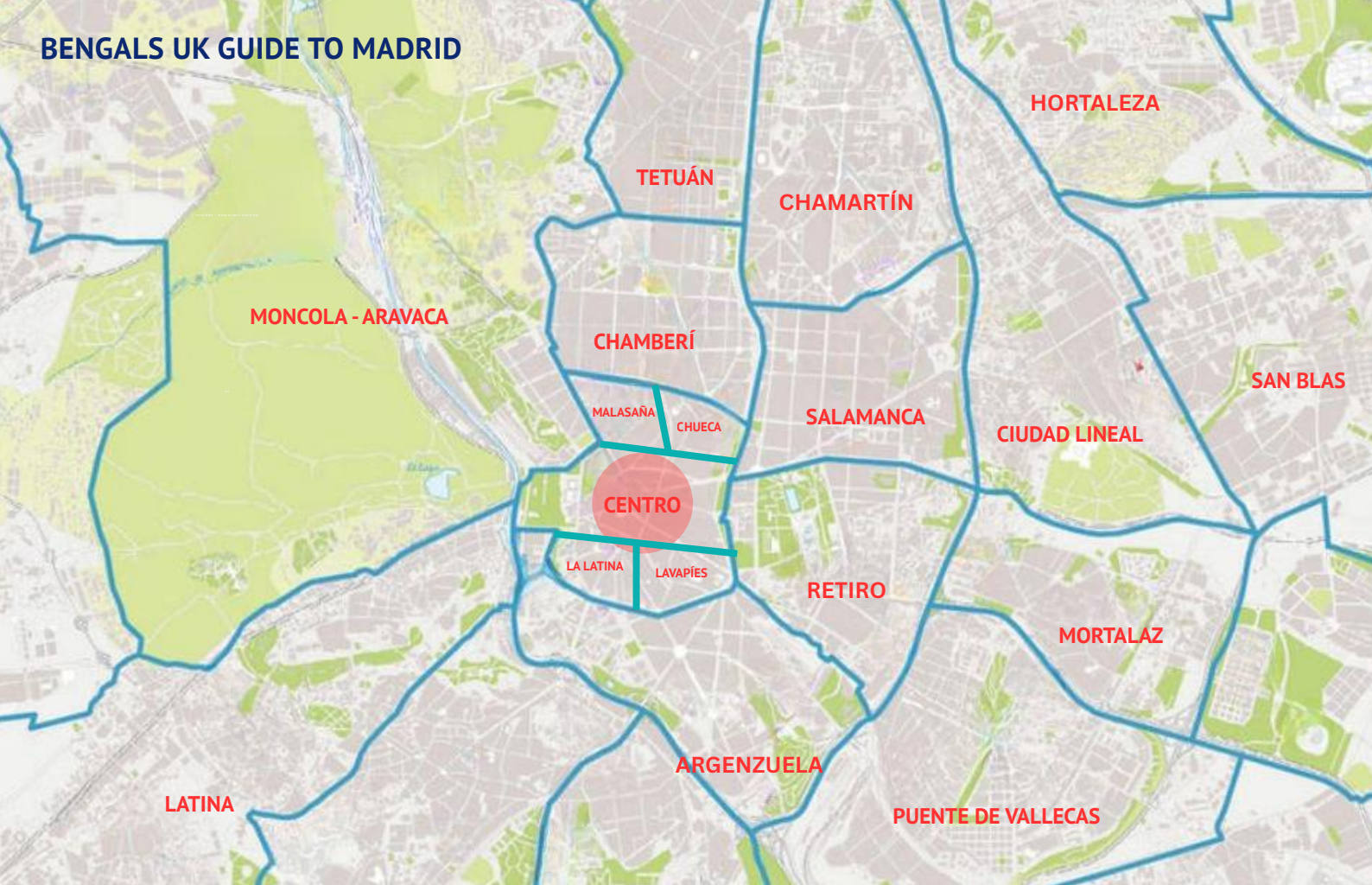
- **Duration:** 20–30 minutes
- **Price:** €33 flat rate to anywhere inside the M-30 ring (includes most central areas)

## RIDE SHARES (UBER, CABIFY, BOLT)

- **Duration:** 20–35 minutes
- **Price:** €25–€35 depending on demand

## FROM TERMINAL 4 ONLY: TRAIN (CERCANÍAS LINE C-1)

- **Duration:** 25–30 minutes to Atocha
- **Price:** €2.60
- **Best For:** Travellers arriving at Terminal 4 who are staying near Atocha, Chamartín, Sol or Nuevos Ministerios.



# Best areas to stay

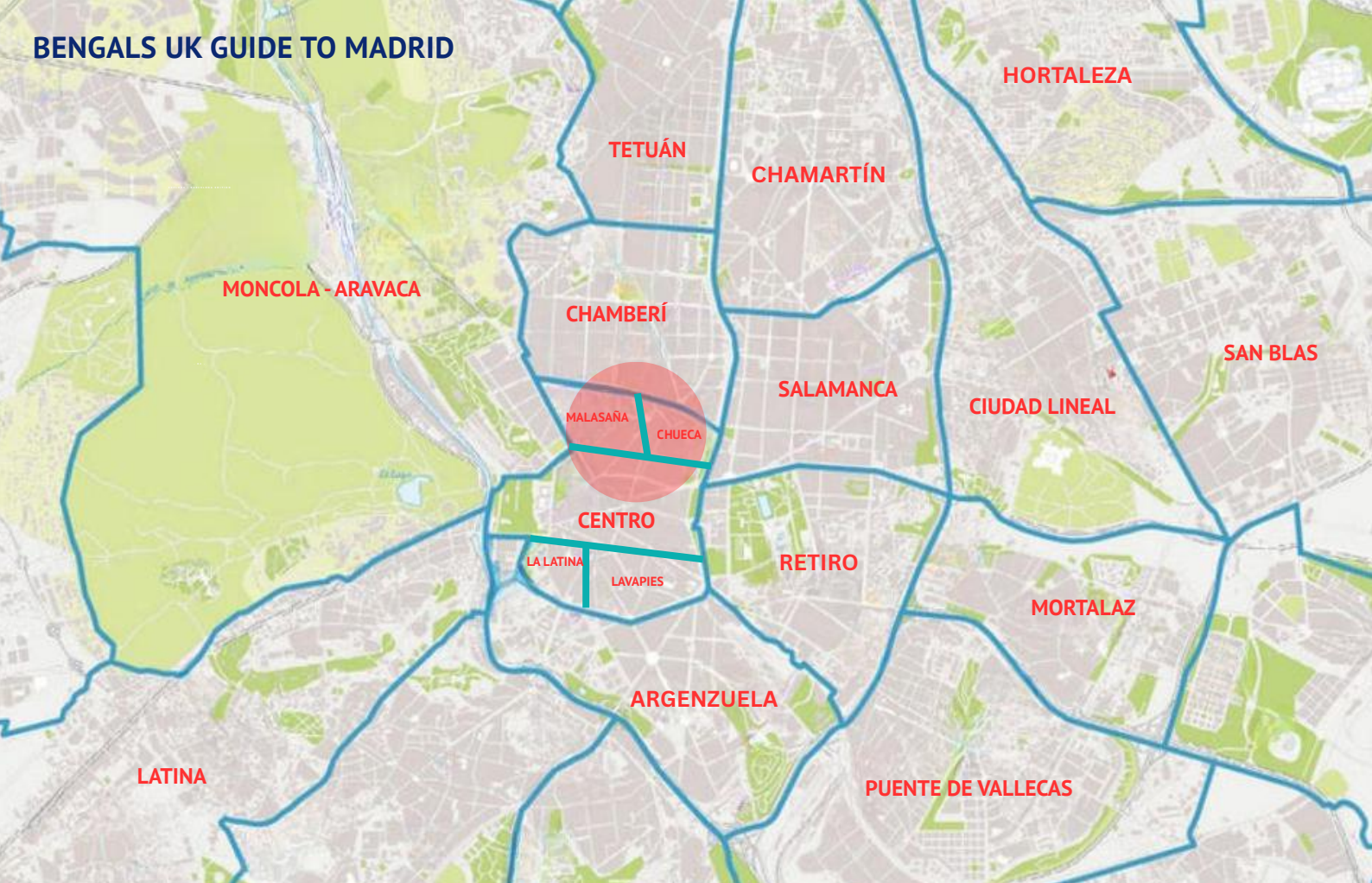
Madrid is a city of diverse neighbourhoods, each with their own vibe, charm, and history. Here's a breakdown of some of the suggested 'best' areas depending on your own needs, with details on access to the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, home of Real Madrid, and the game against the Falcons.

## 1. CENTRAL: SOL, GRAN VÍA, OPERA, PLAZA MAYOR

Perfect for first-time visitors who want to be in the middle of everything.

This is Madrid's beating heart: a buzzing, walkable area filled with iconic landmarks, restaurants, tapas bars, shopping streets, and vibrant squares. Staying here puts you within easy reach of major attractions like the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol, and within easy reach of Madrid's world-famous art museums. Gran Vía is also Madrid's answer to Broadway, with musicals, cinemas, and a lively nightlife scene.

- **Atmosphere: Bustling, touristy, full of energy**
- **Ideal For: Sightseers, first-timers, short stays**
- **To Bernabéu Stadium: Take Metro Line 10 from Plaza de España or Tribunal. PLEASE SEE METRO LINE 10 CLOSURE SECTION FOR MORE INFO.**



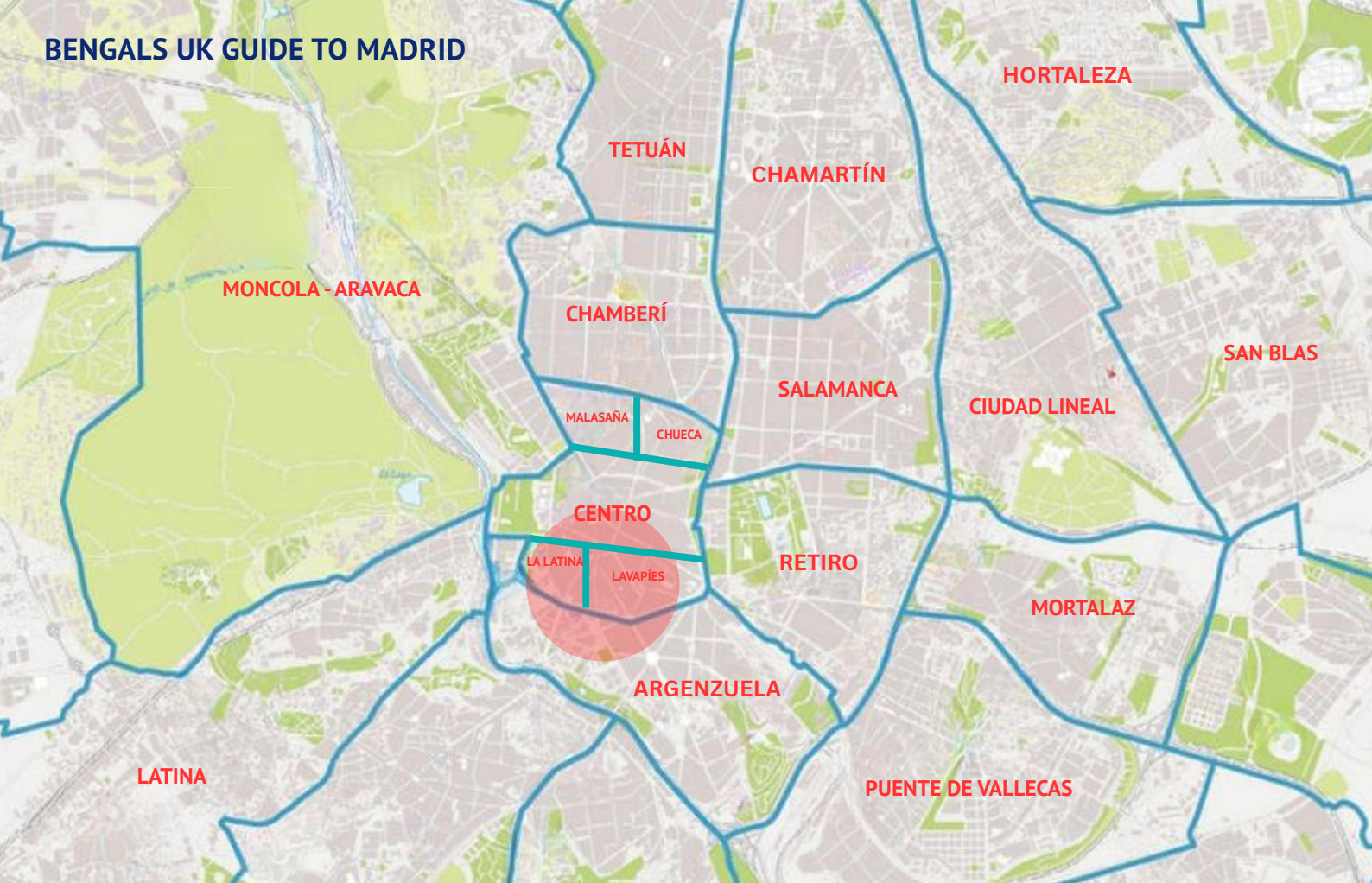
## 2. COOL / HIPSTER: MALASAÑA AND CHUECA

Perfect for creatives, foodies, and nightlife lovers.

Malasaña is Madrid's indie, vintage, and rock'n'roll hub. It's filled with record stores, street art, retro bars, and cafes. Chueca, right next door, is trendy, LGBTQ+ friendly, and known for boutique shopping and a fantastic restaurant scene. Both neighbourhoods are central enough to walk to Sol or Gran Vía, but feel much more local and laid-back.

- **Atmosphere:** Bohemian, artistic, edgy
- **Ideal For:** Younger travellers, creatives, solo travellers, LGBTQ+ travellers
- **To Bernabéu Stadium:** Metro Line 10 from Tribunal. **PLEASE SEE METRO LINE 10 CLOSURE SECTION FOR MORE INFO.**





### 3. BUDGET-FRIENDLY: LAVAPIÉS AND LA LATINA

Perfect for culture-seekers and travelers on a budget.

Lavapiés is one of Madrid's most multicultural neighbourhoods, known for affordable hostels, global cuisine (especially South Asian, African and Middle Eastern food), street art and lively public squares. Just to the west, La Latina is one of the city's most traditional districts, famous for its narrow streets, classic tapas bars and the iconic El Rastro flea market held nearby on weekends.

- **Atmosphere: Authentic, diverse, slightly gritty**
- **Ideal For: Budget travellers, backpackers, culture lovers**
- **To Bernabéu Stadium: Take Metro Line 5 from La Latina to Alonso Martínez, then change to Line 10. PLEASE SEE METRO LINE 10 CLOSURE SECTION FOR MORE INFO.**



# HOW TO GET AROUND CENTRAL MADRID



## METRO

- **Extensive:** 13 lines covering most of the city and suburbs
- **Affordable:** Single journeys typically cost €1.50–€2, depending on distance. Ten-trip ticket (Metrobús) is available for a discounted multi-journey price (around €12–€14)
- Runs approximately 6am to 1.30 am, with extended hours on weekends
- **PRO TIP: BUY A TARJETA MULTI (€2.50), A REUSABLE TRAVEL CARD (AROUND €2.50) USED TO LOAD METRO AND BUS TICKETS**



## BUSES

- Operated by EMT (Empresa Municipal de Transportes)
- Blue EMT buses operate daytime services, while night buses (búhos) run overnight routes
- Use the same ticket or Tarjeta Multi as the Metro
- Night buses run from around midnight to 6am



## TAXIS & RIDESHARES

- Taxis have red diagonal stripes and a city crest
- Ride apps like Uber, Bolt, and Cabify are widely used
- **NEED TO KNOW: TAXI MINIMUM FARE STARTS AT €3.50**

## WALKING

- Central Madrid is very walkable and safe, with pedestrianised zones and shaded boulevards

## ELECTRIC SCOOTERS & BIKES

- Apps like Lime, Bolt, and Acciona offer scooters and e-bikes



# Top 10s of Madrid

Madrid is a city of layers - regal yet rebellious, traditional yet trend-setting. For every grand museum or royal residence, there's a bustling tapas bar and outrageous nightlife. To help you navigate the city like a local, here are some of Madrid's Top 10s, from budget-friendly restaurants to late-night bars, and authentic cultural gems.





# How tapas works in Madrid

Tapas in Madrid isn't really a meal in the traditional sense; it's more of a rhythm that shapes how people eat, drink, and socialise throughout the day. Rather than sitting down and ordering a starter and main, tapas is built around small plates shared between drinks, often as part of a slow, social progression through different bars. In many ways, it's less about what you eat and more about how you move through the city.

The experience usually starts with a drink - a caña, a glass of wine, or a vermouth on tap - and what happens next depends on the type of bar you're in. In more traditional places, that drink might arrive with a small complimentary tapa. In more modern bars, you'll order food separately, but still in small, shareable portions. Either way, tapas is designed to be unhurried, with conversation at the centre.

Rather than staying in one place, locals often move from bar to bar, having a drink and a plate or two in each. This 'tapas crawl' is one of the most authentic ways to experience Madrid at night, especially in neighbourhoods like La Latina, Lavapiés, and parts of Malasaña. It's common to stand at the bar rather than sit at a table, particularly in older, more traditional spots where the pace is quicker, and prices are lower.

What often surprises visitors is that tapas isn't always free. Some bars still serve a complimentary plate with each drink, but many now operate on a fully paid small-plates system. Both are part of the same culture, and neither is more 'real' than the other; they just reflect different types of venues and neighbourhoods.

# Top 10... tapas bars

## 1. CASA LABRA

**Why Go?** One of Madrid's most famous historic taverns, operating since 1860 and remaining one of the city's essential tapas experiences

**Must try:** Bacalao croquettes, fried cod, vermouth

## 2. BODEGA DE LA ARDOSA

**Why Go?** A Madrid institution with more than 150 years of history. Packed with character, beer memorabilia, and locals enjoying vermouth and tortilla

**Must try:** Tortilla Española and croquettes

## 3. LA CASA DEL ABUELO

**Why Go?** One of the most iconic tapas bars in the city, famous for sizzling garlic prawns served in clay dishes

**Must try:** Gambas al ajillo and house wine

## 4. CASA TONI

**Why Go:** A gloriously old-school Madrid bar popular with locals and regularly recommended as one of the city's most authentic tapas experiences

**Must try:** Patatas bravas, mushrooms, traditional Madrid specialities

## 5. EL TIGRE

**Why Go?** Legendary among budget travellers for huge free tapas portions with every drink. It's chaotic, noisy and great fun

**Must try:** Whatever arrives with your beer

## 6. CASA REVUELTA

**Why Go?** Tiny, traditional and often overlooked by tourists. Frequently cited as one of the best places in Madrid for battered cod

**Must try:** Bacalao and a caña

## 7. JUANA LA LOCA

**Why Go?** The modern classic. A fixture of La Latina's tapas scene

**Must try:** The famous caramelised onion tortilla

## 8. LA VENENCIA

**Why Go?** One of Madrid's most atmospheric historic taverns. A sherry bar rather than a conventional tapas bar

**Must try:** A glass of sherry and simple tapas

## 9. TABERNA LA CONCHA

**Why Go?** A favourite among vermouth lovers and one of the best places to experience Madrid's aperitivo culture

**Must try:** Vermouth on tap and house tapas

## 10. TABERNA EL SUR

**Why Go?** A great introduction to Madrid tapas without the crowds of some of the historic institutions

**Must try:** Garlic prawns and grilled provolone





# Top 10 tapas dishes to try

1. **Jamón Ibérico:** The king of Spanish cured meats, with a rich, nutty flavour that melts in your mouth
2. **Tortilla Española:** Spain's famous potato omelette. Should it be runny or firm in the middle?
3. **Croquetas:** Crispy on the outside, usually filled with ham, chicken, cod, or mushrooms
4. **Patatas Bravas:** Fried potatoes topped with a spicy tomato-based sauce, sometimes with alioli
5. **Gambas al Ajillo:** Prawns sizzling in olive oil, garlic, and chilli
6. **Bocadillo de Calamares:** Fried calamari served in a crusty bread
7. **Huevos Rotos:** Fried eggs cracked over potatoes
8. **Pimientos de Padrón:** Small green peppers fried in olive oil
9. **Bacalao Frito:** Lightly battered fried cod
10. **Albóndigas:** Spanish meatballs



# Top 10... tourist experiences

## 1. MUSEO DEL PRADO

**Why Go?** One of the world's premiere art galleries, the Prado showcases the might of Spanish painting from the 12th to the early 19th centuries

**Price:** €15 (free entry during the last two hours daily except Sundays)

## 2. PALACIO REAL (ROYAL PALACE)

**Why Go?** One of the largest royal palaces in Western Europe (over 3,400 rooms!) symbolises Spain's monarchical history

**Price:** €12–14; free entry on select days for EU citizens and residents

## 3. PARQUE DEL BUEN RETIRO

**Why Go?** Once a royal retreat, this vast park is the green lung of the city

**Price:** Free; boats €6–€8 for 45 minutes

## 4. MUSEO REINA SOFÍA

**Why Go:** Spain's premier modern art museum with bold 20th-century works, including Picasso's famous Guernica

**Price:** €12 (free evenings)

## 5. MUSEO THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA

**Why Go?** Fills the gaps left by the Prado and Reina Sofía with works from the Renaissance to Pop Art (Caravaggio, Rubens, Dali, Hopper)

**Price:** €13 (Free Monday afternoons (limited access))

## 6. TEMPLO DE DEBOD

**Why Go?** An ancient Egyptian temple gifted to Spain in 1968, now perched on a hill overlooking the city

**Price:** Free

## 7. GRAN VÍA

**Why Go?** This iconic boulevard buzzes with shops, rooftop bars, cinemas, and theatres

**Price:** Free

## 8. PUERTA DEL SOL

**Why Go?** Kilometre Zero of Spain's road network. The symbolic centre of the country

**Price:** Free

## 9. PLAZA MAYOR

**Why Go?** A historic square framed by elegant buildings, arcades, and cafes

**Price:** Free to visit; café prices are premium

## 10. SANTIAGO BERNABÉU TOUR

**Why Go?** BECAUSE IT'S THE BERNABÉU!

**Price:** From around €25 for standard entry, with premium experiences costing significantly more and availability restricted on match days





# Top 10 lux destinations

1. **Calle Serrano (The Golden Mile).** Flagship stores include Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Prada
2. **Salamanca District:** Designer boutiques on every block
3. **El Corte Inglés Serrano (Luxury Floor):** Spain's most famous department store, but this is the premium version
4. **DiverXO:** Madrid's only three Michelin-star restaurant.
5. **Saddle Madrid:** Michelin-starred fine dining
6. **Amazónico Madrid:** Quintessential 'see-and-be-seen' restaurant
7. **Four Seasons Hotel Madrid:** Madrid's most talked-about hotel, set inside restored bank buildings
8. **Ramses District (Plaza de la Independencia):** Luxury nightlife and dining hub
9. **Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid:** A Belle Époque landmark
10. **Galería Canalejas:** High-end indoor gourmet destination



# Top 10... places to eat

## 1. EL SUR (BARRIO DE LAS LETRAS)

**Vibe:** Cosy and friendly

**Why Go?** Affordable homemade tapas. Their grilled provolone and garlic prawns are legendary

**Price:** Tapas from €4-6; mains €8-12

## 2. BAR LA CAMPANA (NEAR PLAZA MAYOR)

**Vibe:** No-frills, local institution

**Why Go?** One of the most popular places for bocadillo de calamares

**Price:** Sandwiches €4-6

## 3. TINTO Y TAPAS (NEAR GRAN VÍA)

**Vibe:** Rustic-chic wine bar

**Why Go?** Casual wine bar with set menus and tapas deals, popular with visitors

**Price:** Set menu €11-13

## 4. MALASPINA (CALLE CÁDIZ, CENTRAL)

**Vibe:** Popular with locals and students

**Why Go?** Free tapa with every drink

**Price:** Drinks €2-3, tapas free or €3-6

## 5. MUSEO DEL JAMÓN (MULTIPLE, CENTRAL)

**Vibe:** Old-school deli meets fast food

**Why Go?** Cheap jamón sandwiches and €1 beers

**Price:** Sandwiches €2-4; beer €1

## 6. CASA LABRA (NEAR PUERTA DEL SOL)

**Vibe:** Founded in 1860

**Why Go?** Known for cod croquettes and fried cod portions. Eat standing at the bar for the budget option

**Price:** Tapas €2-4

## 7. TAKOS AL PASTOR (CALLE DE LA ABADA, CENTRAL)

**Vibe:** Fast, fun, always packed

**Why Go?** Best value tacos in Madrid (€1.50)

**Price:** Tacos €1.50-2.50

## 8. LOS CHANQUETES (LAVAPIÉ)

**Vibe:** Neighbourhood tapas bar

**Why Go?** Great paella menu on weekends

**Price:** Mains from €7-10

## 9. 100 MONTADITOS (ALL OVER CENTRAL MADRID)

**Vibe:** Chain but beloved

**Why Go?** Literally 100 mini sandwiches to choose from; €1 Wednesdays and Sundays are a hit.

**Price:** Most items €1-2

## 10. B13 BAR VEGANO (MALASAÑA)

**Vibe:** Vegan, alternative, relaxed

**Why Go?** A+ plant-based versions of Spanish classics.

**Price:** Dishes €3-7





# Top 10 sports bars

1. **The Irish Rover:** One of the most famous sports bars in Madrid
2. **James Joyce Irish Pub Madrid:** The classic expat sports bar
3. **La Latina | Sports Pub Madrid:** Sports bar meets Madrid neighbourhood pub
4. **Malasaña | Sports Pub Madrid:** Younger crowd, indie neighbourhood
5. **87 Millas Sport Bar:** Excellent reviews, plenty of screens and a strong reputation among local sports fans
6. **Starbeers:** Combo of quality beer, burgers and live sport
7. **El Canalla Irish Pub & Sports Bar:** Irish pub atmosphere
8. **FRATINA Sport Bar:** Sports, tapas and local crowd
9. **The Waterboy Sports Bar:** American-style sports bar
10. **Cervecería Deportiva Sports Bar:** Trad Madrid sports bar



# Top 10... bars and clubs

## 1. BARCO (MALASAÑA)

**Vibe:** Funky and live-music focused

**Why Go?** Jazz, funk, flamenco and a great sound system

**Price:** Free to €10 depending on night

## 2. EL INTRUSO (CHUECA)

**Vibe:** Classy but unpretentious

**Why Go?** Live music early, DJ later; strong cocktails

**Price:** Often free before midnight

## 3. TUPPERWARE (MALASAÑA)

**Vibe:** Retro kitsch meets indie cool

**Why Go?** Great alternative music, hipster crowd

**Price:** Often free

## 4. LA VÍA LÁCTEA (MALASAÑA)

**Vibe:** Legendary 80s Madrid vibe

**Why Go?** Post-punk meets pop

**Price:** Free

## 5. MEDIAS PURI - THE SECRET CLUB (NEAR PLAZA MAYOR)

**Vibe:** Hidden theatre-turned-superclub

**Why Go?** Burlesque, techno, disco - over-the-top fun

**Price:** €15-20

## 6. DEL DIEGO COCKTAIL BAR (CHUECA)

**Vibe:** Elegant old-school cocktail bar

**Why Go?** High-end drinks, expert bartenders

**Price:** Free; cocktails from €10

## 7. OCHO Y MEDIO CLUB (MALASAÑA)

**Vibe:** Indie/alternative crowd

**Why Go?** Best place for indie pop and Spanish alt-rock

**Price:** €10-15

## 8. TEATRO KAPITAL (ATOCHA)

**Vibe:** Seven floors of madness

**Why Go?** Each level is a different vibe: hip-hop, techno, reggaeton, and karaoke

**Price:** €20-25

## 9. CAFÉ BERLÍN (NEAR GRAN VÍA)

**Vibe:** Sophisticated, eclectic

**Why Go?** From jazz and soul to flamenco fusion.

**Price:** €10-15

## 10. 1862 DRY BAR (MALASAÑA)

**Vibe:** Elegant speakeasy

**Why Go:** Serious cocktails, vintage feel; ideal for starting a night out in style.

**Cover:** Free; cocktails €9-12





# Top 10 cheap eats under €10

1. **Takos al Pastor:** Tacos from €1.50–€2.50 depending on filling and location
2. **Bar La Campana:** Classic bocadillo de calamares around €4–€6
3. **Museo del Jamón:** Cheap ham sandwiches and beer deals often under €5
4. **El Tigre:** €2–€3 cañas with generous free tapas (varies by branch and time)
5. **100 Montaditos:** Low-cost sandwich combos and drinks from €1
6. **B13 Bar Vegano:** Vegan Spanish snacks and burgers from €3
7. **Gran Vía Döner Kebab Spots:** Loaded kebabs or wraps for €5-6
8. **Empanadas Malvón:** Argentine-style empanadas €2-3 each
9. **Pizza al Cuadrado:** Roman-style pizza by the slice from €3
10. **Panaria:** Coffee and pastry or sandwich deals from €4





# Santiago Bernabéu Stadium: Fan Guide

The home of Real Madrid is one of the world's most iconic stadiums, and a venue for major international sporting events when scheduled, including NFL games. Located in the Chamartín district, the Santiago Bernabéu is a high-tech cathedral to the beautiful game, reflecting its modern redevelopment and elite status. Hosting over 83,000 fans, it features state-of-the-art facilities, along with a panoramic stadium tour and an interactive club museum.

Now it's time for a different kind of football game.



# Metro Line 10 closure and Bernabéu access

Metro Line 10 is currently closed between Nuevos Ministerios and Plaza de Castilla while renovation work continues at Santiago Bernabéu station throughout the year.

To replace the closed section, a free shuttle bus service (SE10) is in operation, linking:

- Nuevos Ministerios
- Santiago Bernabéu
- Cuzco
- Plaza de Castilla

No ticket is required – simply board and ride.

## Getting to the Stadium

If you're travelling from central Madrid, take Metro Line 10 to Nuevos Ministerios and then either:

- Walk along Paseo de la Castellana (approximately 15 minutes), or;
- Use the free SE10 shuttle bus, which stops directly outside the stadium.

**Top Tip:** The walk is often the quickest option on game day, as shuttle buses can become busy before major events.



**MATCHDAY TIPS AND FAN RULES:**

**Entry Time:** Arrive at least 60–90 minutes before kickoff

**ID:** You may be asked to show photo ID, especially with digital or personalised tickets

**Security:** Bag checks are standard. Large backpacks or outside food/drinks are not permitted

**TAILGATING AND INTERACTIVE FAN ZONES:**

**What happened last year?** The Irish Rover and The James Joyce bars hosted parties - look for the same this year, but check details.

**Interactive fanzones and events:** Check [www.nfl.com/international/games/madrid/](http://www.nfl.com/international/games/madrid/) for more details on fanzones across the city during the weekend.





**Bengals UK is a fan group that unites all Bengals fans in the UK with fan meet-ups, social media interaction, charity fundraising, podcasts and Bengals-related initiatives. Recently celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our mission remains the same: to create an inclusive space where fans can express their passion and fandom.**

**Follow Bengals UK on Twitter (@WhoDey\_UK), Facebook (Bengals UK- Back-up), Instagram (Bengals\_UK), BlueSky (BengalsUK) or visit our blog ([www.bengalsuk.wordpress.com](http://www.bengalsuk.wordpress.com)) for news, updates on fan meets, and general Bengals chat.**

**We hope this guide has been useful and has provided a starting point for your trip to Madrid. It forms part of a number of free resources (available via our blog), which include a recipe book for game day, a Cincinnati City Guide, and a London City Guide.**

## **WHO DEY!**

**Compiled and edited by Paul Hiron**

**This e-book is provided for informational purposes only. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within, including prices, opening times, transport details, and other recommendations, was accurate at the time of publication. However, information can change without notice, and Bengals UK accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies, nor for any loss, inconvenience, or disappointment arising from reliance on the information provided.**

**This is an unofficial publication and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, sponsored by, or representative of the Cincinnati Bengals, the National Football League (NFL), Real Madrid, or any associated organisation. It is distributed free of charge and may not be sold, reproduced for commercial gain, or otherwise used for commercial purposes without permission.**