

# Welcome to Madrid

One of Europe's best preserved Mediterranean forests, the Monte de El Pardo is located just 15km from the centre of Madrid. Since the beginning of the 15th century, when King Henry III of Castille turned it into one of his favourite hunting grounds, this spot has been intrinsically linked with the history of Spain.

Later, Charles V would build a palace here, and from the reign of Philip V onwards it became the regular court residence during the months of January, February, and March, between Epiphany and Palm Sunday.

After the Civil War and until 1975, it was the official residence of the dictator Francisco Franco, and today it is one of the Royal Properties (*Reales Sitios*) managed by Spain's National Heritage institution. Among the many wonders you can see here are the tapestries designed by Goya that decorate many of its rooms and the neighbouring Casa del Principe Don Carlos, created by Juan de Villanueva.

The restaurants of El Pardo, surrounded by nature, are also a great place to have lunch in spring.

What to see and do:

- **Royal Palace of El Pardo:** This is where the Heads of States of foreign governments stay when they are in Madrid on state visits. In addition to the beautiful architecture, the palace boasts a stunning interior which includes tapestries by Goya and the Bayeu brothers.
- **The Convent of the Capuchin Friars:** It's home to a life-size polychrome sculpture of "Dead Christ", the work of renowned Spanish sculptor Gregorio Fernández.
- **The Prince's House:** A mansion built in the 18th century by the Madrid-born architect Juan de Villanueva for prince Charles IV.
- **Quinta del Pardo:** The former residence of the Duke and Duchess del Arco and later donated to the Royal Family.
- **Go for a walk or a bike ride** in the forest.

- **Have lunch** in one of El Pardo's many restaurants surrounded by beautiful countryside.



## Practical Information

### Address

Calle  
Manuel Alonso, s/n  
28048

### Telephone

### Website

<http://www.patrimonionacional.es/real-sitio/palacio-real-de-el-pardo>

### Metro

### Cercanías (local train)

### Price

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### Type

Parks and gardens

### Tourist area

Otros

### Fax

### Email

### Bus

601, 602

### BiciMAD bike-share scheme

Alquiler de bicis (BiciMAD)

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### Times

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Official Tourism Website

 | MADRID