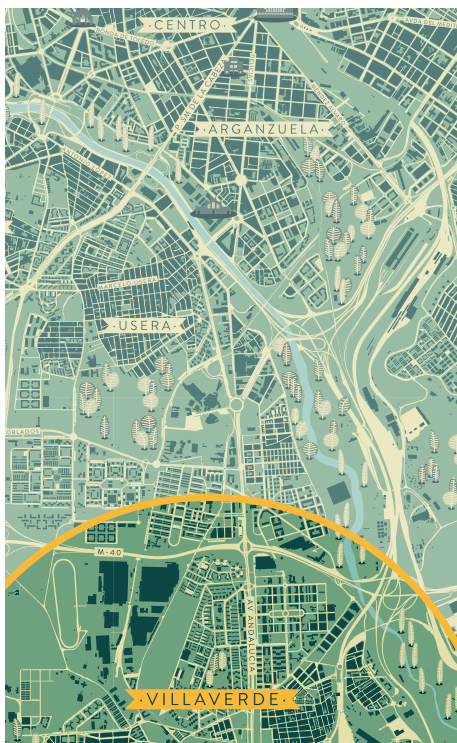


Villaverde



Fifteen minutes from Puerta del Sol by metro or Cercanías commuter train lies Villaverde district, a former municipality that was absorbed by Madrid in 1954 and is now home to some 140,000 residents. We invite you to discover some of the places that give this district in the south of Madrid its own unique identity. From the 1950s to the 1980s it was a very important industrial hub, and today it is the site of multiple initiatives by residents committed to their neighbourhood.

Villaverde Alto

The district's old quarter consists of a handful of quiet streets surrounding a **Plaza Mayor**, or Main Square, which is similar to those seen in so many Castilian towns. The names of its sites reflect a rural past: Palomares ('Dovecote'), Huerta de Villaverde ('Villaverde Orchard') and Parvillas, which was the name for the grain harvest that was spread out on the threshing floor for threshing. Very nearby, in the tree-lined Paseo de Alberto Palacios, is the **Municipal Market**, where you can find top-quality fresh produce, as well as **San Andrés Church**, featuring distinctive walls with Toledo-style bonding. Right next to the centre of town is the **Boetticher y Navarro Colony**, a cluster of identical houses built in 1957 for workers at the factory with the same name, which we will describe in further detail below.



Boetticher y Navarro Colony

Industrial Landscape

The Neo-Mudéjar pavilions of Villaverde Bajo, the train tracks that criss-cross the district in every direction, the Butarque water tank nicknamed 'el cáliz' (the chalice) and the brick chimney located in Paseo de María Droc all attest to the industrial past of the south of Madrid. One of the most eye-catching of these landmarks is **La N@ve**, a spectacular reinforced concrete constructed as the former Boetticher y Navarro factory, which specialised in the production of lifts, escalators, turbines and sluices. Today, after being remodelled by Ch+Qs architectural firm, it houses a centre for inspiration, education and open innovation where societal stakeholders (citizens, entrepreneurs, companies, SMEs, students, universities, etc.) come together. In 2017 it will host the World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace.



"El cáliz", Butarque water tank



San Andrés Church



Vintage Wall Paper by the artist ESCIF



Manzanares River

Urban Art

Via initiatives like those organised by Intermediæ or the Municipal District Board and by Madrid Activa in collaboration with the **Madrid Street Art Project**, previously bare walls and dividing walls in some buildings now grab the attention of passers-by. At the corner of Calle Astilleros and Calle de Domingo Párraga, for instance, is *Vintage Wall Paper* by the artist ESCIF, along a set of stairs in Calle Sahara is *Valla sobre Cuesta* ('Uphill Fence') by Amparito, and in the Félix Rubio Sports Centre you can view *Ladrillos sobre Hormigón* ('Bricks on Concrete'). In the neighbourhood of San Cristóbal, meanwhile, under the viaduct that supports Avenida de Andalucía, Boamistura has created a space for cohabitation where neighbourhood activities are sometimes held, which is distinctive for both its colourful walls and its wooden structures.

Natural Landscape

As the 'verde' (green) in its name implies, the district boasts extensive green spaces. **Manzanares Linear Park** stretches along the banks of the Manzanares River from Usera to Getafe. The **Real Canal del Manzanares** ('Royal Manzanares Canal') and the Malecón ('Esplanade') trail run parallel to it, offering a pleasant walk through a semi-urban area where you can spot rabbits, foxes, hoopoes, moorhens and mallards, among other species that live in brooks. Villaverde's other 'green lungs' are **Plata y Castañar Park** and **La Dehesa Boyal Park**, which is popularly known as 'Pine Tree Park'. It's full of squirrels!

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