


# Travel | Destinations

[Destinations](#) | [Hotels](#) | [Offers](#) | [Holiday types](#) | [City](#) | [Beach](#) | [Tours](#) | [Cruise](#) | [Ski](#) | [Family](#) | [Advice](#) | [More](#) 

 > [Travel](#) > [Destinations](#) > [Europe](#) > [Spain](#) > [Madrid](#) > [Articles](#)

## 48 hours in . . . Madrid, an insider guide to the soul of Spain



Madrid is all about spontaneity and even the best-laid plans tend to get forgotten after a couple of days as you slip into the swing of the city CREDIT: RUDYBALASKO/RUDYBALASKO

### Come for the art, stay for the street life

With dazzling light and bright blue skies for much of the year, Madrid would be an energising city even without the world-class museums and the buzzing nightlife. The centre is smartening itself up, too, with new boutiques, delis, cafés and gastrobars opening every week, but it is the traditional tapas bars and tiny shops that are the real soul of the city. Wherever you stay, you can usually walk to the major museums, such as the Prado, Thyssen-Bornemisza and Reina Sofia, which all have astounding collections, but what will make you smile long after you've left is the little things you discover along the way as you stroll through the different neighbourhoods.

Madrid is all about spontaneity and even the best-laid plans tend to get forgotten after a couple of days as you slip into the swing of the city. Don't feel guilty about abandoning your cultural agenda, it just means you're behaving like a true Madrileño.

## Luxury Living

Situated right in the middle of the city, **Gran Hotel Inglés** brings a whole new level of luxury to the Madrid hotel scene, with stylish Art Deco design, sumptuous rooms, a quietly excellent restaurant and a superb spa.

*Doubles from €284 (£248). Calle Echegaray 8; 00 34 91 360 0001*



The rooms and suites at Gran Hotel Inglés are all about stylish comfort, with leather panels on the walls, wooden floors, brass light fittings and original artworks