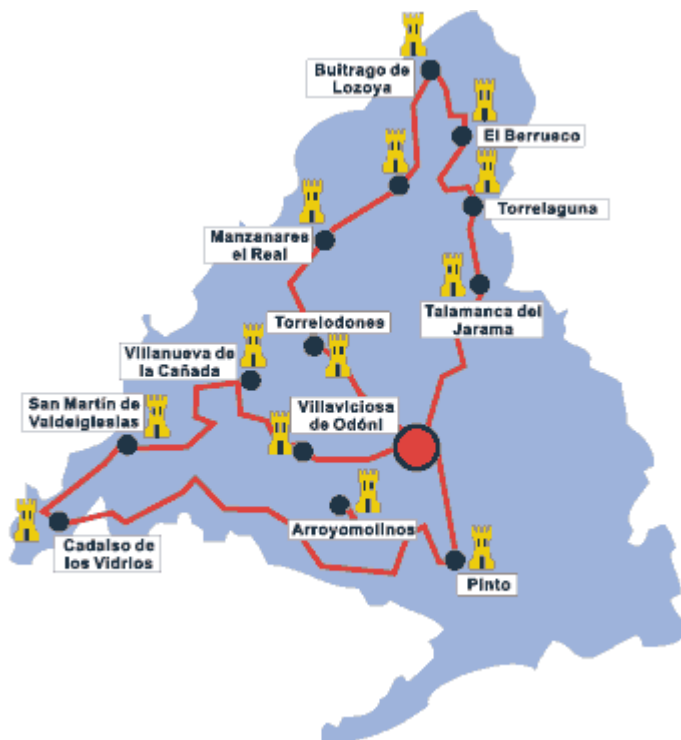


CASTLES; FORTRESSES AND WATCHTOWERS



Route 1:

The defense of Toledo
(7 castles)

Route 2:

The control of
Somosierra
(7 castles)

Shopping in Madrid is a true adventure one has to face to get the highest expectations of shopping fulfilled. The most prestigious international companies and the avant-garde fashion have a special spot in Madrid. The most eye-catching shop windows and companies of national (Jesús del Pozo, Antonio Miró) and international prestige are concentrated in the streets Velázquez, Serrano and Ortega y Gasset, right beside jewelers, shoe shops, antique shops, shops of arts and craft ... and restaurants. Because there is just no better way to regenerate from shopping than sitting at a table of a good restaurant, or relaxing on a terrace from the many opportunities of shopping.

Taking a close look you will see the authentic Madrid living on in these places, the cafés of the Recolettostreet in the Austrian quarter, where the Plaza Mayor is the outstanding spot, a place, where the citizens of Madrid meet every Sunday morning.

ROUTE 1: THE DEFENSE OF TOLEDO

1. THE CASTLE PALACE OF ODON IN VILLAVICIOSA (16th century). It was built under the supervision of Juan de Herrera. This is the place where Ferdinand VI (1713- 1759) came to wait for his death after his wife Barbara de Braganza had died. Today it is the archive of the airforce.
2. THE CASTLE OF VILLAFRANCA. An Arabic fortress, which defended Toledo during the reconquest. It combines brickwork and masonry.
3. THE CASTLE OF SAN MARTÍN DE VALDEIGLESIAS. Built by Don Alvaro de Luna, Constable of Juan II (1406 – 1454).

4. CADALSO DE LOS VIDRIOS. This place was secured, Cadhalso. The Renaissance palace was built by Don Alvaro de Luna (1390 – 1453). The pond, on which ship battles were simulated, is still there.
5. THE CASTLE OF BATRES. Its main building was erected in the 13th century. Fernán de Guzmán and the Poet Carcilaso de la Vega (1501 – 1536) wrote their works here.
6. THE TOWER OF ARROYOMOLINOS. Built by Pedro Chacón, after he had obtained the ground, which belonged to Juana Enríquez, the wife of Juan II. of Aragón (1458 – 1497), from the catholic kings.
7. THE TOWER OF PINTO. There are no dates or facts about its origin; it already existed in 1488. The princess of Eboli was imprisoned here.

ROUTE 2: THE CONTROL OF SOMOSIERRA

1. TALAMANCA DEL JARAMA. There are some traces of the city wall left, which was built under the will of Muhammad from 852 until 856. Besides that you can see a roman bridge and apses in roman and *Mudejar* style.
2. THE WATCHTOWERS OF EL VELLON (a), of ARREBATACAPAS (from Torrelaguna to El Berrueco) (b), of EL BERRUECO (up to the water reservoir of Atazar) (c) and of VENTURADA (d). They controlled the mountain pass from Somosierra by using smoke signs during the day and torches and fires during nighttime. They have a door far over ground level and no windows.
3. THE CITYWALLS OF TORRELAGUNA: This place was re-conquered by Alfons VI. The city walls and the church were built by the bishop Pedro Tenorio (15th – 16th century). An elegant gothic church of Magdalena and an old wheat silo in the age of the renaissance, that was founded by the Cardinal Cisneros; today it is home of the council of the community.
4. THE TOWER OF MARIBEL (In Sieteiglesias). Neither its age nor its function are definitely proofed; the entrance is on ground level and there are windows in the walls.
5. BUITRAGO DE LOZOYA. A beautiful medieval fortress with strategic value since roman times; the riverbed of the Lozoya is used as a natural ditch. Alfons VI. brought back population to this place in 1096; in 1366 it was part of the barony of Buitrago owned by (the) Mendoza family. It was the home of Juan II., Juana la Beltraneja and Philipp III. The walls and paths, which must have belonged to the imposing fortress, have been kept in good condition until the present time. Also : the Picasso- Museum.
6. THE CASTLES OF MANZANARES EL REAL: There are only ruins left from the old castle, that was built on the command of the Marquis of Santillana and the count of Real de Manzanares, Don Íñigo López de Mendoza; he also built the new castle, but never had the chance to move in for living. The following dukes of the infant continued the building (1417 – 1500); in the final phase of the erection Juan Güas, the architect of the catholic kings joined the works. The monument can be visited, after it will be completely restaurated by the municipality of Madrid; from its battlement it will offer a wonderful view over the water reservoirs of Santillana and La Pedriza.
7. THE WATCHTOWER OF TORRELODONES: Its main purpose was to control the cal of Fuenfría (9th century).

OTHER ENCLAVES FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE COMMUNITY OF MADRID

Alcalá la Vieja (822 – 852); Alcalá la Nueva (14th century); the fortress of Santorcaz (before 1312); the tower of the castle of Villarejo de Salvanés (15th century); the castle of Fuentidueña de Tajo: huge influence during the reconquest; Center of the kingdom of Doña Urraca (1109 – 1126); the fortress of Chinchón: the new one was built between 1559 and 1579; the castle of Casasola (Chinchón) from the end of the medieval age; the castle of Torrejón de Velasco; the castle of La Alameda de Osuna (Madrid), which gave asylum to the members of Juana la Beltraneja in 1476.

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