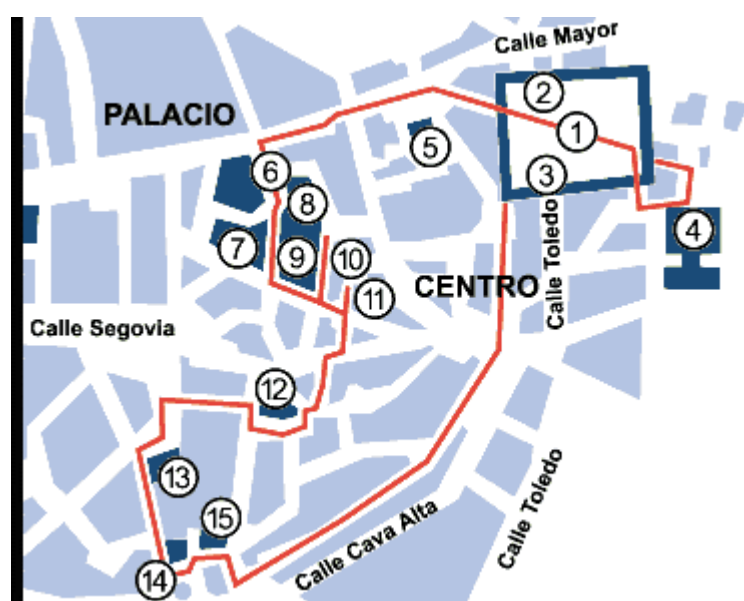


## ITINERARIES IN THE CITY

**The map** of Madrid shows three distinct areas in the center of the city. In the old part, the streets are narrow and winding and building construction is dense. Farther out, the streets become wider and straighter and finally, the outskirts are characterized by a boom of new construction during the 20th century.

There are two main arteries in the city: the Gran Vía and the Paseo de la Castellana. The Gran Vía, commenced at the beginning of the century, is the site of numerous cinemas and places of amusement. The more modern Paseo de la Castellana is the headquarters of many of the large banks, as well as luxury office buildings and business complexes.

### 1. From Medieval Madrid to Madrid of the Austrias



- 1: Plaza Mayor
- 2: Casa de la Panadería
- 3: Casa de la Carnicería
- 4: Palacio de Santa Cruz
- 5: Mercado de San Miguel
- 6: Plaza de la Villa
- 7: Casa de Cisneros
- 8: Torre de los Lujanes
- 9: Convento de las Carboneras
- 10: Basílica de San Miguel
- 11: Palacio Arzobispal
- 12: Iglesia de San Pablo el Viejo
- 13: Capilla del Obispo
- 14: Capilla de San Isidro
- 15: San Andrés
- 16: Arco de Cuchilleros

We start our tour at the **Plaza Mayor** (Main Square), which takes its name at the start of the 16th century. Juan de Herrera was commissioned to remodel the old square of Arrabal, but construction wasn't begun until 1617 under the direction of Juan Gómez de Mora by order of Felipe III.

Inaugurated in 1620, this large rectangular, stonepaved plaza with its ground floor arcades, underwent its last remodeling in 1853 by Juan de Villanueva.

Until the last century, the Plaza Mayor served as a marketplace on weekdays and was the scene of popular events from bullfights to public announcement of sentences during the Inquisition, religious processions, public executions and dance and theater festivals. Beneath the arcades, you can find an assortment of shops that sell fabrics, costume jewelry and souvenirs, along with outdoor cafés, taverns and bakeries. Some of the shops are one of a kind. On Sunday mornings a stamp market is held beneath the arches, and during the Christmas holidays numerous stalls offer all types of Christmas decorations for sale.

The most striking building in the Plaza Mayor is the **Casa de la Panadería** (Bakery House), with its colorful fresco-adorned façade. on the opposite side of the square is the **Casa de la Carnicería**; this former butcher shop now houses Municipal offices. In the center of the plaza is the **equestrian statue of Felipe III** by the Italian Juan de Bolonia.

Leaving through the easter exit of the Plaza Mayor, in the Plaza de la Provincia, we find the **Palacio de Santa Cruz**, current site of the Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), a handsome building constructed as seat of the Courts, according to the project by Juan Gómez de mora between 1626-1643.

Returning to the plaza Mayor, cross the Plaza diagonally and take Calle Ciudad Rodrigo to the Plaza de San Miguel, where the market known as the **Mercado de San Miguel** can be seen supporting its roof with airy iron columns. Now proceed along the Calle Mayor until reaching the **Plaza de la Villa** (Town Square). Here we find the **Casa de la Villa** designed by Juan Gómez de Mora in 1640 to house the Town Council and jail. The **Casa de Cisneros** (Cisnero's House), a reconstruction undertaken at the beginning of the 20th century of the 16th century Plateresque palace, is entered from the Calle Sacramento.



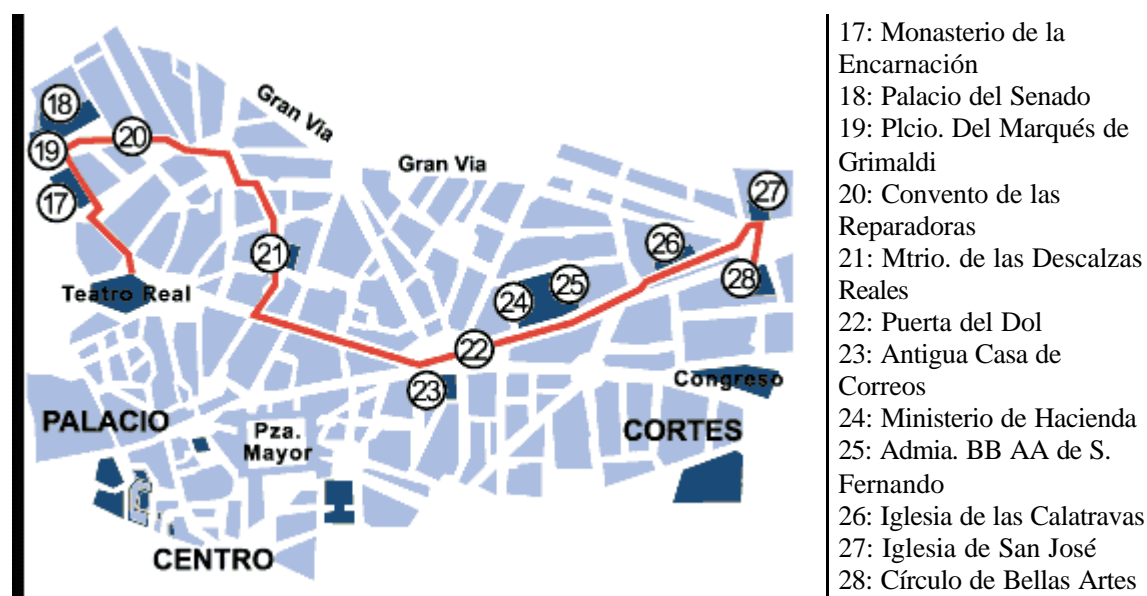
Returning to the Plaza, we see the mudejar-style (a mixture of Moorish and Christian) **Palacio & Torre de Lujanes** (Lujan Palace and Tower), built in the 15th century. The narrow Calle del Codo takes us to the Plaza del Conde de Miranda where we encounter the **Convento de las Carboneras** (Convent of the Carboneras) built in 1607, which houses a collection of interesting paintings. The adjoining back streets make up the framework of what was once a Medieval town sprinkled with convents and palaces. On emerging from the convent, continue down the street to the Calle San Justo. Here we find the **Basilica de San**

**Miguel**, (St. Michael's Basilica) a Baroque 18th century building designed with an interesting curved façade. To the right of the basilica is a tiny gated passageway called Pasadizo del Panecillo where we can glimpse the Baroque façade of the **Palacio Arzobispal** (Archbishop's Palace). Now follow the Calle del Doctor Letamendi to the Calle Segovia, cross over and take Travesía del Nuncio up to Calle Nuncio to the **Iglesia de San Pedro el Viejo** (Church of St. Peter the Old), built in the 15th century with a 14th century mudejar tower erected over the minaret of a former mosque. The Calle Principe Anglona will take us to the midieval Plaza de la Paja where we encounter the **Capilla del Obispo** (Bishop's Chapel), the only Gothic temple in Madrid. The altarpiece and Plateresque doors are of great artistic value. Go around the right side to the Plaza de Los Carros where we find the Baroque **Capilla de San Isidro** (Chapel of St. Isidro), and also the Plaza de San Andrés, where the Baroque **Iglesia de San Andrés** (St. Andrew's Church) is also located. The Chapel of St. Isidro is now accessed through the Church. From the Plaza del Humilladero, we take the Calle Caba Baja, a street where old shops and restaurants evoke all the flavor of Old Madrid.

After several minutes, we come to the Plaza de Puerta Cerrada, then proceed along the Calle de Cuchilleros, bustling with tascas (pubs) and mesones (old-style taverns). Soon we see the steps leading up to the archway of **Arco de Cuchilleros** which take us back to the Plaza Mayor or we can proceed on the Cava de San Miguel, accompanied by an array of Mesones, on up to the Calle Ciudad Rodrigo, returning to the Plaza Mayor at our departure point.

Start of Itinerary I. Plaza Mayor: Metro. Sol.

## 2. Teatro Real, Puerta del Sol and Alcalá



Our tour begins at the Teatro Real built by Queen Isabel II and remodeled and inaugurated in 1997 as the opera house. Nearby is the Plaza de la Encarnación, which is linked to the Plaza de Oriente, where the 17th century **Monasterio de la Encarnación**

(Monastery of the Incarnation) is found. The handsome old convent houses a collection of relics. You can visit the former enclosure which now houses a museum with interesting works of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.



Down the Calle de la Encarnación to the right of the church, we reach the Plaza de la Marina Española, where we find the **Palacio del Senado** (Senate Palace), built at the end of the 16th century for a community of Augustinian friars and recently remodeled. It is now the seat of the Spanish Senate. To the left and adjoining the Senate building is the **Palacio del Marqués de Grimaldi**, (Palace of the Marquis of Grimaldi), the work of Sabatini in 1776. On the Calle Torija, we find the **Convento de las Reparadoras** (Convent of the Reparadoras), designed by Ventura Rodríguez in 1782 for the purpose of installing the Court of the Inquisition, the church dates from the 19th century.

From here we continue along the Calle Torija until we reach the Plaza de Santo Domingo. Then take the Calle Veneras where the author Rubén Darío lived. Proceed on the Calle de Trujillos and turn left at the Travesía de Trujillos which runs into the Plaza de las Descalzas, where we find the 16th century **Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales** (Monastery of the Royal Barefoot Franciscans). It was the former home of the women of Royal Families who upon entering the nunnery brought with them valuable dowries in works of art, which have formed the collection that we can now admire.

The **Puerta del sol** (Gateway to the Sun) was once a 15th century defensive bulwark, part of a wall which enclosed the town of Madrid limiting it from the populated outskirts. The former **Casa de Correos** (Post Office) was built in 1768 under the direction of French architect Marquet. It is crowned by a tower with a clock on its four sides; the most famous



timepiece in Madrid. At the stroke of midnight on December 31st, madrileños (the inhabitants of Madrid) usher in the New Year to the chimes of its bell. On the ground in front of the building, there is a marker indicating Kilometer zero from which all the country's road distances are measured, and all Spanish roads radiate from here as well as the numbers of the streets. Three historic statues adorn the plaza: one of Venus, a replica of an original in the Museo Municipal (Municipal Museum) called "la Mariblanca", another called the Oso y el Madroño (bear and berry tree) made of stone and bronze in 1967 and which displays the emblem of the city; the third statue is of King Carlos III.

On the left at number 3 on the Calle Alcalá, we find the **Ministerio de Hacienda** (Ministry of Finance), a former Customs House and good example of Baroque classicism, designed by Sabatini with a doorway by Pedro Ribera. At number 12 we find the head office of the **Banco Español de Crédito** (Spanish Credit Bank), built in 1882-1891 according to a project designed by José Grases. The **Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando** (Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando) is located at number 13. This building was the design of José Benito de Churriguera in 1775 and was built as a palace for the Goyeneche family by Diego de Villanueva and remodeled by Chueca Goitia in 1974. Its art gallery houses priceless treasures including 16th and 17th century works by the Spanish School.

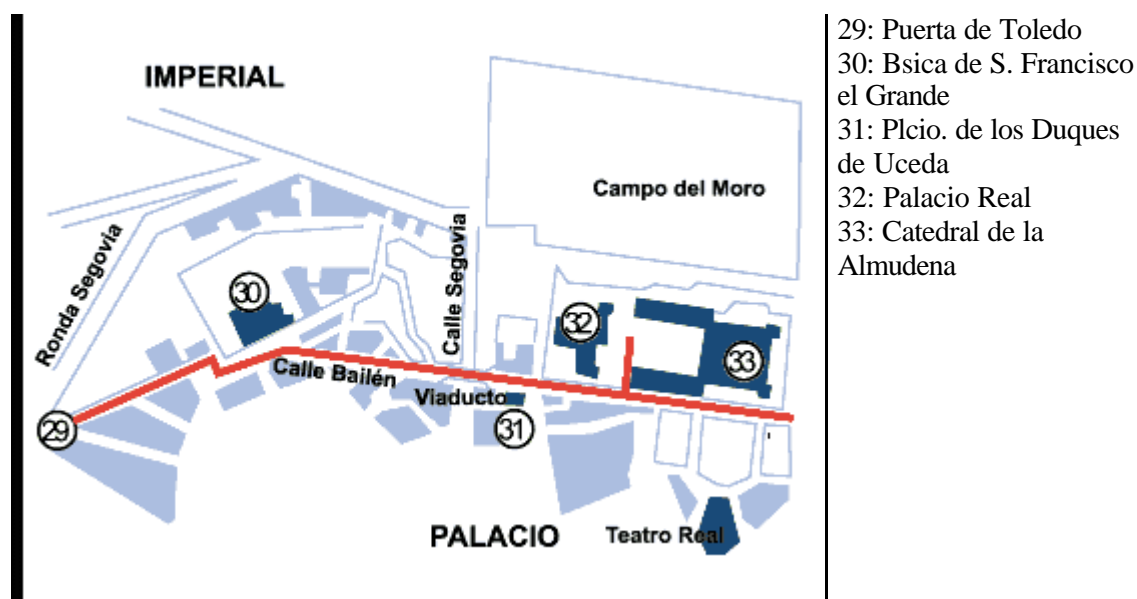


The **Iglesia de las Calatravas** (Church of the Calatravas) is found at number 25. It is a Baroque temple remodeled in the 19th century by Juan Madrazo, who incorporated some neorenaissance elements. Its Baroque dome and high altarpiece warrant a visit. The **Iglesia de San José** (St. Joseph's Church) at number 43 was built between 1730 and 1742 by Pedro Ribera. Before we reach the Plaza de Cibeles, we find the **Círculo de Bellas Artes** (Fine

Arts Circle) built in 1926 by Antonio Palacios and currently the site of one of the most dynamic institutions in the cultural life of the city.

Start of Itinerary 2. Teatro Real. Metro: Opera.

### 3. From the Puerta de Toledo to the Parque del Oeste



Our itinerary begins in a popular area. The Puerta de Toledo (Toledo Archway) is located in the old quarter of Madrid called La Latina, which preserves the traditional flavor of the old part of the city. The archway was a project of king José Bonaparte and was built between 1817 and 1827. The Calle Gran Vía de San Francisco takes us to the **Basilica de San Francisco el Grande** (Basilica of St. Francis the Great); a project by Francisco Cabezas dating from 1761 and finished by Sabatini at the request of Carlos III in 1776. Prestigious painters such as Goya were commissioned to decorate the interior. There is an interesting art gallery in the cloister. Next to the basílica, we find the **Capilla del Cristo de la Venerable Orden Tercera** (Chapel of Christ of the Third Venerable Order); a 16th century Baroque structure with a noteworthy baldachin over the central altar.

Continuing along the Calle Bailén, we find on our left Las Vistillas, a small wooded park which provides a wonderful view of the western part of the city with the Casa de Campo park in the background -an ideal place to enjoy the sunset from one of the terraces of the local bars. A little farther on, we cross the impressive **Viaduct** over the Calle Segovia built in 1934. Without leaving the Calle Bailén, passing the Viaduct, we arrive at the intersection of the Calle Mayor, and find the former **Palacio de los Duques de Uceda** (Palace of the Duke of Uceda) built in 1611, present site of the madrid district Military Headquarters and the State Council.

The Palacio de Oriente, usually called the **Palacio Real** (Royal Palace) was constructed on the site of a Moorish fortress, destroyed by fire in 1734. The first stone was placed in 1737 and the Italian architects Juan Bautista Sacchetti and Francisco Sabatini were commissioned for its construction. opposite the main façade facing towards the south is the **Plaza de la**

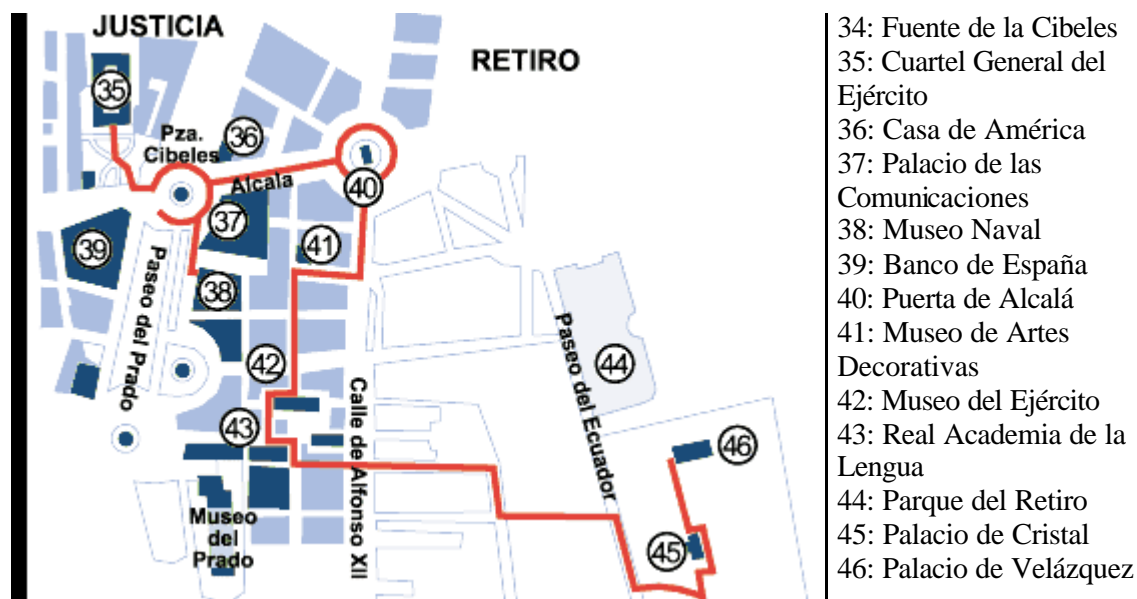
**Armería** (Royal Armory Square). Circling the palace, we gain access to a lovely park, the **Jardines de Sabatini** (Sabatini Gardens) and the sloping enclosed gardens known as the **Campo del Moro**. Adjoining the Palace is **La Almudena Cathedral**.



The **Real Armería** (Royal Armory) and the **Real Oficina de Farmacia** (Royal Pharmacy) and **Museo de Carruajes** (Carriage Museum) may also be visited. The Royal Palace is not currently used as a royal residence but is used for state receptions.

Start of Itinerary 3: Puerta de Toledo. Metro. Puerta de Toledo.

#### 4. Plaza de Cibeles, Puerta de Alcalá and Parque del Retiro.



The **fountain** in the **Plaza de Cibeles**, surrounded by some of the city's most important monuments, has become an important symbol of Madrid.



On the northwest corner of the Calle Alcalá, half hidden by shrubbery, we have a view of the **Cuartel General del Ejército** (Military Headquarters), formerly the Buenavista Palace built in 1769. Across the street, we find the Palacio de Linares (Palace of Linares), presently the **Casa de América** (House of the Americas Culture Center), a neobaroque structure finished in



1878. On the southeast corner is the immense neoclassical-style **Palacio de Comunicaciones** (main Post Office) with its ornate stone walls started in 1905 by architects Otamendi and Palacios.

Next to it, at Paseo del Prado number 5, we find the **Museo Naval** (Naval Museum) which displays interesting documents and relics along with ancient and modern model-ships of the Spanish Navy. The plaza is rounded out with the head office of the **Banco de España** (Bank of Spain) standing imposingly on the southwest corner. Started in 1891, it reflects neorenaissance tendencies. Continuing along the Calle Alcalá, we reach the impressive **Puerta de Alcalá** (Alcalá Gateway) in the Plaza de la Independencia, which used to be the gateway to the city by the Aragón road. It was designed by the Italian architect Francisco Sabatini in 1778.

Nearby on the Calle Montalbán, we encounter the **Museo de Artes Decorativas** (Decorative Arts Museum). On Calle Méndez Núñez, the **Museo del Ejército** (Army Museum) and on Calle Felipe IV, the **Real Academia Real de la Lengua** (Royal Academy of the Spanish Language) can be found.

There are several entrances to the **Parque del Retiro** (Retiro Park): Calle Alfonso XII, Calle Alcalá, Plaza de la Independencia and Avenida Menéndez Pelayo. What we know today as the Retiro Park once formed part of the gardens, palaces and dwellings constructed for royal use by order of Felipe IV, inaugurated in the fall of 1632. Inside the park, we can admire the **Palacio de Cristal** (Crystal Palace), a large greenhouse made out of iron and glass and the **Palacio de Velázquez** (Velázquez Palace), both built at the end of the 19th century and currently used for exhibitions.



Start of Itinerary 4: Plaza of Cibeles. Metro: Banco de España.

### 5. The Art Tour and Carrera de San Jerónimo.



- 47: Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza
- 48: Palacio del Congreso
- 49: Casa Museo de Lope de Vega
- 50: Convento de las Trinitarias
- 51: Fuente de Neptuno
- 52: Museo del Prado
- 53: Jardín Botánico
- 54: Centro de Arte Reina Sofía

Our tour begins at the Palacio de Villahermosa (Villahermosa Palace), converted into the **Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza**. The Museum building is a 17th century neoclassical

palace, remodeled at the beginning of the 19th century and adapted by Rafael Moneo in 1992 to house this outstanding collection of western art.

Continuing along what was formerly the front of the palace on the Carrera de San Jerónimo, we arrive at the **Palacio del Congreso**, seat of the Spanish Parliament in the Plaza de las Cortes. It was finished in 1850 under the direction of Narciso Pascual y Colomer. Corinthian columns support a neoclassical pediment.

On the opposite side of the street, we find the Palace Hotel, built in 1912. Nearby at Calle Cervantes number 11, we see the **Casa-Museo de Lope de Vega** (House-Museum of Lope de Vega), close to the homes where other renowned Spanish authors, including Cervantes, Quevedo and Góngora, lived. At Calle Lope de Vega number 18, we find an interesting structure, the **Iglesia & Convento de Las Trinitarias** (Church and Convent of the Trinitarias) dating from the 17th century. The altarpieces and carvings are worth visiting. We now turn back in the direction of the Paseo del Prado to find the **Fuente de Neptuno** (Neptune Fountain) with a statue of Neptune standing on a chariot wielding a trident. The design was the work of Ventura Rodríguez as was the Cibeles fountain; the sculptor was Juan Pascual Mena in 1780. On the semi-circular Plaza de la Lealtad is another of Madrid's finest hotels, the Ritz Hotel, installed in a unique structure built in 1910. The **Museo del Prado** (Prado Museum) is located in a neoclassical building designed by the architect Juan de Villanueva in 1785 and originally planned as a Museum of Natural History. It has been an art museum since 1818. Its floor plan is formed by a rectangle with two square structures attached at each end. The rotunda covered by a dome which lights the vestibule deserves special mention, and in the center we can view a bronze sculpture of Carlos V by Pompeo Leoni.

The Prado Museum houses the most important collection of Spanish painting up until the 19th century. In it we can admire masterpieces by Velázquez, Goya, Murillo, Ribera and Zurbarán, among others. In addition, it also contains a magnificent collection of Flemish and Italian art.



Continuing on the Paseo del Prado, we arrive at the **Jardín Botánico** (Botanical Garden) which currently organizes exhibits on botanical and related subjects. A variety of rare plants and trees can be seen.

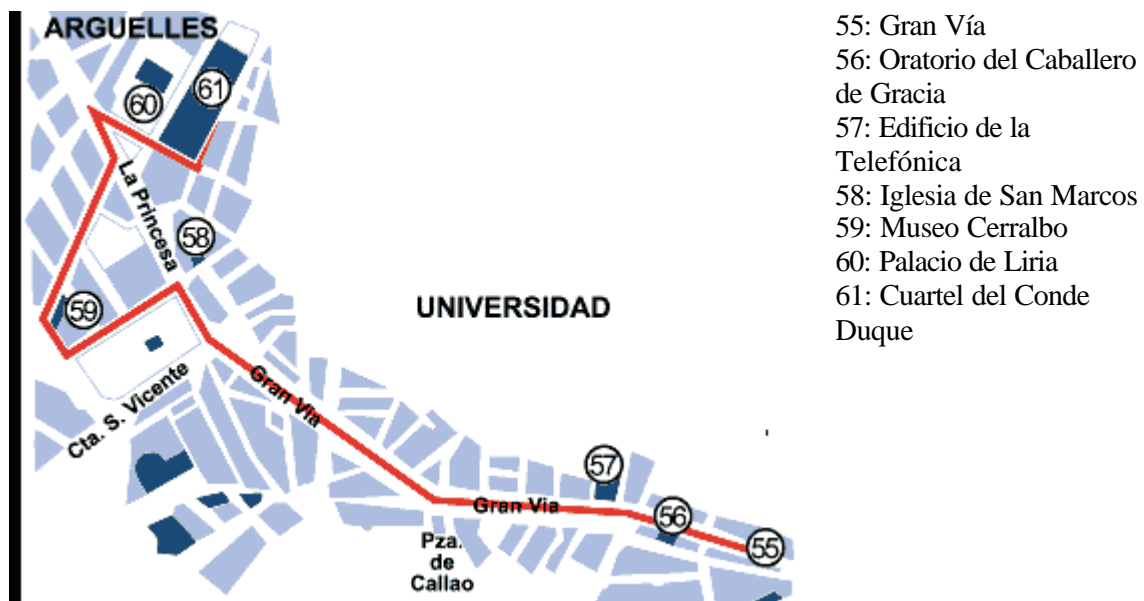
The **Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía** (Queen Sofia Art Center) is a cultural center located on the Calle Santa Isabel in a former neoclassical-style hospital renovated in the 1980's to house the museum. Spanish contemporary art, as well as temporary exhibitions, may be seen here. It also houses the treasures of the former Spanish.

Contemporary Art Museum and is the showcase of the famous painting *Guernica* by Picasso. It also contains a large library.

Start of Itinerary 5: Museo de Thyssen-Bornemisza.  
Metro: Banco de España.



## 6. From the Gran Vía to the Plaza de España and surrounding areas



**Gran Vía**, one of the main arteries in Madrid, was conceived at the turn of the century and finished in 1952 when the last building site was occupied. An assortment of structures with ornate façades, large cornices, colonnades and balconies dominate the eastern end.

Rising imposingly at the intersection of the Gran Vía and Calle Alcalá where we begin our tour, we find the **Metrópolis building**.

Farther down on the right side of the street, we see the **Museo Chicote** (Chicote Museum), a charming little bar-museum; meeting place of artists and bullfighters of yesteryear. On the parallel street of Caballero de Gracia (accessed through Calle Clavel or the Plaza Red de San Luis), we find the **Oratorio del Caballero de Gracia**, (Oratory of Caballero de Gracia), built at the end of the 18th century, a living example of the elegant neoclassical style by Juan de Villanueva. In the lovely interior, the paintings on the vault deserve special mention.



On the Gran Vía, near the Plaza Red de San Luis, we find the headquarters of the **Telefónica** (Spain's National Telephone Co.), the first skyscraper in Madrid built in 1929 by the North American architect Weeks. A little farther along, we come to the Plaza de Callao, usually bustling with pedestrians and cars and surrounded by cinemas and department stores and shops. Opposite the Plaza, we see the **Palacio de la Prensa**, which was built in 1928 under the architectural influence of the Chicago School. A little further on the left, we encounter the **Carrión building**, site of the Capitol cinema, built between 1931 and 1934 following the German School of Mendelsohn. It is a good example of 1930's architecture. Our walk continues downhill between structures which blend both European and American trends with traditional architecture.



Separating the Gran Vía from the Calle Princesa is the huge **Plaza de España**, noted for two exceptional buildings of the 1950's: the **Edificio España** and the **Torre de Madrid**, both from projects designed by the Otamendi brothers.



On the side street of Calle San Leonardo by the Edificio España, we find the **Iglesia de San Marcos** (Church of St. Mark's), the work of Ventura Rodríguez, finished in 1753

and declared a national monument in 1944. It is one of the loveliest structures of Madrid Baroque. Taking a short detour from the Calle Princesa at Calle Ventura Rodríguez number 17, is the **Museo Cerralbo** (Cerralbo Museum), a stately 19th century mansion which contains noteworthy furniture and art treasures. Retracing our steps to the Calle Princesa, we encounter at number 20 the **Palacio de Liria** (Palace of Liria), palatial residence of the Duchess of Alba. It was completed by Ventura Rodríguez in 1780. Backing up to the rear part of the palace on the Calle Conde Duque, we find the **Cuartel de Conde Duque** built from the design by Pedro Ribera in 1720. This Baroque structure now houses municipal offices, including exhibitions halls, and libraries. During the summer, the courtyard is the site of concerts and evening events.

Start of Itinerary 6: the beginning of the Gran Vía.  
Metro: Banco de España and Gran Vía.

## 7. Other areas and places of interest



62: Museo Municipal  
63: Museo Romántico  
64: Puente Segovia

### • Salamanca district

From the Puerta de Alcalá towards the north, extending up the Calle Serrano and encompassing the adjacent streets, there is an elegant, stately neighborhood which was one of the areas of growth in the city during the 19th century. The grid-like design of this district was the initiative of the Marquis of Salamanca. Many of the mansions and structures erected during the past century have given way to other taller ones, but the district has retained much of its former grandeur. Today it is an area of intense and select commercial activity, where a large number of the art galleries in Madrid are concentrated, along with numerous prestigious shops selling fashions, accessories, jewelry and furniture. Start of Itinerary 7: Plaza de la Independencia. Metro: Retiro.

### • Madrid of Dos de Mayo (Second of May)

This is a large area stretching between the Glorieta de Bilbao and Glorieta de Alonso Martínez and which borders on the Gran Vía and Calle San Bernardo. It is also a busy



area where old cafés, bars, discotheques and other nighttime diversions abound. Interesting Baroque churches, such as **San Antonio de los Alemanes** on the Calle Corredera Baja de San Pablo, the **Museo Municipal** (Municipal Museum) on the Calle Fuencarral, the **Museo Romántico** (Museum of the Romantic Period) on the Calle San Mateo, along with the nooks and corners, evoke the 1808 uprising in Madrid against Napoleon's troops, immortalized by Goya.



Start of Itinerary.

Glorieta de Bilbao. Metro: Bilbao

- **Puente de Segovia** (Segovia Bridge). This is the oldest bridge). This is the oldest bridge in the city which spans the Manzanares river, situated at the end of the Calle Segovia. It was built by Juan de Herrera at the end of the 16th century. It deserves a visit if only to enjoy the view of the Royal Palace and gardens.

Start of Itinerary: Bridge of Segovia. Metro: Puerta del Angel.