



**The Community of Madrid** is located in the centre of the Iberian Peninsula. Its population is about 6,5 million people.

**The average height** in the Autonomous Community of Madrid is about 650 metres. The highest mountain peak is Peñalara (2428 meters), in the mountain range of Guadarrama (North of Madrid) and the lowest altitude are in the South, regions near the rivers (Aranjuez 494 meters where Tajo river cross by).

**If you come to Madrid** from a foreign country or from The Canary or Balearic Islands, you should travel to Barajas airport. Although the distance from the city centre (Puerta del Sol) to the airport is 13 Km, communications are really good: by bus to Colon Square or by underground.

**You can also arrive in Madrid** using the AVE (High Speed Train) if you come from Andalusia or Barcelona. Once you are in Madrid, a very good way to visit different places is by using Metro (it is one of the oldest in Europe and one of the most modernized network) although the bus is also a good choice.

**If you want to visit the villages and towns** around Madrid, you can travel by coach and short distance trains. It will take you not more than one hour to arrive in El Escorial, Aranjuez, Alcalá de Henares, Chinchón...



**Madrid, the capital of Spain**, is located in the heart of the country. It has a lot of shops, big stores, restaurants, hotels and some famous buildings such as "La puerta de Alcalá, "la Cibeles", "La Plaza Mayor" or "La Puerta del Sol" where thousands of people say "good bye" to the old year in New Year's eve eating twelve grapes. It is a Spanish tradition from the very beginning of the XX century.



**Madrid is also a place to socialize.** This city receives lots of people coming all around the world to visit it. If you have a walk around the city centre, you will be able to visit the clubs if you are aged 14 years and over. But if you prefer some cultural activities, Madrid has some of the most famous museums in the world El Prado and Reina Sofia Museum. Moreover theatres, cinemas, flamenco dancing... And if you feel tired, you can have a rest in "El Retiro", a park in city centre with an artificial lake. If you are in the West of the city, close to the Royal Palace, you can have a rest in "Parque del Oeste".

**In conclusion, you will never get bored of it.**



**COLEGIO APÓSTOL SANTIAGO**  
**ARANJUEZ**  
"Come closer: my world is your world"





**Aranjuez is located** about 49 kilometers from Madrid, so it will take about 30 minutes to go by car and 40 minutes by coach or by train, approximately.

**How to arrive in Aranjuez?** If you travel by car, you have to go to A-4 in Córdoba direction and take the exit number 37. If you prefer public transport you have several options: by coach (from Méndez Álvaro Station) and by train from Atocha or Chamartín Station although you can also take the train in Puerta del Sol.



**The main monument of Aranjuez** is “El Palacio Real”, built by Philip II, and modified by his successors. In the “Jardín del Príncipe” we find “La Casita del Labrador” or “El Museo de Falúas (Royal Boats Museum)”.

As well, it is worth visiting San Antonio Square. It is known as Plaza de la Mariblanca due to the fountain of the Water Jug Goddess. We can also find the Royal Chapel of San Antonio and the House of the King’s Infants (18<sup>th</sup> century), the Royal House of Servants and Trades (16<sup>th</sup> century), The Knight’s Quarters (17<sup>th</sup> century) and Elisabeth II Garden (19<sup>th</sup> century).

When you visit “Jardin del Parterre” and “Jardín de la Isla” you will see mythological fountains like Hércules, Ceres, Apolo, Niño de la Espina, Baco... and different kind of protected plants.

When you visit “Jardin del Parterre” and “Jardín de la Isla” you will see mythological fountains like Hércules, Ceres, Apolo, Niño de la Espina, Baco... and different kind of protected plants.



**Football is one of the most important sports** in Spain. In Madrid there are several important football teams and the most famous are Real Madrid, Atlético de Madrid, Getafe F.C and Rayo Vallecano.

**Their stadiums** are very well known all over the football world:

**Santiago Bernabéu** (Real Madrid) has a current capacity higher than 85.000 spectators and Vicente Calderón (Atlético de Madrid) has a capacity for almost 55.000 spectators.



**The Real Madrid** t-shirt and trousers are white and Atlético de Madrid t-shirt is striped red and white and blue trousers.

**The matches** between these two teams are always very exciting!!!



**Due to the proximity to the mountains**, Madrid has some important ski resorts, even though the snow doesn’t usually have the quality we would like, due to low altitudes. The most important ski resorts in Madrid are: **La Pinilla:** It is located 120 km from Madrid and there are 15 km skiing. It has 23 tracks and 13 lifts. **Navacerrada:** It is located 55 km from Madrid and there are 9 km skiing. It has 9 tracks and 7 lifts. And **Valdesquí:** it is located 72 km from Madrid and there are 22 km skiing. It has 27 tracks and 14 lifts.

**Without leaving the Comunidad de Madrid** we can find one of the many dishes of the Mediterranean diet, “Cocido madrileño.” It is an unique dish, and very common during the cold winter. It is served in three parts:

- First, the soup.
- Second: chickpeas, along with some vegetables, potato, cabbage and carrot.
- Third: meat like chicken, pork and beef, bacon, blood sausage...



**Do not forget trying the typical meals in Aranjuez:** asparagus and strawberries and cream (it is very common eating strawberries with cream, sugar or adding it to deserts like pies or cakes).

**The tapas are small quantities of food** (omelette, prawns, squid...) that you eat with some drinks. La Plaza Mayor is full of places for having good tapas.

**Weather:** In general we can say that winters are very cold and summers very hot in Madrid. Despite of the small area of the community of Madrid, there are two different climates: One in the mountain range of Guadarrama, in the North, cold or very cold in winter and mild in summer. It rains very often and snows in winter.

**The rest of the area** has cold winters, it freezes very often and there are occasional snowfalls (two or three a year). During the summer, the temperatures are very high, about 35 - 40°C on July and August. In the South and the capital, it usually rains in spring and autumn, but much less than in the North of the community.

