

Arrival Information

Arrival by air. Most visitors will travel to Madrid by plane and arrive at Madrid's Barajas airport. From there the easiest and most comfortable way to get to any of the hotels located in the city centre is to take a taxi from outside the terminal building. The ride should cost about €20 (from terminals 1/2/3) or €25 (from terminal 4), which includes a €4.50 surcharge for trips from/to the airport. Tourist rip offs are extremely rare but have been reported, so make sure that the taxi meter is on and refuse to pay if the driver charges significantly more than €20-25.

A much cheaper and slightly less comfortable way to get to the city centre is to take the Metro, which is located just outside terminal 2. From terminals 1 and 3 you can walk there following the signs, from terminal 4 you have to take a shuttle bus, which leaves every few minutes. A single trip to the centre costs €1 but it is more economical to buy a "Metrobus" ticket, which is valid for 10 trips and sells for €6.40. Take line no. 8 to *Nuevos Ministerios*, the terminal stop of this line and change:

- *Abba Atocha*: take line 10 to *Plaza de España* and change into line 3 for *Delicias*;
- *Meliá Madrid*: take line 10 to *Plaza de España*, then line 3 one stop to *Ventura Rodríguez*;
- *NH Alberto Aguilera*: take line 6 to *Argüelles*;
- *NH Argüelles*: take line 6 one stop to *Cuatro Caminos*, then number 2 one stop to *Canal*;
- *NH Suites Prisma*: take line 6 one stop to *Cuatro Caminos*, then number 1 one stop to *Ríos Rosas*;
- *T3 Tirol*: take line 6 to *Argüelles*;
- *Tryp Atocha*: take line 6 one stop to *Cuatro Caminos* and change into line 1 for *Atocha*.

Arrival by train. If you are arriving by train, you'll be in either of Madrid's two mainline train stations Chamartín or Atocha. There are taxi stands outside both of them and the ride should cost, depending on where the hotel is located, no more than €10-15. Both stations are connected with the Metro system. A single ride to any station within Zone A of the Madrid network costs €1 or buy a Metrobus ticket for €6.40, which is valid for 10 trips. From *Chamartín* to

- *Abba Atocha*: take line 10 to *Plaza de España* and change into line 3 for *Delicias*;
- *Meliá Madrid*: take line 10 to *Plaza de España*, then line 3 one stop to *Ventura Rodríguez*;
- *NH Alberto Aguilera*: take line 10 to *Nuevos Ministerios*, then line 6 to *Argüelles*;
- *NH Argüelles*: line 10 to *Gregorio Marañón*, then number 7 to *Canal*;

- *NH Suites Prisma*: take line 1 to *Ríos Rosas*;
- *T3 Tirol*: take line 10 to *Nuevos Ministerios*, then line 6 to *Argüelles*;
- *Tryp Atocha*: take line 1 to *Atocha*.

From *Atocha Renfe* to

- *Abba Atocha*: take line 1 to *Sol* and change into line 3 for *Delicias*;
- *Meliá Madrid*: take line 1 to *Sol* and change into line 3 for *Ventura Rodríguez*;
- *NH Alberto Aguilera*: take the 1 line to *Sol*, then line 3 to *Argüelles*;
- *NH Argüelles*: line 1 to *Sol*, then number 2 to *Canal*;
- *NH Suites Prisma*: take line 1 to *Ríos Rosas*;
- *T3 Tirol*: take the 1 line to *Sol*, then line 3 to *Argüelles*;
- *Tryp Atocha*: within walking distance (alternatively, take line 1 one stop to *Atocha*).

Transport to the Conference Site

The conference is held in the “A” building of the *Facultad de Filosofía* of Complutense University. Taxi drivers know the *Universidad Complutense*, and on campus, which is located in university town or *Ciudad Universitaria*, there are signs to the A building (*Filosofía A*).

The metro stop for Complutense is *Ciudad Universitaria* and can be reached as follows:

- *Abba Atocha*: take line 3 from *Delicias* and change at *Moncloa* for line 6;
- *Meliá Madrid*: take line 3 from *Ventura Rodríguez* and change at *Moncloa* for line 6;
- *NH Alberto Aguilera*: from *Argüelles* take line 6;
- *NH Argüelles*: from *Canal* one stop on line 2 to *Cuatro Caminos* and change into line 6;
- *NH Suites Prisma*: from *Ríos Rosas* one stop on line 1 to *Cuatro Caminos* and change into line 6;
- *T3 Tirol*: from *Argüelles* take line 6;
- *Tryp Atocha*: from *Atocha* take line 1 to *Sol*, change into line 3 to *Moncloa*, and change there again for line 6.

From *Ciudad Universitaria*, the *Filosofía A* building is approximately 7 mins by foot or there is a bus (number “G”), which stops directly in front of the building. If you are staying in either the *Tryp Rex* or the *Abba Atocha*, an alternative is to take line 3 to *Moncloa* and to catch the G bus from there.

A campus map is available from:

http://www.ucm.es/info/ucmp/cont/localiz/images/mapa/general_grande.jpg.

The building is marked "Fac. de Filosofía", directly opposite the Faculty of Law, "Fac. de Derecho").

Transport in Madrid

Taxis. Except on busy nights before weekends and bank holidays, taxis can be found very easily. There are a few taxi stands (*paradas*), for example, at the airports and mainline train stations, on the Plaza de Colón and on the Plaza de Sol but the most common way to get a taxi is to hail one in the street. Taxis are always white and have a green light on top, which is illuminated when the taxi is available. In most hotels, receptionists will of course be happy to call a taxi. Standard rates are below €1 per kilometre so that the cost of usual ride within central Madrid rarely exceeds €10.

Public Transport. The metro system in Madrid is very reliable, safe, clean and inexpensive and, in general, the best way to travel around Madrid. Trains run from about 6AM to 1:30PM and at intervals of approximately 4 mins (at night the frequency is lower). For a map of the network, see

www.metromadrid.es/acc_resources/pdfs/Plano_Metro_julio_2006.pdf.

A single ride on the metro to any destination of Zone A (changes are permitted) costs €1 (all stations a typical visitor will use are located within Zone A). For most travellers it is advisable to buy a Metrobus ticket, which is valid for 10 trips and, as its name suggests, on both the metro and buses. For many destinations there are also buses available, and particularly at night when the metro doesn't run there are night buses (all lines start from the Plaza de la Cibeles). A single ride on the bus is €1. Metrobus tickets have to be bought in a metro station.

Safety

Madrid is a very safe city, especially considering its size and socio-economic and cultural heterogeneity. Reports of crime involving violence are very rare and thus it is almost always safe for both men and women to be anywhere in Madrid, even at night. However, incidences of petty crime such as pickpocketing and the theft of wallets, purses, handbags, coats, cameras and mobile phones are relatively frequent, and it is therefore advisable to take the usual precautions such as zipping up one's bags, keeping handbags close to the body, not leaving belongings unattended in restaurants, bars and public places and so forth. In restaurants, never leave your bag on the back of a chair. Special care should be taken in the busy and touristy areas

around Sol, Plaza Major and Gran Via as well as on busy metro carriages and buses. Also note that pickpockets sometimes work in groups with one or more persons distracting the victim and another one doing the pickpocketing. Thus take special care when someone brushes up against you or runs into you seemingly by accident.

Food

At university. The conference registration fee includes a daily lunch and coffee breaks. Lunches will be served between 1.30pm and 4pm in the Faculty restaurant, which is located on the lower ground floor of the building (you will see it sign posted). The meals comprise, as is standard in Spain, three courses and include wine or soft drinks, water and coffee. There are fish and vegetarian options. Coffee breaks are also held in the Faculty restaurant.

Outside university. Eating and drinking long and well are an important part of the Spanish life. Especially in Madrid this usually happens outside private houses, and the selection of restaurants Madrid offers is among the best in the world and ranges over many different tastes and budgets. There are too many good places for lunch and dinner to recommend just a handful here but if you go to one of the following areas, it should be easy to find something you like: Plaza Major (Metro Opera, known for many very traditional Spanish restaurants, including the oldest restaurant in the world), Huertas (Metro Sol), La Latina (Metro La Latina), Chueca (Metro Chueca), Malasaña (Metro Bilbao), Plaza Olavide (Metro Quevedo), Salamanca (Metro Velazquez).

Especially for visitors from abroad it is highly recommended to try a restaurant from one of Spain's many regions at least once. Famous for their food are in particular Galicia (try the *pulpo a la gallega*, a kind of octopus and *caldo gallego*, a hearty regional soup), Asturias (known for its *fabada*, a heavy stew with beans), the País Vasco (*txipirones*, in Spanish *chipirones*, baby squids in their own ink are wonderful), Valencia (known for rice dishes such as *paella* and the noodles *fideuá*) and Castillia (known especially for meats such as *cochinillo*, roast suckling pig, and *chuletón*, the Spanish version of prime rib steak).

Outside of Spain, *tapas* are often thought to be the epitome of Spanish cooking. But in fact *tapas* (literally "lid", which refers to the saucer or small plate on which the food is served) are small portions of food that accompany drinks in a bar. Usually thus *tapas*, which range from a basket of crisps or chips over *pinchos* (slices of bread with a topping) to quite elaborate dishes such as *boquerones fritos* (fried white anchovies) or *albondigas* (meatballs in tomato sauce) are a part of pre-dinner drinks and do not

normally replace a proper meal. That said, they are an integral part to Spanish culture because drinking is and especially on weekends bars burst with *Madrileños* having a *caña* (a small glass of beer) or a *copa* (a glass of wine) and munching their *tapas*. Good areas to find nice *tapas* bars are La Latina (metro La Latina) and the Plaza Santa Ana (metro Sol).

Cultural life

Madrid is the capital of Spain, after London and Paris the third biggest city in Europe and one of the major world cities. It is not surprising thus that Madrid is host to a number of world famous museums, a famous opera house, countless theatres and various concert halls for life music of all denominations. Visiting Madrid without going to the Prado, which shows one of the world's best collection of European art from the 14th through the 19th century, would be a crime. For information, see <http://museoprado.mcu.es/ihome.html>. The Museo Reina Sofía is home to one of the world's finest collections of modern art. Its most famous exhibit is probably Picasso's Guernica, painted after the Nazi bombardment of the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish civil war. For information on the museum, see <http://www.museoreinasofia.es/portada/portada.php?>. Note that the entrance to the Prado is free on Sundays, to the Reina Sofía on Saturday afternoons. Another must is the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, which shows the collection of the Baron Hans-Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza and comprises oeuvres from all epochs between the renaissance and the 20th century. See http://www.museothyssen.org/thyssen_ing/home.html.

Around town

If staying for a few more days, it is worth considering taking a short trip to one of the small towns just outside Madrid. Especially significant are Toledo (the medieval capital of Spain and home to an amazing variety of churches, synagogues and mosques), Segovia (an UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to a 728m long and 29m tall Roman aqueduct), Aranjuez (known for strawberries and a magnificent Palacio Real) and El Escorial (in the town, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, you can visit a spectacular monastery, and the nearby *Valle de Los Caídos* hosts an enormously impressive and equally depressing monument the Spanish dictator Franco built to commemorate the deaths of the Spanish civil war).