

Prado Museum and Botanical Gardens

Prado Museum

Very few cities in the world can offer such a wide variety of cultural attractions as Madrid. The most famous is the Museo del Prado, which contains such a wealth of artistic masterpieces that it cannot be fully appreciated in a single visit. Its building is the best Neoclassical work in Madrid. Begun in 18th C. and finished in early 19th C., it houses one of the finest collections of art in the world. Visits are restricted to 75 minutes from Tuesday to Friday, and to 1 hour from 09.00am to 11.00am on Saturdays. It closes on Monday.

The core of the museum, first opened in November 1819, is the Spanish Royal art collection, supplemented by later purchases and works removed from religious houses following their dissolution in the 1830s. The royal collection itself reflects the shifting tastes and alliances of Spain's kings in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. There are of course comprehensive examples of works by the Spanish court painters Diego de Velázquez and Francisco de Goya. Close ties with Italy, France and especially the southern –Catholic-Netherlands led to the presence of many superb works by Titian, Rubens and Hieronymus Bosch, among others.



Botanical Gardens

Located across the street Alfonso XII, at the southwest corner of Parque de Retiro the garden contains more than 104 species of trees and 3,000 types of plants. Also on the premises there are an exhibition hall and a library specialized in botanic. The park is open daily from 10am to 9pm except in August. It was founded in the 18th century, Promoted by Carlos III and constructed by Juan de Villanueva in 1781.



