

MADRID

LGBT

► In recent years, Madrid has become one of the preferred destinations for gay and lesbian people from across the world. And it's easy to see why: our capital isn't just a first-rate destination for tourism and culture – it's also a fun, friendly and tolerant city, with plenty to offer to the LGBT tourist. Right in the centre of this thriving scene is Chueca, a traditional neighbourhood now transformed into a model of modernity. Its wide choice of leisure options, gastronomy and shopping is built on a belief in diversity and tolerance which, in just a few years, has extended out to the rest of the city.





01

HERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Madrid is a lively, cosmopolitan city which always welcomes you with open arms. It takes you in and makes you feel part of it, without questions or distinctions. So what are you waiting for?

A DOORWAY TO DIVERSITY

Wherever you're from and whatever your sexual preference, in Madrid you'll **feel right at home**. Many countries around the world look to the Spanish capital as a model for working towards **LGBT integration**. The decades of hard work on the part of residents and business peo-

ple in the **Chueca neighbourhood** have extended out to the rest of the city and have been rewarded with the great success of the **Gay Pride** festivities, which attract thousands of visitors to the capital each year. If you come, you'll experience for yourself how the frenetic pace and

vitality of Madrid spill out onto the streets. People from all across the globe share spaces and activities in absolute freedom, out in the open, in a city that thrives on celebration. **Madrid is life**, with a packed calendar of cultural events which never fail to surprise and delight. Chueca has become the destination for visitors **free from prejudices and complexes**. Its bars, cafés, bookshops and other venues have pioneered the sense of modernity which can now also be felt in other nearby areas. Make this your starting point then for discovering everything that central Madrid has to offer. Here you'll find the best selection of **gay-friendly accommodation, restaurants, bars, clubs and shops**.



02

- 01. Bodegas Ángel Sierra
- 02. Gay Pride Parade
- 03. Plaza de Chueca

GAY PRIDE FESTIVITIES

The streets of Chueca are at the **epi-centre of the celebrations** for Gay Pride, and are festooned with flags and garlands during these dates. Culminating in the **grand parade** along the streets of **Alcalá and Gran Vía**, these events are an experience like no other, one which you'll want to repeat year after year. As well as the open-air concerts taking place over **several days**, the outdoor cafés and general party spirit are at the heart of this annual festival, although there's much more on offer, too, with a **whole spectrum of cultural and sporting events**. This is a celebration with something for everyone, welcoming all those people who like to enjoy life to the full with complete freedom.

THE CHUECA NEIGHBOURHOOD

In the 1990s, the efforts of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community were able to rescue this neglected neighbourhood and transform it. Now one of the most cosmopolitan and vibrant parts of Madrid, it serves as an example to the whole world. Plaza de Chueca is the area's nerve centre, around which all of its bustling life revolves, **by day and by night**. Its outdoor cafés, the place to see and to be seen, make ideal meeting points to get the party started.

Chueca is proud of its nightlife, one of the most fun in the city. Trendy **art galleries**, cutting-edge **clothes shops**, **restaurants** serving up international cuisine, and lively **outdoor bars and cafés** fill its streets, with plenty to do and enjoy **24 hours a day**.

As an alternative to the hustle and bustle of Chueca, a more relaxed and sophisticated atmosphere has been cultivated on the outdoor cafés of neighbouring **Plaza Vázquez de Mella**.



03

MADRID IS SO MUCH MORE

The success story of Chueca has helped to transfer to the rest of the city its nonconformist, festive spirit, which has come to form an inseparable part of Madrid's very cosmopolitan identity. Come and experience it for yourself.

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FUENCARRAL

There's more to Madrid than Chueca, and there's more to Chueca than partying. The whole city offers a multitude of attractions, beyond the limits of any one neighbourhood. On the streets of Fuencarral and Hortaleza, **the most original and avant-garde fashion** takes centre stage. And it's not just clothes, either: there's furniture, gifts, books, design, perfumes, plus designer, **gay-friendly hotels** to suit every budget. Since **Fuencarral Market** opened here in around 2000, this street has become the indisputable star of Madrid's shopping scene. Its success soon caught the eye of **international brand names**, who little by little attracted an even more diverse public to the area. Thanks to its **recent pedestrianisation**, and without losing any of its very special identity, it is now possible to walk along Calle Fuencarral and much of the surrounding area just as if you were in a massive open-air shopping centre.

SALESAS

Despite their fame, Chueca and its surroundings offer much more than just a paradise for lovers of fun and great nightlife. Especially in recent years, its expansion towards the neighbouring district of Salesas has turned this whole area into a **shopping mecca**. In this neighbourhood – reminiscent sometimes of Paris, at times of New York, and always of Madrid – you can spot the coolhunters on the lookout for the next big thing in fashion. This is where all the latest trends in fashion and art come

first. And although on these streets shopping rules supreme, nothing stops you from taking time out to look up and appreciate the area's treasures of modernist architecture, or to relax with a cold beer. Salesas is the district of the fashion showrooms, of the shops where those in the know go, and of the **trend laboratories**. Every day, stylists, fashion gurus and trendsetters walk these streets. The top destinations for any serious shopping trip are Argensola, Piamonte and Barquillo streets.





01. Nighttime in Malasaña
02. Chinese New Year in Lavapiés

MALASAÑA

Madrid is famous the world over for the way in which we enjoy **nights that carry on into the early morning**, surprising every tourist with their energy and joy. This is especially true of Malasaña and its many nocturnal haunts, with something to please everyone. Located just behind Gran Vía and Fuencarral, this is one of **the most authentic and cosmopolitan parts** of central Madrid. As well as a varied selection of shops and recreational destinations, it offers a whole philosophy for life, with a complete **absence of conventionalisms** being the order of the day. Malasaña has become a great place to see and to be seen, to revel in **modernity** and to give free rein to your **thirst for fun and adventure**.

LAVAPIÉS

As in all of the neighbourhoods of central Madrid, here lifelong local residents **live in harmony** with more recent arrivals and with all of the thousands of visitors who flock here every day, drawn by the **culture, leisure and shopping** that the area offers. To call this place a 'melting pot' barely begins to describe it. Here, locals born and bred share benches in the sun with new neighbours from South America, Africa and Asia. Whilst still retaining their **authentic, traditional flavour**, the **rich ethnic diversity** of these streets is a wonderful example of integration and coexistence. Lavapiés is also a traditional centre for an **alternative gay and lesbian scene**, demonstrating the diversity of the capital's LGBT spaces.

▶ WHAT'S ON

Madrid's events are well-known for successfully combining mass appeal with a cosmopolitan flavour.

Gay Pride Festivities

CENTRAL MADRID

LATE JUNE

The whole of Madrid comes together for the most important celebration in the gay community's calendar – a joyous mix of fun and reaffirmation. They also coincide with the local *fiestas* of the Chueca neighbourhood.

Gay Pride Parade

ALCALÁ / GRAN VÍA

FIRST SATURDAY AFTER 28TH JUNE

The climax of the week-long celebrations in honour of Gay Pride is this colourful parade, complete with extravagant floats, through the centre of the city.

Visible Festival

VARIOUS VENUES

JUNE - JULY

Visual arts projects, feature-length and short films, plus theatre, dance and performing arts, and all with an LGBT connection, make up the programme for this energetic festival of culture.

Lesgaicinemad

CINEMAS

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

LGBT-themed film season. Its programme includes film screenings and talks, press conferences and special festival events.

▶ AND WHAT'S MORE



VARIED TASTES

If you're ever looking for a place to have **lunch or dinner** here in Madrid, it's very likely that you'll find yourself in a restaurant in Chueca; no other neighbourhood offers so much choice. Traditional Spanish restaurants sit side by side with those serving **international fare, signature cuisine, and unique dining experiences** to suit every palate, and all offering great **value for money**.

The daily shop is making a comeback at the revamped **San Antón Market**, which is causing quite a stir in the neighbourhood since its recent reopening. A model of sustainable construction, it boasts parking facilities, all sorts of food stalls, a crèche and a roof terrace with great views of the area.

PLACES YOU MUST NOT MISS

You'll find the best of Chueca in its streets: take a long stroll, feel the warmth of its people and discover the neighbourhood's many shops and cafés.

01 San Antón Market

Augusto Figueroa, 24.
www.mercadodesananton.com

02 Museum of Romanticism

San Mateo, 13.
museoromanticismo.mcu.es

03 Fuencarral Market

Fuencarral, 45
www.mdf.es

04 Plaza de Chueca

05 Plaza de Vázquez de Mella

06 History Museum

Fuencarral, 78.

07 Triball

triballmadrid.com

08 Museo Bar Chicote

Gran Vía, 12.

09 Plaza del Rey

