

Places Visited in Spain

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European Citizenship - Cultural Heritage Unites Us

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University of Alcalá

The University of Alcalá (Spanish: Universidad de Alcalá) is a public university located in Alcalá de Henares, a city 35 km (22 miles) northeast of Madrid in Spain and also the third-largest city of the region. It was founded in 1293 as a Studium General for the public, and was refounded in 1977. The University of Alcalá is especially renowned in the Spanish-speaking world for its annual presentation of the highly prestigious Cervantes Prize. The university currently enrolls 28,336 students, 17,252 of whom are studying undergraduate degrees which are taught by a teaching staff of 2,608 professors, lecturers and researchers belonging to 24 departments. The administrative tasks are carried out by the Administration and Services, comprising approximately 800 people.



Glass Palace

El Palacio de Cristal, in English Glass Palace is a conservatory located in Madrid's Buen Retiro Park.

The Palacio de Cristal, in the shape of a Greek cross, is made almost entirely of glass set in an iron framework on a brick base, which is decorated with ceramics.

Its cupola makes the structure over 22 meters high.

It was built in June 1887 by Ricardo Velázquez Bosco. First there was an exposition of a “human zoo” as it exposed people from the colonies of the Philippines but it closed in October of the same year.

Nowadays the palace is used for exhibitions of all kinds.



Toledo

Named a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1986, Toledo is an outstanding museum city whose rich heritage owes almost everything to the Jews, Muslims and Christians who lived there, working and observing their religion side by side.

Each and every one of the cultures and peoples who've passed through Toledo gave the city a present made up of a rich architectural and artistic heritage. The **city walls**, erected during the Roman era, were reconstructed and given their current appearance by the Arabs. Many gateways mark the route of the walls, but Puerta de la Bisagra, which leads into the historic town and bears the coat of arms of the Imperial City, is the only one to have kept its Medieval architecture.



History of the University

On May 20 of 1293, the king Sancho IV of Castile granted the license to the archbishop of Toledo, Gonzalo Pérez Gudiel to create a Studium Generale (as the university studies were then called through Europe) in Alcalá de Henares, "with the same frankness for teachers and students, which were granted to General Study of Valladolid". These studies, although quite modest, survived through time to link with the Cisneros refoundation. On July 17, 1459 Pope Pius II granted a bull, requested by the archbishop Alfonso Carrillo de Acuña, "for the erection of three Cathedrals of Arts and Grammar in this study of Alcalá". These last cathedrals,



subsisting of that General Study of the 13th century, were integrated by Cisneros into the "new" university.

University

In 1499, Cardinal Cisneros founded a university in Alcalá de Henares. This university is known in historiography in different ways: Complutense University, Cisneriana University, University of Alcalá ... and reached, together with the University of Salamanca, a pre-eminent place among the Castilian universities during the Golden Age. However, it later entered a period of decline until in 1836 the government decreed its transfer to Madrid, renamed Central University of Madrid. This, in 1970, adopted the name of Complutense University of Madrid. The Complutense University of Madrid, in accordance with such historical trajectory, shows continuity with the university founded by Cisneros in 1499.



The Retiro park started as a project in 1505 when queen Isabella I moved the monastery of the Jeronimos in order to give some vegetation to the environment. The park had several improvements in the following centuries, such as those of the Salon de Reinos by Giovanni Battista Crescenzi and Alonso Carbonell, or the 1620 expansion ordered by Count-Duke of Olivares. This was a project carried out by the king's personal architects generally, so it has many authors. Since assuming its role as a public park the late 19th century, the park has been used as a venue for various international exhibitions. The Palacio de Cristal ("Crystal Palace"), a glass pavilion is undoubtedly the gardens' most extraordinary building. There are now art galleries in the Crystal Palace, Palacio de Velázquez, and Casa de Vacas. In the Retiro Park is also the Forest of Remembrance (Bosque del recuerdo), a memorial monument to commemorate the 191 victims of the 11 March 2004 Madrid attacks.



Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro

The Paseo del Prado is one of the main boulevards in Madrid, Spain. It runs north–south between the Plaza de Cibeles and the Plaza del Emperador Carlos V , with the Plaza de Cánovas del Castillo (the location of the Fuente de Neptuno, and of the Ritz and Palace five-star hotels) lying approximately in the middle.

The Paseo del Prado forms the southern end of the city's central axis (which continues to the north of Cibeles as the Paseo de Recoletos, and further north as the Paseo de la Castellana). It enjoys the status of Bien de Interés Cultural (BIC), and as part of a combined UNESCO World Heritage Site with Buen Retiro Park.



Restoration:

In 1975, after years of the buildings passing between various businesses, Complutense University opened its Alcalá branch as a means to decongest its growing student population. In 1977, the university was re-founded as "the University of Alcalá de Henares," which later was shortened to "the University of Alcalá" in 1996. In 1998 Unesco named it a World Heritage site.



Triton and Nereid fountain



The Triton and Nereid fountain is located in Retiro Park in Madrid. It was built in the last third of the eighteenth century and installed in Atocha but then moved in the year 1880 to where it is now. The architect Ventura Rodriguez designed it and Alfonso Giraldo Bergaz, Antonio Primo and José Rodríguez built it. A bronze copy of this fountain is found in Atocha.

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Fallen angel

This fountain is in Retiro Park in Madrid. Ricardo Bellver built the statue on it with plaster in 1877, however since only marble and bronze works were accepted, that one was destroyed and he redid it in 1878 with marble. Francisco Jareño was who made its pedestal.



It was inspired by the verses from "Paradise Lost" by John Milton.

Prado Museum



The Prado museum, officially known as "Museo Nacional del Prado" is one of the most famous art museums in Spain. It is located in the center of Madrid and is considered to be one of the world's finest collections of Euro-

pean art. It was founded as a museum of paintings and sculpture the 19th of November of 1819. It has around 35000 paintings and sculptures from very famous Spanish painters, like: Francisco de Goya, El Greco, Velazquez, Tiziano, Rubens, El Bosco...

The Prado museum was designed in 1785 by an architect of the Enlightenment, Juan de Villanueva on the orders of Charles III to house the Natural History Cabinet. Even though the building was built they did not decide the final function of the building until the monarch's grandson, Ferdinand VII, decided to use it as a new Royal Museum of Paintings and Sculptures.

Facts about the Museo

The Prado Museum has been around for about two centuries now. It is the main Spanish National Art Museum at the heart of Madrid. A tour of the museum will unearth some of the world's finest art collections from Europe dating back to the 12th century. Most of the collection in this museum is based on the previous Spanish Royal Collection and the most prized Spanish art.

