



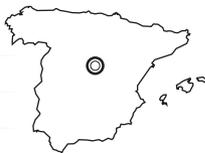
MADRID

SPAIN MADRID-BARAJAS AIRPORT (MAD), 14KM

👤 47,737,941 📞 +34 🌞 22°C

🏠 EURO (EUR)

✈️ FOUR TIMES DAILY



SLEEP **Hotel Urso** (Calle de Mejía Lequerica 8, 914 444 458, hotelurso.com, rooms from €240) is one of the capital's hottest places to stay.

A chic boutique-style hotel, it offers gorgeous design, a quality restaurant and a spa.

EAT For classic Madrileño fare, dine at **La Bola Taberna** (Calle Bola 5). Founded in the 19th century, it is still run by the same family and is said to be the home of the *cocido*, a traditional stew cooked in earthenware pots.

CULTURE This month the **Compac Theatre** (Gran Vía 66) hosts *Carmen* – *Opera Flamenca*, adapted by revered Spanish director Salvador Távora.

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BUS Bus 200 goes to Avenida de América. A one-way ticket costs €1.50. The **Expres Aeropuerto** takes you to O'Donnell, Plaza de Cibeles and Atocha, and costs €5.

METRO The metro takes 45 minutes to the city centre, and you can use the same tickets as on the bus.

TAXI A taxi from the airport to the city centre – 13km away – costs €30.

TOURIST INFO esmadrid.com



Hotel Urso is already one of the city's smartest addresses

SHOP For a souvenir with a difference, head to **El Rastro**, Madrid's largest open-air flea market held every Sunday. You can get everything here from vintage antiques to Moroccan leather goods and unique handicrafts.

LATER Vermouth has become the latest Spanish craze, so why not try **Taberna La Concha** (Calle Cava

Baja 7), where you can enjoy homemade vermouth on tap? They also serve excellent G&Ts, sherries and a range of innovative tapas dishes.

TIP For the best *churros* in the city, head to the tiny **Chocolatería San Ginés** (Pasadizo San Ginés 5), located in a small alleyway near the city's famous Puerta del Sol. **Esme Fox**



Teatro San Carlo is Naples' best address for opera

NAPLES

ITALY NAPLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAP), 7KM

👤 61,680,122 📞 +39 🌞 21°C 🏠 EURO (EUR) ✈️ SIX TIMES WEEKLY



SLEEP Velvet drapes, black marble, expensive artworks and gardens overlooking Vesuvius: no wonder the **Hotel Excelsior** (Via Partenope 48, (0)81 764 0111 hotelexcelsiornapoli.com, rooms from €220) is a true Neapolitan icon.

EAT Naples prides itself on *gelato*, with a host of restaurants and holes-in-the-wall clamouring for your business. Head to **Gay Odin** (Vico Vetriera 12), which will serve you the best *cioccolato al rhum* in town.

CULTURE Every June, Naples becomes a stage as the world's best theatre directors and companies descend upon the city for the three-week **Napoli Teatro Festival Italia**. Plays are performed in castles, abandoned breweries and historic neighbourhoods.

SHOP Buying a silk umbrella from **Talarico** (Vico Due Porte a Toledo 4B) is quite the experience. It's run by the eightysomething Mario, who counts the Pope, Fendi, Silvio Berlusconi and Prince Charles as customers, probably because each umbrella comes with a lifetime guarantee.

LATER **Teatro San Carlo** (Via San Carlo 98), thrilling opera-goers since 1737, begins the month with Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*.

TIP Achille Bonito Oliva, a former director of the Venice Biennale, commissioned more than 100 artists to transform the city's **metro stations** into an art gallery. There are sculptures, paintings, seascapes and light installations, all for the price of a metro ticket. **Enrico Trovesi**

/ INFO

BUS The Naples Alibus Airport Shuttle transports passengers to the Central Train Station and Naples Molo Beverello Port. Tickets are €4, with journeys taking 30 to 40 minutes depending on traffic.

TAXI Taxis can be flagged outside the arrivals hall, with journeys costing around €40 into the city centre.

TOURIST INFO comune.napoli.it