

## Madrid

[music: *Pongamos Que Hablo de Madrid* by Joaquin Sabina]

Hello and welcome to the *nomadamin* English podcast. I'm Amin Bahmani Yeganeh, an English teacher and the founder of *nomadamin*. Every episode, a fascinating subject is chosen to help you improve your English, and gain new perspectives on the world. I, the storyteller, will be using intermediate English with a **pinch of** higher-level language for you to learn. If you miss something, you can always skip back and listen again. Full transcripts are also offered at <http://nomadamin.com/podcast>.

[Introduction]

In this episode, I'll be introducing you to the **vibrant**, exciting, and historic city of Madrid. We'll be exploring the city's rich history, delicious food, **penchant** for dance and music, **stunning** architecture, and **world-renowned** art museums. So, let's **dive in!**

[Geography]

Situated in the **heartland** of Spain, Madrid is the country's capital. The city is home to the *Manzanares* River. It's also the highest capital city in Europe and is about 650 meters above sea level. Generally, the climate is **characterized** by hot summers and cold winters.

[History]

The city's origins **date back** to the ninth century when a **fortress** was built on the **banks** of the *Manzanares* River. Over the centuries, Madrid **flourished**, and during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the city served as the capital of the Spanish empire. During the Spanish **civil war**, in the 1930's, Madrid suffered **extensive** damage, and it took several years to rebuild the city. Today, it is a **bustling** and vibrant city, with a population of over 3 million people.

[Architecture and Colors]

Madrid is a **treasure trove** of architecture. One of its most famous areas is *La Latina*, which is characterized by its **cobblestone** streets, narrow alleys, and colorful buildings. The *Plaza Mayor* is also one of the most renowned squares in Spain and is surrounded by a magnificent **array** of architectural gems. One thing that is **striking** about the city's architecture is the range of colors that you can see in the buildings, from cream to rich reds and greens.

[Art Museums]

Moving on to Madrid's art museums and galleries, two of the most precious ones are the *Prado* and *Reina Sofia* museums. The *Prado* Museum contains one of the world's finest collections of European art from the twelfth to the eighteenth

century. The artwork **exhibited** at the *Prado* includes works by artists such as *Goya*, *Botticelli*, and so many more. Personally, what **drew me to the scene** was the oil painting named *The Third of May 1808*. The **masterpiece** is **arguably** *Goya's* most known work of art.

[music: *Calles de Madrid* by *Quique González*]

The *Reina Sofia* Museum **houses** Spain's national collection of twentieth-century art, with works by **iconic** artists including *Pablo Picasso* and *Salvador Dalí*. **In my eye**, the *Reina Sofia* museum is easily a **must-visit** only for *Picasso's* *Guernica*, which is regarded by many art **critics** as the most **moving** and powerful anti-war painting in history.

[Music and Dance]

One cannot talk about Madrid without mentioning its music and dance scene. One of the oldest and most **revered** traditions in Madrid is *Flamenco*, an Andalusian form of music and dance. Many performances take place throughout Madrid, including the attractions of *Café de Chinitas* and *Casa Patas*.

[Food]

Madrid is a dreamland for **foodies** too, with the classic *Tapas* to the *Cocido Madrileño*. Also, the markets, including the *Mercado de San Miguel* are some of the most desired destinations in Madrid, where many people are **tempted** by a sweet **delight**, the renowned *chocolate con churros*.

[Real Madrid]

[music: *Hala Madrid, Y Nada Más* by *Real Madrid*]

One of the most beloved things about Madrid is its football team, Real Madrid. Real Madrid is one of the most successful football clubs in history, having won a record 14 Champions League titles to this day. If you're in Madrid during the football season, whether you are a **rabid** fan like me or not, make sure to watch a match at the famous *Estadio Santiago Bernabéu*.

[Closing]

So, **that's it folks**, that's my Introduction to Madrid. You can also find the photos I've shot in Madrid on my Instagram account, [@nomadamin](https://www.instagram.com/nomadamin). It is said that once you've visited Madrid, it will leave an impact on you forever. With its historic **landmarks**, world-renowned art museums, vibrant colors, **delectable** food, and **electric** music and dance scene, it's no wonder why Madrid continues to be a treasure in Europe.

The *nomadamin* podcast is and will be free to make enjoyable education accessible to everyone. So, if you enjoy listening to this podcast, please make a donation using the button on the player or the link in the description to support the channel and play your part.

I hope this podcast has inspired you to visit Madrid, and I wish you safe travels.  
Thanks for listening and “Hala Madrid”!



## Words List

**a pinch of:** a small amount of something  
**vibrant:** full of energy and life  
**penchant:** a strong liking for something  
**stunning:** extremely impressive or attractive  
**world-renowned:** famous throughout the world  
**to dive into/in:** to start doing something energetically  
**heartland:** the central or most important part of a country  
**to characterize:** to describe  
**to date back:** to have existed since a particular time in the past  
**fortress:** a military castle  
**bank:** the land alongside a river or lake  
**to flourish:** to grow or develop  
**civil war:** a war between citizens of the same country  
**extensive:** large, covering a large area  
**bustling:** busy, crowded  
**treasure trove:** a collection of valuable things  
**cobblestone:** a rounded stone used on the surface of an old-fashioned road  
**an array of:** a large number or wide range of  
**striking:** attracting, noticeable  
**to exhibit:** to display, to show  
**to draw someone to the scene:** to make someone interested in something  
**masterpiece:** a work of great artistry  
**arguably:** possibly, probably  
**to house:** to store, to hold  
**iconic:** legendary, famous  
**in my eye:** in my opinion  
**must-visit:** essential to visit  
**critic:** a person who judges artistic works  
**moving:** effective, touching  
**revered:** admired, respected  
**foodie:** a person with a particular interest in food  
**to tempt:** to entice, to persuade, to encourage  
**delight:** food or dish that gives pleasure and happiness  
**rabid:** extreme  
**that's it:** used when something has ended  
**folks:** people  
**landmark:** a building or place that is easily seen and recognized  
**delectable:** delicious, mouth-watering  
**electric:** very exciting