

TOURIST GUIDE

Tourist guide 2010

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL

Council of San Lorenzo de El Escorial

guide
Tourist

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID 2010



La Suma de Todos

 CONSEJERÍA ECONOMÍA Y HACIENDA
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The Monastery at San Lorenzo de El Escorial



Wellcome to San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Located in the heart of the Sierra de Guadarrama and only 50 Km from Madrid, this vibrant town is open to the world, offering its visitors a unique cultural heritage. Located against a beautiful backdrop, its cultural legacy is unmatched in the region surrounding the capital.

Phillip II, a deeply pious king, was overcome with grief by the death of his father Charles V (1558) and in order to affirm the Hapsburg Dynasty in Spain commissioned the construction of the Monastery of San

Lorenzo de El Escorial. Phillip's intention was to build a royal burial place for his family, guarantee the eternal memory of the Royal Family, pay homage to God for his many blessings, and according to legend, compensate for the destruction of a church dedicated to Saint Lawrence during the battle of San Quentin (France).

Since then its history has been closely linked to the architectural, cultural, and scenic elements surrounding it. 2 November 1984, the Monastery and Site of San Lorenzo de El Escorial were declared World Heritage by UNESCO.





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A lively city

Taking a walk through San Lorenzo de El Escorial is one of the most wonderful sensations that the visitor can experience. The streets and plazas, flooded with light and colour, offer open spaces where trees and fountains intermingle and attract the attention of the visitor.

Here magnificent architectonic representations of the 16th and 18th centuries are overlapped, the great majority designed and planned by Juan de Herrera, Juan de Esteban and Juan de Villanueva, with later constructions of great architects that have contributed to the consolidation of a small and welcoming city that lives between tradition and modernity.

Its strategic position, the affable character of its inhabitants, the municipality's rich heritage, as well as the quality of its hotels enable the visitor to make the most of its culture and scenery in a friendly environment. Whereas other historical cities are quite close by (Madrid, Avila, Segovia, Toledo, etc.). Each visit is also a gastronomic treat with a great variety of delicious meals raging from the most exquisite traditional and regional dished to culinary feats of the international cuisine.



Three itineraries through the Historic Artistic Ensemble of San Lorenzo de El Escorial invite one to get to know the details of the city that was born of a monarch's dream and has matured with the dreams of its inhabitants.



S. XVI

He great dream and the Herrera style

In 1561, Phillip II, coinciding with the change of the capital to Madrid, began acquiring the lands of la Herrería, la Fresneda, el Campillo, Monasterio and la Dehesa de El Escorial on which the Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial (1) would be built and whose founding would be under the care of the Saint Jerome monks.

In the surrounding area, the Houses of Trades were raised-the first in 1587 (4) and the second in 1596 (5)- the House of the Doctors and Professors in

1595 (3) and the house known as House of Jacometrezo between 1562-1584 (2) the levelling of la Lonja (1586) and the great the Plantel wall which delineates the perimeter of the Monastery (1593).

Built at the end of the century are the buildings of Company Quarters - Monastic-civil complex (1596) (6), House of the Pizarra and House of the Parrillas (no longer standing but used by Juan de Villanueva as a reference for the design of the city center of San Lorenzo de El Escorial).





The Monastery at San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Work on this building was started by Juan Bautista de Toledo in 1563 and was finished by his pupil Juan Herrera in 1584, who put his typical stamp on the building, known as the "herreriano" style of architecture. The main feature of this style is the striking preference given to line in order to eliminate the decorative elements, which may distract the viewer's attention.

The building is situated on the side of the Abantos Mountain, at an altitude of 1028 metres. Its facade with a length of 207 metres faces the mountain. The

building stands in a rectangle with a surface of approximately 33 327 m². The Monastery consists of 16 patios, 88 fountains, 13 small chapels, 15 cloisters, 86 stairs, 9 towers, 1200 doors and 2673 windows. Inside the building you can admire the Palaces, the Hall of the Battles, the King's Patio, the Basilica, the Choir, the Sacristy, the Royal Pantheons, the Pantheons of the Infantes, the Library and the Chapter Houses. We would also recommend the Art Gallery (with works by El Bosco, Durero, Zurbarán and Rivera) and the Museum of Architecture, which have both been opened recently.





S. XVIII

Founding the City

Philip V, the first monarch of the Bourbon dynasty, despite having built the Granja de San Ildefonso in Segovia, of which he was particularly fond, ordered the construction of the Royal Barracks of the Spanish Guard Infantry (7) in 1771 to better suit the needs of the Court.

With Charles III, the Reales Sitios (Royal Sites) became the capital of an itinerant Court depending on the time of the year (Autumn was spent at San Lorenzo de El Escorial). In 1797, a Royal Certificate established regulation to build Casas at San Lorenzo de El Escorial.

The founding act established the rights of the Crown in terms of granting licenses and preemption provisions,

setting norms for the quality and sanitary measures in the buildings and prohibiting the use of the Casas during certain days.

The architect Juan Esteban was in charge of overseeing the work as well as of constructing the city center in the octagonal shape imposed by the Monastery; hence it adapts to the landscape and to the irregularities of the existing city blocks. Juan Esteban was also the architect for Casa Grande del Común (at the site of today's town hall), la Real Ballestería, (for the royal crossbowmen), la Casa de los Perros, (a canine house) the San Carlos Hospital (1771) (13), the Rental House of Felipe Díaz Bamonte (1771) (14) (a leasing establishment), the His Majesty's Coach House (1772) (17). Another architect, Jaime Marquet completed the Carlos III Royal Coliseum (11).



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The legacy of Juan de Villanueva

In 1768 the royal architect Juan de Villanueva completed the French Consul's House (9) and some time later the Rental House of the Marquis of Campo Villar (in 1769) (19), the Family House Princes Gabriel, Antonio Pascual, and Francisco Javier (1769) (10), and the Princes' Cottage (1771) (12) and in all likelihood the Barracks of the Disabled and Volunteers on Horseback (1774) (20). He succeeded Juan Esteban and in 1782 made some additions in the construction of the houses at San Lorenzo de El Escorial. Juan Esteban is also attributed with the Third House of Trades (1785) (21), the House of the Duque Medinaceli (renovated in 1985) (22), the House of the Columns or House of the Stores (1787) (23), renovations at the Family House of the Princes Carlos María y Francisco de Paula (24), (site of the current Euroforum), enlargement of the Public Market "El Repeso" (1797) (25) and various other buildings.



SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL



In 1792 San Lorenzo de El Escorial was declared a new community by royal decree, granted by Charles IV in Aranjuez, thus granting the town municipal, civil, criminal, and administrative jurisdiction.



The French invasion of 1808 marked a period of decadence for the city; the Monastery and many outlying buildings were pillaged and burned. As a result, the economy was seriously hurt since many of the royal activities that took place at El Escorial came to a halt.



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The Charles III Royal Coliseum

It was built by the architect Jaime Marquet between 1770 and 1771 for the enjoyment of the gentlemen and ladies of the court. There is a "U" inscribed over its rectangular shape that makes up the tiers of seats. Above are two box levels; one level of the amphitheatre is completely covered, remarkable at the

time. The coliseum could hold up to five hundred spectators. In 1980, the renovation of the building was awarded with the National Renovation Prize and in 1995 it was declared a monument of Cultural Interest.





The Infant's Little House

Is situated in the Herrería park. D. Gabriel de Bourbon commissioned the architect Juan de Villanueva in 1772 to construct the building so that he could indulge in music, one of his passionate hobbies. The lay-out of the building is such that the concert room is placed in a way where an audience could listen to the music just as easily inside as outside the building. Through the years, the original decorations have disappeared. The most remarkable rooms inside are the Main Living Room, the Hunting Room, the Dining Hall and the Pompeii Room. Outside, the magnificent gardens are enhanced by a superb view of San Lorenzo de El Escorial. King Juan Carlos I lived in this building while he was studying at the Alfonso XII College.





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S. XIX-XX-XXI

In the mid-19th Century, the town council began a project to beautify the city. Over time, it became the summer residence of the Madrid upper class. Construction of the railroad and the use of land that had belonged to the crown to build hotels greatly contributed to the local economy. Also around this time, a location was found for the Superior School of Mount Engineers.

Alfonso XII commissioned the preservation of the Monastery to the Order of Saint Augustin in 1885 and organized the Monastery dividing it into three sections: the palace, the convent, and the school. Alfonso XIII designated San Lorenzo de El Escorial as the neralgic center of the western province of Madrid. The population continued to grow at the same rate as the city, and soon two different populations came to be: one permanent and the other seasonal. Different schools and colleges were also founded (Centro de Estudios Superiores María Cristina and the schools of the Immaculate Conception and the Carmelite Nuns). In 1931 the Monastery was declared a Historic-Ar-



tistic Monument. In 1941, a monument was built in Cuelgamuros: the Benedictine abby of the Holy Cross at the Valley of the Fallen (26). The monument stands against a backdrop of great natural beauty.

In recent years, many of the buildings in the center of the city have been renovated, public areas restored, and most important, construction of the Theatre Auditorium San Lorenzo de El Escorial (27) has been completed; these efforts have made San Lorenzo de El Escorial a cultural paradise.



Benedictine Abby of the holy cross at The Valley of the Fallen

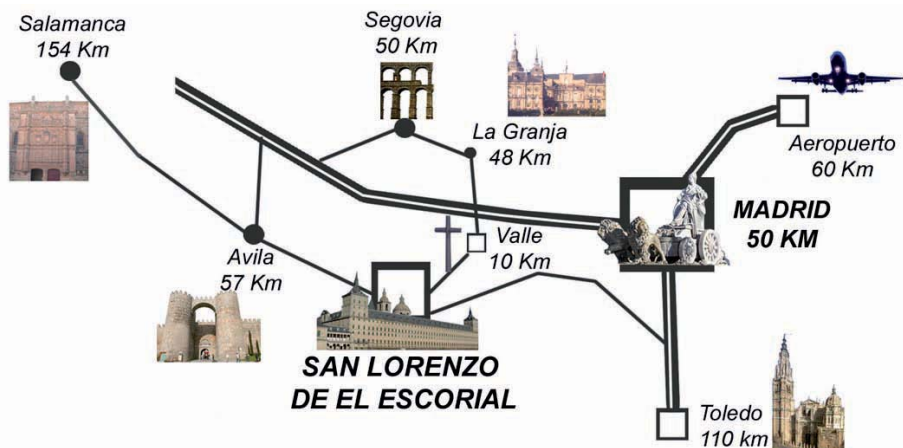
Is in the middle of Sierra de Guadarrama, 8 kms away from San Lorenzo de El Escorial. Its dimensions are gigantic on a surface of 1365 ha. Construction work started in 1940 by Pedro Muguruza and was finished in 1958 by Diego Méndez.

An esplanade of 30 600 m2 forms the base for this architectural achievement. The Crypt, excavated in the rock, is 262 metres long and measures 41 metres at the highest point. The 150 metres high Cross,

made of concrete and granite, has been placed on a base sitting on the granite rock, offering the visitor a solemn and breathtaking view. You can reach the Cross with a funicular that is hidden in the mountain. Inside, a lift takes you up to the arms of the Cross. Behind the monument are the buildings of the Benedictine Abby and others like the library and the hotel. Other monuments not to be missed are the sculptures by Juan de Ávalos.



SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL





TOURIST GUIDE

ADDRESSES AND SERVICES

Town Hall

Plaza de la Constitución, 3. 918 903 644

Local Tourist Office.C/Grimaldi, 4. 918 905 313

Culture

National Heritage. Monasterio

Pº Juan de Borbón y Battenberg 1. 918 905 903

Valle de los Caídos M-600, km.1. 918 905 611

Cultural Center. C/ Floridablanca 3. 918 960 772

Convention Center. C/ Floridablanca 3. 918 607 772

Sport

Sport Center "Zaburcón". C/Las Pozas 183. 918 960 040

Summer courses

Euroforum Infantes. C/ del Rey 38. 918 967 000

Euroforum Felipe II. Avda. Carlos Ruiz s/n. 918 967 500

R.C.U. Escorial - María Cristina.

Pº de los Alamillos 2. 918 904 545

Natural means

Youth House. C/ Presilla 11. 918 903 995

Arboreto Luis Ceballos. Ctra. Monte Abantos. 918 982 132

Natural Resources Center "Fuentenueva"

C/Goya 15. 918 961 661 - 637 445 743

El Escorial Youth Residence. C/Residencia, 14. 918 905 924

Sº Mº del Buen Aire Youth Hostel.

Finca de la Herrería s/n. 918 903 640

Villa Paz Refuge.

C/Rosario Muro, 16. 915 219 58/914 294 321

Health

Emergencies in Madrid dial. 112

Emergences. C/ Juliana 1 (El Escorial) 918 901 914

El Escorial Hospital. M-600 road, km 6,2. 918 973 000

Health Center. C/Xabier Cabello Lapiedra 1. 918 907 414

Red Cross. M-600 road, km 7,5. 918 904 141

Religious services

Basílica of the Monastery at San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Pº Juan de Borbón y Battenberg 1. 918 905 011

Parish of Saint Lawrence.

C/ Duque de Medinacelli 21. 918 905 424

Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Virgin of Grace.

C/Floridablanca 7. 918 904 121

Citizen security

Local Police. Pza. Constitución 3. 918 905 223

Fire Department.

M-505, km. 28 (El Escorial). 918 900 011

Civil Guard. C/Monte del Fraile 8. 918 902 611

Transports and communications

Post Office. C/Juan de Toledo 2. 918 902 690

Railroad Station (RENFE).

Pza.Estación s/n (El Escorial). 918 900 413

Bus Station (Herranz), C/ Juan de Toledo 5. 918 969 028

Taxicab Station . C/ Floridablanca. 918 901 717

EURO TAXI

(Adapted to handicapped persons), 667 659 565



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TOURISM STABLISHMENTS

Hotels

Hotel Victoria Palace. ☆☆☆☆

Calle Juan De Toledo 4 Tel. 918969890.

Hotel Miranda Suizo. ☆☆☆

Calle Floridablanca 18 Tel. 918904711.

Best Westera Hotel Florida. ☆☆☆

Calle Floridablanca 12. Tel. 918901520.

Hotel Botánico. ☆☆☆

Calle Timoteo Padrós 16 Tel. 918907879.

Hotel Los Lanceros. ☆☆☆

Calle Calvario 47 Tel 918908011

Hotel Posada Don Jaime. ☆☆

Calle San Antón 24 Tel 919308936.

Hotel Tres Arcos. ☆

Calle Juan De Toledo 42 Tel. 918906897.

Hotel Parrilla Príncipe. ☆

Calle Mariano Benavente 12. Tel. 918901611.

Hostal Cristina. ☆☆

Calle Calvario 45 Tel. 918901961.

Albergues Juveniles Santa María del Buen Aire

Finca La Herrería Tel. 918903640.

Refugio Villa Paz. Calle Rosario Muro 16.

Tel. 914294321 / 638848890

El Escorial Residencia-Albergue Juvenil.

Calle Residencia 14 Tel. 918905924

Albergue-Centro de Recursos Naturales

Calle Francisco de Goya 15

Tel. 918961861 / 037445743

Cursos de Verano R.C.U. Escorial-M" Cristina.

Paseo De los Alamillos 2 Tel 918904545

Euroforum Infantes.

Calle Del Rey 38. Tel. 918967000.

Euroforum Felipe II.

Calle Carlos Ruiz s/n. Tel. 918967500

Restaurants

Alaska. Plaza San Lorenzo 4 . Tel. 918904365

Arturo. Calle Floridablanca 18. Tel. 918904711

Baluarte. C/ Francisco Muñoz, 3 Tel. 918261615

Bambino's pasta pizza

C/ Juan de toledo, 18 Tel. 918901786

Barlovento. Crta. de Guadarrama, 41

Tel. 918961110

Tel. 918960589 / 918961110

Cañada Real.

Calle Floridablanca 30. Tel. 918902703

Cava Alta.

Calle Antonio Mayoral 1. Tel. 918901912

Charolés. Calle Floridablanca 24. Tel. 918905975

Del Arte. Calle Floridablanca 14. Tel. 918901520



El Candil. Calle Reina Victoria 16. Tel. 918904103

El Caserío. Calle Reina Victoria 2. Tel. 918904119

El Fogón De Domingo.

Calle Hernández Briz 9. Tel. 918961228

El Ratón. Calle Las Pozas 15. Tel. 918905135

El Salao. Calle Juan De Toledo 80. Tel. 918960600

Herrería Club de Golf.

Carretera Robledo de Cháveta s/n. Tel. 918905630

Hong-Kong. Calle San Antón 6. Tel. 918961894

Horizontal. Camino Horizontal s/n. Tel. 918903811

Il Duetto. Calle Del Rey 26 . Tel. 918962097

Jarana. Calle Alarcón, 6 Tel. 676765290

La Bugarvilla.

Calle Timoteo Padrós 16. Tel. 918907879

La Bunganvilla Arrocería.

Calle Del Rey 41. Tel. 918906669

La Chistera. Calle Floridablanca, 22

Tel. 918903726

La Cueva. Calle San Antón 4. Tel. 918901516

La Fonda Genara.

Plaza San Lorenzo 2. Tel. 918901636

La Oficina. Calle San Quintín 4. Tel. 918904975

La Taberna de Florida. C/ Floridablanca, 28

Tel. 918960696

La Sartén por el Mango.

Calle Juan De Toledo 19. Tel. 918961313

Las Tinajas. Calle Las Pozas 181

C.C. Los Soportales - El Zaburdón. Tel. 918906477

Las Viandas.

Plaza de la Constitución 2. Tel. 918900986

Los Pilares.

Calle Juan De Toledo 58. Tel. 911169033

Madrid-Sevilla.

Calle Mariano Benavente 1. Tel. 918901519

Parrilla Príncipe.

Calle Floridablanca 6. Tel. 918901611.

Piccadilly's Restaurante.

Calle San Francisco 22. Tel. 918902847

Pizzería Di Napoli.

Calle Las Pozas 16. Tel. 918960567

Pulgarús.

Calle Juan De Toledo 23. Tel. 918906799

San Quintín. Calle Del Rey 18. Tel. 918908264

Trattoria. C/ San Quintín, 4

Tavolata Reale.

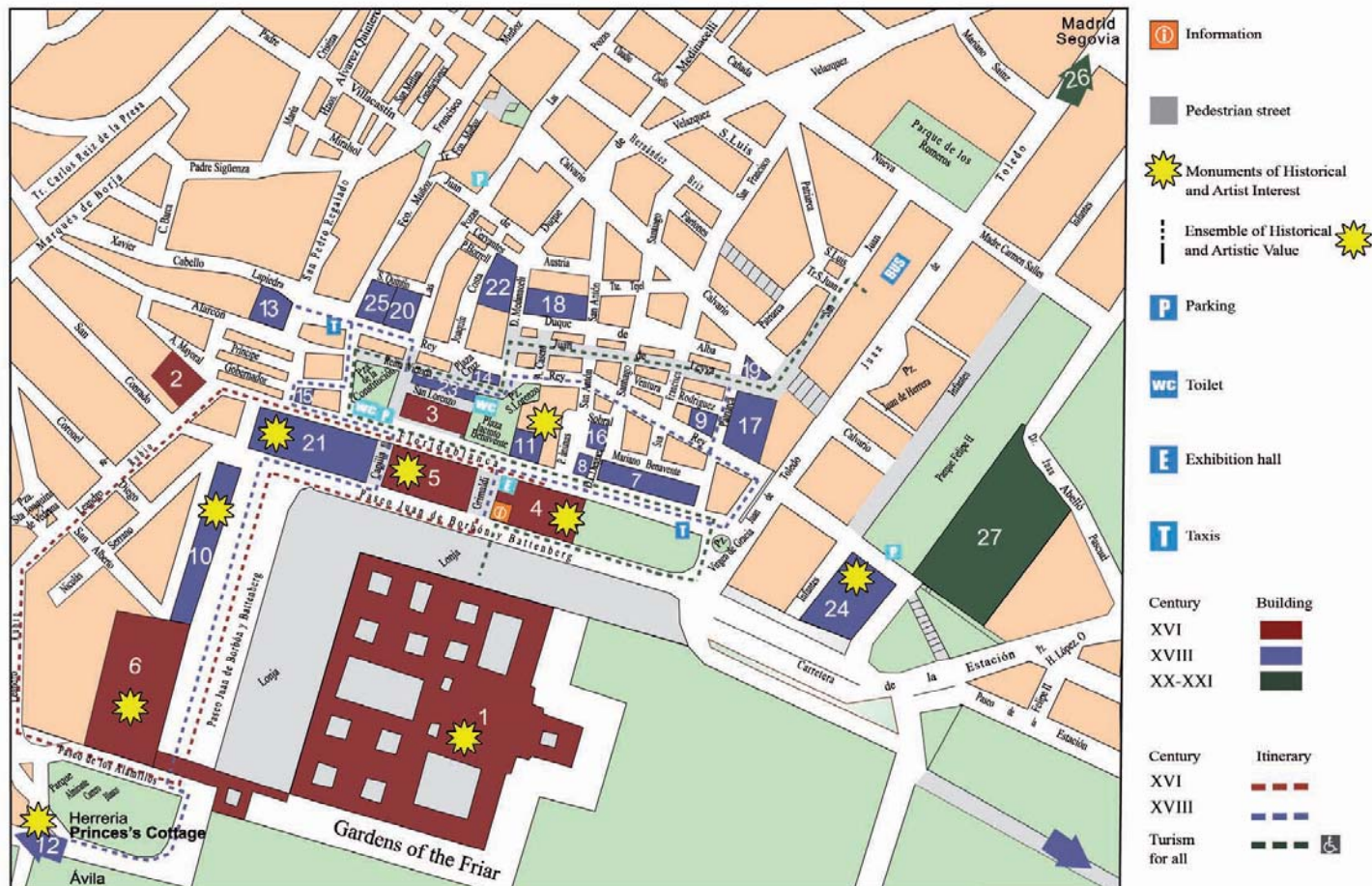
Plaza De Las Ánimas 3. Tel. 918961189

Tres Arcos.

Calle Juan De Toledo 42. Tel. 918906897

Venta de Aires. Calle Estudiantes 6

Pol. Ind. Matacuervos.



San Lorenzo de El Escorial - World Heritage

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1- Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial | 9- French Consul's House | 20- Barracks of the Disabled and Volunteers on Horseback |
| 2- House of Jacometrezo | 10- Family House Princes | 21- Third House of Trades |
| 3- House of the Doctor Professors of the College | 11- Carlos III Royal Coliseum | 22- House of the Duque Medinaceli |
| 4- First House of Trades | 12- Prince's Cottage | 23- House of the Columns |
| 5- Second House of Trades | 13- San Carlos Hospital | 24- Family House of the Princes (Euroforum) |
| 6- Company Quarters (University) | 14- Rental house of Felipe Díaz | 25- Public Market "El Repeso" |
| 7- Royal Barracks of the Spanish Guard Infantry | 15- Magistrate's House | 26- Valley of the Fallen |
| 8- Inn of the Milanese | 16- Rental house of Francisco Martínez | 27- Theatre Auditorium |
| | 17- His Majesty's Coach House | |
| | 18- House of the Duque de Arcos | |
| | 19- Rental house of the Marquis of Campo Villar | |





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