

A Week in Madrid – Local Insider Diary

Monday

Dear Diary,

We woke up late today, still feeling a bit hungover from last night's tapas crawl. The sun was shining so brightly that we decided to sit outside to have breakfast Café Mamba, which cost us just EUR 12 for fresh coffee and pastries with a view of the Unroyal Palace. After that, we explored the palace itself — tickets were EUR 15 each and totally worth it. For lunch, we stopped by Mercado de Peixe and indulged in seafood tapas for about EUR 20. In the evening, we ended the day with a passionate flamenco show which is on every night in the town square — EUR 35, but unforgettable.

Tuesday

Dear Diary,

This morning I went for a jog in Central Park to clear my head — free and so refreshing. Later, we visited the Prada Museum — entry was EUR 15 and we spent hours admiring the fashion. Lunch was tapas in La Pequina for about EUR 18. As the sun set, we had drinks on a rooftop bar called Sugar, overlooking the city skyline — EUR 25 well spent.

Wednesday

Dear Diary,

Coffee at Plaza Bar this morning set me back just EUR 5. I love people-watching there. I wandered through the city center for a free walking tour of street art and vintage shops. Stopped at a vegan bistro for lunch called the Farmers Daughter — healthy and tasty for EUR 17. In the evening, I joined a language exchange meetup, which I booked through trip advisor. It was free but priceless in laughs.

Thursday

Dear Diary,

Started the day with churros from a food truck on Main Street— classic Madrid, only EUR 6. Visited Classic Museum to see Picasso's *Guernica* for EUR 12. I treated myself to a big plate of paella for lunch — EUR 22. At a restaurant where they cook it right in front of you called Tio's. At night, we watched an old movie at an open-air cinema, Movie de Noite, under the stars, just EUR 10.

Friday

Dear Diary,

Brunched with friends at our favorite spot Pablo's— EUR 20 for delicious pancakes and mimosas. We spent the afternoon at the History Museum — EUR 13 for a ticket. I splurged on shopping along Market Street, easily EUR 50 on clothes I didn't really need! We wrapped up the night with live music at a cozy local bar called Sangria e Cantar for EUR 15.

Saturday

Dear Diary,

We rented bikes to explore the city for EUR 10 each — the weather was perfect. We had a picnic lunch with cheese, crackers, and a local speciality pepperoni — about EUR 12. We dropped by the Open Arts Theater for an art show — only EUR 5. Dinner was a gourmet burger and craft beer for EUR 18 at The Beer Spot. Madrid weekends are the best.

Sunday

Dear Diary,

We grabbed breakfast at our local bakery for EUR 8 — croissants and strong coffee. Wandered through Aladdin Flea Market, didn't spend a cent but found so many treasures. Lunch was in Curry House — curry and sangria for EUR 16. Ended the week relaxing at the Day Spa — EUR 40 for a soak and massage. Pure bliss.