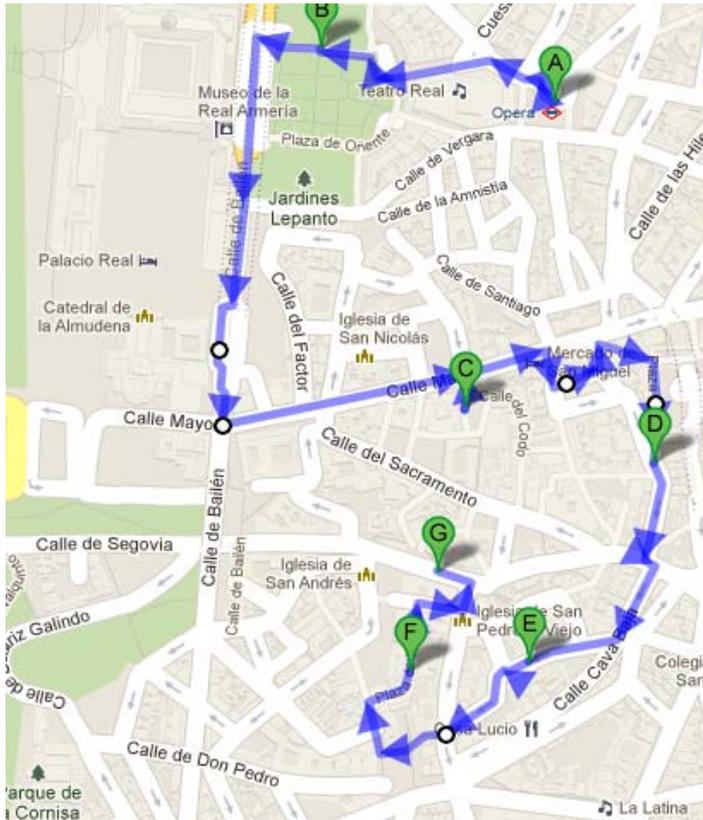


Old Town. Walking Tour. Wednesday, 19:00-20:00, May 30th Metro Opera – Restaurant El Arrozal



Guide: Ignacio Santos, Mobile: +34 627 513 778.

1. **(A) Opera Metro.**
 - a. Teatro Real - Royal Theatre. Last week: Cyrano de Bergerac, with Plácido Domingo (as Baritone)
2. Head northwest of Plaza de Isabel II.
3. Continue on Calle Arrieta.
4. Slight left onto Calle de Felipe V.
 - a. Tavern of Alabarderos, very typical Spanish bar, with a branch in Washington D.C.. Typical “patatas a lo pobre” (“Potatoes cooked in oil with garlic and vinegar”) and “Tortilla de patata”(Eggs, potatoes, onions, ... fried in a pan).
5. Plaza de Oriente.
 - a. Café de Oriente (specially the terrace).
6. Head west on Plaza de Oriente.
 - a. (Right side) Royal Monastery of the Incarnation/Encarnación (1611 and 1616).
 - b. **(B)** The statue of Philip IV, the work of the seventeenth century by Pietro Tacca. It is considered the world’s first equestrian statue attached only by the hind legs of the horse. The horse riding the monarch could be maintained only on its hind legs. The solution given by the physicist Galileo Galilei was to make solid the back and hollow the front.
 - c. Royal Palace, used only for official receptions since the II Republic (1931-1939). Museum with the original decoration and furniture as in 1931. Includes the finest Stradivarius collection worldwide. Plaza de la Armería (Place d’arms). The origins of the Royal Palace (and Madrid city as its extension) backed to the Moorish garrison of “طيرجيم - Mağriṭ - Magerit”, founded by the Emir of Cordoba Muhammad I (850-866) for its geographical situation in the defensive line against the Christians attacks from the North.
7. Continue on Calle de Bailen.
 - a. The Cathedral of Santa María la Real de la was built during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in a mixture of different styles.
 - b. “El Anciano Rey de los Vinos”. Very famous for his glass of sweet wine with a small cookie.
 - c. The Viaduct of Segovia was built in 1930 to replace an earlier one built in 1874. The purpose of the viaduct is an extension of Bailen Street, located at the top and bridge the gap of Segovia Street, which runs perpendicular to your feet. In October 1998, the City of Madrid set up different screens with transparent railings of the viaduct, to prevent suicides that had been traditionally going.
8. Turn left onto Calle Mayor.
 - a. The Council of State is the supreme advisory body to the Government.
 - b. Captaincy General and Army’s Episcopal see.
 - c. Italian Cultural Institute in Madrid (Abrantes Palace, building of the seventeenth century).
9. Turn right onto Plaza de la Villa.
10. **(C) Plaza de la Villa.**
 - a. The Plaza de la Villa was one of the principal centers of medieval Madrid, given its location halfway between the gates of Guadalajara and the River (de la Vega), two of the main roads of the city during the Middle Ages.
 - b. The architectural ensemble of the House and Tower of Lujanes in the Plaza de la Villa de Madrid, is one of the oldest in the city. While house and tower dating from different periods, the fact is that the Moorish horseshoe style doors in the Tower (just entering on the lane) and the right side of the House are among the best remaining of the original Magerit..
11. Head north on Plaza de la Villa to Calle Mayor.
 - a. It is very typical breakfast chocolate with “churros” (Each “churro” is a mass composed of flour, water, sugar and salt), or after a long night.
12. Turn right at Plaza de San Miguel.
 - a. The Mercado de San Miguel, located on the square of the same name, near the Plaza Mayor of Madrid (Spain) is a market whose most remarkable feature is that it retains its original iron structure of the early twentieth century. It has two floors and an area of 1,200 square meters. Typically, food and refreshments at various stores and eat at tables in the center. It is relatively expensive, and always full of tourists. It is advisable to visit.
13. Turn left onto Calle Cava de San Miguel.
14. Turn right onto Calle Ciudad Rodrigo.
 - a. It is very typical the battered squid sandwich.

- b. The Plaza Mayor of Madrid (Spain) is located in the city center, just meters from the Plaza de la Puerta del Sol and Plaza de la Villa, and along Main Street.
- i. The origins of the square date back to the sixteenth century.
 - ii. The Home Bakery (“casa de la Panadería”) is a four-storey building with arcaded ground floor, being crowned as the top floor attic, and sides topped by corner towers. It is located in the center of the north side of the Plaza Mayor in Madrid.
- 15.** Continue on Calle de los Cuchilleros.
- a. El Arco de Cuchilleros. The “Arc of Cutlers” is by Juan de Villanueva (1790).
 - b. Area very typical Spanish taverns, highlights the Cava de Luis Candelas (Caves of Luis Candelas).
 - c. Casa Botín Restaurant in Madrid is contained in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest in the world. However some authors dispute this assertion showing other cases. Founded by the Frenchman Jean Botin and his wife in 1725 as an inn near the Cava Baja, called Inn Botín. Presents a facade of brick with classic view sixteenth century and occupies four floors.
- 16. (D)** Calle Cava de San Miguel.
- a. It is adjacent and parallel to the Cava Alta and runs from the Plaza Puerta Cerrada (Door Closed) to plaza del Humilladero (Shrine Square).
- 17.** Go to the southeast by the calle Cuchilleros (Cutlers Street) to Villa Maestro Villa.
- 18.** Turn left onto Street of the Dyers (Calle de los Tintoreros).
- 19.** Turn right onto Calle Cava Baja.
- 20.** Turn right onto Almond Street (Calle del Almendro).
- 21. (E)** Calle del Almendro.
- a. Almond Street sinuous meanders from the Cava Baja to Shrine Square. This castiza pedestrian street has no street on your left and right just two tiny: The Voyage of the Almond, which is the oldest part of the Almond Street, because until the nineteenth century did not communicate with Cava Baja; Santisteban and parapet, where he was at times the 'Theatre of the Muses'.
 - b. Almond Street is now one of the sites that have earned a deserved reputation as a 'tapas' refers both to the number their premises and the quality thereof. It is therefore essential for a walk by it in our way of 'Tapas' for the Madrid de los Austrias, this area of La Latina.
- 22.** Head southwest on Almond Street to Pretil Santisteban.
- 23.** Turn left to stay on Almond Street (Calle del Almendro).
- 24.** Slight right at Shrine Square (Plaza del Humilladero)
- 25.** Turn right onto Costanilla de San Andrés.
- a. The Church of San Andrés, in the central neighborhood of La Latina, is one of the earliest parishes in Madrid. This temple was frequented by San Isidro Labrador (Patron Saint of Madrid) and Santa Maria de la Cabeza (his wife).
 - b. San Isidro was buried in the cemetery at the foot of the ancient church of San Andrés, until in 1212, growing its reputation for sanctity, was exhumed and visited by King Alfonso VIII, which recognized the incorrupt body as the pastor to had guided him in the imminent battle of Las Navas de Tolosa, turned definitely the secular war in favour of the Christians.
- c. Here was the well of San Isidro. It is said that one day, Illan, son of San Isidro and Santa María de la Cabeza, who was then a small child accidentally fell into the well. When he came to work Isidro found María crying inconsolably at the well by the loss of his son. The two began to pray and the waters rose until the boy was found safe and sound.
- 26.** Turn right at Plaza de la Paja.
- 27. (F)** Plaza de la Paja.
- a. The square was the center of Madrid during the Middle Ages. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries was the commercial center of the city as market place. Went into decline from the fifteenth century, when King John II of Castile ordered the construction of the Plaza del Arrabal (above the current Plaza Mayor), which shifted the business of the town.
 - b. The square was conducting a Catholic custom, located at the origin of its name and was introduced in the sixteenth century, after the Bishop's Chapel erected on the southern side of the enclosure. The residents of the village were forced to give straw to the chaplains and chapter of that chapel, with which they feed their mules.
 - c. The Chapel of the Bishop of Madrid, officially Chapel of St. Mary and St. John Lateran, a religious building of the sixteenth century. It belongs to a time of transition between the Gothic style that is evident in the plant and layout, and Renaissance art, visible in its northern facade and interior decoration.
- 28.** Head north on Plaza de la Paja to Prince Anglona Street.
- a. Prince's Palace of Anglona, built between 1675 and 1690. Formerly hosted its low secret tunnels that connected with the Royal Palace.
- 29.** Turn right onto Prince Anglona Street.
- 30.** Turn left onto Costanilla de San Pedro.
- a. The Church of San Pedro el Viejo is considered one of the oldest churches in the city. The present church was built in the fourteenth century, when it belongs to its Mudejar tower (form a previous Mosque, see the typical horseshoe window), without a doubt it's most prominent architectural feature. It has undergone several reforms, which have significantly altered its original appearance. One of the most important was held in the seventeenth century. In San Pedro el Viejo saved one of the religious images of greater devotion among Catholics in Madrid.
- 31.** Turn left onto Calle de Segovia.
- a. The street is built on a steep ravine, over which passed the bed of the stream of San Pedro. In the Middle Ages, one of the pathways leading to the city, which connected the town with the Manzanares river and the old way of Segovia.
- 32. (G)** Calle de Segovia, 13.
- 33.** RESTAURANT EL ARROZAL (at Prince's Palace of Anglona)