

## Natural History Museum Journey to Spain

*Restaurant and Sightseeing Recommendations*

### **Madrid** | September 22-23 |

#### *Madrid Lunch Recommendations*

- [La Primera](#) – Located just steps from The Hotel Principal, La Primera serves traditional Spanish and Cantabrian cuisine in a lively yet polished setting. A convenient option for either lunch or dinner.
- [El Rincón de Esteban](#) – A classic Spanish restaurant within easy walking distance of the hotel, offering traditional dishes prepared with seasonal ingredients.
- [Mercado de San Miguel](#) – One of Madrid's most iconic food markets, offering a wide selection of tapas, Spanish specialties and drinks from different vendors. Ideal for an informal lunch or casual dinner while exploring the historic center.
- [Casa Alberto](#) – A historic Madrid tavern in the Barrio de las Letras, known for traditional Spanish and Madrileño cuisine and a classic local atmosphere.

#### *Madrid Dinner Recommendations*

- [La Latina - Tapas Evening](#) – Explore one of Madrid's most atmospheric neighborhoods for an informal evening of tapas. The streets around Cava Baja are filled with traditional taverns, wine bars and terraces, allowing guests to move from place to place and sample different specialties.
- [Ferretería](#) – Located in a beautifully restored former hardware store, this stylish restaurant offers creative Mediterranean cuisine with a strong focus on seasonal ingredients and quality produce.
- [Picalagartos Sky Bar & Restaurant](#) – A fashionable rooftop restaurant and bar in central Madrid offering panoramic city views, contemporary cuisine and a lively evening atmosphere.
- [Sacha](#) – A longstanding Madrid favorite known for excellent seasonal Spanish cuisine, a discreet atmosphere and a strong following among local food lovers.
- [Taberna Pedraza](#) – A refined yet approachable Spanish tavern specializing in carefully prepared traditional dishes and high-quality ingredients.

## Gijón | September 25 |

### Gijón Lunch Recommendations

- [Restaurante V. Crespo](#) – A well-established Gijón restaurant focused on refined Asturian and Mediterranean cuisine, with an emphasis on local seafood and seasonal ingredients. A good option for guests looking for a more polished lunch.
- [Farragua Restaurante](#) – Contemporary Spanish cuisine with carefully selected local produce and a more creative approach, while still keeping a relaxed atmosphere.
- [Restaurante Casa Tino](#) – A traditional Asturian restaurant in central Gijón, known for classic regional dishes in a casual, local atmosphere. Good for a straightforward and authentic lunch.
- [Restaurante abarike | Marisquería en Gijón](#) – A seafood-focused restaurant in the city center, offering high-quality fish and shellfish in a more upscale but approachable setting.

## San Sebastián | September 26 |

*\*Advance reservations are strongly recommended, as September 26 is the closing day of the San Sebastián Film Festival and restaurants are expected to be especially busy.*

Tickets to the San Sebastián Film Festival can be purchased [here](#).

### San Sebastián Dinner Recommendations

- [Bar Txepetxa](#) – A classic pintxos bar in the Old Town, especially known for its anchovy-based pintxos. A great option for guests who want an informal and very local San Sebastián experience.
- [Casa Urola](#) – A traditional Basque restaurant in the Old Town, combining classic regional cuisine with excellent seasonal produce in a more polished setting.
- [Parrilla Txuleta](#) – A central grill restaurant specializing in Basque-style grilled meats, particularly txuleta, in a lively and traditional atmosphere.
- [Bernardo Etxea](#) – A well-established seafood restaurant near La Concha, known for fresh fish and shellfish and a more classic dining experience.

## Cuenca | October 1 |

### Cuenca Lunch Recommendations

- [Restaurante Casa Manzar](#) – A stylish but relaxed restaurant in Cuenca's historic center, offering contemporary Spanish cuisine with a focus on seasonal ingredients. A good option for a quality lunch without committing to a long formal meal.
- [Restaurante El Torreón](#) – A casual restaurant in the Old Town serving traditional Spanish and regional dishes in a historic setting. Convenient for a straightforward lunch while exploring the city.
- [Restaurante Olea Comedor](#) – A contemporary restaurant offering carefully prepared Spanish cuisine and seasonal produce in a relaxed setting. Slightly outside the upper historic center, but still central and suitable for a lighter, well-executed lunch.
- [Mesón Plaza Mayor](#) – A traditional restaurant in the heart of Cuenca's old town, offering classic Spanish and regional dishes in an informal and authentic setting. Conveniently located for a relaxed lunch while exploring the historic center.
- [Piola Gastrobar](#) – A casual contemporary gastrobar in Cuenca's historic center, serving modern Spanish dishes in a relaxed setting. A good option for guests looking for a quick, informal lunch without sacrificing quality.

## Madrid | October 2 |

### Madrid Lunch Recommendations

- [La Primera](#) – Located just steps from The Hotel Principal, La Primera serves traditional Spanish and Cantabrian cuisine in a lively yet polished setting. A convenient option for either lunch or dinner.
- [El Rincón de Esteban](#) – A classic Spanish restaurant within easy walking distance of the hotel, offering traditional dishes prepared with seasonal ingredients.
- [Mercado de San Miguel](#) – One of Madrid's most iconic food markets, offering a wide selection of tapas, Spanish specialties and drinks from different vendors. Ideal for an informal lunch or casual dinner while exploring the historic center.
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# Madrid

## Activity Recommendations

### Architectural & Historical Highlights

- [Royal Palace of Madrid](#)- One of Europe's largest royal residences, the Royal Palace features more than 3,000 rooms and magnificent ceremonial halls.
- [Puerta del Sol](#)- Often considered the symbolic centre of Spain, Puerta del Sol is home to the famous Kilometre Zero marker, from which Spain's national road network begins.
- [Barrio de las Letras](#)- Once home to literary giants such as Miguel de Cervantes and Lope de Vega, this charming neighbourhood preserves the intellectual spirit of Spain's Golden Age. Today, its pedestrian streets are lined with cafés, galleries, boutiques and traditional taverns.

### Museums & Cultural Experiences

- [Museo Nacional del Prado](#)- Widely regarded as one of the finest art museums in the world, the Prado houses masterpieces by Velázquez, Goya, El Greco, Rubens and Titian.
- [Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando](#)- One of Madrid's most rewarding lesser-known museums, with an exceptional collection of Spanish, Italian and Flemish art, including thirteen paintings by Goya.
- [Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza](#)- Completing Madrid's celebrated "Golden Triangle of Art", the Thyssen collection spans more than seven centuries of European painting.

### Gastronomy & Local Experiences

- [Chocolatería San Ginés](#)- Serving its famous churros with thick hot chocolate since 1894, San Ginés has become one of Madrid's most beloved culinary institutions and a favourite stop for both locals and visitors.
- [Gran Vía](#)- Known as Madrid's grand boulevard, Gran Vía combines impressive early twentieth-century architecture with theatres, flagship stores, rooftop bars and one of the city's liveliest atmospheres.
- [Barrio de Salamanca](#)- Madrid's most elegant district offers luxury shopping, refined cafés and beautiful tree-lined streets. It is home to many of the world's leading fashion brands alongside excellent local boutiques.