



Galería
de las
Colecciones
Reales

Welcome to the Royal Collections Gallery, the greatest European museum project of recent decades and a must for any visitor to Madrid.



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Patrimonio Nacional

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Cover photo: Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, *Salome with the Head of the Baptist*, around 1607. Oil on canvas

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Galería
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The Royal Collections Gallery invites you to take an extraordinary journey through five centuries of art and culture in a remarkable building. The unconventional dialogue between the works on display and the ultra-modern building that houses them makes for a singular experience.

This gallery is a one-of-a-kind museum, for it showcases the diversity and quality of the collections assembled by the Spanish monarchy. In addition to paintings and sculptures, these collections comprise tapestries, arms and armour, porcelain, furniture, glassware, silverwork, photographs, etc., made by the finest artists of every era and all neatly arranged and displayed for twenty-first-century eyes in a seamless, accessible itinerary with various resources designed to facilitate comprehension in multiple languages and make the visitor experience more enjoyable.

The gallery building is much more than a container: it is a work of art in its own right, boasting unprecedented vistas of the city of Madrid and a visual connection to the Campo del Moro and Casa de Campo parks, as well as the unique experience of roaming and exploring its interior.



The Habsburg Gallery: Churriguera's impressive Solomonian columns welcome visitors

The gallery is an open window onto the rest of the royal sites managed by Patrimonio Nacional: palaces, monasteries, convents, and natural parks and gardens where a host of unique experiences await visitors. Singular enclaves like the Royal Palace of Madrid, the monasteries of El Escorial and Yuste, or the palaces of La Granja, Riofrío and Aranjuez are introduced and explained here through the exhibits themselves and a variety of additional resources.

The gallery also sheds light on how, during the Second Spanish Republic, these royal collections became the heritage of all Spaniards, and how, for nearly one hundred years, Patrimonio Nacional has managed, preserved, restored and promoted this vast legacy while supporting Spain's head of state in the fulfilment of his representative duties under the Spanish Constitution.

This document invites you to step inside the gallery and learn how you can contribute to the sustainability of this great initiative by adding the amazing venues we offer for hire to your portfolio.

ANTEÓN DE ESPAÑA · ERMITA DE SAN ANTONIO DE
ERRERÍA · REAL SITIO DE SAN ILDEFONSO · PALACIO
ALCÁZAR DE SEVILLA · PALACIO DE LA ALMUDAINA



1.1



The
architecture

The gallery's extraordinary architecture

The building that houses the Royal Collections Gallery was designed on two premises: it had to be integrated with the existing natural and manmade landscape of Madrid's western heights, and to preserve the open, public square of Plaza de la Armería.

The eminently vertical structure is invisible from the esplanade between the cathedral and the Royal Palace, forming a linear space that faces the Campo del Moro Gardens and continues the design of the palace itself, seamlessly blending in with its surroundings.

It is an undeniably contemporary creation, at once a paragon of simplicity and understatement and a daring architectural feat, as it supports the heights of Madrid with an immense retaining wall. The facade consists of reinforced concrete columns with granite slabs lining the exterior. The interior is a surprise for several reasons, chief among them its ample spaces, abundant sunlight and views of the landscape. From the entrance by the Royal Palace, one would never imagine the colossal size of the halls inside, with ceilings that soar as high as eight metres above the floor on some levels.



Panoramic views from the gallery

The building presents a purity of line and a tremendous elegance that is further enhanced by the quality of the materials and exquisite workmanship. The gallery is made of granite, white concrete and oak wood, but the sunlight that pours through its impressive windows, reflecting the green spaces outside, is also a building material.

With a surface area of over forty thousand square metres, the building contains three exhibition halls, large diaphanous bays measuring one hundred and twenty metres long by sixteen wide and formed by a succession of concrete porticoes. In addition to all the necessary spaces and services for visitor assistance and enjoyment, there are specific areas for managing and preserving the cultural assets kept here: storerooms with high-capacity furniture, a loading dock for receiving works

of art, and a multi-purpose room used for preventive conservation.

A prize-winning structure

Designed by the architects Emilio Tuñón Álvarez (1959) and Luis Moreno Mansilla (1959–2012), the building has received more than ten major architecture awards, including the COAM Grand Prize in 2016 from the Professional Architects' Association of Madrid “for its excellent insertion in the urban setting, with an appropriate and fitting scale, and for its integration with the existing space”, the FAD (Fomento de las Artes Decorativas) Architecture Award in 2017 “for skilfully materialising a timeless, understated architectural design of precise and thrilling execution”, and the American Architecture Prize (AAP) in 2017.



Main vestibule of the Royal Collections Gallery

Entrances

The Royal Collections Gallery has two entrances:

- The main entrance, on Level 0, is reached from the viewpoint at the back of Plaza de la Armería.
- The secondary entrance, on Level -3, is reached via the Campo del Moro Gardens, from Cuesta de la Vega. This is the preferred entrance for chartered groups, as it is equipped with a platform to help bus passengers disembark.

There are currently three ways to enter the Campo del Moro Gardens—from Cuesta de San Vicente, Paseo de la Virgen del Puerto and Cuesta de la Vega— where visitors can enjoy a

stroll through nature before or after exploring the Royal Collections Gallery (which can be entered from the gardens), although the park does close at dusk.



Entrance from the viewpoint in Plaza de la Armería



Entrance from Cuesta de la Vega

Reception areas



Vestibule of the gallery's main entrance seen from the Plaza de la Armería viewpoint

All of the aforementioned entrances are fully accessible and equipped with spacious reception areas.

The reception spaces contain information and ticket desks, cloakroom, lockers and shops, plus toilets on every floor and a nursing room on Level -3.

The café is on Level 0, at the same height as Plaza de la Armería, and can be entered from outside or from the grand lobby.

Admission to the café and the shops is free of charge. We invite you to enjoy the building and its facilities.



The gallery café



One of the gallery's shops

Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez, *White Horse* (1634–1638). Oil on canvas ➔



1.2



The
itinerary

The exhibition

From the main entrance, on the heights in Plaza de la Armería, visitors follow a descending itinerary that illustrates the prominent collecting and patronage activity of Spain's monarchs, as well as Patrimonio Nacional's efforts to preserve, research and promote the rich cultural and natural heritage it manages.

The gallery displays more than six hundred and fifty pieces chosen from among the one hundred and seventy thousand items that comprise the royal collections, attesting to their wealth and diversity: paintings, sculpture, tapestries, furniture, books, fans, bronze and porcelain pieces, embroidery, photographs and other works by such renowned artists as Caravaggio, Velázquez, Goya, Mengs and Luisa Roldán.

Many of those pieces were not exhibited anywhere; the majority were kept in storage at the Royal Palace of Madrid, the libraries of the Royal Palace or the Royal Monastery of El Escorial, and other royal sites. For instance, the columns carved by Churriguera that preside over the itinerary through the permanent collection previously stood by the "Unknown" Door in the Royal Palace, but now they have been restored and given the attention they deserve. The gallery's opening prompted a flurry of restoration work, with more than four hundred works undergoing some type of intervention.

All of the royal sites are represented in the gallery, in order to give visitors a general idea



Section of the Habsburg Gallery dedicated to Philip IV, featuring outstanding works by Caravaggio, Bernini, Velázquez and Ribera

of their respective collections without detracting from them. One third of the "permanent" exhibition will be periodically rotated, making this space a true gallery and grand showcase of the royal collections by varying the works on display so that people will always find something new every time they come. Moreover, this window onto Patrimonio Nacional encourages visitors to discover all of our royal sites.

The itinerary

The itinerary extends along four floors, moving from highest to lowest:

- Level 0, where the main entrance is located, contains the reception vestibule and other visitor services.
- Level -1 contains Gallery A, devoted to the history of the collections in the days of the

Habsburgs, as well as the Archaeological Remains Gallery.

- Level -2 is home to Gallery B, dedicated to the Bourbons.
- Level -3 houses temporary exhibitions and The Cube, an audiovisual installation that allows visitors to step into the royal sites.

In addition to the evocative experience of The Cube, various resources are located along the itinerary to facilitate an independent, accessible visitor experience. These include gallery texts, identifying and explanatory labels, screens with digital images, and audiovisual materials, all available in Spanish and English, plus an audio guide in sixteen languages. The gallery also offers specific resources to facilitate cognitive accessibility, such as easy-read guides, videos in Spanish sign language (LSE) and others to



assist persons with different abilities (magnetic induction loops to amplify sound signals, tactile maps, etc.).

We are proud that the Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (CERMI) has acknowledged our efforts in this area by awarding us the 2023 Universal Accessibility Prize.

Gallery A (Habsburgs)

The building's descending layout accompanies the chronological narrative that ties the different exhibits together. In Gallery A, dedicated to the Habsburgs, monumental columns from the Hospital Virgen de Montserrat (1678) in Madrid mark the beginning and end of the circular itinerary, which takes visitors around the room in a counter-clockwise direction.

The first gallery sheds light on some of the motivations behind the royal penchant for collecting: rulers commissioned portraits that could be sent as letters of introduction to forge marriage alliances which would consolidate the monarchy, and they acquired small pieces that could travel with the itinerant court and embellish the various palaces in which the monarchs stayed, such as the polyptych that Juan de Flandes painted for Isabella the Catholic Queen, or the portable hangings woven in Flanders to warm the royal residences, whose sacred or moralising themes served as reminders to the sovereigns or their relatives.

Every Habsburg ruler added to the collection of tapestries and, from Charles V, that of weapons and armour, with pieces attesting to the emperor's triumphant image. In the area dedicated to Philip II, the founding of the Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial is a highlight.



Archaeological Remains Gallery



Section of the Bourbon Gallery dedicated to Charles IV, featuring works by Goya

The exhibition narrative then proceeds to illustrate the *Pax Hispanica* of Philip III and the relevance of Philip IV as a great European patron of the arts and supporter of artists like Rubens, Bernini, Velázquez, Jusepe de Ribera and Caravaggio. The Habsburg Gallery ends with Charles II, who decreed that all artistic assets adorning the royal palaces should remain the inalienable property of the Spanish crown.

Archaeological Remains Gallery

Level -1 also contains the archaeological zone with the remnants of the ninth-century defensive wall from the founding of Madrid, discovered during the construction of the gallery. The oldest section of the ancient Arab wall still in existence gives visitors a better understanding of the city's origins.

Gallery B (Bourbons)

At the entrance to Level -2, given over to the House of Bourbon, Van Loo's impressive portraits of Philip V and Isabella Farnese demonstrate the dramatic change in tastes that the new dynasty brought to Spain. Habsburg austerity gave way to the ostentatious display of silks, embroideries and all sorts of ornaments.

The Bourbons had new decorative preferences and customs, and they completely renovated the household goods, furnishings and décor of every space they inhabited, especially with the construction of the New Royal Palace in Madrid after a fire destroyed the Alcázar in 1734. An ample selection of these items is displayed alongside works by great court painters like Corrado Giaquinto, Tiepolo, Luis Paret, Anton Raphael Mengs and Francisco de Goya.

Photography, a medium promoted by Isabella II, is also present in the exhibition narrative. Queen Isabella II was also responsible for making a clear distinction between royal property and crown assets or *patrimonio de la corona*, planting the seed of what is now Patrimonio Nacional. The itinerary ends with Alfonso XIII, the last monarch who held court and resided at the royal sites. After he went into exile, the royal collections were declared a national treasure and public heritage, and their management was entrusted to Patrimonio Nacional.

Finally, several audiovisual productions explain the role of Patrimonio Nacional, the agency that manages the legacy of the Spanish monarchy, which now belongs to all Spaniards, for representative, educational, cultural and scientific purposes, and which assists the king in the performance of his constitutional duties. Official ceremonies and events give saddlers, cabinetmakers, bookbinders, gilders, gardeners and others regular opportunities to employ their unique specialities and skills.

Level -3

Level -3 contains the temporary exhibition hall and the gallery's last major audiovisual feature: The Cube, a 360-degree screening area that offers visitors the evocative and appealing experience of virtually exploring the architectural and natural wonders managed by Patrimonio Nacional, giving them a glimpse of the different royal sites.

The presentation harks back to the “royal progresses” of old, when the Bourbon court would occupy different palaces and hunting grounds depending on the season. For example, the court spent spring at Aranjuez, summer at La Granja, autumn at El Escorial, and winter at El Pardo and the Royal Palace of Madrid, where they celebrated Christmas.

The Cube shows the various settings that made up the material and symbolic universe of the monarchy, inviting the audience to later visit those royal sites located in different regions of Spain.



The Cube: a 360-degree audiovisual experience



1.3

Temporary
exhibitions

Temporary exhibition hall



The inaugural temporary exhibition included coaches, carriages, motorcars and sledges, among other pieces

On the last floor of the itinerary (Level -3), the temporary exhibition hall is currently hosting the inaugural show *In Motion: Carriages and Other Vehicles in Patrimonio Nacional's Collections*.

The exhibition features some of the finest specimens in Patrimonio Nacional's collection of carriages and other vehicles. Lavish carriages began to appear during the early modern era, not only because the court required means of physical transportation but also, and most importantly, because they were status symbols that distinguished their occupants. The coach was the most widely used vehicle in courtly circles. The golden age of the carriage lasted approximately two

centuries, from the mid-seventeenth to the mid-nineteenth century. The vehicles in this collection were preserved for their historical relevance as well as their aesthetic merit, for they were crafted by the most skilled artisans as genuine works of art that provided comfort and security to those who rode in them.

Among other gems, the temporary exhibition includes a litter used by Emperor Charles V, the Golden Berlin carriage from the mid-1700s, the Tortoiseshell Coach, and the Bronze Landau from the reign of Ferdinand VII, a king who loved luxury and splendour. The children's carriages and sledges from the days of Isabella II and Alfonso XIII are particularly fascinating.

For information on new temporary exhibitions, visit the website www.galeriadelascoleccionesreales.es



Useful
information

1.4

TICKET TYPES AND RATES

General ticket

Tour guides and agencies	€12
Basic rate	€14
Reduced rate	€7
Free	
Audio guides in 16 languages	

See terms of eligibility for reduced-rate and free admission at

www.galeriadelascoleccionesreales.es

Online ticket sales (priority):

www.galeriadelascoleccionesreales.es

Combo ticket

Gallery + Royal Palace, good for 7 days

Tour guides and agencies	€20
Basic rate	€24
Reduced rate	€12

OPENING HOURS AND DAYS

CLOSED

- Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm
- Sundays and holidays, 10 am to 7 pm
- Closed: 1 and 6 January, 1 May and 25 December

GETTING HERE:

Metro: Ópera, Príncipe Pío and Plaza de España stations

Bus: Lines 133, 146, 147, 148 and 573

Suburban rail: Príncipe Pío station

Public car park: Plaza de Oriente

AUDIO GUIDES IN 16 LANGUAGES:

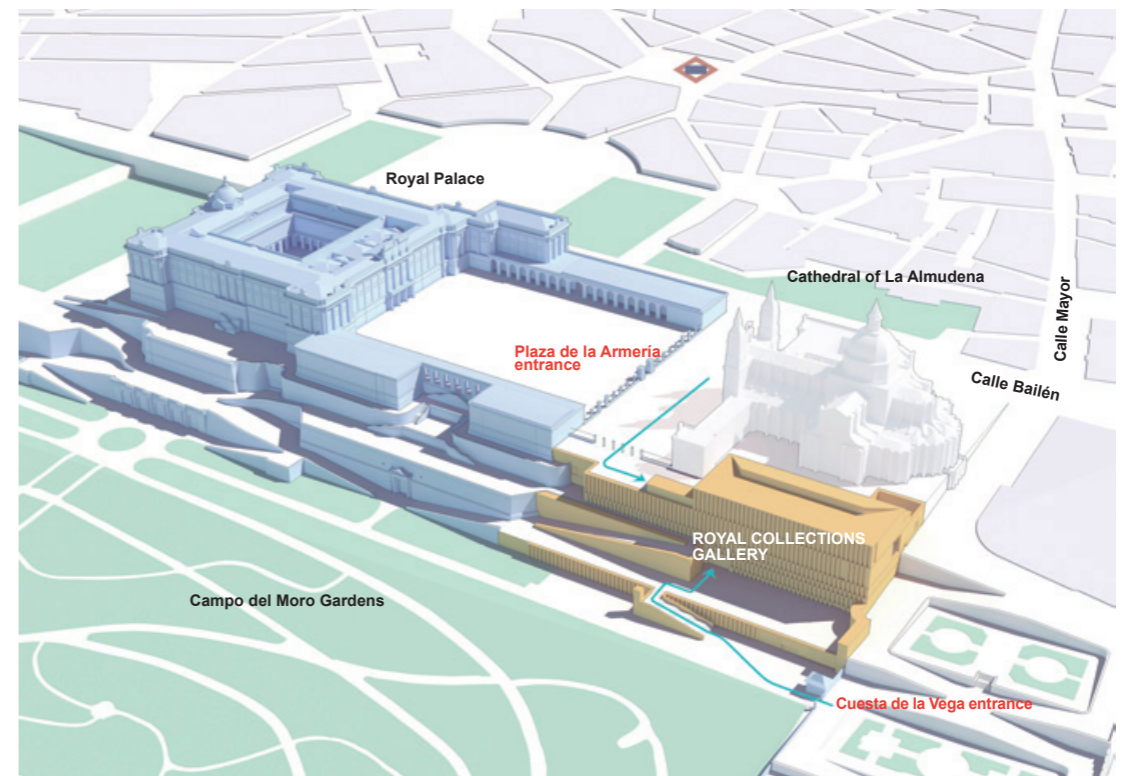
Spanish. English. French. Italian. German. Portuguese. Mandarin Chinese. Classical Chinese. Russian. Hungarian. Catalan. Galician. Basque. Japanese. Romanian. Arabic.

GROUP TOUR REQUIREMENTS

- Booking is mandatory.
- Tour groups must be at the Cuesta de la Vega / Campo del Moro Gardens entrance 15 minutes before the booked start time.
- All groups must be accompanied by their own official tour guide and use the tour guide system, except children under the age of 8.
- Group tours have a maximum duration of 2 hours and 15 minutes.



Entrance to the gallery from Plaza de la Armería



Ticket sales, information and bookings: www.galeriadelascoleccionesreales.es

For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es



DEL. BASILICA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE ATOCHA. TANTON DE ESPAÑA. SANTA DE SAN ANTONIO DE
Y DEL INFANTE DE EL ESCORIAL. BANQUER DE LA SEÑORÍA. REAL SEPTE DE SAN GONCALO PALACIO
MINAURIBIO DE VITTE. CHARTO ALTO DEL REAL ALCARAZ DE SEVILLA. PALACIO DE LA SEÑORÍA

2 Celebrate at the Gallery

Venue hire and private tours

The building that houses the Royal Collections Gallery boasts amazing spaces for holding receptions, tributes, corporate meetings, presentations, concerts, formal dinners or awards ceremonies. Plus, if an event is held during hours when the museum is closed to the general public, it can even include an exclusive tour of the gallery.

Its stunning exhibition halls contain a selection of some of the finest works of art in the royal collections. The gallery offers an illustrated stroll through Spanish history and culture, with a magnificent exhibition design that assembles

the best arts and crafts produced in every reign thanks to royal patronage. The diversity of these treasures is absolutely unique: paintings, sculptures, clocks, fans, furniture, tapestries, carpets, silks and the most remarkable decorative arts.

After a private tour of the exhibits, the building offers spaces of varying size in which guests can rest, enjoy aperitifs and hors d'oeuvres, have dinner or simply sip a glass of sparkling cava amid the perfect marriage of art, nature and architecture that is the Royal Collections Gallery.



For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es

Discover other locations managed by Patrimonio Nacional that can also accommodate unique events at <https://www.patrimoniocional.es/cesion-de-espacios>

To request information and arrange special tours during opening hours, write to: gestionvisitas@patrimoniocional.es



Venue
hire

Auditorium



An auditorium open to the landscape

The perfect place for ideas to flow freely. Endless vistas of greenery through the solid vertical windows and the warm materials chosen to accompany the white concrete guarantee the comfort of audiences, lecturers, speakers, artists, presenters, award winners, honourees and their guests in a versatile 360-square-metre space that comes fully furnished but is open to any kind of setup or activity.

The auditorium is preceded by a spacious vestibule with stunning views of the cathedral of La Almudena and Casa de Campo park, perfect for breaks, that also has dressing rooms, a guest speakers' room, storage, etc.

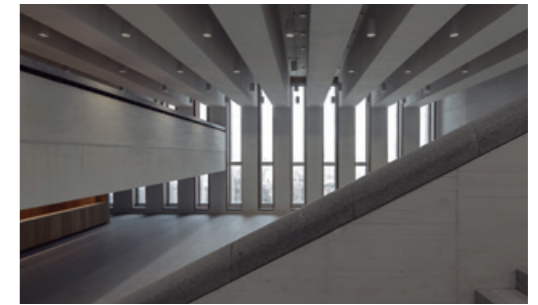
Size	Auditorium: 361 m² Auditorium vestibule: 220 m²
Capacity	Standing: 360 Seated: 340 Dining: 200
Cost	€4,500 for up to 3 hours €14,000 entire day
Access	From Plaza de la Armería, free of architectural barriers

For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es
Discover other locations managed by Patrimonio Nacional that can accommodate events at www.patrimoniocional.es/cesion-de-espacios

Level 0 vestibule

The best views of Madrid

The reception area of the Royal Collections Gallery is a large, impressive space with a double-height ceiling entered directly from Plaza de la Armería. Blinds and shutters can be drawn to dim the sunlight that floods into this west-facing hall, or flung wide open to take in the fabulous scenery and Velazquezian sky of Madrid, with the mountains in the distance. The vestibule is located near the café and cloakroom and has a large visitor services desk.



Size	520 m²
Capacity	Standing: 260 Seated: 260
Cost	Starting at €6,000
Access	From Plaza de la Armería, free of architectural barriers



For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es
Discover other locations managed by Patrimonio Nacional that can accommodate events at www.patrimoniocional.es/cesion-de-espacios

Archaeological Remains Gallery



Private dinners can be arranged in the Archaeological Remains Gallery, next to the oldest remnants from the founding of Madrid that have been found to date

A window onto the city's origins

The Archaeological Remains Gallery is an unusual space that offers a rare glimpse of the city's most ancient core: the ruins of Madrid's original defensive wall, a ninth-century survival inside a twenty-first-century building.

After hours, the Archaeological Remains Gallery is transformed into a spectacular venue for cocktail parties and private dinners.

Size	Gallery: 132 m2 Vestibule: 71.55 m2
Capacity	Seated: 65 Standing: 85 Vestibule: 30
Cost	€4,500 for up to 3 hours
Access	From the Campo del Moro Gardens or the viewpoint in Plaza de la Armería, free of architectural barriers

For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es
Discover other locations managed by Patrimonio Nacional that can accommodate events at www.patrimoniocional.es/cesion-de-espacios

Level -3 vestibule



The vestibule on Level -3 is ideal for summer events, as it opens onto the terrace overlooking the Campo del Moro Gardens

A grand entry hall

The spectacular architecture of the Level -3 lobby invites visitors to enjoy The Cube or the temporary exhibition at the end of their private tour of the Royal Collections Gallery.

This spacious venue boasts large windows facing the Campo del Moro Gardens, direct access from the terrace on the same level, its own cloakroom and toilets, and an ample information desk.

Size	Hall: 384 m2
Capacity	Seated (not including side corridors): 150 Standing: 192
Cost	Starting at €6,000
Access	From the Campo del Moro Gardens, free of architectural barriers

For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es
Discover other locations managed by Patrimonio Nacional that can accommodate events at www.patrimoniocional.es/cesion-de-espacios

Level -3 terrace



The great terrace

Overlooking the Campo del Moro Gardens, this grand terrace paved with granite blocks lies beneath the gallery's imposing vertical facade. It is an impressive setting for cocktail parties, concerts and shows against the backdrop of a stunning Madrid sunset.

There is also a smaller rectangular section of terrace that is ideal for cosy events with a limited number of guests.



Size	1,800 m ²
Capacity	900
Cost	Starting at €8,000
Access	From the Campo del Moro Gardens, free of architectural barriers

For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es
 Discover other locations managed by Patrimonio Nacional that can accommodate events at www.patrimoniocional.es/cesion-de-espacios

Multi-purpose room

Make work a pleasure

This singular space with views of one side of the cathedral of La Almodena was initially intended to host workshops organised by the Royal Collections Gallery's educational programme. The fully modular room is furnished with chairs and tables and divided into three areas by bookshelves, which can be removed if necessary. It is fitted with audiovisual equipment for meetings, lectures, screenings, training sessions and similar activities, and this space can be used to hold meetings while another event is going on in the adjacent auditorium.



Size	Gallery: 160 m ² Vestibule: 71.55 m ²
Capacity	Seated: 110 Standing: 166
Cost	€3,000 for up to 3 hours €8,000 entire day
Access	From Plaza de la Armería, free of architectural barriers

For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es
 Discover other locations managed by Patrimonio Nacional that can accommodate events at www.patrimoniocional.es/cesion-de-espacios

Level 0 terrace



A magical setting

Located by the main entrance (on Level 0) and connected to the gallery and its dining area by a lobby, this terrace is nestled between one side of the cathedral of La Almudena and the solid modernity of the Royal Collections Gallery building, a truly magical backdrop for any event.

This stone-paved square offers a private location with a separate entrance from the viewpoint in Plaza de la Armería. It has an expansive lateral view of the countryside, and when the lights come on at night, illuminating the cathedral's angles and edges and bringing the stained-glass windows to life, the effect is simply stunning.

Size	500 m2
Capacity	Seated: 250 Standing: 250
Cost	Starting at €7,000
Access	From the Plaza de la Armería viewpoint or the gallery café, free of architectural barriers

For venue hire or private after-hours tours, write to: alquilerdeespacios@patrimoniocional.es
Discover other locations managed by Patrimonio Nacional that can accommodate events at www.patrimoniocional.es/cesion-de-espacios

A private tour: The highlight of any event at the gallery

A guided tour of this astonishing building and its magnificent exhibits, after the museum closes to the public, is a truly unique experience. Here are just a few of the artworks that guests at events held in the gallery will be able to admire.



Louis-Michel Van Loo, *Equestrian Portrait of Philip V*, 1737. Oil on canvas



Joachim Patinir, *Landscape with Saint Christopher and the Christ Child*, about 1521. Oil on panel



Francisco de Goya, *Saint Elizabeth of Portugal Healing a Sick Woman*, 1816. Grisaille in tempera on twill-weave canvas



3



A gateway
to Patrimonio
Nacional

Magnificent royal palaces, convents and monasteries open to visitors

The Royal Collections Gallery is a splendid introduction and gateway to Spain's national heritage and the royal sites managed by Patrimonio Nacional. Its exhibits invite visitors to discover and admire our historic palaces, monasteries, convents, forests and gardens from a fresh perspective. Patrimonio Nacional keeps these monuments open to the public so that everyone can explore and enjoy them, and nature is a vital part of them, with over eighteen thousand hectares of green areas.

Some of the most remarkable palaces, monasteries and convents that comprise this vast historical, artistic and natural heritage are listed below:

Region of Madrid:

- Royal Palace of Madrid
- Royal Convents of La Encarnación and Las Descalzas Reales
- Royal Palace of El Pardo
- Royal Palace of Aranjuez (World Heritage Site)
- Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial (World Heritage Site)

Castile-Leon:

- Royal Palace of La Granja de San Ildefonso and its gardens
- Palace and forest of Riofrío
- Convent of Santa María la Real de Las Huelgas in Burgos
- Royal Convent of Santa Clara in Tordesillas

Balearic Islands:

- Royal Palace of La Almudaina in Palma, Mallorca

Extremadura:

- Monastery of San Jerónimo at Yuste



Palaces, convents and monasteries open to visitors

3.1

Ticket sales, information and bookings for royal sites managed by Patrimonio Nacional at www.patrimonionacional.es

To request information and arrange special or private tours, write to: gestionvisitas@patrimonionacional.es

THE ROYAL PALACE OF MADRID

History, art and protocol in a monumental setting

Built by the first Bourbon rulers of Spain in the eighteenth century on the ashes of the old Habsburg Alcázar, Madrid's Royal Palace is one of the largest in the world and among the few official residences of heads of state that are open to the public.

Strolling through the magnificent halls and rooms on the main floor, discovering the suits

of armour kept in its Royal Armoury (the most important in Europe along with the Imperial Armoury in Vienna) or touring the Royal Kitchen takes one back to a spectacular past, although this history exists amid a flurry of present-day activity: the halls and courtyards still host official ceremonies and cultural events such as concerts, poetry evenings, lectures or temporary exhibitions.



Royal Palace of Madrid. Solemn changing of the guard



Hall of Columns

OPENING HOURS

Winter (October to March): Monday to Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm

Sundays: 10 am to 4 pm

Summer (April to September): Monday to Saturday: 10 am to 7 pm

Sundays: 10 am to 4 pm

To see when the palace is closed for official events, visit <https://tickets.patrimonionacional.es/es-ES/cierres-oficiales>

TICKETS

Basic rate	€14
Guided tour	+ €6
Official tour guides and agencies	€12
Partial access	€6

Audio guide in 16 languages

Royal Kitchen

Check prices here

<https://tickets.patrimonionacional.es/es-ES/informacion-recinto/24/cocinas-palacio-real-de-madrid>



Royal Armoury

SPECIAL AND PRIVATE TOURS

Enjoy the Royal Palace in a more personal way, during or after opening hours. To book, write to: gestionvisitas@patrimonionacional.es

CONVENT OF LAS DESCALZAS REALES

The Habsburgs' feminine footprint in the heart of Madrid

Located in the heart of Madrid, the Convent of Las Descalzas Reales was founded by Joanna of Austria, youngest daughter of Emperor Charles V and princess of Portugal, who wanted to turn the palace where she had been born into a nunnery of Poor Clares. She made it her home upon returning from Portugal, and her body rests in the chapel that occupies the same space where she first came into the world.



The convent's spectacular staircase

The convent's sober facade belies the wealth it contains, a treasure trove of murals, paintings, elaborate Nativity scenes, reliquaries, tapestries and many other works of art that are part of its fascinating history. One of the most striking features of the original palatial residence is the main staircase decorated with mural paintings from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday–Saturday:
Mornings: 10 am to 2 pm
Afternoons: 4 to 6.30 pm
Sundays and holidays: 10 am to 3 pm
Last tickets sold and visitors admitted to the convent one hour before closing
Closed every Monday

All tours are guided:

Guided tour	€8
Agencies	€7

SPECIAL TOURS

Personalised tours of the Convent of Las Descalzas Reales can be arranged. To book, write to: gestionvisitas@patrimoniacionacional.es

ROYAL CONVENT OF LA ENCARNACIÓN

A spiritual oasis beside the Royal Palace of Madrid

The Convent of La Encarnación was founded in Madrid in 1611 by Philip III and his wife Margaret of Austria-Styria at the personal request of the queen, who saw what Princess Joanna of Portugal had done at Las Descalzas Reales and was determined to erect a similar nunnery near the old Alcázar that would be connected to it by a passageway.

Its classicist design follows the architectural models established by the disciples of Juan de Herrera at El Escorial, and between 1755 and 1775 Ventura Rodríguez decorated the whole interior of the convent church in an exquisite neoclassical style of Roman inspiration.



The stunning interior of the convent church

HORARIOS

Tuesday–Saturday:
Mornings: 10 am to 2 pm
Afternoons: 4 to 6.30 pm
Sundays and holidays: 10 am to 3 pm
Last tickets sold and visitors admitted to the convent one hour before closing
Closed every Monday

All tours are guided:

Guided tour	€8
Agencies	€7



Facade of the Convent of La Encarnación

SPECIAL TOURS

Personalised tours of the Convent of La Encarnación can be arranged. To book, write to: gestionvisitas@patrimoniacionacional.es

ROYAL SITE OF EL ESCORIAL

Enterprise of a monarch, anthology of an era

The monument that best embodies the ideological and cultural aspirations of the Spanish Golden Age is the Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, the most representative building of Philip II's reign, situated in the Sierra de Guadarrama and inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Some of its most striking spaces are the Courtyard of the Kings, the Basilica (a masterpiece of Spanish Renaissance architecture) and the Hall of Battles, which reflects the might of the Habsburg dynasty.



Library of the Royal Monastery of El Escorial

In addition to a rich and remarkable interior, home to one of the world's finest Renaissance libraries (known as the Regia Laurentina), the site boasts incredible natural scenery as it stands near La Herrería, a nearly 500-hectare forest noted for its great wildlife and ecological diversity. The Casita del Príncipe and Casita del Infante, two independent villas on the grounds, round out the visit, making this royal site one of the most popular tourist destinations in the region of Madrid.

OPENING HOURS

Winter (October to March):
Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 6 pm
Summer (April to September):
Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 7 pm
Last tickets sold and visitors admitted to the monastery one hour before closing
Closed every Monday
To see when the site is closed for official events, visit <https://tickets.patrimonionacional.es/es-ES/cierres-oficiales>

TICKETS

Individual	€14
Guide tour	+ €6
Audio guide in 16 languages	
Agencies	€12
Casita del Príncipe	€5
Casita del Infante	€3

SPECIAL TOURS

Personalised tours of the royal site of El Escorial can be arranged. To book, write to: gestionvisitas@patrimonionacional.es

ROYAL SITE OF ARANJUEZ

A cultural landscape on the World Heritage List

History and beauty permeate every corner of this royal site, which is part of the Aranjuez Cultural Landscape inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Surrounded by over 110 hectares of gardens open to visitors and located on a fertile plain at the convergence of the rivers Tagus and Jarama, the Royal Palace of Aranjuez was the Spanish monarchy's favourite place to spend the spring months.

The Bourbons never stopped adding to the splendour of this royal site, as evidenced by the amazingly lavish decoration of ceremonial halls such as the Queen's Boudoir, the Ballroom or the Banqueting Hall, and other exotic, surprising spaces like the Arab Room, the Porcelain Room or the Chinese Cabinet, hung with two hundred paintings that Isabella II received as a gift from the emperor of China in 1846.

OPENING HOURS

Winter (October to March):
Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 6 pm
Summer (April to September):
Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 7 pm
Last tickets sold and visitors admitted to the palace one hour before closing
Closed every Monday
To see when the site is closed for official events, visit <https://tickets.patrimonionacional.es/es-ES/cierres-oficiales>

TICKETS

Individual	€9
Guided tour	+ €6
Agencies	€7
Audio guide in 16 languages	

SPECIAL TOURS

Personalised tours of the royal site of Aranjuez can be arranged.

To book, write to: gestionvisitas@patrimonionacional.es



Facade of the Palace of Aranjuez at night

ROYAL PALACE OF EL PARDO

Nature and history

The Royal Palace of El Pardo has been the official residence of foreign heads of state on official visits since 1893. Spanish monarchs usually occupied it in winter, although it started out as a hunting lodge in the vicinity of the Woodlands of El Pardo. This invaluable nature area north of the capital is home to birds like the Spanish imperial eagle and cinereous vulture as well as many mammals, including red and fallow deer and wild boars.

Charles V had the palace built in the sixteenth century and left his mark on the crests and emblems that adorn the main entrance and courtyard galleries. The rooms are hung with important tapestry series, woven from cartoons signed by renowned artists like Francisco de Goya.



Courtyard of the Royal Palace of El Pardo, official residence of foreign heads of state

OPENING HOURS

Winter (October to March):
Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 6 pm
Summer (April to September):
Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 7 pm
Last tickets sold and visitors admitted to the palace one hour before closing
Closed every Monday
To see when the site is closed for official events, visit <https://tickets.patrimoniocional.es/es-ES/cierres-oficiales>

All tours are guided:

TICKETS

Guided tour	€9
Agencies	€7
Casa del Príncipe Don Carlos	€3

SPECIAL TOURS

Personalised tours of the Royal Palace of El Pardo can be arranged.

To book, write to:
gestionvisitas@patrimoniocional.es

ROYAL SITE OF LA GRANJA DE SAN ILDEFONSO

A French garden at the foot of the Sierra de Guadarrama

A spectacle of waterworks, gardens, and architecture with echoes of the French court: this is an apt description of the royal site of La Granja de San Ildefonso, at the foot of the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, which reflects the splendour of the Spanish monarchy in the eighteenth century. On this lovely spot, Philip V built a palace and a formal French-style garden, inspired by the grounds at Versailles, adorned with sculptures and fountains that reminded him of his childhood at the court of his grandfather, Louis XIV. Thanks to the abundance of water and the effective hydraulics, even today audiences can still enjoy the sight of jets spouting as high as forty metres above the ground.

The rich interior décor is complemented by the tapestry museum, which boasts one of the most splendid collections in the world, rivalled only by the one in Vienna.



View of the gardens and the Sierra de Guadarrama from the palace

SPECIAL TOURS

Personalised tours of the royal site of La Granja de San Ildefonso can be arranged. To book, write to:
gestionvisitas@patrimoniocional.es

OPENING HOURS

Winter (October to March):
Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 6 pm
Summer (April to September):
Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 7 pm
Last tickets sold and visitors admitted to the palace one hour before closing
Closed every Monday
To see when the site is closed for official events, visit <https://tickets.patrimoniocional.es/es-ES/cierres-oficiales>

TICKETS

Individual	€9
Guided tour	+ €6
Agencies	€7
Audio guide in 16 languages	



The historical fountains still work today

ROYAL SITE OF RIOFRÍO

Regal architecture and natural splendour



The impressive facade of the Royal Palace of Riofrío

Surrounded by more than six hundred hectares of wooded land with amazing biodiversity, the Royal Palace of Riofrío is one of Patrimonio Nacional's lesser-known gems. The building stands in the heart of the Riofrío forest, a natural enclave of great ecological value just nine kilometres outside Segovia inhabited by more than one hundred different wildlife species.

The Palace of Riofrío is noted for its stylistic uniformity and elegant, harmonious appearance, with an Italianate architecture that echoes the classicism of Roman palaces. Patrimonio Nacional has worked to achieve historical restitution, enrichment and a modernised

visitor experience; as a result, the palace now contains over five hundred works of art, and spaces like the Billiards Room, the service area off the Dining Room, the bedchamber of King Francis of Assisi and the oratory have recovered their original functions.

OPENING HOURS

Winter (October to March):

Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 6 pm

Summer (April to September):

Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am to 7 pm

Last tickets sold and visitors admitted to the palace one hour before closing

Closed every Monday

To see when the site is closed for official events, visit <https://tickets.patrimoni nacional.es/es-ES/cierres-oficiales>

TICKETS

Individual	€7
Guided tour	+ €6
Audio guide in 16 languages	
Agencies	€6

SPECIAL TOURS

Personalised tours of the royal site of Riofrío can be arranged.

To book, write to:
gestionvisitas@patrimoni nacional.es



3.2

Unique venues for special events

The Royal Collections Gallery is the premier venue for events in Madrid, but it is not the only one that Patrimonio Nacional has to offer. In addition to the locations listed on the website www.galeriadelascoleccionesreales.es, the following palaces and gardens provide singular cultural and natural settings in which to hold conferences, gatherings, meetings, receptions, etc.

Casa de las Flores at La Granja de San Ildefonso in Segovia

This nineteenth-century building on the edge of the grounds of the royal site of La Granja, at the back of the Potager (Potosí) Garden, was used as a greenhouse or conservatory for delicate species and orange trees, as attested by the botanical plates displayed in one of its rooms. The main hall, with over three hundred square metres, opens directly onto a garden with delicate parterre beds and a water lily pond.

Size	Main hall: 309 m² Secondary hall: 80 m² Breakfast room: 50 m²
Capacity	Capacity of main hall: 200 Capacity of secondary hall: 60
Cost	€4,500 morning or afternoon €8,000 entire day
Location	Royal site of La Granja de San Ildefonso, 77 km outside Madrid



Facade of the Casa de las Flores at the royal site of La Granja de San Ildefonso

Palace of the Villa of the Duke of Arco in Madrid

This recreational villa, presented to Philip V as a gift by the widow of the Duke of Arco, stands in the Woodlands of El Pardo. With a floor area of approximately one thousand square metres divided among fifteen rooms, its layout is

reminiscent of the Palace of La Zarzuela, and its halls retain impressive specimens of nineteenth-century wallpaper. Outside is an 800-square-metre esplanade from which to admire the palace's splendid late Baroque garden.

Size	Main hall: 110 m² Total surface area: 920 m²
Capacity	Capacity of main hall: 70 otal capacity: 150
Cost	€4,500 morning or afternoon €8,000 entire day
Location	Woodlands of El Pardo



Esplanade before the facade of the Palace of the Villa



A room inside the Palace of the Villa of the Duke of Arco

To ask about other historic venues for hire, write to:
alquilerdeespacios@patrimonionacional.es

