

ESSENTIAL MUSEUMS

in Spain



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Front Cover: Prado Museum, Madrid.
 Photo: nito500/123rf.com
 Back cover: National Museum of Roman Art, Mérida.

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INTRODUCTION

Spain is the perfect destination for enjoying art. There are over **1,600 museums** and some of the most important collections in the world.

The blend of cultures and civilisations in mainland Spain has left a cultural heritage which is both vast and valuable.

Here you can visit the extraordinary Paseo del Arte or Art Walk in Madrid with some of the best collections of paintings in the world. The **Prado Museum**, the **Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum** and the **Reina Sofía Museum** alone would justify a visit to Spain's capital.

Exhibited here, as well as in other fascinating places like the **Picasso Museum in Barcelona**, the **Dalí Theatre-Museum** in Figueres and the **Fine Arts Museum in Seville**, you'll find some of the best works by the greatest Spanish artists.

From Roman Hispania in the **National Museum of Roman Art in Mérida** to the latest trends in contemporary art in the **Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (IVAM)** in Valencia, the **Guggenheim** in Bilbao and the **Pompidou Centre in Málaga**, a visit to our museums is a truly rewarding journey through history.

Somewhere between the distant past and a promising future you have select



works by masters of great stature like **Velázquez, Murillo, Zurbarán** and **Goya**, who symbolised the evolution of painting in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. At the beginning of the 20th century the modern art movement came to the fore, with leading players like **Picasso, Juan Gris** and **Joan Miró**. They were followed by the sculptural cubism of **Julio González**, the surrealism of **Dalí** and **Maruja Mallo...** and onto the unique works of **Eduardo Chillida** and **Jorge Oteiza**.

If you'd like to take advantage of your trip to Spain to discover some of these temples to art, then you're in luck. Spain has excellent transport infrastructure so it's really easy to get around, with numerous connections by plane, high-speed train and the freedom you enjoy from our comprehensive road network.

Come and discover museums which are a work of art in themselves and the artistic treasures they exhibit.

15 ESSENTIAL MUSEUMS



pr/123r.com

▲ PRADO MUSEUM
MADRID

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EL PRADO

As you stroll along the Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, a landscape of Arts and Sciences awarded the UNESCO World Heritage designation, the first thing you see will be the slender, monumental building of the El Prado Museum. It is Neoclassical in style and surrounded by gardens and it is well worth stopping for a moment to admire the Doric façade, with numerous columns, medallions and female sculptures.

You soon reach the **statue of Velázquez**, which gives the name to the gate which

was originally exclusively for monarchs and dignitaries.

As you enter, you'll be surprised by a circle of columns capped by a dome in the centre of which stands an enormous 16th century bronze sculpture of **Carlos V and the Fury**. Nearby is the start of the great gallery, the focal point of the museum and the heart of El Prado. Here there is a blend of paintings by European great masters, sculptures and decorative objects.

If you're here for the day, the best thing is study each painting and hall in detail. But if you really don't have much time, the museum's website will suggest a number of short itineraries so you don't end up missing the essential works. With a special pass (for groups of from 12 to 30 people), you can visit the museum exclusively before the doors open to the public.

The museum houses a good many works by **Velázquez** and **Goya**. *The Triumph of Bacchus*, *Christ Crucified* and *The Spinners* by Velázquez, and *The Naked Maja*, *The Clothed Maja* and *The 3rd of May in Madrid*, by Goya, are some good examples of these. Other outstanding

Spanish artists in the collection include **Murillo**, **Ribera**, **Morales** and **Sorolla**.

Apart from Spanish painters, there are works by Italian, Flemish, French, German, Dutch and British grand masters... Some really well known like *The Nobleman with his Hand on his Chest* by **El Greco**, *The Three Graces* by **Rubens**, *The Garden of Earthly Delights* by **Bosch** and *Adam and Eve* by **Dürer**. Then there are works by **Titian**, **Caravaggio**, **Raphael**, **Fra Angelico** and **Rembrandt**, to name just a few, which make El Prado one of the best collections in the world.

To complete your visit, you should go to the museum's extension designed





Photo: Visions Of America LLC/123rf.com

▲ DETAIL OF *LAS MENINAS* BY VELÁZQUEZ
EL PRADO MUSEUM, MADRID

by the Spanish architect **Rafael Moneo**, where you'll find a café, the shop and a number of information points.

One of the most interesting features of the extension is the renovated **Cloister of Los Jerónimos**, a unique area displaying El Prado's excellent collection of sculptures and where new temporary exhibitions are held. The outer door is a work of art made of bronze by the sculptor **Cristina Iglesias**.

THE STAR OF THE SHOW

Las Meninas, Velázquez

Painted in 1656, it is one of the crowning works of Spanish and universal art. A masterpiece of layout and perspectives, where the artist challenges the customs of the time by painting himself together with the family of Philip IV of Spain and his servants. It is one of Velázquez' greatest works, in which he tried to capture the feeling of life and reality by painting an everyday scene from life in the Madrid Alcázar. It inspired **Goya** nearly two hundred years later to paint his famous work, *Charles IV of Spain and His Family*, which you can also see here.

① For more information and to buy entry tickets, go to: www.museodelprado.es

REINA SOFÍA NATIONAL ART CENTRE MUSEUM

One of the best museums in Madrid is very near Atocha station and the Paseo del Prado. It was designed to be the continuation in time of the works exhibited in the Prado Museum, and exhibits modern and contemporary art in two unique, interconnected buildings.

The museum's main collection can be found in the **Sabatini building**, formerly an 18th century Madrid hospital. The most eye-catching feature is the twin steel and glass, panoramic lift towers. Get your camera ready, as you'll have wonderful views from the top of the tower over the square outside and part of the city.

Inside the gallery you'll find one of the finest collections of Spanish art, with important artists like **Pablo Picasso**, **Salvador Dalí**, **Joan Miró**, **Juan Gris** and **Antoni Tàpies**. They are accompanied by important works by artists from all over the world and in every imaginable format, with contributions by **Kandinsky**, **Francis Bacon**, **Diego Rivera**, **Robert Delaunay** and **Yves Klein**.

Some of the incredible works on display are *Figure at the Window* and *The Great Masturbator* by Dalí; *Man with a Pipe* and *Painting (Snail, Woman, Flower, Star)* by Miró; *Pink Bells, Tattered Skies*, by René Magritte, and *Lying Figure*, by Francis Bacon, and so many more.



▲ REINA SOFÍA NATIONAL ART MUSEUM
MADRID

In the centre of the building there is a delightful gardened patio with fountains and sculptures, an ideal spot to relax for a while. You can then continue by visiting the new area designed by the French architect **Jean Nouvel** which features an enormous, triangular red ceiling.



REINA SOFÍA NATIONAL ART MUSEUM
MADRID

In the central courtyard you are greeted by a large **Roy Lichtenstein** statue. From here you can access the part of the museum's collection found in two of its floors.

The Reina Sofía also organises numerous workshops, temporary exhibitions and cultural activities throughout the year. There is also an impressive public library and documentation centre on the ground floor in the Nouvel wing. The cafeteria-restaurant is an array of colours and flavours, you can enjoy a *brunch* on the terrace or a delicious dinner accompanied by a DJ in unique surroundings.

THE STAR OF THE SHOW

Guernica, Picasso

The most famous work in this museum is this enormous painting, and in the neighbouring halls you can also view sketches and photos depicting the creative process. The scene represented by Picasso in this historic painting was inspired by the bombing by German and Italian aircraft (who fought alongside the faction which rebelled against the Government of the Second Republic during the Spanish Civil War) of the Basque town which gave its name to the work. It is a true reflection of the era and its dramatic circumstances and the painting is an overwhelming outcry against barbarity and war, which has become a universally recognisable icon.

📍 *For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to:*
www.museoreinasofia.es



Photo: gkirm/123rf.com

COLECCIÓN CARMEN THYSSEN- BORNEMISZA

SALAS ROOMS A — H

Desde que comencé a adquirir obras de arte a mediados de la década de 1980, con una pasión que debo a mi marido, el barón Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, he admirado la espléndida capacidad que tienen las obras de arte para emocionar y unir a las seres humanos. Siempre he sentido que el arte no es para uno solo y que debe ser compartido.

From the time when I began to acquire works of art in the 1980s with a passion that I owe to my husband, Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, I have been profoundly impressed by the remarkable capacity that works of art have to move and unite human beings. I have always felt that art is not for one person alone and should be shared.

CARMEN THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA



▲ THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA MUSEUM
MADRID

THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA MUSEUM

Almost at the start of the Paseo del Prado, very near the Neptuno Fountain, there is a lovely garden through which you can access this Museum which aims to provide a comprehensive presentation of Western art and the history of painting. It is located in **Villahermosa Palace**, an old, aristocratic stately home restored by Rafael Moneo, who has been able to create a beautiful museum that is totally adapted to modern times.

The collection reflects the tastes of its founders, the Thyssen-Bornemisza family, who have spent many years building up a collection which includes prominent

works by **Raphael, Titian, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Picasso, Juan Gris, Degas and Hopper**, to name just a few from an impressive list of prominent artists. There are also sculptures by **Auguste Rodin**, a personal friend of the family.

You'll be amazed by the 3-dimensional effect of the ***Annunciation Diptych*** by **Van Eyck**. The artists tricks you into thinking that the figures are real statues made of stone. Admire **Caravaggio's** chiaroscuro technique in his painting of ***Saint Catherine of Alexandria*** and the surprising pop art of ***Woman in Bath*** by **Roy Lichtenstein**, who adopted the lan-



▲ THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA MUSEUM
MADRID

guage of the comic to revolutionise art in the 1960s.

The museum also provides several themed tours with an audio guide, such as a journey through the evolution of fashion, art in jewellery and gastronomy in painting, all of which are unique ways of experiencing the collection.

This museum completes the tour known as the Paseo del Arte or Art Walk. You can purchase a Paseo del Arte ticket to visit the permanent collections in the El Prado, Reina Sofía and Thyssen-Bornemisza museums, which will help you avoid having to queue up at each one.

You may also find Paseo del Arte imprescindible (Essential Art Walk) very practical. It is a free APP for mobile phones which functions as an audio guide covering 24 masterpieces in the three museums.



Photo: © Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza

▲ SWAYING DANCER (DANCER IN GREEN) BY EDGAR DEGAS
THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA MUSEUM, MADRID

FEATURED WORK

Swaying Dancer (Dancer in Green), Edgar Degas

The impressionists aimed to express the moment, capturing the light, colour and movement. And at this Degas was a true master. This can be seen in works like this which was painted with his characteristic pastel shades on paper, between 1877 and 1879. He was very interested in ballet as the study of the body in movement, and here the French artist reveals the influence of Japanese engraving and photography on his work, creating a scene which appears to be cut like a photograph taken from one of the theatre's boxes.

📍 *For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.museothyssen.org*



Photo: © Patrimonio Nacional

▲ GALLERY OF THE ROYAL COLLECTIONS
MADRID

GALLERY OF THE ROYAL COLLECTIONS MADRID

It is nearly 40,000 square metres in area. However, its building is invisible from the esplanade between the Royal Palace and the Almudena Cathedral. This is because it was built vertically, as the top of the cornice that opens onto the Campo del Moro gardens, for its perfect integration into the surroundings of the palace complex. A fascinating design, conceived by Emilio Tuñón and Luis M. Mansilla, worthy of a dozen important architecture awards.

Go to Plaza de la Armería for the main access, while the entrance for groups is located on the Cuesta de la Vega. Insi-

de, the natural light and the incredible views of the Campo del Moro and the Casa de Campo Park follow you along an extraordinary journey through the culture and history of the Spanish monarchy, with the 650 works that make up the permanent collection of the Gallery of Royal Collections.

Four imposing **Solomonic columns of Churriguera**, six metres high, welcome you on a descending visit, where valuable paintings, sculptures, tapestries, armour, carriages, furniture and decorative arts

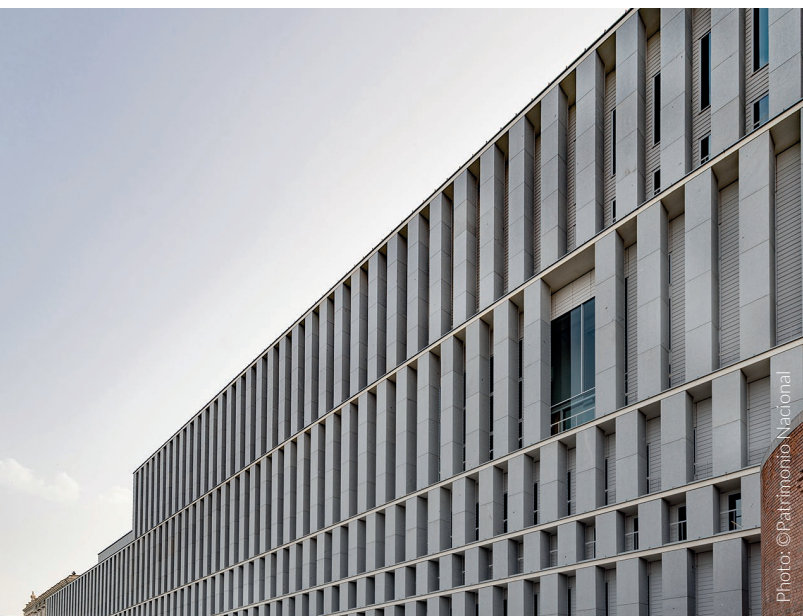


Photo: © Patrimonio Nacional

▲ GALLERY OF THE ROYAL COLLECTIONS
MADRID

can be found in floors -1 and -2. Floor -3 is reserved for temporary exhibitions and for the immersive space called El Cubo.

Don't miss the mastery of **Caravaggio** and his **Salome with the Head of John the Baptist**. Look at the beautiful miniatures of the **Polyptych of Queen Isabella**, by **Juan of Flandes**. Revel in the exquisite tapestries, depicting scenes created by **Goya** such as **The Swing**; or admire the singular **A White Horse** by **Velázquez**, without a rider.

In addition, you can learn through videos, models and other resources about the royal sites managed by Patrimonio Nacional such as El Escorial, La Granja and Aranjuez, as well as the important research, documentation and conservation work they carry out.



Photo: © Patrimonio Nacional

▲ THE BLACK CHARIOT
GALLERY OF THE ROYAL COLLECTIONS, MADRID

THE STAR OF THE SHOW

The black carriage

One of the oldest surviving carriages. It belonged to Queen Marianne of Austria, the second wife of the Spanish King Philip IV. It is an example of the French *grand carrosse* model, which the court of Louis XIV nurtured as a paradigm of luxury in Europe. Aside from admiring its delicate carving and great decorative richness, you may wonder why it is black. The reason is that its walnut wood was dyed to imitate the color of ebony, an exotic and highly appreciated material at the time of its manufacturing, the last third of the 17th century.

📍 *For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.galeriadelas-coleccionesreales.es/*

LÁZARO GALDIANO MUSEUM MADRID

On the central Serrano street is the **Parque Florido palace**, the early 20th-century building that houses this museum. Inside, you can see the collection of works of art assembled by the editor José Lázaro Galdiano throughout his life between Madrid, New York and Paris.

Before entering, take a leisurely stroll through its gardens and relax outside the palace that houses the 12,600 pieces in the collection. The museum exhibits nearly 4,800 across four floors. On the ground floor, you will find works by authors such as **Teniers, Mengs, El Greco, Zurbarán, Reynolds** or **Sánchez Coello**, in addition to the dazzling **Treasure Chamber**, with one of the best European examples of civil silverware and jewelry.

When you go up to the first floor, you will find a wealth of Spanish art from the 15th to 14th centuries, including painting, sculpture, furniture and decorative arts. This is where you can admire the magnificent set of canvases by **Goya**, with works as representative as **Witches' Sabbath** and **The Witches**. Higher up, the rooms on the second floor offer you a careful selection of pieces belonging to the most important European schools. Some examples are **St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness** by **Hieronymus Bosch**, **The Lane from East Bergholt to Flatford** by **John Constable**



▲ LÁZARO GALDIANO MUSEUM
MADRID

and **Young Christ Adored by St John the Baptist** by **Lucas Cranach**.



LÁZARO GALDIANO MUSEUM
MADRID

The top floor is dedicated to the so-called "Collector's Cabinet". Its display cases and drawers show everything, from coins and textiles to medals and weapons. You will also discover delicate ceramics, enamels, ivories, glass, bronzes, sculptures and silverware. Take your time to visit it, because you will be enjoying the collection of a lifetime.



LÁZARO GALDIANO MUSEUM
MADRID

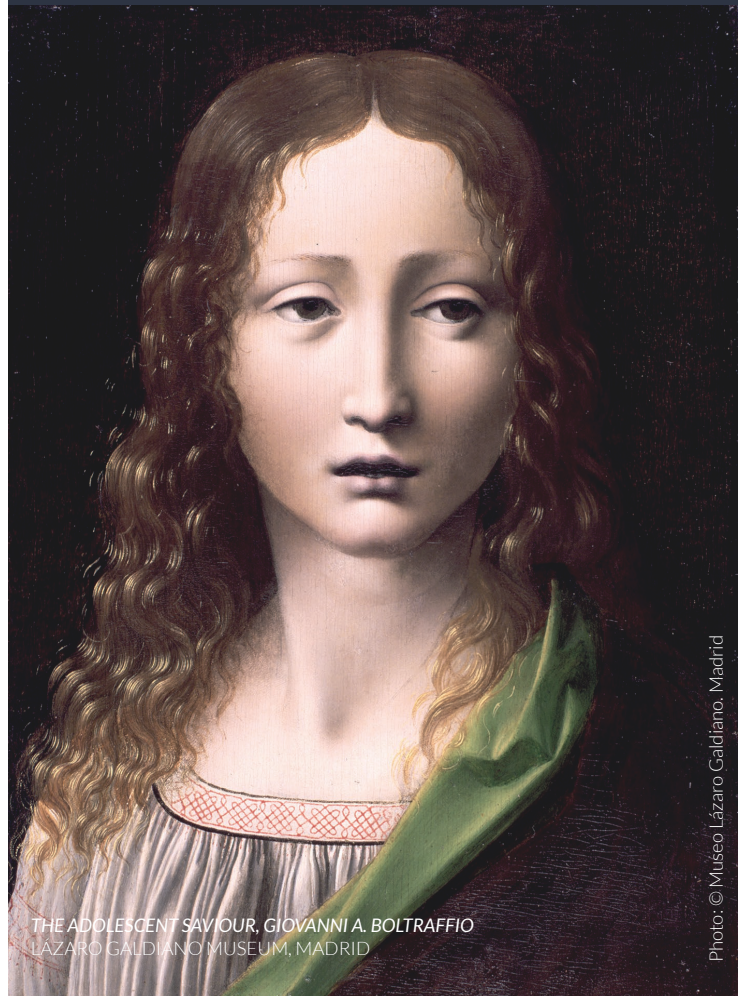
Photo: © Museo Lázaro Galdiano, Madrid

STAR EXHIBIT

The Adolescent Saviour, Giovanni A. Boltraffio

Due to the multiple interests pursued by Leonardo da Vinci, the number of paintings bearing the signature of the Renaissance genius is very small. In fact, many of the "lost originals" commonly used to explain the creation of his works were drawings, not paintings. An example is this exquisite Lombard panel, made at the end of the Quattrocento by Boltraffio, Leonardo's most gifted Milanese disciple, based on an original design by the master and under his direct supervision.

① For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.flg.es/



THE ADOLESCENT SAVIOUR, GIOVANNI A. BOLTRAFFIO
LÁZARO GALDIANO MUSEUM, MADRID

Photo: © Museo Lázaro Galdiano, Madrid

GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM BILBAO

The Guggenheim Museum looks like a titanium ocean-going liner anchored in the Bilbao Estuary. Each of the sides has a different façade resulting from the intricate shapes and forms created by the **architect Frank Gehry**. A sculptural structure which blends perfectly into the Bilbao skyline and the surrounding area, it has become an undisputed icon of the city.

The outside of the building is a work of art. The metallic reflective panels on the façade shine with different colours, depending on the time of day and the weather conditions. If you're already fascinated by the Guggenheim's shapes, be prepared for the gigantic sculptures like **Puppy**, the iconic dog by **Jeff Koons** that stands guard in front of the museum, and **The Tall Tree and The Eye**, a creation by **Anish Kapoor** composed of 80 stainless-steel spheres.

Once inside, you'll discover one of the world's most unique museums. The Guggenheim's three levels are organised around a central atrium. Gehry uses titanium, glass and limestone to connect the different areas via curved walkways, lifts and towered staircases. In this museum no two galleries are the same. This means that you are constantly being surprised, alternating large-format works with others which are much more intimate.





▲ GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM
BILBAO

The permanent collection starts with the second half of the 20th century, taking us right up to the present and may be defined as contemporary art in capital letters. Here you'll find, for example, a pop image of **Marilyn Monroe** repeated in series by **Andy Warhol**, contrasting with *Barge*, a large-format silkscreen on canvas by **Robert Rauschenberg**. The list of prominent artists present in the Guggenheim is endless: **Miquel Barceló**, **Antoni Tàpies**, **Anselm Kiefer**, **Gerhard Richter**, **Jean-Michel Basquiat**, **James Rosenquist**... There are also sculptures by the Basque masters **Eduardo Chillida** and **Jorge Oteiza**.

You really shouldn't miss *The Matter of Time* by **Richard Serra**. Eight enormous steel sculptures which invite you to walk around them and discover their interior with absolute freedom. Examining the narrow passageways and winding curves is an unforgettable experience. The works are displayed in a majestic, column-free gallery, the largest in the whole museum. Experience the feeling of movement which emanates from each piece, then climb up to the look-out point to look at them from above.

To make your experience as comprehensive as possible, the museum has a visitor centre, a shop, a bookshop, a café, a bistro-type restaurant and a gastronomic restaurant with one Michelin star where you can enjoy real culinary works of art.

THE STAR OF THE SHOW

Maman, Louise Bourgeois

A walk amongst the sharp legs of the giant bronze, steel and marble spider which is displayed at the rear of the museum is quite an experience. Its disturbing aspect embodies a number of meanings. According to this French artist, it symbolises the two sides of maternity, it is both a cage and a shelter.

📍 *For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to:*
www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus



Photo: Isabel Fernandez Fernandez/123rf.com

▲ MAMAN, LOUISE BOURGEOIS
GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, BILBAO



▲ MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS OF BILBAO

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS OF BILBAO

It is located just 10 minutes walk from the Guggenheim Museum, next to Doña Casilda Park. With more than a hundred years of history, this museum welcomes its visitors in a renovated building, which combines its traditional architecture with the modern equipment of contemporary museums.

Its rooms hold representative works of the main authors, styles and schools of Western art. You will be surprised by the list of masters you can find: **El Greco**, **Zurbarán**, **Murillo**, **Zuloaga**, **Goya**, **Sor-**

rolla, **Gauguin**, **Francis Bacon**, **Eduardo Chillida**, **Antoni Tàpies**, **Miquel Barceló** and **Richard Serra** are just some of the names, among many others.

You will be able to admire countless pieces, from the characteristic elongated figures and colours of **El Greco** in **Anunciación**, to the virtuosity of **Zuloaga** with the **Portrait of Countess Mathieu de Noailles**, to a magnificent **Lucretia** by **Lucas Cranach the Elder** or still life by **Miquel Barceló Des potirons (Pumpkins)**.

The museum's collection, which includes more than 2,000 paintings and nearly 500 sculptures, also features drawings, prints, posters and photographs. It also has a decorative art set made up of around 800 pieces, including the Palacio collection of Japanese art and a series of ceramics from Manises from the 14th and 15th centuries.



▲ *LAVEUSES À ARLES (WASHERWOMEN IN ARLES)*, PAUL GAUGUIN
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS OF BILBAO

STAR EXHIBIT

Laveuses à Arles (Washerwomen in Arles), Paul Gauguin

This is the first Gauguin painting to enter a Spanish public collection. He painted it in 1888, during his stay in the French town of Arles, where he had gone at Van Gogh's invitation. The piece reflects his interest in expressing his personal view of reality above mere formal representation, a characteristic that would lead him to definitively break with impressionism. In front of the canvas, look at its most outstanding elements, such as the abstraction of its backgrounds, the sensation of movement and the influence of photography in its composition and in capturing the transience of the moment.

📍 *For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.bilbaomuseoa.es/*



▲ MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
OF BILBAO



Photo: sportgraphic/123rf.com

▲ PICASSO MUSEUM
BARCELONA

PICASSO MUSEUM BARCELONA

A stroll through the magical, narrow alleyways of the Gothic Quarter will take you to the Calle de Montcada, where you'll find this gallery which is essential for any visit to Barcelona. The Picasso Museum occupies five Gothic mansions from the 13th and 14th centuries which have been appropriately restored and refurbished to provide total immersion in the life and works of this genius from Málaga.

During his childhood and early years, Picasso had an intimate connection with Barcelona, the city to which Jaume Sabartés, his secretary and friend, donated his collection of works from this period of apprenticeship and from the

last years of his life. The museum gives you the chance to discover the strong links Picasso had with the city. You'll be surprised by his dexterity and the strength of his lines when he was only 15 years old, in one of his first self-portraits and those depicting his parents.

As you visit the different galleries comprising these five mansions, you can accompany Picasso as he progressively increases his mastery of techniques and artistic styles, with such representative works as *Harlequin, Science and Charity* and the Cubist series of *Las Meninas*, a critical study of the famous painting by Velázquez.

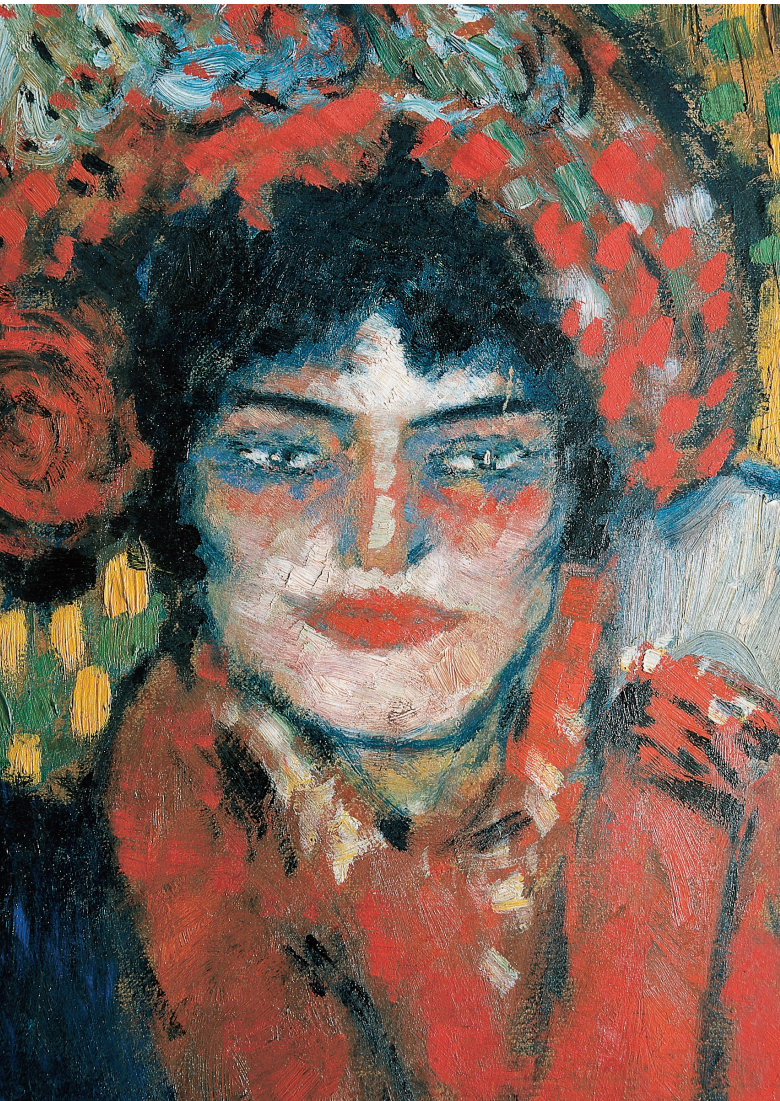
You really shouldn't miss the **sketches for *Guernica***, his most important work, his beautiful **ceramics** and the collection of **engravings** exhibited in another of the galleries.

To complement the magnificent works displayed in the museum, there is a bookshop with a comprehensive selection of books, objects and souvenirs based on the most emblematic works of this genius from Málaga.

The Picasso Museum may also be the starting point for the Picasso Route in Barcelona, a tour of the different places where he lived with his family, his first painting studio, and the Giants' Frieze on the façade of the Catalonia College of Architects.



▲ PICASSO MUSEUM
BARCELONA



THE STAR OF THE SHOW

The Wait (Margot), Picasso

An explosion of colour depicting the Parisian nightlife that Picasso discovered at the beginning of the 20th century. Take a closer look at this mysterious woman dressed in red and focus on the broad brushstrokes and the black silhouette around the body, influenced by Van Gogh and Toulouse-Lautrec.

📍 *For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.museupicassobcn.cat/es*

INSTITUT VALENCIÀ D'ART MODERN, IVAM

Opposite the park in the Turia Gardens, the IVAM building houses some of Spain's best contemporary works of art. Visit the translucent galleries, with huge windows providing so much light, and discover great works of art by the sculptor **Julio González** and the painter **Ignacio Pinazo**, essential points of reference for the beginning of the modern era in Spain.

If you're interested in the most up-to-date contemporary art, then you'll love the temporary exhibitions displaying the latest video art and the most fashionable artistic trends. If you prefer something a little more classical, its collection of works by historical avant-garde artists is one of the most important in Spain, with international personalities like **Jean Arp**, **Alexander Calder**, **Paul Klee**, **Robert Delaunay**... It would not be complete without pop art and other artistic expressions which have arisen since the 1960s and 1970s.





Photo: radub85/123rf.com



Photo: radub85/123rf.com

INSTITUT VALÈNCIÀ D'ART MODERN, IVAM
VALENCIA

The IVAM's collection includes all the artistic disciplines. Apart from painting and sculpture, there are galleries dedicated to graphic design, photomontage and photography by some of the 20th century's masters like **Man Ray**, **Robert Capa** and **Brassai**.

But perhaps the most surprising gallery in the museum is the **Sala de la Muralla**, used for temporary exhibitions. In the centre of the gallery, and crossing it from end to end, there are the preserved remains of the old medieval city wall of Valencia. A sharp contrast between the city's historical past and the contemporary works of art hanging on the walls.

After your visit, nothing could be better than to take a drink on the nice terrace with lovely views of the surrounding Turia Gardens.



Photo: IVAM

▲ INSTITUT VALENCIÀ D'ART MODERN, IVAM
VALENCIA



Photo: IVAM

THE STAR OF THE SHOW

Woman in the Mirror, Julio González

This cubist sculpture contains all the characteristics of Julio González who was considered to be "the master of iron". This artist, who collaborated with Picasso in the 1930s, put all his imaginative spirit into artistically welding iron sheets and bars. You could spend hours contemplating this major work of modernist sculpture, in which the profile of a woman reflected in the mirror can be discerned amongst abstract forms and different perspectives. It is part of the exhibition entitled *Constellations by Julio González. Between Representation and Abstraction*, which you can see in Gallery 2 of the museum by booking beforehand.

📍 For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.ivam.es

DALÍ THEATRE-MUSEUM FIGUERES

Going into the Dalí Theatre-Museum is like looking through the keyhole into this brilliant artist's subconscious.

More than a museum, this is an incredible journey to the heart of surrealism, the definitive work of art by the most elusive Spanish artist.

You'll see it raining inside a car, Mae West's lips turned into a sofa and amazing jewels in the form of an elephant. A dream, an illusion, or the largest surrealist object in the world? All this and so much more.

Here, nothing is what it seems to be. All the works have a double meaning, big and small secrets which are an essential feature of the experience of visiting the galleries without a pre-established route.

"*I am surrealism*", he declared, and this unique museum is proof of that. He designed it himself over what were the ruins of the Figueres Municipal Theatre, there are golden bread loaves on the façade and a parapet topped by giant eggs which is just a precursor for the outrageous experience which awaits you inside.

You won't find any explanatory panels and there is no chronological order for you to follow. All the stages of his artis-



▲ DALÍ THEATRE-MUSEUM
FIGUERES

tic career are represented, from his early impressionist, pointillist and futurist creations, to the surrealist installations and paintings from the final years of his life. Dalí himself is buried here, in a crypt below the stage under a great slab of granite.



Photo: Iakov Filimonov/123rf.com

Just let yourself go and look at it through the eyes of a child looking for games, symbols and dialogues between the different works created by Dalí.



Photo: Pavel Lipskiy/123rf.com

The surprises are never ending: a huge glass **geodesic dome** that lights up the night sky, a **deconstructed portrait of Abraham Lincoln** which recomposes when looked at through a lens, **large golden mannequins** in different postures... And constant reminders of **Gala**, who was his life-long muse and companion.

Apart from the works by Dalí, in the **Gallery of Masterpieces** you can enjoy part of his private collection, with works by some of his favourite artists, including **Meissonier, El Greco, Marcel Duchamp** and **Bougereau**. An extension to the building houses another treasure of incalculable value: a collection of jewellery designed by this genius born in Empordà, with precious stones transformed into fantastic designs.

Mae West Room, Salvador Dalí

Art was just a toy in Dalí's hands. This can be seen here, as he converted the American actress's face into a furnished apartment: the eyes are two paintings of the Seine, a chimney represents the nose and a sofa becomes her mouth. You can walk around the apartment and observe each detail from close up and then climb the stairs to view the portrait of the Hollywood star in three dimensions through a special magnifying glass.

📍 *For further information go to:*
www.salvador-dali.org/es/museos/

▼ MAE WEST ROOM, SALVADOR DALÍ
 DALÍ THEATRE-MUSEUM





Photo: © Enrico Cano

▲ CENTRO BOTÍN
SANTANDER

CENTRO BOTÍN, SANTANDER

This art centre stands in a privileged location in the city, in the historic Pereda gardens, overlooking the bay of Santander. Light and lightness are the keys to the building designed by the architect and Pritzker Prize winner, **Renzo Piano**. Conceived as a “dock” over the sea, its structure is suspended on pillars and columns that rise to the height of the treetops, integrating with the environment and providing fabulous views of

the Cantabrian Sea.

Its content is the art collection of the Botín Foundation, specialised in contemporary art, with works on different media and formats, such as paintings, sculptures, photography, drawings, videos and installations. It contains pieces by established international artists such as **Tacita Dean, Antoni Muntadas, Mona Hatoum, Jannis Kounellis, Juan Uslé, Cristina Iglesias** and **Martin**

Creed; in addition to works by creators who have received scholarships from the foundation. Everything makes up a mosaic where concepts, trajectories and generations coexist, a testimony to today's art.

This is an idea reflected in the programme of temporary exhibitions, workshops and cultural activities, both inside and outside the building. Enjoy outdoor art in the Pereda gardens and the surrounding squares, converted into a setting for concerts and stage arts shows, film series, debates and creative projects for all types of audiences.

Next to the shop, you will find its gastronomic space, the Café Centro Botín. Treat yourself to their dishes while you gaze at the gardens and the sea of Santander.



Foto: © Vicente Paredes, C. Botín

▲ *I DREAMED THAT YOU REVEALED. THE GUEST*, JUAN USLÉ
CENTRO BOTÍN, SANTANDER

STAR EXHIBIT

I Dreamed that You Revealed. The guest Juan Uslé

“I dreamed that You Revealed” is the series that Juan Uslé has been painting for more than two decades. He usually does it at night, by silently listening to the beats of his heart and applying a brush stroke to each one of them. This is how the painting becomes a trace of his essential vitality and the passage of time. A kind of “self-portrait” that connects with the history of abstraction. Notice the colour palette, which evokes the darkness of the night, and how the lines function as punctuation, reminiscent of musical scores.

📍 *For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.centrobotin.org/*



Foto: © Belén de Benito, C. Botín

▲ CAFÉ CENTRO BOTÍN
SANTANDER



▲ HELGA DE ALVEAR MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
CÁCERES

HELGA DE ALVEAR MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CÁCERES

As if to establish a means of communication between the past and the present, the museum occupies the imaginary line that separates the historic centre of Cáceres, awarded the World Heritage designation by the UNESCO, from the most modern part of the city. The main building is white concrete, custom-made to house the most important private

collection of international contemporary art in Spain, as well as one of the most important in Europe.

In 1967, collector Helga de Alvear bought her first work of art, starting a collection that currently includes more than 3,000 pieces and stands out for its quality, breadth and diversity. It has large-format installations and sculptures,

paintings, video art and photography by renowned artists such as **Olafur Eliasson**, **Louise Bourgeois**, **Doris Salcedo**, **Tacita Dean**, **Cristina Iglesias** and **Ai Weiwei**, among many others.

In the entrance hall, the iconic lamp **Descending Light** by **Ai Weiwei** opens an exciting tour of contemporary artistic creation, where you can find one of the famous igloos by **Mario Merz** titled **The giardiniere house**, or the sculpture of a centenary olive tree by **Ugo Rondinone**, **A Day Like This Made of Nothing and Nothing Else**, in the outside garden.

The museum exhibits a semi-permanent selection of around 150 works, which is periodically changed to offer new experiences to visitors. Throughout the year, temporary exhibitions are also held to offer new insights into the collection, as well as activities such as guided tours, courses and workshops for children.

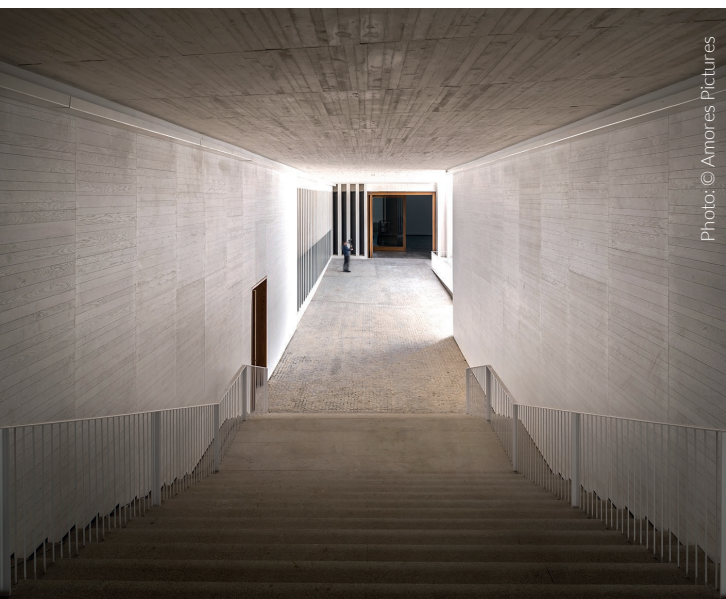


Photo: © Amores Pictures

▲ VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING. HELGA DE ALVEAR MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART. CÁCERES



Photo: © Joaquín Cortés, Helga de Alvear Museum

▲ FAUX ROCKS, KATHARINA GROSSE
HELGA DE ALVEAR MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, CÁCERES

STAR EXHIBIT

Faux Rocks, Katharina Grosse

This installation surprises anyone who sees it. It is a large painted volume, seven metres wide and more than three metres high. For its author, the German artist Katharina Grosse, scale plays a very important role. That is why one of the main characteristics of her work is the set of possible relationships that can be established between the work, the space and the viewer.

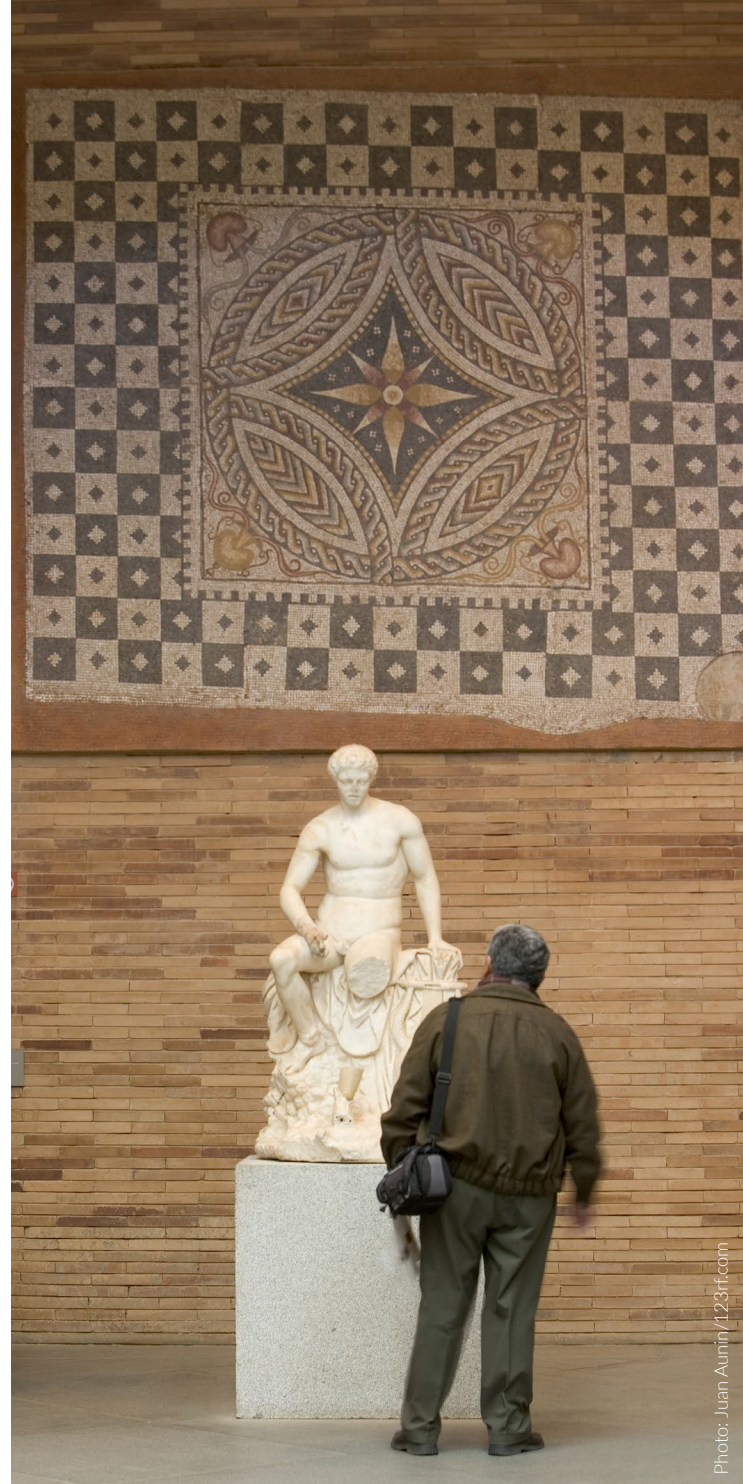
📍 For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.museohelga-dealvear.com/

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROMAN ART MÉRIDA

Avant-garde architecture and the distant Roman past converge in this extraordinary museum designed by **Rafael Moneo**. Here you'll discover different aspects of daily life for the inhabitants of one of the main settlements in Roman Hispania, Augusta Emerita.

Mérida was named to honour the Emperor Augustus, and in its streets and most important monuments it still preserves the glorious memory of what would become the capital of Lusitania. An archaeological ensemble that, together with the museum, has been awarded the UNESCO World Heritage designation. Very near the Roman theatre and amphitheatre, and connected to them by a series of galleries, the National Museum of Roman Art (MNAM) is a surprising contrast between the orange-coloured city walls and the brickwork on which the pieces are exhibited.

The building consists of spacious volumes, with numerous slender arches and spectacular roof lighting. It is the perfect scenario for a tour through Roman gods, imperial busts and sculptural portraits, and all kinds of archaeological remains recovered from the city. Special mention should go to the mosaics, like the enormous **Mosaic of the Chariot Drivers**. It is one of the largest they have found in Mérida and it has been given this name because it repre-



▲ NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROMAN ART
MÉRIDA

sents two horse-drawn chariots.

The MNAM is on four floors and there are 30 extraordinary monographic galleries. Once you have crossed the Roman road, take the stairs down to the **crypt** and see the faithful **reconstruction of a Roman room** with murals representing spectacles from the Roman circus.

Boar Hunt mosaic

Roman mosaics were used as flooring in wealthy houses and public spaces. This enormous mosaic was discovered in what is known as the "Villa de las Tiendas", and represents a hunting scene, one of the pleasures of the wealthier citizens of Augusta Emeritus. Take a close look and you'll appreciate the thousands of tiny cubes of stone called *tesselae* required to complete the image.

❶ For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to: www.cultura.gob.es/mnromano/home.html



▲ DOMUS ROMANA, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROMAN ART
MÉRIDA

▼ BOAR HUNT MOSAIC
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROMAN ART, MÉRIDA





Photo: pabkov / 123rf.com

▲ POMPIDOU CENTRE
MÁLAGA

POMPIDOU CENTRE, MÁLAGA

The Costa del Sol is renowned worldwide for its wonderful climate, fine sandy beaches and its yacht marinas. But in addition to these irresistible attractions, the capital city, Málaga, has intriguing museums like the Pompidou Centre, the first branch of this celebrated Parisian institution outside France.

Surrounded by the beautiful gardens of the Paseo España, the blue of the Mediterranean and the modern Muelle

Uno shopping area, you'll find this extraordinary building crowned by a dazzling, coloured-glass cube.

Take the stairs down to the large, underground galleries where you'll find a blend of every artistic discipline. It is the works that play a leading role and they can be viewed freely or with the help of the centre's specialised team of mediators to make this a participatory experience.

Here, the architecture takes a discreet second place. And it's no wonder, because the journey through 20th and 21st century art displayed in its translucent galleries includes great artists like **Marc Chagall**, **René Magritte**, **Frida Kahlo** and **Francis Bacon**. And, of course, **Pablo Picasso**, born in Málaga and present in the Pompidou with works like *A Hat with Flowers*.

There are more than 70 works in the permanent collection which belong to the Pompidou Centre in Paris and they stand alongside groundbreaking contemporary works of art. The exhibition is renewed every two-and-a-half years and there are two or three temporary exhibitions each year. So each time you come you'll be able to discover a new world of sensations and artistic experiences.



▲ LA VECCHIA DELL'ORTO (THE OLD LADY IN THE GARDEN), FRANK STELLA
POMPIDOU CENTRE, MÁLAGA

THE STAR OF THE SHOW

La vecchia dell'orto (The Old Lady in the Garden)

Frank Stella

The American painter and engraver, Frank Stella, juxtaposes sculptural forms like cones, pillars, curves and other architectural elements in this abstract work from the mid-1980s. You'll be surprised by the composition's sharp relief created with acrylic paint, glycerophthalic lacquer and fluorescent paint over eleven elements and an alveolar aluminium panel.

📍 For further information and the purchase of entry tickets go to:
www.centrepompidou-malaga.eu



▲ POMPIDOU CENTRE
MÁLAGA

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS IN SEVILLE

In a delightful little square in the historical centre of Seville stands a magnificent building, formerly the Convent of La Merced Calzada, which is just begging you to come in and discover the greatest treasures of Spanish Baroque painting.

The peaceful patios with fountains and columns, passageways and trellised little corners and the extraordinary staircase create an ideal atmosphere for enjoying some of our country's most exceptional

religious paintings and sculptures.

The building has the atmosphere of a convent which surrounds and captures you with extraordinary tiled panels covering the richly decorated walls, vaults and ceilings and works of art by three of the greatest artists in 16th and 17th century Spain, known as the Golden Age: **Zurbarán**, **Valdés Leal** and, above all, **Murillo**.

Middle Ages to the 20th century, the galleries are ideal for viewing large-format works and also include decorative arts with ceramics, precious metals, weapons and furniture.

In the splendid Gallery V, you'll be drawn to the beauty and strength of **Murillo's** Baroque paintings. His *Immaculate Conception* (known as **La Colosal**) demonstrates his command of the gyratory movement of the body and clothes. The gems of the permanent collection of paintings include a portrait of the son of **El Greco** painted by his father, *Apostle's Head* by **Velázquez** and a small portrait by **Goya**.

Admission is free for citizens of the European Union. A unique opportunity to see the masterpieces of Spanish religious art firsthand.



▲ THE ANNUNCIATION, MURILLO
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, SEVILLE



▲ MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
SEVILLE

THE STAR OF THE SHOW

The Annunciation, Murillo

Murillo plays a leading role in the exhibition as the greatest exponent in the history of Sevillian art. In this masterpiece, which used to be part of the famous altarpiece in the Convent of Los Capuchinos, the artist creates an interplay between light, colour and juxtaposition of the earthly and the celestial.

More information:

www.museosdeandalucia.es/web/museodebellasartesdesevilla

OTHER MUSEUMS THAT WILL SURPRISE YOU

Abstract art, science, toys, miniatures and even underwater. In Spain there are so many museums of such different types that any trip here becomes an incredible opportunity to immerse yourself in our culture.

► MUSEUM OF SPANISH ABSTRACT ART
CUENCA

Photo: Juan Jimenez Fernandez/123rf.com



The first thing you notice about the **MUSAC** (Castile-Leon Museum of Contemporary Art) is the façade which is made out of stained glass. The building was awarded the 2007 Mies van der Rohe architecture prize by the European Union and stands as a tribute to the stained-glass windows in León Cathedral. In the interior you'll find the latest in contemporary art and a strong link between local artists and recent international trends.

📍 www.musac.es

Who would have thought that in the interior of the Hanging Houses, the most iconic buildings in Cuenca (World Heritage Site), you'd find abstract paintings? These 15th century buildings with wooden balconies hanging out over the Huécar River valley are home to the **Museum of Spanish Abstract Art**. Its collection of paintings and sculptures by Spanish artists from the generation of the 1950s and 1960s contrasts very sharply with the historical surroundings and natural landscapes of Cuenca.

📍 www.march.es/arte/cuenca

Culture in Madrid goes well beyond the Paseo del Arte art walk. As you walk around the city you'll come across small and large art galleries to suit all tastes. Some of them, like the **Sorolla Museum**, located in the family home of the artist from Valencia, are so lovely that one visit will probably not be enough. The garden, designed by Sorolla himself, is a true oa-

sis far from the hustle and bustle of the city. Apart from some of his most significant paintings and drawings, there are a number of objects he collected during his lifetime on display, like sculptures, ceramics, jewellery and old photos.

📍 www.culturaydeporte.gob.es/msorolla/

▼ SOROLLA MUSEUM
MADRID



Photo: Visions Of America LLC/123rf.com



▲ SAN SEBASTIÁN AQUARIUM MUSEUM

If you're looking for surprises then you really should visit the avant-garde **City of Arts and Sciences** in Valencia, the great galleon in the **Barcelona Maritime Museum** or perhaps the **San Sebastián Aquarium Museum**. The **Perfume Museum** in Barcelona, with over 5,000 containers originating from every culture and era, and the **Astorga Chocolate Museum** (León) are just some of the extraordinary museums you'll find in mainland Spain.

📍 www.cac.es

www.mmb.cat/es

www.aquariumss.com

www.aytoastorga.es/turismo-y-ocio/MUCHA/index.html

But perhaps the most unusual museum in the whole of Spain is the **Lanzarote Atlantic Museum** in the Canary Islands. It's an art gallery under the sea, where you'll have to dive down amongst shoals of sardines, octopuses and sea sponges to discover the 12 figures installed by the North American artist Jason deCaires Taylor. The figures, inspired by the inhabitants of the island of Lanzarote, are a call in defence of the oceans against contamination. And they are constructed with pH neutral materials so they are adapted to marine life and will ultimately generate an artificial reef.

📍 *For further information go to:*
www.lanzaroteesd.com/oferta-deportiva/buceo-en-lanzarote/





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