

SEMANA SANTA

MADRID 2026

Your Complete Planning Guide

March 29 - April 5, 2026

Experience Holy Week like a local

madridallincluded.com

Quick Reference Guide

Key Dates 2026

Date	Event
March 29	Palm Sunday - La Borriquita procession (3:15 PM)
March 30-Apr 1	Monday-Wednesday - Quieter days, perfect for sightseeing
April 2	Maundy Thursday - Procesión del Silencio (8 PM) ★ ★ ★
April 3	Good Friday - PEAK DAY 🕯️ 10+ processions
April 4	Holy Saturday - La Soledad procession
April 5	Easter Sunday - Tamborrada in Plaza Mayor

Top 3 Must-See Processions

- **Procesión del Silencio** - Thursday 8 PM. Madrid's most haunting tradition with only drums.
- **La Borriquita** - Sunday 3:15 PM. Most colorful, joyful procession of Holy Week.
- **Cristo de Medinaceli** - Friday. Madrid's most venerated image takes to the streets.

Essential Tips

- Book hotels 4-6 weeks ahead (prices increase 20-30%)
- Avoid watching from Puerta del Sol - too crowded
- Wear comfortable shoes - you'll stand for hours
- Try torrijas (Spanish Easter dessert) at local bakeries
- All processions are FREE - no tickets needed

5-Day Semana Santa Itinerary

Day 1: Saturday, March 28 (Pre-Semana Santa)

- ☐ **Morning:** Arrive, check into hotel
- ☐ Walk Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol, orient yourself
- ☐ **Afternoon:** Visit Almudena Cathedral (free)
- ☐ Explore Barrio de Austrias narrow streets
- ☐ **Evening:** Early dinner, rest for tomorrow

Day 2: Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday ☆

- ☐ **Morning:** Sleep in, leisurely breakfast
- ☐ Visit Mercado de San Miguel, try torrijas
- ☐ **Afternoon:** 2:00 PM - Position at Calle Mayor
- ☐ 3:15 PM - La Borriquita procession begins
- ☐ 6:30 PM - Procession passes your spot
- ☐ **Evening:** Tapas dinner in La Latina

Day 3: Monday, March 30 (Cultural Day)

- ☐ **Morning:** Prado Museum (2-3 hours)
- ☐ **Lunch:** Menú del día, try potaje de vigilia
- ☐ **Afternoon:** Retiro Park, row a boat
- ☐ **Evening:** Dinner at Mercado de San Ildefonso

Day 4: Tuesday, March 31 (Day Trip to Toledo)

- ☐ 8:30 AM - Train from Atocha to Toledo (€13 return)
- ☐ Toledo Cathedral, Synagogue, medieval streets
- ☐ Lunch: Carcamusas (Toledo specialty)
- ☐ 6:00 PM - Return to Madrid
- ☐ Light dinner, early night (tomorrow is peak day)

Day 5: Wednesday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday ☆ ☆

- ☐ **Morning:** Sleep in, slow breakfast

- ☐ Visit Museo del Romanticismo
- ☐ **Afternoon:** Rest at hotel, light snack
- ☐ **Evening:** 7:00 PM - Position for Procesoión del Silencio
- ☐ 8:00 PM - Experience the silence and drums
- ☐ Late: Churros at San Ginés (open 24 hours)

Day 6: Thursday, April 3 - Good Friday 🕯️

- ☐ **Morning:** Watch Cristo de los Alabarderos (military)
- ☐ **Lunch:** Traditional potaje de vigilia + torrijas
- ☐ **Afternoon:** 4 PM - Cristo de la Fe procession
- ☐ **Evening:** Watch one more procession or rest
- ☐ **Night:** Late dinner (10 PM or later)

Best Viewing Spots

✓ Recommended Spots

1. Calle Mayor (Between Bailén and Sol)

- **Why:** Wide street, good visibility, less crowded
- **Best for:** La Borriquita, most Good Friday processions
- **Tip:** Arrive 30 minutes early

2. Plaza de la Villa

- **Why:** Historic square, café terraces available
- **Best for:** Families, elderly (can sit)
- **Tip:** Reserve café terrace for guaranteed seat

3. Calle de Atocha (For Procesión del Silencio)

- **Why:** Traditional route, perfect acoustics for drums
- **Best for:** Thursday night Procesión del Silencio only
- **Tip:** Arrive 45 minutes early, this fills up fast

✗ Spots to Avoid

- **Puerta del Sol** - Too crowded, can't see, pickpockets active
- **Gran Vía front** - Too wide, processions look small and far away

Traditional Foods Checklist

Must-Try Foods

- ☐ **Torrijas** - Spanish Easter dessert (€2-4 each)

Where: Casa Mira, Viena Capellanes, local bakeries

- ☐ **Potaje de Vigilia** - Lent stew with chickpeas, cod (€10-12)

Where: Casa Ciriaco, Taberna La Bola

- ☐ **Buñuelos de Bacalao** - Salt cod fritters (€6-8)

Where: Casa Labra, most tapas bars

- ☐ **Bacalao a la Vizcaína** - Salt cod in red pepper sauce (€14-18)

Where: La Trainera, traditional restaurants

- ☐ **Pestiños** - Fried pastries with honey (€1-2)

Where: Confitería El Riojano, bakeries

- ☐ **Rosquillas Tontas y Listas** - Easter donuts (€1.20-1.80)

Restaurant Recommendations

Traditional Madrid

- Casa Mono (Argüelles) - Cozy, intimate, modern Spanish
- Taberna Pedraza (La Latina) - Traditional, stone walls
- Casa Ciriaco (Opera) - Classic Madrid, great potaje

Best Torrijas

- Casa Mira - Since 1842, €2.50 each, classic style
- Viena Capellanes - €3.50, try wine-soaked version
- Local panaderías - Often best value at €1.50-2.50

Budget Planning Guide

6 Nights / 7 Days Budget Estimates

Category	Budget	Mid-Range	Comfortable
Accommodation	€300-420	€480-720	€720-1,080
Food & Drink	€150-210	€270-390	€480-720
Transport	€30-40	€40-50	€50-60
Activities	€30-50	€50-80	€60-100
TOTAL	€510-720	€840-1,240	€1,310-1,960

**Excludes flights. Add €50-150 for flights within Europe.*

Money-Saving Tips

- Museum free hours: Prado after 6 PM, Reina Sofía evenings
- Menú del día lunches: €10-15 for 3 courses
- Walk everywhere - Centro is compact and pedestrian-friendly
- Buy torrijas at neighborhood bakeries (€1.50 vs €4 tourist spots)
- ALL processions are FREE - no tickets required

Packing List

Clothing

- ☐ Light jacket or cardigan (daytime)
- ☐ Warm jacket (evening processions)
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes (ESSENTIAL - cobblestones!)
- ☐ Scarf (warmth + looks good in photos)
- ☐ Layers (mornings cool, afternoons warm)
- ☐ Respectful clothing (no shorts/tank tops at processions)

Essentials

- ☐ Sunglasses (Spanish sun is strong)
- ☐ Small umbrella (rain is possible)
- ☐ Refillable water bottle (tap water is safe)
- ☐ Phone charger + adapter (Europe uses Type C/F plugs)
- ☐ Comfortable crossbody bag (for standing hours)
- ☐ Portable phone battery pack
- ☐ Sunscreen (spring sun can burn)

Nice to Have

- ☐ Small stool or cushion (for long waits)
- ☐ Snacks for waiting between processions
- ☐ Tissues/hand sanitizer
- ☐ Small notebook for journaling

Weather Guide (Late March/Early April)

- **Daytime:** 15-18°C (59-64°F) - Light jacket sufficient
- **Evening:** 8-10°C (46-50°F) - Warm jacket needed
- **Conditions:** Mostly sunny, occasional rain

Essential Spanish Phrases

Basic Greetings

English	Spanish
Hello	Hola
Good morning	Buenos días
Thank you	Gracias
Please	Por favor
Excuse me	Perdón / Disculpe

At Restaurants

The bill, please	La cuenta, por favor
How much is it?	¿Cuánto cuesta?
A table for two	Una mesa para dos
Water, please	Agua, por favor
The menu, please	La carta, por favor

Getting Around

Where is...?	¿Dónde está...?
I don't speak Spanish	No hablo español
Do you speak English?	¿Habla inglés?
Help!	¡Ayuda!

Important Contacts

Emergency Numbers

Service	Number
General Emergency (ambulance, fire)	112
Police	091
Tourist Police (English spoken)	Calle Leganitos, 19 (<i>Near Plaza España</i>)

Major Embassies in Madrid

- **US Embassy:** Calle Serrano, 75 | +34 915 872 200
- **UK Embassy:** Torre Espacio, Paseo de la Castellana, 259D | +34 917 146 300
- **Canadian Embassy:** Torre Espacio, Paseo de la Castellana, 259D | +34 913 828 400
- **Australian Embassy:** Torre Espacio, Paseo de la Castellana, 259D | +34 913 536 600

Useful Websites & Apps

- **Madrid Metro App:** Offline metro maps and route planner
- **Google Maps:** Download Madrid offline before trip
- **Google Translate:** Download Spanish for offline use
- **madridallincluded.com:** Latest Madrid travel tips and guides

Need More Help Planning?

Visit madridallincluded.com for:

- ✓ Complete Semana Santa 2026 guide (10,000+ words)
 - ✓ Detailed neighborhood guides
 - ✓ Restaurant recommendations
- ✓ Custom itinerary planning service

madridallincluded.com

Follow us: @madridallincluded

¡Feliz Semana Santa! 🙏