



***Choosing the
right location
for you***



***Relocation
Angel***

SPAIN



Madrid is a city in continuous evolution, becoming more and more open to cultural diversity. However, if you step out of the city centre, you may find that although madrileños are friendly, they don't speak English, sorry!!





If you are a student, your best choice is to rent a room in a flat with a minimum of three other students. If you have children, you'll find some international schools in the area, where your children can continue with their education in English. If you have a pet, ask if it is allowed in the building, but then you won't have a problem going around and even into a bar with your four legged companion as many bars are dog friendly.

The city centre is a great place to live in but, it is noisy all the time. The buildings are old so the bills for gas and electricity may be expensive. Facilities like swimming pools and sports centers are not always close.

The city centre

International residents who choose the centre, do it because of the vibrant atmosphere, there's always something going on at any time of the day or night! If you live here you don't need a car, you can move around by bus or metro. There are parks and green areas, and shops tend to sell a large variety of imported products for the foreign customer. Flats in old buildings are the average accommodation, and they tend to be pricey but comfortable: You have good heating in the winter and air-conditioning in the summer.



Favourite areas with international neighbours



Sol, the very core of Madrid

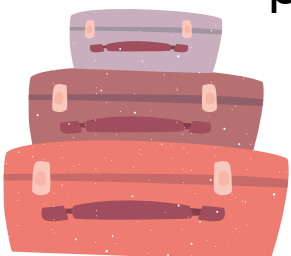
Chamberí and Salamanca, north great for families



Chueca, the gay area



Argüelles and Moncloa popular with students



Out of the centre

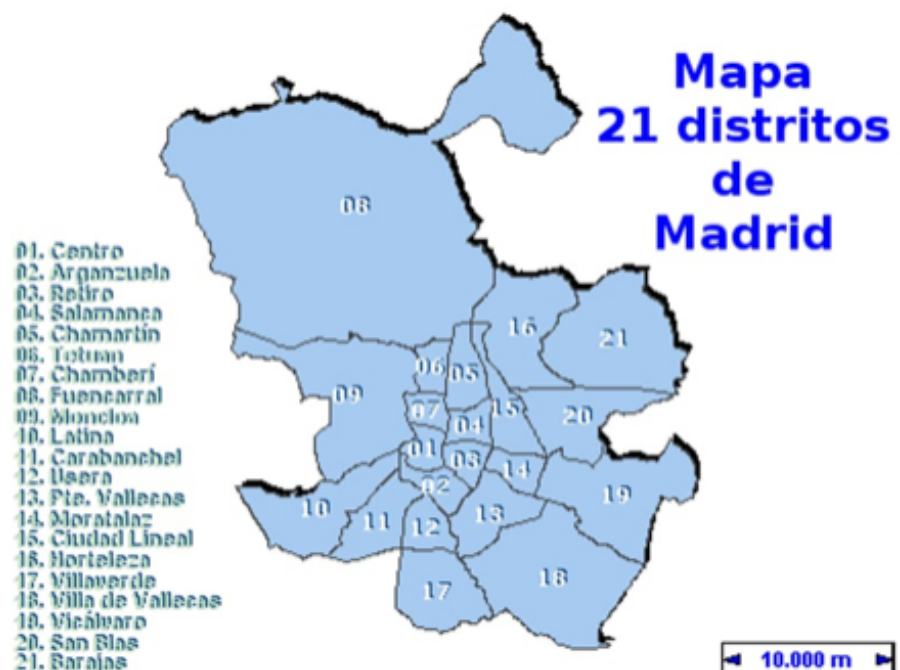


Residential areas still in the city are not so busy, so they aren't as noisy as the centre. Flats are more modern, and the buildings may have green areas of their own and even a swimming pool and a gym of exclusive use by the neighbours, most appreciated in the hot summer days. The facilities in the area usually include international private schools, private clinics and health centres where doctors speak English, easy transport as they tend to be part of the metro network and buses take you to the main bus stations in the centre.

If you are looking for a quiet place still well communicated, this may be your choice, but remember, you won't have the theatre or the market round the corner.

Favourite areas with international neighbours out of the centre are:

Arturo Soria and Pinar de Chamartin in the north
Puerta de Hierro and Aravaca, west, just after Moncloa
Conde Orgaz and Alameda de Osuna, east on the way to Alcalá



Out of Madrid City

The best of this choice is that you can get much bigger accommodation than in the city, as you go further away. There are a larger number of houses available, even in gated communities which guarantee the security of the place. Shopping malls are the place to do your shopping, though there are small shops in the centre of each small town. There are facilities to do sports, like sports centres and sports clubs. Also, there are health centres and clinics, but if you don't speak Spanish make sure to make an appointment with a bilingual doctor.

One particular advantage of living in the towns is that you can enjoy the proximity of the countryside, and go for walks along the river, or up the mountains.

The real issue here is the distance that you have to cover if you work in the city. Although the roads are wide, with three or four lanes, there are traffic jams at peak hours, in the morning and in the evening.

There are buses, and trains, and metro stations, but the frequency of the service isn't as fluent as in the city.

Favourite areas with international residents

North, north west: Pozuelo de Alarcón, Las Rozas,

North east: Alcobendas- La Moraleja, housing estates like Ciudadcampo, Club de campo, Ciudad Santo Domingo

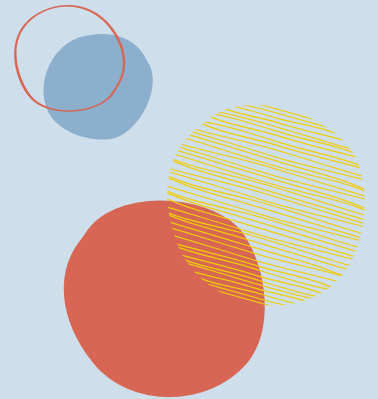
East: Alcalá de Henares



Some useful links:

[Comunidad de Madrid](#)

[City map of Madrid \(Pdf\)](#)



A little about me:

Born and raised in Peru, emigrated to the UK in my 20's and then landed in Madrid 30 years ago. I've spent most of these years as a language teacher and translator. I married a Spaniard and had a child. I procured him a good education, which took me to see a few international schools. Throughout the years, I've always been surrounded by an international circle of friends, whom I've helped with my knowledge of the language and the Spanish ways.

As I foreigner, I've been through the experience of doing all my papers, and have firsthand knowledge of the procedures, call it NIE, driving license, bank account, "empadronamiento", etc. I've moved several times, and then, can help in the rent or purchase of a place to live.

I am quite sensitive to the needs of foreigners, especially those who can't speak Spanish, and I want to help them through all the hustle of settling down so that the feeling is smooth and with the least worries.



@handlename



@handlename