

Visit Almodovar's Madrid

If there was an Oscar for best location, Pedro Almodóvar's Madrid would be firm favourite. Now film fans can tour the director's hot spots. PlusAbroad offers study abroad Spanish language courses with walks through Almodovar's Madrid with specialized guides. Participants visit Almodovar's most famous movie locations and experience the city he portrays. You will participate in a tour of the director's favourite haunts; view 3 of his movies from different periods and partake in a subsequent discussion of the film with an expert. Go on an excursion to La Mancha and visit the village where Almodovar filmed the movie "Volver"; attend a lecture by people from the cinema world.



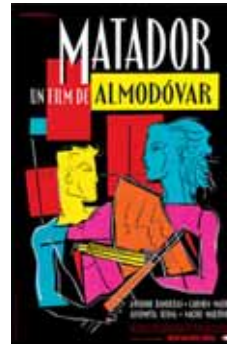
Director Almodovar and Actrice Penelope Cruz



El Rastro

Café del Círculo de Bellas Artes

Known by locals as "La Pecera" (the Aquarium), the Café del Círculo de Bellas Artes is a haughty 1920s restaurant decked out in soaring pillars, statues and grandiose chandeliers, popular with Madrid's "creative and important" set. The restaurant was used in Almodóvar's 1993 critique of the media, Kika, in the scene where Victoria Abril and Peter Coyote meet to discuss a script. The dishes are expensive, but €15 for tapas and a tinto is worth paying for the setting alone.



Segovia aqueduct & Plaza Mayor

When Almodovar uses landmarks in his films he often does so in a surreal light. In Matador (1986), the vast Segovia aqueduct is the dark, brooding backdrop to a Madrileño couple's obsession with sex and violence. One of the most enduring scenes in 'Flor de mi secreto' (Flower of my Secret) involves a character called Angel dancing across the Plaza Mayor on his own. If you find yourself in the Plaza Mayor, head to one of the calamar bars on any of the plaza's side entrances; which serve "bocatas de calamares" (fried squid-ring sandwiches on buns), with beer or a glass of cider for a couple of euros.

El Rastro flea market

It is no coincidence that Almodóvar shot scenes for his first feature film, Laberinto de Pasiones in the Rastro. When Almodóvar arrived in Madrid in 1967, one of his first jobs was peddling second-hand wares among the hundreds of stalls spreading from the Plaza de Cascorro down the Ribera de Curtidores. Little has changed since Almodóvar's time there, and a Sunday stroll through the Rastro is still an obligatory Madrid experience. Then drop into one of the bustling tapas bars near La Latina Metro. El Viajero (Plza Cebada, 11) is the pick of the bunch, straddling three floors in an ancient building with a rooftop tapas terrace.

ALMODOVAR'S MADRID AT A GLANCE

QUICK FACTS

- 1 Small groups: 6 to 12 participants
- 2 Commencing first Monday of month (except July, August and December)
- 3 Duration 1 week
- 4 No language requirement.
- 5 8 levels of language classes from complete beginners to composition classes for advanced speakers.
- 6 Designed for active travellers who prefer around 50/50 organized activities with free time

INCLUDED

- 1 Transfers from and to Madrid's Barajas airport
- 2 50/50 balance between organized activities and time to explore on your own
- 3 Options for lodging in Madrid in shared apartments with Spanish family or other program participants.
- 4 One week intensive language course daily from 9:30 to 1 pm, 20 classes
- 5 Full-coverage health and accident insurance
- 6 Orientation pack and information pack
- 7 One group cultural activity (concert, excursion, exhibition, et al)
- 8 Optional cultural activities coordinator for those who want more with free and small fee activities
- 9 Bilingual staff
- 10 Free Internet access at Spanish school
- 12 Testing, materials, certificates, value-added taxes
- 13 Activities as stated in description
- 14 Low bureaucracy

Not included: Transportation, normal meals, communication costs, personal expenses and lodging costs. If the minimum number of participants is not covered we will join our group with another to guarantee participation

START DATES

- May 14 – 20, 2007
- July 2 – 8, 2007
- November 5 – 11, 2007
- February 11 – 17, 2008
- April 7 – 13, 2008