

« Back

Gran Via

Majestic buildings in a classy part of Madrid.



For the love of architecture.

Lovers of all things architectural think mainly of Gaudi's Barcelona when visiting Spain, but lining Madrid's Gran Via are some of the most impressive early 20th century buildings in the world. From the ornamental façade, black dome and winged statue of the goddess Victoria that decorates the Edificio Metropolis to the Baroque quality and detail in the 89-metre Telefónica Building, a stroll down Gran Via is a grand one indeed.

Gran Via is the most famous street in Madrid. The city's most important commercial and shopping district possesses hundreds of shops, hotels, bars, restaurants, cinemas and theatres, serving as the romantic backdrop to numerous paintings, films and novels, like Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. Back streets provide access to the city's red light district and clubs, while its many boutique stores will tempt lovers of fashion and design.

LA LATINA

GOLDEN TRIANGLE OF ART

GRAN VIA

MALASAÑA & CHUECA

WHERE TO STAY

But Gran Via is a theme park for architecture enthusiasts. At its eastern extremity is the picture-perfect Plaza de España. A central monument to famed Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (*Don Quixote*) is nicely framed by the rising stepped gable symmetry of Edificio España, a neo-Boroque 25-storey beauty, built from 1947 to 1957. Also here, Torre de Madrid, at 36 floors and 142 metres, is one of the tallest skyscrapers in Madrid.

The aforementioned Telefónica Building, inspired by a study of the skyline of Manhattan, is a pretty building touched with Baroque ornamentation. And there are many more grand dames along the way. Particularly of note is Edificio Grassy, an eclectic design on a triangular piece of land, topped by a two-tiered rotunda.

Most of impressive of all, Edificio Metropolis stands like a queen on a street corner at Gran Via's eastern end. Foliated, festooned and populated by fabulous statues and pillars, you'll be drawn in, lose track of time and walk away with your neck sore. Built between 1907 and 1911, the building was designed by French architects Jules and Raymond Févriér.

Finish your journey with a visit to Plaza de Cibeles, a short stroll up Calle de Alcalá. Bordering this glorious plaza, with its gardens, sculptures and magical fountain of Cibeles (the Roman goddess of fertility), are the majestic Plaza de Cibeles, Banco de España and Palacio de Linares.

[f Like](#)

[+1](#) 0

[t Tweet](#) 0

[Pin it](#) 0



Ben Connor

Travel Writer | [Sydney, Australia](#)

Ben has travelled extensively through the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia. His features and reviews have appeared in publications and websites in the UK and Australia, including Rough Guides (Penguin Group, London, UK), The List (Edinburgh, Scotland), Tiger Beer's UK website, Australian Traveller, OUTthere and Cruise Passenger.

