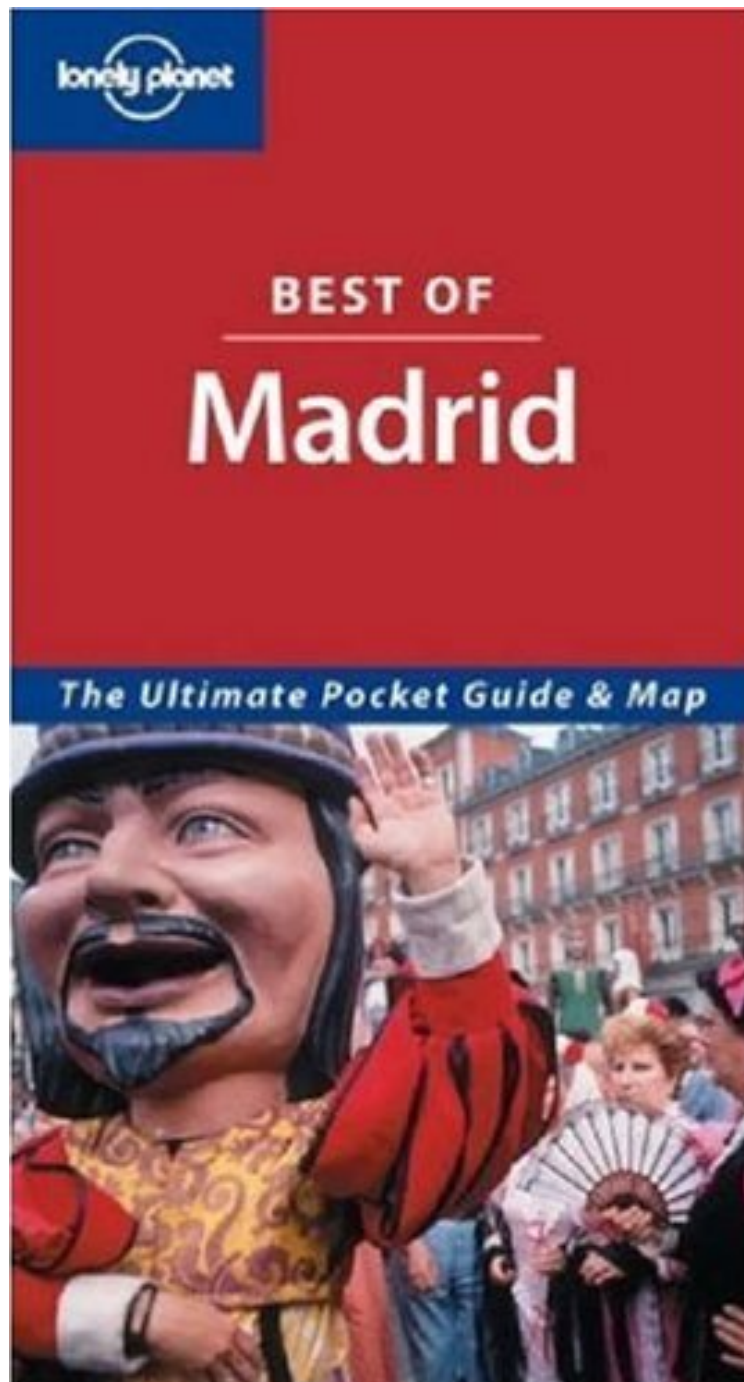


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Lonely Planet Best of Madrid (Lonely Planet Madrid Encounter)

Sally O'Brien

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Sally O'Brien : Lonely Planet Best of Madrid (Lonely Planet Madrid Encounter) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lonely Planet Best of Madrid (Lonely Planet Madrid Encounter):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. perfectly fits in a day bag and has everything you need By H.F. We're a 20 something couple who loves to travel backpack style on a budget. We don't stay in hostels, but we definitely don't spend a lot on hotels since really, you're only sleeping there. Venere (google it) is an amazing site for booking hotels and getting great feedback from past customers before you book. It's like the .com of hotels. We've used these slim lonely planet books for cities all over Spain, Italy and Portugal. They are amazing. I first got them on a trip to Italy, since we were visiting a few cities I hadn't been before. They were such an integral part of why we enjoyed ourselves so much, so I absolutely had to get them for our next trip to Spain and Portugal. The books are very compact and fit in my tiny day bag (which just about houses my small camera, chapstick and a few other odds and ends). It was really all we needed when we ventured out every day. It has GREAT maps, about 5 different maps per book. And they're not gigantic, so thankfully you will not be the 'obvious tourist' which is something that I get very concerned about. I don't want to be the stereotypical American blocking off a sidewalk while staring at a map that's 2x5. Each map concentrates on a different section of the city, so you can see specific streets and points of interest. I usually read thru these books page by page to decide my daily itinerary before we leave for our trip. I cross reference them with other guides and websites, to make sure I won't be skipping anything crucial. I made notes on the pages and highlight parts of the maps so that I can easily find things I am going to. An indispensable aspect of these books is not only does it at least give you an idea of pricing, if not the exact amount, but it tells student/senior pricing as well as hours and even hours for different seasons if the point of interests breaks down that way. We always knew when something was open or closed so there was never wasted time walking to something and finding it closed or just about to be closed. When you're in a city for a short amount of time, that is VERY important!! There is also a wide variety of color pictures, which I really like. It gives me a better idea of if I want to visit that museum or fountain or building. This book can get you into a completely unknown city and help you get from an airport to where ever you're going. It tells you all the transportation choices and what is best for getting where. It has highlights for places you absolutely should not miss, sights and activities, walking tours (how often can you take yourself on a walking tour of an unknown city?!), day trips, shopping including food and flea markets, restaurants, hotels, places to visit for kids. Lastly, my favorite section which is the 'directory', it's a how-to for the specific city your book is based on: on arrival and departure (which I mentioned before) info on tipping, your embassy, getting around: telling you about metro cards and buses and trains, basics on language and emergencies. Even tips for women or gay and lesbian travelers. I would recommend this book whole heartedly and look forward to my next vacation so I can buy more. And afterwards, it's totally something sentimental to keep because it has all the notes on where we went and what we liked and didn't like. It really brings us back to the excitement of visiting a new, unknown place.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent guide for a short visit By Blue in Washington This is an abbreviated guide by Lonely Planet Publications that is perfect for anyone visiting Madrid on business or otherwise staying for a couple of days only. The city's cultural, social and commercial highlights are laid out in succinct and efficient manner. It includes a respectable listing of recommended restaurants with estimated costs. There is a chronological listing of annual events (by the month) that is very helpful. Places and events of interest to gay travelers are included. There is no padding of the guide with paid advertising--a big plus in my opinion. And finally, there is a decent, zip-out map of the city included with the guide.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By Ahmad Khoshnevis Used this book in my first trip to Madrid. The day trip itinerary is excellent. It takes you through the streets of Madrid that people actually live in them and not a mere tourist attractions. The book is very useful in figuring out when to visit and what to look for. I found it very useful and I will use similar book for my future visit to other cities.

fold-out maps make navigation easy for those visiting the capital that never sleeps discerning coverage of Madrid's cultural gems and the best bars and restaurants in town four dedicated walking tours to guide visitors round Madrid's stunning architecture and sun-drenched plazas nearly 1/2 million people visit Madrid each year the only truly pocket guide to provide truly discerning coverage of the city the inhabitants of the city are known as gatos (cats) because of their nocturnal habits twice a year shepherds drive their flocks (up to 2000 sheep in total) through central Madrid so beware of woolly road blocks the building that houses the famous Museo del Prado was originally conceived as a house of science and was then converted into a barracks before opening as an art museum in 1819

Sherman's Travel, April 2007'...Encounter guides...discreet in size, but generous enough on page count to provide a fuller city experience minus the hefty guidebook load. From the Publisher Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travelers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do * We offer travelers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over

350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages. * We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are. * When we update our guidebooks, we check every listing, in person, every time. * We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent. * We challenge our growing community of travelers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. * We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travelers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.