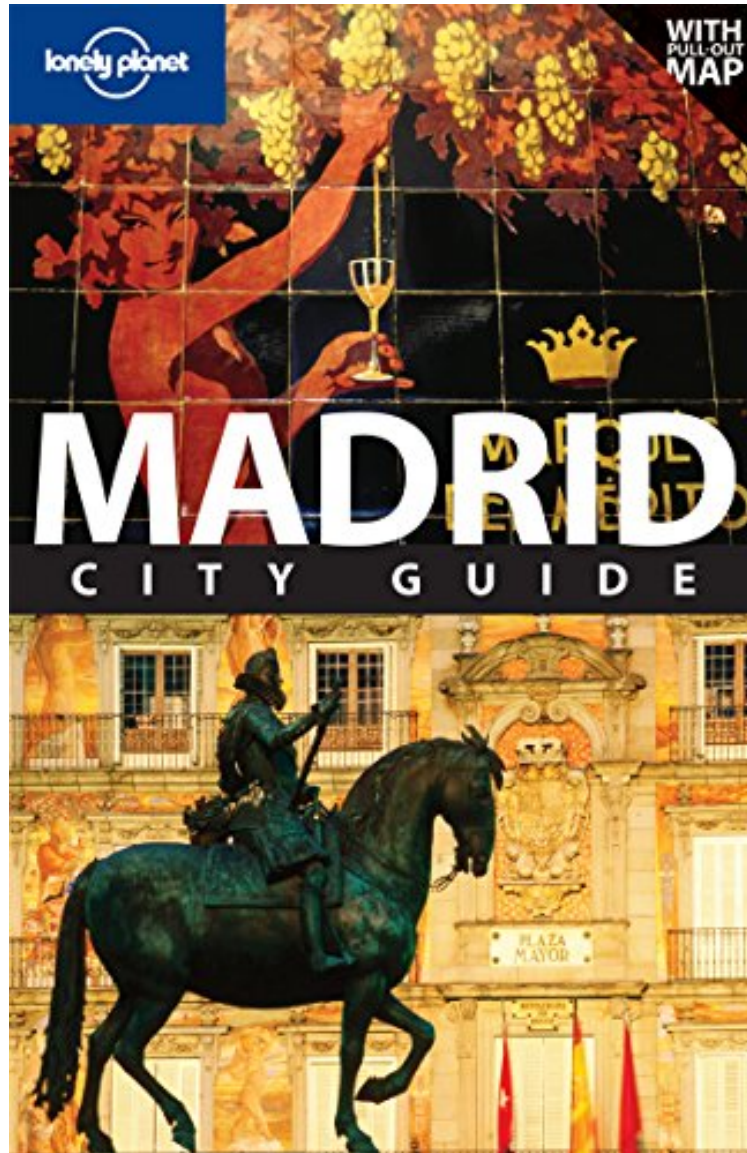


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Lonely Planet Madrid (City Travel Guide)

Anthony Ham

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Anthony Ham : Lonely Planet Madrid (City Travel Guide) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lonely Planet Madrid (City Travel Guide):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The maps are the best feature By D. Leach This is a decent book, but as others have mentioned, LP just doesn't do as good a job on their European guides as they do for those on the developing world. The maps are what convinced me to buy this guide over the Rough Guide/Frommers/Rick Steves books on Madrid, though even those have gone backwards now that LP has traded the full color maps of yesteryear for

black and white (with a bit of blue) versions. Who thought that was a good idea? Now about the book: I personally feel that Anthony Ham spent a bit too much time covering high-end boutique shopping and five star dining at the expense of the nitty-gritty practical knowledge and advice which can only be gleaned through experience and is therefore invaluable for newbies in any given city. Are 100 euro meals and 1000 euro suits and dresses really what most Lonely Planeters are after? I'd venture otherwise. How about telling vegetarians (and other fela fel) fans about the wonderful branch of Maoz (the only one in Madrid) just off the Puerta del Sol where a hungry budget traveler can get an enormous fela fel pita with about fifteen toppings for around 4 euros? In a city where you'll be hard pressed to find a decent meal for under 10 euros, this is exactly the kind of information that most travelers need, IMHO. Anyway, this book got me around Madrid and Mr. Ham was pretty spot-on regarding the character/vibrations of the individual neighborhoods. That said, I definitely think there's room for improvement. I just don't get why the LP guides for Europe are almost always lackluster in comparison to the ones they publish for the parts of the world where gathering information would presumably be a lot harder to do. It's just another one of life's little mysteries, I guess... 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A fairly dependable guidebook to Madrid By shines Concise and complete guide to Madrid. My only complaint was that some of the points of interest were not cross referenced with Metro stops. It made it difficult to find some of the bus stations that one would go to for day trips out of Madrid. Also, the guide did not mention Bravo Bikes, which was a great way to take a tour of Madrid. The restaurant the guide book recommended in Segovia, Jose Maria, was more expensive than indicated in the Travel Guide, and other than suckling pig, carved at the table side, the menu was limited and pricey. Although the service was outstanding! It was my impression that the author lives in Madrid, and is not a tourist. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Some serious, serious problems By Avid Reader Even though I had the most recent edition of this book, I still encountered some major problems with it. Most notably, all of the medical information was sorely out of date and difficult to find. (That's one of those things that you hope you never have to use, but when you need it... you want it to be there, and accurate.) Thank heavens my travel companion spoke Spanish, as the guidebook was a complete loss in directing us to a hospital or helping us to navigate the emergency room. Aside from that obvious problem, the organization of this book is highly unusual and difficult to follow. There's an emphasis on eating establishments and bars in particular. We couldn't find one restaurant the guidebook advised (despite consulting many Spaniards), and another that the guidebook raved about was over-run with tourists. I realize the irony in stating that, in that I myself was a tourist, but there was not a single local Spaniard in the restaurant. Honestly, with tripadvisor to help you find the best hotels and restaurants in a more adequately vetted and up-to-date fashion, I'm having trouble understanding what the point of this book was. I bought it because I wasn't traveling around Spain, but just flying into and out of Madrid, but it doesn't help with practical information.

This guide is loaded with historical and political facts, practical pre-departure information, a handy reference of important phrases, and up-to-date hotel and restaurant recommendations, plus details of diverting day trips from the Spanish capital.

Lonely Planet guidebooks are, quite simply, like no others.' --New York Times From the Publisher Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travellers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do * We offer travellers 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 travellers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. * We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travellers; 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.