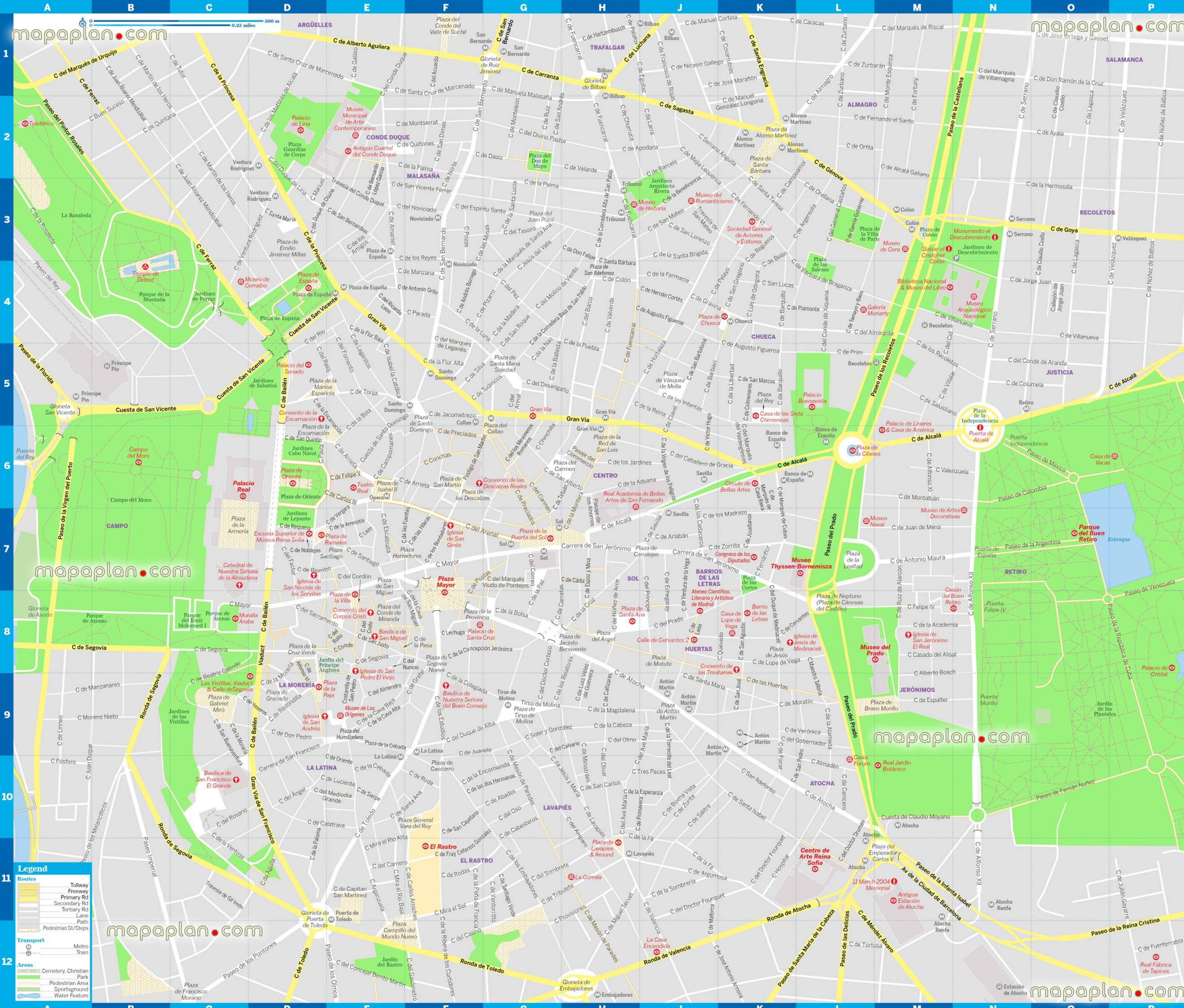




1

Museo del Prado
The 7000+ paintings in the Museo del Prado's collection are like a window into the historical vagaries of the Spanish soul. (www.museodelprado.es; Paseo del Prado; adult/child €14/free, free 6-8pm Mon-Sat & 5-7pm Sun, audioguides €3.50; ☎10am-8pm Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm Sun; M Banco de España)

2

Plaza Mayor
It's easy to fall in love with Madrid in the Plaza Mayor. This is the monumental heart of the city and the grand stage for so many of the city's most important historical events. (Plaza Mayor; M Sol)

3

Centro de Arte Reina Sofía
Home to Picasso's *Guernica*, the Centro de Arte Reina Sofía is Madrid's premier collection of contemporary art. (www.museoreinasofia.es; Calle de Santa Isabel 52; adult/concession €8/free, free 1.30-7pm Sun, 7-9pm Mon & Wed-Sat; ☎10am-9pm Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am-7pm Sun, closed Tue; M Atocha)

4

Palacio Real
The royal palace is an Italianate baroque architectural landmark, a mix of extravagant and restrained but unmistakably elegant. (www.patrimoniocultural.es; Calle de Bailén; adult/concession €11/6, guide/audioguide/pamphlet €4/4/1, EU citizens free last two hours Mon-Thur; ☎10am-8pm; M Opera)

5

Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza
One of the most extraordinary private collections of predominantly European art in the world, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza is a worthy member of Madrid's 'Golden Triangle' of art. (www.museothyssen.org; Paseo del Prado 8; adult/child €10/free; ☎10am-7pm Tue-Sun; M Banco de España)

6

Parque del Buen Retiro
The glorious gardens of El Retiro are as beautiful as any you'll find in a European city. It's quiet and contemplative during the week, but comes to life on weekends. (☎6am-midnight May-Sep, to 11pm Oct-Apr; M Retiro, Principe de Vergara, Ibiza, Atocha)

7

Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida
From the outside, this humble hermitage gives no hint of the splendour that lies within – a must-see for art lovers. (Glorieta de San Antonio de la Florida 5; admission free; ☎10am-8pm Tue-Fri, hours vary Jul & Aug; M Principe Pio)

8

El Rastro
There are few more enduring Madrid traditions than visiting El Rastro, believed to be Europe's largest flea market, on a Sunday. It's also a prelude to an afternoon of vermouth and tapas in the bars of La Latina. (Ribera de Curtidores; ☎8am-3pm Sun; M La Latina)

9

Plaza de Toros & Museo Taurino
East of central Madrid, the Plaza de Toros Monumental de Las Ventas is the heart and soul of Spain's bullfighting tradition and, as such, is the most important bullring in the world. (Calle de Alcalá 237; M Las Ventas)

10

Museo Lázaro Galdiano
This Italianate stone mansion contains an astonishing 13,000 works of art and objets d'art, a quarter of which are on show at any time. (www.fig.es; Calle de Serrano 122; adult/concession €6/3, last hr free; ☎10am-4.30pm Mon & Wed-Sat, 10am-3pm Sun; M Gregorio Marañón)

11

12