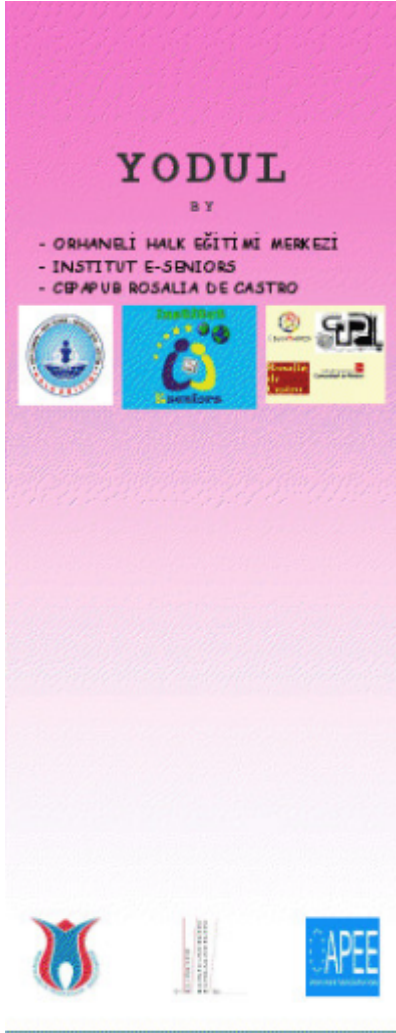




Where will you go ?



Bullfighting museum
de la Plaza de Toros de las Ventas



El Prado Museum



- Las ventas bullring



Puerta del Sol Square



San Antonio de la Florida Church



Introduction

Madrid is the capital and largest city of Spain. The population of the city is roughly 3.3 million. The city is located on the Manzanares river. As the capital city of Spain, seat of government and residence of the Spanish monarch, Madrid is also the political centre of Spain. Due to its economic output, high standard of living, and market size, Madrid is considered the major financial centre of Southern Europe.

History

Madrid was first considered as an insignificant medieval city. It became the capital of Spain in 1561, under the leadership of Philip II. Therefore, many Iberian monuments, palaces, churches, monasteries, etc. have enriched the city. This abundance is called the Madrid of the Habsburgs.

In the eighteenth century, the Bourbons succeeded to the Habsburgs. Madrid then experienced a big urban boost. The artistic commitment of sovereigns such as Charles V or Philip III involved the construction of new architectural treasures.

Monuments, gardens, squares are then Madrid of the Bourbons. These two dynasties have left an extraordinary heritage. The Spanish capital can only delight art lovers with its monuments, its old town and its colorful streets. Madrid is a modern city, moving, cosmopolitan where there are a thousand things to do day and night.

Madrid nightlife

It is said that Madrid offers one of the craziest nightlives of Europe, that



you can find yourself out until 6am bouncing from tapas bars to nightclubs. For those who would rather make a tranquil night,

Madrid offers every kind of restaurant imaginable, dozens of movie theatres, theatres and flamenco venues. For sports fanatics, people can plan to see the Best Football team of the 20th Century, Real Madrid CF, in action at the Bernabéu stadium.

Transport

It's easy to travel with the city transport, indeed Madrid has one of the world's best metro systems, over 100 bus lines and taxis around every corner. It is also very pleasant to make a touristic tour of Madrid by foot.

Food

Every neighbourhood possesses its own market. It is in the old part of the city that you can find Madrid specialities. However, Madrid is not especially known for its native cuisine. Other Spanish regions like Basque Country, Catalunya or Galicia are much more famous for their food, and rightly so. Madrid foods tend to be heavy, hearty and, well, contain ingredients to which foreigners are not accustomed.