

Chinchón & Aranjuez

Chinchón

Chinchón is one of the most picturesque and best known towns within the Autonomous Community of Madrid, and the fact that it lies very close to the capital city has not spoiled its unique personality. It stands upon hills in a dark grey and ochre colored landscape, its houses grouped around the main Square from which narrow streets wind about, still bearing witness to the life and the history of the town.

The Main Square of Chinchón is one of the finest examples of a medieval square and is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful squares in the world because of its balance and proportions.

Numerous activities were traditionally held in this square: from royal festivals, proclamations, travelling theater groups, games, bullfights, executions, eucharistic plays, religious, political and military events and many others, as well as its use as a cinema set.

Manuel Alvar, savant and member of the Royal Academy, has written that: "the town's main square owes its balance to the perfection of its architectural ensemble".



Aranjuez

The old quarter of Aranjuez is an Historic-Artistic Site. Royal palaces and gardens on the banks of the Tagus form the layout of the town. The ideas of the Enlightenment, applied to the urban development of cities, are embodied here in a balance between nature and man, with watercourses and well-designed gardens lying among the woods and palace architecture. Aranjuez was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2001.

The Strawberry Train and the festival to commemorate the Revolt of Aranjuez, of National Tourist Interest, are some of the cultural musts awaiting the visitor to this town in the Madrid region.

The first thing the visitor can enjoy when approaching Aranjuez is its lush greenery, which forms a sharp contrast to the surrounding arid landscape. The principal points of interest are the 18th century "Palacio Real" (Royal Palace), the "Casa del Labrador" (the farm worker's cottage) and some exceptionally fine gardens, especially the "Jardin del Príncipe" (Gardens of the Prince).

