

Madrid Historic Center Walking Tour

Start: C. de Concepción Jerónima 3

Finish: Monastery of the Incarnation / Royal Palace area

Total walking: about 3.0–3.5 miles

Walking time only: about 1 hr 20 min

Sightseeing pace: 3–4 hours, longer if entering the Royal Palace or monastery

Stop 1 — C. de Concepción Jerónima 3 → Puerta del Sol

Walk: about 8–10 minutes

Start by walking north toward **Puerta del Sol**, Madrid's symbolic center. This is the famous square with the **Bear and Strawberry Tree statue**, the **clock tower**, and the **Kilómetro Cero** marker, which marks the starting point for Spain's radial roads.

Suggested time here: 15–20 minutes

Stop 2 — Puerta del Sol → Plaza Mayor

Walk: about 5–7 minutes

From Puerta del Sol, walk west/southwest toward **Plaza Mayor**. This is one of Madrid's grandest squares, surrounded by arcaded buildings and cafés.

Look for:

- Casa de la Panadería
- The equestrian statue of King Philip III
- The archways leading in and out of the square

Suggested time here: 20–30 minutes

Stop 3 — Plaza Mayor → Mercado de San Miguel

Walk: about 2–3 minutes

This is not on your required list, but it is directly on the route and worth including. **Mercado de San Miguel** is a historic iron-and-glass food market. It is touristy, but visually attractive and useful for a snack, coffee, or restroom stop.

Suggested time: 15–25 minutes, or skip if you want a quieter route

Stop 4 — Mercado de San Miguel → Plaza de la Villa

Walk: about 3–5 minutes

Continue west to **Plaza de la Villa**, one of the most historic small squares in Madrid. It feels older and quieter than Plaza Mayor.

Look for:

- Casa de la Villa
- Torre de los Lujanes
- Casa de Cisneros

Suggested time here: 15–20 minutes

Stop 5 — Plaza de la Villa → Plaza de la Paja

Walk: about 6–8 minutes

Walk downhill into the old **La Latina** area to **Plaza de la Paja**. This is one of the most atmospheric old squares in Madrid and a good place to slow down.

Nearby, you can also see:

- **Jardín del Príncipe de Anglona**, a small hidden garden
- Narrow medieval-feeling streets around La Latina

Suggested time here: 20–30 minutes

Stop 6 — Plaza de la Paja → Almudena Cathedral

Walk: about 8–10 minutes

From Plaza de la Paja, walk northwest toward **Catedral de la Almudena**. Even if you do not go inside, the exterior and the views toward the Royal Palace area are worthwhile.

Optional interior visit: 15–30 minutes

Stop 7 — Almudena Cathedral → Palacio Real

Walk: about 2–3 minutes

The **Royal Palace of Madrid** is one of the major highlights of this walk. Even from the outside, the palace plaza is impressive.

Suggested time outside only: 20–30 minutes

If touring inside: allow 1.5–2 hours

For your walking tour, I would plan this as the “major stop” of the day.

Stop 8 — Palacio Real → Jardines de Sabatini

Walk: about 5 minutes

Walk around the north side of the palace to the **Sabatini Gardens**. These formal gardens are especially good for photos of the palace.

Suggested time here: 20–30 minutes

This is also a good rest stop because the gardens give you a calmer break from the busier palace area.

Stop 9 — Jardines de Sabatini → Monastery of the Incarnation

Walk: about 5–7 minutes

Finish at the **Monastery of the Incarnation — Monasterio de la Encarnación**. It is close to the Royal Palace and gives the walk a quieter historical ending.

Suggested time outside: 10–15 minutes
If open and you tour inside: allow extra time

Recommended timing plan

Comfortable half-day version

Time	Stop
9:30 AM	Leave C. de Concepción Jerónima 3
9:40 AM	Puerta del Sol
10:10 AM	Plaza Mayor
10:40 AM	Mercado de San Miguel snack stop
11:10 AM	Plaza de la Villa
11:40 AM	Plaza de la Paja
12:20 PM	Almudena Cathedral
12:45 PM	Royal Palace
1:30 PM	Sabatini Gardens
2:00 PM	Monastery of the Incarnation
2:15 PM	Lunch nearby or taxi/metro back

Best route order

C. de Concepción Jerónima 3
→ **Puerta del Sol**
→ **Plaza Mayor**
→ **Mercado de San Miguel**
→ **Plaza de la Villa**
→ **Plaza de la Paja**
→ **Almudena Cathedral**
→ **Palacio Real**
→ **Jardines de Sabatini**
→ **Monastery of the Incarnation**

This order works well because it starts with the busy central sights, then moves into older Madrid, then ends at the palace zone.

Lunch suggestion areas

For lunch after the walk, I would choose one of these areas:

Option 1: Near Plaza de Oriente / Royal Palace

Most convenient after finishing the route.

Option 2: La Latina / Plaza de la Paja area

More atmospheric and traditional, especially if you want tapas.

Option 3: Mercado de San Miguel

Easy but more touristy and crowded.

My preference for your group would be: **finish the walk, then have lunch near Plaza de Oriente or La Latina depending on energy level.**