



IS IT SAFE?

Madrid

SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

IS IT SAFE? MADRID

Solo Traveler Safety Guide

OVERALL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

RATING

●●●●■

One of Europe's safer capitals. Low violent crime.

Madrid ranks among the safest major European capitals. Spaniards are outgoing and welcoming, making solo travelers feel at ease quickly. The biggest risks are petty theft in tourist areas and the occasional overpriced tourist trap. Late-night culture means the city stays active — and watched — well past midnight.

Madrid's late culture works in your favor: more eyes on the street, more safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

●●●●● = Very safe ●●●●■ = Safe ●●●■ = Use caution ●●■■■ = Avoid at night ●■■■■ = Avoid

AREA	RATING	NOTES
Sol & Gran Vía	●●●●■	High foot traffic = pickpockets. Stay aware.
Malasaña	●●●●■	Bohemian, lively, very safe day and night.
Chueca	●●●●●	LGBTQ+ friendly, welcoming, well-lit.
Lavapiés	●●●●■	Diverse & changing. Fine in daylight.
Barrio de Salamanca	●●●●●	Upscale, quiet, safe.
La Latina	●●●●■	Great tapas zone. Busy weekends.
Huertas / Letras	●●●●■	Cultural quarter. Safe evenings.
Atocha station area	●●●●■	Busy transport hub — watch bags.

Spaniards are helpful by nature — never hesitate to ask for directions or advice.

GETTING AROUND SAFELY

AREA	RATING	NOTES
Metro	●●●●■	Clean & reliable. Watch bags at Sol/Atocha.
Cercanías (commuter rail)	●●●●●	Very safe. Good connections.
EMT Bus	●●●●●	Safe. Busier routes more crowded.
Taxi / Cabify / Uber	●●●●●	Licensed cabs safe. Apps recommended.
Walking (central)	●●●●●	Excellent. Well-lit, lively streets.

COMMON SCAMS & HOW TO AVOID THEM

Shell game (3-card monte): Near Sol, Rastro market. Never play.

Flamenco CD sellers: Put a CD in your hands, demand payment.

Fake hearing impaired: Clipboard donation scam.

Bar overcharging: Always ask for menu prices before ordering.

Unofficial tour guides: Offer unsolicited tours, charge inflated rates.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

- Spain has excellent public healthcare. EU citizens: use EHIC.
- 112 for all emergencies — operators speak English.
- Farmacias are plentiful; pharmacists give solid basic medical advice.
- Hospital Universitario La Paz and Hospital Gregorio Marañón have English support.
- Tap water is safe throughout Madrid.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

Madrid is consistently rated among Europe's best cities for solo women travelers. The late-night culture means streets stay populated. Locals are quick to help. A few catcalls in tourist zones are the norm rather than threat — ignore and move on. Chueca and Malasaña are particularly relaxed neighborhoods for solo dining and exploring.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police (Policía Nacional)	091
Local Police (Policía Municipal)	092
Ambulance / All Emergencies	112
US Embassy Madrid	+34 91 587 2200
Tourist police (SAF)	902 102 112