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MAD NEWS

From Madrid to the world

MADRID

December, 2019

Christmas in Madrid

Lights, Christmas trees, markets... It's Christmastime in Madrid! To help us enjoy the city during the holiday season, Madrid City Council's Department of Culture, Tourism and Sport has put together a comprehensive, exciting programme full of surprises for all members of the public. Lights have already been placed in new parts of the city, and you can see a big 3D Christmas ball in front of the Metrópolis building. Music will also be a focal point this year, with concerts in squares, churches and municipal cultural centres where Christmas carols will alternate with jazz, gospel, flamenco and music from other countries. In addition, we'll see the return of an old tradition: illuminated nativity scenes, as well as a range of new offerings. Venues like Teatro Circo Price and Matadero Madrid, among others, will also offer a unique programme full of all the magic and hope of the Christmas season.

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What's new in Madrid

Madrid Destino Activities

Madrid, the world's top MICE destination

The city has been named the 2019 World's Leading Meetings & Conference Destination by the Word Travel Awards. The accolade is a testament to the high degree of satisfaction with the city among tourists and industry professionals, and is the result of a collaborative effort between public bodies and private companies.

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Madrid Save the Date

The City Council has compiled a list of over one hundred reasons to visit the city next year, including Liria Palace, Galería Canalejas Madrid, the Mutuactivos Open de España (Spain's open golf tournament), the ESMO Congress and Cirque du Soleil. The guide "Madrid Save the Date 2020" features a wide range of offerings and is part of the annual campaign conducted by Madrid Destino.

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LATAM markets discover Madrid

Madrid City Council's Tourism Department held the first "Reverse Sessions" (where guests are invited to Spain) for the Latin American market, in which 30 agents took part, representing top travel agencies and tour operators from Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

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Competition on Visita Madrid´s Instagram

As part of the national and European campaign to promote "Christmas in Madrid", from 2 to 12 December Madrid City Council's Tourism Department will hold a competition on its Visita Madrid Instagram profile, featuring draws that you can enter to win special, unique gifts so you can enjoy Madrid to the full: from dinner at Corral de la Morería or Picalagartos to tickets to El Rey León (The Lion King), Parque Warner amusement park or an opera at the Teatro Real.

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New Michelin-starred restaurants in Madrid

The capital snagged two new Michelin stars in the 2020 Guide, bringing the total number of its starred restaurants to 23: David Arauz's 99 KÖ SUSHI BAR (located at no.1 Calle Marqués de Villamagna) offers gourmet Japanese fare, while Safe Cruz's Gofio by Cicero Canary (no. 9 Calle Lope de Vega) features creative, signature Canary Island cuisine.

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A new tourist information point

Madrid now boasts a new tourist information point, located in the vicinity of the Royal Palace. The accessible office is equipped with the latest technology and is expected to assist 35,000 people each month. Like Madrid's other information points, it will be open 365 days a year from 9.30am to 8.30pm.

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Madrid in numbers

According to the Hotel Occupancy Survey (EOH) and the Holiday Dwellings Occupancy Survey (EOAP) conducted by the National Statistics Institute (INE), in October 2019 the city of Madrid received 970.288 travellers, whose overnight stays totalled 2.088.686. In the first ten months of 2019, overnight stays have risen 5,9% compared to the same period last year, with 18.913.312 recorded so far.

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Monthly calendar of events

IFEMA Madrid Horse Week

From this Friday to Sunday 1 December, Madrid will host Spain's biggest equestrian event, which aims to make the world of horses accessible to the general public. This year's edition will dial up the level a notch, with Spain hosting the Dressage World Cup for the second year in a row.

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Gospel Greats Madrid

This fixture in Madrid's Christmas calendar is an event not to be missed. This year marks the 25th anniversary of a festival that showcases the best of traditional American gospel with a comprehensive programme featuring groups like the Mississippi Mass Choir and The Golden Gate Quartet, among others. There will also be gospel concerts for the whole family.

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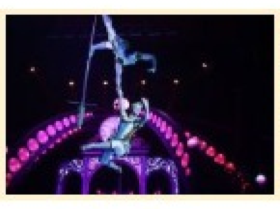

Circo Price Navidad

The magic of Christmas will return to this municipal venue in a circus show for the whole family. "La Fiesta Escénica" is a production featuring acrobats, musicians, flying creatures, a fortune-teller, a strongman, an animal tamer and all sorts of other fantastic creatures and characters.

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What's on in Madrid

A selection of the best offerings in Madrid's cultural and leisure calendar. From must-see exhibitions and theatre and dance premieres to major sporting events, concerts and musicals, for all tastes and audiences.

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Vuelve a Madrid Programme

"THINGS TO DO ON A WEEKEND TRIP TO MADRID! There are always all sorts of things to do in the city: you'll find all the leisure, entertainment and culinary offerings you could possibly imagine. Make your weekend in Madrid unique with the help of these suggestions. Since 1870, La Bola restaurant has been serving its traditional cuisine to locals and tourists alike. We invite you to head there to enjoy some of the best food in the city. Don't miss the choreography and stage effects of La Jaula de las Locas, the Spanish version of La Cage aux Folles, a musical that will take over Teatro Rialto on Gran Via avenue. And how about rounding off your weekend with a magical experience at Hotel Miguel Angel, relaxing in its spa circuit. Are you coming? Register on Vuelve a Madrid and you will receive 200 Puntos Madrid that you can redeem for these and many other experiences.

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Officials products

Madrid City Tour

There's no better way to visit Madrid's most iconic places in a single day than on Madrid City Tour, the bus that will take you on a fun ride through the city's streets, passing by historic sites, monuments and places of interest. An audio guide available in 14 languages provides key information on all of the places along the tour. Madrid City Tour offers two routes: Historic Madrid and Modern Madrid, and travellers can hop off at any point and hop back on as many times as they like. It's undoubtedly one of the easiest and most convenient ways to discover the city.

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In The Press

The Best Art Museums in Madrid That Aren't The Prado (article by Ceil Miller-Bouchet for Here Magazine) [+]

Anniversary celebrations

200th anniversary of the Prado Museum

The Prado Museum will wind up the year it has spent celebrating its 200th anniversary with a unique exhibition: Goya. Drawings. "Only My Strength of Will Remains". The exhibition is the result of work carried out to create a new catalogue of Goya's drawings. For the first time ever, it brings together over three hundred of the artist's drawings from the Prado's own holdings as well as public and private collections. The exhibition offers a modern view of ideas that the artist touched on over the course of his life, highlighting the endurance and continued relevance of his thinking.

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