

OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium

Madrid · From 41€

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History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Chamartín to Global Icon

GOOGLE 4.7 ★★★★★ 233 reviews

TIQETS 4.4 ★★★★☆ 5 592 reviews

The story of the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium begins with a bold vision. In **1943**, Santiago Bernabéu Yeste was elected president of Real Madrid and immediately recognized that the club's existing facilities were insufficient for its growing ambitions. He launched an ambitious project to construct a new, grand stadium capable of hosting the world's best teams. Construction began on **October 27, 1944**, marking the start of a legacy that would define modern football architecture. The site, located in the Chamartín district, was chosen for its accessibility and potential to become the heart of Spanish sport.

The official inauguration took place on **December 14, 1947**, under the name Nuevo Estadio Chamartín. For this historic match against Belenenses, Sabino Barinaga scored the very first goal, etching his name into history forever. Initially, the stadium held over 75,000 spectators, but its true transformation came in the 1950s. Under Bernabéu's leadership, the club achieved unprecedented success, necessitating expansions. By **1954**, the capacity had surged to 125,000 seats, making it the second-largest stadium in Europe after Wembley. This era cemented the venue's status as a global sporting giant.

In **1955**, the General Assembly decided to rename the venue in honor of its visionary president, becoming the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu. The stadium soon became a stage for European dominance, hosting multiple Champions League finals. It witnessed Spain's triumph in **Euro 1964**, where the national team defeated the Soviet Union in front of nearly 100,000 fans. These decades established the Bernabéu not just as a sports arena, but as a symbol of national pride and international excellence, bridging the gap between local passion and global prestige.

The modern era brought further evolution. Major renovations in **1982** prepared the stadium for the World Cup final, reducing capacity slightly to meet safety standards while enhancing comfort. However, the most significant transformation occurred recently. Between **2020 and 2024**, a massive renovation project reimagined the entire structure. The installation of a retractable roof, hybrid turf, and advanced lighting systems has turned the historic venue into a futuristic temple of football, preserving its soul while embracing the future.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping into the Santiago Bernabéu is like entering a living museum of football glory. The air vibrates with the echoes of past chants and the weight of history. As you approach the entrance, the **futuristic façade** reveals itself—a sleek, metallic exoskeleton that contrasts beautifully with the classic stone base. This architectural marvel signals that you are not just visiting a stadium, but experiencing a piece of art dedicated to sport. The light filters through the transparent elements, creating a dynamic interplay of shadows and brightness that changes throughout the day.

Inside, the atmosphere shifts from awe to immersion. Walking along the corridors, you feel the proximity to the pitch, the grass, and the benches where legends sat. The **retractable roof** above offers a glimpse of the sky or the protective shell, depending on the weather, reminding you of the technological prowess housed within these walls. Every corner tells a story, from the trophy room displaying golden cups to the tunnel leading to the field. It is a sensory journey that connects the visitor directly to the adrenaline of the game.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS
Chamartín District · Metro: Santiago Bernabéu (Line M10, direct exit) or Nuevos Ministerios (M6, M8, M10, 10 min walk)

OPENING HOURS
Hours vary by season and matches. Check the official website before your visit, especially on weekends.

PRICES
From €41. Reduced rates for children and school groups. {promo}.

VISIT DURATION
Allow 1h30 to 2h for a complete visit including the museum and technical areas. Guided tours may be slightly longer.

PHOTOS
Photography is allowed in most areas, including on the pitch and stands. No flash in the museum to protect the trophies.

AUDIENCE
Ideal for football fans and families. The immersive experience suits both teens and seniors thanks to its modern accessibility.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation



Metro
: Paseo de la Castellana Pares — 2 min à pied
Madrid-Atocha Station (18 min) · Santiago Bernabéu (6 min)



Bus
: Sagrados Corazones — 4 min à pied
Gare de Madrid-Atocha (29 min) · Santiago Bernabéu (9 min)



Car

Gare de Madrid-Atocha (20 min) · Santiago Bernabéu (4 min)



BiciMAD / Vélo

Gare de Madrid-Atocha (26 min) · Santiago Bernabéu (3 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium ?



📍 Av. de Concha Espina, 1, Chamartín, 28036 Madrid — 28036 Madrid

🌐 40°27.181′ N, 3°41.302′ O



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Modern Stadium

Ground Level (Entrance & Museum)

This level houses the main entrance and the extensive club museum. Here, you will find the trophy cabinet displaying the 15 Champions League titles. Interactive exhibits detail the history of Real Madrid, featuring jerseys, balls, and multimedia presentations. The space is designed to immerse visitors in the club's identity before they ascend to the stands.

Mid-Level (Locker Rooms & Tunnel)

Ascending to this level brings you closer to the action. You will pass through the players' locker rooms, seeing the individual lockers and benches where stars prepare for matches. The highlight here is the access to the players' tunnel, a narrow passage that leads directly onto the pitch. This area offers a unique perspective on the pre-match rituals and the emotional buildup of a game.

Upper Level (Sidelines & Roof Access)

The top tier provides direct access to the sidelines and the pitch itself. Visitors can walk along the edge of the field, feeling the grass beneath their feet. From here, you can also admire the intricate mechanics of the retractable roof. Panoramic views of the stands and the city skyline complete the experience, offering a comprehensive look at the stadium's scale and design.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

Full access to stands, museum, and locker rooms via adapted elevators and ramps post-2024 renovation

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Reduced rates for children, secure areas, and a fun parcours tailored for young football fans.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Unmissable Moments Inside the Temple

01 Tunnel Area

The Players' Tunnel

Crossing the **players' tunnel** is the most emotional moment of the visit. It is the same path taken by legends like Zidane, Ronaldo, and Modrić before stepping onto the pitch. The narrowness of the corridor amplifies the anticipation, making you feel the adrenaline rush of entering the arena. This spot is iconic for photos and memories.

> 💡 Many players have shared that walking through this tunnel creates a unique psychological shift, separating them from the outside world and focusing their mind solely on the game ahead.

02 Museum Hall

Champions League Trophy Cabinet

The museum displays the **15 Champions League trophies** won by Real Madrid, each gleaming under special lighting. These golden cups represent decades of dominance in European football. Reading the plaques next to each trophy provides context about the specific seasons and key players involved. It is a testament to the club's unparalleled success.

> 💡 The original trophy designs have evolved over the years, reflecting changes in UEFA's branding, yet each remains a symbol of ultimate victory in continental competition.

03 Stadium Structure

The Retractable Roof

The **retractable roof** is a technical masterpiece completed in 2024. It allows the stadium to host events regardless of weather conditions. Observing its complex mechanism from the upper levels gives insight into modern engineering. The roof can open or close in minutes, transforming the environment inside the stadium instantly.

> 💡 During the renovation, engineers faced significant challenges in ensuring the roof's stability while maintaining clear views for spectators, resulting in a lightweight yet robust design.

04 Pitch Edge

First Goal Spot

Near the sideline, markers indicate where **Sabino Barinaga** scored the first goal in 1947. This spot connects the present to the stadium's origins. Standing here, you can imagine the excitement of that inaugural match against Belenenses. It is a subtle but powerful reminder of the venue's long history.

> 💡 Barinaga himself was surprised by the magnitude of the event, noting that the crowd's reaction was unlike anything he had experienced in his career.

05 Upper Stands

VIP Lounge Views

While not always accessible to all tours, glimpses of the **VIP lounges** offer a view of luxury hospitality. These areas showcase how the stadium caters to elite guests with premium amenities. The contrast between the raw energy of the pitch and the refined comfort of the lounges highlights the dual nature of modern football venues.

> 💡 These lounges have hosted numerous heads of state and celebrities, making the Bernabéu a meeting point for both sports and diplomacy.

06 Pitch Surface

Hybrid Turf Technology

The pitch features **hybrid turf**, combining natural grass with synthetic fibers. This innovation ensures durability and quality despite heavy use. Touching the grass during the tour allows you to feel the difference. It represents the cutting-edge technology used to maintain optimal playing conditions year-round.

> 💡 Players often praise the consistency of the ball roll on this surface, which contributes to faster and more precise gameplay compared to traditional pitches.

07 Media Center

Historic Press Room

The press room has been renovated but retains its historical significance. Journalists from around the world gather here to cover major matches. Seeing the setup gives insight into the media frenzy surrounding big games. It is a hub of information and analysis, crucial for the global dissemination of football news.

> 💡 During the 1957 European Cup Final, the press room was packed with reporters using typewriters, a stark contrast to today's digital devices.

08 Outside Entrance

Exterior Façade Photography

Before entering, take time to photograph the **exterior façade**. The metallic exoskeleton looks striking against the Madrid sky. Early morning light enhances the textures and curves of the structure. This image serves as a perfect souvenir, capturing the modern identity of the stadium.

> 💡 Architects designed the façade to resemble a crown, symbolizing the royal status of the club and its achievements.

TIPS

Tips for the Perfect Visit

TIMING

Arrive early in the morning for the best lighting for photos and to avoid crowds. The first hours offer a serene atmosphere before the midday rush.

BILLET

Book your ticket online in advance to skip the line. This is especially crucial during summer and weekends when queues can be very long.

PARCOURS

Start with the museum to understand the history, then move to the locker rooms and finally the pitch. This logical flow builds up the emotional experience.

PHOTO

Photography is allowed in most areas. Capture the tunnel and the trophy cabinet, but remember no flash in the museum to protect the artifacts.

PAUSE

Combine your visit with a lunch in the Salamanca district. It is just a few minutes' walk and offers excellent gastronomic options.

ENFANTS

Check for family discounts and reduced rates for children. The interactive exhibits are particularly engaging for young fans.

AUDIOGUIDE

Use the audioguide available in French, English, and Spanish. It provides detailed insights that enhance the understanding of each section.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes as you will be walking on different surfaces, including stairs and the pitch. Dress in layers as indoor temperatures may vary.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

How much does the Bernabéu Tour cost?

The price starts at €41 for a standard self-guided tour. Premium options exist, including the official guided tour by a club expert, which offers priority access and exclusive anecdotes. Prices vary depending on age and

Do I need to book in advance to avoid queues?

Yes, online booking is highly recommended, especially during peak season (summer) and weekends. This allows you to avoid long lines at the ticket windows and guarantees your entry at the desired time. In low season, it i

Are there discounts for groups or schools?

Specific rates exist for school groups and children, often lower than the standard adult rate. It is recommended to contact the organization directly or check dedicated offers on the official website for group bookings.

What exactly does the Bernabéu Tour include?

The tour includes access to the locker rooms, the players' tunnel, the sidelines, and the club museum. You can also admire the trophies, including the 15 Champions League titles, and access certain levels of the stands.

Is the tour available in French?

Yes, guides or audio guides in French are available for tourists. You can opt for a guided tour with a French-speaking host or use the audio guide provided with your ticket to understand the detailed explanations. This o

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

The First Historic Goal

On December 14, 1947, **Sabino Barinaga** scored the first goal in the stadium's history. This moment marked the beginning of a legendary venue. The match ended 3-1 against Belenenses, setting a positive tone for the future.

European Giant of the 50s

In 1954, the stadium's capacity reached **125,000 spectators**. This made it the second-largest in Europe, just behind Wembley. It reflected the immense popularity of Real Madrid during that decade.

Evolution of Lighting

Lighting technology has improved significantly. Initially limited to **400 lux** in 1957, it now exceeds 1,400 lux. This enhancement ensures better visibility for players and broadcast audiences alike.

Spanish Triumph in 1964

The stadium hosted the **Euro 1964** final, where Spain won its first international title. Defeating the Soviet Union in front of 100,000 fans was a pivotal moment in Spanish football history.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The area surrounding the stadium is vibrant and rich in culture. Just steps away lies the **Salamanca District**, known for its elegant boutiques and high-end dining. After your visit, enjoy a sophisticated lunch at one of the many restaurants lining the Paseo de la Castellana. For those seeking greenery, **El Retiro Park** is a short distance away, offering a peaceful retreat with its majestic gardens and lake. Art lovers should not miss the **Sorolla Museum**, located nearby, which showcases the impressionist works of Joaquín Sorolla in his historic home. These attractions provide a perfect complement to the intense energy of the stadium, allowing visitors to explore the diverse facets of Madrid.



Visiting the Bernabéu is more than a tour; it is a pilgrimage for any football lover. Standing on the sidelines, you can almost hear the roar of the crowd and feel the tension of a penalty kick. This place holds the memories of countless victories and dreams realized. Whether you are a lifelong fan or simply curious about the world of sport, the experience leaves an indelible mark. Come to witness the legend, touch the history, and let the spirit of **Real Madrid** inspire you long after you leave.