

### **TOUR 3 “ Madrid of the Bourbons”: SHORT DESCRIPTION**

A journey through the architectural footprint of the first Bourbons in our city

#### **TIME:**

During aprox. 3 hours we'll see the most important highlights

#### **Strating Point:**

1. **Plaza de Cibeles** We are now in the Cibeles sq. The goddess Cibeles, the Greek goddess of fertility, who is seen sitting on a chariot and being pulled by two lions. Up until the 19th century both the fountain of Neptune and Cibeles looked directly at each other, until the city council decided to turn them round to face towards the centre of the city.
2. **Banco de España** Across the Paseo de Prado from the city hall is the Banco de España, Spain's central bank headquarters. The oldest part of the enormous building, bordering the Cibeles square, was built in the 19th century. Inside, 30m below the surface is an area where the central bank stores its gold. Before modern security was installed, the room was flooded in case of danger.
3. **Palacio de Comunicaciones / City Hall.** The most prominent of the buildings at the Plaza de Cibeles is the Communications Palace. The cathedral-like landmark was built in 1909 by Antonio Palacios as the headquarters of the postal service. This impressive building was home to the official city hall since 2007.
4. **Casa de América**
5. **Paseo del Prado**
6. **Bolsa de Madrid.**
7. **Monument to the unknown soldier**
8. **Ritz Hotel**
9. **Thyssen Bornemisza Museum**
10. **Neptuno Fountain**
11. **Salón de Reinos**
12. **Casón del Buen Retiro**
13. **Real Academia de la Lengua Española**
14. **Jerónimos Church**
15. **Prado Museum**
16. **Goya Statue**
17. **Velazquez Statue**
18. **Murillo Statue**
19. **Royal Botanical Garden**
20. **Retiro Park**
21. **Falling Angel Statue**
22. **Cristal Palace**
23. **Velazquez Palace**
24. **Pond at the Retiro and King Alfonso 13th Monument**
25. **Puerta de Alcalá**
26. **Serrano Street**
27. **Arqueological Museum**

- 28. Colón Square**
- 29. National Library**
- 30. Café del Espejo**
- 31. Maphre Art Gallery**
- 32. Marques de Salamanca Palace**
- 33. Café Gijon**
- 34. Paseo de Recoletos**