

Admission to the Royal Armoury is included in the cost of admission to the Royal Palace and has the same hours

Winter hours
(October–March)

Monday to Saturday,
10 am–6 pm

Sundays, 10 am–4 pm

Free admission: Monday
to Thursday, 4–6 pm

Last tickets sold 1 hour
before closing

Summer hours
(April–September)

Monday to Saturday,
10 am–7 pm

Sundays, 10 am–4 pm

Free admission: Monday
to Thursday, 5–7 pm

Last tickets sold 1 hour
before closing



Royal Armoury

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The Royal Armoury in Madrid is considered one of the most important international collections of its kind. It houses luxury armour and weapons owned by Spanish monarchs and other members of the royal family since the Middle Ages, as well as military trophies, diplomatic gifts and other especially significant arms that have been added over the centuries.

The armouries of Emperor Charles V and his son, King Philip II, constitute the original core and essence of this collection. Under Charles V, the armourer's art reached its peak at the principal European production centres in southern Germany, northern Italy and Flanders, all territories with ties to the Spanish crown. This explains why the finest objects were made for Spain's royal family.

Philip II was so fond of the royal armoury that he made its contents inalienable from the Spanish crown in his last will and testament. This remarkable collection of royal weapons and armour was reserved

for jousting matches and tournaments, triumphal parades, personal dress and hunting. Its heart was the collection of Charles V, who assembled part of the arms of his father, Philip the Fair, and his grandparents, the Catholic Monarchs and Emperor Maximilian I of Austria. All of these are displayed together in the first gallery of the permanent exhibition.



Although Charles V and Philip II are the most renowned contributors to the Royal Armoury, Philip III and Philip IV are also represented by two remarkable collections of seventeenth-century arms. Both are accompanied in the second gallery by pieces of armour that once belonged to prominent courtiers and an interesting array of white arms and firearms.

After the House of Bourbon came to power with the proclamation of Philip V in the year 1700, the Royal Armoury continued to grow with the addition of arms from various sources. The new dynasty turned Madrid into one of Europe's leading production centres of luxury

firearms. A selection of these pieces is presented on the lower level, forming a kind of buffer between the Habsburg collections.

At the end of Charles V's life, the collection was kept in Brussels and later Valladolid. When Philip II moved the court to Madrid, he ordered that the royal weapons and armour be relocated from Valladolid to a new building he had erected opposite the Alcázar, beside the stables, for this very purpose. The new structure created a quadrangular space on the south side of the Alcázar that has been known as Plaza de la Armería or Armoury Square ever since. It stood between the current fence of the Royal Palace and the steps of the Cathedral of La Almudena. A devastating fire in 1884 led to its demolition and the construction of the present-day museum, designed as a heroic space for the display of armour and tapestries. A large skylight provided plenty of natural lighting, so that the decorative details of the armour could be properly appreciated. Major works were recently completed to reinstate this skylight using LED technology, with the dual aim of boosting energy efficiency and enhancing visitors' enjoyment of the collection.

Thanks to all these impressive collections, today the Royal Armoury is undoubtedly one of the crown jewels of Spanish historical heritage.