

MADRID, BUT MAKE IT EASY

27-31 AUGUST 2026

ENGLISH-ONLY TRAVEL PLAN

Hotel Emperador - rooftop pool - queer art

Chueca - gay saunas - nightlife

A relaxed return visit with space to do absolutely nothing when the rooftop pool wins.

POOL

QUEER ART

NIGHTLIFE

WEATHER

TRIP AT A GLANCE

Hotel Emperador, Gran Via 53

THE RHYTHM

This plan does not treat Madrid like a first visit. It combines two proper pool days, one fresh and highly relevant exhibition, one scheduled sauna, an optional second one, two lively gay nights and a deliberately easy final evening.

THU 27	Arrival - rooftop pool - Chueca - LL drag show
FRI 28	Queer art - Lavapies - pool - Octopus - club
SAT 29	Sleep in - long pool day - optional Paraíso - nightlife
SUN 30	Optional Rastro - pool - relaxed farewell evening
MON 31	Breakfast - last swim - airport

Weather status: Only 27 August is currently inside the forecast horizon. Friday through Monday use Madrid's typical late-August planning range, not invented daily forecasts. Recheck 48 hours before departure.

WEATHER

updated 13 Aug 2026



THURSDAY 27

28 / 15 C

SUNNY

early forecast



FRIDAY 28

30-35 / 17-21 C

MOSTLY DRY

planning range



SATURDAY 29

30-35 / 17-21 C

SUN LIKELY

planning range



SUNDAY 30

30-35 / 17-21 C

MOSTLY DRY

planning range



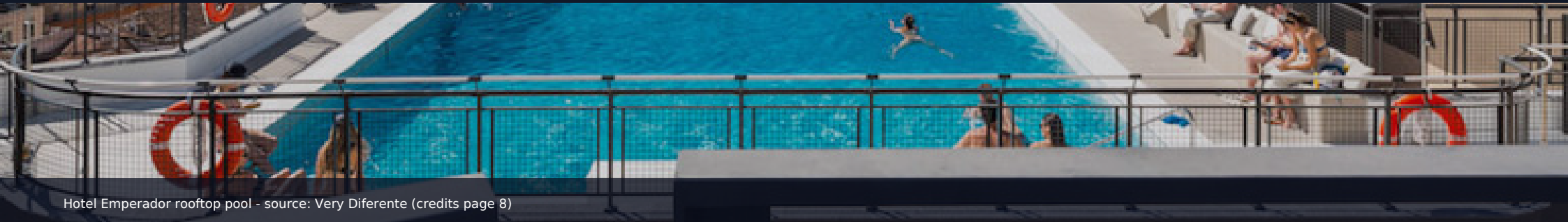
MONDAY 31

30-35 / 17-21 C

SUN LIKELY

planning range

THURSDAY 27 AUGUST



Hotel Emperador rooftop pool - source: Very Diferente (credits page 8)

DAY PLAN

- 14:10** Land in Madrid. After baggage reclaim, head to the official taxi rank.
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- about 14:45** Taxi to Hotel Emperador. The fixed airport fare to destinations inside the M-30 is currently EUR 33 per vehicle. Allow roughly 25-40 minutes.
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- 15:30-16:00** Check in, drop the bags and go straight upstairs.
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- 16:30-19:30** Pool, sunshine and the first cocktail. The Beach Club is open in August and included for hotel guests.
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- 20:30** Easy dinner in Chueca, perhaps around Mercado de San Anton. Keep arrival day flexible rather than booking a rigid time.
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- 22:30** LL Bar on Calle de Pelayo for a drag show and a funny, low-pressure start to Madrid's gay scene.
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- from 00:30** Optionally continue to DLRO Live or have one drink around Plaza de Chueca. Return around 2 a.m. so Friday remains usable.
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USEFUL

MOOD

Arrive, exhale and enjoy the rooftop. This is intentionally not the biggest party night.

FROM THE HOTEL

Strong: 6-8 min walk. Sauna Paraíso: 8-10 min.
Plaza de Chueca and LL Bar: about 14-16 min.

HEAT STRATEGY

Keep the first afternoon entirely at the pool. Carry water after sunset even if the air feels cooler.

FRIDAY 28 AUGUST



Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Sweet Revenge, Museo Reina Sofia - official museum image

DAY PLAN

- 10:30** Late breakfast and a slow start.
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- 11:30-14:00** Museo Reina Sofia, specifically for Felix Gonzalez-Torres's 'Sweet Revenge'. Love, loss, AIDS, queer identity and politics - far more worthwhile than another complete museum marathon.
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- 14:15** Lunch in Lavapies, perhaps at Mercado de San Fernando.
-
- 15:30-18:00** Back to the Emperador for the pool, a break and a cool-down.
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- 18:30-21:00** Sauna Octopus, Calle de Churruca 10. Large pool, a more body-positive atmosphere and a mixed, mature, bear-friendly crowd. Allow roughly EUR 16-20.
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- 21:30** Light dinner in Malasana or Chueca.
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- from 00:30** Strong for electronic music, a men-only crowd and a cruisier atmosphere. Alternative: DLRO for pop, reggaeton and shows.
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USEFUL

WHY THIS EXHIBITION

Gonzalez-Torres turns grief and queer history into beautiful, participatory work. The show runs through October 2026.

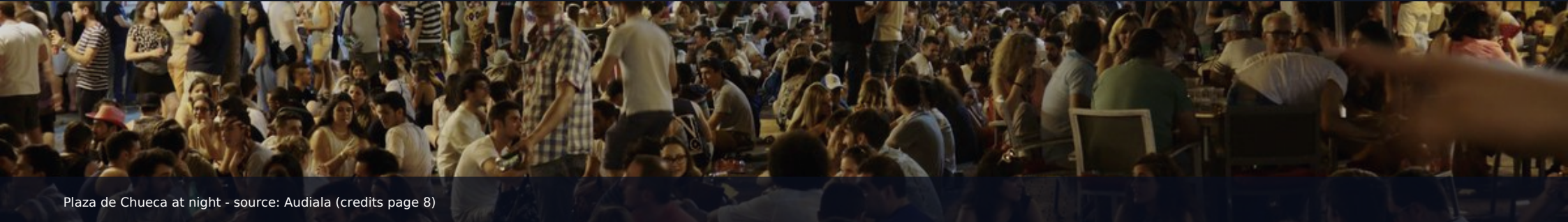
SAUNA CHOICE

Octopus is the first choice for this trip: mature, body-positive and bear-friendly rather than strongly youth-focused.

IF ENERGY DROPS

Keep Friday short after the sauna and move Strong to Saturday. One excellent club night is enough.

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST



Plaza de Chueca at night - source: Audiala (credits page 8)

DAY PLAN

Morning	Sleep without an alarm. The day should not feel like a timetable by lunchtime.
11:30-17:00	The main pool day: sun lounger, lunch on the rooftop, a siesta in between and a cocktail over Madrid at the end.
18:00	Option A: shower, sleep and save energy for the night. If Friday at Strong was long, this is probably the clever choice.
18:00	Option B: Sauna Paraíso, Calle del Norte 15. Very large, lively, continuously open at weekends and generally younger than Octopus.
21:30	Dinner in Chueca or Salesas.
23:30	Bar-hop: Plaza de Chueca - El 12 - THICK or LL Bar. There is no need to tick off every venue; follow the atmosphere.
from 01:30	Strong or DLRO. Saturday is the best night for a long club session if Friday has deliberately been kept shorter.

USEFUL

THE PRIORITY

The rooftop pool is today's main event. Everything else may be shortened or dropped spontaneously.

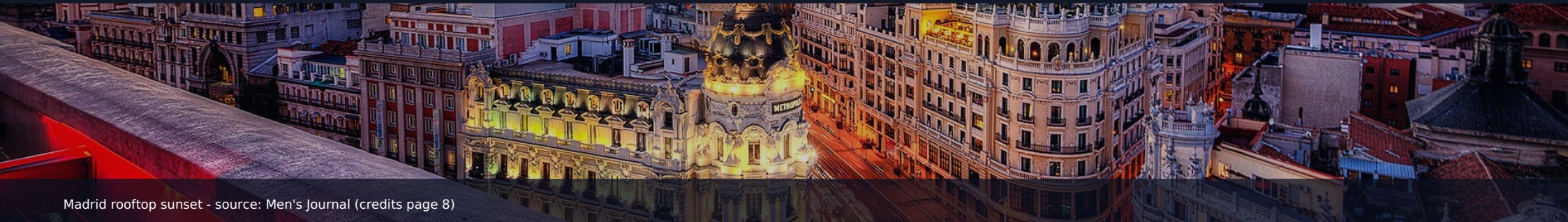
SECOND SAUNA

Paraíso is optional, not an obligation. Choose it only if it sounds more tempting than a nap.

NIGHTLIFE CHOICE

Strong for electronic and cruisy. DLRO for pop, reggaeton and shows. Decide from the final weekend flyers.

SUNDAY 30 + MONDAY 31 AUGUST



Madrid rooftop sunset - source: Men's Journal (credits page 8)

SUNDAY 30

about 12:00 If you are surprisingly energetic, walk through El Rastro and have tapas in La Latina. Otherwise, skip it without guilt.

14:00-18:30 One more long pool session. This is the deliberately appointment-free part of the trip.

20:30 A calm farewell dinner in Salesas or Chueca.

afterwards A few drinks around Plaza de Pedro Zerolo or Plaza de Chueca. No major club night - unless Madrid wins the argument.

HOTEL EVENT CHECK

Ask reception about the current 'A Pool Story' rooftop schedule. The seasonal programme may include outdoor cinema, yoga or summer parties.

MONDAY 31

09:00 Breakfast, pack and prepare for check-out.

10:00-11:15 If the pool opens early enough, have one last swim. Confirm the exact guest hours with reception on Sunday.

11:45 Taxi to the airport. Expected arrival around 12:20-12:35.

14:55 Return flight. The proposed departure time leaves a comfortable airport buffer.

DO NOT CUT THIS TOO FINE

Madrid traffic is usually manageable, but terminal assignment and security can add time. Keep the 11:45 hotel departure.

GAY GUIDE + PRACTICAL NOTES

SAUNAS

OCTOPUS - FIRST CHOICE

Mixed, mature and bear-friendly crowd, body-positive atmosphere and a large pool. Friday at 18:30.

NIGHTLIFE BY MOOD

LL BAR

Drag, comedy and an easy opening venue.

PACK + WALKING TIMES

PARAISO - OPTION TWO

Very large, livelier and generally younger. Convenient for early Saturday evening.

DLRO LIVE

Pop, reggaeton, shows and very late closing.

SAUNA CENTER - PLAN B

Open 24 hours, centrally located at Calle de Valverde 32 and a reliable fallback.

STRONG

Electronic music, men-only crowd, dancefloor and cruising. The exact weekend theme will be published closer to the date.

Pack: Photo ID, SPF 50 sunscreen, cap, refillable water bottle, two swimsuits, a light evening layer, comfortable shoes and earplugs. Take few valuables into saunas and follow each venue's house rules.

Approximate walks from Hotel Emperador:
Strong 6-8 min - Sauna Paraíso 8-10 min - Plaza de Chueca and LL Bar 14-16 min - Sauna Octopus 18-20 min.

SOURCES, LINKS + IMPORTANT NOTES

Planning

Hotel Emperador Beach Club

<https://www.emperadorhotel.com/en/terrace-beach-club/>

Museo Reina Sofia - Sweet Revenge

<https://www.museoreinasofia.es/en/exhibition/felix-gonzalez-torres/>

Madrid Tourism - airport taxi

<https://www.esmadrid.com/en/getting-around-madrid-taxi>

LL Bar - Madrid Tourism

<https://www.esmadrid.com/en/nightlife/ll-bar>

DLRO Live - Madrid Tourism

<https://www.esmadrid.com/en/nightlife/delirio-live>

Strong Madrid

<https://strong.madrid/>

Weather

The early Thursday forecast comes from the outlook available on 13 August 2026. A reliable daily forecast was not yet available for Friday through Monday. The planning range follows Madrid's typically hot and dry late-August pattern.

Madrid Tourism - climate

<https://www.esmadrid.com/en/madrid-climate>

Saunas

Sauna Octopus

<https://www.patroc.com/gay/madrid/d/saunaoctopus.html>

Sauna Paraíso

<https://saunaparaíso.com/>

Sauna Center

<https://www.travelgay.com/venue/sauna-center>

Image credits

Hotel Emperador rooftop pool - Very Diferente

<https://verydiferente.com/ocio/la-terrazza-del-emperador-un-beach-club-en-las-alturas/>

Madrid rooftop sunset - Men's Journal

<https://www.mensjournal.com/travel/long-weekend-guide-to-madrid>

Sweet Revenge - Museo Reina Sofia

<https://www.museoreinasofia.es/en/exhibition/felix-gonzalez-torres/>

Plaza de Chueca - Audiala

<https://audiala.com/en/spain/madrid/plaza-de-chueca>

Important: Club programmes, prices and opening hours may change at short notice. Strong has not yet published the full programme for 27-30 August. Recheck weather and final club flyers 2-3 days before departure.