

Tourist guide to Brunete

Brunete



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Mayor's greeting

Dear visitor,

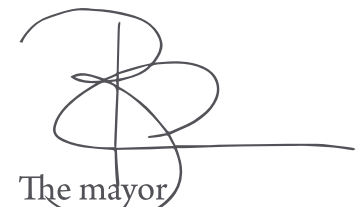
It is not easy to explain in just a few lines the reasons why you should get to know the very special town that Brunete is. A town both rich in history and traditions and in a privileged natural setting. The best you can do is to dive right into it, discover the Main Square, not only declared by the Community of Madrid to be a Site of Cultural interest, but also one of three left in Spain in Herrera style. After that, enter the Church or discover the old quarter, rebuilt back in the 40s after the Battle of Brunete and harbours unique sites. If you are into war-tourism, you will be able to visit the bunkers (included in the Catalogue of Protected Sites) that are still left today as a reminder of what happened during the battle.

Brunete is a town that cherishes its roots, its history and traditions, this can be seen on its characteristically Castilian cuisine gastronomy, where the Madrid Chickpea outstands as it is the best to prepare the traditional Cocido stew and has been harvested in this region for centuries now. Don't hesitate to give it a taste!


We are a town of beautiful contrasts, with a natural setting we have always protected, as it is part of our identity as a town. There are many hiking routes and cycle tourism that will take you through beautiful sites to the Regional Park of the Middle Guadarrama River Basin or to the Special Birds Protection Area (which begins within our region). If you are a lover of ornithology, here you will find unique golden eagle and vulture specimens a part from the black stork, which can be found all yearlong and is part of Brunete, as its skyline wouldn't be complete without their nests. We also have a very important green lung right in our town centre, with more than 3000 trees along the streets and parks. We grew horizontally, avoiding big blocks of buildings. This way, when the night falls, the moon and the stars can be seen and enjoyed.

All this, and much more that I am leaving out, is Brunete. But above all, we are a welcoming, participative and happy town. This is why those who decided to come live with us, stayed for good.

Come, experience Brunete! You will want to come back!




The mayor
Borja Gutiérrez Iglesias



Brunete lies east from Madrid, at approximately 30 km (19 miles). It has almost 11,000 inhabitants and it is very well connected thanks to the M-501 highway. There is also a very well commute system, which connects Brunete with Madrid's two most important intermodal transportation hubs, Moncloa Line 627) and Príncipe Pío (Line 581). The town is surrounded by an incredible natural environment, the most important feature, the Parque Regional del Curso Medio del Río Guadarrama (Regional Park of the Middle Guadarrama River Basin).

The town's origin is still controversial. Any record that could help us regarding the subject, has disappeared. There are some signs that early settlements could date back to roman times. The villa, like other neighbor towns, would have been founded by segovian nomads, who chose this vast site known as the "Brunetas", name it received from the thick, black cloths worn by those who worked the land. And it is from that term, that the name of the town comes from.



During the Arab invasion, it came into the hands of a Saracen known as “el Morillo”, who took residence in the castle of Villafranca. During the Modern Age, Brunete became a noble villa of which the Counts of Chinchon were in charge. It was the king Carlos V who granted them both the title and the villa. This went on until the 18th Century, when their descendants passed their rights over to the Marquis of Francavilla. However, it wouldn't be until 1869 that the town would stop depending legally from Chinchón. The looms and tanneries, which had been characteristic to the town, soon disappeared, leaving it to agriculture to lead the town's economy.

In July 1937, Brunete became the setting of one of the most important battles the Spanish Civil War saw. It destroyed the town almost completely. The town we know nowadays was rebuilt during the 40s. A new town centre was built as well as a main square, of Herrera style, from where the rest of the town's map is traced.

Discover Brunete BRUNETE


Nowadays it is difficult to imagine Brunete as it was during the 30s, a peaceful village where almost its 1500 inhabitants were farmers. The Battle of Brunete decimated its population, which in 1940 was of only 335. It destroyed the town, which was fully rebuilt in the mid 40s.

The first stone of such reconstruction of the **OLD QUARTER**, carried out by the Council for Devastated Regions, can be seen in Paz Street.

The quarter was reshaped into straight streets. The streets that are best preserved are “ESPERANZA”, “MÁRTIRES” or “DE LA IGLESIA.”

Brunete's **MAIN SQUARE**, declared in 2016 **Property of Cultural Interest** by the Community of Madrid, is the epicenter of the Old Quarter, from which all the main streets start off. It is also the gathering place for its folk. It was built in Herrera style, square-shaped, and opened by two great stone staircases. The configuration of the square caters to the outlines dictated in the 16th century in the Leyes de Indias (Laws of the Indies) for the overseas urbanizations.

The colonnade is formed by 60 granite columns, granite that comes from the same quarry as the stones of the **MONASTERIO DEL ESCORIAL** and **PLAZA DE ORIENTE** in Madrid. The final touch to its particular beauty is given both by the stone fountain, topped with lanterns and a metallic sun, placed in the middle and the small gardens that give access to it.



From the top stone staircase, one can access the parish church of **NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ASUNCIÓN** (Our Lady of the Assumption), beautifully melted into the architectonical compound. It was originally built in the 16th century, and restored in 1772. It would stay so until 1836, when a terrible fire destroyed it. It was again restored in 1858. During the 19th century the original tower of circular roof collapsed.

The present tower has a slate roof, very much alike to the Herrera style. Inside we can find the main altar, dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption, where we can see some Sacred Hearts with the heads of the apostles Peter and James (Santiago). The last one, as a remembrance of the Battle of Brunete, which took place on St. James's Day. When walking its naves, we find an altar dedicated to the Holy Christ of the Patrocinio, patron saint of the town since the 18th century.

From the Main Square's lower stone staircase, in the direction of the Jardinillos (Small gardens), two streets start. Both start off at a roundabout where the monument **RAICES** stand, which remembers, through traditional farming equipment and evocation to the land and hunting animals, the town's farming past and present. To its left, the Boadilla del Monte stroll begins, where we can find the park of Our Lady of the Assumption, topped by the **BANDSTAND**, place dedicated to cultural and local activities.


Starting from the Raices monument, straight ahead, we find -where once there was a small lake- the Municipal Park Luis Martín Granizo and its **FUENTE DE LOS MORALES**, a fountain that remembers Brunete's rich agricultural past, its numerous underground aquifers where many locals used to get water from. This fountain has two pipes with lion's heads and it's decorated with four columns with granite embellishments.

Another fountain is the **FUENTE DE CAÑO NUEVO** located at about 1km from the centre, on the right side of the M-513 road to Boadilla del Monte. It is almost one century old, although it is thought that the well from which it draws its water could be much older. It was built with only one pipe and from big, carved granite blocks.

On the other hand, there is the **FUENTE DE PABLO (Paul's Fountain)** is south of the town, at about 3 kilometers. There is no data about the fountain's date, however, experts consider it to be some centuries old. Made of red bricks, it is easy to see the different modifications it has undergone throughout the years.

Going back to the Park of Luis Martín Granizo, with the monument "**RAICES**" as a starting point, the street Real de San Sebastian is born. It is the core of the town's commerce and goes on until the **ERMITA DE SAN SEBASTIAN (Hermitage of St. Sebastian)**.

Such stands where the former hermitage from 1649 was before being completely destroyed during the Civil War. It was rebuilt in 1985 on a stone plinth with stone and brick pillars. Inside we can find a woodcarving of a wounded St. Sebastian and a copy of the banner that was used to lead the procession.




The REMAINS OF THE BATTLE OF BRUNETE remind us of the cruelest time of history, which took place on July 1937. For history enthusiasts, there is a war route that starts where the roads M-600 and M-501 converge. There we can find a group of curved-shaped bunkers, typically built by the Republican faction.

This route continues until the kilometer 33 of the M-600 road, where more BUNKERS can be found. These are cross shaped, used mainly by the Nationalist faction.


Nowadays, there are a total of 14 BUNKERS, and they are included on the CATÁLOGO DE BIENES PROTEGIDOS (Catalogue of Protected Sites). One can still today read the inscriptions the soldiers carved into the bunkers during the battle.

These bunkers were once interconnected by underground tunnels and trenches that are today almost gone.




Brunete has a Mediterranean climate, with young, not very deep soils, used as farming land or forest ground. The municipality is in a spectacular natural environment. On the east, it has the **PARQUE REGIONAL DEL CURSO MEDIO DEL RIO GUADARRAMA** - Regional Park of the Middle Guadarrama River Basin, and to the west, the **ZONA DE ESPECIAL PROTECCION DE AVES (ZEPA)** - Special Bird Protection Area- for the oak forests of the Alberche and Cofio rivers.

The Regional Park of the Middle Guadarrama River Basin is full of natural values. Geologically we can differentiate the granitic ramp of the mountain range and the detrital field, which at the same time, are home to 5 large vegetation types: groves and riversides, holm oaks, thickets and grasslands, reforested pines and rainfed crops. The plant formation is based on holm oak, bush and broom, along with other tree species that make up a landscape of special beauty.




All this plant wealth serves as a habitat for a very rich and diverse **FAUNA**, highlighting some specimens included in the Regional Catalog of Threatened Species such as the Iberian imperial eagle, the vulture, the black stork, the wild cat, the pond turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*) or the frog of San Antón.

Throughout the municipality there are many natural streams, such as Cienvallejos, El Fresnedal or Los Morales. These represent the richness of the underground aquifers, which spread all over the town, making it especially fertile for farming. At the same time, the **HUMEDAL DEL CHARCO POLEO**, recently resurfaced, is a refuge for migratory birds. Here we can find some species, mainly amphibians, typical of this region.



Many centuries of History have built up the life of Brunete's people. Throughout all these years they've managed to cherish and bequeath their traditions and customs. Brunete has encouraged and preserved its roots. In Brunete there is a great tradition of **CASTILLIAN DANCES**, derived from the Segovian dances such as "jotas" and "rondones", which with the passing of time have received different influences, adding the "seguidillas". On that same note, Brunete's traditional costume still has its segovian roots. The biggest festivity of the town is on September 14th, day of the patron saint of the villa, **THE HOLY CHRIST OF THE PATROCINIO**. During this day, the streets are fully decorated and the Main Square holds different scenes from the past, traditional dances. It is from here that the saint is paraded.

Another big festivity is the day of **SAINT SEBASTIAN**, he was for many centuries the saint protector of the villa. The tradition is for the San Sebastian Fraternity to organize festive acts and for the whole town to pitch in for the festivity to be raised.



The **HOLY WEEK** is also a big event for Brunete. The “saetas” (revered form of Spanish religious song) and meeting between Our Mother of Sorrows and Jesus of Nazareth in the intersection of Iglesia and Esperanza Streets is one of the most important moments of a procession that also has a very important stop at the Tres Cruces (Three Crosses) Park (It receives this name because on at dawn on Maundy Thursday three crosses are placed there), from where it heads to the church.

Another of Brunete’s mayor traditions is the day of the **CORPUS CHRISTI**, a day the Town Hall has requested to be labeled as a festivity of Regional Tourist Interest. Friends and families gather from dawn to cover the streets with colourful, religiously-decorated sand-rugs. The locals decorate their doorways with fresh plants and flowers, Spanish flags and banners.

Every May 15, Brunete celebrates **SAN ISIDRO** (St. Isidore). The farmers of the town are the ones in charge of its organization at the Pradera de San Isidro (St. Isidore’s Prairie). Here, hundreds of locals gather to have a picnic lunch with their family and friends.campo.



Brunete's GASTRONOMY is strongly linked to the Castilian Land. This is why ASADOS (roasted meat) and SPOON DISHES are the stars of the local cuisine. But if there's a flagship product, it is the MADRID CHICKPEA, harvested in Brunete and its surroundings since ancient times. This is the kind of chickpea with which the most popular dish in Madrid has been traditionally made: the COCIDO (Madrid - style stew).

This special variety of chickpea is known for its small size and orangey colour. What differs it from other varieties are its characteristics after being cooked. Once cooked, it grows almost twice from its original size; its skin doesn't fall off and presents a buttery and whitish smoothness in its interior. This makes it ideal for the preparation of the traditional COCIDO MADRILEÑO.

Restaurants in Brunete offer up to a thousand cocidos every week. Another very traditional dish is the POTAJE CON COLLEJAS (chickpea and *Silene vulgaris* stew). But Brunete's field's raw material doesn't end here. It's a land of small game, and thus the rabbit, the hare or the partridge (often prepared with beans), are very tasteful and delicious alternatives. There are still farmers who continue to craft local wine and the local vegetable farms provide us with quality, fresh produce all year round.

CONFECTIONERY became an important ally for any celebration. Each festivity throughout the year has its own dessert and these can be purchased in traditional bakeries when each time of the year comes. Some examples are: Aniseed cake, butter buns, rosca de San Sebastián (St Sebastian doughnut) or hornazo (sweet and dry bread which is decorated with hard-boiled egg).

BRUNETE, A TOWN WITH SOUL

Throughout these pages we have given you a flash view of our history and beauty. We have invited you to discover the beautiful contrasts of our privileged natural surroundings. We have explained our traditions and gastronomy. But Brunete is much more than that.

Brunete is a welcoming town of primary residence. Its closeness to the capital and the fact that it hasn't lost its essence throughout history, have made of Brunete the final destination of families that their children to grow in a secure ambiance, with vast green areas, cultural activities, well communicated and where everyone is willing to help when needed by any member of the community. In fact, out of the more than 10,700 registered residents, more than a 30% is less than 24 years old, which is an outstanding number.

As a town, we decided to grow horizontally, avoiding big edifications and instead investing in life quality, with the many parks for the little ones to enjoy and the more than 3000 trees covering our streets and gardens.

We are also a Sports town. More than 25% of the residents practices sport in any of our 30 sports clubs and schools. Some of these are home to several world champions of different disciplines, such as Judo. We have numerous champions, football, indoor football, tennis, paddle, swimming, athletics, and many more. Even though most athletes are children or young adults, older locals are also interested in sports. Through sports, values of solidarity, fellowship and personal effort are conveyed.

Brunete counts with many local and family-run businesses and companies. We are, in fact, a regional landmark for our variety and diversity on commercial offer.

You can find all sort of products, always at the best price and excellent service. Our unemployment rate is at 7.7% (December 2016), amongst the lowest of the Comunidad de Madrid. We are also going to promote new business zone committed to the preservation of the environment.

Only God know if you are to become the next member of our community! If so we will receive you with open arms. Here you will discover a town with a big soul. A tow that faces the future with every local's optimism, hard work and enthusiasm. Because in Brunete, everyone counts.

GET TO KOW US:

Experience great adventures with friends and family, discover our history, an astonishing church for you to get married in; explore the Regional Park of the Middle Guadarrama River Basin, parks and gardens to stroll through; horseback riding, cycle tourism, hiking, these are just a few of the activities you can enjoy...

AND STAY WITH US...

Nurseries, schools, high school, green areas, sports facilities, these describe the quality of life BRUNETE has to offer.

Holiday Calendar - 07

(ALL YEARLONG)

1st Sunday of the month
Artisans Fair

2nd Saturday of the month
Classic American Cars

JANUARY 20TH

San Sebastian. Actos Religiosos - Procesión

FEBRUARY – MARCH – APRIL

Theater Festival “Ana Maria Vidal”, Poetry Festival “David Cantero”, Novel Festival “Dulce Chachón”, Book Fair (Storytellers, Book Markets, Book Presentations)

HOLY WEEK

Live representation of The Passion of Christ, “The Nazarene” before Palm Sunday, Religious Events – Procession on Good Friday

APRIL

“Feria De La Tapa”

MAY 15TH

St. ISIDRO – Religious Events - Pilgrimage

CORPUS CHRISTI

Religious Events – Procession – Floral Rugs

JUNE

International Folklore Festival

JULY - AUGUST

Open Air Cinema - Concerts

SEPTEMBER

Cultural Week – Patron Saint Festivities – Religious Events – Bullfighting - Sports

OCTOBER

HALLOWEEN – Annual Poultry Fair


NOVEMBER

Visualia Short Film Festival – Annual Poultry Fair

DECEMBER

Christmas and Epiphany, Children’s Workshops, Shows, Magic, Christmas Concerts, Nativity Contest, Three Wise Men Parade

09 - Contact

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1. - PLAZA MAYOR
2. - CENTRO HISTÓRICO
3. - PLAZA DE LA IGLESIA
4. - JARDINILLOS
5. - MONUMENTO RAÍCES
6. - TEMPLETE
7. - FUENTE DE LOS MORALES
8. - ERMITA DE SAN SEBASTIÁN
9. - FORTINES

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