

## Madrid – Lavapiés

*Lavapiés* and *Embajadores* were originally tough, working-class districts built to accommodate the huge population growth of Madrid in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. *Lavapiés* may also be the location of the former Jewish quarter of Madrid (before the banishment in 1492). Legend has it that the name of the neighbourhood comes from Jewish ceremonies that were performed in the square before entering in the synagogue, one of them washing ones feet or in Spanish: *lavando los pies*. When they were banished, many converted to Christianity, changing their name to the Spanish *Manuel* or *Manuela*; from this comes the current nickname of Lavapiés residents, *the manolos*.

Traditional sights are thin on the ground, but some original tenement blocks survive and the area is now famous for the *Rastro street market*. These barrios are also the home of the *castizos* - authentic madrileños - who can be seen in traditional costumes during local festivals. The character of these areas has changed, however, in recent years. Young Spaniards and large numbers of immigrants have arrived, meaning that Lavapiés and Embajadores are now Madrid's *most racially mixed barrios*, with teahouses, kebab joints and textile shops sitting alongside some of the most original bars and restaurants in the city.

- *More extensive information and a map of the discovery tour in <https://chain.eu/?m3=49610>. Markers refer to content articles.*
- *The tour was partly realised during a Madrid BiM meeting. One of the various articles with a video clip of the report: <https://chain.eu/?m3=50468>.*