



UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND RECTORS' SEMINAR 2026

hosted by the University of Alcalá
24-26 June 2026

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS





Welcome to Alcalá de Henares, a historic university city where literature, culture, and academic tradition meet!

Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Alcalá de Henares is best known as the birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes and for its long-standing academic heritage shaped by the University of Alcalá, one of the oldest universities in Europe.

And it's just on the outskirts of Madrid, one Europe's most dynamic cities..

This short guide provides practical information, local tips, and insights to get around in the context of your participation in the UNICA General Assembly & Rectors' Seminar 2026.

HELLO
HOLA



Welcome Rec
25 Feb

VENUES

Conference venue

Colegio de San Ildefonso de la Universidad de Alcalá

Calle San Diego SN
28801, Alcalá de Henares
Madrid, Spain



Conference dinner

Parador de Alcalá de Henares

Calle Colegios 8
28801, Alcalá de Henares
Madrid, Spain





ACCOMMODATION

The hosting university has pre-booked rooms at the hotels listed below

Hotel	Location	Rates (breakfast incl.)	Deadline & booking process
Parador MAIN HOTEL	Calle Colegios, 8 (building where the event takes place)	€165 double room for single use €195 double room	15 May Fill out <u>this form</u> and send it to eventos.alcala@parador.es
Hotel Evenia	C. Cardenal Cisneros, 22 (10' walk to the venue)	Double room for single use €90 Double room €105	25 May Code UNICA 2026
Residencia San Ildefonso	Plaza San Diego s/n (building where the event takes place)	Single room €40 Double room €50	Rooms blocked with check-in on June 24 and check-out on June 26 Send a booking request to sanildefonso@crusa.es mentioning the code UNICA2026



ARRIVING IN ALCALÁ

From Madrid - Barajas Airport

Alcalá de Henares is located approx. 30 km northeast of Madrid and 20 km from the [Madrid-Barajas Airport \(MAD\)](#).

BY BUS

Lines 824 and 223: Departures from terminals T1 and T2. This is the most direct and affordable option (approx. €4.00 - €6.50). The trip takes about 50-70 minutes to Via Complutense in Alcala. Line 223 frequently connects Alcala with the Avenida de America hub in Madrid.



824 bus

BY TRAIN (Cercanias)

From T4, take line C-1 to "Chamartin" or "Nuevos Ministerios" and transfer to lines C-2, C-7, or C-8 toward Alcala de Henares/Guadalajara (approx €6.00 - €10.00) Connects Alcala to Madrid (Atocha, Recoletos, Chamartin) every 10-15 minutes. The trip to Madrid takes approximately 45-50 minutes.



Renfe ticket machine (train)

BY TAXI

Taxis are available at all terminals. The estimated cost is €40 - €50, and the ride takes about 20-30 minutes. You can order a taxi by calling Radio Taxi Alcala at +34 91 882 21 79.



Taxi

MORE INFORMATION (click to visit the websites)

[Renfe Timetables](#) | [Renfe AVE \(high-speed train\)](#) | [824 Bus timetable \(Airport - Alcalá\)](#) | [Metro](#) | [More info on options & fares](#)



ALCALÁ DE HENARES: MUST KNOW

WEATHER

Alcalá has a continental climate. Summers are very hot and dry, while winters can be quite chilly. Always check the forecast, as the "Castilian cold" can be biting in the shade.

CURRENCY

Euro (€). Credit cards are widely accepted, but it is recommended to have some cash for small "tapas" bars.

LANGUAGE

Spanish is the official language. While the University environment is international, carrying a translation app for local shops is helpful.

TIMETABLES

Lunch is usually served between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Dinner rarely starts before 8:30 PM.



WINING AND DINING

Alcalá is famous for its **"tapas"** culture: when you order a drink, you usually get a generous small plate of food for free!

By the way, do you know why they're called "tapas"? Tapas are named after the Spanish verb tapar ("to cover"), because they originated as small slices of bread or meat placed over sherry glasses to keep flies and dust out, effectively acting as a lid or "tapa".

HOSTERÍA DEL ESTUDIANTE

Located in a 16th-century building, famous for Migas Manchegas.



PLAZA DE CERVANTES

Surrounded by terraces perfect for coffee and "costradas" (local almond pastry).

- Pastelería Salinas (Pl. de Cervantes, 21)
- Pastelería MAIG (C. Mayor, 78)
- Valor Café (Pl. de Cervantes, 26)
- Hemisferio Café (Corral de la Compañía, C. Mayor, 6, Local 1, Bajo)
- San Diego Coffee (Calle Bedel, 4)
- The Refugee Coffee (Calle Plaza de los Santos Niños, 5)
- Santo Specialty Coffee Brunch (Pl. Santos Niños, 5)

THE "TAPAS" ROUTE

Explore the bars around Calle Mayor for the authentic local experience.

- El Índalo (Calle Libreros)
- Taberna 7 (Calle Ramón y Cajal, 7 (junto a la Calle Mayor)
- El Casino (Plaza de Cervantes, 9)
- Fino (Calle Libreros, 32)
- Bendita Vermut (Calle del Tinte, 2)
- Bar Elena (Calle de Santa Úrsula, 2)
- Mi Niña Lola (Calle Libreros, 14)
- Hanoi (Calle de los Escritorios, 4)



RECOMMENDED SIGHTS



1
Cervantes Birthplace Museum (Museo Casa Natal de Cervantes) museocasanataldecervantes.org. The museum offers a deep dive into the 16th-century lifestyle of Spain's most famous author.



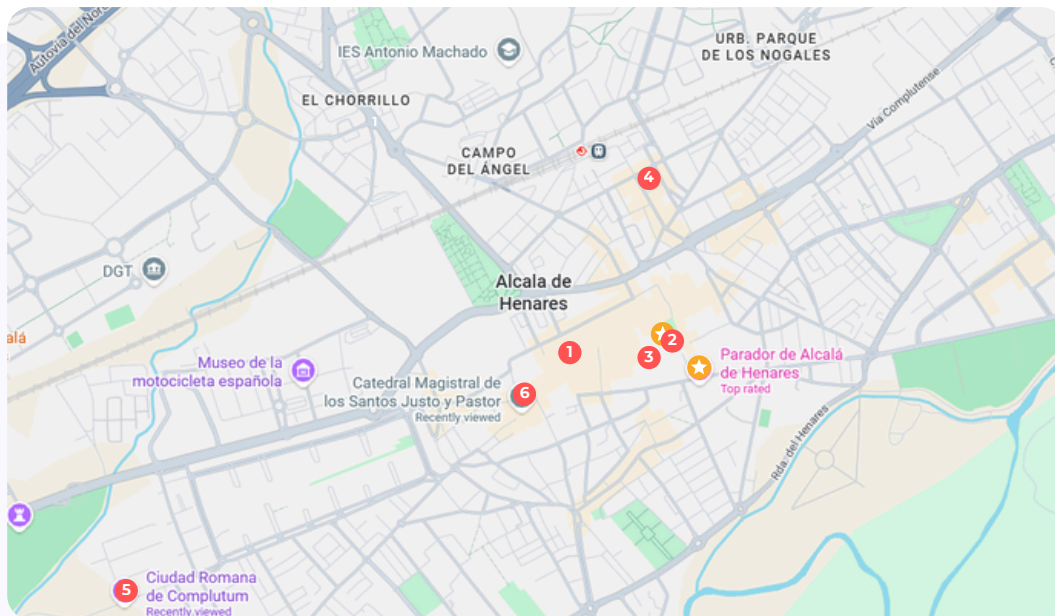
2 ★ University of Alcalá (Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso) visitasuah.es. The heart of the city's academic history. Website includes details on guided tours of the stunning Paraninfo and the Great Hall.



3 Calle Mayor & Plaza de Cervantes turismoalcala.es | Since these are public spaces, the official tourism website provides the best maps, historical context, and event calendars for these areas.



4 Laredo Palace (Palacio de Laredo) uah.es/en/palacio-laredo. Managed by the University, it houses the Cisneros International Center for Historical Studies.



★ Venues of the event



5 Complutum Roman City (Ciudad Romana de Complutum) complutum.com | It provides technical and visitor information about the Roman forum and the "House of Hippolytus".



6 Magistral Cathedral (Catedral de los Santos Niños) catedraldealcala.org. You can find information about visiting the tower for one of the best panoramic views of the city.



THE MADRID CONNECTION: TWO WORLDS, ONE TRIP

Alcalá de Henares and Madrid are more than just neighbors; they are perfectly complementary.

While Madrid offers the grand scale of a global metropolis, Alcalá provides the intimate, scholarly atmosphere of a Renaissance university town. Located just 20 miles (32 km) apart, they are linked by a world-class transit system.



GETTING THERE: EFFORTLESS TRAVEL

Commuter Train (Cercanías): The gold standard for transit. Lines C-2 and C-7 connect Madrid's Atocha and Chamartín stations directly to Alcalá.

Time: ~35–45 minutes.

Official Site: renfe.com/suburban-madrid

MADRID'S "MUST-VISIT" LANDMARKS



The Royal Palace (Palacio Real)
patrimoniacional.es
Western Europe's largest palace and a masterclass in Baroque architecture.



The Prado Museum (Museo del Prado)
museodelprado.es
Home to the world's finest collection of European art, featuring Velázquez and Goya.



El Retiro Park
esmadrid.com/en/retiro-park
A UNESCO-listed urban oasis perfect for a relaxing afternoon by the lake.



Gran Vía & Sol
turismomadrid.es
The "Times Square" of Madrid—famous for shopping, theaters, and the iconic "Kilometer Zero."



**Universidad
de Alcalá**