

Image: Madrid snowbound

January 12 2021



Credit: contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2021), processed by ESA,
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Captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission on 11 January 2021 at

12:14 CET, this image of Madrid in Spain appears to have been taken in black and white. In fact, it is a true-colour image—but the heaviest snowfall in 50 years has blanketed the region, turning the landscape white.

Storm Filomena hit Spain over the weekend, blanketing parts of the country in thick snow and leaving half of the country on red alert. Madrid, one of the worst affected areas, was brought to a standstill with the airport having to be closed, trains cancelled and roads blocked.

Although this [satellite image](#) was taken after the storm had passed, it is clear to see that much snow still remains, especially in the outskirts of the city. For example, some runways at the airport, which is visible in the top-right of the image, are still covered by snow. The unusual cold weather on the Iberian Peninsula is expected to last until later this week with temperatures forecasted to plunge to -12°C . The race is on to clear roads so that supplies of essential goods such as [food supplies](#) and COVID vaccines can be delivered.

Copernicus Sentinel-2 is a two-satellite mission. Each satellite carries a high-resolution camera that images Earth's surface in 13 spectral bands. Together they cover all Earth's land surfaces, large islands, inland and coastal waters every five days at the equator.

Provided by European Space Agency

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