

The background of the image is the flag of Spain, which consists of three horizontal stripes of red, yellow, and red. The yellow stripe is in the center and is wider than the red stripes above and below it.

TRAVEL AROUND SPAIN



SPAIN



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# INTRODUCTION

## **Member of the EU**

State: Parliamentary monarchy

## **Capital: Madrid**

17 regions and 2 cities

## **Area: 505,370km squared**

The 4th biggest country in Europe, the 2nd country in the EU

## **Population: 46,56 million**

3rd the most visited country in the world

## **Language: Spanish and regional languages**

A diversity of climates. 3000 hours of sun per year.

## **Phone prefix: +34**

Emergency number: +112

# GENERAL INFORMATION



**No special vaccines are necessary.**



If you come from a EU state or you are from Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you just need your ID card or passport to enter the country. If the traveller is under 18, parental permission is necessary.



**If you are from any other country, you can spend maximum 90 days in Spain.**



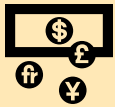
Spain is a safe country but, as in all touristic places, it is better to keep an eye on your belongings because there could be pickpocketers.



**You should bring your European Health Card. It is only valid in a public hospital. To go to private hospitals it is necessary to pay or to have special insurance.**



**Spanish currency is euro. Each euro has 100 cents. We have coins for 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 cents, and for 1 and 2 euros. There are 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 bills euros.**



**You can exchange your money in the established currency exchanges, banks, some hotels and travel agencies.**



**Tips are not mandatory but are between 5 and 10% of the total amount.**



**Malls are usually open between 10am and 10pm. Small shops usually close at 20:00 and take breaks at the Spanish lunch time between 13:00 and 16:30. On Sundays, shops are usually closed but some malls are open.**



**Breakfast is between 08:00 and 10:00, lunch is between 13:00 and 15:30, and dinner is between 20:30 and 23:00.**





**Time zone is GMT+01:00, with the an exception in Canary Islands where is GMT+00:00.**



**Electricity uses 220v and 50Hz. The plug is the same as in the Czech Republic.**



**Entry to museums is sometimes free on Sundays. It is only valid for permanent expositions.**



**Smoking is not allowed in enclosed spaces, hospitals, schools or playgrounds. If you are not sure, it is better to ask before smoking. If you smoke in places where it's not allowed, you could be fined.**



**Drinking on the street is not allowed, you can be fined. There are exceptions during some local festivals.**

# TRANSPORT



**Plane:** the best and fastest way to go to Spain is by plane. There are a lot of airports in the coastal cities, on the islands and in some central cities like Madrid. The most important airports are in Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga, Mallorca, Gran Canaria, Alicante, Tenerife South, Ibiza, and Lanzarote.



**Train:** in Spain there are a lot of different trains. The fastest is AVE but it is very expensive. The rest of the trains such as TALGO are cheaper but it takes a lot of time to get to your destination. So you have to decide what you prefer, speed or spend less money.



**Bus:** buses are cheaper than trains or planes but are usually slower.



**Ships:** ships are very common to travel between islands. In general, they are cheaper than planes but take more time.



**Car:** you can rent a car but the prices change a lot depending on the region, so it is better to check prices before renting. In some regions like the Canary Islands or Balear Islands, the costs of renting are worth it because there a lot of places where you cannot go by bus or the bus schedule is very infrequent.



**Blablacar:** it is very common in the peninsula to travel between the regions using this carpooling system. It is usually cheaper than the planes or trains but not always.



**Taxi:** taxis are very common. There are fixed rates in places such as airports. If you are more than 2 people, it can be worth to take one in places like Madrid because public transport from the airport to the city centre is very expensive. Check prices before taking taxi. Also, there is Uber.



**Underground or trams:** some big cities have underground and it is the fastest way to get around. I recommend checking if there are tourist tickets because sometimes they are cheaper than taking single or return tickets every day.



**Cycle:** it can be good only in some cities that are prepared for it. It is not common as a means of transport, only as a sport.



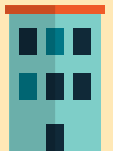
**Hitchhiking:** if you are thinking of hitchhiking, you should know that Spanish do not really trust hitchhikers, so probably noone will pick you up. It was very common in the past but now it is **almost impossible to get a hitch.**

# ACCOMMODATION



**Hotels:** in general are expensive, but the quality of the hotels in Spain is very good, especially in touristic places or near the beaches.

Sometimes you have a swimming pool which is very good if the sea is stormy or it is very windy. I recommend hotels if you have a big budget. Also, they are great if you want to go to a resort.



**Apartments:** are very good in the cities on the coast and some of them have a pool. It is a very good option for groups of friends or families that want to sleep together and to have space to cook. Sometimes renting a big apartment as a big group can be cheaper than a hotel or even a hostel. It is also more comfortable than a hostel because you have your privacy.



**Hostels:** they work the same as in other countries and are cheap. Double rooms are very common in Spain, so you can find some in hostels instead of looking for them in hotels.



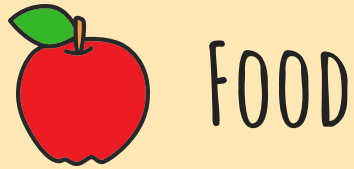
**Airbnb:** the offer has been increasing. It works in the same way as it does in other countries. However, they have experienced some legal issues in Spain now.



**Couchsurfing:** it will probably be more successful than hitchhiking because it is more trustworthy system.



**Camps:** in general they are used most during festivals or staying in a forest or on the coast for few days but you use them anytime.



**Spanish cuisine has a lot of variety: seafood, fish, meat, rice, legumes, vegetables, desserts... So you have plenty to choose from, even if you do not like certain type of food.**

Be careful. In every city, they will want to sell you food from another region which it is not the same as the local food. Check your meal before ordering it. For instance, paella is from Valencia region, not from Galicia.

**But you can try the Spanish omelette in every region, although it's from Navarra, or different kinds of tapas in general. Also, you can taste chocolate, churros or Iberian ham.**

More specific information can be found in the next pages, region by region.

# CULTURE



**Religion:** used to be very important. Catholicism is the main religion, around 68% of the population are Catholic. But in general young people are less religious now.



**Welcome:** it is normal to kiss one or two times on the cheek when you meet someone, depending on the region of Spain. It does not matter if it is the first time you meet someone or not. The Spanish shake hands just in formal settings.



**Expressions:** Spanish are expressive and outgoing which might be a little bit intimidating at first. You could be asking yourself 'What are they doing?!' It is normal in Spain though, so do not be alarmed.





**Flamenco:** you should know that Spanish do not dance flamenco all the time and everywhere. It is only typical for Andalusia region and they do not dance all day every day either.



**Siesta:** it is a very common stereotype but not everybody does it. Some people do, some do not. There are a lot of things to do!



**Toros:** or bull fights. This is another stereotype that is not entirely true. It is more typical in the South and centre of Spain. Not everybody goes to see them. For example, in Canarias they are not allowed. But if you are interested, you can get a ticket and go see them.



**Party:** I am sorry but if you are looking for a disco at 9pm, you will probably not find any. Spanish are used to going out after the dinner, or better, the Spanish dinner time. So clubs will probably open at 23:00 or midnight but do not expect to see people inside until 1 or 2am.

# REGION BY REGION AND PLACES TO VISIT

Andalusia  
Aragon  
Asturias  
Balearic Islands  
Basque Country  
Canary Islands  
Cantabria  
Castille-La Mancha  
Castille and León  
Catalonia  
Ceuta  
Extremadura  
Galicia  
La Rioja  
Madrid  
Melilla  
Murcia  
Navarra  
Valencia

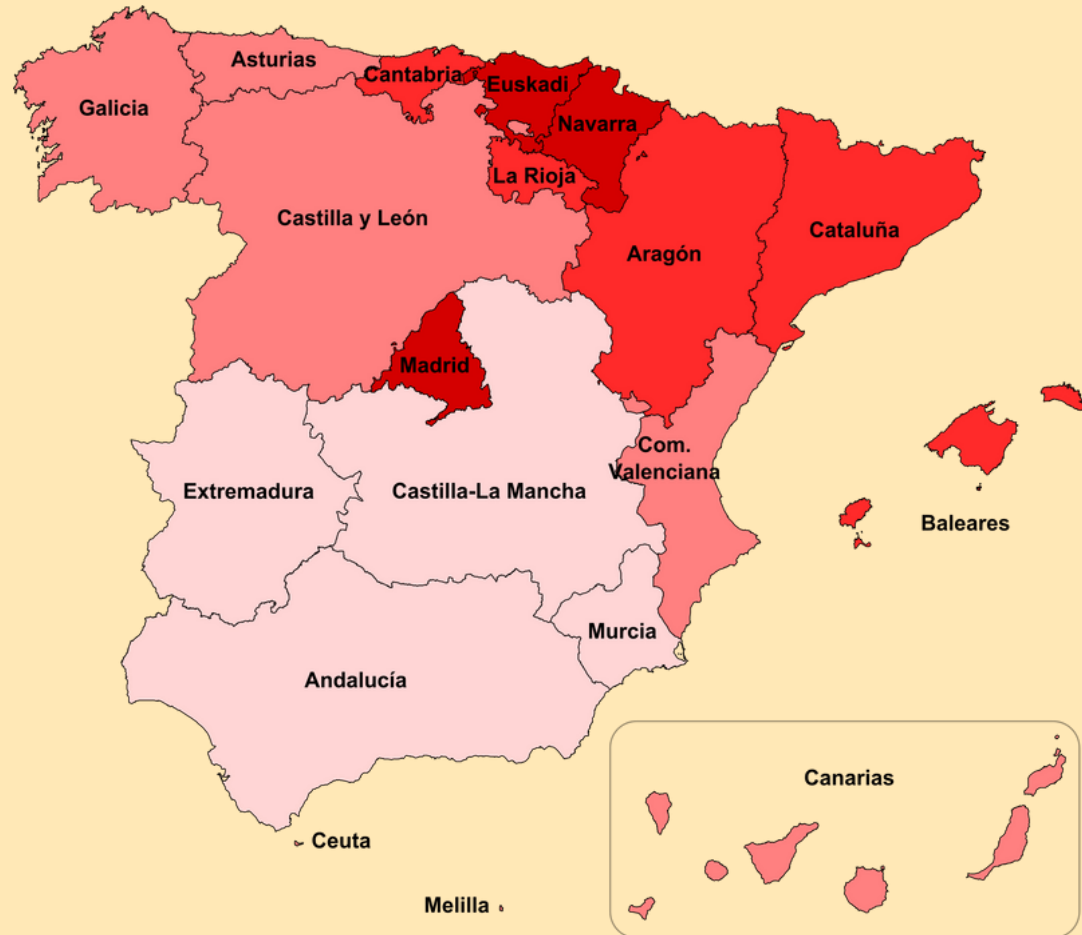


Photo: Wikimedia.

# ANDALUSIA



**Region:** Andalusia (Andalucía)

**Capital:** Seville (Sevilla)

**Provinces:** Huelva, Cádiz, Sevilla, Córdoba, Granada, Almería, Jaén, Málaga



**Day of Andalusia:** 28th of February



**Main airports:** Almería, Córdoba, Granada, Jerez, Málaga-Costa del Sol, Sevilla



**Main ports:** Motril, Algeciras, Málaga, Almería, Cádiz, Tarifa, Gibraltar, Huelva



**Sea:** Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean

**Main rivers:** Guadiana, Guadalquivir



**Average temperature:** 17,5°C



**National parks:** Doñana, Sierra Nevada



**Best beaches:** Mósul, Muertos, de la Guardia, Matalascañas, Calahonda, Bolonia, Burriana, El Palmar



**Typical food:** Gazpacho, Salmorejo, Oxtail, Fried fish, Shrimp pancakes, Flamenquín



**Traditional and other festivals:** May Crosses, El Rocío, Seville April Fair, Holy Week in Malaga, Cadiz Carnival, Malaga August Fair, Virgen del Carmen



**Interesting places:** Alhambra, Mosque of Córdoba, Seville Cathedral, Seville Alcazar, Giralda, Spanish Square, Gold Tower, Alcazaba of Malaga

**Map of Andalusia**



**Flamenco dance**



Photo: <http://www.themarbellaheights.com/en/andalucia-the-south-of-spain-experience-the-history-e-culture.php>

Photo: <http://www.sevillaflamenco.org/en/la-casa-del-flamenco/>

## Spain Square in Seville



Photo: <https://www.planetrail.co.uk/holidays/charming-cities-of-andalucia-by-first-class-rail>

## Alhambra in Granada



Photo: <https://www.alhambra.org/en/>

## Mosque of Córdoba



Photo: <https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-photography-mezquita-cordoba-image8668322/>

## Larios Street in Málaga



Photo: <https://www.viaggioinandalusia.it/calle-larios-malaga/>

## Los Muertos in Almería



Photo: [http://www.nationalgeographic.com.es/viajes/grandes-reportajes/las-mejores-playas-andalucia\\_11726/4](http://www.nationalgeographic.com.es/viajes/grandes-reportajes/las-mejores-playas-andalucia_11726/4)

## Gazpacho



Photo: <https://www.isi.com/en/culinary/recipes/detail/andalusian-gazpacho-1/>



# ARAGON



**Region:** Aragon (Aragón)

**Capital:** Zaragoza

**Provinces:** Huesca, Zaragoza, Teruel



**Day of Aragon:** 23rd of April



**Main airports:** Zaragoza



**Main ports:** No



**Sea:** No

**Main rivers:** Tajo, Turia



**Average temperature:** 12,3°C



**National parks:** Ordesa y Monte Perdido



**Best Beaches:** No



**Typical Food:** Ternasco asado, Migas aragonesas, Lamb Shoulder, Chicken "Chilandrón", Adoquín del Pilar, Ham of Teruel



**Traditional and other festivals:** Saint George, El Pilar, Cincomarzada, Holy Week, Drum & Brass Drums Route



**Interesting places:** Nuestra Señora del Pilar Basílica, Stone Monastery Albarracín, Aljafería, Castle of Loarre, Formigal, Stone Bridge, Pirineo

**Map of Aragon**



Photo: <http://todosobresaliente.com/mapas-de-las-comunidades-autonomas-para-imprimir>

**The Pilar Festival**



Photo: [http://redaragon.elperiodicodearagon.com/img/upload/28258\\_g.JPG](http://redaragon.elperiodicodearagon.com/img/upload/28258_g.JPG)

## Nuestra Señora del Pilar Basílica in Zaragoza



Photo: <https://planesconhijos.com/salir-con-ninos/zaragoza/la-basilica-del-pilar-de-zaragoza-con-ninos/>

## Stone Monastery in Zaragoza



Photo: <https://www.guiaviajes.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/guia-visitar-monasterio-piedra-zaragoza-888x388.jpg>

## Stone Bridge in Zaragoza



Photo: <http://blog.zaragozaturismo.es/2013/07/03/paseo-por-zaragoza-de-puente-a-puente/>

## Pirineos



Photo: <http://matavispas.blogspot.cz/2009/07/pirineo-aragones-vol1-cruzando-francia.html>

## Ternasco asado



Photo: <https://www.isi.com/en/culinary/recipes/detail/andalusian-gazpacho-1/>



# ASTURIAS



**Region:** Asturias (Principado de Asturias)

**Capital:** Oviedo

**Provinces:** Asturias



**Day of Asturias:** 8th September



**Main airports:** Asturias



**Main ports:** Gijón



**Sea:** Cantabric Sea

**Main rivers:** Nalón, Sella, Narcea, Navia



**Average temperature:** 13,5° C



**National parks:** Picos de Europa



**Best beaches:** Poo, Gulpiyuri, Aguilar, Silence, Peñarronda, Concha de Artedo, Xagó, Torimbia



**Typical food:** Fabada Asturiana, Cachopo, Chorizo a la sidra, Asturian Cider, Cabrales Cheese, Pastel de cabracho



**Traditional and other festivals:** Descenso Internacional del Sella, Cider Festival, Saint Matthew



**Interesting places:** Lakes of Covadonga, Llanes, Ribadesella, Lastres, Picos de Europa, Cudillero, Gijón, Cerro Park, Santa María del Naranco y San Miguel de Lilio

**Map of Asturias**



**Descenso del Sella**



Photo: <https://es.vexels.com/png-svg/vista-previa/148592/mapa-de-la-comunidad-autnoma-de-asturias>

Photo: <https://www.diariodelviajero.com/espana/todo-lo-que-necesitas-saber-para-realizar-el-descenso-del-sella-en-asturias>

## Picos de Europa



Photo: <https://www.turismoasturias.es/en/descubre/naturaleza/reservas-de-la-biosfera/parque-nacional-de-los-picos-de-europa>

## Lagos de Covadonga



Photo: <http://latablaturismorural.com/los-lagos-de-covadonga>

## Ribadesella



Photo: <https://www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p6191718>

## Gulpiyuri Beach



Photo: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g608994-d2232457-i31866480-Playa\\_de\\_Gulpiyuri-Llanes\\_Asturias.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g608994-d2232457-i31866480-Playa_de_Gulpiyuri-Llanes_Asturias.html)

## Fabada



Photo: <http://recetasdecocina.elmundo.es/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/receta-fabada-asturiana.jpg>

# BALEARIC ISLANDS



**Region:** Balearic Islands (Islas Baleares)

**Capital:** Palma de Mallorca

**Provinces:** Islas Baleares



**Day of Balearic Islands:** 1st September



**Main airports:** Ibiza, Menorca, Palma de Mallorca



**Main ports:** Palma,, Alcudia, Mahón, Ibiza, Savina



**Sea:** Mediterranean Sea

**Main rivers:** Santa Eularia



**Average temperature:** 17° C



**National parks:** Cabrera Archipelago



**Best beaches:** Es Trenc, Macarella, Des Moro  
D´Hort, Aigües Blanques, Ses Illetes, Des Mort



**Typical food:** Frito mallorquín, Arroz Brut, Robiols, Sobrasada, Ensaimada, Caldereta de langosta



**Traditional and other festivals:** Sant Jaume, Sant Joan, Estandarte, Fiestas de Gracia



**Interesting places:** Palma Cathedral, The Caves of Drach, Sóller, Fornalutx, Valdemossa, Bellver Castle, Sa Calobra and the Torrent de Pareis, Cap de Formentor

## Map of Balearic Islands





## Palma Cathedral in Mallorca



Photo:  
[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catedral\\_de\\_Santa\\_Mar%C3%ADA\\_de\\_Palma\\_de\\_Mallorca](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catedral_de_Santa_Mar%C3%ADA_de_Palma_de_Mallorca)

## Soller in Mallorca



Photo: <https://www.alfajet.com/mietwagen-soller/>

## Cabrera Arcipielago



Photo:  
[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Cabrera\\_bay\\_bah%C3%ADa.JPG](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Cabrera_bay_bah%C3%ADa.JPG)

## Des Mort in Formentera



Photo: <https://www.escapadarural.com/blog/playas-paradisiacas-en-formentera/>

## Ensaimada



Photo: <https://www.viajejet.com/wp-content/viajes/la-ensaimada-mallorquina-un-dulce-irresistible-1440x810.jpg>