



Spain

Location

Spain is a sovereign state largely located on the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe, with archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, and several small territories on and near the north African coast.



SPAIN'S AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

Spain is now composed of 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities

N.º	COMUNIDAD	CAPITAL
1	 Galicia	Santiago de Compostela
2	 Principado de Asturias	Oviedo
3	 Cantabria	Santander
4	 País Vasco	<i>*Vitoria</i>
5	 Navarra	Pamplona
6	 Aragón	Zaragoza
7	 Cataluña	Barcelona
8	 Castilla y León	<i>*Valladolid</i>
9	 La Rioja	Logroño
10	 Comunidad de Madrid	Madrid
11	 Extremadura	Mérida
12	 Castilla-La Mancha	Toledo
13	 Comunidad Valenciana	Valencia
14	 Islas Baleares	Palma de Mallorca
15	 Andalucía	Sevilla
16	 Región de Murcia	Murcia
17	 Islas Canarias	Las palmas de Gran Canaria y Santa Cruz de Tenerife



Climate

- The Mediterranean climate, characterised by warm and dry summers. It is dominant in the peninsula, with two varieties.
- The semi-arid climate located in the southeastern quarter of the country, especially in the region of Murcia and in the Ebro valley.
- The oceanic climate located in the northern quarter of the country, especially in the region of Basque Country, Cantabria, Asturias and partly Galicia

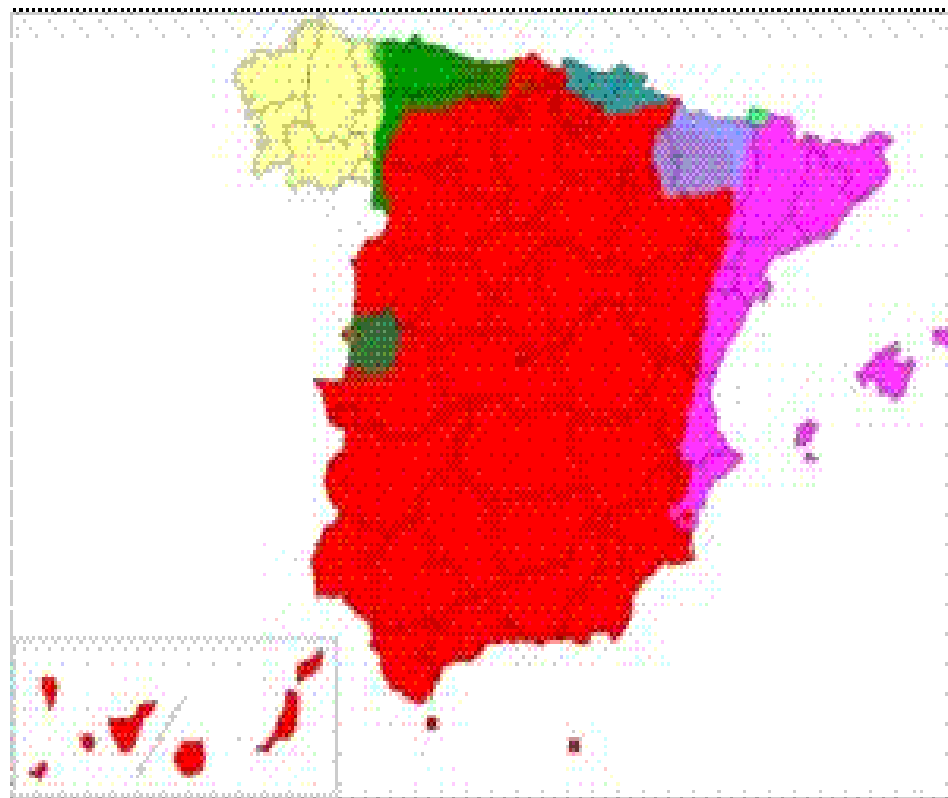
Political system

- ▶ Spain is a constitutional monarchy, with a hereditary monarch and a bicameral parliament, the Cortes Generales.
- ▶ Head of State: King Felipe VI, since 19 June 2014
- ▶ And his wife is Letizia Ortiz Rocasolano
- ▶ Head of Government Prime Minister of Spain: Mariano Rajoy Brey.
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Presidency: Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría.
- ▶ Cabinet Council of Ministers (Consejo de Ministros) designated by the Prime Minister.

LANGUAGES

Distribution of the regional co-official languages in Spain:

- Aranese, co-official in Catalonia. It is spoken mainly in the Pyrenean comarca of the Aran Valley (Val d'Aran), in north-western Catalonia.
- Basque, co-official in the Basque Country and northern Navarre.
- Catalan, co-official in Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and, in the Valencian Community
- Galician, co-official in Galicia. It is spoken in the adjacent western parts of the Principality of Asturias and Castile and León.



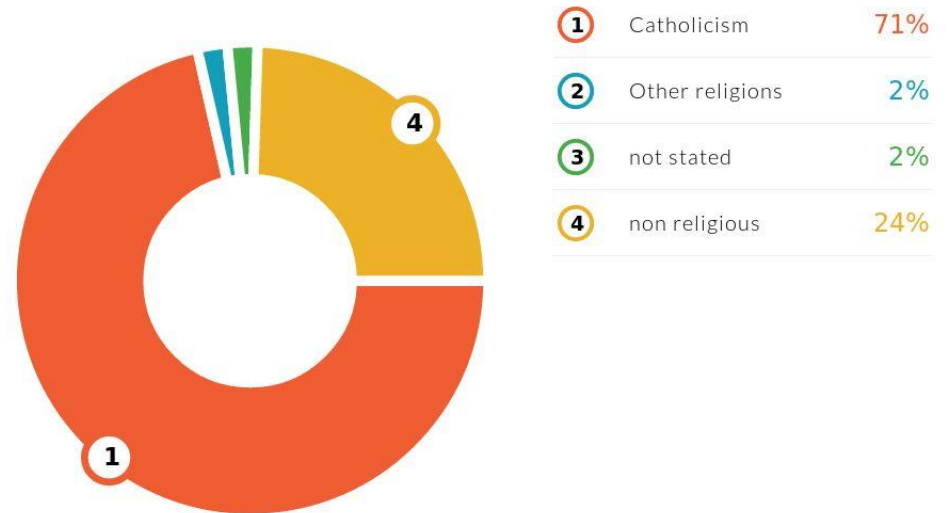
The languages of Spain (simplified)

 Spanish	 Astur-Leonese language, unofficial
 Catalan, co-official	 Aragonese, unofficial
 Basque, co-official	 Aranese, co-official (dialect of Occitan)
 Galician, co-official	 Extremaduran, unofficial
	 Fala, unofficial

Religions

Roman Catholicism has long been the main religion of Spain, and although it no longer has official status by law, in all public schools in Spain students have to choose either a religion or ethics class, and Catholicism is the only religion officially taught.

Spain's Religions



10 places to visit

1. Santiago de Compostela:
The capital city of the Galicia region in northwestern Spain, Santiago de Compostela is famous as the final destination of the traditional pilgrimage known as Camino de Santiago. This pilgrimage is important to many Christians because it is believed that Santiago de Compostela is where St. James, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, is buried.



2. Toledo: Toledo served as the Spanish capital until the 16th century. Because it was inhabited by Jews, Christians and Muslims for many centuries, the city is sometimes called the "City of Three Cultures." The best thing to do in Toledo is to get lost amid the medieval streets and admire the old architecture that includes a stunning cathedral, synagogue and mosque.

3. Cordoba: Cordoba is the capital of the Cordoba province in the Andalusian region of southern Spain. The historic quarter of Cordoba is a maze of tiny medieval streets, plazas and whitewashed courtyards all situated around the star attraction, the Mezquita. Other places of interest include the Fortress of the Christian Monarchs, the Street of Flowers, and the Old Jewish Quarter with its charming patios and souvenir shops.

Toledo



Cordoba



4. San Sebastian: San Sebastian is the capital of the Gipuzkoa province, located in the Basque country of North Spain off the coast of the Bay of Biscay. This beautiful seaside city is well-loved for its excellent beaches and outstanding culinary tradition.

5. Valencia: One of the largest and most important cities in Spain, Valencia is located in the eastern part of the country in the region of Valencia. Contained within this complex are several buildings such as a science museum, planetarium and aquarium that are each artistic marvels in and of themselves. Every March, Valencia hosts the Fallas Festival where each neighborhood displays papier-mâché figures of all sizes and colors. At the end of the week, the figures are ceremoniously burned, and the communities party into the night.

San Sebastian



Valencia



6. Seville: Exceptional tourist attractions, lively festivals and buzzing nightlife all make Seville one of the best places to visit in Spain. As the capital city of Andalusia, Seville is also the region's financial and cultural capital. The city is home to many beautiful and important historic landmarks, chief of which is the grand Cathedral of Seville, where it is believed that Christopher Columbus is buried.

7. Madrid: Spain's capital and largest city, Madrid, is widely known for its sizzling nightlife scene. The city constitutes a diversity of ethnic groups, making it one of Europe's most colorful cosmopolitan cities. Located within the city center are most of Madrid's most popular tourist attractions such as the Royal Palace, the residence of Spain's monarch. The heart of Madrid (and Spain) is Puerta del Sol, a large plaza serving as the scene of festivals, important gatherings and street performers as well as a hub for the public transportation network. Another important square is Plaza Mayor, known for the lively San Miguel Market.

Seville



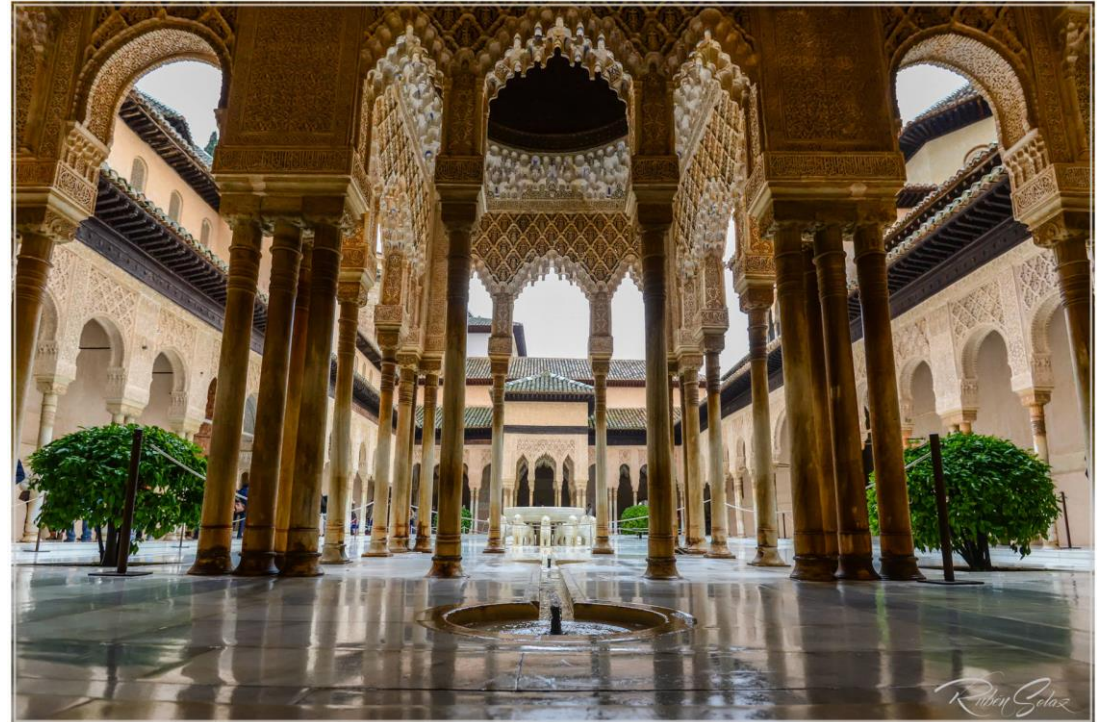
Madrid



8. Spanish Islands: The largest Spanish Islands are equally divided between the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands. East of the Spanish mainland, the four chief Balearic Islands (Ibiza, Formentera, Mallorca and Menorca) maintain a character distinct from the rest of Spain and from each other. Mallorca is the largest and best-known Balearic island while Ibiza is famous as a party destination. The Canary Islands, also known as the Canaries, are located just off the southern coast of Morocco in the Atlantic.

9. Granada: Located at the base of the Sierra Nevada mountains of southern Spain, Granada is the capital of the Granada province. Granada offers a perfect blend of traditional cultures, an animated nightlife and spectacular attractions including the world famous Alhambra, a pinnacle of Moorish art that encapsulates Andalusian history.

Granada



10. Barcelona: Located in northeastern Spain, Barcelona is one of the country's top travel destinations because it offers everything tourists look for in a European city from historic architecture to lively shopping, vibrant culture and buzzing nightlife. Unique to Barcelona are the architectural marvels of Spain's famous architect, Antoni Gaudi, which include the Casa Batllo and the famous Sagrada Familia church. Both of these extraordinary structures feature combinations of fascinating designs, shapes and colors.



Fiestas and Traditions

Best known among Spain's folkloristic traditions are certainly Flamenco and bullfights, the most popular event perhaps being the "Running of Bulls" during the San fermines in Pamplona. But bullfights are part and parcel of any Fiesta. Flamenco, on the other hand, in the musical tradition in the country's south, in particular in Andalusia. That is where you have to move to see and listen first rate dancing and guitar playing. In April takes place Feria de Abril, in Seville, an entire week of singing and dancing and trying that great Sherry wine, those delicious tasty snacks called "Tapas" and more Sherry wine.



Semana Santa, Easter week, with its world-famous processions.

Another most popular event of religious origin is El Rocio, a traditional pilgrimage to the village El Rocio in the province of Huelva, in May. This pilgrimage anyhow is not too solemn and serious, Flamenco and wine being indispensable components. Another outstanding Fiesta are "Las Fallas de San José" in Valencia, in March, when all the city becomes the scenery of an enormous party with lots of good mood and excellent fireworks. Next to Valencia there is the little town Buñol which hosts each year on the last Wednesday of August La Tomatina, the world's largest tomato fight. A wild week can also be spent in San Sebastian during February, when La Tamborrada takes place.

Madrid has its Fiesta, "San Isidro", in May. If you like bullfights, don't miss it. Carnival is popular in all the country, the best is in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, but if you are at the peninsula, Cadiz and Sitges are the places to go.



ECONOMICS

Total Trade

Total Exports (2014)	\$318,649,311,795
Total Imports (2014)	\$350,977,772,970
Trade Balance (2014)	-\$32,328,461,175
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	32.03%
Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	29.65%

Profession	Monthly Gross Pay	Social Security	IRPF	Monthly Net Pay
Waiter	€818.89	€61.14	€81.89	€675.86
Telephonist	€925.44	€69.10	€92.54	€763.80
Industrial engineer	€1 809.14	€135.08	€180.91	€1493.14
Industrial engineer	€1 014.96	€75.78	€101.50	€837.68
Administrative worker	€762.26	€56.92	€76.23	€629.12
SMI [National Minimum Wage]	€641.40			

Top 7 works



Estate agency



Maintenance



Taxi driver



Childcare



Teaching foreign languages



Cooking



Bartender

The most popular food

Paella



Croquettes



Tortilla Espaniola

Tortilla Espaniola



Bean Stew



Sangria

Everyone around the world has heard of Sangria. It is a true staple in Spanish culture and you must try it at least once while here! It's best to order this drink in a large jug so that all of the fruits and flavours can sit and mix with each other while you eat and chat with your friends.



Horchata

Horchata is commonly known as a Mexican drink, but it was actually created in the coastal city of Valencia in Spain. This is the only drink on this list that is served without alcohol.

