



IAESTE App: Country Information

General information:

- Country: **Spain**
- Capital: Madrid
- Population: 46,94 mill
- National language(s): catalan, galician, basque
- Currency: EUR
- Time zone: GMT + 2
- Voltage: 230 V
- Phone country code: +34
- Cities with IAESTE LCs: Madrid, Bilbao, Barcelona, Zaragoza, Lleida, Valencia, Sevilla, Málaga, Alicante, Elche, Aragón.
- Climate:
 - winter: 12-14 deg
 - spring: 18-20 deg
 - summer: 26-28 deg
 - autumn: 20-22 degFor more specific weather per month/city, you can visit:
<https://www.red2000.com/spain/primer/clima.html>

Travel tips:

Fun facts about the country: *(around 5, a few sentences each):*

1. The highest mountain in the country is Mount Teide (3718 meters). This mountain is situated in the Canary Islands and is an active volcano. As a consequence of its eruptions, the beaches of the island of Tenerife are of black sand instead of white.
2. According to stats, Spain has the second-highest life expectancy of all the OECD countries at an impressive 83 years. Only the Japanese have a higher life expectancy.
3. SPAIN holds the European record for being home to the most bars per inhabitant, according to a recent EU study in 2017.

4. Spanish are a tolerant society. Same-sex marriage has been legal in Spain since 2005 (One of the first 4 countries. The first one was the Netherlands in 2001).
5. You can easily spot Spaniard anywhere, because they are the ones that speak in the loudest voice. It is part of the Spanish character and it is something that contributes to create that special atmosphere.
6. Spain's Christmas lottery has the world's biggest payout
7. Nudity is legal in Spain. With 3,000 hours of sunshine a year, there are also few better places to top up your tan.
8. In Spain, on the 31st of December at 00.00h we eat 12 grapes.
9. Spain is one of the few countries in Europe where it's legal to consume cannabis. Cultivation is also allowed as long as it's for personal use.

Cities/towns that you recommend visiting: *(short description for each, pointing out the most important landmarks people should visit):*

It could be possible to recommend something just knowing what are YOU looking for. Spain has a lot of different things: from the most dry -almost desertic- cities to totally green and humid ones. Depending on if you are looking for adventures in the sea or close to the mountain, one destiny or another one will fit you. However, the most visited cities are:

Our capital: Madrid

South of Spain: Granada, Sevilla, Córdoba

North of Spain: San Sebastián, Santiago de Compostela

Mediterranean Sea: Valencia, Alicante, Barcelona

Islands: any of the 6 balearic islands or of the 7 canary islands.

Other places you recommend visiting: *(short description for each. This can include national parks, historical landmarks, beaches, mountains, museums or anything else):*

1. The Alhambra and Generalife Gardens, Granada: No matter how much you have read or how many pictures you have seen of Granada's Alhambra palaces, this Moorish pleasure palace will still take your breath away. The Nasrid dynasty's royal palace is the artistic highlight of Spain's Islamic period, when Al-Andalus — as they called Andalucía — represented the epitome of culture and civilization in Europe's Middle Ages.

2. Barcelona's Sagrada Familia and Gaudi Sites: Antoni Gaudi took the architectural style known as Art Nouveau a step further, even, some have argued, into absurdity. The fanciful and outrageous buildings he created in Barcelona have become landmarks, the signature attractions of this Catalan city

3. The Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita): Once the principal mosque of western Islam and still known as the Mezquita, Cordoba's mosque is one of the largest in the world and the finest achievement of Moorish architecture in Spain

4. The Prado and Paseo del Artes, Madrid: The Prado alone ranks with the world's top art museums for the riches of its collections. But add the Reina Sofia National Art Museum, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, and the CaixaForum, all along Madrid's mile-long, tree-shaded boulevard, and you have what may be the world's highest concentration of priceless art treasures.

5. San Lorenzo de El Escorial: San Lorenzo de El Escorial, about 45 kilometers northwest of Madrid, was the summer home of Spain's kings, and in 1563, work was begun here on a huge complex, which would include a monastery, church, royal palace, mausoleum, library, and museum, all conceived as a monument to Philip II and his reign. The result is a staggering collection of attractions, built around 16 courtyards, its rooms and structures connected by 16 kilometers of corridors. At its core is the church, the highlight of which is Herrera's 30-meter-high retablo, made of jasper and red marble and approached by a flight of 17 steps.

6. Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao: You really have to see this building to believe it — no photograph has ever done justice to this symphony of shapes, so alive that they seem ready to take wing.

7. Seville Cathedral and Alcazar: La Giralda tower, Seville Cathedral, and the Alcazar combine to form a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tower is a minaret, a "masterpiece of Almohad architecture," according to UNESCO. The cathedral has more interior space than St. Peter's in Rome and a 37-meter main altar of carved statues completely covered in gold. The Alcazar opposite was begun by the Moors in 712 and continued after the Christian re-conquest by King Pedro in the 1300s in the ornate neo-Moorish style called Mudejar. The rooms and salons are breathtaking, and the gardens a joy to stroll in, shaded by fragrant orange and lemon trees

8. Santiago de Compostela Cathedral: The magnificent cathedral of Santiago (St. James) was built to house and honor the relics of the saint, and it has been the goal of pilgrims since the Middle Ages, the culmination of their completing the famed Camino de Santiago. One of the outstanding monuments of Early Romanesque architecture, the cathedral was built between 1060 and 1211, and despite the Baroque transformation of the exterior in the 16th to 18th centuries, the interior is still in the purest Early Romanesque style.

9. Plaza Mayor, Madrid: The throbbing heartbeat of Spain's vibrant capital city, Plaza Mayor has played an important part in Madrid life since the 16th century, when Philip II entrusted the task of designing it to his favorite architect Juan de Herrera, builder of the Escorial

10. Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, Valencia: Not only the buildings, but the museums, arts venues, and aquarium (by Félix Candela and the only building not designed by Calatrava) form a series of tourist attractions that rank among Spain's most popular.

11. Costa del Sol Beaches: With the record as Europe's sunniest place, and mile after mile of white sands lapped by gentle seas, it's no wonder that the Costa del Sol beaches are the goal of sun-starved northern Europeans looking for sun-and-sand getaways.

12. La Rambla, Barcelona: Strolling along La Rambla on a summer evening, you might think that every single one of Barcelona's inhabitants was there with you. It's definitely the place to be after work on a summer evening or on a weekend. This tree-lined boulevard cuts a green line — not a very straight one — through the city center, stretching northwest from the Columbus Memorial near the port.

13. Toledo's Old City: Moorish, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture mingle and blend into a city that El Greco captured in one of his most famous paintings. High on a granite hill and surrounded on three sides by the deep gorge of the Tagus River, it presents a stunning profile; approaching it from below is an unforgettable sight.

14. The White Towns of Andalucía: Poised like dabs of white frosting atop the steep crags of southern Andalucía, the White Towns are not just beautiful, they speak of this region's long and fascinating history. West of Gibraltar, mountains rise straight from the sea, and among them hide these White Towns, each on its hilltop. A total of 19 of these villages of small white houses are in the area around the Grazalema Nature Reserve

15. El Teide, Tenerife: The highest peak in Spain, this ancient — but still simmering — volcano is also one of Europe's top natural wonders. The Pico de Teide and the Caldera de las Cañadas, a gigantic volcanic crater, together form the Parque Nacional del Teide, at the center of the island of Tenerife.

Airports with budget airlines

From Europe: Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, Santiago de Compostela, Valencia, Palma de Mallorca, Bilbao, Málaga, Alicante and Murcia.

Website(s) with travel connections inside the country (*train, bus, public transportation, ridesharing*):

<https://www.redtransporte.com/> (It is in spanish but probably the live translation of internet will help. Is the only one I've found with most of the transport networks)

Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying: (*short description for each*)

1. Paella Valenciana: ¡This does not need a definition!
2. Patatas bravas: The potatoes are cubed and shallow fried and served the same everywhere. The sauce can come in any number of ways, from spicy ketchup to garlic mayonnaise with a dusting of pimiento (smoked paprika), or both.
3. Pisto: *pisto* is often called the Spanish version of the classic French dish. The recipe sees tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, onions, and garlic sliced up and roasted with a lot of olive oil to give it that classic Mediterranean flavor.
4. Pulpo a la gallega: One of the more elaborate dishes is the popular *pulpo a la gallega*, which sees paprika, rock salt, and olive oil combined to bring out the very best flavors from the octopus. This is usually served on sliced potatoes for a light yet warming meal. The dish hails from the north-western region of Galicia, which is definitely something to note for seafood-lovers.
5. Gazpacho: This tomato-based Andalusian soup is most famous for being served cold. This can be quite a shock for those who aren't expecting it, but in the searing heat of a Seville

summer, the attraction becomes clear. Its principal ingredients, aside from tomato, are peppers, garlic, bread and lots of olive oil.

6. Pimientos de Padron: Pimientos de Padron are fried and served with a deep sprinkling of salt. Though generally sweet and mild, their fame stems from the fact that the occasional pepper will be fiery hot - lending a Russian Roulette element of surprise to eating them.
7. Fideuà: Less well known to tourists, fideuà is a type of Spanish pasta similar to vermicelli. It's popular in Catalonia and Valencia in seafood dishes that rival paella for their taste and intricacy.
8. Tortilla de patatas: humble Spanish omelet can be made with chorizo, peppers and onions, among other ingredients, but purists will tell you it should only contain potatoes and eggs.
9. Churros: Churros are a popular snack made from fried dough pastry, cut into sausage shapes and doused in sugar. They're a favorite at fiestas, or street parties, when they're sold by roadside vendors. Dipping them in hot melted chocolate is pretty much the law.
10. Croquetas: Another typical item on a tapas menu, croquetas are tubes of bechamel sauce encased in fried breadcrumbs, but a lot more tasty than that sounds. Jamón croquetas and salt cod croquetas are common varieties.
11. Migas: It's essentially dry breadcrumbs torn up and fried in a variety of combinations -- often served with chorizo or bacon.
12. Leche frita: which translates to fried milk -- is a popular dessert across the north of Spain, and a firm favorite with kids. Milk pudding is encased within a warm, crunchy batter and dusted with sugar and cinnamon. You then serve it with whipped cream or ice cream and enjoy. Another popular dessert is torrijas, a Spanish twist on French toast. This tasty dish sees thick white bread dunked in an egg custard mixture, fried up, and served with lashings of cinnamon.

Tipping in the restaurants: *(is it common or unusual, how much should you leave?)*

While failing to leave a tip in some other countries can be seen as rude or offensive, is not the case in our country. There are a lot of different opinions about this topic, some people do not see it necessary and some people do (especially in restaurants, hotels and cafés). Here you can see some details:

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/travel-money/tipping-in-spain#:~:text=If%20you're%20having%20a,5%2D10%25%20is%20reasonable.>

Discounts for transportation

As we are such a big country, almost in every city it works differently. The following link has a great help and description for some transportation in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia. <https://www.expatica.com/es/living/transportation/public-transport-spain-101423/>

Moreover, if available, each single trip with the 10-trip-card is going to be cheaper than buying each of them individually.

What is the common greeting in your country (*do you only shake hands, or you kiss on both cheeks...?*):

We usually give two kisses (starting from your right side -left cheek-. Be aware! Italians do it in the other way around!), but post-COVID let's just ask first 😊

Emergencies - numbers:

Police: 091 (National Police) or 092 (Local Police)

Ambulance: 061 (Health Emergencies)

Fire brigade: 080

062 (Civil Guard) **and 112** are also general emergency numbers.

112 is for free and mobile coverage is not required.

Any other interesting or useful information:

Please also attach ~10 pictures with the most beautiful places from your country and any nice group pictures from your summer reception. Make sure the authors of the pictures agree with you sharing them. If you search for images on Google, first go to 'Advanced search' and set the usage rights to 'free to use or share'. You can also try www.pixabay.com for images that are free to be used.









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