



## DESTINATION REPORT

### **SPAIN**

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Spain is a diverse country because of the immense influence of the Romans, Moors, and French in its history. After the death of Francisco Franco in 1975 and Spain's transition to a liberal democracy, the country gained a viable, economically competitive market that is on par with those of its Western European neighbors. Spain is officially a constitutional monarchy. The country joined the European Union (EU) in 1986 and developed a dynamic and rapidly growing economy in the subsequent two decades. However, Spain has been affected by the global economic downturn since 2008 and experienced an unprecedented high unemployment rate of nearly 20 percent. Nevertheless, this country's economy, which is generally derived from the services sector, remains one of the largest in the world. Tourism is a major contributor to the Spanish economy, thereby making Spain one of the strongest global competitors in the tourism industry.



Spain has a population of nearly 49 million people, who are an ethnic mix of Nordic and Mediterranean groups. Nearly 70 percent of Spaniards are Roman Catholics. At least 74 percent speak Castilian Spanish (Spain's official language), 17 percent speak Catalan (official in Catalonia, Valencia, and Balearic Islands), 7 percent speak Galician (official in Galicia), and 2 percent speak Basque (official in Basque Country).

There has been ongoing unrest in the country in recent years due to a campaign to grant Catalonia sovereignty as an independent state.

Spain is located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. Andorra and France border Spain to the northeast, Portugal forms a border to the west and southwest, and Gibraltar is located at the southernmost tip of the country across the strait from Morocco. Spain has nearly 5,000 kilometers of coastline, with the Mediterranean Sea to the east, Bay of Biscay to the northeast, and Atlantic Ocean to the west. The north and northwest of Spain experience the highest rainfall. Central Spain is characterized by extremely hot and dusty summers and frigid winters, whereas the south and eastern coastal areas along the Mediterranean Sea have hot and humid summers and mild winters.

# SECURITY ASSESSMENT

## Security Risk Rating

Low

## Security Risk Overview

Most visits to Spain are free of major security concerns. However, rates of petty crimes, such as pickpocketing and bag slashing, are high. These crimes tend to take place near centers of transportation, popular tourist attractions, open markets, restaurants, and in hotels. There is an elevated risk of terrorist activity in the country. Protests, demonstrations, and other forms of civil unrest occur frequently.

## Terrorism

There is an elevated risk of terrorism in Spain. Muslim extremists and indigenous terrorist groups have conducted attacks in the country. The separatist group Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) has targeted government buildings and officials, journalists, and tourist destinations, such as resorts and airports. The ETA reportedly dissolved all its structures and ended its political initiative on 16 April 2018.

Throughout Europe, there is a general risk of terrorism from the terrorist organization the Islamic State (IS). The IS has specifically mentioned Spain in its rhetoric, identifying it as part of the intended Islamic Caliphate. Although Spain has not carried out drone strikes against IS militants, it remains an ally in the global campaign against the extremist group. A number of Spanish nationals are also believed to have joined the IS after being recruited from within the country. Scores of suspected IS recruiters have been arrested on Spanish soil.

On 17-18 August 2017, at least 15 people were killed and over 100 others were injured in two vehicle ramming attacks in Catalonia. On 17 August 2017, 13 people were killed and over 100 were injured when a vehicle drove into a crowd of pedestrians in Las Ramblas in Barcelona, a popular area in the center of the city. The perpetrator escaped the scene, and the police launched a massive manhunt. Eight hours later, a vehicle drove into a crowd of pedestrians in the resort town of Cambrils, approximately 110 kilometers (68 miles) southwest of Barcelona. One person was killed and seven people were injured in this attack. The police shot and eventually killed the attackers. Authorities later discovered that another person was killed in his car by a suspect fleeing the scene, bringing the total number of fatalities to 15. The terrorist group IS claimed responsibility for the attacks. The perpetrator of the Barcelona vehicle ramming attack, a Moroccan-born man, was subsequently shot and killed by the police during an operation on 21 August 2017 in Subirats west of Barcelona.

Al-Qaeda has also targeted Spain in the past. Several arrests of extremists affiliated with al-Qaeda have been made in recent years.

Since 26 June 2015, the Spanish government has assessed the national terrorism alert as Level 4, which is the second-highest of a five-level scale, following separate terror attacks in France, Kuwait, and Tunisia, as well as recent terror attacks in Germany, the UK, and Russia. Moreover, a government report released in February 2017 warned of direct threats against popular Spanish beach resorts that were issued by IS through social media. In particular, the terror group has vowed to retaliate against Spain for its anti-terror campaign, including its crackdown on militants and

arrests of suspected terrorists. After IS lost its last territories in Iraq and Syria in March 2019, authorities warned that the group may plan attacks on major symbolic targets-including European cities-as part of its changing strategy.

## **Civil Unrest**

Demonstrations, protests, and strikes occur regularly, especially over social and political issues. In Madrid, protests usually occur in Plaza de Neptuno and Puerta del Sol, and these events occasionally draw participants numbering in the thousands. These events tend to be vigilantly monitored by security officials. Persistent economic issues and state-enforced austerity measures have triggered numerous protests and strikes in recent years, which have resulted in violent confrontations with security personnel. European Union (EU) events held in Spain are likely to prompt activists to rally in public spaces. Strikes related to labor laws and public service workers have the potential to severely disrupt public transportation or other government services.

## **Personal Security**

Petty theft and pickpocketing are rife within major cities. Most of these incidents occur at popular tourist destinations, hotel lobbies, airports, the metro, restaurants, and open markets. Holiday periods and the summer tourist season often see a rise in crime. Reports indicate that crime rates in Barcelona rose by 17 percent in 2018, including a 19 percent increase in violent robberies. Thieves often work in teams: one thief distracts the target, while the other takes the target's belongings. Criminals may pose as police officers and demand to see their targets' wallets. There have also been reports of "highway pirates" who try to convince motorists to pull over to check the condition of their vehicle and use the opportunity to rob the victims. Rental vehicles and vehicles with foreign number plates are commonly targeted.

Crimes of sexual nature are rare but do occur. Reports indicate that there was an 18 percent rise in sex crimes in Barcelona in 2018. Law enforcement authorities are generally effective at investigating and prosecuting these crimes.

Anti-Semitic acts-predominantly in the form of vandalism and harassment-have been reported, but violence against Jewish individuals is reportedly rare. Racial discrimination against members of the African, Romani, and Latin American communities also occurs.

It is prohibited to take photographs of government buildings, military installations, the police, security forces, or related infrastructure.

## **Law Enforcement**

Police are generally quick to respond, and effective at preventing and investigating crime. There are few and isolated cases of police acting with impunity. Most police officers that come in contact with foreigners will be uniformed. Do not hesitate to seek a uniformed officer if approached by plainclothes policeman.

Prison conditions in Spain are fair, but overcrowding is a serious problem. There have been reports of police brutality and mistreatment of detainees. Pretrial detention periods of up to a year are common, though the law stipulates that individuals can be detained for up to two years before being put on trial. Defendants are presumed innocent and have access to their attorney.

## Transportation

**Air:** Spain has been rated Category 1 by the International Aviation Safety Assessment Program (IASA), indicating that the country's civil aviation authority has been assessed by IASA inspectors and found to license and oversee air carriers in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety standards.

Be cautious when moving through an airport, as passport and luggage theft is common at airports.

Aviation strikes are not uncommon, though are usually planned in advance. These actions may cause severe disruptions to domestic and international scheduled flights.

**Bus and Metro:** Spain has a modern public transportation network that is generally clean, efficient, extensive, and reliable. Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, Valencia, and Bilbao are the only cities with a metro system. Local buses can be found throughout the country, even in some small towns. Pickpocketing and bag slashing are common on Spanish public transportation.

**Car:** Roads in Spain are of good quality. Persons who intend on renting vehicles in Spain should take out comprehensive vehicle insurance, including theft and damage waivers. Drivers should be in possession of their home country driver's license as well as an International Driver's Permit (IDP). Driving without an IDP is illegal. Vehicles must be equipped for emergency situations, with two red warning triangles, a reflective jacket, a spare tire, a full set of spare light bulbs, and tools to change them. Drivers who fail to comply with this law may be subject to on-the-spot fines.

Smash-and-grab robberies are common in Spain. These can occur when a car is parked or even when waiting at a light. Be aware of unmarked "police cars" and plainclothes police. All traffic police in Spain wear uniforms, and legitimate unmarked police cars will have a flashing sign in the back of their car indicating that they are police officers. Genuine police may impose an on-the-spot fine for legitimate violations, but should provide a receipt.

**Taxi:** Taxis in Spain are easy to find, especially in urban areas. In more rural areas, it might be necessary to book one ahead of time, as they are less readily available. Taxis will impose a surcharge if traveling from the airport or train station. Most taxi drivers will only speak Spanish, so it may be necessary to have the destination written in Spanish to hand to the driver. Taxi crime is rare but has been occasionally reported by foreigners.

**Train:** The Spanish national rail system is known as Renfe. Rates of pickpocketing and theft at train stations and on trains are high. Criminals will often trick an unsuspecting tourist into giving directions, while an accomplice grabs the target's valuables.

Spanish trains and train stations have been the sites of terrorist attacks and attempted attacks in the past. A major terrorist attack occurred at a Madrid train station in 2004.

## Scams, Fraud, Corruption, and Extortion

Inheritance and lottery scams are common in Spain. In such scams, the fraudster contacts the victim and tells them that they have received a large sum of money from a previously unknown British relative or a state lottery drawing, claiming to be the administrator of the cash. They then convince the victim to part with money or bank details to release the fake fund. Credit and ATM card skimming are also a concern in Spain.

Common scams against foreigners, irrespective of destination, include dating and marriage scams, false employment opportunities, lottery scams, and virtual kidnapping for ransom. Avoid giving out

personal information at all costs, especially bank or credit card numbers.

There have been isolated cases of corruption among government officials; however, these officials will not likely affect those traveling to Spain.

## **Security Advice**

Be prepared. Make an effort to understand your destination environment before you travel: identify the possible threats and prevailing situation, understand your own vulnerabilities and take action to mitigate the risks.

Maintain a low profile and good situational awareness. Ensure you travel with reliable communications equipment, test your mobile (cellular) telephone upon arrival at your destination and keep it fully charged. Make note of emergency telephone numbers, including the police, fire department, ambulance, and embassy or consulate.

Avoid all protests and demonstrations to minimize the risk of exposure to incidental violence. Travelers should walk away or wait inside a shop or restaurant if it is not possible to leave the area. Plan alternate routes to circumvent potential protest locations. Seek the assistance of a local host, or travel with a local driver, where possible.

To minimize the risk of becoming a victim of petty theft, travelers should maintain caution and exercise situational awareness at all times. Avoid overt displays of wealth. If confronted by a criminal, do nothing to antagonize the situation. Carry a "dummy" wallet if possible, and carry a passport photocopy at all times.

Carry handbags on the opposite side from passing traffic to reduce the risk of thieves on motorcycles trying to snatch them.

Avoid walking unless you are confident of the security situation. Do not walk by yourself at night in secluded or troublesome areas of the city. Do not take shortcuts away from main roads.

National holidays and public festivals tend to attract large crowds in some countries. Such public gatherings, despite a typically enhanced security presence, create a potential venue for disorder or violence. In addition, large crowds may well impede local transportation systems.

Do not buy counterfeit or any goods in violation of copyright laws. Doing so may be a violation of local laws and can carry hefty fines or even prison time.

Reduce risk of injury from car crashes by always wearing a seatbelt. Some countries have heavy fines for not wearing a seatbelt. Avoid drinking and driving. Be sure to travel with all appropriate documentation, including passport and visa photocopies. Individuals who intend on driving should be in possession of their International Driving Permit (IDP), vehicle registration, and proof of insurance at all times.

Travelers are subject to the laws of Spain, even if they are not a citizen of Spain. Travelers can also be prosecuted for violating their home country's laws while in a foreign country. Travelers should be aware of the laws and customs of the country they are traveling to in order to avoid prosecution.

# HEALTH ASSESSMENT

## Health Risk Rating

Low

## Travel Health Advice

Routine vaccines for preventable diseases, such as measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, chickenpox (or varicella), poliovirus vaccine, etc. are recommended for all travelers.

Protect against insect bites and insect-borne diseases, such as tick-borne encephalitis or malaria, by using insect repellent and wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts, boots, and hats if possible. See more detailed insect precautions below.

Prevent foodborne illnesses by avoiding undercooked foods and unpasteurized dairy products and washing hands, especially before eating. See more detailed food and beverage precautions below.

A comprehensive pre-travel health consultation with a travel health care provider is recommended for all travelers in order to optimize their health while traveling and to individualize their disease prevention strategies to best mitigate the health risks of any destination.

## Immunizations - Required for Entry

Immunization	Notes
None	There are no immunizations required for entry into Spain.

## Immunizations - General

The following immunizations are recommended for travel to all destinations.

Immunization	Notes
<b>Routine</b>	Routine vaccines for preventable diseases, such as measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, chickenpox (or varicella), poliovirus vaccine, etc. are recommended for all travelers.
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Hepatitis B is spread through contact with infected blood, sexual relations, and contact with contaminated needles.  There are several pre-exposure vaccination options available: PEDIARIX (pediatric formulation containing DTaP, HepA/B, and polio vaccines), TWINRIX (3 dose HepA/HepB combination series), ENGERIX-B, RECOMBIVAX HB (3 doses); Heplisav-B (2 doses). The full course of injections is recommended prior to travel. Unvaccinated travelers who have been exposed to HBV should seek medical attention immediately. They should receive a dose of Hep B vaccine within 24 hours of the exposure, and may benefit from treatment with Hep B immunoglobulin as well.

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<b>Influenza</b>	<p>All types of Influenza are spread between humans by respiratory droplets through sneezing, coughing, and touching objects contaminated with the virus.</p> <p>There are 2 types of pre-exposure vaccinations available: Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV), and Live Intranasal Influenza Vaccine (LAIV). IIV is injected into the upper arm or thigh, and LAIV is administered as a nasal spray. Components of the vaccine change yearly, depending on anticipated circulating strains of the virus, which vary by hemisphere. Vaccination is recommended annually for all persons at least 6 months of age, prior to transmission season.</p>
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### Immunizations - Recommended for this Country

The following are vaccine preventable diseases present in this country. Some travelers may be at an increased risk of exposure to specific diseases. Travelers are advised to consult with their travel healthcare provider for traveler- and itinerary- specific recommendations.

Immunization	Notes
<b>Rabies</b>	<p>Rabies is spread through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. All mammals are susceptible, but dogs and other wildlife (particularly bats) are the most common vectors.</p> <p>A 3-dose pre-exposure rabies vaccine is recommended for long-term travelers and expatriates visiting remote areas. It is also recommended for travelers involved in adventure or outdoor activities in remote areas who could be exposed to bats, dogs, and other mammals and those who might be in direct contact with animals, including in urban areas. Children are at higher risk and have a lower threshold for pre-exposure vaccination. The first dose of the vaccine should be administered at least 21 days before travel.</p>
<b>Meningococcal Disease</b>	<p>Meningococcal disease is spread through contact with the respiratory secretions of an infected person, as well as sharing food and drinks. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) can be given to all persons at least 2 months of age. Dosing will vary depending on the product and the age of the traveler.</p>

### Health Risks

The following are health risks present in the country. Some of these health risks are widespread, while others may only affect travelers in specific areas or those engaging in specific activities. Travelers are advised to consult with their travel healthcare provider for traveler- and itinerary- specific recommendations.

Health Risks	Notes
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<p><b>Air Pollution</b></p>	<p>Air pollution refers to the potentially hazardous mix of particulate matter, chemicals, and other materials that infiltrates the air and causes acute symptoms and chronic conditions. Acute symptoms include itching of the eyes, nose, and throat, as well as wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, nausea, and upper respiratory infections (bronchitis and pneumonia). Air pollution is increasing in low- and middle- income countries and has become a major concern for travelers.</p> <p>Travelers with chronic lung conditions such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD should consult with their physicians prior to travel to areas with poor air quality, and these populations should reduce outdoor exertion. Elderly travelers and infants are also more at risk for respiratory consequences of exposure to air pollution. All travelers should comply with air pollution advisories. Levels of air pollution will vary by city and region; check current levels prior to travel to appropriately target preventive measures.</p>
<p><b>Dengue Fever</b></p>	<p>Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral infection. Symptoms include headache, sudden-onset fever, rash, and joint pain. Some cases progress to severe dengue, when significant bleeding, fluid shifts, and end organ damage can appear.</p> <p>Dengue fever is spread through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. The Aedes mosquito, which carries dengue fever, typically lives indoors in dark, cool places like closets, under beds, bathrooms, and behind curtains, as well as around standing water. Aedes are daytime biters, with highest activity 2-3 hours after dawn and mid-to-late afternoon. Aedes mosquitos are active in both urban and rural environments.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent dengue fever. Use daytime insect precautions (see Insect Precautions below). Although there is no specific treatment for Dengue Fever, persons with suspected illness should seek medical care for definitive diagnosis. Dengue Fever does not usually require hospitalization; however, close clinical monitoring is needed to allow early intervention if complications occur.</p>
<p><b>Leishmaniasis</b></p>	<p>Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease caused by several species of Leishmania protozoa. Three clinical syndromes result, depending on causative species: cutaneous, mucosal, and visceral (the most severe). Travelers most often are affected by the cutaneous form, usually with ulcerating skin lesions and swollen glands, and experience self-limited disease.</p> <p>Leishmaniasis is spread through the bite of an infected sandfly. Risk of acquiring the disease is higher among adventure travelers, eco-tourists, missionaries, military personnel, construction workers, and those working outdoors at night or sleeping outdoors.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent Leishmaniasis. Follow insect precautions (see below), and avoid nighttime outdoor activities if possible. Most sandflies bite from dusk to dawn, but in the Western hemisphere, sandflies bite both day and night. Be aware that the mesh on any protective netting must be of a finer weave than the norm for prevention of mosquito bites. For netting to be effective against sandflies, it must have at least 18 holes per linear inch (2.54 cm). Impregnated nets and screens are most effective. Treatment decisions are multifactorial and can include local wound care and medications.</p>

<p><b>Lyme Disease</b></p>	<p>Lyme disease is caused by Borrelia bacteria that reside primarily in deer, birds, and rodents. Symptoms vary widely depending on the stage of the illness. Early disease manifests with fatigue, headache, neck stiffness, muscle and joint aches, fever, and a classic "bull's eye" rash.</p> <p>Lyme disease is spread to humans through the bite of an infected Ixodes tick. Travelers engaged in outdoor activities in forested or grassy areas are at risk, including hikers, campers, and hunters. Ticks are more active during warmer months, but in temperate areas can be found year-round.</p> <p>There is no vaccine against Lyme disease. Follow insect precautions when outdoors in areas of potential exposure (see below with attention to tick prevention). Perform complete body tick check after outdoor activities. Remove ticks immediately if found. Post-exposure prophylaxis with doxycycline is recommended within 72 hours after Ixodes tick attachment in certain situations. Seek medical advice for tick attachment in endemic areas. Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics; results are best with early treatment.</p>
<p><b>Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)</b></p>	<p>STIs are a concern for travelers worldwide, and are likely underreported as a travel-related infection. STIs are caused by viruses, bacteria, and parasites, the same potential pathogens as are present in the traveler's home environment. However, certain infections like chancroid, LGV, and Granuloma inguinale are more common in less industrialized countries, and other areas of the world have higher incidence of HIV and Hepatitis B and C than others. Symptoms vary widely depending on the specific infection, and can include both local and systemic symptoms.</p> <p>STIs are spread between humans by unprotected sexual contact (oral, anal, or vaginal), and skin-to-skin genital contact. Some STIs can also be transmitted through exposure to blood and other bodily fluids. Travelers are at higher risk if engaging in sex with sex workers, traveling for sex tourism, or certain higher risk behaviors. Healthcare workers are at higher risk for certain blood-borne infections.</p> <p>Preventive measures focus on decreasing exposure to STI pathogens. Adhere strictly to safe sex practices: use a condom correctly and consistently, or abstain from intercourse, and use an external condom or dental dam for oral exposures. Travelers should pack external and/or internal condoms, as the quality of condoms available in some areas is not reliable. Avoid behavior that increases the risk of contracting an STI such as casual sex with a stranger or a sex worker. Drinking heavily or taking mind-altering drugs will impair judgement and inhibitions during a sexual encounter, increasing the risk of making unsafe choices. Seek medical attention promptly if an STI is suspected.</p>
<p><b>Mediterranean Spotted Fever (MSF)</b></p>	<p>MSF is a tick-borne infection caused by a species of rickettsial bacteria. Symptoms include fever, headache, and rash. A black eschar occurs at the site of the tick bite.</p> <p>MSF is spread through the bite of an infected tick. Those engaging in outdoor activities in wooded or high vegetation areas are at increased risk of exposure to ticks.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent against MSF. To avoid bites, adhere to the insect precautions detailed below, with particular attention to tick avoidance. Infected individuals should seek medical attention, and they can be treated with antibiotics and supportive care.</p>

<p><b>Typhus, Murine</b></p>	<p>Murine Typhus is an infection with rickettsial bacteria transmitted by fleas. Symptoms include fever, headache, and muscle aches, followed by a rash. While most people have mild illness, more severe symptoms can ensue, including lung, liver, kidney, and brain involvement. Murine typhus is transmitted to humans through the bite of a flea carrying the infection. Exposure to animals that serve as hosts (rats, cats, mice) is a risk factor for infection. Murine typhus is occasionally identified in travelers. There is no vaccine to prevent Murine typhus. Avoid contact with known animal reservoirs. Murine typhus is treated with antibiotics. Seek medical attention if infection is suspected.</p>
<p><b>Marine Hazards</b></p>	<p>Marine hazards are varied and include exposures to challenging tides and currents, hazards of watersports and boating, as well as contact with plants and animals that can injure humans. Most commonly seen in travelers are envenomation or stings from jellyfish, sea urchins, certain corals, stonefish, sting rays, and sea urchins. Travelers should seek out and heed posted warnings and refrain from bathing or other aquatic activities at unmarked, unpatrolled beaches.</p>
<p><b>Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)</b></p>	<p>CCHF is caused by a bunyavirus and is a zoonotic disease. Many infected individuals are asymptomatic. Those who become ill may present with fever, fever, sore muscles, dizziness, neck pain and stiffness, backache, headache, sore eyes and photophobia, mood swings, and aggression. The disease progresses to bleeding and bruising in mucus membranes and skin, and then in internal organs. CCHF can be fatal. CCHF is spread through tick bites and through contact with infected animals or animal tissue. Activities that increase risk for CCHF include outdoor activities in endemic areas (camping, hiking, etc.), or contact with livestock. In general, risk to travelers is low. There is no vaccine to prevent against CCHF. Those engaging in outdoor activities in endemic areas should observe insect precautions with particular attention to preventing tick bites (see Insect Precautions below). Visitors working with livestock or other animals in endemic areas should wear gloves or other barriers to keep their skin from coming into contact with infected animals, as they often serve as hosts for ticks. Special protective clothing is indicated for healthcare workers caring for patients with CCHF. Seek medical advice immediately if CCHF is suspected. Some patients may benefit from antiviral treatment, and more severely affected patients will need intensive supportive care.</p>

### Medical Facilities and Services

Medical facilities in Spain meet international standards. European Union (EU) nationals holding a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) are eligible for services provided by the state health system, though local health authorities will ultimately decide if the condition of the individual seeking treatment is pressing enough for local assistance. Non-EU nationals may be liable for medical expenses incurred, and may be required to cover costs beforehand. The health care system in Spain is decentralized, and standards and procedures may thus vary from region to region. Take adequate amounts of necessary prescription medication for the intended stay, as similar medications may be difficult to find in Spain, or may require a prescription from a local doctor.

### Food and Water Safety

Most water is considered potable; however, travelers are advised to drink bottled water due to minor concentrations of *E. coli* or other local bacteria that can cause gastroenteritis. Dairy products are typically pasteurized. Thoroughly wash and peel fruit and vegetables, and avoid undercooked or raw meat and seafood as these are often sources of foodborne illnesses. Ciguatera fish poisoning is

common in Spain and can be avoided by limiting the consumption of barracuda, grouper, moray eel, amberjack, sea bass, or sturgeon.

### **Insect Precautions**

Use insect repellent: DEET 20 - 30% or Picaridin 20% on exposed skin. Re-apply per manufacturer's directions.

Avoid scented soaps, hair products, deodorants, perfumes, and shaving products.

Wear long sleeves and pants tucked into socks. Wear neutral colors (beige, light gray). Always wear shoes, both indoors and outdoors.

Treat outer clothing with permethrin.

Remove any containers holding water, both inside and outside any building.

Avoid insect exposure using additional various methods depending on the insect:

- For nighttime flying insects, sleep under bed nets, preferably insecticide impregnated.
- For ticks, hike in the middle of the trail and avoid tall grasses and shrubs, use a tarp when sitting on grass, perform regular tick checks on your body and clothing.
- For other insect vectors, avoid direct contact with animals, and avoid overcrowded, unsanitary conditions to reduce risk of exposure to body lice, mites, fleas, and rodents.

# DESTINATION DETAILS

## Time Zones

From 31 March 2019 to 26 October 2019, Central European Summer Time (CEST): GMT +2 hours  
From 27 October 2019 to 28 March 2020, Central European Time (CET): GMT +1 hour  
From 29 March 2020 to 25 October 2020, Central European Summer Time (CEST): GMT +2 hours

## Currency

Euro (EUR)

## Credit Cards

Most major business establishments in Spain accept credit cards, of which MasterCard and Visa are the most widely accepted. Although these credit cards can be used outside major cities, travelers are still advised to carry EUR when traveling to rural areas. Moreover, individuals will have to show ID for all credit card transactions. Travelers should constantly notify their respective banks regarding their travel plans to avoid having their accounts frozen.

## ATMs

ATMs are located throughout Spain and can also be found in rural areas. These ATMs commonly accept MasterCard and Visa but only selected ones accept Diners Club and American Express. Travelers should check with their banks before their trip regarding any fees associated with ATM use.

## Banking Hours

From Monday to Friday, 08:30-14:00  
A few banks are open on Saturdays from October to April.  
Banking hours may vary based on a particular bank or location.

## Major Holidays

Services and transportation may be affected on/around the following holidays:

Date	Holiday
01 January 2019	New Year's Day
06 January 2019	Epiphany
19 March 2019	San Jose (regional observation only)
18 April 2019	Maundy Thursday (regional observation only)
19 April 2019	Good Friday
22 April 2019	Easter Monday (regional observation only)
01 May 2019	Labor Day
25 July 2019	Feast of Saint James the Apostle (regional observation only)
15 August 2019	Assumption of Mary

12 October 2019	Hispanic Day
01 November 2019	All Saints' Day
06 December 2019	Constitution Day
08 December 2019	Immaculate Conception
09 December 2019	Immaculate Conception Observed
25 December 2019	Christmas Day

**NOTE:** No further elections are scheduled to take place in 2019.

### **Voltage Information**

220V, 50Hz - Plug Type C, F

## International Airports

Airport Name	Airport Code	Airport Location
A Coruña International Airport	LCG	Culleredo, A Coruña
Alicante-Elche Airport	ALC	Alicante
Almería International Airport	LEI	Almería
Asturias International Airport	OVD	Castrillon, Asturias
Barcelona-El Prat Airport	BCN	El Prat de Llobregat, serving Barcelona
Bilbao Airport	BIO	Bilbao
Federico García Lorca Granada-Jaén Airport (Granada Airport)	GRX	Granada
Fuerteventura Airport	FUE	El Matorral, serving Fuerteventura
Girona-Costa Brava Airport	GRO	Girona, Catalonia
Gran Canaria Airport	LPA	Las Palmas, Gran Canaria
Ibiza Airport	IBZ	Ibiza, also serving Formentera islands
Jerez Airport (La Parra Airport)	XRY	Jerez de la Frontera
La Palma Airport	SPC	Santa Cruz de La Palma
Lanzarote Airport	ACE	Lanzarote
Madrid-Barajas Airport	MAD	Madrid
Málaga Costa del Sol Airport	AGP	Málaga
Menorca Airport	MAH	Mahón, Island of Menorca
Murcia-San Javier Airport	MJV	San Javier, serving Murcia and Cartagena
Palma de Mallorca Airport	PMI	Palma, Mallorca
Reus Airport	REU	Reus, Catalonia
Santander Airport	SDR	Maliaño, serving Santander
Santiago de Compostela Airport	SCQ	Lavcacolla, serving Santiago de Compostela
Seville San Pablo Airport	SVQ	Seville
Tenerife Norte Airport	TFN	San Cristobal de la Laguna, Tenerife
Tenerife Sur Airport	TFS	Granadilla de Abona, Tenerife
Valencia Airport	VLC	Manises, serving Valencia
Vigo Airport	VGO	Vigo

Zaragoza Airport	ZAZ	Zaragoza
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# ENTRY & EXIT REQUIREMENTS

The following information is for citizens of the United States. If you are a citizen of a country other than the United States, then contact an embassy or consulate for up-to-date requirements. For additional questions regarding entry/exit requirements, contact Global Rescue at (+1) (617) 459-4200.

A passport valid for at least six months following the scheduled departure date, an onward/return ticket, proof of hotel accommodation (or a letter of invitation), and proof of sufficient funds are required for entry into Spain. Those unable to provide the required documents may be refused entry. A visa is not required for stays of fewer than 90 days. Given that Spain is part of the Schengen Agreement, time spent in other Schengen countries will count against the 90-day limit. Those who wish to stay in Spain beyond 90 days must present an official criminal records certificate to Spanish authorities.

## IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

**The following items are permitted to individuals 17 years of age or older:**

Import is free when traveling to and from countries within the European Union (EU). However, customs may question travelers if they import more than the following amounts of goods:

### 1. Tobacco products

- 800 cigarettes,
- 400 cigarillos (maximum of 3 grams each),
- 200 cigars, **OR**
- 1 kilogram smoking tobacco

### 2. Alcoholic beverages

- 10 liters of spirits (above 22 percent alcohol content),
- 20 liters of alcoholic beverages (below 22 percent alcohol content),
- 90 liters of wine (maximum of 60 liters of sparkling wine), **OR**
- 110 liters of beer

When arriving from outside the EU by air or sea, travelers may import the following items:

### 1. Tobacco products

- 200 cigarettes,
- 100 cigarillos,
- 50 cigars, **OR**
- 250 grams of smoking tobacco

### 2. Alcoholic beverages

- 1 liter of alcohol (over 22 percent alcohol content),
- 2 liters of alcoholic beverages (below 22 percent alcohol content **OR** a proportional mix of these products),
- 4 liters of still wine, **OR**
- 16 liters of beer

### 3. Other goods up to a value of EUR 430

When arriving from outside the EU by land, travelers may import the following items:

1. Tobacco products

- 40 cigarettes,
- 20 cigarillos,
- 10 cigars, **OR**
- 50 grams of smoking tobacco (or proportional combination)

2. Alcoholic beverages

- 1 liter of alcohol (over 22 percent alcohol content),
- 2 liters of alcoholic beverages (below 22 percent alcohol content **OR** a proportional mix of these products),
- 4 liters of still wine, **OR**
- 16 liters of beer

3. Other goods up to a value of EUR 300

**The following restrictions apply:**

- All cash over EUR 10,000 must be declared upon entry if traveling from outside the EU.
- Medication intended for non-commercial use only is permitted.
- Pets must be identifiable, vaccinated for rabies, and have a health certificate.
- There are restrictions on the import of powdered milk for babies, fish if disemboweled and below 20 kilograms, **AND** clothing made from protected animals.
- Meat, milk, and dairy products from Andorra, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Iceland are limited to 10 kilograms.

**The following items are prohibited:**

- Meat, milk, and dairy products from non-EU countries (with the exception of Andorra, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Iceland) **AND**
- Protected species and products thereof, including ivory, tortoise shell, coral, reptile skin, and wood from Amazonian forests

**EXPORT RESTRICTIONS**

**The following restrictions apply:**

- There is free export from Spain.
- When destined for a non-EU member country, all cash must be declared if over EUR 10,000.

**The following items are prohibited:**

- When traveling to a fellow EU country, meat, milk, and dairy products from non-EU countries (with the exception of Andorra, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Iceland), as well as protected species and products thereof.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b>Intl. Country Code</b>	+34
<b>Fire</b>	112 or 080
<b>Police (emergency)</b>	112
<b>Local Police</b>	092
<b>National Police</b>	091
<b>Ambulance</b>	112 or 061

### Contact Information for Select Embassies

#### **US Embassy in Madrid**

Calle de Serrano, 75  
28006 Madrid  
(+34) 91-587-2200

#### **British Embassy in Madrid**

Torre Espacio, Paseo de la Castellana 259D  
28046 Madrid  
(+34) 91-714-6300

#### **Australian Embassy in Madrid**

Torre Espacio - Planta 24, Paseo de la Castellana, 259D  
28046 Madrid  
(+34) 91-353-6600

For other embassies, contact Global Rescue at (+1) (617) 459-4200.