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Location

SPAIN

In the southwest of Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. Spain covers 498,980 square kilometers of land and 6,390 square kilometers of water, making it the 52nd largest nation in the world.



BARCELONA

On the coast between the mouths of the rivers *Llobregat* and *Besòs*, and to the west - the *Serra de Collserola* mountain range. It is the capital and the largest city of Catalonia,



Population

SPAIN

- ❑ The current population of Spain is 46,396,015 (2018).
- ❑ Spain ranks number 30 in the list of countries (and dependencies) by population.



BARCELONA

- ❑ 1,62 million inhabitants and 3 million with its suburbs (Mataró, Badalona, Terrassa, Sabadell, Hospitalet de Llobregat, Santa Coloma de Gramanet, Cornellà de Llobregat ...)
- ❑ There are 766,625 males and 854,184 - females.



Languages

SPAIN

The official language is Spanish, also called Castilian.

Galician is spoken in the region of Galicia.

Basque is spoken in the the Spanish Basque Country.

Catalan is spoken in Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, and the closely-related Valencian in the Valencia region. All these languages have official regional status.



BARCELONA

We speak Catalan and Spanish, but we also study English, French, German, Chinese and many other languages.



Climate

SPAIN

In Spain the climate is generally temperate. There are five types of climate:

- the climate of the Atlantic coast: cool, humid and rainy;
- the climate of the central plateau (for example Madrid): arid and moderately continental, with relatively cold winters and hot summers;
- the Mediterranean climate of the southern and eastern coastal regions (for example Barcelona and Malaga): mild and sunny;
- the mountain climate of the Pyrenees and the Sierras, more or less cold depending on altitude;
- the almost African climate of Andalusia, mild in winter and very hot in summer.

Therefore, Spain is not always warm and sunny as you might think.



BARCELONA

Barcelona has a Mediterranean climate. So, the weather is pleasant for most of the year.

- In **summer** it is hot and dry. The average summer temperature is around 28°C. The hottest months are July and August.

- In **winter** it is cool and rainy, but temperatures rarely fall below 0 degrees. The winter average daytime temperatures are about 13 ° C.
- In **spring** days are longer and temperatures rise. It usually rains in April. It is nice to be outside during this time of the year.
- In **autumn** it is still comfortable. Even though, in November and December it's raining more often and it gets quite cold at night.

The warmest month of the year is **July**, with an average temperature of 24.1 °C. At 9.8 °C on average, **January** is the coldest month of the year.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Avg. Temperature (°C)	9.8	10.7	12.5	14.6	17.7	21.4	24.1	23.8	21.7	17.6	13.4	10.7
Min. Temperature (°C)	6.6	7.4	9	10.7	13.8	17.5	20.3	20.2	18.3	14.4	10.3	7.7
Max. Temperature (°C)	13.1	14.1	16.1	18.6	21.7	25.3	27.9	27.5	25.1	20.9	16.5	13.7
Avg. Temperature (°F)	49.6	51.3	54.5	58.3	63.9	70.5	75.4	74.8	71.1	63.7	56.1	51.3
Min. Temperature (°F)	43.9	45.3	48.2	51.3	56.8	63.5	68.5	68.4	64.9	57.9	50.5	45.9
Max. Temperature (°F)	55.6	57.4	61.0	65.5	71.1	77.5	82.2	81.5	77.2	69.6	61.7	56.7
Precipitation / Rainfall (mm)	39	36	45	48	52	42	25	51	73	93	59	49

You can see that the rain in Barcelona falls mostly in winter and in summer it rarely rains.

Average Daily Sunshine Hours in **BARCELONA**

month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
hours	5	7	7	8	8	9	10	9	8	6	5	4

Historic Buildings and Monuments

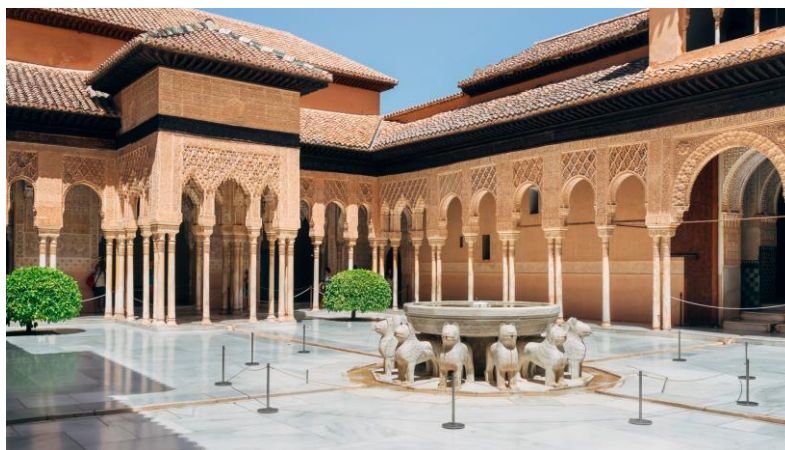
SPAIN

There is a great mixture of cultural attractions in Spain. Let's explore some of them!

1. The Alhambra



This is perhaps the most famous monument in Spain. It's one of the giant, greatest and most beautiful buildings in world history. You'll find it in Granada, and you'll be amazed at its palaces and gardens. The palace was constructed in the 14th century by the Nasrid sultans. Don't miss the Courtyard of the Lions:



2. The Aqueduct of Segovia in Castilla y León.

It's one of the best-preserved monuments left by the Romans in Spain. The ancient aqueduct carries water 16 km from the Río Frío River to Segovia and was built of some 24,000 massive granite blocks:



3. Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela



The Santiago de Compostela Cathedral is one of the most important religious structures in the whole of Spain, particularly because it marks the end of the 790 kilometres that make up the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route.

It was built throughout different years and because of this it has various architectural styles: Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque, Plateresque and Neoclassical.

BARCELONA

Barcelona has a lot of architecturally and historically significant, beautiful and unique monuments.

1. Casa Batlló



Casa Batlló, a spectacular architectural house redesigned by Gaudí in 1904, is located in the centre of the city. The building's façade appears to be made of skulls and bones, which are in fact balconies.

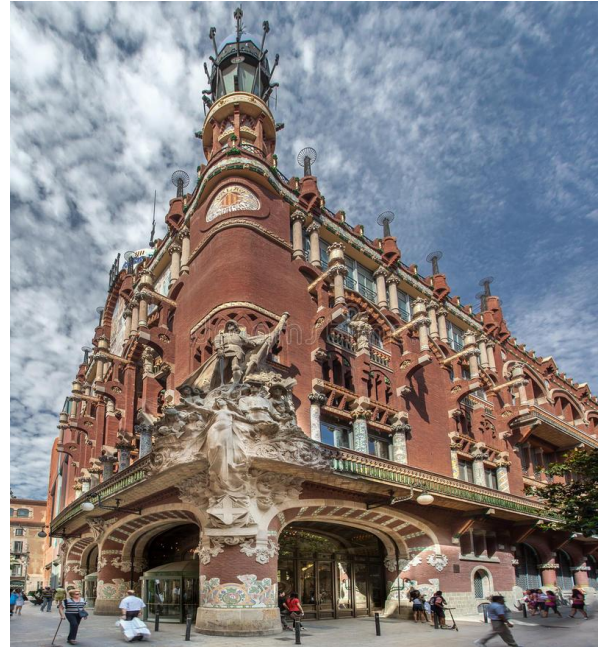
2. Sagrada Família

The construction work of La Sagrada Família started in 1882 and the world-famous architect Antoni Gaudí became involved in 1883, mixing gothic and Art Nouveau styles in the engineering and architectural aspects of the basilica. The world is still waiting for the completion of the project!



3. Palau de la Música Catalana

It is a concert hall designed by the architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner and opened in 1908. The Palau de la Música Catalana is an architectural jewel of Catalan Art Nouveau. Today it is known for being one of the world's most unique concert halls.



4. The Magic Fountain of Montjuïc music and light show

It is a 'must see' Barcelona attraction. You have never seen a fountain like this. It really does feel magic to experience the beautiful show of water, light and music. The Magic fountain was built in 1929 as one of the main attractions for the 1929 Barcelona World Fair and the Font Magica is still one of the most famous places in Barcelona.



Traditions

SPAIN

1. Las Fallas (Valencia)

Las Fallas is one of the more impressive festivals in Spain. This event takes place every March in the city of Valencia. The celebration lasts for a week and includes nonstop fireworks and noisy fanfare. The tradition started as a holiday to pay tribute to Saint Joseph, Valencia's patron saint.



2. La Tomatina (Buñol)

It is a "tomato war" organised in the town of Buñol. Tourists and locals gather on the last Wednesday of August each year to stage a tomato-chucking battle of epic proportions. This event is part of a week-long festival in honor of Buñol's patron saint. More than one hundred metric tons of over-ripe tomatoes are thrown in the streets.



3. The Three Kings Day

Three Kings Day, or *Día De Los Reyes* in Spanish, falls on January 6 every year. It's the day the children of Spain receive presents for Christmas. The day is also celebrated by eating the *roscon de los reyes*, or ring-cake of the kings, that is decorated to look like a crown that a king would wear. Inside it there is a toy, often a figure of baby Jesus. The person who finds it is said to have good luck for the year.



4. Easter

Easter is one of the most important celebrations in Spain. Like everywhere in Spain, the festivities begin on Palm Sunday (*Domingo de Ramos*) and last until Easter Monday (*Lunes de Pascua*), with the most dramatic and passionate parades organised on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.



BARCELONA

1. Human Towers or *Castellers* in Catalan

One of Barcelona and Catalonia's most famous traditions involves a group of people, children included, climbing on top of each other to make human castles. *Castellers*, as they're known, practice this official sport on any weekend, holiday or festival throughout the year, and they can get up to eight, nine, even ten layers high! The most dazzling part? The small child who crawls to the top! Have a look at this:



2. Giants or *Gegants* in Catalan

Gegants play an important role in Catalan tradition and folklore. Usually representing neighborhood characters like the butcher, baker or fisherman, the giants parade around during festivals and also many special city events.



3. Cagatió

The *cagatió* is a special, smiley wooden log that children feed with nuts and dried fruit throughout the month of December. It wears a traditional Catalan red hat. As Christmas approaches, they dance around him, hitting him gently with a stick and singing a song and it poops out presents!



4. Sardana

It is a traditional Catalan dance and is a symbol of Catalan unity and pride. It's a spectacle of dancing where circles of people join their hands together and with them raised; dance with small, precise steps, slowly round and round while people join to make the circle bigger.



Typical Food

SPAIN

From tasty tapas to delicious seafood and traditional roasts.

1. Gazpacho

It's a cold soup made of raw blended vegetables such as the reddest, ripest tomatoes, garlic, peppers and cucumber. People usually have it in summer because it is very refreshing and cool.



2. Tortilla - Spanish omelette

Eggs, potatoes, onions... that's it! A delicious tortilla! The potatoes and onions are slow fried in olive oil then mixed with the beaten eggs for the flavours to mix before cooking. Then brown it on both sides and serve it on a round plate. You can eat it hot or cold.



BARCELONA

1. Botifarra amb mongetes

This is a simple but delicious dish. It's a type of sausage and beans and one of the most important dishes of the Catalan cuisine.



2. Crema catalana - Spanish burnt cream custard

It is a great dessert similar to the French *crème brûlée*. This creamy dessert is made with milk, cream, egg yolks, sugar, vanilla, orange peel, and cinnamon. Typically, this dessert was once only served on Saint Joseph's day, but now you can find it almost everywhere.



Famous People

SPAIN

Many of the most influential and successful people in the world come from Spain.

1. Rafael Nadal

Rafael Nadal is a Spanish professional tennis player. He is considered to be one of the greatest tennis players of all time after completing the career Grand Slam by the age of 24. He managed to break the record becoming the youngest in history to achieve the accomplishment. Hence, he has been nicknamed 'The King of Clay' as reference to the finest clay court player in history.



2. Antonio Banderas

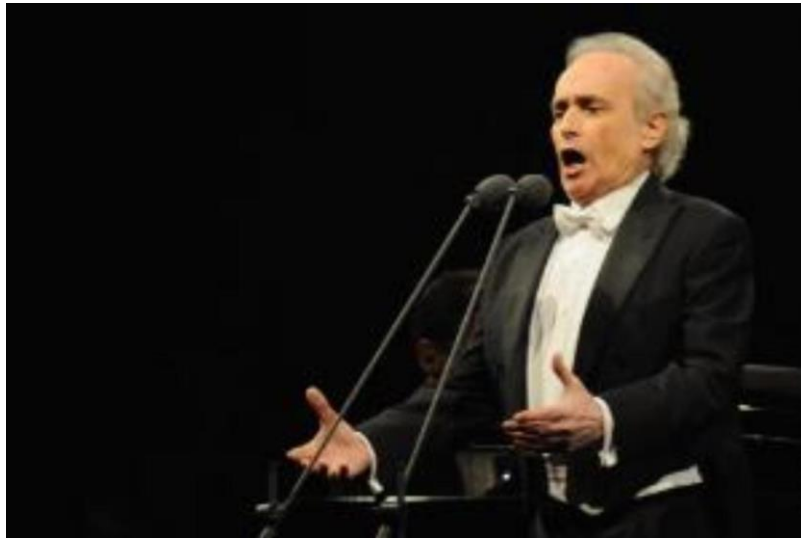
He is a Spanish actor, director and producer. He began his acting career with a series of films by the director Pedro Almodóvar. Antonio Banderas has acted in several important Hollywood movies including *Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever*, *Assassins*, *Interview with the Vampire*, *Mariachi* sequels, *Philadelphia*, *The Mask of Zorro*, and *Puss in Boots* in the Shrek movies.



BARCELONA

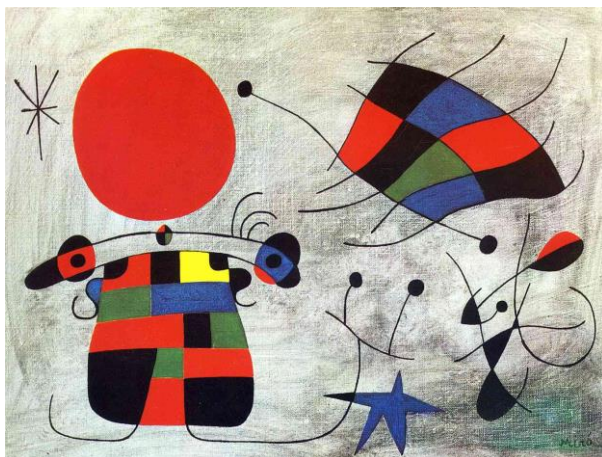
1. Josep Carreras

Josep Carreras is a Catalan tenor famous for his performances in the operas of Verdi and Puccini. He was born in Barcelona and he made his debut at the age of 11. He performed 60 roles in the world's most popular opera houses. More specifically, he became famous performing as part of The Three Tenors along with Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti.



2. Joan Miró

He was a Catalan painter, sculptor, and ceramicist who was born in Barcelona. A museum dedicated to his work, the Fundacio Joan Miró, was opened in Barcelona in 1975.



Curiosities

SPAIN

1. Olive Oil

Spain produces over half of the world's olive oil – more than some 1.5 million tons, and almost all of it comes from the southern region of Andalusia.



2. UNESCO's third largest heritage country

Another fun fact about Spain is that it has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Only Italy and China have more. Probably the most famous UNESCO World Heritage Site is the Sagrada Familia cathedral in Barcelona, but also the old city of Salamanca and Burgos Cathedral:



BARCELONA

1. Sant Jordi's Day is the Catalan Valentine's Day

Saint George Day is a national Catalan holiday. It is also called the Day of the Rose, because of the amount of roses that one can find all over the city. This meaning that Sant Jordi is more or less Barcelona's version of Valentine's Day. Moreover, this day is also Book Day, which is an international holiday that is greatly celebrated in Spain and in Barcelona.



2. The FC Barcelona museum is the most visited museum of Barcelona

FC Barcelona, also known as Barça, is the most famous sport club in Barcelona. Every year the Barcelona Football Club attracts a lot of football fans from all over the world.

