

Spain



Name: Kingdom of Spain

Location: It is located on the Iberian Peninsula.

Area: 504,645 km²

Population: 45,200,737

Capital: Madrid

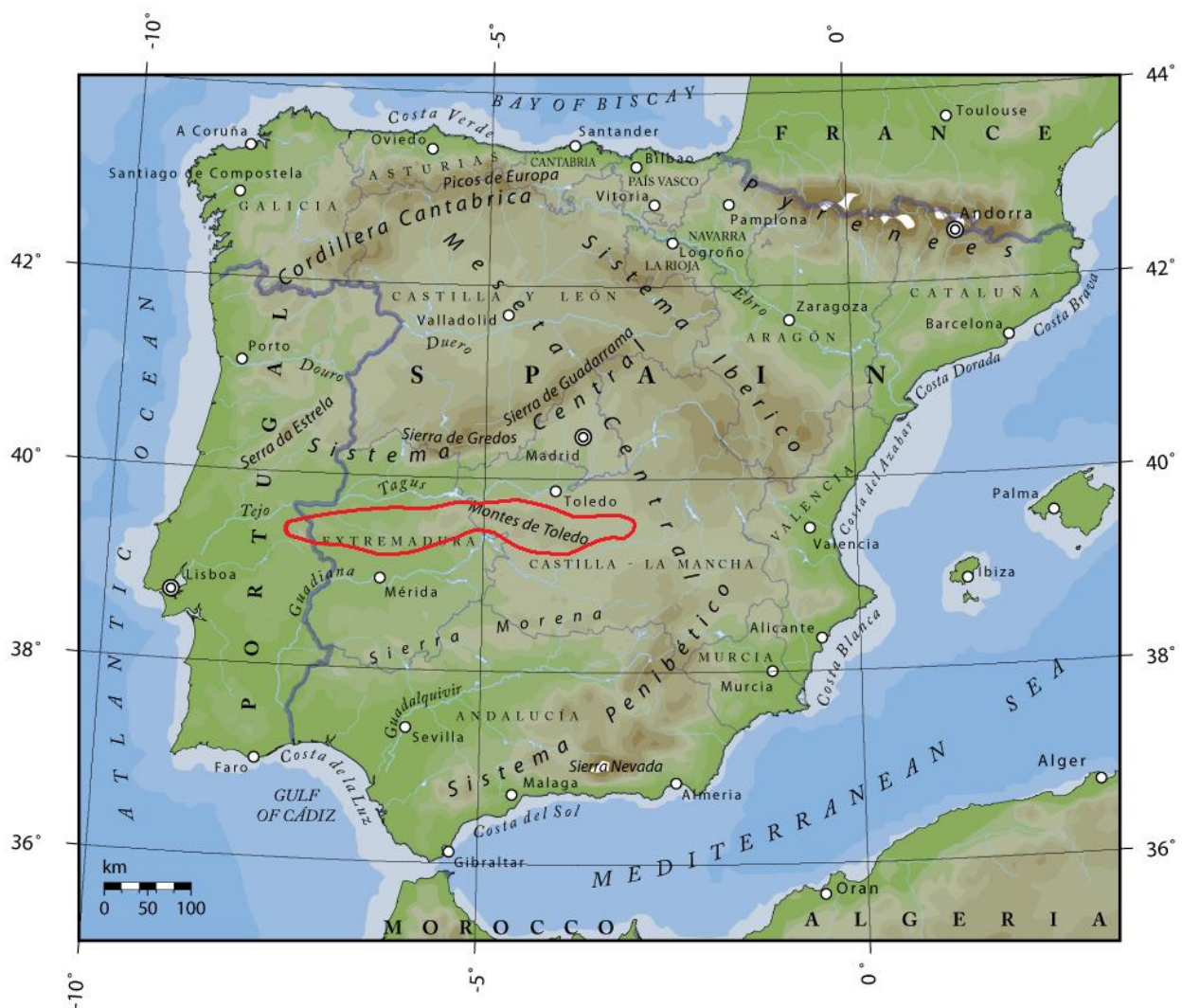
Currency: Euro

Flag of Spain



Landforms

- ❖ The Meseta plateau which covers 45% of the country.
- ❖ The Andalusian plain in the southeast.
- ❖ The Pyrenees Mountains that define the border between Spain and France.
- ❖ The Ebro river basin in the northeast.



Mountain ranges

- ❖ The northern peaks of the Cordillera Cantabrica
 - ❖ The Sistema Iberico
 - ❖ The Montes de Toledo
 - ❖ Serrania de Cuenca in the center and south
 - ❖ Cordillera Betica in the south
 - ❖ Sierra Nevada in the south
 - ❖ The Sistema Central (its highest peak is Pico Almanzor)
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- The highest elevation in the mainland country is found in the Sierra Nevada at the Mulhacen peak of 3,479 m (11,413 feet) above sea level.
 - The highest mountain in the entire country is the 3,718 m (12,198 feet) high active volcano Teide. It is found on Tenerife in the Canary Islands.

Islands

In the Atlantic Ocean

- ❖ The Canary Islands
(Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Tenerife,
La Gomera, La Palma, El Hierro)

In the Mediteranean sea

- ❖ Mallorca (3,667 sq.km)
- ❖ Ibiza (577 sq.km)
- ❖ Formentera (85 sq.km)

Rivers

Spain has approximately 1500 rivers.

The longest rivers are:

Douro, Ebro,
Jucar, Tagus,
Guadiana,
Guadalaquiver.



Climate:

In general it is temperate but it presents several differences in places. The winter temperature goes down to -13°C and in summer it reaches up to 40°C .

*The Spaniards say: Nine months of winter and three months of hell.
(nueve meses de invierno y tres meses de infierno)*

Somewhat milder climate show the plains which are open to the sea and the coastal areas in the Mediterranean Sea which have a Mediterranean climate.

SIGHTS

- The Royal Palace of Madrid, the official residence of the Spanish Royal Family in Madrid.
- Sagrada Familia, a church in Barcelona.
- Alhambra, a palace in Granada.
- The Beach of La Concha. It is a beach in the Bay of La Concha in San Sebastián. It is one of the most famous beaches in Europe.
- The Water Reservoir of Segovia.
- The island Of Ibiza
- The city of Cuenca in Central Spain with a lot of landmarks such as
 - the Hanging Houses
 - the Cuenca Cathedral
 - the Bridge of Saint Paul ...



The city of Cuenca and the Hanging Houses.





The Aqueduct of Segovia:
a Roman aqueduct and one of the most significant and best-preserved ancient monuments left on the Iberian Peninsula.



Sagrada Família:
It is a large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, Spain, designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí.



Alhambra:
a palace and fortress complex located in Granada, Andalusia, Spain.

Traditional dances

Sardana: Several couples join hands and dance in a close circle in this traditional dance from Catalonia.

Paso Dobles: A quick one step Spanish dance.

Fandango: The most famous dance of Spain. The Fandango is a lively happy couples dance from Iberia.

Flamenco: a form of Spanish folk music and dance from the region of Andalusia in southern Spain. It includes cante (singing), toque (guitar playing), baile (dance) and palmas (handclaps).



Muñeira:

Whether alone or in two's, the muñeira - or "Miller's Dance" - is a typical dance in Galicia and Asturias accompanied by bagpipe (gaita) music.

Stereotypes

Have you ever wondered what Spain is like? We always hear that Spanish people are loud and passionate, big eaters who love to party and drink a lot of good wine (and Sangria) and believe me we could talk about tons of Spanish stereotypes but I'm only going to give you a few of them.

- ❖ *Spanish people are lazy.* This is the most common one. However it really depends on what you count as not being lazy.
- ❖ *Spanish do the siesta.* Here is another stereotype similar to the first. Although some people do a siesta (especially during holidays) most people don't.
- ❖ *Spanish people are loud.* Spanish people tend to talk loudly, but that is because they are very intense when expressing something.
- ❖ *Spain's official language is Spanish.* Although this is true there are three co-official languages in three different autonomous communities in Spain: Euskera or Basque, Catalan, Galego.
- ❖ *Spanish people love to party.* It's true. Spain is one of the European countries with more festivities during the whole year.
- ❖ *They love Bullfighting.* This is not true. In fact in many communities Bullfighting has been banned because most of the people consider it to be cruel. So although Bullfighting is still considered a tradition it's becoming a lost one.
- ❖ *Spain is a rich country.* Although Spain is considered a first world country and for many years it has been a world power there have always been many people facing a hard economic situation especially in recent years due to the economic crisis.

- ❖ *You can always recognize a Spanish person due to his/her accent.* Although it's quite true that Spanish accents are strong and hard to get rid of, people who work hard on learning languages have a good pronunciation.
- ❖ *They all know how to dance the Flamenco.* No, they don't. This dance is native to the South of Spain and it's not like everyone in this area even know how to dance it.
- ❖ *They eat paella every day.* Not even close. It's common in Valencia, but every region has its own cuisine and its own specialties.
- ❖ *They are constantly drinking Sangria.* Actually they prefer wine or beer whereas Sangria tends to be more popular among foreigners. The Spaniards save it for summers only.
- ❖ *They all have dark skin, brown eyes and black hair.* The Spanish don't look like Penelope Cruz or Antonio Banderas. They can also have light hair and blue or green eyes.

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