

# Spain Travel Advisory

Prepared by: Indeed Travels

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## Overview

Spain, renowned for its rich history, diverse cultures, stunning landscapes, and world-famous cuisine, is a vibrant destination that offers something for every traveler. From the artistic treasures of **Barcelona** and the historic streets of **Madrid** to the sun-kissed beaches of **Costa del Sol** and the serene beauty of **Andalusia**, Spain is a tapestry of experiences waiting to be explored. Before you embark on your journey, it's essential to familiarize yourself with important travel information, health tips, and local customs to make the most of your visit.

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## Entry Requirements

### 1. Visa and Passport

- **Visa-Free Entry:** Citizens from the **United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia**, and several other countries can enter Spain for tourism purposes without a visa for up to **90 days** within a **180-day period**.
- **Visa Application:** Travelers from countries that require a visa must apply for a **Schengen visa**. This visa allows entry to Spain and other Schengen countries. Ensure your passport is valid for at least **three months** beyond your planned departure date and issued within the last **ten years**.
- **Entry Requirements:** Keep in mind any specific entry requirements related to COVID-19, such as proof of vaccination or negative test results.

### 2. Customs Regulations

- Visitors can bring personal effects into Spain duty-free. However, there are limits on certain goods, including alcohol and tobacco.
  - Spain has strict laws against drug possession and trafficking, with severe penalties for violations.
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## Health and Safety

### 1. Healthcare in Spain

- Spain has a high-quality healthcare system, with public hospitals and private clinics available throughout the country. EU citizens can access healthcare with a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), while non-EU travelers should consider obtaining travel insurance that covers health expenses.
- **Emergency Numbers:** In case of emergency, dial **112** for ambulance services and police.

### 2. Vaccinations and Health Precautions

- Routine vaccinations are recommended before traveling. Additionally, consider vaccines for **Hepatitis A**, **Hepatitis B**, and **Typhoid** if you plan to travel to rural areas or stay for an extended period.
- While Spain has a low risk for malaria, travelers to certain regions should consult with a healthcare professional.

### 3. Safety Tips

- **Petty Crime:** Be vigilant against pickpockets, especially in tourist areas and on public transport. Use a crossbody bag and keep valuables secure.
- **Scams:** Be cautious of common scams, such as distraction techniques and fake petitions, especially in crowded places.
- **Natural Disasters:** Spain is generally safe, but be aware of regional risks like wildfires in summer or flooding in winter months.

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## Local Laws and Etiquette

### 1. Cultural Sensitivity

- Spain is a diverse country with various languages and cultures. Respect regional differences, especially in areas like **Catalonia** and **Basque Country**.
- Greetings in Spain are typically warm; a handshake is common for formal introductions, while friends may greet each other with a kiss on both cheeks.

### 2. Tipping

- Tipping is appreciated but not mandatory. A **5-10% tip** in restaurants is customary if service is not included. In bars, rounding up your bill is common.
- For taxis, rounding up to the nearest euro is a polite gesture.

### 3. **Public Behavior**

- Spaniards value a relaxed approach to life, but it is important to be respectful in religious settings. Dress modestly when visiting churches or cathedrals.
  - Public displays of affection are generally acceptable, but be mindful of your surroundings in more conservative areas.
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## Getting Around

### 1. **Public Transportation**

- **Metro and Trains:** Major cities like **Madrid** and **Barcelona** have extensive metro systems. High-speed trains (AVE) connect major cities, making travel efficient and comfortable.
- **Buses:** Long-distance buses are available and can be a cost-effective way to explore regions not covered by train.
- **Taxis:** Official taxis are widely available and can be hailed on the street or booked through apps. Always ensure the meter is running.

### 2. **Domestic Flights**

- For longer distances, domestic flights are available, connecting islands and major cities. Airlines like **Iberia** and **Vueling** offer regular services.

### 3. **Driving in Spain**

- An **International Driving Permit (IDP)** is recommended if you plan to drive in Spain. Roads are generally in good condition, but be cautious of traffic in urban areas.
  - **Parking:** Parking can be challenging in city centers. Look for designated parking areas, as fines for illegal parking can be steep.
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## Top Destinations in Spain

### 1. **Barcelona**

Barcelona is famous for its unique architecture, including **Sagrada Familia** and

**Park Güell**, designed by **Antoni Gaudí**. Stroll along **La Rambla**, relax at **Park de la Ciutadella**, and enjoy the beaches of **Barceloneta**.

2. **Madrid**

The capital city boasts world-class museums like the **Prado** and **Reina Sofía**. Explore **Retiro Park**, visit the **Royal Palace**, and experience the vibrant nightlife in neighborhoods like **Malasaña** and **Chueca**.

3. **Seville**

Known for flamenco dancing, Seville is home to stunning landmarks like the **Seville Cathedral** and the **Alcázar**. Enjoy tapas in the historic district of **Santa Cruz** and take part in the lively atmosphere during the **Feria de Abril**.

4. **Granada**

Granada is famous for the breathtaking **Alhambra**, a UNESCO World Heritage site showcasing Moorish architecture. Stroll through the **Albaicín** neighborhood and enjoy panoramic views of the city from the **Mirador de San Nicolás**.

5. **Valencia**

Valencia combines modernity with tradition, known for its futuristic **City of Arts and Sciences** and beautiful beaches. Don't miss trying the famous **paella** and exploring the historic **Old Town**.

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## Money and Currency

1. **Currency**

- The official currency is the **Euro (€)**. ATMs are widely available in cities and towns, and credit cards are accepted in most establishments.

2. **Bargaining**

- Bargaining is generally not practiced in shops or restaurants. Prices are fixed, but in local markets, you may negotiate for souvenirs.
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## Climate

- Spain experiences a varied climate:
  - **Mediterranean Climate**: Coastal areas like **Barcelona** and **Valencia** have hot summers and mild winters.
  - **Continental Climate**: Inland areas like **Madrid** experience hot summers and cold winters.

- **Oceanic Climate:** The north, including **San Sebastián**, has cooler temperatures and more rainfall throughout the year.
  - **Best Time to Visit:** The best times to visit Spain are **spring (April to June)** and **fall (September to October)** for pleasant weather and fewer crowds.
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Explore the enchanting beauty, rich history, and diverse culture of Spain with **Indeed Travels**. For inquiries or to create a personalized itinerary, contact us today!