

# Spain



**Name:** Kingdom of Spain

**Location:** It is located on the Iberian Peninsula.

**Area:** 504,645 Km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 45,200,737

**Capital:** Madrid

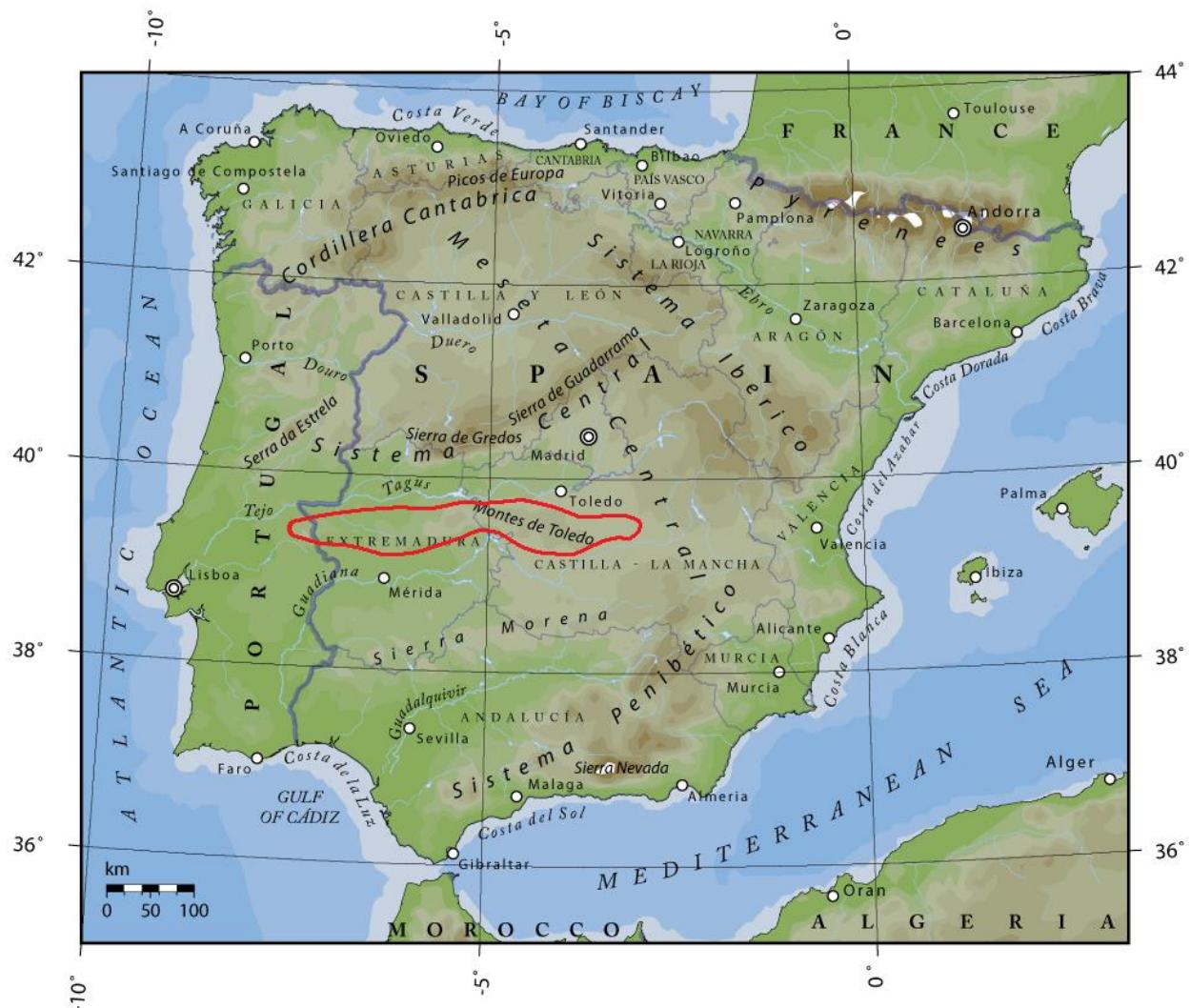


**Currency:** Euro



# 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 Mediterranean 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,  
Guadaluquivir.



## 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)*

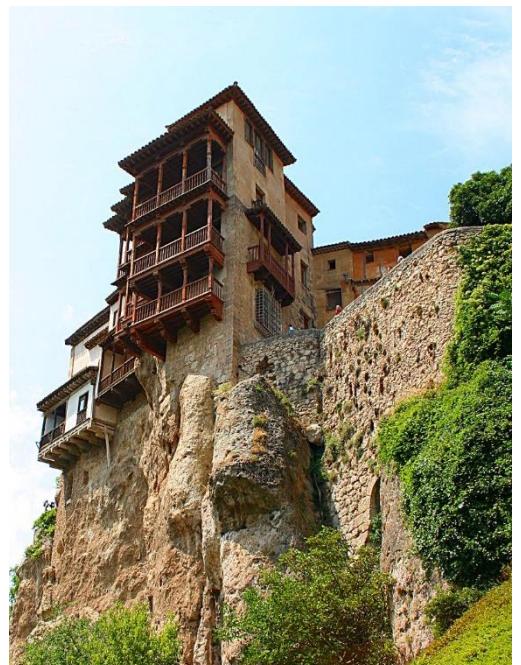
Somewhat milder climate show the plains which are open to the sea and the coastal areas in the Mediterranean Sea which have a Mediterranean climate.

## 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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