



SPANISH STUDY SUPPORT (ENGLISH VERSION)





I. GENERAL PART

1.CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTRY

1.1.GEOGRAPHY

Spain occupies most of the Iberian Peninsula, stretching south from the Pyrenees Mountains to the Strait of Gibraltar, which separates Spain from Africa. To the east lies the Mediterranean Sea, including Spain's Balearic Islands. Spain also rules two cities in North Africa and the Canary Islands in the Atlantic.

The interior of Spain is a high, dry plateau surrounded and crisscrossed by mountain ranges. Rivers run to the coasts, creating good farmland. Still, the interior of the country gets very hot in summer and very cold and dry in the winter. Droughts are common.

Plants and trees grow so well on the northwestern coast, in Galicia and along the Bay of Biscay, that the area is called Green Spain. Rain, trapped by the mountains farther inland, is frequent. Beech and oak trees flourish here. Numerous coves and inlets break up the coastline.

The southern and eastern coasts of Spain, from the fertile Andalusian plain up to the Pyrenees, are often swept by warm winds called sirocco winds. These winds originate in northern Africa and keep temperatures along the Mediterranean coast milder than the interior.



1.2 STATE AND TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Spain is a democracy, the rule of law and a welfare state. We have a social market economy.

The values of our model of coexistence are: freedom, justice, equality, solidarity, political pluralism, dignity and respect the fundamental rights and public liberties.

Sovereignty corresponds to the Spanish people, i.e. all Spaniards, it derive state powers: legislative, executive, judicial.

Sets a parliamentary monarchy and a system of government based on parliamentary representation.

Sets the unity of the state and the autonomy of the autonomous communities (Regions)



Large National emblem

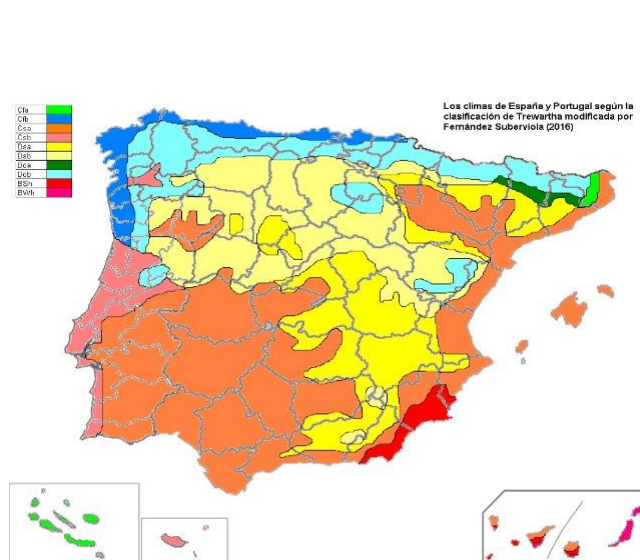
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/spain/#spain-madrid.jpg>



1.3 TIME AND CLIMATE ZONES

The hot-summer Mediterranean climate which is characterized by dry and warm/hot summers and cool to mild and wet winters..

- The warm-summer Mediterranean climate which predominates in parts of northwestern Spain and mostly inland in central-northern Spain at altitudes above 900-1000 m.
- The oceanic climate is located in the northern part of the country, especially in the regions of Basque Country, Asturias, Cantabria, and Navarre. This region has regular snowfall in the winter months.
- The semiarid climate (Bsh, Bsk) is predominant in the south eastern part of the country (Almeria province in Eastern Andalusia, Murcia region and Alicante



<https://www.climatestotravel.com/climate/spain>



2. HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY

Settlers have migrated to Spain from Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean since the dawn of history. The Phoenicians, who came in the 8th century B.C., called the peninsula "Span," or hidden land. By the first century B.C. the Romans had conquered Spain.

Spain became mostly Christian under the Romans, who were followed by the Vandals and the Visigoths, Germanic peoples from Europe. The Visigoth rulers fought among themselves, and in A.D. 711 Muslims from Africa invaded Spain.

Islamic culture spread across Spain as Muslim rulers introduced new crops and irrigation systems, and trading increased. Mathematics, medicine, and philosophy became more advanced, peaking in the tenth century—the golden age of Islamic rule in Spain.

In 1492 Christian kingdoms in northern Spain conquered the Muslims and spread the Catholic religion. Enriched by silver from the Americas, Spain grew more powerful. It later lost land and power in the Napoleonic Wars, which ended in 1815.

More than 500,000 people died in the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s. The victorious Gen. Francisco Franco ruled as a brutal dictator until his death in 1975. Soon after, Spain began to transform itself into a modern, industrial, and democratic European nation.



http://www5.csudh.edu/global_options/375students-sp96/spain/history.html



3. COUNTRY POLICY

The politics of Spain takes place under the framework established by the Constitution of 1978. The form of government in Spain is a parliamentary monarchy, that is, a social representative, democratic, constitutional monarchy in which the monarch is the head of state, while the prime minister—whose official title is "President of the Government"—is the head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government, which is integrated by the prime minister, the deputy prime ministers, and other ministers, which collectively form the Cabinet, or Council of Ministers.

3.1 POLITICAL SITUATION

The nationalistic parliamentary majority of the Catalan Parliament, which represents just 47% of the Catalan voters also holds an uncommon mix of ideologies that goes from anti-establishment far-left parties to centre-right liberal parties, and is trying to force an illegal referendum on the unilateral independence of Catalonia




<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/05/spain-has-a-new-government-but-political-instability-is-not-over.html>



4. ECONOMY

4.1 CURRENCY

Currency	Date created	Date abolished	Initial Exchange rate	
	Euro	2002	n/a	1 euro = 166.386 pesetas
	Peseta	1869	2002	5 pesetas = 2 escudos





4.2 WAGES, SALARY RATIOS

The minimum wage in Spain is known as SMI (Salario Mínimo Interprofesional) and applies to all workers regardless of their age, gender or employment contract, including casual and temporary work or personal work within the service of a household.

- Minimum wages in Spain 2017:

Daily minimum wage: EUR 23.59

Monthly minimum wage: EUR 707.60 (based on 14 payments, or EUR 825.65 based on 12)

Annual minimum wage: EUR 9,906.40

4.3 SOCIAL SUPPORT, RETIREMENT

In order to legally retire abroad in Spain, you'll need to choose a residency option that works best for your situation. Some people choose to live solely through their tourist (short-stay) visa, border hopping every 90 days

4.4 COST OF LIVING IN SPAIN

Cost of living in Spain is 15.21% lower than in United States (aggregate data for all cities, rent is not taken into account). Rent in Spain is 41.42% lower than in United States (average data for all cities).

4.5 TYPICAL SPANISH PRODUCTS

Olive oil.

Spanish ham.

Spanish cheese

Black pudding and Spanish sausages.

Spanish fish and seafood.

Spanish fruit and vegetables.



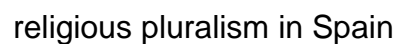
Spanish olive oil



Spanish ham



Religion in Catalonia and Spain is diversified. Historically, virtually all the population was Christian, specifically Catholic, but since the 1980 there has been a trend of decline of Christianity and parallel growth of irreligion (including stances of atheism and agnosticism) and other religions



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Spain



6. HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS OF THE COUNTRY

6.1 TRADITIONAL FAMILY, GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Hispanic people are historically very family oriented. The needs of the family are more important than the concerns of the individuals, and the individual's self-esteem and identity is strongly affected by his or her relationship with family members, according to Utah State University's Cooperative Extension

6.2 MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, REGISTRATED RELATIONSHIP

Familism, the concept of family, is central in the Hispanic community and extends beyond the nuclear family to include grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins; friends and neighbors; and organizations that are important to the community, such as churches. Familism has three main aspects, according to the National Institutes of Health: family obligations; support and emotional closeness; and family as referent, or the need to live up to family expectations.

6.3 CARE FOR AN UNAUTHORIZED CHILD

In Spain, childcare services have always been provided in the context of education. Thus, childcare services provided outside the realm of education are considered the responsibility of families. The Law of General Ordering of the Educational System (LOGSE) (BOE-A-1990-24172) encouraged public administrators to guarantee that sufficient places were provided for the first (ages 0-2) and second (age 3-5) cycles of education.



7. LIFESTYLE OF THE COUNTRY

7.1. GENERAL

The Catalan national dance is the *sardana*. It is performed at festivals and other special occasions throughout the country. Dancers form a circle, holding their clasped hands high in the air. Short, quiet steps alternate with longer, bouncy ones. The bands that play music for the *sardana* are called *coblas*.

7.2 EDUCATION

Education in Spain is regulated by the *Ley General de Educación* (LGE, General Law of Education) that expands upon Article 27 of the Spanish Constitution of 1978. Education is compulsory and free for all children aged between 6 and 16 years, and is supported by the national government together with the governments of each of the country's 17 autonomous communities.

7.3 PEOPLE'S APPEARANCE

Personal Space:

Spanish people are open and friendly. In an informal situation whether with family close friends or virtual strangers they greet women with a kiss on each cheek.

Men have no fear of personal space with other men in an informal situation and they will often greet or say good-bye with a hug (*abrazo*).



7.4 SPECIFICS OF COMMUNICATION, ETIQUETTE

Naming conventions:

Children in Spain are given a first name which is then followed by the paternal surname and then the mother's surname.

There is no concept of a middle name although the first name is sometimes a composite of two names - eg: José Luis

Women do not change their name when they marry.

Meeting & Greeting:

When introduced expect to shake hands.

Once a relationship is established, men may embrace and pat each other on the shoulder.

Female friends kiss each other on both cheeks, starting with the left.

People are often referred to as Don or Dona and their first name when in formal occasion as a general rule.

Many men use a two-handed shake where the left hand is placed on the right forearm of the other person.

7.5 FOOD

Vegetarian Dishes

Pa Amb Tomaquet (Pan Con Tomate); Calçots: Escalivada:

Meat Dishes: Butifarra: Escudella: Xai Rostit; Embutidos

Fish Dishes: Esqueixada: Fideuas: Paella

Types of paella include Valencian paella, vegetable paella (Spanish: *paella de verduras*), seafood paella (Spanish: *paella de mariscos*), and mixed paella (Spanish: *paella mixta*), among many others. Valencian paella is believed to be the original recipe.

Sauces: Romsco: Alioli:

Desserts: Crema Catalana: Mel I Mato: Panellets



Fideua



Allioli

7.6 SPORT, LEISURE

Sport in Spain in the second half of the 20th century has always been dominated by football. Other popular sport activities include basketball, tennis, cycling, handball, motorcycling, Formula One, water sports, rhythmic gymnastics, golf, bullfighting and skiing

