

# Spain

## Quick facts

Capital: Madrid

Population (approx): 46,892,715

Area: 504, 782 sq km

Official language: Castilian Spanish

Religion: Roman Catholic



Spain is situated on the Iberian Peninsula in the southwest corner of Europe. France and the Bay of Biscay are to the north of Spain, the Mediterranean Sea is to the east and the Strait of Gibraltar and Africa are to the south. Spain also includes the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

The centre of Spain is hot and dry with mountain ranges to the north and south. Most of the country experiences the typical Mediterranean climate, with hot, cloudless summers and rainy cold winters.

Flamenco is a very famous type of music in Spain and is made up of songs, dances and guitar music.

Bullfighting is a popular pastime but certain areas are trying to ban it.

Paella is a very famous dish in Spain and is cooked outside in a large pan. Rice is the main ingredient in a paella and is also the staple diet of Spanish people. Spaniards also like to eat a lot of tapas, particularly at lunchtime. Tapas is a wide variety of snacks which can be served hot or cold. Popular tapas dishes are battered squid rings, Serrano jam, meatballs, mussels and Spanish omelette.

**1.** What is the capital of Spain?

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**2.** What is the official language of Spain?

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**3.** Which sea lies to the east of Spain?

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**4.** What is the climate like in the winter?

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**5.** Flamenco consists of songs, dances and which string instrument?

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**6.** Which famous Spanish dish is cooked outside in a large pan?

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**7.** What is tapas?

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**8.** Which currency is used in Spain?

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