

Exploring Spain

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Location



The **unification**, to make or become a single unit, of present-day Spain was complete in 1512. Spain is located in south-west Europe and is one of the oldest countries on the continent. Spain borders the countries of Portugal, Andorra, France, Gibraltar and also Morocco. The capital of Spain is Madrid and the nation is divided in 17 **autonomous communities**, or self-governing, independent communities.

Normal Behavior

While in Spain you might notice people may have different **social norms** than you are used to, or expected forms of behavior in a community. For example, when you meet a new person of the opposite gender (or both of you are female) it is customary to greet them by giving two kisses on the cheek, first the left then the right.



Normal Day

A typical day for a Spaniard starts around 8 in the morning. They will eat a small breakfast and get ready for their day. At 10:30am most people take a break for a *café*, or ‘coffee’ in Spanish. Between 1:00pm and 2:00pm is the main meal of the day. From 2:30-4:00pm some people will take a **siesta**, an afternoon rest or nap, especially one taken during the hottest hours of the day in a hot climate. Work ends around 8 at night. A light dinner is usually eaten after 10:00pm.



Traditional Foods

Popular Spanish foods:

- **Paella:** A rice dish with seafood or meat such as rabbit, chicken or snails



- **Gazpacho:** Vegetable soup or stew



- **Chocolate con Churros:** Hot and very thick chocolate drink with sweet fried pastry



Spanish food is not spicy and very rarely hot. A Spanish main dish usually contains: bread, potatoes, rice, fish, meat, beans, chickpeas, or fruit. Most families buy fresh bread every day. It is normally the children's responsibility to walk to the market to buy the bread.

A popular way to eat is to have a **tapa**. Tapas are small dishes of snacks, which are served anytime especially in small bars. They cover all types of foods from seafood to vegetables.



Beautiful Places

Spain is a country that contains many beautiful places to visit. Some buildings are over 500 years old!

Toledo served as the Spanish capital until the 16th century. It is a place where you can admire the old architecture that includes a stunning cathedral, synagogue and mosque.



The city of Segovia is home to the castle Alcázar. This castle is over 800 years old and is one of the inspirations for Cinderella's castle!



Important Phrases in Spanish



Hola - Hello

Gracias - Thank you

In certain parts of Spain people will talk with a lisp.

Try saying GRA-THEE-AS.

De nada - You are welcome

Buenos días - Good Morning

Buenos tarde - Good Afternoon

Buenos noche - Good Night

Questions

Where is Spain located?

Answer: Europe

How do people greet each other in Spain?

Answer: Two kisses on the cheek

What is a siesta?

Answer: An afternoon rest or nap

What is a traditional food of Spain?

Answer: Paella, Gazpacho, Chocolate Con Churros

How do you say 'you are welcome' in Spanish?

Answer: De nada

Glossary

Autonomous Community:

Self-governing, independent; subject to its own laws only

Café:

How to say coffee in Spanish

Siesta:

An afternoon rest or nap, especially one taken during the hottest hours of the day in a hot climate.

Social Norms:

an expected form of behavior in a given community

Tapa:

Small dishes of snacks which are served anytime, especially in small bars.

Unification:

To make or become a single unit; unite

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Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7

Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.10

By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

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