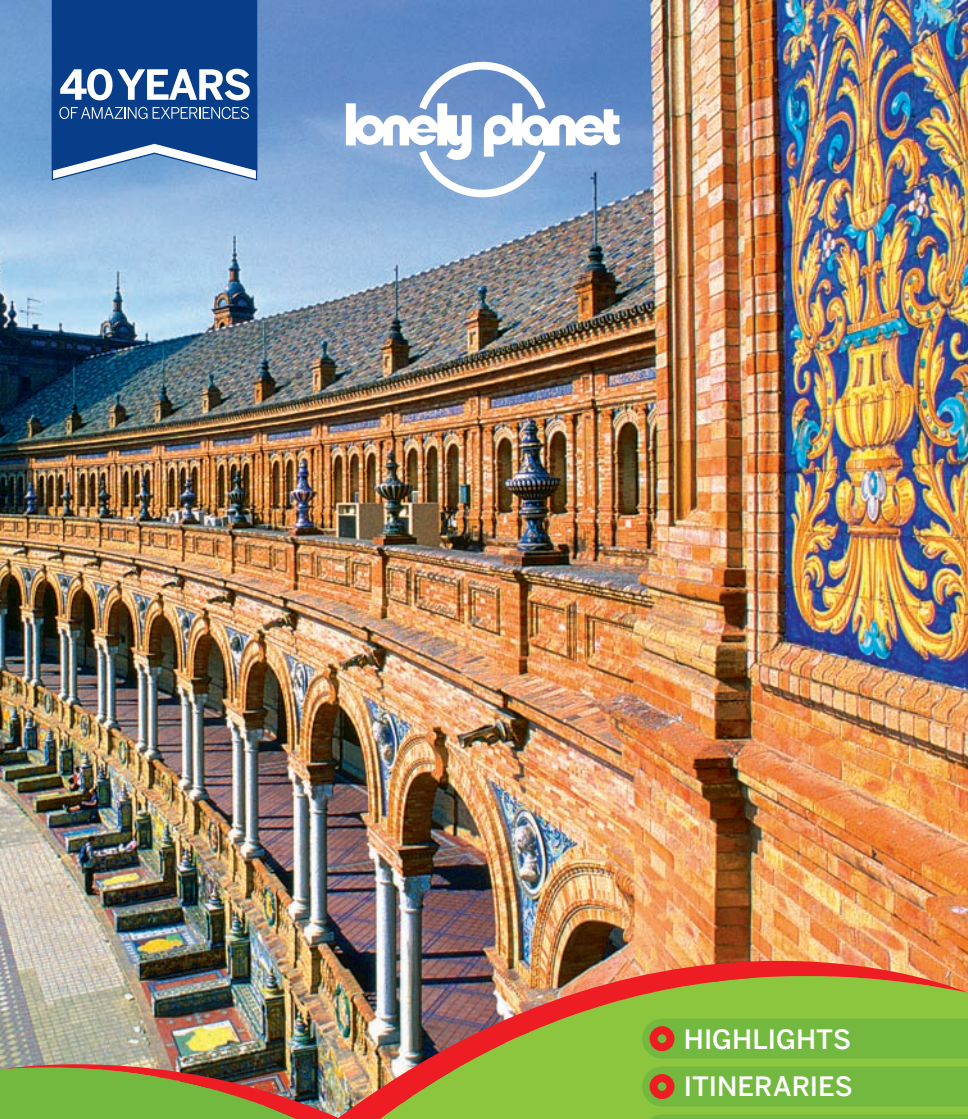


40 YEARS

OF AMAZING EXPERIENCES



-  HIGHLIGHTS
-  ITINERARIES
-  LOCAL EXPERTS
-  PULL-OUT MAP

Discover Spain

Experience the best of Spain

Discover Spain

Contents 

Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



Sleeping

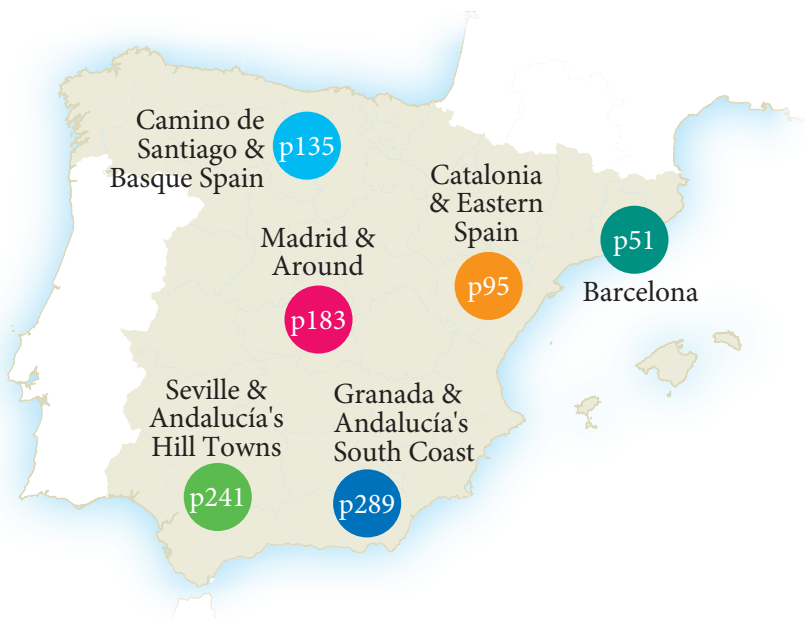


Information

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Brendan Sainsbury, Regis St Louis, Andy Symington**



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- Eat Like a Local
- Explore Gaudí's Barcelona
- Parade down La Rambla
- Wander the Barri Gòtic
- Sample Nouveau Catalan Cuisine
- Museu Picasso

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This Is Spain

From soulful flamenco and daring architecture, to delicious food and avant-garde cities, Spain could be Europe's most exotic country. Wherever you venture you'll discover a beguiling land with a mix of stirring and often curious traditions, live-for-the-moment hedonism and a willingness to embrace the future with a relentlessly adventurous spirit.

Spain's dynamic cities are temples to all that's modern and cool. Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Seville have become bywords for that peculiarly Spanish talent for living the good life, at full volume and all night long. At the same time, most cities promise a daytime feast of more sedate but nonetheless exceptional sites, from world-class art galleries and graceful Islamic-era monuments to *barrios* (neighbourhoods) overflowing with medieval charm, and zany Gaudí flights of fancy.

Spaniards have turned eating and drinking into an art form. From the culinary flamboyance of *pintxos* (Basque tapas) in San Sebastián to steaming seafood-infused paella served under the Valencian sunshine, Spanish food has an enviable reputation. In fact, if you really want to experience the best of Spain the way to do it is not to rush through an endless succession of tourist sights, but rather to slow the pace down and make eating the centrepiece of your day.

Spain has obvious appeal. However, some visitors feel as though visiting the country is akin to standing outside a riotous party with your nose pressed up against the glass. Spain is perhaps the best-known, least-understood country in Europe, but it's also one of the most welcoming and accessible. By taking part in the central pillars of Spanish life – like flamenco and eating customs – a trip to Spain can be a party, where having a good time is almost guaranteed.

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”

