



# Spain

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ El Celler de Can Roca (p1050)
- ➔ Simply Fosh (p1065)
- ➔ Tickets (p1046)
- ➔ Arzak (p1055)
- ➔ Mercado de San Miguel (p1024)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Meninas (p1020)
- ➔ Don Gregorio (p1032)
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- ➔ Barceló Raval (p1044)
- ➔ Hospedería La Gran Casa Mudéjar (p1033)

## Why Go?

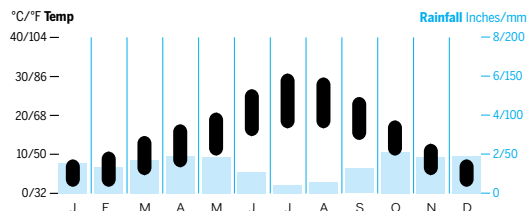
Passionate, sophisticated and devoted to living the good life, Spain is at once a stereotype come to life and a country more diverse than you ever imagined.

Spanish landscapes stir the soul, from the jagged Pyrenees and wildly beautiful cliffs of the Atlantic northwest to charming Mediterranean coves, while astonishing architecture spans the ages at seemingly every turn. Spain's cities march to a beguiling beat, rushing headlong into the 21st century even as timeless villages serve as beautiful signposts to Old Spain. And then there's one of Europe's most celebrated (and varied) gastronomic scenes.

But, above all, Spain lives very much in the present. Perhaps you'll sense it along a crowded after-midnight street when all the world has come out to play. Or maybe that moment will come when a flamenco performer touches something deep in your soul. Whenever it happens, you'll find yourself nodding in recognition: *this* is Spain.

## When to Go

### Madrid



**Mar & Apr** Spring wildflowers, Semana Santa processions and mild southern temps.

**May & Sep** Mild and often balmy weather but without the crowds of high summer.

**Jun–Aug** Spaniards hit the coast in warm weather, but quiet corners still abound.

## Spain Highlights

- 1 Explore the **Alhambra** (p1076), an exquisite Islamic palace complex in Granada.
- 2 Visit Gaudí's singular work in progress, Barcelona's **La Sagrada Família** (p1040), a cathedral that truly defies imagination.
- 3 Wander amid the horseshoe arches of Córdoba's **Mezquita** (p1073), close to perfection wrought in stone.
- 4 Eat your way through **San Sebastián** (p1055), a gourmand's paradise with an idyllic setting.
- 5 Join the pilgrims making their way to magnificent **Santiago de Compostela** (p1058).
- 6 Soak up the scent of orange blossom, admire the architecture and surrender to the party atmosphere in sunny **Seville** (p1068).
- 7 Discover the impossibly beautiful Mediterranean beaches and coves of **Menorca** (p1064).
- 8 Spend your days in some of Europe's best art galleries and nights amid its best nightlife in **Madrid** (p1016).
- 9 Be carried away by the soulful strains of live **flamenco** (p1027).

