



Spain & Portugal

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ El Celler de Can Roca (p427)
- ➔ Fangas Merceria Bar (p480)
- ➔ Mercado de San Miguel (p400)
- ➔ Mercado da Ribeira (p464)
- ➔ La Cuchara de San Telmo (p406)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Lisbon Destination Hostel (p461)
- ➔ Casa Gràcia (p422)
- ➔ Moon Hill Hostel (p467)
- ➔ Russafa Youth Hostel (p435)
- ➔ Casa Caracol (p453)

Why Go?

Beyond the Pyrenees is another Europe, a diverse and magical land surrounded by sea with cultures all of its own. It's scenically spectacular, with a staggering array of beaches, national parks and mountains, and a turbulent history has left a majestic range of architecture, from Roman remains to noble cathedrals, from Moorish palaces to Modernista gems and landmark modern buildings.

Some of the continent's best food is produced here; Portugal's excellent fish is famed, while Spain's legendary tapas culture is just one aspect of a country enthusiastically dedicated to sociable eating and drinking. The nightlife is superb, but adjust your body clock: when midnight strikes, things are often just beginning. Whether you're showing off your dance moves at a superclub, trying the astonishing variety of local wines or listening to fado's soulful strains or flamenco's anguished energy, many of your best moments in the region will come after dark.

Fast Facts

Capitals Madrid (Spain), Lisbon (Portugal)

Emergency ☎112

Currency Euro (€)

Languages Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Basque, Galician, Aranese

Time Zones Central European (Spain; UTC/GMT plus one hour); Western European (Portugal; UTC/GMT)

Country Codes ☎34 (Spain), ☎351 (Portugal)

Population 46.8 million (Spain), 10.5 million (Portugal)

Spain & Portugal Highlights

1 Barcelona

Admire the genius of Gaudí and wallow in cultural riches and a glorious food culture. (p416)

2 Mallorca

Enjoy Mediterranean sunshine on the blessed Balearic beaches. (p428)

3 Madrid

Spend your days in Europe's best art galleries and nights amid its best nightlife. (p396)

4 Toledo

Explore Spain's multicultural past and staggering architectural legacy. (p402)

5 Granada

See the exquisite Alhambra and wander the twisting lanes. (p448)

6 Seville

Admire the architecture and surrender to the party atmosphere. (p439)

7 Lisbon

Follow the sound of fado in the lamplit lanes of the enchanting old-world heart of the city. (p460)

8 Porto

Sample velvety ports at riverside wine lodges in the Unesco World Heritage-listed centre. (p481)

9 Santiago de Compostela

Join the pilgrims making their way to the magnificent cathedral. (p414)

10 San Sebastián

Eat your way through the peninsula's foodie capital, a gourmand's paradise with an idyllic setting. (p404)

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: SERRA DA ESTRELA

Glorious hiking in Portugal's highest mountains. (p480)

WORTH A TRIP: ASTURIAS

Cider, seafood and great hikes in the Picos de Europa. (p413)



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: THE ALGARVE

The Algarve's western surf beaches are wild and undeveloped. (p475)

WORTH A TRIP: CÁDIZ

Vibrant Cádiz has a top town beach and unique ambience. (p452)