



Kingdom of Spain



- Spain's mainland is bordered to the south and east by the Mediterranean Sea except for a small land boundary with Gibraltar; to the north and north east by France, Andorra, and the Bay of Biscay; and to the west and north-west by Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean. It is one of three countries (Morocco, France) to have both Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines. The country comprises of mainland Spain, the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands in the Atlantic.
- The capital and largest city in Spain is Madrid.
- Spain was neutral and not a participant in either of the World Wars.
- The currency of Spain is the Euro.
- The official language in Spain is Castilian Spanish.
- Major industries include textiles and apparel, food and beverages, metals and metal manufactures, chemicals, grain, vegetables, olives, wine grapes, beef and fish.
- The government of Spain is a parliamentary monarchy
- The Cantabrian Mountains clearly separate the country into two distinct halves - the rainy north and the dry south.
- Three main rivers span the country, namely Ebro in north-east, Tago in central Spain and Guadalquivir in the south.
- The famous artist Pablo Picasso was from Spain. His artwork is some of the most expensive in the world. He was born in Malaga, Spain in 1881 and died in 1973. Other famous artists are Salvador Dali and Joan Miro.
- Spain is home to mammals such as the wolf, lynx, wildcat, fox, wild boar, deer, hare, and wild goat. It is also home to the tailless monkey called the macaque, which is the only type of wild monkey that lives in Europe.
- Spain's national parks and refuges only cover about 7% of the country. It is difficult to plant trees where goats and sheep graze, and large forests are only found in the north Pyrenees and the Asturias-Galicia area.
- Spain was very good at expanding their territory. Spanish explorers gained wealth and land by founding colonies in Central and Southern America, as well as parts of North America. Columbus was from Spain.
- The total area of Spain is 505,370 sq. km, which makes it the 52nd largest country in the world. It is slightly more than twice the size of Oregon. It is Europe's third-largest nation.

- More than 500,000 people lost their lives in the Spanish Civil war in the 1930s. After the war, Francisco Franco ruled as a brutal dictator until 1975. After all of this, Spain started to develop into a modern, industrial, and democratic nation.
- Spain has 17 different regions. Each region manages its own schools, hospitals, and other public services.
- Spain is the second most popular tourist country, after France. The large amount of tourists might be due to Spain's sunny beaches and historic cities.
- Soccer is extremely popular spectator sport and is the national sport.
- Don Quixote is a novel written by Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. It is the most influential work of literature to emerge from the Spanish Golden Age.
- Bullfighting is considered an art as well as a sport and popular attraction. It is also the biggest and most controversial sport in Spain and is an integral part of Spanish history, art and culture with bull rings in all major cities and beyond.
- In Spain there is a tooth mouse named Ratoncito Perez.
- Flamenco is a Spanish term that refers to a musical style known for its intricate rapid passages and a dance style characterized by its loud footwork.
- People drive on the right side of the road in Spain.
- Mount Teide is the highest mountain at 12,198 feet and an active volcano.
- The Pyrenees Mountains divide Spain and France.
- Spain and Portugal provide most of the world's cork. Cork trees flourish in the dry Meseta region in Spain.



On the Canary Islands lives the dragon tree, which was once thought to be the source of dragon's blood because its orange fruit contains a thick, red liquid. On the island of Tenerife, the oldest and tallest dragon tree reaches 70 feet high.