



TEACHER PLANNING GUIDE - ESPAÑA

PRACTICALITIES

TIME DIFFERENCE

Spain is in the Central European Time Zone – CET/CEST. For most of the year, Spain is 7 hours ahead of Chicago. However, Daylight Saving Time, aka Summer Time, does not conform to the same dates as those followed in the USA. Spain begins on the last Sunday in March and ends on the last Sunday in October.

VOLTAGE

Electricity operates on 230 voltage current (USA is 110). Since most US appliances have dual voltage, only a two-pronged adapter for the wall plug is needed (Spain conforms to the European system of round pins with two holes). If your appliance does not have dual voltage, you should consider either leaving the appliance at home or purchasing a converter set.

CUISINE

Spain competes world-wide when comparing the diversity of its cuisine. Wine is the main beverage and olive oil is the main condiment. Fish, fowl, and pork are complimented by an endless variety of beans, and egg and potato dishes. The bread is as diverse and delicious as the cuisine itself.

The day in Spain usually begins with a continental breakfast of coffee, hot chocolate, or tea, with assorted rolls and jam.

The main meal of the day is eaten between 2 and 4 p.m. Dinner is rarely eaten before 8:30 p.m., although the custom is to snack in bars and cafes around 7:00 p.m.

SHOPPING

The shops in Spain are open from 10:00 to 2:00 and from 4:30 to 8:00. Spain's two largest department stores, *Corte Inglés* and *Galerías Preciados* remain open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. with no break for siesta.

Most shops remain closed after 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays, so plan your sprees accordingly

MONEY EXCHANGE

The Euro is used throughout Europe, including Spain. Money exchange can be done after arriving to Spain, and the easiest way is by cash withdrawal from a debit or credit card at an ATM machine. You will have two options when withdrawing funds. The first is to purchase in Euros and the second is to purchase with conversion from Euro to Dollar. Conversion charges are typically much higher than withdrawing in Euros, and then paying any bank fees. Your courier will assist with finding a place to purchase Euros (by ATM or at an exchange house or bank, if needed).

Some establishments may require a 4-digit pin to complete credit or debit card purchases. This can be acquired from your card provider. Be sure to advise your bank that you are traveling ahead of time. Exchange rate and convenience fees vary by bank.

WIFI AND PHONE USE

The easiest and quickest way to prepare for phone use while in Spain is by contacting your provider to review the packages they offer for international travel. Many companies have plans that begin at \$10 USD per travel day. WiFi will be available in some establishments, hotels, and families, but cannot be guaranteed, and the signal can vary greatly. Purchasing an international SIM card is also an option, but may be difficult to purchase after arrival.

CLOTHING & WEATHER

Spain's seasons are the same as in the U.S., but the winters are milder and the sun shines more often. Casual attire is acceptable everywhere. Slacks and jeans may be worn into all the cathedrals. Women tend to "dress" more formally in the cities and men do wear jackets and ties for dinner in the better restaurants. A raincoat is best for fall and spring.

GOVERNMENT RATING SYSTEM

Hotels are classified into star categories, from 1 star hotels up to 5 star deluxe hotels. Restaurants are classified into categories from 1 to 5 forks. The classification will be marked on the outside of each establishment.

BULLFIGHTS

The official bullfight season opens Easter Sunday. Usually there are fights in all the major bullrings throughout Spain every Sunday during the late afternoon. The season runs through mid-October. Due to availability of tickets and the price range, tickets must be purchased in Spain. Tickets may be purchased for *sol* (seats in the sun) or *sombra* (seats in the shade) or *sol y sombra* (seats in-between). Tickets may be purchased from ticket offices or at the bullring. The number of tickets available for public sale is known 5 days prior to the *corrida*. A typical *corrida* lasts a minimum of 2 hours.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

January 1	New Year's Day
Good Friday	(Date varies)
May 1	Labor Day
July 25	St James (Patron Saint of Spain)
August 1	Assumption
October 12	Columbus Day
November 1	All Saints Day
December 6	Constitution Day
December 8	Immaculate Conception
December 25	Christmas Day

ESPAÑA AN OVERVIEW

A. Introduction

The fact that waiters are one of the largest professional groups in Spain is symbolic of the heartwarming hospitality you will find there and of the tremendous success which Spain has enjoyed in tourism. The number of restaurants, cafes, bars and nightclubs is staggering, and it has been said that in no other country in Europe can you eat and drink in so civilized a manner at so comparatively modest a cost.

Spain is blessed with great natural beauty . . . from balmy, sun-drenched sandy beaches to rugged snow-capped mountains and everything in between. It is a land so rich in history and culture that it could be regarded as one gigantic museum. It is Hemingway's fabled land of the bullfight, where fiestas are a national art form; socializing in cafes, a national pastime; Flamenco, a national passion; siestas and paseos (evening strolls around the main square), still a national tradition.

We hope the following information will serve as a helpful introduction and guide to Spain, the gateway to the Mediterranean.

B. History and Art

Spain, the crossroads between Africa and Europe, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, is a country of striking contrast. On the one hand, this gigantic peninsula offers a welcoming coastline of natural harbors and fertile shorelines, but on the other, for those who penetrate it more deeply, it throws up barriers of high sierras and plateaus, with a rude climate and sparse resources. The coastal fringe seems to turn its back on the central mesetas, and mirrors the history of Spain - ceaseless struggle between the will to unite and the tendency to dispersion and isolation, still seen today in the struggle of the Catalans and the Basque separatists.

The history you see in the coastal Greek and Roman remains at Ampurias, the Moorish palaces and mosques of Granada and Toledo in the south, and the splendid royal residences of the interior, has been largely determined by the diverse physical background of the country.

Because of its strategic importance, Spain was the object of many encroachments throughout the centuries, and its contact with the great civilizations of the world has importantly shaped Spanish character and culture. Romans, Visigoths, and Arabs remained in Spain for long periods and produced crosses of cultural mixes that were definitive in forming the Spanish character.

History and Art continued

The Modern Era began with the glory of Spanish unification. During the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, not only was the country joined together religiously, politically, and territorially, but one of the transcendental events of history took place: The New World was discovered. With Carlos I as emperor, Spain became the greatest power in Europe and, under its standard, great deeds were performed in Europe and America. Felipe II was able to maintain Spain's political strength, but during the rule of late members of the House of Austria, Spain's decline as a European power began. There was, however, an exceptional flourishing of letters and fine arts, with immortal names such as Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Calderon, Ribera, Velázquez, Zurbarán, and El Greco.

The House of Bourbon began a new era which, in many ways, benefited the life of the people and brought the country into closer contact with the rest of European culture.

During the 19th century Spain lost its overseas possessions and, at home, became embroiled in a serious problem of succession to the throne and attendant political difficulties. In the first half of the twentieth century, the country was in the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), and more recently, Spain has undertaken the task of rebuilding and updating all aspects of national life, creating an atmosphere of peace and industry for the whole country.

Spain's history is mirrored in its art. Twenty-five thousand years ago the anonymous hand of primitive man decorated a hidden cave, Altamira, very close to the rough Cantabrian sea, creating one of the most amazing pictorial collections in the history of humanity.

Spain offers an incalculable variety of artistic jewels which reflect the passage of different peoples. Tartessians, Celts, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Visigoths, and Arabs all left behind signs of their passing through Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands.

The Roman remains begin with the astonishing aqueduct in Segovia and include those of Merida and Tarragona as well as the ruins of ancient Italica; there is a multitude of Roman bridges, arches, and roads.

Some Spanish cities are representative of a particular style or a specific art form. Cordoba and Granada, shelter master works of Moslem art, and in their towers, mosques, and palaces can be read the long brilliant history of the Caliphates and the kingdom of Granada. Seville offers the grace of the Giralda, which, with the Mosque in Cordoba and Alhambra in Granada, make up the most famous body of Moslem art in Spain. The long centuries during which Arabs and Christians lived side by side produced the purely Spanish Moorish-Christians style, Mudejar or Mozarabe, of which magnificent examples are to be found everywhere.

History and Art continued

The Way to Santiago was the most important cultural development of the Middle Ages. From Roncesvalles to Compostela the Romanesque left its imprint on the monasteries, churches and sculptures along the route reaching its peak with Holy Door in the Cathedral in Santiago. At that time, in the Pyrenean-Catalonian region Romanesque murals were everywhere, forming a great collection, which can be seen today, in part, in the museum of Catalonian Art in Barcelona.

In its great expansion, Gothic art covered the Peninsula with cathedrals, palaces, and castles. Toledo is the most complete complex of Spanish art and includes one of the finest Gothic cathedrals, although Leon, Burgos, Seville, Avila and Segovia have magnificent ones of their own. Catalonia and the eastern regions imposed a peculiarly personal style on their Gothic buildings as is obvious in the Gothic district of Barcelona, in the Lonja in Valencia and in the Cathedral in Palma de Mallorca.

The Renaissance in Spain produces a number of interesting variations which may be seen in the monuments of the period. One of these is the Herreran style, sober and grandiose, reaching its peak in the Escorial. The Escorial itself has come to be the representation of an era and a way of life. Salamanca, on the other hand, preserves the finest examples of the other solution, the ornate Plateresque, which gives the city the appearance of being decorated with golden lacework.

Towards the end of the 19th century a deep interest in all aspects of art gave birth to a complex world in which the most diverse tendencies found supporters. Gaudi created a light-hearted architecture which is a source of admiration today. Sorolla pointed out to the world the clear, blinding light of the eastern regions, while Gutierrez Solana searched the shadows for another face of Spain to its leading position in the world of art. Spain's greatest modern painter, Pablo Picasso, an innovator and stylist, is remembered in particular for his contributions to the development of Cubism. Many other names are associated with the most recent developments in art and architecture, particularly the Valle de los Caídos - the Valley of the Fallen, a Civil War Memorial - which adds a finishing touch to the great list of Spanish monuments. Last, but not least, are the Young Artists of Today, who are adding new luster to the artistic reputation of the country.

C. Geography

Don't underestimate the size of Spain. Close to 200,000 square miles, it equals the size of Colorado and Wyoming combined. It is bordered by only two countries, Portugal on the west, with which it shares the Iberian peninsula, and France to the north. And there's plenty of water: a bit of the Atlantic in the southwest to the west of Gibraltar, and an extension of the Atlantic (Bay of Biscay) in the north, with considerable stretches of the Mediterranean, both on the south coast and the east.

The continent of Africa is near neighboring, lying, at its closest point to Europe, just eight miles from Spain across the strait of Gibraltar at its narrowest point. Spain is essentially a giant tableland or plateau, but with considerable topographical variety within. In fact, perhaps second only to Switzerland, Spain is one of the most mountainous countries of Europe - from the peaks of the Pyrenees which form its northern border with France, to the mountain ranges in the center, to the Sierra Nevada near Granada which forms a dramatic backdrop to the southern resorts of the Costa del Sol.

Offshore Spain consists of the nearby sub-tropical Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean and the more remote Canary Islands in the Atlantic, off the northwest coast of Africa, near Morocco.

Spain is a year-round destination, but the heaviest tourist season runs from the beginning of April to the end of October. The best months for sightseeing are May, June and September, when the weather is usually sunny and pleasant without being unbearably hot. At the height of summer, July and August, some parts of Spain, such as Seville and Cordoba can be quite hot with temperatures ranging from the low 70's at night to the high 90's during the day. During this time of the year, your best bet is to head for the coastal resorts where temperatures average in the mid 80's (the Costa del Sol in the south or the Costa Brava on the northeast coast) or to such mountainous regions as the Pyrenees on the northern border with France or the Sierra Nevada in the south, near Granada.

The northern coast of Spain from Galicia in the west, to the Basque country (Bilboa and San Sebastian) in the east, is the coolest, wettest region of Spain. It is also the greenest, with a climate and landscape more reminiscent of Wales than of Spain, which generally tends to be rather arid. The northern Coast is best visited from mid-June through August when there is the least chance of rain. The Costa Brava, Barcelona, Valencia, the Balearics, and the Costa del Sol are at their best from the mid 70's to low 80's. In spring, temperatures in Madrid and Toledo will range from 60-65 and in summer from 80-88. Some of the coastal areas, particularly around Alicante, can be quite hot at times during the summer. Mild, balmy weather can be experienced in these regions sometimes even in January or February. Inland in the Andalusian region, cities such as Granada and Ronda, lying high in the mountains, will be much cooler than the coastal resorts. Nights in Granada can be quite cold even at the height of summer, and in winter, surrounded by the snows of the Sierra Nevada, you need to dress warmly.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Restaurants are based on a five fork scale, which is based on decor, service, and food value. It is possible to have an excellent meal in a one forker with no tablecloths, no uniformed waiters, and no wine list.

Cafe rating is based on cups, and the quality of the coffee service is the criteria. A cafeteria is not self-serve. It is a simple place to eat with the decor and quality of a American small grill. In such places, the door is wide open, and there are two ways to eat. You may stand at the bar and the meal will be cheaper, or sit at the table and the same meal will be a few pesetas higher. The specials will be marked on the window or chalked on a slateboard at the bar. The bar serves coffee, wine, beer, or soft drinks. The barkeeper will total the bill in chalk on the surface of the bar.

All restaurants will have the menu posted which is usually tri or quadrilingual. The menu of the day, “el menu del dia”, will also be posted. This is a fine value and will be a four course meal. Some will offer several choices in each course, all for a fixed price. It will be whatever is abundant during that season at the market. It usually includes “pan y vino o agua mineral”. It will not include coffee, butter or soft drinks.

Some restaurants will have the groceries displayed in the window so that you can see the whole animal used or the whole fish. The purpose is to show that the produce is clean and of good quality. Freshness is very important to the health-conscious Mediterranean cultures. Paradoxically, when fresh food is not available, Spaniards prefer canned to frozen.

Look for “servicio incluido” or “impuestos incluidos” on the menu. That means the tax and “propina” are included. If so, when the bill comes, leave a few coins. If not, tip 10%.

Many restaurants expect you to seat yourself. Pause a minute at the door to make sure that is the case, and then sit down. Your waiter will bring the menu. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between a tourist and a Spaniard, therefore, he may give you a Spanish menu. If this happens, say “Ingles,” and he will get you a bilingual menu. If this does not happen, check the menu of the day prices, and if you think it is fair, have an adventure! If you are not an adventurer, quietly get up and leave.

In the cafeterias and cafes, such as the Nebraska or the California, or at the counter of Corte Inglés, all the preceding can be avoided by ordering a “plato combinado”: several food items served on the plate. Photographs of these combinations are on the wall. You order by number.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT cont

Spanish meals are usually substantial: hors d'oeuvres followed by the main dish, fruit and cheese. A wise meal choice is the *comida*, a fixed-price menu of four or more courses.

You can get a sandwich in a cafe at any time. Sandwiches are to be eaten with the small lunch knife and fork, not with the fingers.

Breakfast in Spain typically consists of coffee, hot chocolate, or tea with assorted rolls and jam.

Spaniards like well-prepared plain food. It is basic medieval cooking. It is not Mexican spicy. In fact, each region of Spain has a distinctive style. Nobody will go hungry in Spain.

SPANISH FAVORITES

BACALAO:	Cod
CAFÉ SOLO:	Small, black, strong coffee
CAFÉ CON LECHE	Strong coffee with cream
CHORIZO:	Spicy sausage
CHURROS:	Fried fingerlike doughnuts
COCIDO:	Traditional stew made from sausage, bacon garbanzo beans, cabbage and boiled meat
COCHINILLO:	Roast suckling-pig
FLAN:	Spain's national dessert (custard with caramel sauce)
GAZPACHO:	Cold tomato-based vegetable soup
GRANIZADOS:	Lemon juice or coffee served over crushed ice
HORCHATA:	Refreshing beverage made from a sweet root and ground almonds (looks like milk)
JAMON SERRANO:	Smoked, salty ham
MERLUZA:	Fish (hake)
PAELLA:	Spain's national dish: saffron-flavored rice dish with pimiento, peas, fish, shellfish and chicken
PARRILLADA:	Grilled mixture of various fish and shellfish
TAPAS:	Spanish hors d'oeuvres
TORTILLA:	Omelet with potatoes
TURRON:	Nougat made with honey and almonds

CULTURAL COURTESIES

Greetings: The usual greeting by Spanish males is a handshake. Good friends often add a pat on the back or an “abrazo” (hug). Women also shake hands, but close friends kiss each other on the cheek. An embrace and kiss on the cheek is often used by women when saying good-bye. Generally, women expect men to open doors for them. The elderly is treated with great respect and courtesy.

Eating: Both hands should be kept above the table while eating. To indicate to the waiter or host that you are finished with the meal, place the knife and fork side by side on the plate. Leaving them on opposite sides of the plate is an indication that you intend to eat more.

Public Meetings: Due to the relaxed manner of the Spaniards it is easy for visitors to get along with the people of Spain. They enjoy conversing and giving advice. Keep in mind that Spanish national pride is easily offended and visitors should avoid discussing politics or criticizing their lifestyle. Practice your patience in Spain as Spaniards don't enjoy being rushed.

Gestures: If you wish to call the waiter, simply raise your hand. Usually, the bill is paid to the waiter. Most often a service charge is included in the bill, but it is customary to leave a small tip.

Shopping: Purchased items are customarily gift wrapped. Bargaining is acceptable in small shops and open markets.

SHOPPING HINTS

If possible, try on each item. Spain is famous for shoes and boots of very fine quality. However, the last of the design may be just a bit shorter than the shoe for the American big foot. Choose the next size higher. Do not try to buy size 10. It only amuses the clerks, who will offer you the shoe boxes. The Spanish boot comes in various calf widths. Spanish women tend to have smaller calf sizes, and Americans often fit size Wide, “ancho”, of the boot shank.

In clothing, most cuts are European. Men prefer tapered shirts, which means American men will need to go to a higher size. Women will find that the bust sizes are pleasantly fitted, but the hip sizes are a narrower cut than the American skirts. A good buy in clothing is Spanish leather and suede “ante”, which is antelope, not split leather.

CLOTHING and JEWELRY

Clothing sizes run slightly smaller and narrower than US sizes. It is always best to try on any purchases prior to purchasing to be sure that they fit properly.

Spanish jewelry (gold) 18K and a jeweler in any shop can be trusted due to government controls. Always be confident the gold is true. However, the stones do not mean as much to Spaniards and may be synthetic gems. Turquoise is not a good buy, as it is often American. Amethyst and topaz are often from Brazil, but of good quality. Mallorca pearls are a bead coated with a fish scale composition, and are not as good as Japanese culture pearls, but are better than American synthetics. Coral is a Spanish favorite, and is imported. The redder the coral, the higher the price. “Damasquine” jewelry is a high grade of costume jewelry as it is 24K gold wire inlaid into steel, mounted in thinly plated settings. Silver is .925 Sterling. “Alpaca” means silverplated.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Spain boasts a rich tradition of arts and crafts reflecting the character of each region as well as the influence of various civilizations. Traditional items such as ceramics, pottery, woven goods and basketwork are produced throughout the country.

CERAMICS: Many of the designs and colors of the ceramics have been influenced by Islamic art. There are two large pottery centers in the Toledo region. *Talavera de la Reina* is famous for its green, blue, orange, yellow and black colored ceramics. *El Puente de Arzobispo* is identified by shades of green. *Mudejar* is easily identified by its blue and white patterns. There is at least one style unique to each region of Spain. The world-famous *Lladro* (Spanish porcelain) is beautifully displayed and available for sale in many of the shops.

BASKETWORK: Basket making is especially popular on the Mediterranean Coast. Baskets, hats and mats are made of reeds, willow, wicker and pieces of olive-wood and birch.

IRONWORK: Iron crafts are one of the decorative arts commonly associated with Spain. Blacksmiths still continue to make the grilles for the doors and windows typically seen in Spain's architecture. Damascene swords are still produced in Toledo. They are made of steel inlaid with gold, silver and copper.

GOLD AND SILVER: The filigree design is commonly found in Spain's gold and silver jewelry. Damascene designs (gold and silver inlays) are also popular in jewelry items.

EMBROIDERED GOODS: Popular items include brightly colored blankets, lacework, and embroidery. The most typical embroidered items come from Toledo. They are identified by their geometric patterns. Much of the lacework and embroidery are still done on family looms. The most outstanding embroidery can be seen in the ceremonial robes used during Holy Week and in the colorful bullfighting costumes.

LEATHER: Spain's leather is noted for its quality and modern design.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: Traditional instruments used in serenading (guitars, mandolas and lutes) are widely produced in Spain. Percussion instruments include drums, tambourines and castanets commonly used in Flamenco presentations

THE METRO SYSTEM MADRID AND BARCELONA

MADRID

Madrid's subway system is considered by many to be the best in southern Europe. Each line is color-coded and numbered.

A red diamond enclosing the word "Metro" in blue identifies each station above ground.

Tickets in Madrid can be purchased from agents or automatic machines in stations. A ticket of ten ("Taco") is offered at a discount. This ticket of ten may also be used for public buses in Madrid.

Puerta Del Sol is the hub of the system. Several lines intersect here.

The Metro offers convenient connections with Renfe, Spain's public train system.

Current metro maps are available at Corte Inglés, Galerías Preciados, Tourist Information booths, or the Metro ticket offices.

BARCELONA

The subway is one of the fastest and easiest ways to explore Barcelona. Each line is color-coded and numbered.

A red diamond enclosing the word "Metro" in blue identifies each station above ground.

Tickets in Barcelona can be purchased from agents or automatic machines in stations. A ticket of ten ("Tarjeta Multiviaje") can be purchased at a discount.

Current metro maps are available at Corte Ingles, Galerías Preciados, Tourist Information booths, or the Metro ticket offices.

Metro Hints:

Avoid use if it even "seems" too crowded.

Travel in groups of three or more. Always travel with your teacher or adult (over 21 years old) chaperone/assistant.

The first and last cars may have fewer passengers.

Verify Metro hours of operation to prevent being stranded later at night.

Before You Board:

1. Know the number of the train line.
2. Know the last stop on the line you're taking (determines your direction).
3. Know the stop where you want to get off or transfer.