

LEARN SPANISH

*in Spain*



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Front Cover: Salamanca.

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# INTRODUCTION

Would you like to learn Spanish? Do you speak the language but would like to improve your accent? Come to Spain, where the **Spanish language originates from** and study in the best academies and universities.

From a short holiday in Malaga to six months in Barcelona, there are suitable courses whatever the objective or the budget.

Spanish is the third most-spoken language in the world, after English and Mandarin Chinese. It is spoken by over **470 million people** throughout the world, and a good grasp of it will help you understand our culture better and open up new professional opportunities.

Wherever you go, wherever you come from, **you'll always be welcome here**. Spain is cheerful and tolerant, a place where numerous cultures coexist. It is renowned for its **hospitality**, everyone is welcomed here with open arms.

Come and discover a country with a remarkable history and artistic legacy, where **culture** and **nature** abound and where the word **fiesta** has real meaning. Live with the people, share their customs and experience everything that Spain has to offer.



# STUDY IN SPAIN

Each year, thousands of people come to Spain to start learning or improve their level of Spanish. There are many different options to choose from: top-quality courses adapted to different requirements, university courses and post-graduate studies, paid internships... And to round it off there's culture, gastronomy and night life.







▲ UNIVERSIDAD DE MÁLAGA

## UNIVERSITIES

Most universities, both public and private, organise specific Spanish courses for foreigners and they offer a very attractive alternative. They are very flexible and award official diplomas which are internationally recognised, and you can earn transferable credits if you're studying for a degree,

The **Universidad Complutense** and the **Universidad Autónoma** in Madrid organise three-monthly, yearly and summer language courses, as well as full immersion and culture. The **Universidad de Barcelona** also has Spanish courses for students from foreign universities.

The **Universidad de Valencia** has a language centre, with six-monthly courses covering all levels.

The **Universidad de Salamanca**, the oldest in Spain, has the longest tradition and highest prestige when it comes to the teaching of Spanish.



▲ UNIVERSIDAD DE SALAMANCA

Different durations are available, as well as cultural immersion through complementary subjects like Literature, Business Spanish, History, Art, etc.

Another benchmark for learning the Spanish language is the **Centro Internacional de Español de la Universidad de Málaga**, with courses and programmes incorporating the latest technologies and the most innovative teaching methods.



## INSTITUTO CERVANTES

This public institution promotes the teaching, learning and the use of the Spanish language worldwide. It also aims to encourage the knowledge of Hispanic Cultures abroad. It has two centres in Spain, one in **Madrid** and another in **Alcalá de Henares**. Apart from organising courses, it is also responsible for convening exams and awarding official DELE and SIELE diplomas.

► INSTITUTO CERVANTES  
MADRID



### WHAT IS THE DELE?

DELE stands for "Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera" and it officially certifies competence and the level of command of Spanish. It is awarded by the Instituto Cervantes on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

### WHAT IS THE SIELE?

SIELE stands for "Servicio Internacional de Evaluación de la Lengua Española" and certifies the level of command of Spanish by electronic means. It is aimed at students and professionals from the five continents and is promoted by the Instituto Cervantes, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Universidad de Salamanca and the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

① *Further information:*

[www.cervantes.es](http://www.cervantes.es), [www.dele.org](http://www.dele.org)  
and [www.siele.org](http://www.siele.org)





## SPANISH LANGUAGE CENTRES/ACADEMIES

In Spain there are a great number of academies and education centres where you can learn and improve your Spanish. Those belonging to the **National Federation of Schools teaching Spanish to Foreigners (FEDELE, in Spanish)** can be found all over Spain and guarantee the best quality teaching with classes for all levels, as well as awarding diplomas recognised by the Instituto Cervantes.

Apart from the language courses, FEDELE centres can help you achieve full immersion in the language immediately. They will help you to choose and book the most suitable accommodation, as well as organising extracurricular activities which are an extraordinary complement to the classes.

① *To find the most suitable academy, go to [www.fedele.org](http://www.fedele.org) and the search engine [eee.cervantes.es](http://eee.cervantes.es)*



## THE BEST CITIES FOR STUDENTS

### BARCELONA

This truly cosmopolitan and open-minded city has a privileged geographical location. Its cultural and leisure attractions will make your stay there an unforgettable experience. Barcelona has some of the most prestigious universities in Spain, like the Pompeu Fabra, the Universidad de Barcelona and the Autónoma de Barcelona.



▲ UNIVERSIDAD DE BARCELONA

### SALAMANCA

In Salamanca, not only is the quality of the teaching very high, it is also a very affordable city. The university's reputation and the city's great night life make it a favourite with both Spanish and foreign students.

### ALCALÁ DE HENARES

A small city just a short distance from Madrid with good accommodation and a very active student community. The Universidad de Alcalá de Henares is one of the highest ranked by foreign students in Spain.

### MADRID

In Spain's capital city you'll always find anything you want. Madrid is Spain's capital city and a multicultural place where there's always something to do by day or night. There are twenty or so universities throughout the region, some with great prestige like the Complutense and the Autónoma, which makes it the most important university centre in Spain. Here you'll find a wide selection of courses for you to improve your Spanish.

### VALENCIA

It is internationally renowned for its beaches, paella and the climate, but Valencia has so much more to offer. There are renowned public and private universities, excellent research centres and a high academic level, as well as a great university atmosphere.

### ALICANTE

This sunny town is great for the beach most of the year and it also offers good value accommodation and food. All these plus a wide choice of leisure activities make Alicante a really attractive place for you to come and learn the language. Each year, more and more foreign students choose this city in the Region of Valencia.





FORMERLY THE ROYAL TOBACCO FACTORY  
UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

## SEVILLE

In the capital city of Andalusia you'll not only find renowned international campuses, there is also a quality of life which few other destinations can equal. The pleasant climate and the open-mindedness and hospitality of the locals helps to create a great atmosphere around the university itself.

## MÁLAGA

The capital of the Costa del Sol offers Spanish courses for foreigners at the Universidad de Málaga and at a wide selection of private centres. It is an especially charming city as demonstrated by the great number of people who choose to come each year.

## GRANADA

The Universidad de Granada is the preferred choice for European exchange (Erasmus) students. It is a city with a great university tradition. There is a student population of about 60,000 and a wide choice of educational possibilities as well as complementary leisure and extra-curricular activities.

## CÁDIZ

Many of the educational institutions are housed in the old town and in historic buildings. When it comes to festivities, few cities can rival Cádiz, especially in February when Carnival is celebrated.

CÁDIZ







## ENJOY YOURSELF IN SPAIN

Spain is home to a vast cultural heritage. Find out for yourself by visiting our cities or taking one of historical routes available all over Spain. Idyllic natural environments await you, as well as first-rate cuisine and thousand-year-old festivals and traditions.

▲ ROYAL PALACE  
MADRID

## CULTURE

There is so much culture to be experienced in Spain, but there are a number of cities which have a higher concentration of museums, theatres and historical buildings.

Come to **Madrid** and walk around the different neighbourhoods: you'll soon see what a blend of cultures Madrid is. Discover the **Las Letras district**, once home to great writers from the Golden Age of Spanish literature. There you'll find three of the most important art galleries in the world, the **Prado Museum**, the **Reina Sofía** and the **Thyssen-Bornemisza**. And

what about a night out at the cinema or the theatre? You'll always find several currently popular musicals playing in town.

Immerse yourself in **Barcelona**, a cosmopolitan Mediterranean city with a whole host of possibilities. Within the city you'll find Roman remains, medieval neighbourhoods and some fine examples of 20th-century avant-garde architecture. You'll find interesting exhibitions, workshops and all kinds of activities in cultural centres like the **CaixaForum**.





▲ CITY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
VALENCIA

**Valencia**, a city full of contrasts and the essence of all that is Mediterranean. Visit the historical old town as well as the amazing avant-garde buildings in the city. You'll be amazed by the **City of Arts and Sciences**, one of the largest scientific and cultural complexes in Europe.

Other cities in Spain with an important historical legacy and interesting cultural attractions.

📍 *For further information go to*  
[www.españacultura.es](http://www.españacultura.es)

## DISCOVER ROMAN SPAIN

The Roman presence in Spain lasted over six centuries, so it is easy to find remains of their legacy practically anywhere in the country. There are especially significant archaeological remains in **Tarragona** and in **Sagunto** (Valencia) which preserve gems from their Roman past like forums, amphitheatres and theatres. **Segovia** is home to a prodigious feat of engineering, the Roman aqueduct, one of the best preserved in Europe.



▲ ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE  
TARRAGONA

The **Baetic Roman Route** passes through fourteen Andalusian towns and cities in the provinces of Seville, Cádiz and Córdoba. It includes fascinating sites like Itálica, a Roman villa in Santiponce (Seville) and the archaeological park in Baena (Córdoba).

Choose suitable footwear and venture out on the **Silver Route** which connects the north and south of Spain and follow in the footsteps of the ancient Roman soldiers. It can also be done by bike or on a motorbike. The route goes from **Seville** to **Gijón** and passes through a several of historical places like **Mérida** (Badajoz), **Cáceres**, **Béjar** and **León**.

## ROUTES OF THE AL-ANDALUS LEGACY

The seven Routes of the Al-Andalus legacy are a fantastic option for discovering Andalusia's Moorish past. These routes trace a historical line which unites a unique monumental heritage: The **Alhambra in Granada**, the **Great Mosque in Córdoba**, the **Giralda in Seville** and historical old towns of Moorish origin like **Alcalá la Real** (Jaén).





Travel back in time through peaceful landscapes, enjoying culinary delights and discovering popular festivities and customs. You could be adventurous and do some of the stages on horseback, by bicycle or on foot.

To finish your journey in **Granada**, stroll through the streets and squares and visit the city which was the Moors' final stronghold in Mainland Spain.

**i Further information:**

[www.legadoandalusi.es](http://www.legadoandalusi.es)

### THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES

Become a pilgrim and set out on an exciting adventure. This is a different way of discovering northern Spain by taking one of a number of itineraries whose ultimate destination is the **cathedral in Santiago de Compostela** (A Coruña), the site of the tomb of Saint James the Apostle.

To obtain the Compostela, the document awarded to all those who have travelled the Way for religious or spiritual reasons, you'll need to have completed at least 100 kilometres on foot or horseback, or 200 by bicycle.



OVIEDO CATHEDRAL

### ROMANESQUE NORTHERN SPAIN

Visit cities full of history and enjoy spectacular countryside. Enter into a medieval world by discovering the keys to Spanish Romanesque. A style which arrived in 11th century Spain over the Pyrenees and spread across the north of Spain via the Way of Saint James, developing its own characteristics along the way.

The Boi Valley in the in Pyrenees in **Lleida**, has 11th and 12th century temples which have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, like the churches of San Clemente and Santa María de Taüll. In the **Huesca** Region you'll find the oldest Romanesque church in Spain, the Cathedral of San Pedro de Jaca, and the Loarre Castle. Further to the west, in **Burgos**, stands the cloister of the Monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos which is a Romanesque masterpiece.

In a natural environment of unique beauty, in **Palencia**, **Zamora** and the area surrounding **Oviedo** you'll find the greatest concentration of Romanesque and Pre-Romanesque buildings in the country. **Santiago de Compostela** is home to the crowning glory of Romanesque sculpture, the Cathedral's La Gloria Gateway.



## WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

Discover the exciting artistic wealth of our fifteen **World Heritage Cities**.

**Toledo**, a city famous historically for the harmonious coexistence between Muslims, Jews and Christians, and **Salamanca**, renowned as the home of one of the oldest universities in the world, invite you to discover the history of Spain through their streets and monuments. Take a stroll through the picturesque historical old town of **Córdoba** and discover its greatest treasure, the Mosque-Cathedral, one of the finest examples of Moorish art.

**Ávila**, with its amazing city walls, and **Cáceres**, with its cobbled streets, medieval fortress-houses and towers, will transport you back in time to the Middle Ages, while in **Santiago de Compostela** you'll discover real Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque treasures.

Other World Heritage cities not to be missed include **Úbeda** and **Baeza** (Jaén), with their impressive Renaissance palaces and churches, and **Cuenca**, where you'll see the astonishing Hanging Houses blending seamlessly with the natural surroundings.

And you'll find numerous priceless cultural attractions in the islands. The streets in the city of **San Cristóbal de La Laguna** in Tenerife (Canary Islands) provide an insight into the origins of Latin American town planning. In the Mediterranean, **Ibiza** (Balearic Islands), was recognised by the UNESCO on account of its culture and biodiversity.

Cities like **Segovia**, **Alcalá de Henares**, **Tarragona** and **Mérida** have also been recognised by the UNESCO.

📍 *For further information go to [www.ciudadespatrimonio.org](http://www.ciudadespatrimonio.org)*





## NATURE

In Spain there are a great number and variety of protected natural areas offering incredible ecological wealth. Wouldn't you like to discover them?

## ROUTES

With over 60,000 kilometres of approved trails and a mild climate, Spain is one of the best destinations for hikers. After a hard day's hiking you can always take a well-earned rest in a country villa, a campsite or in a mountain refuge. It will be an unforgettable experience.

Feel the excitement as you make your way along a trail anchored to the walls of the **Los Gaitanes Gorge** and become the adventurer you always knew you were as you cross the hanging bridge on the **Caminito del Rey**, high in up in the Málaga mountains. Wander amongst forests of fir and black pine and marvel at the spectacular mountain lakes in the **Eastern Pyrenees**. A privileged setting full of wonders like Monte Aneto, the highest mountain in the Pyrenees, and its thirteen glaciers.

CAMINITO DEL REY  
MÁLAGA





▲ TIMANFAYA NATIONAL PARK  
LANZAROTE

## NATIONAL PARKS

The variety and charm of its landscapes will take your breath away. Spain has **15 national parks** scattered around the Spanish Mainland, the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands.

Do you like high mountains? Then come and discover the **Picos de Europa**, where you can enjoy glacial lakes, high ridges, and dense forests that are the natural habitat of deer, wolves and bears. The only other comparable place is the **Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park** (Lleida), an incredible setting with spectacular waterfalls and mountains.

Andalusia is also home to important natural treasures like the **Sierra Nevada**, in Granada, where you can ski while enjoying

views of the sea, and to the **Doñana National Park**, between Huelva, Seville and Cádiz, Andalusia's verdant jewel and a priceless bird sanctuary.

Discover the delights of our islands and their multiple contrasts. You'll find one of the world's most spectacular volcanic landscapes in the **Timanfaya National Park** in the Canary Islands. While the **Cabrera Archipelago** in the Balearic Islands, and the **Atlantic Islands** in Galicia are ideal for those who love diving.

📍 *For detailed information on the National Parks in Spain, go to the following website [www.spain.info/es/que-quieres/nature/](http://www.spain.info/es/que-quieres/nature/)*



## GASTRONOMY

Spanish cuisine is famous all over the world. In Spain's bars and restaurants you can try everything from **traditional recipes** like paella, to surprising dishes from **haute cuisine**.

### TRADITIONAL

Each region in Spain has a wide variety of irresistible traditional dishes. Everything from hearty bean stews like **cocido madrileño** and **fabada asturiana**, perfect for chilly days, to seasonal vegetables and the delicious deserts and sweets produced in each region. Try the fish from Spain's seas and rivers prepared in a wide variety of ways, and the seafood, which is a highly prized ingredient in Spanish cuisine. And surrender to temptation with the delicious Iberian cured ham, one of the greatest treasures in the Spanish larder.

### AVANT-GARDE

For an original way of sampling top-quality Spanish cuisine you should make your way to an urban market. Many of them date back several decades and have reinvented themselves to offer unique gastronomic experiences. Stroll around the **San Miguel Market** in Madrid, the **Boquería Market** in Barcelona or the **Central Market** in Valencia, and you can enjoy a glass of wine while you sample a *canapé* or a gourmet tapa, listen to live music and mingle with the local residents.. Beautiful to look at, and a treat for the taste buds!



## EASY RECIPE FOR STUDENTS

Here is a simple recipe so you can learn to make one of our traditional dishes, a Spanish omelette. It will be delicious and ready to eat in 30 minutes. Some people add other ingredients like onion and peppers, but this is the basic recipe.





To serve two you will need: 3 eggs, 2 large potatoes, olive oil and salt.



**1.** Peel and wash and finely slice the potatoes.



**2.** Put plenty of olive oil in a frying pan and fry the potatoes over a low heat.

**3.** When the potatoes turn golden brown, remove them from the frying pan with a slotted spoon and drain the oil well.



**4.** Beat the eggs vigorously in a deep bowl, add a little salt and then the potatoes. Mix well.

**5.** Put a few drops of oil in the frying pan and then add the potato and egg mixture.

**6.** When the omelette has cooked underneath (3 or 4 minutes) turn it over using a plate and cook the other side. Always remember that it is best when the inside is moist and soft.

**7.** When it is golden brown on both sides, remove from the pan and serve.



It can be served hot or cold, accompanied by a mixed salad, used to make a baguette or cut into small squares and served as an aperitif.



## FESTIVITIES AND TRADITIONS

In Spain you'll find popular festivities at any time of the year. Come and experience all the enjoyment of Spain through its festivities.



▲ CARNIVAL IN TENERIFE

### CARNIVAL IN CÁDIZ AND TENERIFE

At Carnival time the streets in Spain are filled with colour and high spirits. In Santa Cruz de Tenerife the spectacular costumes on display at the Gala for choosing the Carnival Queen will take your breath away. The carnival in Cádiz is an opportunity to have fun with its "comparsas", "coros" and "chirigotas" (sarcastic and critical songs performed by the Carnival troupes).

### LAS FALLAS BONFIRE FESTIVAL

During Las Fallas in Valencia, the whole city is devoted to its festival and the music. For a whole week the city is filled with "ninots" (gigantic structures made of wood, cardboard and plaster, all based on socially critical humour) which end up as spectacular bonfires.



▲ CARNIVAL IN CÁDIZ

### APRIL FAIR

Seville during the April Fair is synonymous with fun at all hours. The fairground and the marquees fill with music, laughter, food, and glasses of dry sherry or "rebuji-to" (manzanilla wine with fizzy lemonade). Don't go without trying the typical "pescaíto frito" (fried fish platter) and make sure you get to see the spectacular parade of horses and horse-drawn carriages.



▲ APRIL FAIR SEVILLE



ENJOY YOURSELF IN SPAIN





## DESCENT OF THE SELLA RIVER

It's one of the most important events in the world rowing calendar and takes place between Ribadesella and Arriendas. Once the race is over, the festivities start in Campos de Ova with an open-air lunch, and then continue into the night in the popular bars and fairs in Ribadesella.

## "SEMANA GRANDE" FESTIVAL IN BILBAO

Nine days to enjoy the numerous activities taking place throughout this city in the Basque Country. Concerts, shows and firework displays await you. There'll be *txosnas* (stalls with music, food and drink) in the Old Town and on both banks of the Estuary.

## LA TOMATINA

This fun "battle" of tomato throwing takes place in the town of Buñol in Valencia. You should join in, it's great fun.

▼ LA TOMATINA TOMATO FESTIVAL  
BUÑOL



▲ PLAZA DE SANTA ANA  
MADRID

## NIGHTLIFE

The excellent climate and the fun-loving character of the Spanish people are the reason Spain's cities have such an exciting nightlife. There are restaurants, bars, concert halls, clubs, *after hours* and many festivities, especially for young people. And all so that the fun can continue till dawn.

In every city there is at least one neighbourhood or specific area which has all the attractions for a fantastic nightlife. For example, in **Barcelona** there are districts like the **Eixample** and **Sant Gervasi-Santaló** which are renowned world wide for their clubs specialising in electronic music. **Poble Nou**, **Port Olímpic** and **El Born** are some of Barcelona's most fashionable districts offering truly sophisticated attractions.

Coastal cities like **Valencia**, **Málaga**, **Alicante** and **Cádiz** are full of people enjoying the music and dancing until dawn. In summer, the beach is the place to go and where the festivities continue, especially in July and August.



In **Salamanca** most of the entertainment is in the areas around the **Plaza Mayor**, so you can walk from one venue to the next. As for **Granada**, the place to be is the Calle **Pedro Antonio de Alarcón** with its bars, pubs and places serving tapas. Seville is another place where people live in the streets meeting their friends, especially in the historic Old Town and the **Alameda** district, ideal for having a drink in the open air.

The **Madrid night life** is sure to surprise you. There are so many options to choose from: lively taverns and pubs in **Huertas**, alternative bars in **Malasaña** and **Lavapiés**, major clubs in the **Avenida de Brasil**... One of the most fashionable neighbourhoods is **Chueca**, the most *gay-friendly* area in the city.

The last week in June and for nearly two weeks, Chueca is the epicentre of Madrid Gay Pride (MADO), which ends with a colourful parade. At this time, the area

attracts visitors from all over the world. The streets are decorated with rainbow flags and there are open-air concerts and free festivals.

## FESTIVALS

Some of the great stars on the international pop-rock music scene appear at **Primavera Sound** in Barcelona, the **FIB** in Benicàssim and the **Mad Cool Festival** in Madrid. These are the front runners in a boom which every summer makes Spain the ideal destination for music lovers. At **Bilbao BBK Live** you can enjoy a line-up featuring the best of alternative music.

Dance to the beat of electronic music, the real star of the summer season, with various events you won't want to miss, headed by **Sónar** in Barcelona which brings together the best experimental musicians, multimedia art and avant-garde performances.







## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### TIMES AND OPENING HOURS

The mainland Spain and Balearic Islands go by the Greenwich Meridian time zone (GTM), plus 1 hour in the winter, and 2 hours in the summer. In the Canary Islands the time zone is that of the Greenwich Meridian, plus 1 hour in the summer, always 1 hour behind the rest of Spain. Spain has very long opening hours: shops usually open from Monday to Saturday from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm and from 4.30 to 8

pm. Department stores and shopping centres stay open all day from 10 am to 10 pm. There are no restrictions on opening hours in the main cities, so many establishments also open on Sundays and public holidays.

Mealtimes in Spain are rather later than in other countries. Breakfast is usually from 8 to 10 am. Lunch is served from 1 to 3.30 pm. Dinner in Spain is served from 8.30 to 11 pm.



## CLIMATE

Spain is one of the **warmest countries in Europe**, and has an average of 2,000 hours of sunshine a year. The predominant climate is temperate Mediterranean, which ensures dry summers and winters with even temperatures. The weather in the north tends to be rainier and with mild summers. The Canary Islands have an excellent climate with year-round sunshine and an annual average temperature of 22°C. In areas at higher altitude like the Sierra Nevada and the Cordillera Cantábrica mountains it often snows from early winter to late spring.

## DISCOUNTS FOR STUDENTS

There are a number of options for obtaining reduced prices for leisure and culture activities, travel and transport in the main cities, as well as direct discounts offered by many museums, theatres and cultural institutions.

Get an **International Student Card (ISIC)**. Apply for it *online* or directly in Spain. You'll need a document to prove that you are registered at a centre of studies, a recent passport photo and your ID card or passport. You need to be at least 12 years old and there is no maximum age limit.

📍 *For further information go to: [www.isic.es](http://www.isic.es)*







A **European Youth Card** is available to young people between 14 and 30 years of age. With this you can benefit from special prices and services for this age group throughout Europe: transport, shops, sports, culture, etc. Valid indefinitely from the date of issue until your 31st birthday. It includes travel assistance insurance with coverage all over the world.

① *For further information go to:*  
[www.europeanyouthcard.org](http://www.europeanyouthcard.org)

Many educational centres issue their own card. It is for identification purposes and gives access to special offers in museums and cultural institutes, cinemas (special discount price) and many shops.



## ACCOMMODATION

### UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES

They are highly recommended because they are usually near the campus and in addition to accommodation they usually include meals, laundry, etc. There are different types (all male, all female, mixed gender), some are private and others depend on the education centres. The main difference between a residence and a hall of residence is that the latter will also help with your cultural development and sports training.

### HOSTELS

Youth hostels are an inexpensive option and these days many have comfortable facilities, above all in Barcelona and Madrid. This accommodation is often very centrally located and in some cases even housed in historical buildings.

The cheapest option is usually a shared room. You'll have access to shared areas like a kitchen and a living-dining room, the perfect place to get to know your fellow travellers.

📍 *Spain has a very extensive Network of Youth Hostels. To apply for a **Youth Hostel Card** and enjoy all kinds of discounts, go to the following website: [www.reaj.com](http://www.reaj.com)*

### HOTELS

Hotels are usually more expensive than *hostels*, but there are a number of advantages: more privacy, own bathroom, change of bed linen, option of half-board and full board, etc.

There are so many hotel establishments in large cities that you'll always be able to find one which meets your requirements.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Everything will be fine, **Spain is one of the safest countries in Europe**. If you need help, you can contact the **emergency number 112** free of charge.

If you're from a European Community country then your **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** gives you the right to free medical and hospital treatment. You will receive all the medical treatment you need during a temporary stay.

If you're not from a European Union country, the best idea is to **check before travelling to see if your country has an agreement with Spain** with regard to Social Security and medical care. If it does, the healthcare authorities in your country will issue the corresponding document so you can get free access to healthcare.

If there is no agreement between your country and Spain, then remember that **you are obliged to take out private medical insurance** which you will also need when you apply for your student visa. The medical insurance needs to be valid for the whole of your stay in Spain. This insurance can be issued by a Spanish or a foreign company. We recommend you check what it covers.



## TRANSPORT



Photo: Pedro Antonio Salaverria Galahorra / 123rf.com

▲ HST IN PURROY  
ZARAGOZA

### TRAINS

There are nine cities with a **Metro**: Barcelona, Bilbao, Granada, Madrid, Málaga, Palma de Mallorca, San Sebastián, Seville and Valencia. In Madrid the "Tarifa Abono Joven" and in Barcelona the "Tarjeta T-Jove" offer discounts to the 30-and-under and 25-and-under age groups respectively. The other cities also have special season tickets. The network of **Local Trains** ensures good connections between city centres and the surrounding area.

The Spanish National Railway Network (RENFE) also links all the country's main cities and regions. The unquestionable stars of the system are the **AVE high-speed trains** which serve 25 tourist destinations, with Madrid as their main hub. In 2019, RENFE will start a new *low cost* HST service on the Madrid-Barcelona line which they will call EVA.

### INTERRAIL

If you've decided to come to Spain to study, then while you're at it you should travel around the country. Interrail allows you to take practically any train in the area you choose at very affordable prices. The InterRail pass can only be used by EU residents who have been in Europe for at least six months. If this is not your case, you can use a Eurail pass instead.

An **InterRail One Country Pass** valid for Spain allows you to travel on three, four, six or eight days in a month, taking all the trains you want during the day of travel. There is no pre-established itinerary: organise your journey to suit yourself.

① *To buy your ticket and get more information on this and other special passes, go to [www.interrail.eu](http://www.interrail.eu)*



## BUSES

There are different routes taking you to different parts of the city. We recommend you get more information on the routes around the university campuses. In many cities there are also **night buses** (known locally as "búhos" or owls). Although less frequent, they are really useful when you go out at night.

You will also find many coach routes coming into Spain from all around Europe, managed by different companies. And within Spain you can get from one city to another using **inter-city buses**. You should also remember that in tourist destinations you can use **tourist buses** to visit the city.

## INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

In most airports in this country there are airline companies offering connections to major cities all over the world. The airports offering the greatest number of international connections are **Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas**, **El Prat (Barcelona)**, **Palmade Mallorca Airport**, **Málaga Airport**, **Gran Canaria Airport**, **Alicante Airport** and **Tenerife South Airport**. The seven Canary Islands all have their own airport, whereas in the Balearic Islands there are airports on Mallorca, Ibiza and Menorca.

**i** For further information, go to [www.studyinspain.info](http://www.studyinspain.info) and [www.spain.info](http://www.spain.info)



▲ TRAM  
VALENCIA

▼ BARCELONA-EL PRAT AIRPORT



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