

SHOPPING *in Spain*



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Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism
 Published by: © Turespaña
 Created by: Lionbridge
 NIPO: 086-18-006-3

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Front Page: Salamanca.
 Back: Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao.
 Photo: Karol Kozlowski/ 123rf.com

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INTRODUCTION

Enjoy the pleasure of shopping in Spain. Beautiful cities, a marvellous climate and tempting gastronomy blend together to create an unforgettable experience.

There is an extensive range of attractions. If you are a lover of **fashion**, then this will be like paradise. Whatever your style, you'll find it here. Discover the Spanish designers who are successful in international fashion shows and are responsible for dressing the famous the world over. Admire the endless creativity of the designers and learn all about those brands *made in Spain*.

As you stroll through our cities you'll find everything from **luxury brands** to unique creations by local **craftsmen and women**. Do it your own way, visiting small workshops, rummaging around in vintage markets or exploring the great shopping centres. And everywhere you go you can sample the very best local products: you'll love Spain's exquisite **gourmet products**.

The advantages of shopping in Spain go beyond the wide variety of products. You can shop tax free or take advantage of sensational offers during **the sales**.



FASHION AND DESIGN

You're in the perfect place to update your wardrobe and find your favourite accessories. In Spain you'll find the best **international brands**, from major franchises to luxury stores selling prestigious products by **Gucci, Hermès, Ralph Lauren, Chanel** and **Dior**.

In recent years the most exclusive international brands have increased their commitment to our country by opening new stores in the high street and in the shopping centres you'll find in the major cities. You'll be truly amazed by the variety.

Spanish brands are synonymous with talent, style and quality. Discover extraordinary **Spanish design and fashion** through our prestigious designers. Creations by pioneers like **Cristóbal Balenciaga**, one of Spain's most famous designers, are real trend-setters. You'll love the seductive creations and perfumes by **Paco Rabanne**, especially his flamboyant, metallic dresses.

There is a long list of creators who have made Spain a focal point for fashion, from **Adolfo Domínguez**, famous for saying "wrinkles are beautiful", to **Jesús del Pozo**, **Pedro del Hierro**, **Roberto Verino** and **Purificación García**. Spain also has designers of unique, brightly-coloured products, like those by **Ágatha Ruiz de la Prada**, not only garments and accessories, but also stationery and articles for the home. You'll be enchanted by the youthful, casual spirit of **Custo Barcelona**. If you're looking for designer bags and garments with fresh and exclusive patterns, María and Uxía Domínguez will tempt you with the displays at their **Bimba and Lola** shops.

Spain is a constant hubbub of creativity. The **Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Madrid** is one of the main showcases for up-and-coming talents, who surprise us year after year with their intrepid, avant-garde creations. **Palomo Spain** is a real trend setter with his truly original creations in menswear, and then there are new brands presenting surprising collections by young designers like **Ailanto**, **Alvarno** and **The 2nd Skin Co.** There are also important women fashion designers like **Ana Locking**, **María Escoté** and **Pepa Salazar**.

Are you looking for something both fashionable and affordable? In all Spain's main high streets and shopping centres you'll find Spanish brand names which are renowned throughout the world, like **Zara**, **Mango**, **Bershka** and **Massimo Dutti**.

Spanish fashion also features jewellery and fashion jewellery collections by such renowned brands as **Suarez**, **Tous** and **Unode50**. Exclusive designs, elegance and top-quality to go with the best garments in your wardrobe.



GRAN VÍA
MADRID



▲ MADRID

WHERE TO SHOP

MADRID

Spain's capital city is modern and welcoming with so many alternatives. Without leaving the city centre there are different shopping districts, each with its own personality. Take a stroll along the **Gran Vía**, the city's most lively thoroughfare, with impressive buildings, many of which have become fashion and jewellery stores. Leave the traffic behind and take the Calle **Preciados** pedestrian street leading to the **Puerta del Sol** and the **Plaza Mayor** where you'll find traditional, hand-made goods in small, specialist shops: from fans and hats to guitars and Flamenco costumes.

And for fans of Spanish football: Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid have shops in the city and at their stadiums. There you'll find all kinds of sports equipment and accessories for fans of the whites and the red-and-whites.



Photo: Destination Madrid

▲ GOLDEN MILE IN MADRID

In the *Barrio de las Letras* (Literary Quarter), a handful of picturesque shops which have managed to preserve their historical charm coexist alongside extraordinary contemporary creations. In the **Conde Duque** area, with small, signature establishments, you'll also appreciate the absence of department stores, chains and franchises.

If you're looking for alternative and avant-garde design, then head for the Calle **Fuencarral**, the Calle **Hortaleza** and the **Chueca** neighbourhood.

The attraction of the **Salamanca** neighbourhood is its exclusive *shopping*: the **Golden Mile**, in the area around the **Calle Serrano**, is a showcase of luxury for fashion, shoes and jewellery in really exclusive stores. You also have the city's most glamorous shopping centres: Jardín de Serrano and ABC Serrano.



GOLDEN MILE IN MADRID

BARCELONA

You'll be amazed by the variety: municipal markets, art galleries, great fashion houses and craft workshops. There are around five kilometres of pedestrian streets in the area around Las Ramblas, and so many tempting shop windows looking out onto broad pavements. Then

there are the shops that have been there for over a hundred years and located in historical buildings: shops selling gloves, cutlery, chandlery, hats... These are the real treasures of the city's commercial heritage which will take you back in time.



BARCELONA



▲ CASA BATLLÓ

Explore the **Diagonal**, which runs from the **Sagrada Família** to the **Camp Nou** in search of the best brands. Whilst you're there you can admire the original architecture of the buildings housing prestigious stores selling fashion, furniture and home decor, as well as shopping centres. On a visit to the stadium of F.C. Barcelona you can buy shirts featuring their players in the enormous official shop.

The **Eixample** is another distinguished, stately setting with numerous exclusive establishments: jewellers, art galleries, book shops and a comprehensive selection of Spanish and international fashion. Take a stroll along broad streets and avenues, like the beautiful **Passeig de**



▲ BARCELONA

Gràcia, where you can admire the Modernist architecture in iconic buildings like **La Pedrera** and the **Casa Batlló**.

In the **City Centre**, the historical, narrow streets and alleyways of the **Born**, **Gothic** and **Raval** neighbourhoods are brimming with amazing shops specialising in garments, accessories, decor, gastronomy... They have all been carefully designed by local creators and you'll be enchanted as soon as you step inside them. An amazing experience you'll never forget and a great opportunity for finding truly original gifts.



VALENCIA

Take advantage of the wonderful climate in this Mediterranean city to stroll around the shops. Take note especially of the footwear designed and manufactured in this region. In the El Carmen neighbourhood, in the heart of the historical old town, you should visit the Calle de la Bolsería, the Plaza del Tossal and the Calle Quart where you'll find seductive urban fashion, traditional Valencian textiles and superb silverware.

The small shops and stalls in the **Plaza Redonda** are renowned for handicrafts, lace and embroidery. Luxury articles, by exclusive firms from Loewe to Lladró, await you in the area around the **Palace of El Marqués de Dos Aguas**.

You'll find even more fashion and interior decoration in the broad **Calle Colón** and in **El Ensanche**. There is a concentration of shopping centres and small shops in the Avenida de Francia, in the continuation of La Alameda and as you leave the city towards El Saler, near the **City of Arts and Sciences**.



MÁLAGA

You can enjoy all the magic of the Costa del Sol whilst you do a little shopping. As you stroll through the pedestrian streets in this bright city you'll be able to enjoy the delightful shop windows in the renowned **Calle Larios**. You should explore **Muelle Uno** in the port area, with shops, restaurants and cultural activities.

In the heart of the city there are large shopping centres like the **Larios Centre**, with more than 150 retail outlets, and **Málaga Plaza**, very near **El Corte Inglés**. The picturesque **Plaza Mayor** is very near the airport: look for your favourite shop as you stroll along in the open air in tree-lined streets with fountains.



BILBAO

While you're shopping you can also make a gastronomic tour of the taverns in this Basque metropolis. The largest and most exclusive shops are in the **Ensanche area**, between the **Gran Vía**, the Calle Marqués del Puerto and the Calle Rodríguez Arias, Bilbao's shopping area par excellence.

The pedestrian streets in the **Casco Viejo** or Old Town, are full of historic buildings, excellent tapas bars and exquisite pastry shops: there is an extraordinary blend of the old and traditional with the innovative. This is the ideal place to find handicrafts, vintage books, clothes and footwear. If you're into second-hand markets, alternative bookshops and creative spaces you should cross over the river: there you'll find **Bilbao la Vieja**, the city's oldest and most multi-cultural neighbourhood.

Fashion, household goods, opticians, books, organic products... You'll find a little of everything in the **Indautxu district**, especially in the Calle Ercilla and the surrounding area. Are you looking for gifts or antiques? Explore the shopping area within the **Guggenheim Museum** galleries and exhibition rooms, art bookshops, wine shops and gourmet areas.



LUXURY OUTLETS

Spend the day shopping in luxury boutiques, in really pleasant surroundings offering interesting gastronomic possibilities. For example, in **Las Rozas Village**, in Madrid, there is a lookout point with views of the mountains.

Another interesting option is **La Roca Village**, in Barcelona, an outlet for well-known brands with more than 130 fashion and decoration retailers. Apart from interesting discounts on exclusive brands, there are other advantages, like earning points on your airline's loyalty programme. You can make use of the express bus services for a comfortable transfer from the centre of the city.

EL CORTE INGLÉS

In these select department stores you'll find everything you're looking for: the most prestigious brands for fashion and accessories, a travel agency offering luxury trips and an exquisite gourmet supermarket. Here you'll also find souvenirs by the top Spanish brands for silk shawls, fans, ceramics, jewellery... They have stores in all the main cities in Spain. Two of the largest with the best selection of goods are El Corte Inglés in the Castellana Shopping Centre (Madrid) and the Plaza de Cataluña (Barcelona).

Find the best brands at incredible prices in these shopping centres on the outskirts of some cities.

Being naked is the #1 most sustainable option. We're #2.

YOUR WEDDING DRESS

You'll just love the wedding dresses made in Spain, one of the world's major exporters of wedding fashion. They are renowned for their seductive design, the quality of the dress-making and the exquisite fabrics. And there is plenty of choice, from haute couture to ready-to-wear.

In **Pronovias**, one of the most famous brands and with branches in over 100 countries, you'll find delightful, hand-made garments. Another well-known brand, not to be missed, is **Rosa Clará**, where variety, simplicity and elegance are hallmarks of the house. Both have branches distributed throughout Spain. The surprisingly original, Mediterranean-style **Cortana** collections, by the designer Rosa Esteva, are manufactured in small workshops in Barcelona.

There is a long list of Spanish companies which are setting trends both inside and outside the country: **Jesús Peiró**, **YolanCris**, **Inmaculada García**... What's more, prestigious fashion designers are creating tailor-made gems in their workshops and exclusive shops. You could buy your dress in Spain, and why not hold your wedding in one of the many ideal locations available here.



CRAFTS

Explore the world of handicrafts: visit workshops and small factories and see the creators in action. You could even learn how to make things yourself.



POTTERY AND GLASS

The regions with the greatest tradition and development in the **ceramic arts** are Andalusia, Toledo and the Mediterranean area. You'll be amazed by the Moorish influence on the techniques and decorative styles dating back over a thousand years.

In **Manises**, Valencia, you should visit the pottery workshops and shops in the historical old town. There you can learn how the famous Valencian pestles and mortars are manufactured and the technique for metallic-lustre ceramics. And you could paint your own medieval-style **Socarrat** tile or create something on a potter's wheel.





The **Triana** neighbourhood in Seville is the ideal place to learn the secrets of the renowned Triana china. In these streets traditional pottery workshops can still be found. A traditional potter will help you discover the process for creating ceramics which has been preserved over the centuries.

Talavera de la Reina, in the province of Toledo, also has a long tradition in the creation of chinaware and tiles. For an in-depth study you should visit the collection of pieces from the 16th

century to the present day in the **Ruiz de la Luna Museum**. You can observe the process as it happens, and even try it yourself, on a visit to the **Patio de artesanos**, in what used to be the cloister in the Monastery of Santa Catalina.

Barcelona and Mallorca have historically been major producers of glassware. Here you can visit traditional factories and learn all about the technique of glassblowing.

In **Barcelona** it is well worth visiting the **Poble Espanyol**, a town built for the 1929 World Fair which encapsulated all the different types of architecture in Spain. In the charming alleyways, squares and stately homes you'll see twenty or so craftsmen working on leather and glass, making jewellery, engravings, baskets... Take up the challenge and make your own Catalan Modernist-style stained-glass window. In the centre of the metropolis, as a family you could even learn the art of making a *trencadís* or broken-tile mosaic, a tradition revived by Antonio Gaudí.





▲ ALMAGRO
CIUDAD REAL

In **Mallorca** there are three factories which still use the glass-blowing technique: you can visit them and see the ovens where they manufacture coloured glasses, lamps, plates and chandeliers. You can purchase unique pieces and even blow your own glass bubble.

TEXTILES

You'll be amazed at the intricate work in the embroideries made at the workshop in **Carbajales de Alba**, in the province of **Zamora**, which dates back to the 16th century. These multi-coloured patterns are a feature of traditional regional costumes.

Manila shawls are still woven and embroidered by hand in a number of places in Spain. For example, the main craft activity in **Cantillana**, in the province of

Seville, is the lattice-work to create the tassels. Although they originated in China, shawls are now traditional in Spain and an essential accessory for typical Madrid and Andalusian costumes.

Visit to the Royal Tapestry Factory, on the Art Walk in Madrid.

In **Almagro** (Ciudad Real, Castile-La Mancha) they maintain the tradition of bobbin lace-making, an embroidery technique you can watch and try for yourself in the courses and forums which are held there each year. The renowned mantilla shawls from the region are still hand-made with silk thread and a centuries-old technique which is passed on from one generation to the next.



▲ UBRIQUE
CÁDIZ

Master weavers have been producing hand-made tapestries, carpets and textile coats of arms since 1720. Their creations can be seen in Spain's most famous palaces. Apart from enjoying the extraordinary collection in the museum, you can learn the secrets of this ancestral craft on a visit to the original workshops.

LEATHER GOODS AND FOOTWEAR

Ubrique, in the Sierra de Cádiz mountains, is paradise for lovers of traditionally hand-made leather goods. There are some 40 workshops, and the streets are full of shops selling top-quality footwear, bags, wallets and purses. There must be a reason why the world's major brands manufacture their products here.



▲ MINORCAN
MINORCA

Enthusiasts of handicrafts will love the variety to be found in the **Balearic Islands**: with a perfect blend of tradition and the chic and cosmopolitan. Footwear and leather play a leading role. Visit the delightful open air markets and just let yourself go. Discover the famous **Minorcan leather sandals** traditionally worn by the peasants and which have become iconic summer wear. In **Mallorca**, the main centre for leather handicrafts is **Inca**: visit the factories and find yourself a pair of shoes or a handbag which will last a lifetime.

Another haven for leather goods and hand-made footwear is the **Region of Valencia**. If you're looking for an excellent pair of hand-made shoes, you're sure to find them in **Valencia**. In **Elche** and **Elda**, in the province of Alicante, there are also numerous workshops and stores selling the best footwear.

GOURMET PRODUCTS

While you're here you really ought to try the best local products. You'll find them in delicatessens and you can try them in traditional markets which have become gastronomic centres. Apart from tinned products with the best from our seas, you shouldn't forget gourmet products like wines, cheeses, olive oil and Iberian cured ham. To make your mouth water!

▼ SAN VICENTE DE SONSIERRA
LA RIOJA



SHOPPING IN SPAIN

UTIEL-REQUENA WINE ROUTE
VALENCIA

WINES

Spain is a wine lovers' paradise. Visit Spain's wineries and learn the secrets of how wine is made, stay at traditional vineyards and go on a wine tasting course. Discover this fascinating world by following one of the Wine Routes.

Learn about the fascinating character of the different Designations of Origin, they're so different and so exquisite you'll want to try them all. Red wines from La Rioja and the Ribera del Duero, from Castile and León, white wines from Green Spain (Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria and the Basque Country), like Ribeiro and Txakoli, play a leading role at the table and are the ideal accompaniment for the varied Spanish cuisine.

In the vast central plateau, which produces about half of Spanish wine, you'll find wines from La Mancha like the renowned Valdepeñas. Meanwhile, Penedés cava from Catalonia is a first-class sparkling wine. The cradle for all types of Sherry is Andalusia. You have **fino**, ideal as an aperitif, and sweet Pedro Ximénez sherry to go with your dessert.

① **Further information:**
www.wineroutesofspain.com

IBERIAN CURED HAM

Whichever destination you choose when visiting our country you'll find plenty of different establishments where you can try this product which is the star of Spanish cuisine.

You can have it as a tapa or a larger portion, finely carved by an expert, and in dishes like **salmorejo** (a chilled, tomato and bread-based soup) dressed with fine shavings of Iberian cured ham, as an accompaniment to vegetable dishes and as a filling for croquettes and in batter.

Ham with the "Iberian acorn-fed" designation of origin is exquisite and produced in the **dehesa** pastures in the south of Salamanca (Guijuelo), in Extremadura (Dehesa de Extremadura), Córdoba (Los Pedroches) and Huelva (Jabugo). It can easily be distinguished by the black label which differentiates it from other varieties of ham. It comes from free-range Iberian pigs which feed exclusively in the fields, which is what gives it such an intense flavour.

▼ IBERIAN CURED HAM





▲ OLIVE OIL

OLIVE OIL

Virgin olive oil is the essence of Spanish cuisine and the Mediterranean diet. Both healthy and full of flavour, you can try it anywhere in our country. Andalusia and Castile-La Mancha are the main olive oil-producing regions in Spain. But you'll also find exquisite olive oils in Catalonia, Aragón, the Balearic Islands, Extremadura, Navarre and La Rioja.

In Jaén (Andalusia) you can take the Olive Oil Route, amidst vast groves of olive trees all around the Sierra Mágina Nature Reserve. Córdoba (Andalusia) is another of Spain's main oil-producing regions, where numerous towns have strong links with olives. Many of them organise breakfasts and oil-tasting sessions with olive oil playing the lead role.



▲ MANCHEGO CHEESE

CHEESES

Are you an cheese lover? In Spain excellent cheese abounds and there are so many to choose from. You can find it uncured, mature, smoked, creamy...

If you like sheep's milk cheese, then try mature Manchego, from Castile-La Mancha, Idiazábal, from the Basque country, and Roncal, from Navarre. La Torta del Casar, from Cáceres, is a delicious buttery cheese made from the milk of Merino sheep.

In the Concejo de Cabrales area (Asturias) you can visit some of the natural caves where they make some of the finest blue cheeses in the world. The famous Mahón de Menorca cheese is made from cow's milk, and the varieties depend on the degree of maturity. Spain's other archipelago, that of the Canary Islands, is renowned for its goat's milk cheeses like the Majorero, which has a delicious aroma of marjoram.

VINTAGE SHOPPING

If you are attracted by the glamour of the past and enjoy browsing in second-hand shops, then Spain is the place for you.



▲ EL RASTRO
MADRID

In **Madrid**, take a walk around **El Rastro**, the historical, open air street market which is held on Sundays and public holidays until 3 pm, around the **Plaza de Cascorro**. You'll find everything from curious, old objects, books, new and used clothes and vintage furniture to antiques. The atmosphere is really lively, and you can join the locals for an aperitif in one of the nearby taverns or bars. During the rest of the week, in the Calle **Ribera de Curtidores**, you'll find

businesses specialising in sports gear, antiques and photography.

If you happen to be in the city for the second weekend in the month you really should visit the **Mercado de Motores** which is held in the **Railway Museum**. There are stalls selling gourmet products and all sorts of articles amongst the platforms and old carriages in the historical Delicias railway station. You'll find vintage clothing, old records, comics, old-fashioned

cameras and other rare objects. Outside you can listen to music or get a bite to eat from one of the food trucks.

There are incredible retro-stores in the **Malasaña neighbourhood** which is a blend of vintage cult worship and the latest trends.

In Catalonia, the **Barcelona Vintage Market** is noted for its casual, vibrant atmosphere where both ordinary people and professionals can sell their "treasures". It is located in **Nau Bostik**, an old factory converted into a cultural creativity centre, in the La Sagrera neighbourhood. Here you'll find clothing, footwear, toys, tools, records, videos... Stroll along amongst the open air stalls while listening to the DJs, and when you

feel like a bite to eat, then get something from one of the food trucks.

If there's something that's hard for you to find, be it new or second-hand, then the **Mercat dels Encants** may be the place: there's everything imaginable including clothes, handicraft, machinery, domestic appliances, books, CDs, etc. Articles are sold by public auction three times a week, which is what makes it different from other markets in Europe. The stalls stand below an extraordinary mirrored roof which is 24 metres above the ground. There are also a number of food stalls.

▼ ELS ENCANTS MARKET
BARCELONA



Photo: Iakov Filimonov / 123RF.com



▲ LAS DALIAS
IBIZA

In **Málaga** (Andalusia), on the first Friday of the month, you'll find everything you were looking for at the **La Térmica Nocturnal Cultural Flea Market** which opens at sunset. Clothing and accessories, illustrations, engravings, signs, antiques, toys, merchandising, music... Ideal for collectors and lovers of everything vintage. And there's entertainment and culture included: concerts, theatre, screenings and gastronomic events. This cultural venue is located in the old Casa de la Misericordia building.

Re-live the hippy spirit of the 1960s in **Ibiza** (Balearic Islands), in **Las Dalias**, a picturesque flea market specialising in clothes, accessories, costume jewellery, natural personal care products and decoration. Everything is hand-made by artists from all over the world who have chosen to come and live on the island: their creations bear the hallmark of Ibiza's traditional culture. There are over 200 stalls, surrounded by trees in an extraordinary environment. There is a fusion restaurant serving exotic cuisine and a Berber tent serving tea. It's open every Saturday from April to October. In the high season it's also open in the evening until late from Sunday to Tuesday: Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, with the best music and all under candle light.

In **Valencia** (Region of Valencia), on a stroll through the streets of the **Ruzafa neighbourhood** you'll find really trendy shops selling fashion and decor. There are also bookshops where you can have a coffee while reading a comic, small art galleries and a large, traditional market selling fresh produce. You should visit the **Patio de Ruzafa**, an area with a casual, Bohemian atmosphere where concerts are held, as well as exhibitions, workshops, and charity street markets with food and crafts.

If you find yourself in Bilbao (Basque Country), on a Sunday, on the **Zorrozaurre** Peninsula, you'll see an old biscuit factory converted into an enormous market: the **Open Your Ganbara**. It includes an area for designers and creators and another for those whose philosophy is to reuse, use less and recycle.

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR SHOPPING

Take advantage of the **sales** and get fantastic discounts. There are large posters in shop windows advertising when the sales are on. You'll be able to save up to 70% on the original purchase price.

The **winter** sales usually start on 6 January, the *Día de Reyes* public holiday, although in some cities like Madrid they are brought forward to 1 January. They last until the end of February or March, or even to the beginning of April.

The **summer** sales are in July and August, but they may go on until the end of September in some parts of Spain. In Madrid they usually start at the end of June.

In some shops there are also mid-season sales, but these are not usually so spectacular. In the autumn, from September to November, you'll be able to buy between-season clothing and accessories at reduced prices before the cold arrives. And from March to June there'll be spring sales for you to get ready for the summer.

Spain has also adopted the custom of **Black Friday** and **Cyber Monday** when thousand of tempting special offers are launched for all kinds of products. You can take advantage of this if you're here on the last Friday in November, or you can make your purchases online on the following Monday.



TAX-FREE SHOPPING IN SPAIN

The advantages of shopping in Spain go beyond the wide variety of products. Here is a quick guide for you to enjoy tax-free shopping.



WHAT IS TAX FREE SHOPPING?

Tourists are eligible for a rebate on their VAT under the following conditions:

- For non-EU residents.
- Having a duly stamped tax free form on leaving the EU within a maximum of three months.

It only applies to goods purchased for personal use or as gifts, like clothing,

perfumes and technology. The VAT cannot be recovered on expenses like restaurants, hotels, shows and in general, anything that cannot be exported or can be considered as a casual expense which means that food products cannot be included.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When you make your purchases you need to show your passport and ask for a Tax Free invoice in the shop. You will be given an invoice for the purchase and a form to fill in with your details. In some shops you can combine invoices for different purchases made on different days. Always ask the shop if this option is available.

HOW DO YOU ASK FOR IT?

Before checking in your luggage you'll need to show your purchases together with the tax-free invoices at the customs (it is usually signposted as the VAT Refund Office) to be stamped.

There are two options for you to reclaim the amount of the tax refund:

- Use the services of an agency (subject to commission). They all have refund points at the main Spanish airports and borders.
- Via the shop where you made the purchases, by sending them the stamped invoice. The shop should process the refund within a maximum of 15 days by cheque, refund to your credit card or by bank transfer.

i *Further information:* www.aena.es

PRACTICAL ADVICE

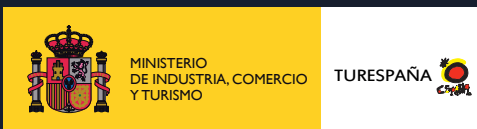
Before making any purchases see if the establishment applies any of the tax-free refund systems (there is usually a sticker at the entrance and in the check out area). Shop staff will be on hand to clear up any doubts you may have and explain how to proceed.



Photo: Rawpixel on unsplash

When you go to customs make sure you have your passport, the goods, the tax-free invoices and your boarding card.

The new VAT refund system in Spain, known as DIVA, operates alongside the traditional system. It is a fast, secure, digital system which shops can adopt voluntarily. When you make your purchases ask the shop for a DIVA form which you can validate digitally in the automatic stamping kiosks available at the airport. Then you can claim your refund from the shop where you bought the goods or from an agency simply by quoting the code on the DIVA form.



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