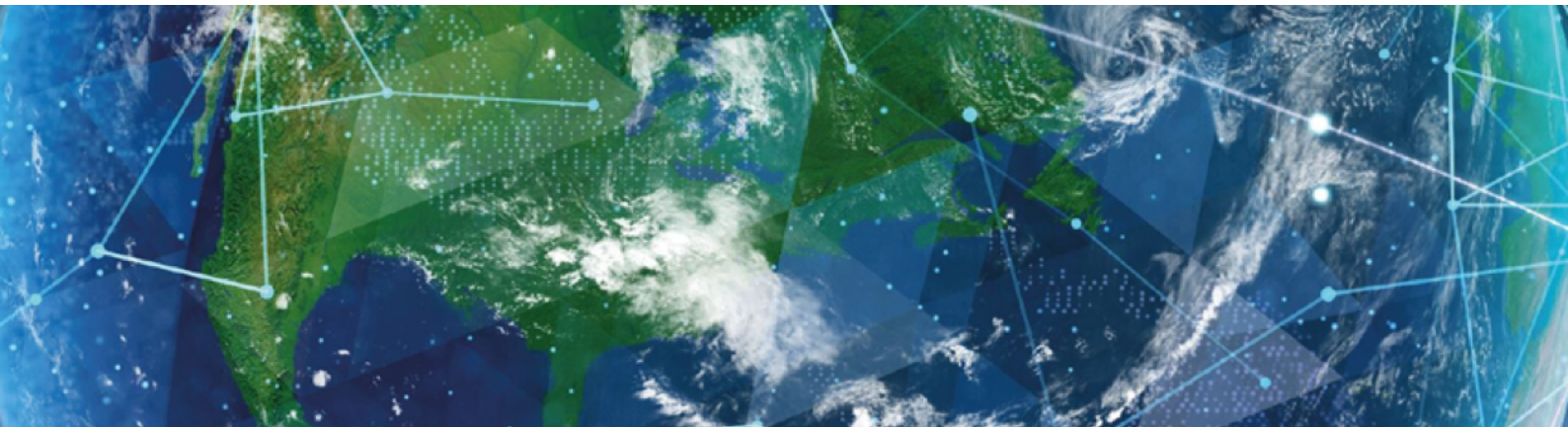


Country Travel Advice Report

Spain

Overall Risk Rating: **Low | 2.25**



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Country Risk Rating Breakdown

Country Overall Risk Rating				Low 2.25
Security	Environmental	Infrastructural	Political	Medical
Low 2.25	Low 2.25	Low 2.00	Low - Moderate 2.50	Moderate 3.25

Country Overview

Low | 2.25

Spain is a well-developed parliamentary democracy and European Union member state located in the south-west of Europe, bordering Portugal to the west, France to the north-east, and Andorra to the east. The southern tip of Spain lies only 14.25km (8.85 miles) from Morocco and continental Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar, which connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea. Spain's parliamentary democracy has been stable since it was re-instituted following the end of the 36-year reign of the dictator Francisco Franco upon his death in 1975. The elected prime minister serves as the head of government, while the King of Spain acts as the head of state.

Spain's greatest domestic threat since the 1960s came from its northern Basque region, where the separatist and terrorist organization, Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA), waged a violent campaign for independence during the previous 40 years before announcing a definitive cessation of all armed actions in October 2011. The Catalan independence crisis and the October 2017 referendum also resulted in stained political uncertainty. Spanish domestic interests have been targeted by Islamist terrorists in recent years which has raised the country's threat profile. Spain is open to foreign investment and follows the economic standards and regulations required of EU members; thus levels of corruption are relatively low. Spain is generally a safe and peaceful country for tourists and business travelers and most visits occur without incident. Petty crime poses one of the most common threats, as foreign nationals are often targeted by thieves in tourist areas and public transportation hubs. Spain has well-developed infrastructure throughout the country.

Security

Low | 2.25

Overview

Spain is generally a safe and peaceful country for tourists and business travelers. Whilst violent crime is rare, petty criminal acts pose the most common threat to foreign travelers in Spain. The Interior Ministry has warned of a continued general threat of Islamist terrorism in the country. A series of attacks in August 2017 underscored the presence of radicalized individuals and organized radical Islamist cells. Police are deployed in areas that may be considered prime targets such as transportation hubs and tourist sites. Since 2017 the Catalan independence crisis has increased the risk of localized public unrest, with large-scale security deployments mobilized to potential flashpoint areas.

Political

Low - Moderate | 2.50

Overview

Spain's national political institutions are stable, although periodic political crises linked to weak governments and ruling coalitions may occur. However, these do not generate a wider risk of instability. Secessionist movements in Catalonia and the Basque region continue to pose a challenge to Spanish authorities. Tensions between the central government and the Catalonian government remain high following the October 2017 Catalan independence referendum and subsequent sentencing of pro-separatist leaders. The issue of Catalan independence is likely to be a long term feature of Spanish domestic politics.

Infrastructural

Low | 2.00

Overview

There are no specific concerns associated with air travel to/from and within Spain. The country's infrastructure is highly developed, and Spain is connected by an extensive system of well-maintained roadways and safe and efficient urban public transportation networks. Electricity and internet connectivity is available across the country. Water shortages are rare and, when they do occur, only last for brief periods of time during summer heatwaves.

Environmental

Low | 2.25

Overview

Spain has the most varied climate in Europe and the country's classifications ranges from semi-arid to temperate and oceanic. Heavy flooding can occur in low lying regions of Spain between January and March, with landslides occasionally occurring in mountainous areas. Summer

months can be very hot for continental Europe, with an associated increased risk of wildfires in rural areas. Between June and August, temperatures may periodically reach above the 40C level in the south of the country, which increases the risk of health concerns relating to heat exposure.

Medical

Moderate | 3.25

Overview

There are no particular health concerns for travel to Spain, and only routine precautions and standard vaccinations are recommended for travel. Food and water are generally considered safe, and medical care of a good standard is widely available.

Fact Box

Government Type	Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy
Population	48,563,476 (2016)
Currency	Euro
Languages	Spanish
Time Zone	UTC+1
Religions	Roman Catholic 94%, other 6%
Traffic	Drives on the right
Plug Types	Type C and Type F
Ethnicities	Mediterranean and Nordic
Drinking Water	Safe to Drink
Additional Information	Significant Dates: 2020- Date TBC Basque Parliament January 1 - New Year's Day January 2 - Reconquest Day January 6 - Epiphany April 10 - Good Friday May 1 - Labour Day August 15 - Assumption Day October 12 - National Day/Hispanic Day November 1-2 - All Saints' Day December 6 - Constitution Day December 8 - Immaculate Conception Day December 25 - Christmas Day
International Country Code	+34

Travel Risk Advice

Vaccinations and Key Health Risks

You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travellers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine.

Dependent on work, reason for travel, or underlying health conditions, some travellers visiting Spain may require vaccines from:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Rabies

Pre-departure

Travellers should have adequate travel insurance in place to fund rapid medical treatment if necessary whilst in Spain.

Travellers should provide friends and family with a copy of their travel itinerary, and have easy access to all important travel and identification documents.

On Arrival

There are no significant measures that need to be undertaken on arrival in Spain.

In Transit

Public transport is generally safe, and self driving may be conducted.

At Your Hotel

There are no extraneous measures that should be undertaken at the hotel.

In the Street

Travellers should avoid overt displays of wealth, particularly in busy central areas of Spanish cities where opportunist thieves and pickpockets may operate. Do not openly display money, jewellery or valuables.

Travellers should use only small amounts of Euros when paying for goods and services, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on your person. Reduce the contents of your wallet or purse, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships and accounts. Do not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.

Travellers should ensure that a mobile phone with sufficient battery life is carried at all times and that it is programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travellers should also carry an ID card or passport and any emergency medical information.

Travellers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travellers should use known routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.

In crowded situations, travellers should be aware of jostling as this may be a ploy for pick-pockets. They should also be aware of people loitering, and also that attackers may first pass their victim to attack from behind.

Travellers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by, do not get into an argument and avoid prolonged eye contact with strangers.

Travellers should avoid any demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may attract security forces and law enforcement officers and present a dynamic and volatile environment. This is particularly important in the Catalonia region where large protests are frequently held in Barcelona, Tarragona and Girona. These tend to attract very large crowds which increases the petty crime risk and may impede travellers' ability to escape the immediate area in the event of a violent incident or terror attack.

Travellers should be aware that photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in detention by authorities. Travellers should ask permission before taking pictures of locals, especially women.

COVID-19 Information

Total Cases (ECDC) (Updated on Monday): 11,854,814

Weekly percentage increase in cases:0.88%

Travel Restrictions: Internal Restrictions Authorities in Spain are maintaining domestic measures and international entry requirements imposed to combat the spread of COVID-19 as of March 16. Nationwide, most businesses and services are permitted to operate subject to health requirements established by regional authorities; these include social distancing requirements, operating hour mandates, and limits on gatherings. COVID-pass requirements evidencing vaccination, recovery, or a recent negative COVID-19 test have been dropped in most regions or limited to health care facilities only. Facemasks remain mandatory in enclosed public spaces.

Authorities could reimpose, extend, further ease, or otherwise amend any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks.

International Travel Restrictions Authorities in Spain are tightening international entry restrictions imposed to combat the spread of COVID-19 in response to a new variant of the disease detected primarily in southern Africa. As of Nov. 29, officials have designated Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe as high-risk countries. Nonessential travel from these countries is not permitted; permitted travelers, regardless of vaccination status, must possess a negative PCR test taken in the 72 hours prior to travel or a negative antigen test taken in the 48 hours prior to travel and self-isolate for 10 days on arrival. Isolation can be ended early following a negative COVID-19 test taken no less than seven days after arrival. Officials in Spain have also stated their intention to suspend flights with Botswana and South Africa in the coming days.

Authorities will also tighten entry restrictions from the UK as of Dec. 1. Non-EU citizens arriving from the UK will require evidence of vaccination to enter from this date; prior to this, such travelers are also permitted to enter with a negative PCR test taken in the 48 hours before arrival.

Nonessential travel to Spain is only permitted for travelers from EU/EEA-associated states, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan, UAE, and Uruguay. Nonessential travel is also permitted from all countries except those listed above for individuals who possess a certificate of vaccination confirming they have completed a full course of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) or World Health Organization (WHO) no less than 14 days before entry.

EU citizens arriving from countries designated as "risk-countries" must present a certificate of vaccination, a certificate of having recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 11-180 days, a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken in the 72 hours before arrival, or a negative antigen test taken in the 48 hours before arrival; this can be in the form of an EU Digital COVID certificate. Permitted unvaccinated travelers from other countries must possess a certificate of recovery or negative test meeting those same requirements. Travel providers may prohibit passengers who attempt to travel without this documentation from boarding. To view the list of high-risk countries, [click here](#).

Travelers from designated "safe countries," including Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan, UAE, and Uruguay, may enter Spain without these requirements. All arrivals must complete a Health Control Form before entry; for more information regarding the form and the associated program, [click here](#).

Additional Information: <https://es.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

Threat Scale Reference

Threat Rating	Implication
1 - Negligible	The operating environment is benign and there are only isolated threats to business and/or travel.
2 – Low	The operating environment is generally permissive, although there are a limited number of threats to business and/or travel that requires basic mitigations.
3 – Moderate	The operating environment is challenging and there are serious threats to business and/or travel that requires some mitigations.
4 – High	The operating environment is hostile and there are significant threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring comprehensive mitigations and planning.
5 – Extreme	The operating environment is characterised by pervasive direct threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring strict risk management procedures.

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