

# Contents at a Glance

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Part I: Introducing Spain</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Spain .....	9
Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Spain .....	20
Chapter 3: Deciding Where and When to Go .....	34
<b>Part II: Planning Your Trip to Spain</b> .....	<b>49</b>
Chapter 4: Managing Your Money .....	51
Chapter 5: Getting to Spain .....	64
Chapter 6: Getting Around Spain .....	73
Chapter 7: Booking Your Accommodations .....	81
Chapter 8: Catering to Special Travel Needs or Interests .....	89
Chapter 9: Taking Care of the Remaining Details .....	97
<b>Part III: Northern Spain: Barcelona, the Costa Brava, and the Basque Country</b> .....	<b>109</b>
Chapter 10: Barcelona .....	111
Chapter 11: Girona and the Costa Brava .....	170
Chapter 12: The Basque Country and Navarra .....	204
<b>Part IV: Central Spain: Madrid and Castile</b> .....	<b>265</b>
Chapter 13: Madrid .....	267
Chapter 14: Castile: Around Madrid .....	319
<b>Part V: Southern Spain: Andalusia</b> .....	<b>371</b>
Chapter 15: Seville and Córdoba .....	373
Chapter 16: Andalusia's Pueblos Blancos .....	430
Chapter 17: Granada .....	459
<b>Part VI: The Part of Tens</b> .....	<b>487</b>
Chapter 18: Top Ten (Other) Can't-Miss Spanish Experiences .....	489
Chapter 19: Top Ten (or So) Things You Didn't Know about Spain and Never Thought to Ask .....	494
<b>Appendix: Quick Concierge</b> .....	<b>498</b>
<b>Index</b> .....	<b>509</b>



# Maps at a Glance

Spain.....	36
Barcelona Accommodations, Dining, and Attractions.....	124
Girona and the Costa Brava .....	171
The Basque Country (País Vasco) and Navarra .....	205
Bilbao .....	209
San Sebastián .....	233
Pamplona.....	251
Madrid Accommodations, Dining, and Attractions .....	276
Castile.....	321
Segovia .....	324
Salamanca .....	339
Toledo .....	354
Seville.....	376
Córdoba .....	410
Andalusia .....	431
Granada .....	461
La Alhambra and Generalife .....	474



# Table of Contents



<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book .....	2
Foolish Assumptions .....	4
How This Book Is Organized.....	4
Part I: Introducing Spain .....	4
Part II: Planning Your Trip to Spain .....	4
Part III: Northern Spain: Barcelona, the Costa Brava, and the Basque Country .....	4
Part IV: Central Spain: Madrid and Castile .....	5
Part V: Southern Spain: Andalusia .....	5
Part VI: The Part of Tens.....	5
Appendix: Quick Concierge .....	5
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here.....	6
<b><i>Part 1: Introducing Spain</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Spain</b> .....	<b>9</b>
The Best Travel Experiences .....	9
The Best Architectural Landmarks.....	11
The Best Luxury Hotels.....	13
The Best Unique and Boutique Hotels .....	14
The Best Fine Dining Restaurants.....	16
The Best Museums.....	18
<b>Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Spain</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Welcome to España.....	21
Spanish History 101: The Main Events .....	22
The Legacy: Spanish Art and Architecture.....	24
Taste of Spain: Local Cuisine .....	25
Knowing what to expect when you're eating out ...	26
Keeping the price right .....	27
Chow time: Knowing when and what to eat .....	28
Tasting Spanish wines .....	29
Word to the Wise: The Local Lingo for Gringos .....	31
Speaking Spanish in Spain .....	33
Sounding like a Spaniard.....	33

**Chapter 3: Deciding Where and When to Go .....34**

Going Where You Want to Go .....34

- Northeastern Spain: Barcelona, the Costa Brava,  
and the Basque Country .....35
- Central Spain: Madrid and Castile .....39
- Southern Spain: Andalusia.....40

Scheduling Your Time.....41

Revealing the Secret of the Seasons .....42

- Spring .....42
- Summer .....42
- Fall .....43
- Winter .....43
- Getting a handle on crowds and prices .....43
- Knowing when not to go .....44

Perusing a Calendar of Events.....44

- January.....45
- February/March .....45
- April .....45
- May .....46
- June.....46
- July.....46
- September.....47
- October/November.....47
- December .....47

***Part II: Planning Your Trip to Spain .....49***

**Chapter 4: Managing Your Money .....51**

Planning Your Budget .....51

- Transportation .....52
- Lodging.....54
- Dining .....54
- Sightseeing.....55
- Shopping .....55
- Nightlife and entertainment .....56
- Keeping a lid on hidden expenses .....56
- Tipping tips.....57

Cutting Costs — but Not the Fun .....57

Handling Money .....58

- Making sense of the euro .....59
- Exchanging money.....59
- Using Spanish ATMs and carrying cash.....60

Taking Taxes into Account .....62

Dealing with a Lost or Stolen Wallet .....63

<b>Chapter 5: Getting to Spain .....</b>	<b>64</b>
Flying to Spain .....	64
Finding out which airlines fly to Spain.....	64
Deciding which airport to fly into.....	66
Getting the Best Deal on Your Airfare .....	66
Booking Your Flight Online .....	67
Arriving by Other Means.....	68
Joining an Escorted Tour .....	68
Choosing a Package Tour .....	70
General-interest package tours .....	71
Special-interest tours .....	71
<b>Chapter 6: Getting Around Spain .....</b>	<b>73</b>
By Plane.....	73
By Train .....	73
Saving money with rail passes .....	75
Knowing the language of el tren.....	75
By Bus .....	75
By Car .....	76
Getting a good deal on your rental .....	76
Understanding the rules of the road .....	79
<b>Chapter 7: Booking Your Accommodations .....</b>	<b>81</b>
Getting to Know Your Options .....	81
Staying at a luxury hotel .....	84
Introducing paradores: Spain's historic, government-run hotels.....	84
Enjoying the charm of Spain's smaller hotels .....	85
Finding the Best Room at the Best Rate.....	85
Finding the best rate .....	86
Reserving the best room.....	87
Surfing the Web for hotel deals .....	87
<b>Chapter 8: Catering to Special Travel Needs or Interests.....</b>	<b>89</b>
Traveling with the Brood: Advice for Families .....	89
Making Age Work for You: Tips for Seniors .....	90
Accessing Spain: Advice for Travelers with Disabilities .....	92
Following the Rainbow: Advice for Gay and Lesbian Travelers .....	93
Going to Spain as a Student .....	94
Exploring Your Special Interests .....	95
Golf.....	95
Wine and gastronomy .....	96

**Chapter 9: Taking Care of the Remaining Details.....97**

Getting into Spain.....	97
Getting a Passport.....	98
Applying for a U.S. passport.....	98
Applying for other passports.....	99
Dealing with Spanish Customs and Immigration.....	100
Playing It Safe with Travel and Medical Insurance.....	101
Staying Healthy when You Travel.....	103
Staying Connected by Cellphone or E-Mail.....	103
Using a cellphone outside the United States.....	103
Accessing the Internet away from home.....	104
Keeping Up with Airline Security.....	105
Making Reservations and Getting Tickets in Advance.....	106
Packing for Spain.....	107

***Part III: Northern Spain: Barcelona, the Costa Brava, and the Basque Country..... 109***

**Chapter 10: Barcelona .....111**

Getting There.....	113
By air.....	113
By train.....	114
By car.....	114
By bus.....	115
By ferry.....	115
Orienting Yourself in Barcelona.....	115
Introducing the neighborhoods.....	117
Finding information after you arrive.....	119
Getting Around Barcelona.....	119
On foot.....	119
By Metro.....	120
By bus.....	120
By taxi.....	121
By car.....	121
By funicular.....	121
Staying in Style.....	122
The top hotels.....	123
Runner-up hotels.....	129
Dining Out.....	131
Barcelona's top restaurants.....	133
Bargain dining in Barcelona.....	137
Grazing on tapas.....	138

Exploring Barcelona.....	140
The top attractions.....	140
Strolling La Rambla.....	145
Exploring the Old City and the Gothic Quarter ....	147
Visiting Montjuïc: More than Olympics .....	150
More cool things to see and do.....	152
Guided tours.....	155
Suggested itineraries.....	156
Shopping the Local Stores .....	157
Barcelona's best shopping areas .....	158
What to look for and where to find it .....	158
Keeping Up with Barcelona's Nightlife .....	161
Opera and classical music.....	161
Flamenco shows.....	162
Cafes and bars.....	162
Casino.....	162
Live music.....	163
Dancing .....	163
Going Beyond Barcelona: Three Day Trips.....	164
Montserrat: The holy jagged mountain .....	164
Sitges: A stylin' beach resort.....	165
Penedès: Spain's cava country.....	166
Fast Facts: Barcelona.....	167
<b>Chapter 11: Girona and the Costa Brava .....</b>	<b>170</b>
Girona: A Little-Known Medieval Treasure .....	172
Getting there.....	173
Getting around .....	174
Finding information after you arrive.....	175
Spending the night.....	175
Dining locally.....	176
Exploring Girona .....	179
Shopping for local treasures .....	182
Living it up after dark.....	183
Beyond Girona: A Day trip to Besalú.....	183
The Dalí Triangle: Connecting the Dots .....	184
Figueres: Dalí's Museum-Theater.....	185
Cadaqués and Port Lligat: Dalí's stamping grounds .....	188
Púbol: A castle for Gala.....	190
L'Empordà: Visiting Medieval Villages.....	191
Getting there and getting around.....	191
Where to stay and dine in the Baix Empordà.....	192
Exploring the Baix Empordà.....	195

The Costa Brava: Resorts and Rugged Beauty.....	197
Getting there and getting around.....	197
Where to stay and dine on the Costa Brava.....	198
Exploring the Costa Brava.....	201
Taking a side trip to the Greco-Roman ruins of Empúries.....	202
Fast Facts: Girona and the Costa Brava .....	203

**Chapter 12: The Basque Country and Navarra .....204**

Major Attractions in the Basque Country and Navarra .....	205
Bilbao .....	206
San Sebastián.....	206
Pamplona .....	206
Bilbao: A City Rejuvenated .....	208
Getting there.....	208
Getting around Bilbao .....	210
Spending the night.....	212
Dining in Bilbao .....	214
Exploring Bilbao.....	218
Shopping for local treasures .....	222
Hitting the tapas bars and more: Bilbao's nightlife.....	223
Taking side trips to La Rioja Alavesa: Wine and gastronomy.....	224
Fast Facts: Bilbao .....	231
San Sebastián: Food Capital on the Bay .....	231
Getting there.....	232
Getting around San Sebastián .....	233
Spending the night.....	234
Dining in San Sebastián: An unrivaled restaurant scene .....	237
Exploring San Sebastián.....	241
Strolling the Promenade .....	243
More cool things to see and do.....	245
Shopping for local treasures .....	246
San Sebastián's nightlife.....	246
Taking side trips from San Sebastián .....	247
Fast Facts: San Sebastián .....	248
Pamplona: The Running of the Bulls .....	249
Getting there.....	250
Getting around Pamplona.....	250
Spending the night.....	252
Dining in Pamplona.....	254
Exploring Pamplona .....	256
Getting adventurous: Navarra outdoors.....	260

Roaming the tascas: Pamplona nightlife.....261  
 Taking side trips from Pamplona .....261  
 Fast Facts: Pamplona .....263

**Part IV: Central Spain: Madrid and Castile .....265**

**Chapter 13: Madrid .....267**

Getting There: All Roads Lead to Madrid.....269  
 By air .....269  
 By car .....270  
 By train.....270  
 By bus.....271  
 Orienting Yourself in Madrid .....271  
 Introducing the neighborhoods .....272  
 Finding information after you arrive .....273  
 Getting around Madrid .....273  
 By subway.....273  
 By bus.....273  
 By taxi.....274  
 By car .....274  
 On foot.....274  
 Staying in Style .....275  
 The top hotels .....275  
 Madrid's runner-up hotels .....281  
 Dining Out .....283  
 Madrid's top eats .....284  
 Madrid's runner-up eats.....287  
 Exploring Madrid .....288  
 The top attractions.....289  
 Madrid's classic corners.....294  
 More cool things to see and do.....296  
 Taking the kids to the parks .....299  
 Guided Tours .....300  
 Bus tours.....300  
 Walking tours.....301  
 Suggested itineraries .....301  
 Shopping the Local Stores .....302  
 Madrid's best shopping areas .....302  
 What to look for and where to find it .....302  
 Living It Up After Dark: Madrid's Nonstop Nightlife .....305  
 Tavern and tapas crawls.....306  
 Flamenco music and dancing.....308  
 Bars and pubs .....309  
 Cafes and terrazas .....310  
 Live rhythms: Jazz, Latino, and rock.....311  
 Disco fever .....311

Opera and classical music .....	312
Theater and musicals .....	312
Film .....	313
Going Beyond Madrid: Three Day Trips.....	313
El Escorial: An austere monument to a king.....	314
Aranjuez: The royal summer palace.....	315
Fast Facts: Madrid.....	316

## **Chapter 14: Castile: Around Madrid.....319**

Major Attractions in Castile.....	320
Seeing Segovia.....	320
Checking out Avila .....	322
Savoring Salamanca.....	322
Touring Toledo.....	322
Segovia .....	322
Getting there.....	323
Getting around .....	323
Spending the night.....	323
Dining locally.....	327
Exploring Segovia .....	328
Shopping for local treasures .....	331
Living it up after dark.....	331
Fast Facts: Segovia.....	332
Avila .....	332
Getting there.....	333
Spending the night.....	333
Dining locally.....	334
Exploring Avila .....	335
Fast Facts: Avila.....	337
Salamanca .....	338
Getting there.....	338
Getting around .....	340
Spending the night.....	341
Dining locally.....	344
Exploring Salamanca .....	346
Shopping for local treasures .....	350
Living it up after dark.....	351
Fast Facts: Salamanca.....	352
Toledo.....	352
Getting there.....	353
Getting oriented.....	356
Getting around .....	357
Spending the night.....	357
Dining locally.....	360
Exploring Toledo.....	363

Shopping for local treasures .....	368
Living it up after dark.....	369
Fast Facts: Toledo .....	370

**Part V: Southern Spain: Andalusia .....371**

**Chapter 15: Seville and Córdoba .....373**

Major Attractions in Seville and Córdoba.....	374
Seville .....	374
Córdoba.....	374
Seville: City of Festivals.....	375
Getting there.....	375
Orienting yourself in Seville .....	378
Getting around Seville .....	379
Staying in style .....	379
Dining out.....	385
Exploring Seville.....	391
Fiesta time! Seville's popular festivals .....	398
Shopping in Seville.....	400
Feeling the rhythm: Seville's nightlife .....	403
Side trips from Seville .....	406
Fast Facts: Seville .....	407
Córdoba: A Glorious Past.....	409
Arriving in Córdoba .....	409
Orienting yourself in Córdoba.....	411
Getting around Córdoba .....	412
Staying in Córdoba .....	413
Dining in Córdoba.....	417
Exploring Córdoba.....	419
Shopping for Cordovan crafts .....	424
Discovering Córdoba's nightlife.....	425
Side trips from Córdoba: A visit to the ruins of Medina Azahara .....	427
Fast Facts: Córdoba .....	428

**Chapter 16: Andalusia's Pueblos Blancos .....430**

Arcos: Quiet Inland Beauty .....	432
Getting to and around Arcos .....	432
Finding information after you arrive .....	433
Staying in style .....	433
Dining out.....	434
Exploring Arcos.....	435
A side trip to Jerez de la Frontera .....	436
A side trip to Cádiz and the Costa de la Luz .....	438
Fast Facts: Arcos de la Frontera.....	439

The Pueblos Blancos: A Driving Tour .....	440
From Arcos to Benamahoma .....	441
From Benamahoma to Grazalema .....	441
From Grazalema to Zahara de la Sierra .....	442
From Zahara to Setenil de las Bodegas .....	443
From Setenil to Olvera .....	444
Ronda: Perched on a Gorge .....	444
Getting there .....	445
Finding information after you arrive .....	445
Getting around Ronda .....	445
Staying in style .....	446
Dining out .....	448
Exploring Ronda .....	450
More cool things to see and do .....	450
Shopping .....	452
Side trips to Málaga and the Costa del Sol .....	453
Fast Facts: Ronda .....	457
<b>Chapter 17: Granada .....</b>	<b>459</b>
Getting There .....	460
By plane .....	460
By car .....	460
By train .....	460
By bus .....	460
Orienting Yourself in Granada .....	462
Introducing the neighborhoods .....	462
Finding information after you arrive .....	463
Getting around Granada .....	463
By bus .....	463
By taxi .....	464
By car .....	464
On foot .....	464
Staying in Style .....	464
The top hotels .....	465
Runner-up hotels .....	468
Dining Out .....	469
Exploring Granada: The Alhambra and More .....	473
The top attractions .....	473
More cool things to see and do .....	479
Shopping the Local Stores .....	480
Living It Up after Dark .....	481
Flamenco .....	481
Bars and pubs .....	482
A Side Trip from Granada .....	483
Guadix: Checking out the cave dwellers .....	483
Fast Facts: Granada .....	484

***Part VI: The Part of Tens* .....487**

**Chapter 18: Top Ten (Other) Can't-Miss Spanish**

**Experiences .....489**

Popping Corks .....	489
Braving a Bullfight.....	490
Feasting on Flamenco .....	490
Making a Gastronomic Pilgrimage to Catalonia or the Basque Country .....	490
Succumbing to Moderniste Mayhem.....	491
Disappearing into the Dalí Triangle .....	491
Partying till You Drop with Madrileños .....	491
Appreciating Alternative Views of the Alhambra .....	492
Sleeping with History in Spain's Paradores .....	492
Going Nuts at a Fútbol Game.....	492

**Chapter 19: Top Ten (or So) Things You Didn't Know**

**about Spain and Never Thought to Ask .....494**

Olive Oil ¡Olé! .....	494
More than a Life's Work.....	494
Calling All Expats in Tight Shorts.....	495
That's \$@#*^!%\$ to You, Buster .....	495
Salvador Dalí . . . Bureaucrat?.....	495
Guernica, but Not Forgotten.....	496
Here Lies Columbus — or Does He? .....	496
How's That for Heritage?.....	496
That Sounds Fishy to Me.....	496
The Original River Walk.....	497
A Wine Force to Be Reckoned With .....	497
Miss Popularity .....	497

***Appendix: Quick Concierge* .....498**

Fast Facts .....	498
Toll-Free Numbers and Web Sites .....	504
Major North American carriers.....	504
European carriers .....	504
Major car rental agencies .....	505
Car rental agencies specializing in Europe (and Spain).....	505
Where to Find More Information.....	505
Getting the official line .....	505
Surfing the Web .....	506

***Index* .....509**

