

Practical Information Madrid, Spain



Location

Madrid is the capital and largest city of Spain, with a population of 3.2 million inhabitants. This large and growing population makes Madrid the third largest city in the European Union.

Visa Information

There are a number of countries whose citizens are required to have a valid current visa in order to enter Spain. You can find a list of these countries here: www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documents/listapaisesvisado.pdf. For information concerning obtaining a visa for entering Spain, please visit: www.spain.info/en/informacion-practica/consejos-viaje/consejos-practicos/requisitos/.

Time Zone

The current time zone in Madrid is +1 hour according to the coordinated universal time.

Language

Spanish, also known as Castilian Spanish or just Castilian, is the official national language in Spain. However, English is widely spoken in Madrid.

Currency

The currency in Spain is the Euro.

1 EUR = 1.09 USD

**As of 18 January 2016*

Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Spain. Service charges in restaurants are included in the final bill. Most Spaniards primarily leave an additional 5% of the bill as a tip. In a taxi, rounding up the fare to the nearest Euro is standard, providing the service is to your approval.

Electricity

Spain uses the 230V AC at a frequency of 50Hz. Two pin electrical plugs are standard in Madrid.

Climate

The climate of Madrid is dry, warm. The weather in March can vary. The average day time temperature in Madrid in March is 16°C (60°F). While the weather is warming up during March, be aware, as temperatures at night can drop below freezing.

Transportation

In Madrid, there are several means of transport to get you around town. The

most popular ways of travel are the subway network, bus service and the train. Official taxis in Madrid carry diagonal red stripes and a green light on the roof.

Health

Tap water is drinkable in Spain. However, if you wish to buy bottled water: "con gas" is carbonated water and "sin gas" is still.

The Spanish National Health Service has an extensive network of health centres and hospitals throughout the country. They are usually located within 15 minutes of any place of residence.

In Spain, medications are obtained at pharmacies, which are marked with a green cross. Prescriptions need to be obtained from a doctor. If you come from a country in the European Union, or your country has health agreements with Spain, you will have the same prescription drug benefits as Spanish citizens.

Emergency Contact

In case of an emergency, dial 112 (free of charge).