

**DriveAway
Holidays**

Your road to freedom

Spain

Self-Drive Guide



Call 1300 723 972 or visit www.driveaway.com.au

Worldwide Car Hire, European Car Leasing & Motorhome Rentals - Over 8,000 locations in 130 countries!

**DriveAway
Holidays**

Your road to freedom

Take a Self-Drive Holiday in Spain

With over 25 years experience and award-winning service, let DriveAway Holidays plan your next self-drive adventure. We offer an extensive range of vehicles to suit everyone's need and budget, at over 8000 locations in 130 countries worldwide. Enjoy the freedom of having your own rental car and discover the world at your own pace.

Spain is one of the most popular holiday destination for many travellers to visit. From mouth-watering seafood, crystal clear beaches, beautiful flamenco dancers, vibrant nightlife and the world's famous 'Running of the Bulls' at Pamplona, each city has a unique & fascinating feature to discover, whether it be the capital Madrid, Barcelona or the bustling city of Seville, wherever you are you'll sure be surprised.

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Renting a Car in Spain

When selecting a rental vehicle, take into consideration where you will be travelling, how many people will be travelling in the vehicle, luggage size and the kind of driving you intend to do. DriveAway Holidays offers a vast range of vehicles from small economy sizes to larger full-sized cars, 4WDs, convertibles and luxury vehicles. The ACRISS system will help you find a car that suits your needs. This is internationally recognised code which will ensure you get the same standard of vehicle wherever you rent.

Automatic and Manual Transmissions

Both automatic and manual vehicles are available in Spain. Automatic vehicles are generally more expensive than manual cars and may be scarcer at smaller depots.

Do I need a Credit card?

Yes. A credit card will be needed when collecting, which will be used for a security bond. The deposit is generally the insurance excess of the rental car which depends on the category of vehicle you have booked and the rate type.

Collecting at an Airport in Spain

At most Spanish airports you will find your rental company has a desk in the arrivals hall, with the rental cars being located within walking distance. However, at smaller airports you may be required to collect your vehicle from a downtown depot. A courtesy transfer will be provided from the airport to the depot in this instance. DriveAway Holidays offer all-inclusive prices which generally include any location / airport fees and charges that may otherwise apply. Remember to check at the time of booking to ensure your rental will include all airport fees.

Can I collect my rental car in one Spanish city and drop it off in another Spanish city?

Yes, this is certainly possible. In some cases there may be a one-way fee charged by our suppliers when you collect your rental. DriveAway Holidays will advise you of any additional fees before you travel. In most cases, there are no fees for one way rentals within Spain.

Motorhome Rental

Enjoy the convenience of accommodation and transport in one. DriveAway Holidays offers 2 - 6 berth vehicles, with collection points at Barcelona, A Coruna, Cartagena, Madrid, Gijon, Girona, Lugo, Malaga, San Sebastian, Seville and Tarragona. Explore some of the most scenic camping grounds Spain has to offer.



Rental Vehicle Insurance


Spanish law requires all vehicles to have compulsory third party (CTP) injury insurance, although your car rental supplier should already have comprehensive insurance covering their cars. In the case of an accident it must be reported to the insurance provider immediately and an excess will be due.

Car Rental Companies in Spain will normally include:

- **Third Party Insurance:** Compulsory insurance will be included in your car hire price. This covers you for other people's injury and damage to their vehicle.
- **Collision Damage Waiver (CDW):** This limits your financial liability for damage to the rented vehicle and is normally included in prepaid car hire prices. Rentals are normally subject to liability excess, which can be reduced at the time you collect your rental car or by taking out **DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance**.
- **Theft and Loss Cover:** This limits your financial liability for the loss or theft of the rented vehicle and is generally included in the prepaid car rental price.
- **Fire and Liability:** Limits your financial liability for bodily injury or death, and is normally included in the prepaid car hire price.
- **Personal Accident Insurance:** This covers the driver for personal injuries and is generally not included in your car rental rate. It is considered an optional extra that you can take out upon collection of the car.

DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance

When renting a vehicle, the rental rates include basic insurance, however, in the event that the vehicle is stolen or accidentally damaged, there is usually an Insurance excess amount which the driver is liable to pay to the rental company. To avoid any unexpected costs opt for DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance which will offer a reimbursement for the supplier's damage and theft excess to a maximum for AU\$5,000. Simply add this onto your car rental booking prior to departure and you could save thousands of dollars in the long run! To find out more, simply call DriveAway Holidays on 1300 723 972 or visit the DriveAway website.

Class	Fuel Capacity	Type	Transmission	Fuel/Air Cond.
M = Mini	0.8 - 1.0	B = 2 Door	M = Manual	R = Yes
E = Economy	1.0 - 1.4	D = 4 Door	A = Automatic	N = No
C = Compact	1.2 - 1.6	C = 2/4 door	N = Manual 4WD	D = Diesel Air
F = Full size	2.0 - 3.2	L = Limousine	C = Manual AWD	Q = Diesel No Air
P = Premium	2.0 - 4.2	S = Sports Car	B = Auto 4WD	H = Hybrid Air
L = Luxury	2.0 - 4.2	T = Convertible	D = Auto AWD	I = Hybrid No Air
X = Special	1.2 - 3.0	J = All Terrain	Examples: ECMN: E = Economy C = 2 or 4 door M = Manual N = No Aircon FDAR: F = Full Size D = 4 Door A = Automatic R = Aircon	E = Electric Air
	R= Recreational	C = Electric No Air		
	F = 4 Wheel Drive			
	X = Special			
	K = Commercial Van/Truck			
	P = Ute			
	X = Special			
	E = Executive			

The DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance is managed by Accident & Health International Underwriting Pty Limited, ABN 26 053 335 952, AFSL 238261 and underwritten by CGU Insurance Limited, ABN 27 004 478 371, AFSL 238291.

Take a self-drive holiday in Spain

- Drive on the RIGHT hand side of the road. The driver sits on the left hand side of the car.
- Do not park in areas painted yellow on the pavement, curb or where a no parking sign is displayed. In major cities, parking spaces marked blue on the pavement are metered parking, spaces marked with yellow are 'no parking allowed'. Before parking your vehicle, make sure to check for signage nearby, otherwise you may be left with a parking infringement and/or your car towed. Double parking is also illegal within Spain.
- On almost all motorways you will pay a toll, depending on the distance. Pick-up a machine-dispensed ticket upon entering the motorway, then pay on exit; don't lose the ticket or you will pay the maximum fee. Choose your lane to pay by person or machine with a credit card.
- At roundabouts, signs will indicate that traffic on the roundabout has priority. If there is no sign then the traffic entering the roundabout has priority. Give way to traffic from your left unless otherwise signed.
- Having headphones in your ears is also banned except for hearing aids.
- It is illegal to wear sunglasses in a tunnel.

Driving Laws in Spain

- Laws are strict on the use of indicator lights, make sure when overtaking and turning use your indicators or you run the risk of getting fined.
- Drink driving is a very serious offence. The limit is 0.05%. Exceeding this will incur severe penalties including imprisonment or confiscation of your licence.
- Mobile phones cannot be used whilst driving even when pulled to the side. You must park completely away from any traffic before using your phone.
- Pedestrians and Cyclist have right of way.
- In case of a breakdown all vehicles must be equipped with 2 Warning Triangles and a Reflective Jacket that must be worn when outside the vehicle and the triangles placed 30 metres in front of and behind the vehicle. This should be provided with your rental car.
- Unless otherwise specified the speed limits are 75 mph (120km/h) on toll motorways, 68 mph (110 km/h) on open roads, 31 mph (50 km/h) built-up areas and 31mph (50 km/h) in cities.
- Children under 12 years of age, or under 135 cms in height must be seated in an appropriate child seat.



Driving in Spain

Parking

In Spain, various types of signs are used to indicate parking restrictions. In some areas there is alternate side parking which means you can only park on one side of the road depending on the date. Signs marked 1-15 or 16-31 mean you cannot park on that side between those dates. Parking on the left is only allowed on one way streets or on the right-hand side of roads with two-way traffic. Pay-and-display machines are common throughout Spain. Parking is free on Sundays and public holidays, unless otherwise indicated.

Licence Requirements

A full driving licence is required to drive in Spain. All drivers must have held a full valid driving licence for a minimum of one year. Australian residents are required by law to have an international drivers licence. Contact your local motoring association for further information. Carry your driver's licence with you when you travel, as some authorities may not recognise the international driver's licence, and could ask for additional confirmation of your license. It must have one page of information in Spanish.

Min & Max Age Requirements

Min Driving Age: Usually 21 years depending on the supplier and vehicle type. Drivers aged 21-24 years may be charged a young drivers surcharge. The majority of locations in Spain do not have a maximum driving age, however there may be restrictions for drivers aged 70-75 in some regions. In some cases, aged drivers may be required to hold a letter from their GP stating they are healthy and fit to drive. Check with DriveAway Holidays for further details.

Cross Border Fees and One Way Rentals

Can I collect my rental car in Spain and drop it off in another European city?

International one ways are definitely possible. However, as with any international one way, this will incur a one way fee. Prices vary depending on the supplier, the length of the rental and the drop off destination.

Can I collect my car in Spain, visit another European city, then return it to Spain?

Travel is certainly possible to surrounding mainland European countries, as well as the United Kingdom. There will be restrictions on travel to Northern European countries in winter so advise DriveAway when you make your car hire booking if you're considering travel to these countries. Most suppliers will not permit travel to Eastern European countries. Driving outside of mainland Europe or the United Kingdom is strictly forbidden.



More Spain Car Rental FAQs

Can I collect my rental car in Spain and drop it off in Britain?

Many rental suppliers in Spain do allow one way rentals to other countries, however drop off fees do apply. International one ways always need to be booked in advance. If you are travelling outside the country, make sure that you advise DriveAway Holidays at the time of booking for any restrictions that may apply.

Should I take out additional insurance on my car rental?

Rental rates will include basic insurance: Collision Damage Waiver (CDW), Third Party Liability and Theft Protection. In the event that your rental vehicle is accidentally damaged, regardless of who is at fault, or stolen, the Insurance excess is the maximum amount you are liable for. See page 4 for more details.

Should I hire a GPS for driving in Spain?

GPS hire is available from DriveAway Holidays. Our rates include the GPS unit, travel guides and entertainer. The GPS is delivered direct to your home or travel agent before you depart. GPS units can also be requested direct with some suppliers, however this will be at their own rates. If time is short, or you would simply prefer to collect your GPS unit together with your rental, then this may be an option for you.

What do I do if I want to extend my car rental whilst I'm in Spain?

Once the car rental has commenced you will have to call the depot where you initially collected the vehicle, and if the car is available to be extended, you will be offered additional days at the local rate.

Exploring Spain

North Western Spain:

Galicia
Asturias
Cantabria

Northern Spain:

Basque country
Navarra
La Rioja

North Eastern Spain:

Catalonia
Aragon
Extremadura

Central Spain:

Madrid
Castile-La Mancha
Castile-Leon

Eastern Spain:

Murcia
Valencia

Andalucía

The Islands:

Balearic Islands
Canary Islands



North Western Spain

The most historic Region of Spain situated north of Portugal and bordered north of the Atlantic Ocean, boasts an astounding Spanish history divided into three autonomous communities, Galicia, Asturias and Cantabria. Galicia province, located north of Portugal, is filled with gushing valleys, scenic mountains and rivers flowing towards the Atlantic Ocean. Asturias lies between Cantabria and Galicia; perfect for those self-drive tours through its lush forests blanketed with stunning scenery and unspoilt coastlines.

Regions/Cities:

Galicia – Santiago De Compstela.

Asturias - Oviedo.

Cantabria - Santander.

Events

January

Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) – January 6, festival of the Epiphany Parades.

March

Día de San José (St. Joseph's Day) – 19 March, religious holiday.

June

Corpus Christi – June 2, Major Spanish Holiday, this event is marked by big processions, especially in Toledo, Málaga, Seville, and Granada.

July

Rapa das Bestas (shearing of the beasts) - First week-end in July, the most famous in Galicia and was declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest in 1963.

September

Feira Franca - The fair marks the height of Pontevedra's Prosperigin in the 15th and 16th centuries, through historical recreation, theatre, animation and demonstration of artisanal activities.

October

Fiesta de San Froilán - 4-12 October, celebration of the patron saint of the city of Lugo.

November

All Saints Day – 1 November, in Memory of relatives and friends.

Attractions

Tower of Hercules – A lighthouse built back in the 98-117AD, which is still a functioning lighthouse today and also one of the world's oldest.

Santiago de Compostela Cathedral – A medieval cathedral discovered back in 819 AD which was built over the tomb of Saint. James, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ.

Santa Maria del Naranco and San Miguel de Lillo monuments – Two Roman Catholic churches erected in the 9th Century, which are now declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Picos de Europa, National Park – A huge national park with a range of mountains, wildlife and villages stretched along three regions, Leon, Cantabria and Asturias.

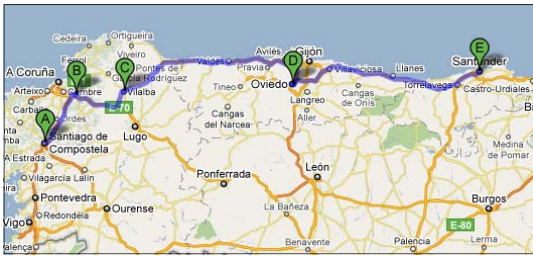
Parque de la Naturaleza de Cabarceno – A wildlife park located 15km from Santander; renowned for the semi-freedom of their animals, and scenic botanical routes.

Palacio Real de La Magdalena – The Royal Palace of the Magdalena located in Santander, was built back in the early 1900's, now today a historical architectural site.

Self-Drive Tours in North Western Spain

The Pilgrims Drive

Santiago de Compostela - Betanzos - Vilalba - Oviedo - Santander



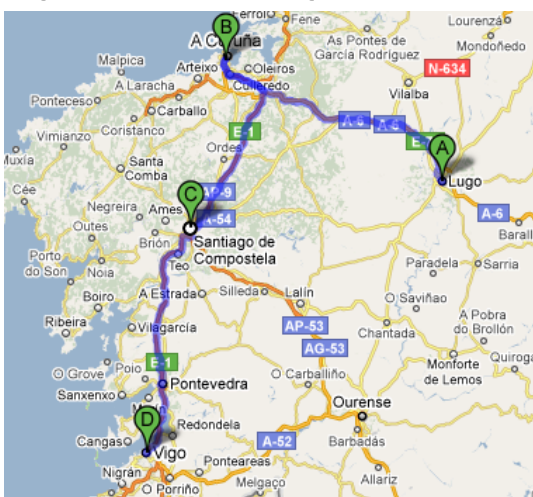
This trip takes a day to complete. Collect your car hire from Santiago de Compostela and head north east on the AP-9 until you reach the town of Betanzos; a medieval town known for its grand churches, town

gates and festivals. From here hop on to the A-6 and then merge onto the A-8 until you arrive into Vilalba. In Vilalba, you'll find the remains of a 14th Century castle and many Palaeolithic sites. The E-70 from Vilalba will lead you towards the A-8. As you drive along the A-8 you'll pass several north coastal towns, feel free to go off route to admire the wonderful scenery. When you're back on route, take the A-8, turn off onto the A-66 and follow the signs into Oviedo; the capital of Asturias. Have a rest and enjoy a cool drink at a cigar bar, or climb the tower of Oviedo's Cathedral. When you're back on the roads again, hop onto the A-64, then continue east along the A-8, and follow the signs to the A-67 that leads you into Santander; the final stop of your journey. Santander is the capital of the Cantabria region and is located in a beautiful setting along the north coast.



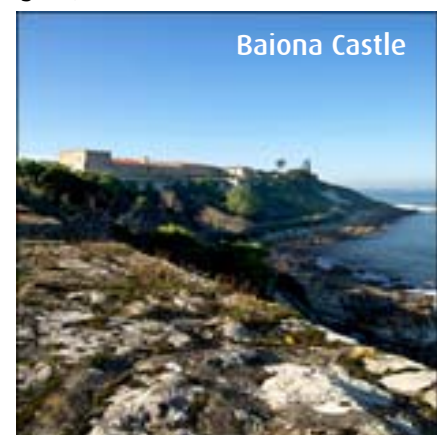
Lugo to Vigo

Lugo - A Coruña - Santiago de Compostela - Vigo



Just half a day trip, you'll pass through four major towns. Your journey starts from the gothic town of Lugo. Here you will witness the architectural heritage and sites surrounded by Roman Walls. Commence your drive towards the west on the A-6, take the A Coruña exit, and continue the drive along the AP-9 till you arrive into A Coruña. This beautiful region is popular for its clean beaches, sunshine, water sports and its rich Celtic and Roman heritage which is still very much alive today. Moving on, take the A-6 and continue onto the AP-9. As you drive along this route you have the option to take a detour and visit the famous medieval town of

Santiago de Compostela - visited by hundreds and thousands a year for its historic and religious reference. Hop back onto the AP-9 and follow the signs to Vigo. A well established tourist destination. Visitors flock to Vigo for its wonderful summer weather, attractive beaches and its varieties of modern and architectural sites.



Northern Spain

Northern Spain consists of three autonomous communities, La Rioja, Navarre and the Basque Country. All three communities have a strong historic appearance set upon vast landscapes. La Rioja is the smallest autonomous community in Spain, yet still popular by outside tourists for its world-class wine. The Navarre province is most famous for its festivals, such as the famous 'Running of the Bulls in Pamplona'. The Basque Country is made up of three smaller provinces - Alava, Guipuzcoa and Vizcaya. Bilbao is the main tourist hotspot in the Basque Country and boasts a vibrant mix of modern and historic architecture.

Regions/Cities:

Basque Country - Vitoria-Gazteiz .

Navarra - Pamplona .

La Rioja - Logroño.

Events

January

Cider Season - 13th January, the last day of apple harvest and marks the official start of the cider season when cider houses serve their latest ciders.

San Sebastian Feast Day - late January, the Patron Saint's Day, features various parades, parties, races, and celebrations long into the night.

February

Caldereros (Tinker Day) - Early February, street parades and parties commemorate the historic arrival of Hungarian Gypsies in San Sebastian.

May

Sagardo Eguna (Cider Day) - Early May, a historic local festival which was first held in 1985.

June

Beer Fest - Mid-June, situated around the Paseo de Justo Elizaran, hosts a vast marquee and a range of beers to be tasted.

September

The San Sebastian International Film Festival - Mid-September, one of Spain's most famous film festivals set over nine days.

November

Marathon - An important international sporting event held through central San Sebastian.

Attractions

Run with the bulls in Pamplona - Held from the 7 - 14 July, Bulls are released onto the narrow streets of Pamplona, in front of hundreds of daring people.

The petit train de la Rhune - Built in 1924, this small cog train will take you along the scenic railway up into the mystical summit of the Basque country.

Pamplona Cathedral - The Cathedral of Royal Saint Mary is Pamplona's most symbolic monument. Built around the 15th Century, this gothic houses some of the greatest historic artefacts.

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao - A modern and contemporary building designed by American architect Frank Gehry.

Mercado Rural de Santo Tomas - A lively street market set up with hundreds of stalls selling fine quality merchandise and produce.

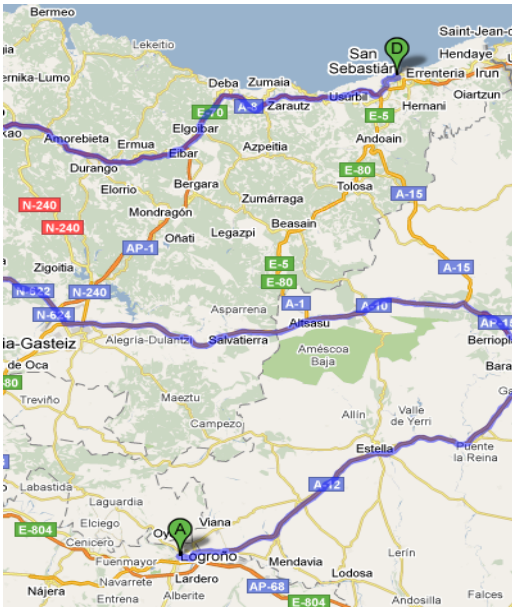


Clerecia Church, Salamanca

Self-Drive Tours around Northern Spain

The Grand 'S'

Logrono – Pamplona – Bilbao – San Sebastian

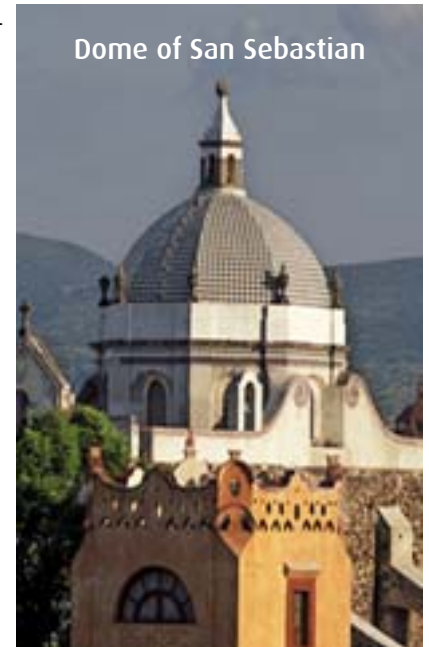


This trip is relatively short, you will pass through four exciting cities along the way. From the capital city of Logrono (La Rioja), hop on to the A-12 and head towards the east.

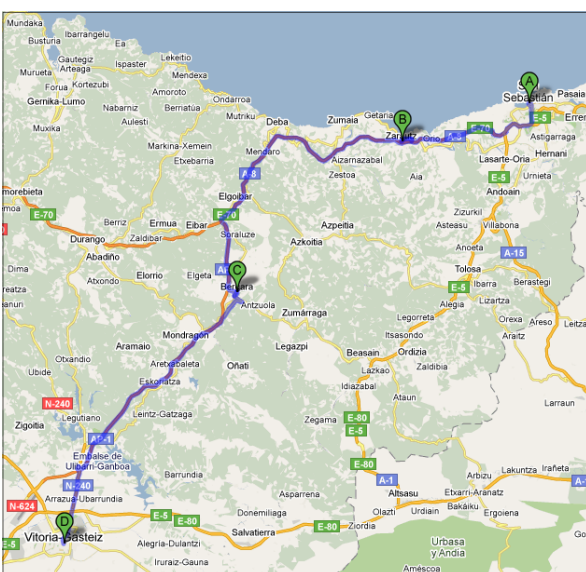
Halfway towards Pamplona, you would be in the medieval town of Estella where you'll find the buildings of historic Roman and Gothic architecture.

Continuing on the A12, follow the signs that lead you into Pamplona. Take the AP-15 out of the city; follow on through the A-10, then onto the Autovia del Norte. Make a quick stop for a meal in Vitoria-Gasteiz before continuing on along the

Autovia de Alube. Passing by spectacular scenery in the Basque Country region of the AP-68, follow the signs and take the exit that will lead you into Bilbao. A modern city of its own, Bilbao has it all to fit any traveller's needs. One monument that can't be missed is the Bilbao Museum; its magnificent architecture is truly outstanding. For the last leg of your trip drive along the A-8 for one last glimpse of Spain's beautiful countryside, before finishing off in the coastal city of San Sebastian with its beautiful resorts, festivals, brilliant waters, magnificent scenery and friendly people, which are some of the many exciting features this vibrant city offers.



Dome of San Sebastian



San Sebastian to Vitoria Gasteiz

San Sebastian - Zarautz - Bergara - Vitoria Gasteiz

From the unspoilt city of San Sebastian, drive along the A-8, while making a quick stop at the beaches of Zarautz, before heading south-inland. As you drive, you'll pass through acres of vast scenery and mountains. This is a great opportunity for a short stop for some quick snaps. Once you pass through Elgoibar, lookout for the turn off onto the AP-1. Not long down the road you'll find a small town called Bergara. Make a quick turn off to visit this friendly small town village before getting back on the roads again. Take the exit that will allow you to continue south along the N-240, and within twenty minutes you will arrive into your destination Vitoria-Gasteiz. Built upon

an agricultural culture and medieval designs, Vitoria-Gasteiz is a charming little city where you can relax, wonder through the numerous museums and historic buildings, join in a festival or taste fine Basque wine.

North Eastern Spain

North-Eastern Spain has two autonomous communities; Catalonia and Aragon. Catalonia is nestled along the coastline of the Balearic Sea, while Aragon sits in between Navarra and Catalonia. Barcelona is the capital city of Catalonia and is the second largest city in Spain, after Madrid. Barcelona, along with its modern and gothic architecture, bars, restaurants and clubs, hosts a variety of festivals throughout the year. Towards the inland is the sacred city of Zaragoza, embraced by the Ebro River and one of the greatest monumental towns in Spain.

Regions/Cities:

Catalonia - Barcelona.

Aragon - Zaragoza.

Events

January

Festes dels Tres Tombs - 17th January, part of the district festival of Sant Antoni Abat.

March

Holy Week - Mid-March, Holy Week in Zaragoza, attracts over 100,000 visitors to the city.

April

Jueves Santo - Mid-April, held yearly on Easter Monday. Celebrations include various religious parades and processions, through the heart of the Casco Histórico district.

May

Corpus Christi - Carpets of flowers, processions and a 'dancing egg' is balanced on the cathedral's fountain in Barcelona.

June

Gay and Lesbian Festival - 28th June, the festival features a parade starting at the Plaça de l'Universat, Barcelona.

October

Fiestas del Pilar (Pilar Festival), Zaragoza - Mid-October, an annual festival celebrating the Virgen del Pilar, with a host of events and parties attracting crowds of thousands.

December

Swimming cup - 25th December, annual Christmas event where people dive into the cold icy waters of Barcelona Port.

Attractions

La Sagrada Familia - A massive Roman Catholic church in Catalonia which is still under construction since 1882.

Magic Fountain - The most spectacular water fountain in Barcelona. During the summer evenings light shows are displayed, where hundreds of visitors come to watch the spectacular fifteen minute display.

Belchite, Aragon - An old time village torn down from the Spanish civil war. Left undisturbed, visitors have the chance to freely walk through the historic ruins.

Casa-Milla, Barcelona

Self-Drive Tours in North Eastern Spain

Zaragoza-Barcelona

Zaragoza – Lleida – Terrassa – Mataro – Barcelona

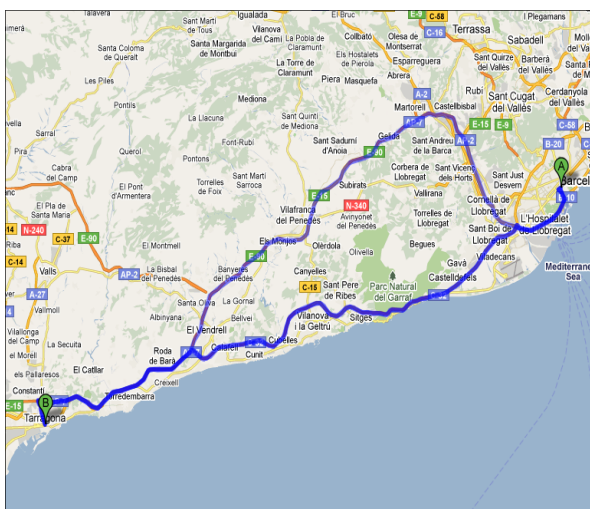
In just under a day's trip, you'll be able to visit at least five cities and villages, and view the many historic artefacts as you pass by stunning Spanish scenery. From the banks of the Ebro River in Zaragoza, take the E-90/A-2 and follow the road along the AP-2. Take the exit that leads you into Lleida, where you will find glimpses of the surviving ruins and the still standing cathedrals, built from as early as the 9th Century. Head out onto the LL-12, and continue along the AP-2. Take the exit onto the AP-7 towards Terrassa, an interesting place that holds many fabulous treasures, from churches to monasteries. Take the C-58 out of town and then follow the road along the B-10 and B-20. It won't take you long until you arrive into Mataro. During the summer months, visitors flock here to enjoy the water sports, shopping and bathing along the famous marina. When you're back onto the road, head south along the

C-31 and follow the signs into Barcelona. Settled along the borders of the Balearic Sea, Barcelona is a stylish and diverse city with countless activities, such as partying at one of the cities many enjoyable fiestas, eating bocadillos, or just relaxing at Barceloneta Beach. Barcelona offers you a truly enjoyable experience.



Barcelona to Taragona

This trip has two parts, and you have the choice to take either the coastal route west or the inland route. For an enjoyable start take the coastal route. Drive along the Autopista De Pau Casals approximately 20 minutes south until you arrive into the Parc Natural Del Garraf. The Garraf is an exotic nature park made up by limestones, potholes, sinkholes and rasclers which combined makes a classic Karst Mediterranean landscape; a truly magnificent site to explore. When you are back onto the Autopista de Pau Casals, take the AP-7 exit and continue along this road. Take Exit 33 and follow the signs into Tarragona. The southernmost province in the Catalonia Region, Tarragona boasts a diverse mix of crystal clear waters, pristine beaches, preserved roman ruins. Highlights of the province's attractions include a range of wine-related activities and festivals. When you're ready to head back into Barcelona, why not experience the inland route. Hop back onto the AP-7 for 80kms, and then follow the AP-2 and B-23 towards Barcelona. From there, follow the streets signs into Barcelona.



Central Spain

Central Spain is one of the most beautiful and diverse regions in Spain with ancient ruins, fantastic scenery and impressive architecture. Within, local towns and cities boast their unique combination of Roman monuments, splendid parks and modern attractions. Located in the heart of Central Spain is Madrid, the capital of Spain. Other provinces include Castile-La Mancha, Castile-Leon and Extremadura, all surrounding Madrid.

Regions/Cities:

Madrid - Madrid .

Castile-La Mancha - Toledo .

Castile and Leon - Valladolid .

Extremadura - Mérida.

Events

January

San Antón - 17th January, annual pet blessing in San Antón Church, witnessed by hundreds of pet owners.

March

Bullfighting - March to October, season starts at the Plaza de Toros Monumental de Las Ventas.

May

Madrid Day - 2nd May, a concert is held in memory of the 1808 rebellion against Napoleon.

June

San Antonio de la Florida (St. Anthony of Florida) - 9th - 13th June, the city's biggest street party.

September

Festival de Otoño (Autumn Festival) - September to November, highlights include performing arts festival, (music, dance and theatre) with acts from around the world.

December

Día de los Inocentes - 28th December, a day in relation to April Fools day.

Attractions

Royal Palace - The Royal Palace is a massive building built with a base of columns, the official residence of the kings of Spain.

Adventurous Appetites Tapas Tour - Explore Madrid, in a way locals enjoy Spain, away from popular tourist areas. Soak up the real Spanish culture, and of course taste those delicious mouth-watering tapas.

Cathedral of Toledo - One of the greatest gothic Structure in Spain.

Monasterio de San Juan de los Reyes - A historic monastery in Toledo, built around the 1400's, which still stands today.

Segovia Aqueduct - One of the most significant and preserved monuments left by Romans in Castile-Leon.

Royal Monastery of Santa Maria de Guadalupe - A much significant Roman Catholic monastery built in Guadalupe of the Extremadura Community.

Madrid Toledo Triumphal Arch

Self-Drive Tours around Central Spain

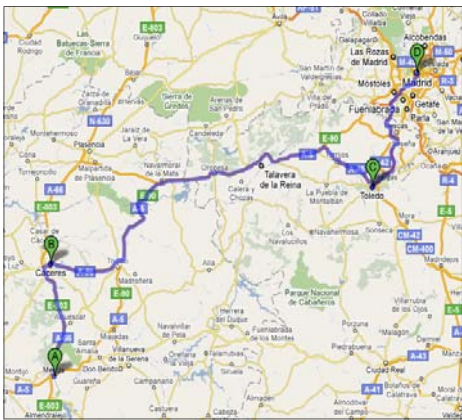
Merida to Madrid

Merida – Caceres - Toledo – Madrid

From the small village of Merida marked upon a Roman Heritage, take the A-66 and travel towards Caceres where you can discover the medieval ruins within. One outstanding monument is the 15th Century gothic Golfines de Abajo Palace. Hit the roads again & take the A-58 towards the east, follow the road for 50kms and take the exit onto the A-5. This leg of the trip is over 200kms long, so best to carry some snacks. The scenery is splendid, but to see more make a stop at the Parque Nacional de Monfrague, where you can join in on a walking tour or even try a suggested self-guided tour around the park. Continuing along the A-5, take Exit 76 and follow the signs to Toledo along the A-40. Toledo is a pleasant city, combined with its strong religious presence of Arab, Christians and Jews. It is no wonder why Toledo has been named as the “City of Three Cultures”. To complete your journey, take the AP-41 for 60kms, and take the exit onto the R-5 and continue towards Madrid. Within an hour, your journey will end in the Famous Spanish City of Madrid, best known for its ever-growing economy, abundant history, impressive architecture, and lively culture.



Roman Theatre, Merida

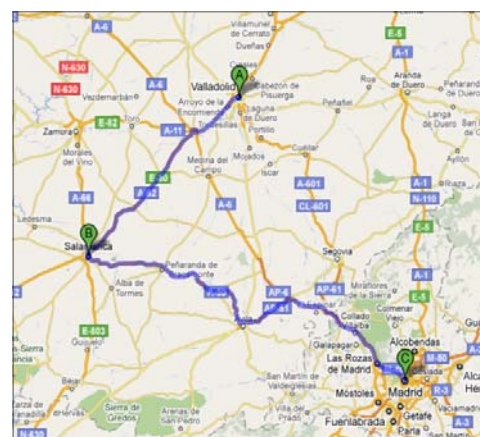


Valladolid to Madrid

Valladolid – Salamanca - Madrid

To commence your trip, hop into your hired car from Valladolid, which was once a city of wealth held by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. One can't miss the Valladolid castle, a truly outstanding artefact still standing within the city. Head out and follow the signs towards the A-62 and continue along the road for 25kms. You will then need to take the A-6/A-62 Exit, follow the road for 2km, and then continue along the E-82/A-11. Just over an hour later you will arrive into Salamanca, a small province, nestled in the South-West corner of Castile and Leon borders. Here you can visit one of the oldest universities in Spain and possibly the oldest in Europe. To finish your journey, hop onto the N-501 for 5kms, and then merge onto the A-50 for 95kms. Look for the A-51 exit in Avila, join in on the AP-6 for 40kms, and then continue along the A-6 for another 40kms. You will soon arrive into

the Capital of Spain - Madrid, one of the largest cities in Western Europe with a population exceeding 3 million people!



Eastern Spain

The east coast region consists of two provinces, Murcia and Valencia. Both autonomous communities are nestled along the east Mediterranean coast of Spain overlooking the beautiful Spanish Gulf. Valencia rests in the centre of Eastern Spain, with Murcia directly in the south. All year round, tourists from many countries around the globe come to visit these two appealing communities, not only for its pristine beaches and wonderful weather, but to visit some of the greatest monuments held within the two cities.

Regions/Cities:

Valencia - Valencia.

Murcia - Murcia.

Events

January

Cabalgata de los Reyes (Three Holy Kings / Wise Men) – 5th January, a religious parade where three men are dressed as the Three Wise Men parading and distributing gifts and sweets to children lining the streets.

March

Las Fallas – A famous festival well-known around Spain. Floats of many major buildings and landmarks parade through the streets, and then are finally burnt on a bonfire.

April

Semana Santa Marinera (Holy Week) – Start of April, celebrations are held around the country in the lead up to Easter.

May

Fiesta del Cristo del Grau – 4th May, an event which marks the religious statue of Christ from the Santa Maria del Mar Church, which is held along the waterfront of the Valencia Grau District.

July

Feria de Julio – Last week of July, a huge festival held throughout Valencia. Activities include bull-fights, fireworks, concerts, food stalls and parties.

Attractions

Plaza de la Reina – A Centuries old cathedral and bell tower in Valencia.

Spanish Paella – Valencia is the region where Paella was invented, you wouldn't want to leave without trying some of this mouth-watering cuisine.

Mar Menor – Europe's largest salt water lake, also popular for many varieties of water sports.

Terra Natura – A real life safari park and Zoo. Great for a family fun day out.

A photograph of the Palacio Consistorial in Cartagena, Spain. The building is a grand, ornate structure with a large central dome and multiple levels of arched windows and balconies. It is set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. In the foreground, there are some green bushes and a street lamp.

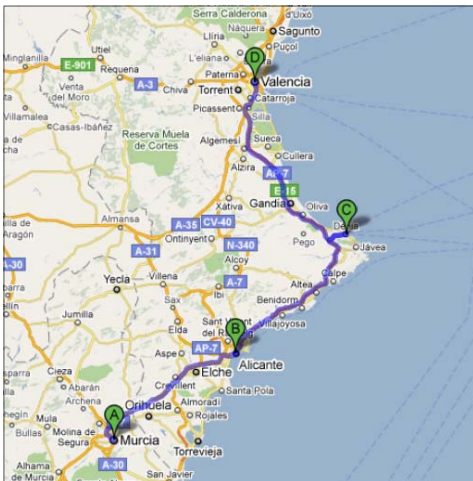
Palacio Consistorial, Cartagena

Self-Drive Tours around Eastern Spain

Eastern Coastal Drive

Murcia - Alicante - Denia - Valencia

Head towards the A-30 and continue along the E-15/A-7 for 70kms. Take the exit into Alicante for long stretch of sandy beaches and pristine waters. When you are back on the road, look for the A-70, and continue along the AP-7 for 70kms. Take Exit 62 into Denia, a beautiful city set upon the



The Palau de Les Arts, Valencia

east coast of the Valencia region. There are countless activities to do here, you can jump on a ferry and tour the calm seas of Denia, swim at one of many beaches along the harbour, explore and discover some of the greatest monuments and buildings, or maybe enjoy a relaxing massage. After all that, head to Valencia. Hop onto the CV-725 and onto the AP-7. Continue north for 80kms and then 14kms along the V-31 towards Valencia, a magnificent city overlooking the Mediterranean Sea famous for its annual spring festival the Las Fallas, as well as impressive landmarks, unspoilt beaches, exciting fiestas, splendid cuisines and breath-taking scenery. Continue along the English channel on the D513 to Caen, which is the capital of the Basse region and is famous for its historical buildings which were built during the reign of William the Conqueror. Take the N13/E46 to Bayeux and see the famous Tapestry. Follow the N13 along the coastline to Cherbourg. Then take the D900 and at Périers, change onto the D971 and then onto the D7 to Mont-Saint-Michel, which is one of the most visited attractions in Spain.

Castellon de la Plana – Cartagena

Castellon de la Plana – Cartagena

This trip is a fair long drive; however driving along the east coast of Spain is truly memorable, from its rugged terrain to watery views and fantastic scenery, you'll quickly find yourself in the moment. From the attractive



town of Castellon de la Plana venture out onto the open roads of the A-7 heading south into Valencia. Make a quick stop in the magnificent city of Valencia, for a fine meal and a little sight seeing before jumping on the coastal stretch of the AP-7.

You can choose to visit one of many interesting sites as you please on your journey south. Stop at all or either Denia, Javea or Benidorm for a relaxing beach getaway, or for a great dining experience along the boardwalks. On the AP-7, take Exit 67 and journey along the A-70 for 30kms, and then 80kms along the AP-7 into Cartagena. Cartagena is a beautiful city which holds one of Spain's most important commercial and navel ports. The architecture is superb and pleasantly mixed with both old and new buildings. As you explore the city's great artefacts, don't forget to visit the important Naval Museum and Naval Head Quarters.

Andalucia

Andalucía is one of the largest single regions in Spain, offering over three-thousand hours of sunshine a year, and with some of the best beaches and coastlines. Located in the southern area of Spain, this region is divided into eight provinces; Almería, Cádiz, Córdoba, Granada, Huelva, Jaén, Málaga & Sevilla. The Andalusian shoreline stretches 900 kms across the Costa del Sol (Málaga) coastline which features some of the finest resorts in Spain. Being one of the warmest regions in Spain, Andalucía offers many wonderful activities, from trekking through its beautiful mountain ranges, to bull fighting, street parties, as well as soaking in the glorious weather it has to offer.

Regions/Cities:

Andalucía – Almería, Cádiz, Córdoba, Granada, Huelva, Jaén, Málaga, Sevilla.

Events

January

Dia de la Toma – A fiesta is held in Granada, where King Fernando's sword and Queen Isabel's crown are marched through the streets.

March

Holy Week – Religious celebrations are held in the lead up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

April

Fiesta de San Marcos - Marks the event of San Marcos, eight bulls are released onto the streets.

June

Dia del Pescaito (Fried Fish Day) – A Seafood festival held roughly 20kms outside Malaga in a town called Torremolinos.

October

Festival Internacional de Jazz – early November, a well-known jazz festival held in Seville and Granada.

Attractions

Alhambra – A Moorish palace built and constructed during the mid 14th Century for the last Muslim Emirs in Spain.

Eat Tapas – When you visit Spain, you can't miss out on tasting some of Spain's delicious tapas!

Alcazaba – An Arabic Moorish Fortification in the Malaga Region that dates back to the 700s.

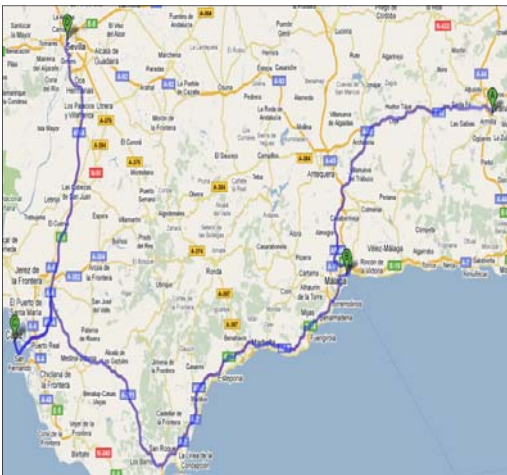


Self-Drive Tours around Andalucia

The Best of South

Granada – Malaga – Cadiz – Sevilla

Experience the great wonders of Southern Spain with your car hire. Jump onto the A-92. Take Exit 177 and then re-join on the A-92M. Another 25kms south, merge onto the AP-46, continue for 25kms, and then 12kms along



the A-7 into Malaga. On your arrival taste some of Malaga's finest wines or climb the steps of the Gibralfaro castle. When you are back on road, hop onto the



Plaza de Espana, Sevilla

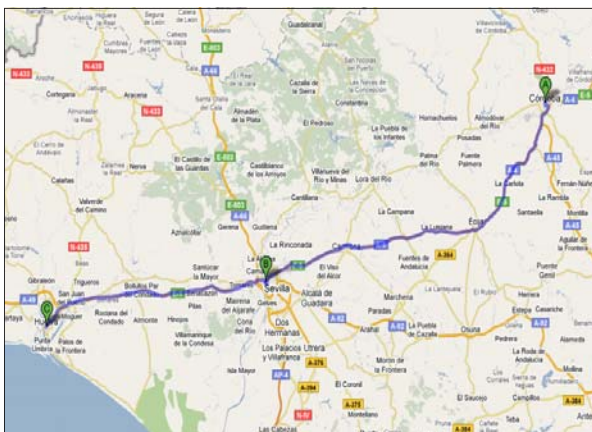
E-15/A-7, and travel along the coast for approximately 50kms. Be aware that there are tolls! Along the way you will pass a small town called Marbella. On the A-7 towards Algeciras, take exit 110B, continue along the A-381 for 90kms, 20kms on the AP-4 and then 9kms on the N-443. As you cross the bridge you will find yourself on a small island called Cadiz. Cadiz offers the best beaches as well as international tourist attractions such as: the unique horse racing

events on the beach of Sanlucar de Barrameda and the prestigious Carnival of Cadiz. Your last stop will now be Sevilla. Drive out of the city along the N-443 and then hop on to the AP-4 for 80kms. Another 17kms along the E-5/A-4, you will soon arrive into Sevilla. Visit some of Sevilla's best attractions, such as touring the Gothic Cathedral of Sevilla or indulge at one of Sevilla's finest restaurants. There is plenty to discover and endless possibilities when you visit Sevilla.

Cordoba - Huelva

Cordoba – Sevilla – Huelva

This drive is relatively easy and allows you to visit the best sites that the Andalucía region offers. From the modernized city of Cordoba, take the E-5/A-4 and head south-west for 140kms towards Sevilla. Sevilla is ranked the fourth largest city in Spain, and is also the heart of the Andalucía region where bullfighting, tapas, Flamenco and festivals are paramount. To experience the most out of Sevilla, stay a few days, so you have the chance to enjoy the countless attractions and activities that you can see and do. When you're ready to head out again, hop onto the A-49, travel west for 80kms, then take the exit onto the H-31 and follow the signs into Huelva. A city that is dedicated to its bustling port, Huelva is a pleasant city with many great monuments, attractive plazas, and without a doubt splendid seafood! There is also a considerable amount of history marked upon this city, from the Plaza de las Monjas, to its very own sprawling industrial port.



Climate & Weather

Spain's climate can vary in temperature from region to region. Generally in the north it can be quite wet, whilst in the south it can be hot and dry. April through to October is usually the best time to visit as it is generally warm and sunny, although July and August can get quite hot with temperatures reaching over 30°C. Chilling cold weather will be experienced towards the end of the year from December until February. The central part of Spain is usually the coldest with temperatures below minus zero.

Language & Useful Phrases

Hello:	¡Hola!	Goodbye:	Despedida
My name is:	Mi nombre es ...	Thankyou:	Gracias.
How are you?:	¿Cómo estás?	I am lost. Where is	¿dónde está?...
Nice to meet you:	Mucho gusto.	the bathroom:	el baño?
Please:	Por favor.	the hotel:	¿dónde está el hotel
Yes:	Sí.	the restaurant:	¿dónde está el restaurante
No:	No	the airport	¿dónde está el aeropuerto

Stay Healthy

Spain's water quality is quite good and drinkable in some major cities, however it is recommended that you keep to the bottled water. During the summer months it can get quite hot with strong UV's, so it is highly recommended to use sunscreen. When eating out try and avoid undercooked meat or fish as some fish may contain toxins or bacteria. Also, stay away from unpasteurized milk as this can contain micro-organisms that can cause disease or infection. Hospitals are well maintained and are easily accessed in major cities, but before heading out on your trip make sure that you have taken out travel insurance.

Stay Safe

Crime : Spain is quite a safe country to visit. Watch out for petty theft, like many other countries in Europe. Scamming is one method used by thieves in Spain so make sure that you keep vigilant throughout, however don't let this ruin your trip.

Beaches : Many beaches in Spain have beach-safety flags. A green flag means it's safe to swim, yellow is to be careful and stay close to the shore, and red means dangerous 'do no swim!' Animals are not allowed on beaches. First-aid can be found with a Red Cross posted along the beach. Keep a close eye of your belongings. Use lockers or a cloak room if available.

Money Matters

Currency

The local currency in Spain is the Euro.

ONE EURO (€) = 100 cents. (céntimos)

Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and €1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Tipping

Tipping is not normally expected, except for tourist areas where a service charge may be added to the bill. Locals tend to leave small change, generally around 5% when dining at restaurants.

Tax

In Spain, a value-added tax (VAT) also known as IVA (impuesto sobre el valor añadido) of 21% is applied on goods and services. Visitors who make purchases over €90,16 are entitled to a refund of the 21% VAT from any shop if they are taking them out of Europe within three months. To apply for the refund ask the shop for a cash back refund form (or similar) & presente to the customs booth at the airport, port or border for a VAT refund.

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