



SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO



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Nothing can quite compare with the exotic flavors of Morocco, Spain and Portugal. This region forms the crossroads of Africa and Europe—a unique melting pot of ideas, customs and artistic expression. Fantastical architecture abounds in Spain from Gaudi to Gehry, the movement of their work echoing the swirl of flamenco dancers. Portugal is rich with medieval wonders and the world's premier fortified wine—port. And Morocco captures the wanderer's heart with exotic bazaars and colorful palaces a plenty. One thing is for sure: a journey to this part of the world will awaken all of your senses.

HISTORY

Spain:

One of the oldest inhabited areas in the world, Spain is full of archeological artifacts that date back many thousands of years. The Basques, Europe's oldest surviving group, are also the first identifiable people on the peninsula. The Romans entered the Iberian Peninsula in the second century B.C., laying the groundwork for Spain's present-day language, religion and laws. During the sixteenth century, Spain became the most powerful nation in Europe, due to the immense wealth derived from its presence in the Americas. But a series of costly wars, culminating in the defeat by the British of the "Invincible Armada", led to Spain's downfall. The Spanish Civil War, in 1936, precipitated four decades of nationalist rule under General Franco. Social changes brought about by economic prosperity (and the general's death) finally ushered in a transition to democracy in 1977.

Portugal:

Stemming from the Roman name Portus Cale, meaning "beautiful port," Portugal lines the Iberian Peninsula's Atlantic Coast. A constant flow of civilizations has laid claim to these picturesque lands throughout history—Celtic, Greek, Roman and Moorish just to name a few. During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Portugal's emphasis was exploration, and its empire stretched from Brazil to the Indies. Portugal was captured during the Napoleonic Wars. King Pedro IV then abdicated his throne and set sail for Brazil, where he led them to a peaceful independence from Portugal. In 1910, a republican revolution deposed the Portuguese monarchy, and a variety of political parties came to power in the coming decades. In 1975, Portugal had its first free multi-party elections since 1926 and granted independence to its colonies in Africa. In modern times, Portugal has become a charter member of NATO and an integral part of the European Union.

Morocco:

Morocco's strategic location has shaped its history. Beginning with the Phoenicians, a procession of civilizations ruled the area, including the Romans, Visigoths and Greeks. Arab forces began to occupy Morocco in the seventh century, bringing the practice of Islam along with them. In fact, the Alaouite dynasty, which has ruled Morocco since 1649, claims a lineage from the Prophet Muhammad. Political jockeying for control of Morocco began in the fifteenth century, with Portugal, Spain and France all vying for position. France and Spain ended up with joint control for a time. Independence did not fully come to the country, now known as the Kingdom of Morocco, until March 2, 1956.

SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO CONTINUED

SPAIN

FAST FACTS

<i>Capital</i>	<i>Madrid</i>
<i>Population</i>	<i>40.3 million</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
<i>Currency</i>	<i>Euro (EUR)</i>
<i>Time Zone</i>	<i>EST plus 6 hours</i>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>230V, 50Hz</i> ☺ ☹

PORTUGAL

FAST FACTS

<i>Capital</i>	<i>Lisbon</i>
<i>Population</i>	<i>10.6 million</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Portuguese</i>
<i>Currency</i>	<i>Euro (EUR)</i>
<i>Time Zone</i>	<i>EST plus 5 hours</i>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>230V, 50Hz</i> ☺ ☹

MOROCCO

FAST FACTS

<i>Capital</i>	<i>Rabat</i>
<i>Population</i>	<i>33.7 million</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Arabic</i>
<i>Currency</i>	<i>Moroccan dirham (MAD)</i>
<i>Time Zone</i>	<i>EST plus 5 hours</i>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>127V/220V, 50Hz</i> ☺ ☹

DID YOU KNOW?

- *On the last Wednesday of August at the peak of tomato season, the village of Bunol, Spain, stages a tomato war. For two hours, the otherwise somber citizenry happily pelts each other with ripe, red fruit, and the streets turn into rivers of tomato juice.*
- *Moroccan artisans, while creating intricate mosaics, purposely placed cracked tiles and other “mistakes” in their artwork because they believed that nothing made by humans should be perfect.*
- *Construction of Antonio Gaudí’s grand architectural masterpiece, Sagrada Família in Barcelona, broke ground in 1883. Latest estimates put the completion of the intricately designed cathedral at 2026.*
- *The custom of drinking tea was introduced to the British court by a Portuguese princess, Catarina de Bragança, who married King Charles II in 1662. Her dowry included a chest full of Chinese tea leaves (worth a fortune at that time), as well as the city of Bombay, the starting point of the British settlement in India.*

SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO CONTINUED

HOLIDAYS &

FESTIVALS

February/March

May

July

July

August 29

September

October 12

November 18

December

Carnival

National Feast Day (Morocco)

Festival de Cordoba

Running of the Bulls

La Tomatina (Spain)

Festes de la Mercé (Barcelona)

Columbus Day (Spain)

Independence Day (Morocco)

Eid-ul-Adha

BOOKS

- *The Basque History of the World: The Story of a Nation*, by Mark Kurlansky
- *Don Quixote de La Mancha*, by Miguel de Cervantes, et al.
- *Iberia*, by James A. Michener
- *The Sheltering Sky*, by Paul Bowles

VIDEOS

- *Casablanca (1942)*
- *The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956)*
- *Carmen (1984)*
- *Butterfly (1999)*

LOCAL TOURISM

WEB SITES

Morocco..... www.magicmorocco.com
Portugal www.portugal.org/tourism
Spain www.spain.info

SPANISH

FOR TRAVELERS

Hello

My name is _____

I would like _____

Please

Do you speak English?

Hola

Me llamo _____

Quisiera _____

Por favor

¿Habla usted ingles?

OHlah

May YAHmoh

KeeSYAYrah

Pohr fahVOR

Ahblah ooSTAYD

eenGLAYS

SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO CONTINUED

WEATHER

Spain, Portugal and Morocco's coastal regions experience hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. If you go inward or upward, however, expect some cooler temperatures. As you travel in this region, be sure to pack a comfortable raincoat in your tote and bring a light jacket in spring and autumn. Winter's weather requires lots of layers and a heavier coat.

AVERAGE

TEMPERATURES

	January	April	July	October
Barcelona	49°	57°	70°	64°
Lisbon	51°	58°	67°	63°
Madrid	41°	54°	76°	59°
Tangier	54°	60°	73°	66°

Temperatures are in °F. For specific weather information, visit www.accuweather.com.

TIPS FOR

TIPPING

Spain and Portugal:

Spanish and Portuguese waiters and porters appreciate being tipped, but they don't expect American rates. In restaurants, a good rule of thumb is 10 percent for a full meal. In more humble eateries, bars and cafés, leave 5 to 10 percent or round the bill up to the nearest €1. Hotel porters get €.50 to €1 for carrying bags.

Morocco:

Waiters in sit-down restaurants are tipped up to 10 percent of the bill. At informal cafés, the standard tip is 1 or 2 dirhams per person in the dining party. Porters, hotel or otherwise, will appreciate 5 or 10 dirhams.

CURRENCY

NOTES

Spain and Portugal:

Spain and Portugal both use the euro. See our included sheet for more information.

Morocco:

The local currency in Morocco is the dirham. Rates are always changing, so check www.exchangerates.com for current rates before you leave.