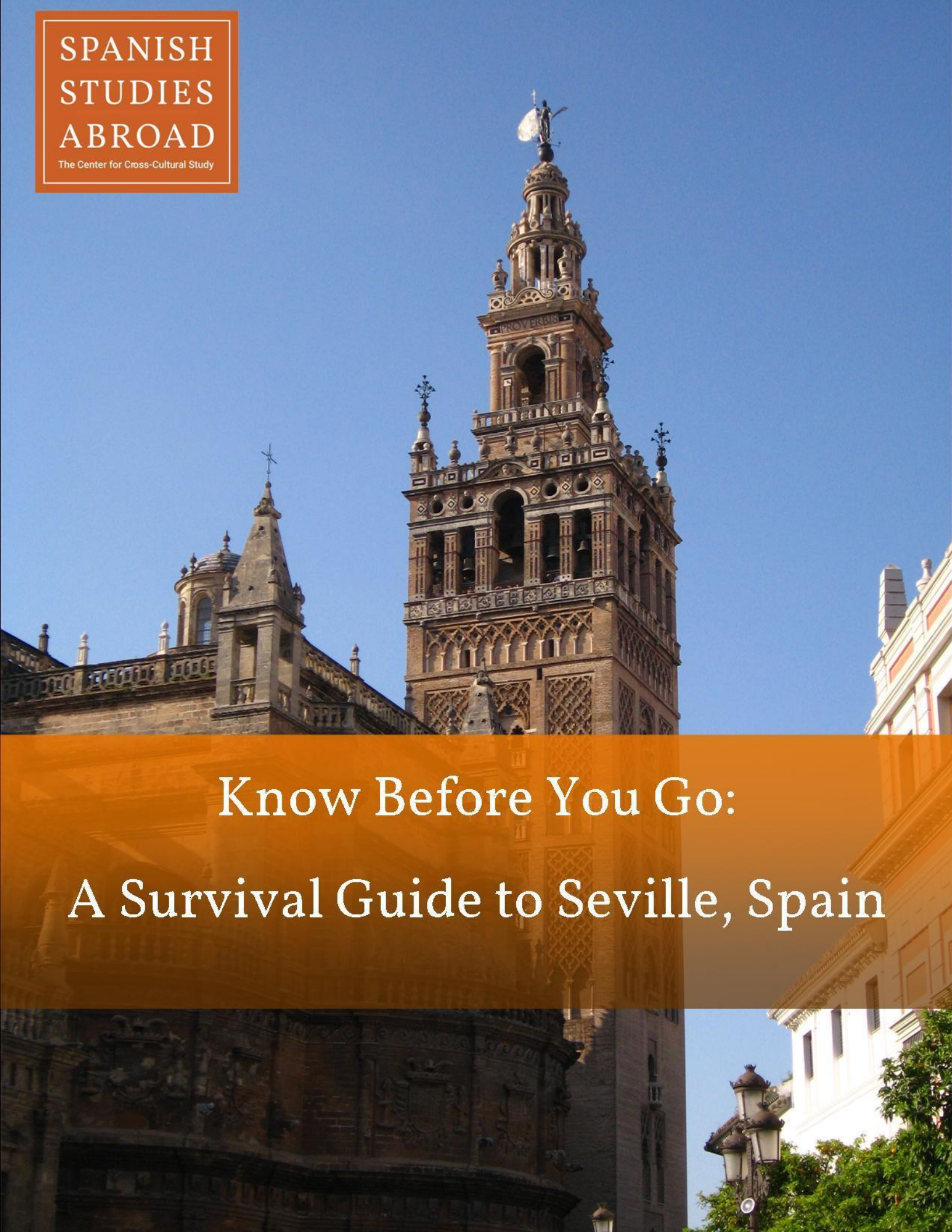


SPANISH
STUDIES
ABROAD

The Center for Cross-Cultural Study



Know Before You Go:
A Survival Guide to Seville, Spain



Know Before You Go: A Survival Guide to Living in Seville, Spain

As part of your cross-cultural experience, you will encounter different cultural attitudes and behaviors while you are abroad. This is a guide that complements the Handbook to help you better understand the cultural norms of where you will be studying, as well as to offer you useful information on the city and country. Think of this as an insider's guide to help you quickly and effectively acclimate to your new city and become a *Sevillano/a* in no time. ¡Buena suerte y buen viaje!

Country Profile: Spain

At the end of your program, you'll know more about Spain than you ever could have expected. The following information will give you some idea about Spanish life before you go. Further up-to-date details on Spain and other European countries can be found on the website of the [U.S. State Department](#).

BRIEF HISTORY OF SPAIN

The Iberian Peninsula has been settled for millennia and is home to some of Europe's most impressive Paleolithic cultural sites including the famous caves at Altamira that contain spectacular paintings dating from about 15,000 to 25,000 years ago. The Basque people, Europe's oldest surviving ethnic group, are also the first identifiable people of the peninsula.

Beginning in the 9th century BC, Phoenicians, Greeks, and Celts entered the region. The Romans followed in the 2nd century BC and established the Roman province of *Iberia*, laying the groundwork for Spain's present language, religion, and laws. The Visigoths arrived in the fifth century AD after the collapse of the Roman Empire. Then in the year 711, North African Moors sailed across the Mediterranean Sea, swept into Andalusia, and within a few years captured most of the peninsula. *La Reconquista* – the centuries-long efforts to drive out the Moors – lasted until 1492 with the defeat of the last Moorish armies in Granada by Spanish forces under King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. By 1512, the unification of present-day Spain was complete.



During the 16th century, Spain became the most powerful nation in Europe, due to the immense wealth derived from its extensive empire in the Americas. This period was also marked by what would be known as the Spanish Inquisition, a religious tribunal within the Spanish government that sought to maintain the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church by repressing and expelling non-Catholics. The Inquisition would last until the early 19th century.

A series of long, costly wars and revolts, capped by the defeat by the English of the “Invincible Armada” in 1588, began a steady decline of Spanish power in Europe. Controversy over succession to the throne consumed the country during the 18th century, leading to an occupation by France during the Napoleonic era in the early 1800s, and led to a series of armed conflicts throughout much of the 19th century.

The 19th century saw the revolt and independence of most of Spain's colonies in the Western Hemisphere: three wars over the succession issue; the brief ousting of the monarchy and establishment of the First Republic (1873-74); and, finally, the Spanish-American War (1898), in which Spain lost some of its last colonial possessions – Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines – to the United States. A period of dictatorial rule (1923-31) ended with the establishment of the Second Spanish Republic. It was dominated by increasing political polarization, culminating in the leftist Popular Front electoral victory in 1936. Pressures from all sides, coupled with growing and unchecked violence, led to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in July 1936.

Following the victory of his nationalist forces in 1939, General Francisco Franco assumed power and would rule for the next 36 years. Spain was officially neutral during World War II but followed a pro-Axis policy. Therefore, the victorious Allies isolated Spain at the beginning of the postwar period, and the country did not join the United Nations until 1955. In 1959, under an International Monetary Fund stabilization plan, the country began liberalizing trade and foreign direct investment.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Spain was transformed into a modern, industrial economy with a thriving tourism sector. Its economic expansion led to improved income distribution and helped develop a large middle class. Upon the death of General Franco in November 1975, Franco's personally designated heir, Prince Juan Carlos de Borbón, assumed the titles of King and Commander-in-Chief. The new King Juan Carlos replaced Franco's last Prime Minister with Adolfo Suarez in July 1976. Suarez's administration moved to enact a series of laws to liberalize the new regime and Spain's first democratic elections since 1936 were held on June 15, 1977. Prime Minister Suarez's *Unión de Centro Democrático* (UCD), a moderate center-right coalition, won the largest bloc of seats in the *Cortes*. Under Suarez, the government drafted a democratic constitution that was overwhelmingly approved by voters in a national referendum in 1978.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

A member of the European Union since 1986, the Kingdom of Spain is a highly developed and stable democracy with a modern economy. Additional information on the country may be obtained from the [Tourist Office of Spain](#).

Capital:	Madrid
Population:	49,331,076 million (July 2018 est.)
Religions:	Roman Catholic (predominant), atheist 11.3%, agnostic 7.6%, other 2.8% (2019 est.)
Native Languages:	Castillian Spanish (official) 74%, Catalán/Valenciano 17%, Galician 7%, Basque 2%

Principal Government Officials

King Felipe VI – King of Spain, Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish Armed Forces (*Rey de España, Capitán General de las Fuerzas Armadas de España*) – since 2014

Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon – President of the Government (*Presidente del Gobierno*) – since 2018

Santiago Cabanas Ansorena - Ambassador of Spain to the United States (*Embajador de España en los Estados Unidos*)

Government and Legislature

The Kingdom of Spain is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy in which the King is recognized as Head of State. The Kingdom of Spain is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy in which the King is recognized as Head of State. The current monarch, *His Majesty* King Felipe VI, is widely respected by many Spaniards for his efforts to promote democracy in the country since he assumed the throne in the 1970s. Although he technically holds considerable political and military authority, in reality the King's position is largely ceremonial and he mostly serves as a cultural figurehead for the nation. Most of his powers have been devolved to the Spanish national parliament. The leader of parliament is styled as the President of the Government, a position comparable to the office of Prime Minister in other countries. As a democratically elected official, the President of the Government exercises actual political authority. The bicameral national parliament of Spain, the *Cortes Generales*, consists of a 350-seat Congress of Deputies (*Congreso de los Diputados*) and a 266-seat Senate (*Senado*). Senators are elected to represent Spain's various regions, while Deputies are elected to represent parliamentary districts based on population. Spanish law dictates that elections must be held at least once every four years. However, elections in Spain are not set on fixed dates, so voters sometimes go to the polls after less than four years. Voting in the country is open to all Spanish citizens aged 18 or older.

Political Parties

- Major National Parties:
 - o Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (*PSOE – Partido Socialista Obrero Español*)
 - o People's Party (*PP – Partido Popular*) – conservative party
 - o United Left Coalition (*IU – Izquierda Unida*) – liberal third party

Local Government & Administration

The Kingdom of Spain is divided into 17 Autonomous Communities (*Comunidades Autónomas*) which cover the Iberian Peninsula and the Canary Islands, as well as two Autonomous Cities (*Ciudades Autónomas*) of Ceuta and Melilla on continental North Africa. Each of these autonomous regions elects its own government and administers a variety of areas including public education and universities, local transportation and highways, social services, health care, economic development, and public safety. Several of the *comunidades autónomas* are further divided into provinces which denote historical geographic areas.

Educational System

About 70% of Spain's student population attends public schools or universities. The remainder attend private schools or universities, most of which are operated by the Catholic Church. Compulsory education begins with primary school or general basic education for ages 6-16. It is free in public schools and in many private schools, most of which receive government subsidies. After graduation, students attend either a secondary school offering a general high school diploma or a school of professional education (corresponding to grades 9-12 in the North America) offering a vocational training program. State education is free in Spain from preschool to 18 years.

Economy

Spain's accession to the now European Union (EU) – in January 1986, required the country to open its economy, modernize its industrial base, improve infrastructure, and revise economic legislation to conform to EU guidelines. In doing so, Spain increased gross domestic product (GDP) growth, reduced the public debt to GDP ratio, reduced unemployment from 23% to 15% in 3 years, and reduced inflation to under 3%. The fundamental challenges remaining for Spain include reducing the public sector deficit, decreasing unemployment further, reforming labor laws and investment regulations, lowering inflation, and raising per capita GDP.

Following peak growth years in the late 1980s, the Spanish economy entered into recession in mid-1992. The economy recovered during the first Aznar administration (1996-2000), driven by a return of consumer confidence and increased private consumption, although growth has slowed in recent years. Unemployment remains a problem at 16.4% (2017 est.), but this still represents a significant improvement from previous levels. The global financial crisis in 2008 ended 16 consecutive years of economic growth for Spain, and this recession lasted until late 2013. However, with the help of EU funding, labor reforms, and strong export growth, Spain has boosted its economy and managed to sustain economic growth since 2013.

People

The citizens of modern-day Spain are overwhelmingly (86.4% as of 2018) ethnic Spaniards whose mixed ancestry dates back to the Moors of the Middle Ages, the Romans, and pre-Roman Iberian peoples. 12.8% (2018) of the country's population consists of foreign-born residents including temporary residents from across the European Union and a growing community of immigrants from North Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. With the exception of the highly populous inland city of Madrid, Spain's population is concentrated along the country's nearly 5,000 kilometer (3,100 mile) coastline.

Many Spaniards (68.9%) nominally belong to the Roman Catholic Church, and 11.3 % of the population identify as atheist (2019 est.). The Spanish Constitution of 1978 disestablished the Roman Catholic Church as the official state religion, while recognizing the role it plays in Spanish society.

Language

The Spanish language is the country's official language and is the native tongue of the vast majority of Spaniards. Much like how the English language originated in England, the Spanish language originated in the early Middle Ages in Castile (*Castilla*), a region of central Spain. For this reason, the language is sometimes referred to by its alternative name, Castilian or *castellano*.

In several regions of Spain, other native languages are spoken alongside Spanish. Notably, the Basque language is famously spoken in the north by roughly one-third of the population of the País Vasco and neighboring Navarra. In

northwestern Spain, most residents of the autonomous community of Galicia speak Galician (*gallego*), a dialect of Portuguese. The Catalán language is widespread along Spain's northeastern Mediterranean coast, in the autonomous communities of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands. Catalán is also spoken in parts of the Valencia region where the local dialect is commonly referred to by the term *valenciano*. Most speakers of these various languages can also speak Spanish fluently as a second language. Likewise, many Castilian-speaking Spaniards learn these regional languages in the local public school systems.

The Spanish language in Spain is marked by the use of the *vosotros* for the plural second-person familiar conjugation. Another unique aspect is the pronunciation of the letters "z" and "ci" with a "th" sound. When traveling in the country, you will learn that there are a wide variety of different regional accents and colloquialisms, just like in your home country and in your native language.

SEVILLE OVERVIEW

Seville is the capital of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia and the Province of Seville. It is known for its many orange trees and the smell of their fragrant blossoms all over the city in spring. Seville is also the birthplace of Flamenco music/dance.

Autonomous Community:	Andalusia (Capital)
Province:	Seville
Metropolitan Population:	703,021 (Spain's fourth largest city)
Province Population:	1,927,000
Land Area:	54.1 sq mi

History

Seville was founded in the 8th century BC by the Phoenicians and the Greeks under the name Ispal. Later in 3rd century BC, it was taken over by the Carthaginians until they were defeated in 206 BC by the Romans. Then in 45 BC, in the height of its age of splendor, it was given the status of a colony by Julius Caesar.

Then, in 712 AD began the Arab domination and the city was known as Isbiliah and entered a new age of splendor under Arab rule. In 1147 AD the center of power was transferred from Córdoba to Seville. From this last period of the Arab-Andalusian domination remain the Giralda, the Torre del Oro, the Alcazar (later rebuilt by the Christian kings) and the Macarena wall (Muralla de la Macarena).

In 1248, Ferdinand III the Saint took over Seville for Christianity. Muslims were forced to leave whereas Mudejars and Hebrews stayed. Many churches were built to replace the mosques. Ferdinand III transferred the Kingdom of Castile Court to the Alcazar of Seville. He stayed there until he died in 1252 and is considered Seville's patron saint. Ferdinand III's son, Alfonso X, continued his father's work. He established a tolerant reign which enabled the Jewish, Arab and Christian's knowledge to boom.

The overtaking of Granada in 1492 marked the end of the Reconquest process; the Jews were expelled and Seville became the headquarters of the Inquisition. In 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas. From then on, Seville experienced its most glorious period. Indeed, the Chamber of Commerce was created to deal with the trade relations between Spain and the overseas territories. The new American market, as well as the monopoly of Seville on the trade relations, brought it much wealth. Seville became the wealthiest city of Spain, as well as the most cosmopolitan.

In 1519, Carlos I of Spain (Carlos V of Germany) became emperor. Spain became the most powerful nation in Europe, although the constant wars of the empire ruined a large part of the wealth coming to the port. However, the 17th century saw the decline of Seville. After a plague epidemic in 1649, the population shrunk in half. Nonetheless, after the Independence war and another plague epidemic in the 19th century, Seville experienced another period of prosperity under Queen Elisabeth, who implemented urban reforms, in particular the construction of the Elisabeth II Bridge (Puente Isabel II) in 1845 and the collapse of the wall around the city in 1869, which gave birth to new roads and squares.

During the 20th century, Seville hosted two expositions that modified its landscapes. In 1929, Seville welcomed the Latin-American exposition, the aim of which was to strengthen the Andalusian economy. Several houses representing various countries were built for this exposition and still exist nowadays. Sixty-three years later, in 1992, Seville hosted the Universal Exposition.

Economy

Seville has the only inland port in Spain, which is located on the Guadalquivir River 49.70 miles (80km) from the Atlantic Ocean. This allows for trade from Spain to the rest of Europe, the Middle East and Northern Spain. Since the Universal Exposition of Seville in 1992 there has been a lot of investment in the infrastructure of Seville. The city also has a large service and tourism industry, as well as new technologies industries.

People

The citizens of modern-day Seville are overwhelmingly (96%) ethnic Spaniards whose mixed ancestry dates back to the Moors of the Middle Ages, the Romans, and pre-Roman Iberian peoples. About 3.5% of the population is foreign, mostly those from Morocco, Ecuador, and Colombia who have arrived in the previous 10 years as immigrants. There are also immigrants from other origins such as China, Bolivia, Peru, and Argentina.

Practical Information

The following section includes some additional information and hints to help further prepare you for your time abroad and lessen any confusion you may have on simple tasks such as making calls, handling money, and knowing what to expect from the weather. Reading these tips could save you that extra headache or frustrating moment.

MAKING PHONE CALLS

Most students find that the easiest and cheapest way to call home is through Skype (www.skype.com), through the phone app WhatsApp, or through video chats. However, if your family needs to know how to call you in Spain, or if you need to be able to reach them via telephone, here is some calling advice below.

The major calling codes you will need to be aware of:

- Spain's country code is 34
- The US country code is 1

Spanish phone numbers have nine digits, usually beginning with a "9". While Spain does not have "area" codes as the United States does, the beginning of each phone number in Spain indicates the region of the country you are calling. For example, a number in Seville will typically begin with: 95

Mobile Numbers

Mobile Code	Phone Number
6xx	xxx-xxx

Spanish mobile phone numbers are assigned a 3-digit mobile code at the beginning of each number, and usually begin with the digit 6 (or sometimes 7), followed by 6 digits.

When making a call to or from a Spanish mobile phone the same rules apply as in North America. You must dial the full 9-digit phone number.

Calling North America

As we said before, Skype or WhatsApp will probably be the easiest and cheapest way to call North America from Spain. They will provide instructions on how to place these calls. If you ever need to call a North American phone directly from Spain, make sure to dial the access code, which indicates you are calling internationally, the country code, and then the phone number:

Access Code	Country Code	Area Code	Phone Number
00	1	xxx	xxx-xxxx

If you are making an international phone call from an iPhone or other smartphone, the access code can be dialed as "+".

EMERGENCY NUMBERS WITHIN SPAIN

General Emergency – 112

This is an emergency number similar to 911 in the United States. It will call everywhere in Spain, and the dispatchers will connect you with whomever is necessary.

Other emergency telephone numbers within Spain:

National Police – 091

Guardia Civil – 062

Ambulance – 061

Fire – 080

U.S. Embassy

Calle Serrano 75, 28006 Madrid

Telephone: 915 872 200

<https://es.usembassy.gov/>

Consulate(s) general: Barcelona

HOW TO HANDLE MONEY IN SEVILLE

The currency of Spain is the Euro, which is commonly represented using the sign €. The best way to deal with spending money in Spain is to use a combination of a credit card and an ATM/debit card to get cash.

ATM/Debit Cards*

If you have an ATM/debit card, it can be used just the way you would use your credit card. It can also be used at most Spanish ATMs all over the city to obtain local currency (Euros). Any card that is on the Plus or Cirrus network will work at Spanish ATMs; check the back of your card to be sure that those symbols are listed. Please note that your PIN must be **four digits long** so if yours is not, you will have to change it before you go to Spain. Sometimes there are additional fees, which might make you want to rethink how frequently you will withdraw money while in Spain. Also be aware that you may not be able to see your balance on the Spanish ATM. Make sure you can either check your balance on-line or have someone check it for you at home.

In addition to any transaction fees that your home bank may charge, Spanish ATMs can charge fees as well, so be sure to pay attention. There are numerous ATMs located throughout Seville.

Credit Cards*

Major credit cards (like Visa and MasterCard, primarily) are widely accepted in Spain, although not as widespread as in North America. You can use them for purchases at most stores and at nicer restaurants. Cards are accepted in almost all places, including taxis and kiosks. It is better not to depend on cash advances from your credit card for spending money.

*Note on Credit and ATM/Debit Cards

Some banks/credit card companies block international transactions for security purposes so make sure you inform your bank/credit card company that you will be living overseas and the length of time. You should also inquire at your bank about any additional charges you might encounter when using your ATM card or Credit Card abroad. If the fees seem unreasonable, you may want to shop around to see if there is another company/bank that you want to set up an account with before you go abroad.

If you lose your debit/credit card while you are in Spain and they won't send it directly to Spain, you should have the new card sent to your home address in the US/Canada. Once received, it should be mailed to you via an express mail service (DHL or FedEx) so that you will have the replacement card in about 5 business days.

If you need to receive money while you're in Spain, there are a few ways to do that. By far the easiest is if your parents or someone at home can simply deposit money into your bank account for you to withdraw at the ATM. Some banks even allow free transfers from one account to another if you both have the same bank. Aside from that, however, you can have money wired to you through Western Union, which operates at the main post office, or through MoneyGram.

Tipping

In regards to tipping in Spain, they typically don't do it. Sometimes people will leave some change to round to the nearest Euro at a restaurant, but that's about it.

Being a North American Abroad

Before you travel abroad to a new and unknown place, it is helpful to be aware of the different stereotypes and predispositions that Spaniards may have about you as a North American. North Americans and other foreigners in general may have a bad reputation in parts of the world. They can be perceived as demanding, noisy, not speaking the local language and expecting everyone else to speak theirs—and that doesn't even begin to cover whether people in other nations agree with your home government's policies and actions. It is important to recognize that these stereotypes exist, but it is also your job to represent your country in a positive light and try to demonstrate that not every North American fits the above stereotypes. Below are some helpful tips to think about before you go abroad so that you can come across as knowledgeable and culturally aware.

1. Educate yourself about Spain and its culture - this guide is a resource to assist you with learning background information and the cultural norms of the country, but you can also read books and go online to find out additional information before you go.
2. Read basic, factual, and historical information on your host country – also, be prepared for questions that Spaniards may ask you about the United States or Canada such as basic history, politics, and current events.
3. Learn about current events in Spain - it is also helpful to be aware of what is currently going on in the country in regards to the economy, politics, news, etc. Remember, Spain is part of the European Union, so it wouldn't hurt to know a little bit about that as well.

CULTURE SHOCK

Culture shock is a natural and common feeling that many students may experience when they study abroad. Basically, it is a feeling of being overwhelmed and confused by how unfamiliar your new surroundings seem. Although it might feel unconquerable when you experience it, you'll get through it as everyone does. Culture shock is generally broken down into a number of stages:

Honeymoon Phase: You arrive in Spain and you think, "This is great! Everything is new and exciting and I love it here!" You're having tours of the city, you're meeting new people, getting to understand the language more easily; everything is going really well and you're so glad you decided to study abroad.

Hostile Phase: After the excitement of being in Alicante starts to wear off, you may start to feel negative and frustrated with adjusting to the culture. You might feel like it takes forever to get anything done, you can't talk to your parents as much as you like, you're tired of all the new foods, locations, daily routines, and having to speak Spanish all the time. You might even start to wonder why you ever decided to study abroad in the first place.

Understanding/Sense of Humor Phase: After a while, you accept the cultural differences that surround you, and things start to feel okay again. As you get to be more familiar with the Spanish culture and lifestyle, you start to appreciate it more and become more confident in your surroundings. You are able to laugh at the misunderstandings that once made you so angry.

Integration Phase: You become accustomed to the good and bad aspects of Spanish culture and you incorporate them into your own life. Spanish lifestyle becomes part of your lifestyle; you like afternoon *siesta*, you love olive oil on your toast, you feel comfortable and happy in Alicante. This phase will last for the rest of your time abroad.

Re-entry Shock: When you go home again, you will experience another type of culture shock. You find that things at home have changed and that you have changed too. You don't know any of the songs on the radio or the phrases people are using. You may feel frustrated by others' lack of knowledge about issues that affect the country you've grown to love. You will miss your daily life in Spain and worry that you're talking too much about your experiences abroad.

Re-Integration Phase: You will get comfortable at home again soon; you'll be happy to see your family and friends, and you'll always remember your time in Alicante. You'll be able to express to people what was so meaningful about your experience and will be able to take the lessons you've learned abroad with you as you go on in life. You'll find that you are



a changed person, more mature, more experienced, and with great memories of Spain.

GENDER RELATIONS

Although it is slowly changing, you may notice that in Spain men and women still tend to carry out traditional gender roles. In your Spanish home, it wouldn't be uncommon to see that oftentimes your host mother does all of the cooking and cleaning; and it may appear that men in the family take that for granted.

Here is an article related to current gender roles in Spain:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2003294566_spain08.html

The Piropo

You will likely encounter a cultural phenomenon called the *piropo* (something like a catcall). What this means is that, if you are a woman, you may get shouted at on the streets of Spain. "*Eh, guapa, ven aquí...*" It is almost always harmless, but it can make you feel uncomfortable nonetheless. The best way to deal with a man who shouts a *piropo* to you is to just ignore him and keep on walking. **Remember that piropos are only annoying shouts. Physical contact and/or incessant harassment is never okay and is not acceptable no matter where you are.**

Things to remember when it comes to *piropos*:

- They're inevitable. Some are worse than others but all are annoying.
- Forget your manners; it is best not to make eye contact and smile at strangers on the street, especially to strange men yelling at you on the street.
- Keep on walking and don't respond. If the person is persistent, say "*Déjeme en paz*" or something similar.
- It's a part of the culture, so the men don't necessarily think that what they're doing is offensive.
- If a *piropo* turns into physical contact or you experience any other uncomfortable incident, talk with Spanish Studies staff; always feel free to call the emergency number.

GLBT (GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER) STUDENTS ABROAD

Spain is often considered to be relatively friendly towards GLBT individuals. Federal laws have been enacted to protect the rights of GLBT citizens and same-sex marriage has been legal throughout Spain since 2005. Many Spaniards view homosexuality with a sense of passive indifference; if you are respectful towards them, they will respect and accept you. GLBT communities and some social scenes are present in several of the country's major cities, including Seville, Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, and other locations.

Still, it is worth noting that GLBT acceptance is a relatively new concept in Spanish society. Some traditional conservative values do exist, particularly among the older generations and among those residing in rural areas of the country. If you identify yourself as gay or lesbian and you intend to share this fact with others while studying abroad, be prepared to answer occasional frank questions from your Spanish peers. Spaniards can sometimes be very direct and so these types of questions are simply their way of expressing interest and meeting their curiosity.

When talking with others about your sexuality, it is up to you to decide whom to tell and when to tell them. The Resident Director, as well as our staff in both Spain and the United States, is always available to answer your questions and concerns, so you can feel comfortable speaking with them on this subject. Whether or not you identify as GLBT, recognize that there may be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender students on your Spanish Studies program and in your classes in Alicante. It is important to be respectful and to approach this reality with an open mind.

Please visit this website for even more resources for the GLBT community and study abroad:

<https://www.goabroad.com/downloads/lgbt-study-abroad-guide.pdf>

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

The religious make up of Spain reflects its ethnic homogeneity. Spain is 68.4% Roman Catholic. A sizeable portion of Spaniards are non-practicing Catholics, and about a tenth of the population is atheist. Although the Roman Catholic tradition has helped form modern-day Spanish values, you will find that many Spaniards do not adhere strictly to the policies set forth by the Catholic Church.

If you are observing religious traditions different from Roman Catholicism, it is important to explain to your host family and Spanish friends what the tradition means to you. Keep an open mind about people's reactions to your religious beliefs; it is possible that they've never met someone with of your religious persuasion before. If you are respectful of other people's spirituality, they will be respectful of yours. Communities of religious minorities can be found in metropolitan centers. It is possible to become involved in any religious community while studying abroad, just ask our staff and they'll

point you in the right direction!

Travel the Land...

FUN PLACES TO VISIT

See a full list at <http://www.exploreseville.com/51things.htm>.

In and Around Seville

Isla Mágica in La Cartuja – If you like amusement parks, check out this one! Students generally take advantage of this in the warmer months: <http://www.islamagica.es/>

Plaza de Toros – If you would like to see one of Spain's famed, yet controversial, bullfights, this is the place to be. You can see live *corridas* every day from April to September.

Plaza de España – This is a great place to go and people watch. You can also enjoy the illuminated fountains and the beautiful painted tiles. It is a beautiful place to relax.

Museums – If you like museums, there are many to enjoy in Sevilla. You will want to make time for the Museo de Bellas Artes, Museo del Baile Flamenco, Museo Arqueológico, Museo de Artes y Costumbres, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, and Palacio de Lebrija.

Historic Sites – You will most likely see these during your orientation or other Study visits, however not to miss are: The Ruins of Italica, Cathedral and Giralda, and Reales Alcazares (Royal Palace).

Day/Weekend Trips from Seville

Sierras of Sevilla – Hiking and nature

Matalascañas, Huelva, and Cádiz – The beaches of the Costa de la Luz

Carmona – Small historic town outside of Seville

Córdoba – You will probably go with the Spanish Studies visit but you may want to return to explore on your own!

There is plenty of information on nearby places to visit on the internet, in guidebooks, and on our [Facebook page](#).

Learn the Language...

THE ANDALUSIAN ACCENT

In *Andalucía*, and specifically Seville, you will encounter a Spanish accent you may not have heard before. This way of speaking Spanish, called *el andaluz*, is different from the Spanish you hear in Madrid and the rest of Spain. It's main characteristics include leaving the "s" off the ends of words ("*vamono a tomarno algo*") and sort of skipping over the "d" in between vowels ("*complicá*" or "*complicao*" instead of "*complicada*" or "*complicado*").

This means that for the first few days of your program in Seville, you may not understand much of what your host mother says. You'll do a lot of smiling and nodding, and your friends and/or host family will have to repeat themselves often. Don't stress about it! As long as you keep trying to understand and ask about things that you don't quite get, you will get accustomed to the accent more quickly than you think. The *sevillanos* don't mind helping you to understand; they'll probably laugh at some of the things you say, but you'll be laughing, too. By the time you leave Seville, you'll say to a friend on the way out of a café "*¡ehpera un momento, que no he pagao!*"

VOSOTROS

Contrary to what you may have been taught in high school Spanish, the people of Spain absolutely use "*vosotros*" for second person plural. Familiarize yourself with *vosotros* before you go to Seville so you'll have an easier time getting used to it once you start hearing it every day. Here is a quick refresher:

Tense	-AR VERBS	-ER VERBS	-IR VERBS
Present Indicative	-áis [Vosotros] habláis siempre.	-éis [Vosotros] coméis mucho.	-ís [Vosotros] pedís mucho.

Preterite	-asteis [Vosotros] llegasteis tarde.	-isteis [Vosotros] pudisteis venir.	-isteis [Vosotros] dirigisteis bien.
Imperfect	-abais [Vosotros] contabais historias.	-íais [Vosotros] movíais mucho.	-íais [Vosotros] dormíais siempre..
Present Subjunctive	-éis Espero que mandéis la carta mañana.	-áis Quizá leáis el libro hoy.	-áis Es preciso que vengáis a tiempo.
Imperative	-ad (afirmativo) Mandad esta carta. No mandéis esta carta.	-ed (afirmativo) Leed este libro. No leáis este libro.	-id (afirmativo) Venid a verme. No vengáis hoy.

There are obviously more tenses and verb forms to be studied, so get out your old grammar books! This should give you a start in the right direction.

HELPFUL VOCABULARY AND EXPRESSIONS

- **Ir/Salir de marcha (or movida/juerga/farra)** – to go out and party and have a good time
- **Pasarlo bomba/en grande** – to have a good time.
- **Picar** – to have a snack
- **Ir de tapeo** – go out for tapas
- **Guay** – cool
- **Una gozada** – a very pleasant experience
- **Estar pachucho** – to be somewhat sick or ill
- **Ser un plomo/plomazo** – to be dull and boring (both people and things)
- **Vale** – ok or “I agree”
- **Tío/Tía** – casual expression used by young people, mostly girls use “Tía” with other girls and boys use “Tío” with other boys, kind of like “dude”
- **Un montón** – a lot (e.g. *un montón de tiempo* = a lot of time)
- **Ir de marcha** – *ir de fiesta*

They tend not to use “-ito” and “-ita” very often

SUGGESTED READING/VIEWING/LISTENING

To try and get an idea of what life might be like in Spain, it’s a good idea to do a little research. Here’s a listing of some recommended online resources, books, movies, and CDs. If you can’t find them elsewhere, most of these titles are available at Amazon.com or Netflix. You should also ask your Spanish professor or any friends who might have just returned from studying in Spain if they have any other suggestions for you.

Current Events

- [El País](#), Spain’s most widely distributed newspaper
- [El Mundo](#)
- [El Economista](#), important coverage of the economy
- [MARCA](#), Spain’s newspaper for sports
- Newspapers in Seville :
 - o [Diario de Sevilla](#)
 - o [ABC de Sevilla](#)
 - o [20minutos](#)
 - o [QUE](#)

Reference Books

- Emmanuel Paris-Bouvret & Anna Pérez-Gironés: [En una palabra, Sevilla, España](#)
- Lonely Planet Guides: [Lonely Planet: Andalucía](#)
- Margarita Gorrisen: [Barron’s Foreign Language Guides: Mastering Spanish Grammar](#)
- Christopher & Theodore Kendris: [Barron’s Foreign Language Guides: 501 Spanish Verbs Conjugated](#)
- Whereabouts Press, Spain: [A Traveler’s Literary Companion](#)

Books

- Alberto Méndez: Los girasoles ciegos
- Dulce Chacón: La voz dormida
- Ernest Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises
- Giles Tremlett: Ghosts of Spain
- Jason Webster: Duende: A Journey into the Heart of Flamenco
- Javier Cercas: Soldados de Salamina
- John A. Crow: Spain: The Root and the Flower
- John Hooper: The New Spaniards
- José María de Mena: Tradiciones y leyendas sevillanas
- Patricia Espinosa de los Monteros & Francesco Venturi: Houses and Palaces of Andalucía
- Penelope Casas: Tapas: the Little Dishes of Spain
- María Dueñas: El tiempo entre costuras
- Miguel de Cervantes: Don Quijote de la Mancha
- Camilo Jose Cela: La familia Pascual Duarte
- Antonio Machado: Campos de Castilla
- Elvira Lindo: Manolito Gafotas

Movies

- Ocho Apellidos Vascos, Directed by Emilio Martínez-Lázaro, 2014
- Grupo 7, Directed by Alberto Rodriguez, 2012
- Carmina o revienta, Directed by Paco León, 2012
- La montaña rusa, Directed by Emilio Martinez Lazaro, 2012
- También la lluvia, Directed by Iciar Bollain, 2011
- Mientras duermes, Directed by Jaume Balagueró, 2011
- Escuchando al Juez Garzon, Directed by Isabel Coixet, 2011
- Biutiful, Directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2010
- Los abrazos rotos, Directed by Pedro Almodóvar, 2009
- Los girasoles ciegos, Directed by José Luis Cuerda, 2008
- Camino, Directed by Javier Fesser, 2008
- El laberinto del fauno (Pan's Labyrinth), Directed by Guillermo Del Toro, 2006
- La lengua de las mariposas, Directed by José Luis Cuerda, 1999
- Sevillanas, Directed by Carlos Saura, 1992

Music

- Chambao, *Chambao*, 2012
- Mala Rodríguez, *Dirty Bailarina*, 2011
- Toni Zenet, *Los mares de China*, 2010
- Amaral, *Gato negro, dragón rojo*, 2008
- El Camarón de la Isla, *La leyenda del tiempo*, 1979; *Reencuentro*, 2008
- Manolo García, *Saldremos a la lluvia*, 2008, *Para que no se duerman mis sentidos*, 2004
- La Mala Rodríguez, *Malamarismo*, 2008
- Miguel Bosé, *Papito*, 2007
- Manu Chao, *La Radiolina*, 2007, *Próxima Estación: Esperanza*, 2001
- Estrella Morente, *Mujeres*, 2006
- El Sueño de Morfeo, *El Sueño de Morfeo*, 2005
- Diego el Cigala, *Lágrimas negras*, 2003
- Mano Negra, *The Best of Mano Negra*, 2003
- La Oreja de Van Gogh, *Lo que te conté mientras te hacías la dormida*, 2003

Live the Life...

You will probably find that your daily life in Seville is not too different from your daily life in North America. You will spend most of your time studying, hanging out with friends, and participating in extracurricular activities that interest you. Although the lives of college students in Spain and North America are fairly similar, here are some differences that you should be aware of.

MEETING SPANISH FRIENDS

Spanish people are friendly, open, and generally eager to meet new people. However, you will need to make an effort to introduce yourself to them. You will have many opportunities in Seville to meet Spanish friends. Some of the best ways are through the Speaking Partners program (a conversation exchange with a Spaniard), Spanish Studies fiestas, or just by going out to the places on campus and in the city where Spanish students hang out. Also, if you are taking courses with Spanish students at a local university, be sure to talk to students in your classes and hang out on campus as much as possible. They may not approach you, so you might have to step out of your comfort zone and reach out to them.

If you live with a family, there may or may not be people your age in your homestay. Make an effort to get to know everyone in the family, including friends and relatives who may visit. As part of the program you will be assigned a Speaking Partner; try to meet with this person on a regular basis, as he or she will introduce you to friends and show you their favorite spots around the city. If it is not working out and you are not able to meet up very often, inquire about a new Speaking Partner.

If you live in a Student Residence, this will be a great place to meet Spaniards your age. Don't be shy or embarrassed if you're not 100% comfortable speaking the language. Your dorm-mates have probably all studied a second language, so they will be able to relate. They will be able to help you learn and hopefully you will be able to laugh at your mistakes. The most important thing you can do is make an effort to not just hang out with the other people from your home country. Sit with the Spanish students at mealtimes and definitely don't speak English in front of them; it can make them feel left out.



CAMPUSES IN SEVILLE

While all students will take at least one course at the Spanish Studies Center, students on the Integrated Studies program will take courses with locals at one of two university campuses in Seville. We currently offer courses at the *Universidad de Sevilla*, *Universidad Pablo de Olavide* and the Spanish Studies Center (El Centro Norteamericano de Estudios Interculturales).



The Spanish Studies Center was established in 1969 when the Guidera family started the Center for Cross-Cultural Study in order to give North American students the opportunity to immerse themselves in another culture. Now it is home to both Spanish Language and Culture programs for North American students in Spain, as well as English courses for Spaniards, also hosting various cultural events throughout the year. The Center is housed in a Spanish-style mansion in the heart of Sevilla. From the Center, you can easily explore Seville by foot, by bike, or by public transportation.

All of the faculty at the Center are native Spanish speakers, many originally from the Andalucía region. They are very familiar with teaching North American students, thus offering courses that have a similar feel to language courses in North America with a smaller student/instructor ratio and an interactive atmosphere (e.g. grades are based on participation in the class, quizzes, projects and exams).

At the Center you will find the main office where the staff is always there to answer questions and help you navigate your time abroad. There is a patio, computer lab, library, writing center, and of course all the classrooms at the Center as well. The cultural travel staff will organize outings and excursions that you are encouraged to participate in.



Universidad de Sevilla

The *Universidad de Sevilla* (USEV) is a traditional European-style campus with buildings throughout the city. Established in 1505 and now serving more than 70,000 students, USEV is one of the most important educational and cultural centers in Andalucía. The historic building that now houses the School of Literature & Philology and the School of Geography & History is located in the city center, just a 10-minute walk from the Spanish Studies Center! For more information, visit the [USEV website](#).



Universidad Pablo de Olavide

Established in 1997, *Universidad Pablo de Olavide* (UPO) is one of the newest Universities in Spain and now serves over 10,000 students! It is located in the outskirts of the city and was built on the U.S. campus model and therefore has many modern buildings, including gymnasium, library, and other classroom buildings which are all conveniently located in one place. The campus is easily accessible by bus or subway in 10-20 minutes from the city center. For more information, visit the [UPO website](#).

HOUSING

Typically Spanish university students live at home, in a student residence (privately run, not a university building), or a private apartment with other students. With Spanish Studies in Seville, you will have the choice of a homestay or student residence.

On average, homes in Spain tend to be smaller than a typical North American home. Many Spaniards live in flats (apartment-style homes) or small houses with very little yard space, especially in and around cities and large towns. Very few Spaniards live in large, detached homes with sprawling yards.

If you are in a homestay, oftentimes “families” may not be the traditional family students expect. Your family could be a widow or single woman, an older couple whose children have grown, two sisters living together, or it could be a family with children your age and younger. Many of these families will take in students as a form of extra income. Regardless, they are all friendly, kind people who have been interviewed and whose houses have been inspected before we agreed to have them provide a home for our students.

Energy costs are high in Spain, so you may notice your host family turning off the lights if you leave them on and they may ask you to take a shorter shower. Be respectful of these differences and do as your host family does—be conservative with water, heat, and electricity.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: VEGETARIANS, VEGANS AND GLUTEN-FREE

As a vegetarian, you should be very careful in restaurants and make sure that the bean dish you are ordering doesn't have ham in it. Many vegetarians will opt to eat fish while in Spain; this will give you more options and probably allow you to eat more well-balanced meals while abroad. Vegans will be hard pressed to eat very well in Spain. While most food is cooked in olive oil rather than butter, you will have to make sure you are getting the nutrients you need.

If you're dining out, you can try looking for a [Fresc Co franchise](#), a veggie-friendly buffet that can be found in many big cities in Spain.

If you plan to change your diet and begin eating fish, meat, or dairy, you should start incorporating these foods into your diet before you leave, so that you will not be sick at the start of your program in Sevilla. You must let us know about any dietary restrictions or food allergies by emailing info@spanishstudies.org or calling (413) 256-0011. **NOTE: Some dietary accommodations may require an additional fee.**

For more information on being a vegetarian or vegan in Spain, visit [The Vegetarian's Survival Guide](#).

SHOPPING

As mentioned before, almost all shops begin to close down around 1:30 every afternoon so that the employees can go home for *almuerzo* and *siesta*. Most stores will begin to reopen around 5:00 PM and will stay open until around 8:30 or 9:00 PM. In the city center, however, shops and the large department store *El Corte Inglés* remain open all day. Shops are generally open these hours from Monday through Saturday and are closed on Sunday.

Shopping in Spain is very specialized; you buy medicines at the pharmacy, and only the pharmacy. You buy shampoo or feminine hygiene products at the grocery store. If you need your watch fixed, you go to the watch store; if you need an alarm clock, you go to the electronics store, etc. The only large department store you'll find in Seville is the *Corte Inglés*. They have everything from CDs to clothes to sporting goods to groceries. They tend to be more expensive than other stores, so you might be better off finding the small specialty shops and making your purchases that way. You will also get a lot of individual attention at all Spanish stores. You should greet the store employees when you go in, and say "*hasta luego*" when you leave. If you need something specific, the easiest and most common thing to do is simply walk into the store and ask the employee for what you need. Browsing on your own is not something people usually do, except at large clothing stores like Zara or H&M.

Here are a few helpful hints on where to look for what you need:

I need to get...	Go to...
School supplies (notebooks, folders, pens...)	Una papelería
Stamps	Correos or un estanco/una tabacalera
Cold Medicine	Una farmacia
Batteries (<i>pilas</i>), headphones (<i>auriculares</i>), etc.	Una tienda de productos eléctricos
Memory cards	Un estanco, una tienda de fotografía
Condoms	Una farmacia
Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush...	El supermercado (e.g. Mercadona), una perfumería

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We want you to have fun in Seville; your social life is a big part of your education abroad. However, you are expected to meet all your academic responsibilities. Make sure you don't let hanging out with friends interfere with your school work.

There are a number of ways to get involved socially in Seville such as going out at night, hanging out during the day or evenings, and various organized social activities. Below are a few suggestions. Please also be sure to visit the activities fair held in the Spanish Studies Center at the beginning of each term.

Here are some fun neighborhoods to explore in Sevilla:

Barrio Santa Cruz is a great place to explore. Here you can lose yourself amid the winding narrow streets. You will find restaurants, cafés, bars, *chocolaterías*, ice-cream parlors, and small shops. Although many tourists frequent this neighborhood, there is much to be discovered

Barrio Triana is known for its great pottery and ceramics, but also has lots of small bars and restaurants to check out.

Barrio Alameda is a culturally diverse neighborhood where there are lots of friendly people, tapas spots, great bars, small shops, and more! Many young people go here in the evenings; it's considered an alternative neighborhood where you can find people attending concerts and a street market on Thursday mornings.

La Alfalfa isn't a neighborhood, but an area that is great to go out at night and located right in the heart of the city. There is always a lot going on here. On the weekends it is always full of young people.

Barrio Nervión is a great neighborhood to go out for dinner, shopping, and the movies. There are many university students and bars because it is near many of the Universidad de Sevilla buildings.

Parque del Alamillo is a large urban park where you can go to relax with your friends or play sports surrounded by trees and plants. It's also a meeting place where sports, cultural, charity and community events take place.

Barrio Los Remedios is another neighborhood where many homestays are located. Here there are lots of little shops and restaurants and is a busy place during *Feria de Abril* where many of the *casetas* (stalls) are set up. The most well known street is *Calle Asunción*.

Besides going out to bars and clubs at night, there are many other things to see and do in Seville. For example, there are several movie theaters and *filmotecas* (small film clubs) where you can see new Spanish movies, as well as some of the latest American films dubbed in Spanish. Movie tickets typically cost around \$8. With your student ID, you can often get discounts on transportation, movie tickets, and certain stores. There are also opportunities to see theater, classical music performances, and opera, though these are probably a bit more costly. There is a movie theater called Avenida 5 next to the Plaza de Armas where you can watch original films with Spanish subtitles.

You will find that Spaniards often like to go out and have a coffee or drink at a café. There are many cafés with outdoor seating where you can enjoy the nice weather.

For events going on in the city, the Center does a great job of keeping our students informed via email, Facebook, etc. You can also check out these websites for more local happenings: <http://www.andalunet.com/>, <http://www.sevilla.org/>, <https://www.elegirhoy.com>, <http://issuu.com/yuzinsevilla>

Nightlife in Spain

Spanish nightlife is probably unlike any social scene you've experienced before. Don't be surprised if your Spanish friends ask you to meet up with them at midnight or later – that's just the start of the evening. Many of the friends you meet will stay out until 6 or 7 in the morning; when one set of bars and clubs closes, another set opens up. People can go out to clubs until 9:00 or 10:00 AM and then head straight to breakfast. Although going out until the next morning is a common option, there are tamer social options if you are not a night owl.

