

Summer in Spain - Pre-Travel Reminders

Departure Information

Our flight leaves O'Hare at 4:40pm. We need to arrive early to allow time for group check-in & security screening.

We will meet at the Dutch Mill Park & Ride on Monday, June 12 at 8:30am.

The bus leaves at 8:50am

We have *NO* ability to hold the bus. **DO NOT BE LATE.** Yes, it's before we "need" to meet for the bus. **We will check that you have passports & vital medications when you arrive.** If you've forgotten it (or anything else vital), there is time to run home. But the passport & your prescriptions are non-negotiable. Everything else could be dealt with on the road.

Important Reminders

1. Double and triple check that you have VITAL things. Your Passport and important medications are top priority. In a pinch, anything else can be purchased abroad.
2. Check the weight of your bag--the fees for overweight bags are like \$75-\$100.
3. Use a luggage tag and be sure your bag is labeled inside too!
4. Be sure you're ready for the TSA security check. This means you know you'll have to take your shoes off, you will have to take out your 3-1-1 liquids (and have no other liquids to carry on). Don't wear lots of metal (sequins, studded belts, etc.)
5. Be ready to sleep on the plane. We arrive at like 7am and have a full day of touring. Our bodies may think it's midnight if we don't trick them into thinking they've had a night's sleep.
6. Be positive! Travel is stressful for our bodies and minds, but it's all part of the adventure. ¡Qué interesante! Things will happen we can't control, and even if you get frustrated, try to keep it positive. We'll take care of each other and do what we can TOGETHER to make sure everyone has the best time, safely.

Summer in Spain - The stuff you bring

Packing

Set out the luggage you need:

- ✓ 1 quart-sized bag for ALL carry-on liquids
- ✓ small personal item bag for things you will access during flight
- ✓ carry on bag for things you can NOT lose
- ✓ larger bag to check into the cargo hold (if you *must*)

Luggage Allowance



- Personal Item: 16"x12"x5.9"
- Carry On Bag: 22"x16"x9.84" & 22lbs
- Checked Baggage: L+W+H = 62" total & 40lbs

Packing



- Use a list. Stick to it.
- Start with the smallest bag you have, switch to a bigger one only if needed.
- Nobody ever wishes they hauled MORE stuff.

Summer in Spain - What NOT to bring

Do not pack

- Any sort of weapon. This includes any sort of knives, pepper spray, etc.
- Extremely expensive jewelry or other things with great sentimental or monetary value.
- Large amounts of cash. Plan to use a credit/debit card for most things, especially larger purchases. Just be sure to let your bank know you'll be traveling!
- Large sporting equipment. Small things like a frisbee or something inflatable for the beach? Sure!
- Lots of paper books/magazines.
- Clothes that are super "American patriotic" (flags, camouflage, eagles, etc).
- Lots of jeans (because they're heavy)
- Uncomfortable shoes, brand new shoes, or more than 3 pairs of shoes.
- "Just in case" things. If you don't use them here regularly, you can be fine without them there.
- Lots of different electronics. (They're heavy & expensive.)
- Tons of food (but some snacks are a good idea!)
- Excessive liquids in a carry-on bag (3-1-1: 3.4oz containers/1 qt bag/1 bag per traveler)

Summer in Spain - What they wear

Want to blend in?

(But you don't have to.)

«Por dónde que fueres, haz lo que vieres.»

Spanish Men: more stylish, more fitted clothes (dress clothes are cut slimmer). Jerseys or shirts with names of big teams are common, but graphic T's not so much. Not so much wearing sports shorts or athletic shoes when not doing actual sports unless it's really hot or they're near the beach. Shorts are not super popular, but many do wear long straight shorts (like pants, but just knee-length).

Spanish Women: fitted look. More bare skin nearer the coast, less inland or in cities. Lots of loose/flowy pants (gaucho style). Tucked shirt. High-waist pants. Fashion sneakers. More "put together" looks. Some places will not allow lots of bare skin (religious sites especially), which includes bare midriff, bare shoulders, short shorts.

Summer in Spain - What to wear

Itinerario

- Day 1 (Monday 6/12) - Fly to Spain. Dress comfy.
- Day 2 (Tuesday 6/13) - Arrive (may want to have a quick change of clothes?). Dress comfy.
- Day 3 (Wednesday 6/14) - Segovia tour. Includes cathedral. **Dress conservatively**
- Day 4 (Thursday 6/15) - El Escorial/Valle de los Caídos. Includes tomb. **Dress conservatively.** Valle de los Caídos is on a hill, and it is often windy/cooler.
- Day 5 (Friday 6/16) - Salamanca. Includes old & new cathedrals, university, square. **Dress conservatively.**
- Day 6 (Saturday 6/17) - Travel to Toledo, transfer to Sevilla hotel. Includes cathedral & synagogue visit. **Dress conservatively****
- Day 7 (Sunday 6/18) - Sevilla tour, transfer to Granada homestay. Includes cathedral visit. **Dress conservatively****
- Day 8 (Monday 6/19) - Alhambra palace tour. Dress comfortably.
- Day 9 (Tuesday 6/20) - Beach day. Dress beachy.
- Day 10 (Wednesday 6/21) - Nerja cave. Dress comfortably. Torso must be covered.
- Day 11 (Thursday 6/22) - Madrid museums. Dress comfortably. **Bring a mask.**
- Day 12 (Friday 6/23) - Fly home. Dress comfortably.

****Website specifically mentions this.**

Summer in Spain - What to wear

Weather

City	Avg. Temps in June (Hi/Lo)	Avg. rain for June
Madrid	83 / 56	1.0"
Segovia	78 / 51	1.2"
Toledo	85 / 59	0.9"
Sevilla	88 / 61	0.3"
Granada	81 / 56	0.6"

Money Stuff



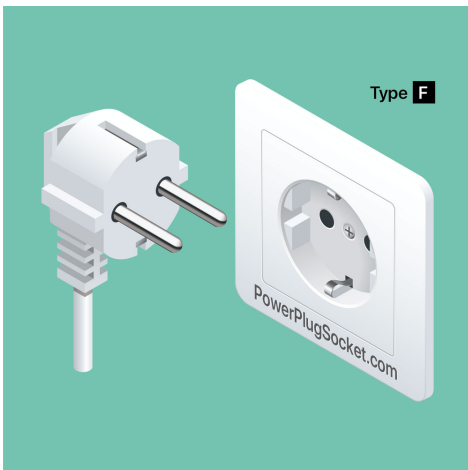
What type of money:

- Cash - best in Euros. You'll get the best rate from banks here buying Euros. Exchange houses charge HUGE fees. We will NOT have time to stop as a whole group and exchange US \$ for Euros. The dollar is weaker than the euro, so unlike some places, Spain will NOT prefer you pay in dollars. They will probably not accept them.
- ATM Card - Good to use in the ATM of a large bank. Random ATMs on the street will also charge enormous fees. Be aware of what fees *YOUR* bank charges on out-of-network/foreign ATMs. Be sure to notify them that you'll be abroad.
- Credit Card - be sure to notify them you're traveling. Find out their fees for foreign transactions. In Spain, some places will ask if you want to be charged in dollars or euros. Usually euros will be better cheaper for you unless your card charges huge fees.
- Traveler's Checks - Okay, boomer. These are pretty outdated, and can be inconvenient to cash. Don't bother with these.

Tech Stuff



- Spain operates on 220v, the US operates on 110.
- **Most** electronics can handle this. Your phone should be fine. A voltage converter can bring peace of mind if you want to be sure.
- US appliances like hair dryers **won't work** w/o converter or a dual voltage switch (many travel hair dryers have this).
- Spain uses Type F plugs/outlets. These have 2 round pins instead of the 2 flat ones we use in the US. US plugs will NOT fit into the outlets.



Dual voltage switch



This is an outlet adapter. You'll need one of these to plug anything into the outlets.



This is a voltage converter (+ outlet adapter). You'll need one of these for anything that can't handle the European voltage.

Phone Service

- Some phone providers will charge extra for use abroad. Check your plan before leaving.
- Some providers have upgrades to purchase for international use.
- WiFi is readily available in Spain like it is here. Often for customers only.
- eSIM cards may be worth exploring, but you will have a different, Spanish phone number while that SIM is active. You will not receive calls/texts to your regular number, but can receive iMessage or Facebook Messages or others that work on WiFi. WhatsApp is a popular app for texting via wifi, but anyone you'd text would need the app also. The plus is that it does use your regular phone number.