BackpackersBible.com

The World In Your Pocket

Online? Try our INTERACTIVE MAP



Backpacking Spain

*TAP THE MAP or the buttons below for info, **DOUBLE-TAP** to zoom.*

ABOUT SPAIN	BASQUE COUNTRY	ARAGÓN
COASTAL SPAIN	GALICIA	NAVARRE
CATALONIA	THE CAMINO	LA RIOJA
BARCELONA	ASTURIAS	EXTREMADURA
MADRID	CANTABRIA	MURCIA
ANDALUCÍA	CASTILE & LEÓN	BALEARIC ISLANDS
SEVILLE	CASTILLA LA MANCHA	CANARY ISLANDS
VALENCIA	TOLEDO	CEUTA & MELILLA



BACKPACKING SPAIN

Welcome to Spain—a country where rules about time, social life, and daily routines are completely rewritten. If this is your first real step out into the wider world, you could not have chosen a better launching pad. At home you might be accustomed to structured days, predictable evenings, and early closing times, but Spain operates on an entirely different frequency. Here, the day doesn't end when the sun goes down; it is only just getting started.

From the moment you arrive, you will feel the shift. Spain is a sensory overload of electric city streets, sun-drenched coastlines, rugged mountain trails, and ancient plazas where centuries of history meet an unstoppable, world-famous nightlife. Whether you are hopping between world-class hostels in Barcelona, catching sunrise waves along the northern Atlantic coast, or learning the fine art of tapas crawling through the backstreets of Madrid, this trip isn't just a casual holiday—it is an unforgettable chapter of your life that will set the standard for every journey to come.

A Whole New Rhythm of Life
The first thing that will shock you is the clock. Spain runs on its own time zone—both literally and culturally. Lunch is a leisurely, multi-course event that kicks off around 2:00 PM, dinner rarely happens before 10:00 PM, and the night doesn't truly peak until the early hours of the morning. Get ready to embrace the afternoon lull, when the heat peaks, the streets quiet down, and locals recharge. It's the perfect excuse to rest up, because once dusk hits, towns and cities across the country burst into vibrant, infectious life.

Adjusting to this rhythm is where the real fun begins. You'll quickly learn that social life here revolves around public spaces. Plazas aren't just architectural landmarks to snap photos of; they are giant community living rooms. On any given evening, you'll find yourself sitting on stone steps in a bustling square alongside new hostel mates, local students, and fellow travelers from every corner of the globe. Sharing cheap drinks, snacking on local bites, and listening to street musicians under fairy-lit terraces is where the magic happens.

Epic Adventures Across Diverse Landscapes
Spain is far from a one-note destination. It's a mosaic of distinct regions, each boasting its own unique accent, traditions, local dishes, and landscapes that make them feel like entirely different countries altogether.

The Mediterranean Coast & Catalonia: Sun, sea, and nonstop energy. Experience the creative, bohemian pulse of Barcelona, dance at beachside music festivals in Valencia, or explore hidden turquoise coves along the Costa Brava where summer nights feel practically infinite.

The Wild North & Basque Country: For those craving raw nature and adventure, España Verde (Green Spain) offers

dramatic sea cliffs, world-class surf breaks, and jaw-dropping mountain trekking through the rugged Picos de Europa range. It's cooler, greener, and packed with incredible food.

Andalucía & The Deep South: Head south to experience the iconic heartland of flamenco, sun-baked olive groves, and awe-inspiring Moorish fortresses like Granada's Alhambra. Best of all, Andalucía is home to the legendary, budget-friendly tapas culture where every drink order comes with free food.

The Central Plateau: Dive into Madrid's relentless, 24-hour energy and explore neighboring medieval towns like Toledo and Segovia, where ancient Roman aqueducts and castles stand tall against vast golden horizons.

The Art of Budget Travel & Community

One of the best parts about backpacking Spain is how accessible it is for young travelers on a budget. High-speed trains and budget buses connect major hubs effortlessly, while Spain's hostel scene is widely considered one of the best in Europe. Hostels here aren't just cheap places to sleep—they are social hubs that organize daily walking tours, family-style group dinners, sangria workshops, and pub crawls that make making new friends completely effortless.

You'll also learn how to eat like a king without breaking the bank. From grabbing freshly baked empanadas at local markets to taking full advantage of the daily lunch specials (menú del día), living well on a shoestring budget is practically a national sport.

Your Backpacking Mindset

Backpacking Spain isn't about rushing frantically from one museum to the next with a long, exhausting checklist. It's about learning to slow down, saying "yes" to unexpected side

trips, meeting lifelong friends over late-night meals, and diving headfirst into an intoxicating culture of warmth, passion, and celebration.

Pack light, bring an open mind, throw away your normal sleep schedule, and get ready for epic adventures, late nights, and memories that will ruin ordinary travel for you forever. Welcome to Spain!



Book Top-Rated Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com





SPAIN'S COAST

A Costa-By-Costa Paradise

Stretching for thousands of kilometres along both the Mediterranean Sea and the wild Atlantic Ocean, the coast of Spain is a sun-soaked paradise that has drawn travellers for decades. But for young backpackers, Spain's coastline is far more than just sunbathing on golden sand; it is a sprawling, high-energy ribbon of dramatic natural landscapes, world-class surf breaks, ancient maritime cities, and vibrant beachside social hubs. At home, you might be used to coastal strips dominated by private resorts or quiet, sleepy beaches, but the Spanish coast operates on an entirely different scale of accessibility, energy, and variety. Within a single region, you can spend your mornings sea-kayaking through hidden turquoise coves, your afternoons indulging in fresh seafood at bustling harbour

markets, and your evenings joining hostel crews for sunset drinks on broad sandy promenades. Following the shoreline clockwise around the entire Iberian Peninsula—starting in the northeastern corner at the French border, sweeping down the Mediterranean seaboard, rounding the Atlantic south, and tracing the wild northern coastline all the way back to the Basque Country—each individual Costa delivers its own distinct identity, local flavour, and adventurous lifestyle tailored for budget travellers.

Costa Brava (Catalonia)

The Vibe: Hidden cliffside coves, turquoise snorkelling bays, and coastal walking paths.

For Backpackers: Extending from the French border down to Blanes, the “Wild Coast” is defined by pine-covered cliffs sheltering rocky inlets (calas). It is top-tier for sea kayaking, cliff jumping, and hiking along the coastal Camí de Ronda trail past picturesque towns like Cadaqués and Begur.

Costa de Barcelona (Catalonia)

The Vibe: Urban beach lifestyle, coastal train connections, and vibrant social hubs.

For Backpackers: Framing the Catalan capital and stretching through seaside towns like Badalona and Sitges, this coast offers broad beaches connected directly by urban train lines. It is built for seamless transit between city sights, hostel meetups, and sunset drinks on the sand.

Costa Dorada (Catalonia)

The Vibe: Expanses of fine golden sand, calm waters, and

high-energy resort night scenes.

For Backpackers: Sitting south of Barcelona around Tarragona and Salou, the “Golden Coast” boasts vast sandy shores and shallow waters. Beyond Roman ruins and beach sports, Salou and Sitges feature lively open-air beach clubs that draw youth travellers well into the night.

Costa del Azahar (Valencia)

The Vibe: Orange groves, historic seaside castles, and quiet, uncrowded beaches.

For Backpackers: Covering the province of Castellón, the “Orange Blossom Coast” blends quiet Mediterranean stretches with historic coastal hubs like Peñíscola, where a Templar castle sits directly over the sea. It is an affordable stop for backpackers seeking laid-back beach days away from major tourist crowds.

Costa de Valencia (Valencia)

The Vibe: Broad city sands, vibrant beach volleyball, and birthplace of paella.

For Backpackers: Anchored by Valencia’s expansive city beaches like Playa de la Malvarrosa, this coast combines Mediterranean ocean living with rich culinary tradition. Spend afternoons playing beach volleyball, exploring the nearby Turia Gardens, and sharing authentic wood-fired paella at seaside taverns.

Costa Blanca (Alicante)

The Vibe: Year-round Mediterranean sunshine, towering sea

cliffs, and cheap tapas crawls.

For Backpackers: Centred around Alicante, Altea, and Benidorm, the “White Coast” features turquoise waters beneath limestone rock faces like the Peñón de Ifach in Calpe. With budget-friendly tapas bars, social hostels, and endless sunshine, it is a favourite hub for international travellers.

Costa Cálida (Murcia)

The Vibe: Saltwater lagoons, desert landscapes, and quiet coastal nature reserves.

For Backpackers: Covering the region of Murcia, the “Warm Coast” is famous for the Mar Menor—Europe’s largest saltwater lagoon—and dramatic mineral-rich mud baths. It offers warm, shallow waters and an affordable, off-the-beaten-track escape for sea kayaking and relaxing.

Costa de Almería (Andalucía)

The Vibe: Wild volcanic coves, desert backdrops, and bohemian fishing villages.

For Backpackers: Wrapping around eastern Andalucía, this dry, sun-drenched coast is dominated by the Cabo de Gata Natural Park. Backpackers will find pristine volcanic beaches, hidden sea caves, and uncrowded fishing villages where bohemian beach camping and snorkeling take centre stage.

Costa Tropical (Andalucía)

The Vibe: Subtropical microclimates, Moorish seaside castles, and mountain backdrops.

For Backpackers: Tucked into Granada province where the Sierra Nevada mountains meet the sea, this stretch enjoys a unique warm climate where tropical fruits like mangoes and avocados grow. Hubs like Salobreña and Almuñécar feature cliffside Moorish castles, clear waters for scuba diving, and budget tapas bars.

Costa del Sol (Andalucía)

The Vibe: High-octane social living, seaside chiringuitos, and late-night party strips.

For Backpackers: Spanning Málaga, Marbella, and Nerja, the Sunshine Coast pairs historic Moorish fortresses and coastal sea caves with a massive social scene. Hostels regularly organize group beach trips, pub crawls, and water sports along lively Mediterranean promenades.

Costa de la Luz (Andalucía)

The Vibe: Windswept Atlantic sand dunes, kite-surfing hotspots, and bohemian surf culture.

For Backpackers: Curving from Tarifa past Cádiz to the Portuguese border, this Atlantic-facing southern coast trades Mediterranean calm for broad sand dunes and ocean winds. It is a international mecca for windsurfing, kite-boarding, and watching ocean sunsets with views across the strait to Africa.

Rías Baixas (Galicia)

The Vibe: Turquoise ocean inlets, white-sand archipelagos, and budget seafood feasts.

For Backpackers: Starting at the northern border of Portugal, the deep fjords of the Rías Baixas offer calm coastal waters and idyllic scenery. Hop on a local ferry to the protected Cíes Islands to camp beside Rodas Beach, or explore vibrant Galician coastal hubs like Vigo and Sanxenxo.

Costa da Morte (Galicia)

The Vibe: Treacherous ocean history, sea-cliff sunsets, and end-of-the-world rituals.

For Backpackers: Named the "Coast of Death" for its history of Atlantic shipwrecks, this rugged western shoreline culminates at Cape Finisterre. Backpackers gather on the rocks here to watch dramatic sunsets over the Atlantic, soaking in centuries of Camino pilgrimage tradition.

Rías Altas (Galicia)

The Vibe: Raw, windswept Atlantic wilderness and soaring granite cliffs.

For Backpackers: Stretching across northernmost Galicia, the Rías Altas features dramatic sea inlets, sea-carved arches at the Beach of the Cathedrals near Ribadeo, and some of continental Europe's highest sea cliffs at Serra da Capelada. It is pristine, quiet, and built for wilderness exploration.

Costa Verde (Asturias)

The Vibe: Pine-clad headlands, lively cider taverns, and secret cliffside lagoons.

For Backpackers: Asturias' "Green Coast" lives up to its name

with dense forest carpeted right down to the ocean edge. Base yourself in historic fishing hubs like Cudillero or Luarca, hit the surf at Rodiles or Ribadesella, or visit Gulpiyuri—a unique inland beach fed by sea water through underground caves.

Costa de Cantabria

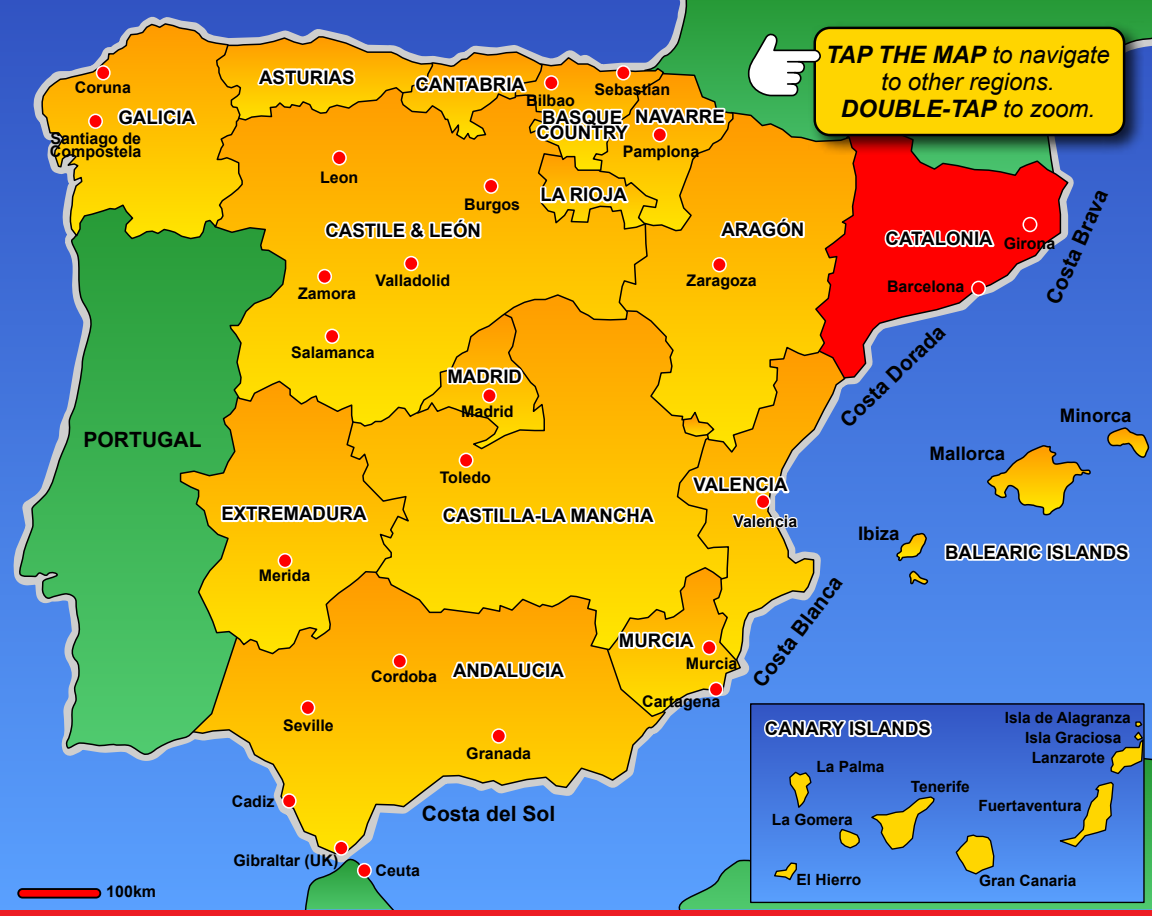
The Vibe: Surf hostels, expansive golden bays, and sweeping sea-to-mountain views.

For Backpackers: Centred around Santander and surf hubs like Somo and Suances, Cantabria's coastline blends wide sandy beaches with lush green hills. It is ideal for budget travellers wanting surf camps, beach volleyball, and quick access to coastal hiking trails with the alpine peaks of the Picos de Europa looming nearby.

Costa Vasca (Basque Country)

The Vibe: Dramatic geological flysch cliffs, heavy Atlantic swells, and pintxo-bar culture.

For Backpackers: Completing the journey at the French border, the Basque Coast is world-famous for its powerful surf breaks and striking coastal scenery. Surfers head straight for Zarautz or the legendary river-mouth left break at Mundaka, while hikers can explore the UNESCO-listed flysch rock formations or walk the stone path to the island chapel of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe.



CATALONIA

The Independent Pulse of the Northeast

Pronounced: *kah-tah-LOO-nyah*

Tucked into Spain's northeastern corner—stretching from the snow-capped Pyrenees mountains straight down to the sun-soaked Mediterranean Sea—lies Catalonia. While it is legally part of Spain, the moment you set foot across its borders, you will quickly realise it feels like an entirely separate country altogether. Steeped in centuries of rich history, Catalonia boasts its own distinct language, unique cultural traditions, and a hyper-proud regional identity that infuses everything from its architecture to its local politics. For young backpackers, this region represents a mind-blowing geographical playground. Within just a few short hours, you can transition

from high-altitude alpine hiking in remote mountain passes to sipping chilled vermouth in medieval plazas, before ending your evening dancing on Mediterranean beaches. It is dynamic, fiercely independent, food-obsessed, and built from the ground up for travelers seeking high-octane city living, outdoor adrenaline, and legendary coastal vibes.

Barcelona: The Social & Cultural Engine

The Vibe: High-octane, artistic, and world-class social living.

For Backpackers: For almost every traveller, Catalonia begins in Barcelona. By day, you will find yourself wandering through fairytale Gaudí architecture like the Sagrada Família, grabbing cheap bite-sized snacks in Poble Sec, or soaking up the sun on Barceloneta Beach. As the sun sets, the city transforms into an ultimate social hub where travellers gather at spots like the Bunkers del Carmel for 360-degree sunset views before diving headfirst into legendary nightlife that runs straight into the morning.

Beyond the Capital: Coves, Mountains, and Medieval Streets

The Vibe: Diverse landscapes built for road trips and day trips.

For Backpackers: Staying only in Barcelona means missing out on Catalonia's best adventures. Just north lies the Costa Brava ("Wild Coast"), featuring pine-covered cliffs, hidden turquoise coves, and scenic hiking along the Camí de Ronda coastal path. Inland, university hubs like Girona offer ancient Roman walls and Game of Thrones filming locations with fewer crowds and budget-friendly prices. For mountain escapes, head to the dramatic saw-toothed peaks of Montserrat or

travel north to the Catalan Pyrenees for white-water rafting, mountain biking, and alpine trekking.

A Distinct Culture and Unique Traditions

The Vibe: Proud, passionate, and rich in local heritage.

For Backpackers: What makes backpacking Catalonia so special is its fierce cultural identity. You will see Senyera flags hanging from apartment balconies everywhere you go. Locals love sharing their heritage—whether that means introducing you to *vermut* (fortified wine enjoyed on sunny plazas before lunch), feasting on seasonal grilled spring onions called *calçots*, or watching mind-blowing human towers (*castells*) built in city squares during summer street festivals.

The Backpacker Mindset in Catalonia

The Vibe: Fast-paced, varied, and infinitely adventurous.

For Backpackers: Catalonia is uniquely setup for youth travel thanks to an extensive regional train network (Rodalies and FGC) that connects metropolitan streets directly to coastal surf beaches and mountain hiking trails. With top-tier hostels spread across cities and coastal towns alike, meeting fellow travellers while soaking up a distinct European culture is practically effortless. Pack your walking shoes, bring an open appetite, and prepare for a region that will captivate your senses from the mountains to the sea.

FIND TOP-RATED CATALONIA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

MANÀ MANÀ HOSTEL
Carrer de Sant Telm, 9, 17320 Tossa de Mar, Girona, Spain

PHONE: +34 972 34 25 49 **WHATSAPP:** +34 711 51 41 89

EMAIL: info@manamanahostel.com

WEB: manamanahostel.com

BLACK AND WHITE HOSTEL
Carrer President Macià, 17230 Palamós i Sant Joan, Girona, Spain

PHONE: +34 972 60 18 00 **WHATSAPP:** +34 689 333 336

EMAIL: info@blackandwhitehostel.com

WEB: blackandwhitehostel.com

CAN COCOLLONA
Av. de la Hispanitat, 38, 17005 Girona, Spain

PHONE: +34 607 40 96 10 **WHATSAPP:** +34 607 40 96 10

EMAIL: info@cancocollona.com **WEB:** cancocollona.com

FIND TOP-RATED CATALONIA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

MALVA HOSTEL
Carrer de l'Església, 68-70, 17258 L'Estartit, Girona, Spain

PHONE: +34 676 89 81 46 **WHATSAPP:** +34 711 51 41 89

EMAIL: info@malvahostel.com **WEB:** malvahostel.com

ALBERG RURAL EL NEGRE
Carretera de Ribamala, km. 7, 17861 Sant Martí d'Ogassa, Girona

PHONE: +34 633 717 704 **WHATSAPP:** +34 633 717 704

EMAIL: mas@elnegre.cat **WEB:** elnegre.cat

LA RECTORIA D'ALBANYÀ
Plaça Major, s/n, 17733 Albanyà, Girona, Spain

PHONE: +34 607 40 96 10 **WHATSAPP:** +34 607 40 96 10

EMAIL: larectoriadealbanya@gmail.com

WEB: larectoriaalbanya.com

ALBERG FARO (Women Only)
Av. del Cavall Bernat, 118, 17250 Platja d'Aro, Girona, Spain

PHONE: +34 602 66 47 95 **WHATSAPP:** +34 711 51 41 89

WEB: albergue faro.com

ALBERG SOLIDANÇA
Carrer de la Garriga, 75, 17200 Palafrugell, Girona, Spain

PHONE: +34 936 854 434 **WHATSAPP:** +34 935 854 434

EMAIL: solidan@solidanca.cat

WEB: solidanca.cat

Find the full list

CATELONIA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.

Book Catalonia Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By kallerna - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=201575746



BARCELONA

The Capital of Unforgettable Days and Endless Nights

Pronounced: *bar-theh-LOH-nah*

If backpacking is a rite of passage, Barcelona is its ultimate cathedral. No other European city balances iconic, jaw-dropping culture with high-energy social living quite like Catalonia's vibrant seaside capital. At home, you might be accustomed to structured days, early closing times, and predictable routines, but Barcelona operates as a high-octane playground built from the ground up for young travellers. Here, your days are spent wandering through fairytale modernist streets, soaking up the Mediterranean sun on lively golden shores, and diving deep into centuries-old gothic quarters. By night, the city transforms into an electric social hub where hostel

communities gather for golden hour views, tapas crawls, and epic nights that run straight into spectacular Mediterranean sunrises.

A Feast for the Senses and Architecture

The Vibe: Surreal, creative, and visually stunning.

For Backpackers: From the moment you arrive, Barcelona's atmosphere hits you. It is a city defined by mind-bending architecture courtesy of Antoni Gaudí. You will spend afternoons gazing up at the towering spires of the Sagrada Família, exploring the mosaic lizard terraces of Park Güell, or taking in the whimsical curves of Casa Batlló along Passeig de Gràcia. When you need to escape the heat, lose yourself in the labyrinthine alleys of the medieval Gothic Quarter (Barri Gòtic) or the creative, boutique-lined streets of El Born, where hidden courtyards and artisan coffee shops sit around every corner.

Local Food Culture and Market Grazing

The Vibe: Vibrant, delicious, and budget-friendly.

For Backpackers: When you get hungry, avoid overpriced tourist traps and dive straight into the local food scene. Grab cheap pintxos (small snacks skewered on toothpicks) for a euro or two along the lively pedestrian strip of Carrer de Blai in Poble Sec. For an iconic lunch, pick up fresh tropical fruit juices, empanadas, and local cured meats inside the chaotic, colourful Mercat de la Boqueria right off Las Ramblas. To eat like a local on a budget, take advantage of the traditional menú del día—a satisfying three-course set lunch offered at neighbourhood spots across the city.

The Legendary Hostel and Social Scene

The Vibe: Effortlessly social, international, and welcoming.

For Backpackers: Barcelona boasts one of the most legendary, high-rated hostel networks on the planet. Whether you set up base in party hubs like Kabul in Plaza Real, design-forward social hotspots in Eixample, or relaxed beachy stays in Poblenou, making instant lifelong friends is practically guaranteed. The day's social ritual always revolves around golden hour. Grab a cheap cold drink and join crowds of hostel mates, local students, and global travellers at the Bunkers del Carmel—old hilltop military bunkers offering a breathtaking, 360-degree sunset view over the entire city grid stretching all the way down to the shimmering sea.

Sun, Sea, and Nightlife Royalty

The Vibe: High-energy, beachside, and late-night party central.

For Backpackers: After lazy afternoon hangs on Barceloneta or Bogatell beach, where pickup volleyball games and beachside chiringuitos rule the day, the city's famous night shift begins. In Barcelona, pre-gaming (botellón) starts late in hostel common rooms, leafy plazas, and neighbourhood vermouth bars. The real action doesn't move to the giant beachfront superclubs along Vila Olímpica or underground electronic venues in El Poble-Sec until well past midnight, often keeping you dancing until the metro starts running again at dawn. Fast-paced, intoxicating, and impossibly fun, Barcelona will redefine what a travel adventure is supposed to feel like.

FIND TOP-RATED BARCELONA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

ONEFAM SANTS
Carrer de Casteràs, 9, 08028 Barcelona

PHONE: +34 933 324 192

EMAIL: sants@onefamhostels.com

WEB: onefamhostels.com/sants-onefam-hostel-barcelona/

ITACA HOSTEL
Carrer de Ripoll, 21, 08002 Barcelona

PHONE: +34 933 019 751

EMAIL: pilimili@itacahostel.com

WEB: itacahostel.com

KABUL PARTY HOSTEL
Plaça Reial, 17, 08002 Barcelona

PHONE: +34 933 185 190

EMAIL: info@kabul.es **WEB:** kabul.es

SANT JORDI HOSTELS ROCK PALACE
Carrer de Balmes, 75, 08007 Barcelona

PHONE: +34 934 533 281

EMAIL: sants@onefamhostels.com

WEB: santjordihostels.com

YEAH BARCELONA HOSTEL
Carrer de Girona, 176, 08037 Barcelona

PHONE: +34 935 310 135

EMAIL: info@yeahhostels.com

WEB: yeahhostels.com

Find the full list

BARCELONA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



Book Barcelona Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By dronepicr - Barcelona, Spain, CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=106294829



MADRID

The Unstoppable Heart of Spain

Pronounced: *mah-DREED*

If Barcelona is Spain's cool, coastal artist, Madrid is its bold, high-energy powerhouse. Situated dead-centre in the Iberian Peninsula, the Spanish capital doesn't rely on beaches to win you over. Instead, it hooks you instantly with its electric urban energy, grand royal boulevards, world-class art, and a social scene that quite literally never sleeps. At home, you might be used to structured days, quiet evenings, and cities that wind down early, but stepping into Madrid places you straight into the authentic, 24-hour beat of modern Spanish life. It is a city of broad tree-lined avenues, magnificent stone plazas, and sun-drenched parks by day, transforming into a vibrant,

unstoppable social hub the moment dusk hits. Powerful, welcoming, and endlessly dynamic, Madrid delivers a high-octane travel experience built perfectly for young backpackers.

The Art of the Neighbourhood Crawl

The Vibe: Diverse, creative, and endlessly lively.

For Backpackers: Madrid isn't defined by a single city centre; it's a mosaic of distinct, atmospheric barrios, each with its own personality. You can browse vintage clothing shops and cosy craft beer bars in Malasaña, explore the fashion-forward and LGBTQ+-friendly streets of Chueca, or wander through Lavapiés for incredible global street food alongside traditional Spanish taverns. On Sunday afternoons, join thousands of locals and travellers in La Latina, crawling down Calle Cava Baja for cold cañas and tapas after browsing the famous El Rastro flea market.

Eating Big on a Backpacker Budget

The Vibe: Informal, social, and wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: One of the greatest joys of backpacking Madrid is how easy it is to feast on a shoestring. Forget sit-down three-course dinners every night; Madrid's culinary culture revolves around bar-hopping. In classic spots like El Tigre in Chueca, ordering a cheap beer or *tinto de verano* gets you a massive, stacked plate of free food—from croquettes and cured ham to *patatas bravas*. Don't miss grabbing a classic crispy *bocadillo de calamares* (squid baguette) right off Plaza Mayor, or fuelling up early in the morning with hot *churros con chocolate* at Chocolatería San Ginés after a night out.

High Culture and Park Chill Sessions

The Vibe: Regal, artistic, and relaxed by day.

For Backpackers: During the day, Madrid delivers heavy-hitting culture across the “Golden Triangle of Art”—including the world-renowned Prado Museum and the Reina Sofía (home to Picasso’s masterpiece, Guernica). Best of all, most major museums offer free entry hours during the late afternoon or evening. When you need a breather from the pavement, gather your hostel crew for a relaxed afternoon hanging out on the lawns of El Retiro Park or renting rowboats on its central lake.

Late-Night Energy and World-Class Nightlife

The Vibe: Electric, high-octane, and unstoppable.

For Backpackers: As night falls, Madrid’s famous reputation takes over. Pre-gaming starts late in hostel common rooms, moves to lively neighbourhood plazas around 11:00 PM, and transitions into multi-story mega-clubs like Kapital or underground indie and electronic venues that roll until 6:00 AM. Fast, welcoming, and endlessly social, Madrid will make you feel like a local from the second you arrive.

FIND TOP-RATED MADRID HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

THE HAT MADRID
Calle Imperial, 9, 28012 Madrid

PHONE: +34 917 728 572

EMAIL: info@thehatmadrid.com

WEB: thehatmadrid.com

BASTARDO HOSTEL
Calle de San Mateo, 3, 28004 Madrid

PHONE: +34 682 519 535 / +34 918 193 798

EMAIL: hola@bastardohostel.com

WEB: bastardohostel.com

SAFESTAY MADRID CENTRAL
Calle de Sagasta, 22, 28004 Madrid

PHONE: +34 914 450 300

EMAIL: reception.madct@safestay.com **WEB:**safestay.com



HOSTEL SUNGATE ONE
Calle del Carmen, 16, 2º, 28013 Madrid

PHONE: +34 910 236 806

EMAIL: sants@onefamhostels.com

WEB: hostelone.com

U HOSTEL / SAFESTAY MADRID
Calle de Sagasta, 22, 28004 Madrid

PHONE: +34 914 450 300

EMAIL: safestaymadrid@safestay.com

WEB: safestay.com

Find the full list

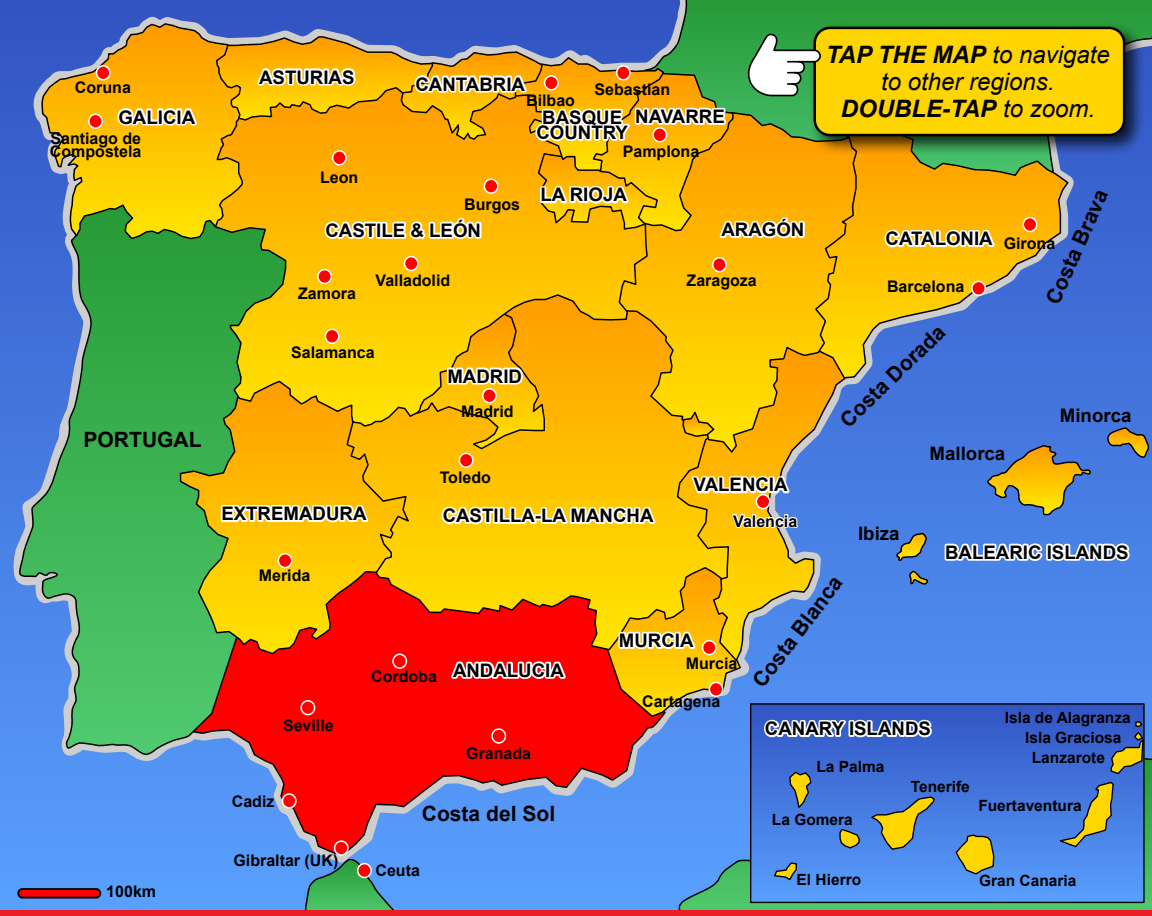
MADRID HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.

Book Madrid Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Felipe Gabaldón - originally posted to Flickr as Gran Vía (Madrid), CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10423666



ANDALUCÍA:
The Soul of Southern Spain

Pronounced: *ahn-dah-loo-THEE-ah*

Welcome to Andalucía, a region where life is lived outdoors, dinner is an event, and the concept of rushing simply does not exist. If you are looking for the absolute peak of Spanish culture—where fiery traditions, sun-soaked landscapes, and infectious social energy collide—you have found it. At home, you might be accustomed to structured days, early closing times, and quiet evenings, but stepping into southern Spain feels like landing on another planet entirely. This is a region washed in brilliant year-round sunshine, framed by snow-capped alpine peaks and Mediterranean shores, and powered by a passionate, unhurried pace of life. Here, social

life spills effortlessly onto public plazas every single evening, historic Moorish architecture frames every horizon, and every day brings a fresh adventure tailored perfectly for budget travellers.

The Land of Sun, Music, and Free Tapas

The Vibe: Warm, welcoming, and deeply social.

For Backpackers: Spread across the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula, Andalucía is the birthplace of classic Spanish culture: flamenco dancing, whitewashed cliffside villages, historic bullrings, and sun-drenched plazas. The local lifestyle revolves around public spaces, with plazas packed from late afternoon until late at night. Food culture here is a backpacker dream, especially in cities like Granada where ordering a small drink gets you a generous plate of food for free—ranging from slow-cooked meats to crispy patatas bravas. Bar-hopping isn't just cheap; it is an incredible social sport.

A Tour of Andalucía's Powerhouse Cities

The Vibe: Historic majesty meets vibrant city living.

For Backpackers: No two cities in Andalucía feel the same, making a regional trip seamless and endlessly varied. Seville offers grand Moorish architecture and late-night flamenco; Granada pairs the breathtaking Alhambra fortress with tea-scented, winding medieval streets; Málaga blends street art and seafood markets right along the Mediterranean shore; and Córdoba showcases the mind-blowing Mezquita-Catedral with its forest of red-and-white arches. On the Atlantic side, Cádiz brings ancient seaside alleyways while Tarifa offers bohemian surf camps and views of the Moroccan coast across the water.

Epic Outdoor Adventures

The Vibe: Wild, rugged, and thrill-seeking.

For Backpackers: While the cities offer history and nightlife, Andalucía's wilderness is made for outdoor adrenaline. You can hike the famous Caminito del Rey—a narrow boardwalk pinned along the sheer walls of a massive gorge—or trek through the dramatic alpine valleys of the Alpujarras in the Sierra Nevada. Water lovers can kayak beneath towering ocean cliffs in Nerja or learn to surf the Atlantic swells along the Costa de la Luz.

The Backpacker Vibe and Hostel Culture

The Vibe: Effortlessly social and budget-friendly.

For Backpackers: Andalucía boasts some of the most social, top-rated hostels in Europe. Hostel life centres around rooftop swimming pools, daily family-style dinners, group sangria workshops, and late-night pub crawls through medieval alleyways. Because the region is so well-connected by cheap Alsa buses and high-speed Renfe trains, moving between mountain villages, historic hubs, and coastal surf spots is totally effortless. Bring your energy, ditch your alarm clock, and get ready for an unforgettable journey.

FIND TOP-RATED ANDALUCÍA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

AMAKA HOUSE GRANADA
Calle Tiña, 18, 18010 Granada

PHONE: +34 958 805 876 / +34 681 921 441

EMAIL: N/A

WEB: N/A

HOST53
Gran Vía de Colón, 53, entrance via Calle Navarrete, 18001 Granada

PHONE: +34 958 292 924

EMAIL: hello@host53.es

WEB: host53.es

THE URBAN JUNGLE ROOFTOP HOSTEL
C. Niño de Guevara, 8, Distrito Centro, 29008 Málaga, Spain

PHONE: +34 951 54 29 63

EMAIL: bookings@theurbanjunglehostel.com

WEB:urbanjunglehostel.com

COEO PRIVATE POD HOSTEL BEATAS
C. Beatas, 20, Distrito Centro, 29008 Málaga, Spain

PHONE: +34 649 26 21 03

EMAIL: reservasbeatas@coeolife.com

WEB: coeohouse.com

CATS HOSTELS CÓRDOBA
C. Sta. Marta, 9, Centro, 14001 Córdoba, Spain

PHONE: +34 957 62 62 92

EMAIL: catscordoba@outlook.es

WEB: catshostels.com

Find the full list

ANDALUCÍA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



Book Andalucía Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Malopez 21 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=56404894



SEVILLE

The Sun-Drenched Heart of Southern Spain

Pronounced: *seh-BEE-yah*

Welcome to Seville, the fiery Andalusian capital where life moves to its own intoxicating rhythm. If you are stepping into southern Spain for the first time, prepare yourself for a complete shock to the system. At home, you might be accustomed to predictable routines, early closing times, and quiet streets after dusk, but Seville operates in a realm of its own. This is a city washed in golden sunlight, scented with orange blossoms, and powered by an infectious social energy that keeps going long after midnight. It is loud, beautiful, wildly historic, and utterly addictive.

A City Built for Socialising

The Vibe: Warm, vibrant, and effortlessly social.

For Backpackers: From the moment you set foot in Seville, you will realise that life here is lived out in the open air. Public squares are not just historic landmarks; they are community living rooms where locals, university students, and travellers from across the globe gather every single evening. The social ritual starts as the afternoon heat begins to fade. People stream onto the terraces of Santa Cruz and Alameda de Hércules to sip cold cañas of beer or glasses of chilled tinto de verano. In Seville, grabbing a drink is never just about the drink—it is an excuse to slow down, share tapas, and meet whoever happens to be sitting at the wooden barrel next to you.

The Food Scene: Tapas, Culture, and Micro-Budgets

The Vibe: Fast-paced culinary tradition made for sharing.

For Backpackers: Eating in Seville is a fast-paced, highly social adventure. Forget sit-down three-course dinners that eat into your budget. Here, the local sport is tapear—hopping from bar to bar and ordering small plates to share with your hostel crew. You can sample iconic local dishes like salmorejo (a thick, chilled tomato soup topped with jamón), crispy croquetas, slow-cooked pork sirloin in whiskey sauce, or spinach with chickpeas. Best of all, because tapas prices are incredibly budget-friendly, you can eat like royalty without breaking the bank. Be sure to check out historic taverns like El Rinconcillo, the oldest bar in the city, operating since 1670, where bartenders still chalk up your running bill directly onto the wooden bar counter.

Jaw-Dropping Sights and Fairytale Vibes

The Vibe: Grand Moorish majesty meets cinematic backdrops.

For Backpackers: While the fun and social life are front and centre, Seville's visual beauty will completely blow you away. The city is a stunning tapestry of Moorish architecture and Spanish grandeur that feels straight out of a movie set. You will spend mornings gazing up at the Real Alcázar, a breathtaking royal palace complex filled with intricate tilework, golden domes, and lush botanical gardens with roaming peacocks. Just around the corner sits the massive Seville Cathedral and its iconic bell tower, La Giralda, where climbing the ramps to the top rewards you with a panoramic, 360-degree view over a sea of whitewashed rooftops. When you want to kick back during golden hour, head over to the Plaza de España—rent a rowboat with new friends, watch impromptu flamenco dancers perform on the tiled steps, or simply soak in the atmosphere as the sun sets over the towers.

Flamenco, Nightlife, and Hostel Magic

The Vibe: Raw emotion, late-night rooftop hangs, and riverside parties.

For Backpackers: Seville is the undisputed heartland of flamenco, but skip the overpriced, touristy dinner shows. Instead, head across the Triana Bridge into the historic neighbourhood of Triana to witness authentic, raw flamenco inside intimate local peñas and unassuming neighbourhood bars. Hostels here are legendary for their social atmospheres, organising rooftop family dinners, sangria tastings, and pub crawls that bring travellers together effortlessly. Pre-gaming

takes place on hostel rooftops overlooking the illuminated cathedral before moving out to the vibrant Alameda de Hércules, lined with alternative bars, indie venues, and late-night clubs. If you have the energy, the party eventually shifts toward the open-air clubs along the Guadalquivir River, where you can dance until the sun pops up over the palm trees.



FIND TOP-RATED SEVILLE HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

TRIANA BACKPACKERS
Calle Rodrigo de Triana, 69, 41010 Sevilla

PHONE: +34 954 459 960

EMAIL: sevillatriana@gmail.com

WEB: trianahostel.com

THE SPOT CENTRAL HOSTEL
C. Adriano, 6, Casco Antiguo, 41001 Sevilla, Spain

PHONE: +34 955 20 95 48

EMAIL: hi@thespotcentralhostel.com

WEB: thespotcentralhostel.com

BLACK SWAN HOSTEL SEVILLA
Calle Bilbao, 8–10, 41001 Sevilla

PHONE: +34 954 910 960 / +34 930 505 016

EMAIL: sevilla@blackswanhostel.com

WEB: blackswanhostelsevilla.com



OASIS BACKPACKERS' PALACE SEVILLA
Calle Almirante Ulloa, 1, 41001 Sevilla

PHONE: +34 955 262 696

EMAIL: palace@hostelsoasis.com

WEB: oasisbackpackershostels.com

LEMON GARDEN HOSTEL
Calle San Salvador, 21, 41004 Sevilla

PHONE: +34 954 911 693

EMAIL: lemon.garden.hostel.sevilla@gmail.com

WEB: lemongardenhostelsevilla.com

Find the full list

SEVILLE HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



Book Seville Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Anual - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=179085595



VALENCIA

Sunshine, Paella, and Festival Vibes

Pronounced: *bah-LEN-thee-ah*

Welcome to Spain's third-largest city—a sun-drenched Mediterranean playground where ancient history meets futuristic design. If you are exploring Spain for the first time, Valencia is the ultimate breath of fresh air. At home, you might be used to dense, concrete-heavy cities where finding green space or a beach requires an hour-long commute, but Valencia operates on an entirely different grid. Here, a massive lush park weaves right through the city centre, sweeping golden beaches are just a quick tram ride away, and the lifestyle is dedicated entirely to good food, outdoor adventure, and late-night fun.

The World Capital of Paella and Food Markets

The Vibe: Vibrant, food-obsessed, and steeped in tradition.

For Backpackers: Valencia is the undisputed birthplace of paella—and locals take their culinary craft very seriously. Forget generic seafood rice dishes served to tourists elsewhere; authentic Paella Valenciana is cooked over open wood fires with saffron, chicken, rabbit, green beans, and *garrofó* (large white beans). Eating here is an absolute highlight for travellers on a budget. Head inside the Mercado Central, a massive European food market housed inside a breathtaking modernist building with stained-glass domes. You can pick up fresh tropical fruit, local cheeses, freshly baked empanadas, and cured meats for just a few euros. To beat the afternoon heat, try a cold glass of *horchata*—a sweet, creamy local drink made from tiger nuts—served alongside *fartons*, long glazed pastries meant for dipping.

A City Built for Outdoor Living

The Vibe: Active, green, and effortlessly relaxed.

For Backpackers: Valencia is famously one of the flattest and most bike-friendly cities in Europe, making exploring completely effortless. Its defining feature is the Turia Gardens (Jardí del Túria), a stunning, nine-kilometre-long green park created in a drained riverbed that curves all the way through the city. By day, backpackers rent cheap bicycles or stroll under palm trees to explore the park's palm groves, sports fields, and fountains. Following the park all the way to the coast brings you to the mind-bending City of Arts and Sciences (Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències). Designed by world-famous architect Santiago Calatrava, this collection of gleaming white, futuristic structures looks like an alien space station surrounded by bright turquoise pools. Sitting by these glow-

ing pools at sunset with hostel mates is an absolute must-do ritual.

Sun, Surf, and Mediterranean Beaches

The Vibe: Sun-soaked, spacious, and laid-back.

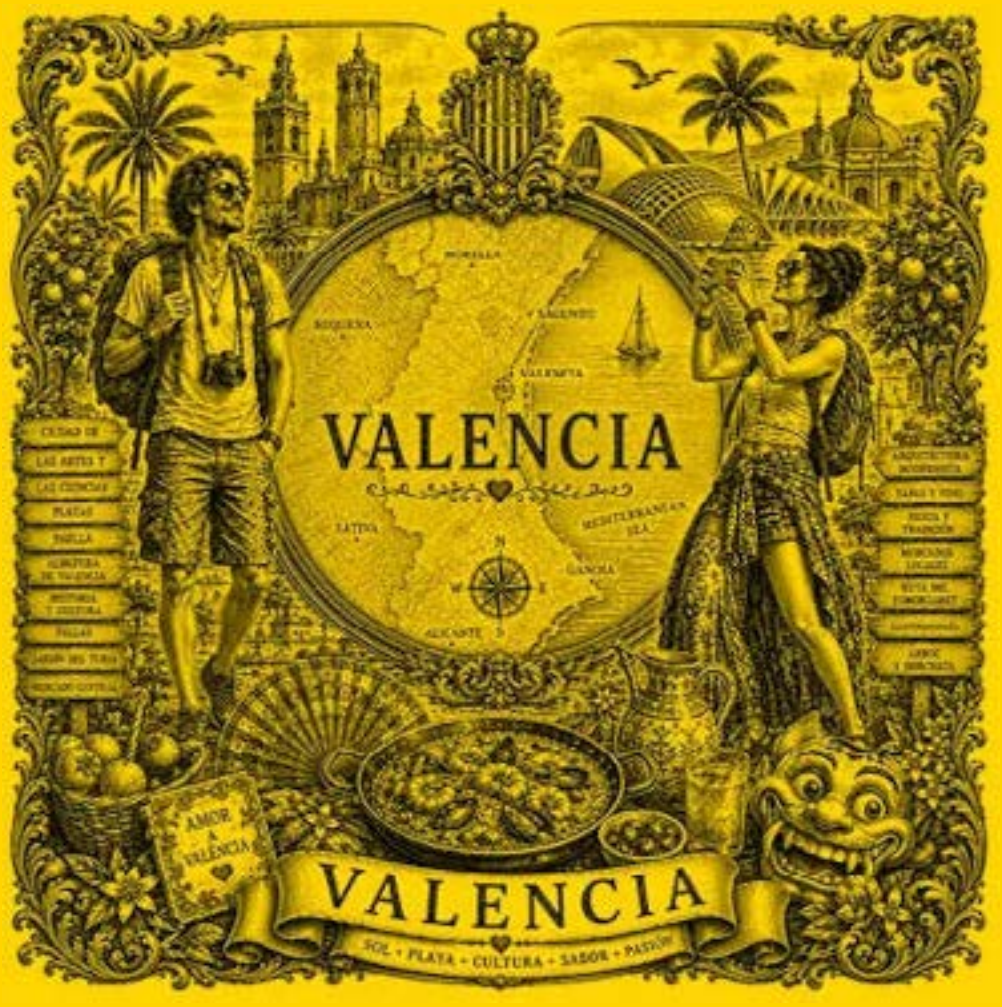
For Backpackers: When you are ready for beach vibes, Valencia delivers in spades. Unlike many European coastal cities with tiny or artificial beaches, Valencia boasts vast stretches of fine golden sand right on its doorstep. Playa de la Malvarrosa and Playa de las Arenas are broad, lively beaches lined with a bustling seaside promenade. Here, you will find pickup volleyball games, beachside bars (chiringuitos), and windsurfing clubs. Because the beaches are so spacious, there is always room to throw down a towel, kick back with a cold drink, and soak up the Mediterranean sun without feeling packed in like sardines.

The Social Scene and Nightlife

The Vibe: High-energy, open-air, and late-night social magic.

For Backpackers: Valencia's hostel network is renowned for its friendly, laid-back, and social atmosphere. Hostels regularly host group paella-cooking workshops, walking tours through the winding alleys of the historic El Carmen neighbourhood, and group bike rides down to the beach. Nightlife in Valencia kicks off late and runs until dawn. The action centres around El Carmen, a historic neighbourhood filled with street art, cosy tapas bars, and hidden underground venues. The local drink of choice is Agua de Valencia—a potent, delicious cocktail made from fresh local orange juice, cava (Spanish sparkling wine), gin, and vodka, served in big sharing pitchers. After pre-gaming in lively plazas like Plaza del

Tossal, the party moves to massive open-air nightclubs along the marina or inside the Turia Gardens, where you can dance under palm trees until the morning light hits the sea.



FIND TOP-RATED VALENCIA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

HOME BACKPACKERS VALENCIA BY FEET UP HOSTELS
Carrer de la Llotja, 4, 46001 València

PHONE: +34 963 913 797

EMAIL: bp@feetuphostels.com

WEB: homebackpackersvalencia.com

THE CENTRAL HOUSE VALENCIA MERCADO CENTRAL
Carrer del Peu de la Creu, 12, 46001 València

PHONE: +34 960 255 601

EMAIL: info.mercadocentral@grouptch.com

WEB: thecentralhousegroup.com

PURPLE NEST HOSTEL
Plaça de Tetuan, 5, 46003 València

PHONE: +34 963 532 561

EMAIL: purplenest@feetuphostels.com

WEB: feetuphostels.com

BEACH & ARTS HOSTEL VALENCIA
Carrer d'Eivissa, 17, baix, 46024 València

PHONE: +34 643 589 021

EMAIL: beachandarts@gmail.com

WEB: beachandarts.es

COLO COLO — THE SMART HOSTEL VALENCIA
Carrer del Doctor Sumsi, 23, 46005 València

PHONE: +34 650 729 637

EMAIL: valencia@colocolo.com

WEB: colocolo.com

Find the full list

VALENCIA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.

Book Valencia Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By William Warby - City of Arts and Sciences, CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=59759320



THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Pintxos, Atlantic Surfing, and Adventure

Pronounced: *eh-oo-SKAH-dee (Euskadi in Basque)*

Welcome to the Basque Country—a green, rugged, and fiercely unique region tucked into Spain's far northern corner along the Bay of Biscay. If you are exploring Spain expecting only dry landscapes, flamenco, and hot plains, prepare to have your mind blown. The Basque Country feels like an entirely different world altogether. Here, emerald-green mountains drop dramatically into the Atlantic Ocean, world-class surf swells batter sea cliffs, and the local language, Euskara, sounds like nothing else on Earth because it shares no known origin with any other European language. It is bold, wild, food-obsessed, and built for young travellers craving real adventure.

The Culinary Capital: The Pintxo Culture

The Vibe: Gastronomic perfection meets casual, high-energy bar-hopping.

For Backpackers: The Basque Country is widely considered one of the world's greatest culinary heavens. But forget fine-dining white tablecloths—here, food is an informal, high-energy social event centred around pintxos (pronounced PEEN-chohs). Unlike traditional southern tapas, pintxos are bite-sized gourmet masterpieces stacked high on small slices of bread and held together with a toothpick. Bars across cities like San Sebastián and Bilbao cover their wooden counters with dozens of colourful pintxo options—ranging from sizzling garlic prawns and crispy goat's cheese with caramelised onions to slow-cooked beef cheek and salted cod. The local tradition is simple: grab a small glass of Txakoli (a crisp, sparkling local white wine poured from high above the glass) or a draught beer (zurito), pick two or three pintxos off the bar, chat with your crew, and move to the next bar down the street. It is fast, social, incredibly delicious, and surprisingly easy on a backpacker's budget if you know where to go.

San Sebastián: Surf by Day, Feast by Night

The Vibe: European elegance blended with raw, athletic beach culture.

For Backpackers: San Sebastián (known locally as Donostia) is the absolute jewel of the Basque coast and a compulsory stop for every young traveller. Tucked around a shell-shaped bay lined with golden sand, it combines royal European elegance with a raw, casual surf culture. La Concha beach is famous worldwide for its sweeping views, while nearby Zurriola beach is where the real action happens. Packed with young

surfers, beach volleyball players, and international travellers, Zurriola offers incredible wave conditions and a lively, laid-back atmosphere. Surf hostels abound here, making it super easy to rent a board, take a morning surf lesson, and spend the afternoon lounging on the sand before heading into the Parte Vieja (Old Town) for an epic pintxo crawl.

Bilbao: Industrial Cool Meets Futuristic Art

The Vibe: Dynamic, artistic, and youthfully energetic.

For Backpackers: An hour west lies Bilbao, a dynamic city that transformed itself from a gritty industrial port into a global cultural hub. The centrepiece of Bilbao is the Guggenheim Museum—a shimmering, futuristic building designed by Frank Gehry out of titanium panels that look like a giant metallic ship sitting alongside the river. Bilbao is packed with youthful energy, vibrant street art, live music venues, and budget hostel bases. Wandering through the Seven Streets (Siete Calles) in the historic centre reveals packed plazas, lively student bars, and cheap local markets where you can refuel between sightseeing stops.

Wild Coastlines and Game of Thrones Magic

The Vibe: Mystical, untamed Atlantic wilderness.

For Backpackers: Beyond the major cities, the Basque coastline offers some of the most dramatic coastal landscapes in Europe. Adventure-seekers can jump on cheap local buses or trains to explore hidden gems along the coast like San Juan de Gaztelugatxe—a dramatic islet connected to the mainland by a winding stone staircase carved into sea cliffs, filmed as Dragonstone in Game of Thrones. Further along lies Mundaka, located in the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve, which is legendary

among global surfers for having one of the longest left-hand river-mouth barrel waves in the world. Even if you don't surf, watching pros ride the massive waves from the harbour wall is a thrilling experience.



FIND TOP-RATED BASQUE COUNTRY HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

KOBA HOSTEL
Calle Carquizano / Karkizano, 5, bajo, 20001 Donostia-San Sebastián

PHONE: +34 943 165 817

EMAIL: info@kobahostel.com

WEB: homebackpackersvalencia.com

SURFING ETXEA SURF HOSTEL
Calle Zabaleta, 32, 20002 Donostia-San Sebastián

PHONE: +34 943 265 832

EMAIL: info@surfingetxea.com

WEB: sansebastiansurfhostel.com

CATS HOSTEL SAN SEBASTIAN
Heriz Pasealekua, 38, 20008 Donostia / San Sebastián, Gipuzkoa

PHONE: +34 943 06 16 62

EMAIL: catshostelssansebastian@gmail.com

WEB: catshostels.com



BILBAO ATERPETXEA HOSTEL
Carretera Basurto-Kastrejana, 70, 48013 Bilbao

PHONE: +34 944 27 00 54

EMAIL: info@bilbaohostel.net

WEB: bilbaohostel.net

Poshtel Bilbao — Premium Hostel
Calle Autonomía, 58, 48012 Bilbao

PHONE: +34 944 25 65 86

EMAIL: direccion@poshtelbilbao.com

WEB: poshtelbilbao.com

Find the full list

BASQUE COUNTRY HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



Book Basque Country Day Trips on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Marisol Murua, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=52531224



GALICIA

The Misty Atlantic Paradise

Pronounced: *gah-LEE-thee-ah (or in Galician, gah-LEE-thah)*

Tucked away in Spain's far northwestern corner, sitting directly above Portugal and bordered by the fierce Atlantic Ocean, lies Galicia. If your idea of Spain is defined purely by dry heat, crowded beach resorts, and sangria, stepping into Galicia will feel like crossing into a completely different realm. This is Spain's green, mystical Celtic heartland—a land of dramatic sea cliffs, ocean fjords (rías), eucalyptus forests, bagpipe music, and mouth-watering seafood. At home, you might be used to predictable coastal strips lined with high-rise hotels, but Galicia offers an untamed, ancient wilderness where granite villages cling to mist-shrouded hills and roaring ocean

swells carve out secret sandy coves. Here, life is deeply tied to the tides, time slows down to an unhurried crawl, and local legends of witches and maritime folklore still echo through the rain-slicked cobbled streets. It is raw, authentic, wildly scenic, and tailored perfectly for young travellers looking to escape the beaten tourist track for a true Atlantic adventure.

The Pilgrimage Peak: Santiago de Compostela

The Vibe: Historic, atmospheric, and deeply international.

For Backpackers: All roads in Galicia lead to Santiago de Compostela, the historic capital and famous terminus of the Camino de Santiago. Even if you didn't hike hundreds of kilometres across Spain to get here, the energy in the city is infectious. Thousands of weary, triumphant backpackers and pilgrims gather every afternoon in the grand Obradoiro plaza in front of the cathedral, dropping their packs and celebrating their journeys. The city's ancient, rain-slicked granite streets are packed with lively tapas bars, student taverns, and budget hostels. Because it is a major university town, Santiago blends centuries-old tradition with a thriving, youthful nightlife where affordable food and drinks flow well into the night.

Rías Baixas and the World's Best Beaches

The Vibe: Lush coastal beauty, surf vibes, and white sand.

For Backpackers: Moving down the southern coast brings you to the Rías Baixas—deep coastal inlets where emerald hills meet quiet ocean waters. This region is home to world-class beaches that rival the Caribbean. Hop on a local ferry to the protected Cíes Islands, an uninhabited national park archipelago home to Rodas Beach, regularly voted one of the best beaches on Earth. With crystal-clear turquoise waters, fine

white sand, and strictly controlled daily visitor numbers, it is a paradise for day hikes and seaside camping under brilliant starry skies. Surfers and beachgoers will also love coastal hubs like Sanxenxo and the surfing beaches around Vigo.

The Coast of Death and the End of the World

The Vibe: Wild, rugged, and awe-inspiring Atlantic majesty.

For Backpackers: Heading north takes you along the Costa da Morte ("Coast of Death"), a dramatic stretch of coastline named for its treacherous waters and history of ocean shipwrecks. The ultimate backpacker spot here is Cape Finisterre (Fisterra), derived from the Latin finis terrae, meaning "end of the earth." For centuries, this rocky headland was believed to be the westernmost edge of the known world. Joining fellow travellers on the rocky cliffs at dusk to watch the sun sink into the vast Atlantic Ocean—often while burning a piece of hiking gear in a long-standing Camino tradition—is an unforgettable, magical rite of passage.

Unbeatable Seafood and Local Wine Culture

The Vibe: Feasting like royalty on a backpacker budget.

For Backpackers: Galicia is world-famous as Spain's ultimate seafood capital. Forget generic fried fish; here you will feast on octopus dusted with paprika and olive oil (*pulpo á feira*), steaming plates of garlic mussels, and savoury *empanadas gallegas* (savoury pies filled with tuna, cod, or meat). Best of all, eating here is incredibly budget-friendly. Wash it all down with a cold glass of *Albariño*—a crisp, fruity local white wine—or *Ribeiro*, traditionally served in small ceramic bowls (*cuncas*) in rustic local taverns called *furanchos*.

The Backpacker Mindset in Galicia

The Vibe: Unhurried, adventurous, and deeply memorable.

For Backpackers: Backpacking Galicia is about slowing down and connecting with nature, history, and fellow travellers. The region is easily accessible via affordable regional trains and buses, making it simple to link coastal fishing villages, mountain trails, and energetic city centres. Hostels across Galicia are known for their warm, community-driven atmospheres, often organising family dinners and group coastal outings. If you want an authentic Spanish experience filled with wild wilderness, incredible food, and unforgettable sunsets at the edge of the world, Galicia is waiting for you.



FIND TOP-RATED GALICIA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

LOOP INN HOSTEL SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
Rúa Tras Santa Clara, s/n, 15704 Santiago de Compostela

PHONE: **+34 981 585 667** / +34 682 158 011

EMAIL: **reservas.santiago@loopinnhostels.com**

WEB: loopinnhostels.com

MEIGA BACKPACKERS HOSTEL
Rúa dos Basquiños, 67, 15704 Santiago de Compostela, A Coruña

PHONE: +34 981 57 08 46

EMAIL: **info@meigahostel.com**

WEB: meigahostel.com

NAUTICO VIGO
R. de Luis Taboada, 28, 36201 Vigo

PHONE: +34 986 12 24 40

EMAIL: **recepcion@hotelnautico.net**

WEB: hotelnautico.net

LA WAVE SURF
Carretera Pedra do Sal, 28, 15105 Carballo, A Coruña

PHONE: +34 657 30 96 98

EMAIL: coruna@lawavesurf.com

WEB: lawavesurf.com

ROOTS & BOOTS HOSTEL
Rúa Santiago, 214, 27004 Lugo, Spain

PHONE: +34 982 22 97 09

EMAIL: reservas@rootsandbootslugo.es

WEB: globostay.com

Find the full list

GALICIA HOSTEL DIRECTORY



Book Galicia Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By sporras - Ayuntamiento de Santiago de Compostela.jpg, CC BY-SA 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=116790477



THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

The Big Pilgrimage Adventure

Pronounced: ***C****ah-MEE-noh deh sahn-tee-AH-go*

The Camino de Santiago is not just a trail; it is one of the world's most legendary multi-day trekking journeys. While historical pilgrims walked for months across Europe, modern youth travellers flock to Spain to complete the final 100 kilometres—the minimum walking distance required to earn the official Compostela certificate of completion in Santiago de Compostela. Stepping onto the Camino throws you into a completely different world where daily life simplifies to four things: walking, eating, meeting incredible global travellers, and sleeping. It is a thrilling mix of outdoor endurance, stunning countryside, communal feast nights, and non-stop social connection.

The French Way (Camino Francés): The Iconic Route

The Vibe: High-octane social energy, rich tradition, and non-stop camaraderie.

For Backpackers: The Camino Francés is the absolute king of the routes, drawing thousands of young adventurers every year. For the final 100km stretch, your journey kicks off in the bustling town of Sarria. From there, you will trek through rolling Galician countryside, ancient oak forests, misty valleys, and stone farming villages. Because the French Way is so popular, the social scene is unmatched. You are never walking alone; within hours, you will form a “Camino Family” with fellow travellers from every corner of the globe. Days are spent hiking together, trading life stories, and stopping at rustic roadside cafés for cheap café con leche and fresh tortilla. Nights centre around albergues (pilgrim hostels) for communal three-course Pilgrim Menus that include wine, bread, and local Galician dishes for an impossibly low price.

The Portuguese Way (Camino Portugués): Coastal Views and Peaceful Paths

The Vibe: Coastal breeze, lush green landscapes, and laid-back trekking.

For Backpackers: If you want a slightly quieter, highly scenic alternative to the French Way, the Portuguese Way is a brilliant choice. To complete the final 100km stretch to earn your certificate, backpackers usually start in the historic border city of Tui, sitting right on the Minho River separating Portugal and Spain. As you trek north through Galicia, you will wind through quiet eucalyptus forests, terraced vineyards, and charming historical towns like Pontevedra and Padrón. The route offers a relaxed pace with fantastic coastal variations,

brilliant seafood, and a close-knit hostel community that feels welcoming from day one.

The English Way (Camino Inglés): The Quick, Rugged Atlantic Trail

The Vibe: Maritime history, green rolling hills, and authentic local life.

For Backpackers: Historically walked by pilgrims arriving by ship from Ireland and the UK, the English Way is the shortest traditional route. Starting in the coastal port town of Ferrol, this 110km trail takes you up through green Galician farmland, seaside estuaries, and medieval towns like Betanzos. It is less crowded than the French Way, making it ideal for backpackers who want a raw, tranquil hiking experience through authentic northern Spain before joining the larger crowds near Santiago.

Hostel Life and The Pilgrim Spirit

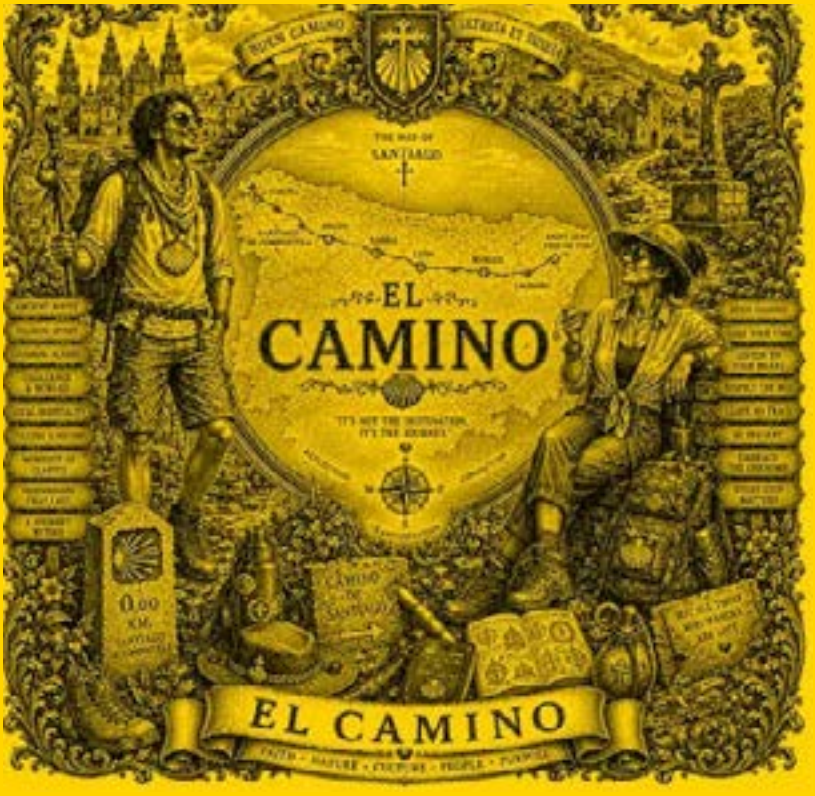
The Vibe: Warm, community-driven, and budget-friendly.

For Backpackers: Backpacking the Camino is one of the most affordable travel adventures in Europe. Armed with your Pilgrim Credential (an official passport stamped at churches, cafés, and hostels along the route), you gain access to public and private albergues. These hostels are designed purely for connection—featuring big bunk rooms, communal kitchens, and lively outdoor courtyards where travellers gather to tend to sore feet, play guitars, and share drinks. The atmosphere is completely non-judgemental and egalitarian; whether you are an experienced hiker or a first-time backpacker, everyone shares the same trail and the same goal.

Arriving in Santiago: The Triumphant Finale

The Vibe: Pure euphoria, shared joy, and lifelong memories.

For Backpackers: Nothing compares to the feeling of walking into Praza do Obradoiro in Santiago de Compostela after days on the trail. Backpackers and pilgrims drop their packs onto the granite stones in front of the soaring cathedral, cheering, crying, hugging, and taking in the moment together. Afterwards, head to the Pilgrim Office to collect your official distance certificate, then hit the lively tapas bars along Calle Franco with your Camino crew to celebrate an unforgettable accomplishment with cold Estrella Galicia beers and octopus. It is an adventurous, life-affirming journey that will stay with you long after your boots have dried.



FIND TOP-RATED CAMINO HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

HOSTAL EL PADRINO
Rúa Fraga Iribarne, 18, 27170 Portomarín, Lugo, Spain

PHONE: +34 665 58 60 70

EMAIL: **hostalelpadrino@gmail.com**

WEB: hostalelpadrino.com

HOSTEL MAR DE PLATA
Rúa Formigueiros, 5, 27600 Sarria, Lugo, Spain

PHONE: +34 982 53 07 24

EMAIL: **info@hotelmardeplatasarria.com**

WEB: hotelmardeplatasarria.com

SLEEPING PORTOMARIN
Estrada de Circunvalación, 12, 27170 Portomarín, Lugo, Spain

PHONE: +34 682 21 05 42

EMAIL: **sleepingalojamiento@gmail.com**

WEB: sleepingportomarin1.hotelgo.top

CASA DA PESCADERÍA DE BETANZOS
Carretera Pedra do Sal, 28, 15105 Carballo, A Coruña

PHONE: +34 618 33 17 87

EMAIL: N/A

WEB: albergueslcaminosantiago.com

Albergue A Barca de Pedra
Rúa Vidal Cepeda, 6, 15900 Padrón, La Coruña, Spain

PHONE: +34 636 04 03 90

EMAIL: albergueabarcadepedra@gmail.com

WEB: globostay.com

Find the full list

CAMINO HOSTEL DIRECTORY



Book Camino Tours & Services on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Bjørn Christian Tørrissen - Own work by uploader, http://bjornfree.com/galleries.html, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12708091



ASTURIAS

Spain's Natural Paradise

Pronounced: *ah-STOO-ree-ahs*

Tucked along Spain's northern Atlantic coastline between Cantabria and Galicia lies Asturias—a lush, mountainous paradise known locally as the Paraíso Natural (Natural Paradise). If your image of Spain is sunbaked plains and crowded Mediterranean resort strips, Asturias will completely shatter that expectation. This is a land where jagged, snow-capped alpine peaks plunge straight down into emerald valleys, wild cider houses echo with laughter, and untamed surf beaches sit bordered by sheer sea cliffs. For young travellers craving real outdoor adrenaline, hearty rustic food, and an authentic northern Spanish escape far off the standard tourist trail, As-

turias is an absolute goldmine.

The Picos de Europa: Alpine Thrills and Mountain Wilderness

The Vibe: Dramatic, rugged, and built for outdoor thrill-seekers.

For Backpackers: The crowning jewel of Asturias is the Picos de Europa national park, a breathtaking mountain range featuring sheer limestone towers, deep gorges, and crystal-blue glacial lakes. The ultimate backpacker base here is the mountain town of Cangas de Onís or the tiny climbing hub of Arenas de Cabrales. From there, you can tackle legendary day hikes like the Ruta del Cares—an incredible, twelve-kilometre trail carved directly into the cliff faces of a two-thousand-foot-deep limestone gorge. Mountain enthusiasts can also head up to the stunning Lakes of Covadonga, where alpine pastures and historic sanctuaries offer postcard-perfect views. Whether you are into high-altitude trekking, rock climbing, or mountain biking, the Picos de Europa deliver world-class wilderness adventure on a shoestring budget.

The Cider Culture and Gastronomic Feasts

The Vibe: Loud, social, and unapologetically rustic.

For Backpackers: Asturian culture revolves heavily around food, drink, and lively tradition, centred almost entirely on its famous local dry cider (*sidra*). Visiting an authentic *sidrería* (cider house) in cities like Oviedo or Gijón is a mandatory, high-energy social rite of passage. Waiters pour the cider using a dramatic technique called *escanciar*—holding the bottle high above their heads and splashing the stream into a glass held at hip level to aerate the drink. You drink the small glass

in one quick gulp and pass it along. Pair your cider with *fabada asturiana*—a rich, warming bean stew loaded with chorizo and blood sausage—or *cachopo*, a massive, crispy fried cutlet stuffed with cured ham and melted local cheese made for sharing with your hostel crew.

Surfing, Coastlines, and Seaside Towns

The Vibe: Raw, wind-swept, and laid-back surf energy.

For Backpackers: Known as the Costa Verde (Green Coast), the Asturian coastline is a dramatic blend of secret sandy coves, sheer coastal cliffs, and picturesque fishing villages. Surf hubs like Ribadesella, Llanes, and Rodiles draw young wave-chasers from across Europe with consistent Atlantic swells and uncrowded beach breaks. After a morning surf session, you can explore charming coastal towns like Luarca or Cudillero, where colourful houses hang dramatically off steep cliffs encircling hidden harbours. For a unique coastal adventure, visit the beach of Gulpiyuri—a rare inland beach where ocean tides seep through underground caves to create a natural saltwater lagoon surrounded by green meadows.

Gijón and Oviedo: Youthful Urban Bases

The Vibe: Historic elegance meets high-energy student nightlife.

For Backpackers: Asturias' two main cities provide ideal, budget-friendly urban bases for exploring the region. Oviedo, the elegant regional capital, is famous for its historic medieval centre, ancient pre-Romanesque churches, and vibrant Cider Boulevard (Calle Gascona). Meanwhile, Gijón sits right on the Atlantic coast, offering a lively beach promenade along Playa de San Lorenzo, dynamic surf culture, and a bustling night

scene in the historic Cimavilla neighbourhood. Hostels in both cities are exceptionally welcoming, making it easy to arrange group mountain excursions, surf rentals, and cider crawls.

The Backpacker Mindset in Asturias

The Vibe: Unspoiled, adventurous, and deeply authentic.

For Backpackers: Backpacking Asturias is all about stepping away from mass tourism and immersing yourself in wild nature and rich local heritage. Moving around is cheap and straightforward using regional bus networks and FEVE narrow-gauge mountain trains that wind along the coast and through deep river valleys. Whether you are hiking alpine gorges, catching ocean waves, or sharing cider with locals in crowded taverns, Asturias promises a refreshing, unforgettable adventure through the wild heart of northern Spain.



FIND TOP-RATED ASTURIAS HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

LA HOSPEDERÍA OVIEDO
Calle Schultz, 7, bajo, 33003 Oviedo

PHONE: +34 630 806 587

EMAIL: lahospederiaoviedo@gmail.com

WEB: lahospederiaoviedo.es

GREEN HOSTEL
Calle Magdalena, 3, 2º Izquierda, 33009 Oviedo

PHONE: +34 985 022 668

EMAIL: info@greenhostel.es

WEB: greenhostel.es

LA CASONA DE MARINAS
Calle Marinas, 20, 33190 Marinas, Las Regueras

PHONE: +34 649 87 9899

EMAIL: lacasonademarinas@gmail.com

WEB: granjaescuelamarinas.com

Boogalow Hostel
Calle Jovellanos, 1, 2º D, 33202 Gijón

PHONE: +34 984 513 837 / +34 695 900 821

EMAIL: **hola@boogalowgijon.com**

WEB: boogalowgijon.com

Llanes Hostel
Calle La Calzada, 7, 33500 Llanes

PHONE: +34 651 457 842

EMAIL: **info@llaneshostel.es**

WEB: llaneshostel.es

Find the full list

ASTURIAS HOSTEL DIRECTORY

Book Asturias Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Alexfoofoo at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10314058



CANTABRIA

The Northern Frontier

Pronounced: *kahn-TAH-bree-ah*

Tucked right along the Bay of Biscay between the Basque Country and Asturias, Cantabria is a wildly scenic northern paradise where dramatic green mountains collide directly with the Atlantic Ocean. If your idea of Spain involves dry heat, crowded Mediterranean resorts, and concrete strips, Cantabria will blow those expectations completely out of the water. Here, prehistoric limestone caves, high-altitude alpine peaks, hidden surf coves, and elegant coastal towns create an untamed playground for adventurous travellers. It is raw, green, refreshingly uncrowded, and perfectly tailored for young backpackers chasing outdoor thrills, budget-friendly food, and an

authentic northern adventure.

Santander: Elegant Coastal Living and Beach Culture

The Vibe: Relaxed, scenic, and ocean-obsessed.

For Backpackers: Santander, Cantabria's vibrant coastal capital, sits along one of the most stunning natural bays in the world. It provides the perfect urban launchpad for backpackers entering the region. Days in Santander revolve around ocean living: throw down a towel on the golden sands of Playa del El Sardinero, explore the seaside royal grounds of the Magdalena Peninsula, or take in modern art and panoramic bay views from the rooftop terrace of Centro Botín. The city's hostel network is social and welcoming, organising group beach days, walking tours, and evening pintxo crawls through the lively bars around Plaza del Cañadío, where cold cañas and local tapas keep energy high late into the night.

Surfing Paradise and Coastal Hideaways

The Vibe: World-class waves, laid-back surf camps, and endless sea cliffs.

For Backpackers: Cantabria is one of Europe's premier surfing meccas. Coastal towns like Somo, Suances, and El Brusco draw wave-chasers from across the globe with consistent Atlantic swells and expansive sandy beaches. Just a quick boat ride across the bay from Santander, Somo acts as a bustling surf hub packed with surf hostels, board rental shops, and beach bars. When you want to explore beyond the surf, the Cantabrian coastline offers breathtaking coastal walks along dramatic sea cliffs, secret turquoise coves like Playa de Langre, and picture-perfect fishing villages like Castro Urdiales and San Vicente de la Barquera, where you can

feast on freshly caught seafood right beside ancient stone harbours.

The Picos de Europa and High-Altitude Adventure

The Vibe: Majestic alpine peaks, deep gorges, and thrilling mountain trails.

For Backpackers: Moving inland, Cantabria's landscape shifts dramatically into towering limestone mountains. The western interior forms part of the world-famous Picos de Europa National Park, offering endless opportunities for outdoor adrenaline junkies. Head to the Liébana valley and base yourself in the charming mountain town of Potes. From there, take the Fuente Dé cable car, which ascends over nearly eight hundred vertical metres in just four minutes, launching you directly into dramatic alpine terrain. Hikers, mountain bikers, and trail runners can spend days tackling trails that wind past jagged peaks, deep gorges, and high mountain meadows without encountering tourist crowds.

Prehistoric Caves and Medieval Fairy Tales

The Vibe: Ancient history meets storybook charm.

For Backpackers: Cantabria is world-renowned for its incredible concentration of prehistoric cave art. While the original cave of Altamira is strictly protected, visitors can explore the astonishing replica museum in Santillana del Mar or head inside accessible caves like El Castillo and Las Monedas to marvel at thousands-of-years-old hand stencils and animal cave paintings made by early humans. Right outside sits Santillana del Mar itself—a cobblestoned, medieval village that feels frozen in time. West along the coast lies Comillas, a vibrant seaside town home to El Capricho, a whimsical, co-

lourful summer villa designed by Antoni Gaudí that showcases his early genius outside of Catalonia.

The Backpacker Mindset in Cantabria

The Vibe: Authentic, active, and wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: Backpacking Cantabria is all about embracing the elements, staying active, and diving into local traditions. Food here is hearty and incredibly budget-friendly; recharge after a long hike or surf session with a hot bowl of cocido montañés (a rich bean and pork stew) or treat yourself to sweet local pastries like sobaos pasiegos. Getting around is straightforward using regional buses and narrow-gauge trains (FEVE) that thread through coastal towns and mountain valleys. If you want a trip filled with world-class surf, jaw-dropping alpine views, and genuine northern Spanish hospitality, Cantabria is an absolute must-add to your itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED CANTABRIA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

SANTANDER CENTRAL HOSTEL
Calle Calderón de la Barca, 4, entresuelo 1, 39004 Santander

PHONE: +34 942 37 75 40

EMAIL: santandercentralhostel@hotmail.com

WEB: santandercentralhostel.com

ENJOY SANTANDER
C/Andrés del Rio, P.º Canalejas, nº 7, 39004 Santander, Cantabria

PHONE: +34 666 95 90 41

EMAIL: enjoysantanderhostel@gmail.com

WEB: enjoysantanderhostel.com

NÓMADA HOSTEL
C. Alta, 12, 39540 San Vicente de la Barquera, Cantabria, Spain

PHONE: +34 623 29 55 26

EMAIL: info@nomadahostel.es

WEB: nomadahostel.es

HOSTEL VILLA MIGUELA
P.º Menéndez Pelayo, 66, 39006 Santander, Cantabria, Spain

PHONE: +34 660 53 45 41

EMAIL: reservasbeatas@coeolife.com

WEB: villamiguela.com

HOSTEL SANTANDER
1B, P.º de Pereda, 15, 39004 Santander, Cantabria, Spain

PHONE: +34 942 22 39 86

EMAIL: contacto@hostelsantander.es

WEB: hostelsantander.es

Find the full list

CANTABRIA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

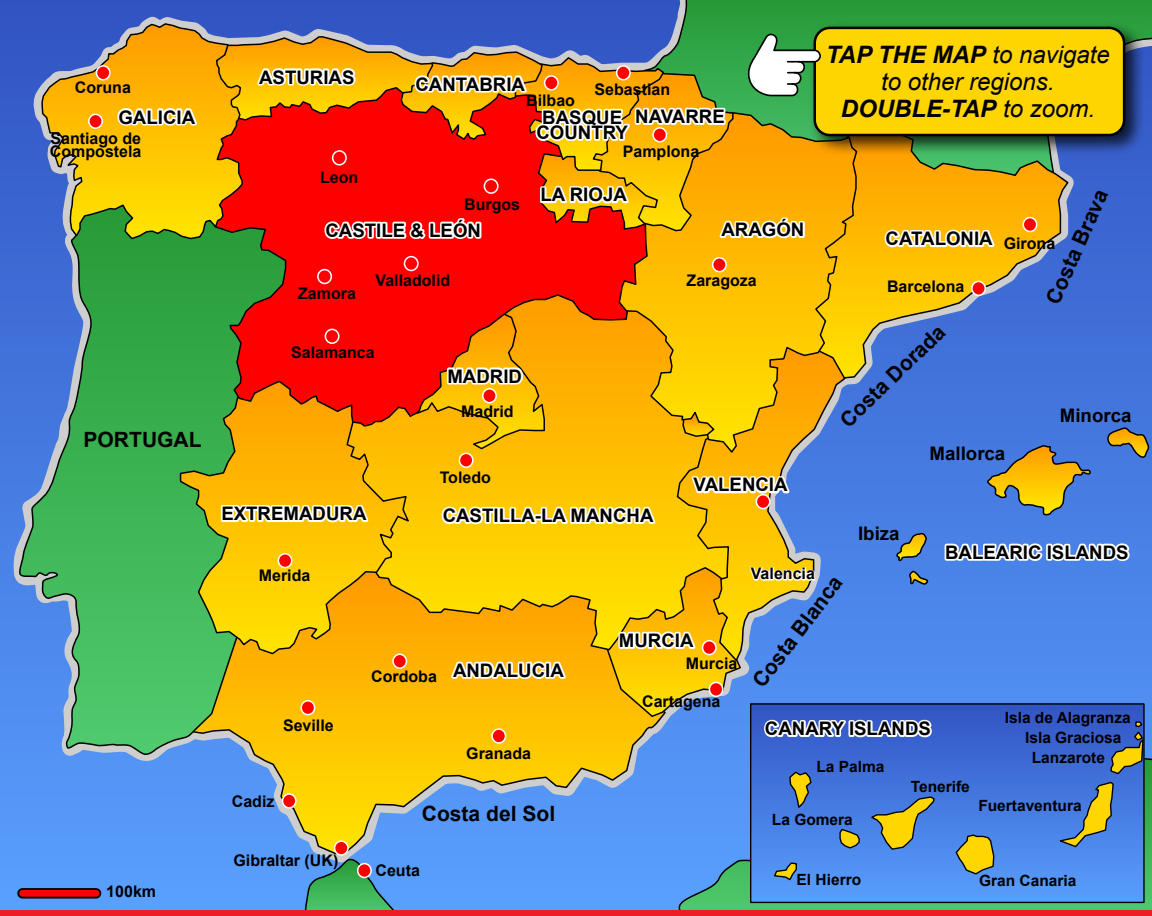
1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



Book Cantabria Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Adbar - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=29715083



CASTILE AND LEÓN

The Heartland Of Kings

Pronounced: *kahs-TEE-lyah ee lay-OHN*

Stretching across the vast high plateau of northern-central Spain, Castile and León is the largest region in the country—a land of massive medieval castles, soaring gothic cathedrals, ancient walled cities, and endless golden plains. If you are looking for an authentic Spanish experience far removed from the crowded beach resorts, this monumental heartland is where Spain's rich history was forged. At home, you might be used to modern, sprawling suburbia, but stepping into Castile and León feels like walking onto a living history movie set. It is grand, deeply atmospheric, budget-friendly, and offers young travellers an unforgettable mix of historic

exploration, vibrant university social scenes, and mouth-watering gastronomy.

Salamanca: The Golden University Hub

The Vibe: Youthful, historic, and wildly high-energy.

For Backpackers: Salamanca is the absolute crown jewel for young backpackers visiting the region. Home to one of the oldest universities in the world, this city is powered almost entirely by student energy. Built from glowing sandstone that turns golden at sunset, Salamanca boasts the Plaza Mayor—widely considered the grandest public square in Spain. By day, backpackers wander past stunning plateresque architecture, search for the famous carved stone frog on the university facade for good luck, and climb the towers of the double cathedral for sweeping rooftop views. As night falls, the massive student population spills into the streets, creating a legendary nightlife scene where bar-hopping, cheap tapas, and late-night student clubs keep the city buzzing until sunrise.

Segovia and Ávila: Fairy-Tale Walls and Ancient Marvels

The Vibe: Cinematic, grand, and awe-inspiring.

For Backpackers: Just a quick trip from Madrid, Segovia and Ávila offer jaw-dropping visual spectacles that will blow your mind. Segovia is world-famous for its massive Roman Aqueduct—an engineering marvel of unmortared granite blocks that towers over the city square—and the Alcázar of Segovia, a fairy-tale cliffside castle that directly inspired Walt Disney's Cinderella castle. Further west lies Ávila, a city completely enclosed by two-and-a-half kilometres of impeccably preserved 11th-century medieval stone walls. Walking along the top of these ancient ramparts at dusk, with views stretching

over the rolling Castilian countryside, is a surreal highlight for any traveller.

Burgos and León: Cathedral Majesty along the Camino

The Vibe: Atmospheric, spirited, and steeped in pilgrimage tradition.

For Backpackers: Both Burgos and León are major stops along the famous Camino de Santiago, bringing a constant flow of international hikers and young travellers into their historic centres. Burgos features the magnificent Cathedral of Saint Mary, a soaring masterpiece of French gothic architecture that dominates the city skyline. Moving west, León offers the stunning León Cathedral, famous for its world-class stained-glass windows that flood the interior with brilliant colourful light. León is also famous among budget backpackers for its incredible tapas culture in the Barrio Húmedo (the "Wet Neighbourhood"), where ordering a cheap glass of local wine or beer earns you generous free tapas plates ranging from cured beef (cecina) to rich local stews.

Hearty Castilian Feasts and Micro-Budgets

The Vibe: Rustic, comforting, and exceptionally budget-friendly.

For Backpackers: Travelling through Castile and León is a dream for your wallet. The region takes immense pride in its traditional, hearty cuisine designed to fuel travellers exploring the high plateau. Beyond the free tapas culture in León, backpackers can feast on slow-roasted meats, hearty bean stews like maragato, artisan sheep cheeses, and freshly baked rustic breads. Wash it all down with world-class, affordable red wines from the famous Ribera del Duero or Rueda wine regions. Because the region is less dominated by mass

international tourism, prices for food, drinks, and hostel stays remain remarkably low.

The Backpacker Mindset in Castile and León

The Vibe: Epic, authentic, and deeply rewarding.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Castile and León is all about slow travel, epic architecture, and soaking in authentic local life. Thanks to high-speed Renfe train connections and extensive regional bus routes, hopping between world heritage cities like Salamanca, Segovia, Ávila, Burgos, and León is totally seamless. Hostels throughout the region offer welcoming, community-focused bases where you can connect with fellow adventurers and Camino pilgrims. Bring your camera, bring a big appetite, and get ready to experience the epic medieval soul of Spain.

FIND TOP-RATED CASTILE AND LEÓN HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

MOLA! HOSTEL BURGOS
Calle Miranda, 4, 09002 Burgos

PHONE: +34 634 020 380 / +34 650 035 728

EMAIL: info@molahostelburgos.com

WEB: molahostelburgos.com

HOSTEL CATEDRAL BURGOS
Plaza Huerto del Rey, 5, 09003 Burgos

PHONE: +34 623 115 887 / +34 947 718 435

EMAIL: info@hostelcatedralburgos.com

WEB: hostelcatedralburgos.es

ALBERGUE MELGAR DE FERNAMENTAL
Calle Costanilla de la Azafata, s/n, 09100 Melgar de Fernamental

PHONE: +34 947 227 318 / +34 636 134 558

EMAIL: info@alberguemelgar.es

WEB: alberguemelgar.es

QUARTIER LEÓN JABALQUINTO
C. de Juan de Arfe, 2, 24003 León, Spain

PHONE: +34 987 53 97 51

EMAIL: recepcion@quartierleon.com

WEB: quartierleon.com

LA DORADA HOSTEL
Calle Meléndez, 22, 37007 Salamanca

PHONE: +34 942 22 39 86

EMAIL: carmen.carmen1959@gmail.com

WEB: residenciasalamancadorada.com

Find the full list

CASTILE AND LEÓN HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.

Book Castile & León Day Trips on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By jaciluch - https://www.flickr.com/photos/70626035@N00/9223963842/, CC BY-SA 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=74303458



CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

Land of Windmills and Legends

Pronounced: *kahs-TEE-lyah lah MAHN-chah*

Stretching endlessly south and east of Madrid lies Castilla-La Mancha—a vast, sun-baked region of dramatic open plains, historic hill towns, towering windmills, and deep river gorges. If you are looking for the legendary, romantic Spain of literature and ancient history, this sprawling high plateau is where it all comes to life. At home, you might be accustomed to fast-paced coastal routes or densely populated urban corridors, but stepping into Castilla-La Mancha places you in a peaceful, wide-open landscape where tradition reigns supreme. Immortalised by Miguel de Cervantes in his famous novel Don Quixote, it is a region of quiet beauty, iconic cliffside architecture,

exceptionally low prices, and an authentic, unhurried rhythm that offers young travellers a truly unique adventure in the heart of Spain.

Toledo: The Imperial City of Three Cultures

The Vibe: Majestic, labyrinthine, and steeped in ancient history.

For Backpackers: Perched dramatically on a rocky gorge encircled by the Tagus River, Toledo is the ultimate crown jewel of Castilla-La Mancha and an essential stop for any backpacker. Known historically as the “City of Three Cultures,” it preserves a breathtaking architectural mix of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish heritage. You will spend hours getting lost in its maze of steep cobblestone alleys, wandering past the soaring Toledo Cathedral, the ancient Synagogue of El Tránsito, and the historic Mosque of Cristo de la Luz. By day, explore sword-making workshops and vibrant artisan markets; at golden hour, walk across the San Martín Bridge or head up to the Mirador del Valle for a sweeping, panoramic sunset view over the entire medieval fortress city.

Cuenca: Gravity-Defying Hanging Houses and Gorges

The Vibe: Surreal, dramatic, and visually staggering.

For Backpackers: Perched high in the mountains of eastern Castilla-La Mancha lies Cuenca, a UNESCO World Heritage city famous for its jaw-dropping cliffside geometry. The town is built directly on narrow limestone ridges squeezed between the deep gorges of the Júcar and Huécar rivers. Its most famous sights are the Casas Colgadas (Hanging Houses)—wooden medieval structures clinging daringly to the sheer rock face over a dizzying drop. Walk across the thrilling Iron Bridge of San Pablo for breathtaking photos, explore the colorful his-

toric quarter, or head into the surrounding Serranía de Cuenca mountains for hiking, rock climbing, and outdoor canyoning adventures on a shoestring budget.

The Windmills of Consuegra and the Quixote Trail

The Vibe: Literary, windswept, and timeless.

For Backpackers: No trip to Castilla-La Mancha is complete without standing face-to-face with the iconic giant windmills of Consuegra. Perched along a windswept ridge overlooking vast golden plains, these twelve whitewashed windmills and their neighboring 12th-century castle served as the direct inspiration for Don Quixote's legendary battle against "giants." Renting a cheap car or taking a regional bus with hostel mates to explore Consuegra, Campo de Criptana, and Belmonte Castle offers an unforgettable road trip experience. Watching the sunset turn the sky fiery orange behind the turning sails of the windmills is pure cinematic magic.

Local Gastronomy: Manchego Cheese and Rustic Feasts

The Vibe: Earthy, rich, and ridiculously wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: Food in Castilla-La Mancha is rustic, satisfying, and amazingly affordable for budget travellers. This region is the world-famous birthplace of authentic Queso Manchego—a rich, cured sheep's milk cheese that pairs perfectly with freshly baked crusty bread and local olives. Backpacker feasting here centers on hearty, traditional dishes like pisto manchego (a savory stewed vegetable dish topped with a fried egg), lamb stews, and ajoarriero (a garlic and cod dip). In historic cities like Toledo and Ciudad Real, ordering cheap draft beers or glasses of local Valdepeñas red wine comes accompanied by free, generous tapas plates that will easily fill

you up after a long day of exploring.

The Backpacker Mindset in Castilla-La Mancha

The Vibe: Peaceful, adventurous, and authentic.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Castilla-La Mancha is all about stepping into a slower, more deliberate travel pace. Because the region is directly adjacent to Madrid, key cities like Toledo and Cuenca are easily reached in under an hour via high-speed Renfe trains or budget Alsa buses. Hostels across the region are atmospheric and welcoming, often housed in converted historic buildings that make connecting with fellow travellers simple and memorable. If you want to trade tourist crowds for giant windmills, dramatic gorges, and authentic Castilian culture, Castilla-La Mancha is an essential addition to your Spanish itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED CASTILLA-LA MANCHA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

ALBERGUE RURAL SERRANILL@
Camino de Villarejo, 11, 16532 Villanueva de Guadamejud

PHONE: +34 969 376 400

EMAIL: albergue@albergueserranilla.es

WEB: albergueserranilla.es

ALBERGUE FINCA SOLANILLOS
Finca Dehesa Común de Solanillos, Carretera CM-2120, km 7, 19286 Mazarete

PHONE: +34 949 825 277

EMAIL: info@fundacionapadrinaunarbol.org

WEB: albergueruralsolanillos.com

HOSTEL LOS CHORROS
C. Haza de San Luis, 9, 02450 Riópar, Albacete, Spain

PHONE: +34 635 61 54 17

EMAIL: info@nomadahostel.es

WEB: albergueloschorros.com

VILLA MANOLITA
C. P.º de la Libertad, 1, 02637 Fuensanta, Albacete, Spain

PHONE: +34 660 53 45 41

EMAIL: reservas@villamanolita.com

WEB: villamanolita.es

ALBERGUE SAN AGUSTÍN
Camino de Alhóndiga, s/n, 19012 Fuentelencina

PHONE: +34 949 284 557

EMAIL: alberguesanagustin@gmail.com

WEB: alojamientoruralsanagustin.com

Find the full list

CASTILLA LA MANCHA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



TOLEDO

The City of Three Cultures

Pronounced: *toh-LEH-doh*

Perched dramatically on a rocky granite gorge and encircled on three sides by the rushing Tagus River, Toledo is the ultimate medieval masterpiece of central Spain. If you are looking for a historic destination that completely transports you back to the age of knights, kings, and ancient empires, this monumental city is an absolute must-visit. At home, you might be accustomed to modern grid layouts and sprawling concrete suburbs, but stepping into Toledo places you inside a labyrinthine open-air museum where history echoes from every cobblestone. Known historically as the “City of Three Cultures” for its centuries of harmonious coexistence between Christian,

Muslim, and Jewish communities, it is a breathtaking, hilly fortress packed with towering cathedrals, hidden courtyards, and incredible views that offer young travellers an unforgettable adventure just an hour south of Madrid.

The Labyrinthine Streets and Medieval Architecture

The Vibe: Steep, historic, and wonderfully disorienting.

For Backpackers: Exploring Toledo on foot is an epic adventure for your legs and your imagination. Because the city was built as a defensive mountain stronghold, its streets are a dizzying maze of steep, narrow alleys designed intentionally to confuse invaders. You will spend hours wandering past ancient artisan workshops crafting famous Toledo steel swords, antique wooden doorways, and hidden plazas. The city is a living tapestry of architectural styles: you can marvel at the soaring Gothic grandeur of the Primate Cathedral of Saint Mary, explore the exquisite horseshoe arches and tilework of the Mosque of Cristo de la Luz, and wander through the historic Jewish Quarter to visit the stunning Synagogue of El Tránsito.

The Alcázar and Panoramic Sunset Views

The Vibe: Monumental, majestic, and awe-inspiring.

For Backpackers: Dominating the highest point of the city skyline is the imposing Alcázar of Toledo—a massive, square fortress with four corner towers that has stood sentinel over the region for centuries. Today, it houses a vast military museum and impressive historic exhibitions. When golden hour arrives, join fellow travellers and locals in heading outside the city walls. Walk across the medieval San Martín Bridge or take the scenic path up to the Mirador del Valle viewpoint across

the river gorge. Watching the sun dip below the horizon and cast a warm, fiery orange glow over Toledo's ancient stone towers and river bends is one of the most magical experiences in Spain.

Local Gastronomy: Marzipan and Hearty Castilian Feasts

The Vibe: Rich, traditional, and surprisingly budget-friendly.

For Backpackers: Food in Toledo is hearty, comforting, and designed to fuel travellers exploring the steep hills. The city's most famous culinary export is *mazapán* (marzipan), a sweet almond confectionery handcrafted by local nuns since medieval times and sold in charming pastry shops across town. For savoury meals, dive into traditional Castilian dishes like *carcamusas* (a slow-cooked pork and tomato stew infused with peas and spicy chorizo) or partridge casserole. In traditional taverns scattered across the old town, ordering a cheap glass of local La Mancha wine or a cold beer frequently comes with complimentary tapas, making it easy to feast like royalty on a strict backpacker budget.

Day Trips and Underground Secrets

The Vibe: Mysterious, underground, and deeply fascinating.

For Backpackers: Toledo holds plenty of secrets beneath its surface as well. When you need a break from the sun, head underground to explore the Cuevas de Hércules—a network of ancient Roman water cisterns and archaeological ruins hidden beneath the streets. For a surreal local experience, venture just outside the city to the Pujante region or take a short regional bus ride to nearby historic sites like the castle of Orgaz. If you have extra time, exploring the underground thermal baths and ancient ruins adds an extra layer of mystery

to your stay before heading back into the lively evening atmosphere of the old town.

The Backpacker Mindset in Toledo

The Vibe: Immersive, energetic, and effortlessly accessible.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Toledo is all about embracing the climb and losing yourself in the past. Thanks to high-speed Avant trains from Madrid, getting to Toledo takes a mere thirty minutes, making it an easy stop whether you are doing a quick day trip or settling into one of the city's atmospheric, social hostels for a few nights of stargazing and rooftop socializing. Hostels here cater wonderfully to young explorers, frequently organising historic walking tours and evening tapas crawls. If you want a dramatic medieval escape filled with winding alleys, jaw-dropping viewpoints, and rich cultural heritage, Toledo will exceed your every expectation.



FIND TOP-RATED TOLEDO HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

OASIS BACKPACKERS' TOLEDO
Calle Cadenas, 5, 45001 Toledo

PHONE: +34 925 227 650 / WhatsApp: +34 671 069 414

EMAIL: toledo@hostelsoasis.com

WEB: oasistoledo.com

WONDER HOSTEL
Calle Duque de Lerma, 1, 45001 Toledo

PHONE: +34 609 124 677

EMAIL: reservas@wonderhostel.es

WEB: wonderhostel.es

HOSTAL TOLEDO
Avenida Castilla-La Mancha, 30, 45003 Toledo

PHONE: +34 925 254 167 / +34 925 254 105

EMAIL: hostaltoledo@hostaltoledo.com

WEB: hostaltoledo.com



HOSTAL SOL
Calle Azacanes, 8, 45003 Toledo

PHONE: +34 925 213 650

EMAIL: info@hotelyhostalsol.com

WEB: hotelyhostalsol.com

TRÍPOLIS TOLEDO
Calle Covarrubias, 4, 45003 Toledo

PHONE: +34 925 688 127

EMAIL: info@tripolistoledo.com

WEB: tripolistoledo.com

Find the full list

TOLEDO HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



ARAGÓN

The Medieval Mountain Frontier

Pronounced: *ah-rah-GOHN*

Stretching from the snowy, soaring peaks of the Pyrenees down to the dramatic desert badlands of the Ebro valley, Aragón is a breathtaking, rugged frontier region of northeastern Spain. If you are looking to escape the crowded coastal resorts and dive into authentic, untamed landscapes, this historic kingdom is an absolute goldmine. At home, you might be used to flat urban grids and manicured parks, but stepping into Aragón places you amidst towering limestone gorges, ancient stone villages clinging to cliff edges, and remnants of Moorish and medieval power. It is grand, fiercely proud, wonderfully uncrowded, and offers young travellers an unforgetta-

ble mix of high-alpine adventure, dramatic history, and exceptional local gastronomy.

Zaragoza: The Vibrant Ebro Metropolis

The Vibe: Dynamic, artistic, and effortlessly cool.

For Backpackers: Sitting right on the banks of the Ebro River, Zaragoza is Aragón's lively capital and the perfect urban launchpad for exploring the region. The city's absolute crown jewel is the Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, a massive, awe-inspiring sanctuary featuring colourful tiled domes that dominate the river skyline. By day, wander through the historic old town to explore Roman ruins, the Moorish Aljafería Palace, and the visionary art of local master Francisco de Goya. When night falls, the energy shifts entirely to El Tubo—a dizzying network of narrow, atmospheric alleys packed with tiny bars where locals and backpackers crowd together to share cheap local wines and legendary tapas.

The Pyrenees: Alpine Peaks and Thrilling Canyons

The Vibe: Wild, majestic, and built for outdoor adrenaline.

For Backpackers: Moving north towards the French border, Aragón's landscape explodes into the high Pyrenees—a paradise for hikers, climbers, and nature-lovers. Base yourself in charming mountain villages like Torla or Benasque to tackle world-class trails in Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park. You will hike past cascading waterfalls, deep limestone canyons like the Garganta de Añisclo, and towering alpine peaks that rival the Alps. Whether you are trekking across high-altitude mountain passes, white-water rafting down rushing rivers, or camping under brilliant starry skies, the Aragonese Pyrenees deliver top-tier wilderness adventure on a strict

backpacker budget.

Teruel and The Mudéjar Architectural Marvels

The Vibe: Historic, unique, and wonderfully preserved.

For Backpackers: Head south into the quieter, lesser-visited province of Teruel, and you will discover one of Spain's most fascinating hidden gems. Teruel is world-famous as the capital of Mudéjar architecture—a stunning artistic style born from the fusion of Christian and Islamic design traditions, featuring intricate geometric brickwork and colourful glazed ceramic tiles. Climb the soaring bell towers, visit the moving mausoleum of the famous medieval "Lovers of Teruel," and wander through quiet plazas that feel completely untouched by mass tourism. For dinosaur enthusiasts, the surrounding province is also home to Dinópolis, one of Europe's premier palaeontological theme parks.

Aragonese Gastronomy: Hearty Mountain Feasts

The Vibe: Rustic, comforting, and remarkably wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: Food in Aragón is hearty, robust, and designed to fuel travellers exploring the high-altitude terrain. The region is famous for *ternasco de Aragón* (tender, slow-roasted baby lamb), cured ham from Teruel, and rich garlic soups. Because the region remains off the main mass-tourism radar, eating out is exceptionally budget-friendly. Wash down your meals with a robust bottle of local Somontano or Campo de Borja red wine—often priced at just a few euros—while chatting with friendly locals in rustic family-run taverns across the old towns.

The Backpacker Mindset in Aragón

The Vibe: Unspoiled, adventurous, and deeply rewarding.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Aragón is all about trading the tourist trail for raw, authentic exploration. Thanks to efficient regional train lines and extensive bus networks connecting Zaragoza, Huesca, and Teruel, getting around is straightforward and affordable. Hostels in the cities and mountain hubs offer welcoming, community-driven bases where you can swap stories with fellow adventurers and plan your next alpine trek. If you want a journey filled with roaring rivers, medieval towers, and soaring mountain vistas, Aragón is an absolute must-add to your Spanish itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED ARAGÓN HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

BE ZARAGOZA HOSTEL
Calle de los Predicadores, 70, 50003 Zaragoza

PHONE: +34 976 282 043

EMAIL: info@alberguezaragoza.com

WEB: behostels.com

THE BOTANIC HOSTEL
Calle Basilio Boggiero, 78, 50003 Zaragoza

PHONE: +34 682 452 875

EMAIL: reservas@vtzalojamientos.com

WEB: vtzalojamientos.com

HOSTAL CENTRAL ZARAGOZA
Avenida de César Augusto, 72, principal, 50003 Zaragoza

PHONE: +34 976 395 978

EMAIL: hostalcentral@hotmail.es

WEB: hostalcentralzaragoza.es



HOSTAL ARAGÓN
Calle Santa María, 4, 44001 Teruel

PHONE: +34 978 601 387

EMAIL: info@hostalaragon.org

WEB: hostalaragon.org

EL RINCÓN DE ARÁN
Calle Entrada, 1, 22148 Lecina

PHONE: +34 670 271 896

EMAIL: contacto@hostelsantander.es

WEB: elrincondearan.com

Find the full list

ARAGÓN HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.

Book Aragón Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Paulo Brandao - originally posted to Flickr as Basilica del Pilar, sunset, CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4866442



NAVARRE

Pyrenean Peaks and Running Bulls

Pronounced: *nah-BAH-rrah*

Stretching from the sweeping slopes of the western Pyrenees down to the fertile agricultural plains of the Ebro basin, Navarre (Navarra) is a fiercely independent and wildly diverse historic kingdom in northern Spain. If you are looking for a region that blends dramatic mountain wilderness with explosive cultural traditions, this northern frontier is an absolute goldmine. At home, you might be used to predictable cityscapes and quiet suburbs, but stepping into Navarre places you in a lush, green landscape of misty forests, medieval stone villages, and deep cultural pride. Immortalised globally by Ernest Hemingway's accounts of its iconic festivals, it is a region of

rich Basque-influenced heritage, exceptional gastronomy, and an authentic, energetic spirit that offers young travellers an unforgettable adventure off the beaten Mediterranean track.

Pamplona: Historic Walls and Legendary Fiesta Energy

The Vibe: Electric, historic, and pulsing with youthful tradition.

For Backpackers: Sitting proudly on the banks of the Arga River, Pamplona is Navarre's vibrant capital and an absolute mandatory stop for young explorers. While worldwide fame comes from the high-octane San Fermín festival every July—where thrill-seekers run with the bulls through medieval alleys—Pamplona is an incredible, lively student city year-round. By day, backpackers can walk along the massive Renaissance star-fortress walls, explore the soaring Gothic cathedral, and relax in the lush, shaded paths of La Taconera park. As evening arrives, the historic centre comes alive with energy; the narrow lanes of Calle Estafeta and Plaza del Castillo overflow with tapas bars where you can sample local pintxos and cold drinks well into the night.

The Navarrese Pyrenees: Deep Valleys and Mythical Forests

The Vibe: Misty, rugged, and built for outdoor wilderness.

For Backpackers: Heading north into the Navarrese Pyrenees reveals some of the most enchanting, Tolkien-esque landscapes in Europe. Base yourself in charming mountain villages like Roncesvalles—the famous historical starting point in Spain for many hikers on the Camino de France—or Ochagavía, a picture-perfect hamlet of stone houses and wooden bridges. From there, you can explore the legendary Selva de Irati, one of Europe's largest and best-preserved beech and fir forests. Whether you are trekking through misty autumn can-

opies, hiking high-altitude ridge trails, or discovering hidden mountain hermitages, the northern wilderness delivers top-tier outdoor adventure on a strict backpacker budget.

The Bardenas Reales: Surreal Desert Badlands

The Vibe: Alien, cinematic, and jaw-droppingly stark.

For Backpackers: In complete contrast to the green, wet northern mountains, southern Navarre holds one of Spain's best-kept geographical secrets: the Bardenas Reales Biosphere Reserve. This semi-desert landscape features surreal, wind-sculpted clay badlands, dramatic canyons, and solitary rock formations like the iconic Castildetierra tower that look straight out of a sci-fi movie. Renting a bicycle or taking a budget-friendly regional bus with hostel mates to explore the dirt tracks and hiking trails of this lunar landscape offers an incredible, off-the-grid road-trip experience. Catching the sunset over the golden, eroded clay hills provides a surreal photographic highlight.

Local Gastronomy: Piquillo Peppers and Rioja Wines

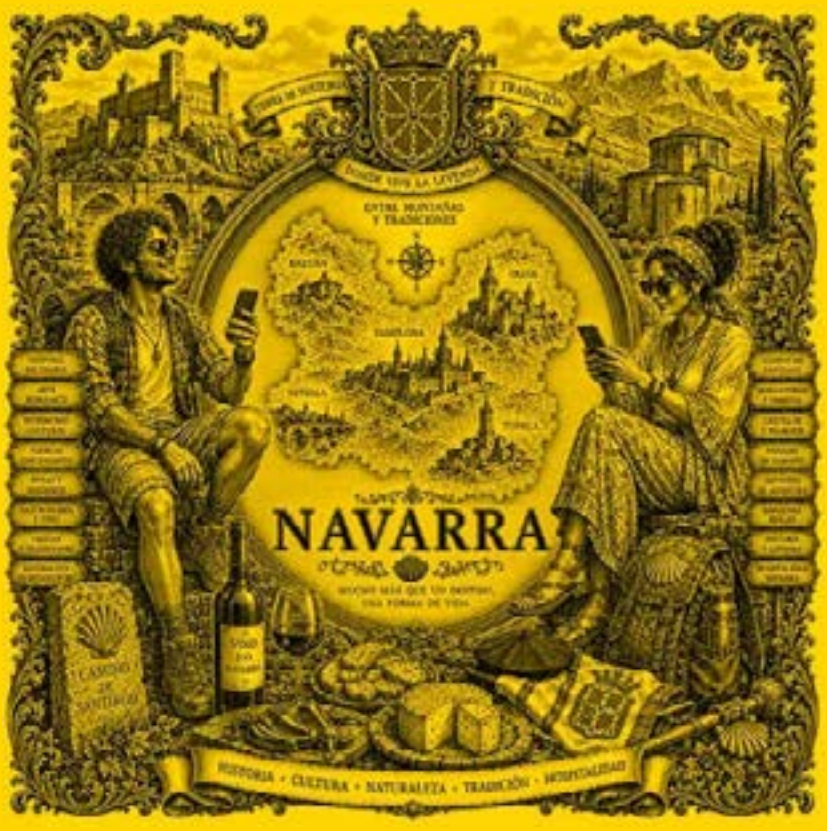
The Vibe: Rich, garden-fresh, and exceptionally wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: Food in Navarre is a legendary celebration of the region's diverse geography, combining fresh produce from the Ebro river vegetable gardens with hearty mountain fare. The region is world-famous for its sweet, smoky Piquillo de Lodosa peppers, tender white asparagus, and rich stews made from local game. Because Navarre shares borders with La Rioja and the Basque Country, dining out is a fantastic social affair; ordering regional red wines or crisp local rosado (rosé) in traditional taverns frequently comes with generous, budget-friendly tapas plates that keep your travel wallet happy.

The Backpacker Mindset in Navarre

The Vibe: Independent, adventurous, and deeply rewarding.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Navarre is all about embracing a unique cultural crossroads where mountain hiking meets vibrant urban nightlife. Thanks to efficient regional bus networks connecting Pamplona, Tudela, and the mountain valleys, getting around is straightforward and inexpensive. Hostels and traditional mountain albergues throughout the region offer welcoming, community-focused bases where you can swap hiking stories with fellow travellers and Camino pilgrims. If you want a journey filled with misty beech forests, desert badlands, and legendary northern hospitality, Navarre is an essential addition to your Spanish itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED NAVARRE HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

ALOHA HOSTEL PAMPLONA
Calle Sangüesa, 2, 1º, 31002 Pamplona

PHONE: +34 948 153 367 / +34 648 289 403

EMAIL: info@alohahostel.es

WEB: alohahostel.es

IRAIPE PAMPLONA HOSTEL
Calle Berrioplano, 2, 31013 Pamplona

PHONE: +34 948 134 586

EMAIL: pamplona@iraipehoteles.com

WEB: iraipehoteles.com

ALBERGUE ESTELLA
Calle Los Pelaires, 3, 31200 Estella-Lizarra

PHONE: +34 948 546 574

EMAIL: info@albergueestella.com

WEB: albergueestella.com



IRAIPE HOSTEL OF VILLAVA
Calle Pedro de Atarrabia Trasera, 17, 31610 Villava

PHONE: +34 948 517 731

EMAIL: info@hostalaragon.org

WEB: iraipehoteles.com

HOSTAL NAVARRA
Calle Tudela, 9, 31003 Pamplona

PHONE: +34 642 118 531 / +34 627 374 878

EMAIL: reservas@hostalnavarra.com

WEB: hostalnavarra.com

Find the full list

NAVARRE HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.





LA RIOJA

The Valley of Vines and Medieval Monasteries

Pronounced: *lah RYOH-hah*

Stretching across the fertile upper valley of the Ebro River and backed by the jagged peaks of the Sierra de la Demanda, La Rioja is Spain's legendary wine capital in miniature. If you are looking for a region where rolling vineyard hills meet ancient stone villages and centuries-old wine traditions, this compact northern gem is an absolute goldmine. At home, you might be used to sprawling urban sprawls or industrial agricultural tracts, but stepping into La Rioja places you in a scenic, unhurried landscape where vines stretch as far as the eye can see. Renowned across the globe for producing some of the finest red wines on earth, it is a region of rich heritage,

exceptional gastronomy, and an intimate, welcoming spirit that offers young travellers an unforgettable adventure off the beaten tourist path.

Logroño: The Tapas Capital of Calle Laurel

The Vibe: High-energy, food-obsessed, and endlessly social.

For Backpackers: Sitting proudly on the Camino de Santiago, Logroño is La Rioja's vibrant capital and an absolute mandatory stop for young explorers. While the city features lovely parks and historic churches, its absolute beating heart is Calle Laurel—and the adjoining Calle Albornoz. This legendary network of narrow streets packs over sixty tapas bars into a few square blocks, creating one of the most concentrated and social bar-hopping scenes in Europe. The unwritten rule for backpackers is simple and brilliant: each bar specialises in just one specific tapa, from garlic mushrooms on skewers to spicy pork and grilled prawns, paired with a cheap glass of local Rioja Crianza. It is fast, incredibly affordable, and the ultimate place to make instant friends.

Haro and the Historic Wine Cellars

The Vibe: Historic, aromatic, and world-class.

For Backpackers: Just a short bus or train ride northwest lies Haro, the historic wine capital of the region. Home to the highest concentration of century-old wine cellars (bodegas) in the world—many clustered in the atmospheric Barrio de la Estación—Haro offers young travellers a fascinating window into legendary winemaking traditions. You can join budget-friendly cellar tours that lead deep underground into dimly lit caverns stacked with millions of aging oak barrels, finishing with tastings of world-class reds. If you happen to visit in

late June, you will witness the unforgettable Batalla del Vino (Wine Battle), where thousands of people drench each other in thousands of litres of red wine in a chaotic, joyful celebration.

Monasteries of San Millán and Medieval Valleys

The Vibe: Mystical, architectural, and deeply rooted in history.

For Backpackers: Moving inland into the rolling valleys reveals breathtaking medieval history tucked away in the countryside. La Rioja is home to the twin UNESCO World Heritage monasteries of Suso and Yuso in San Millán de la Cogolla—hailed as the birthplace of the Spanish language, where monks first jotted down the earliest written phrases of Romance vernacular in medieval manuscripts. Exploring these peaceful stone cloisters and hiking through the surrounding oak forests offers a wonderful, quiet contrast to the bustling energy of Logroño's tapas bars.

Local Gastronomy: Patatas a la Riojana and Vineyard Feasts

The Vibe: Hearty, comforting, and remarkably wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: Food in La Rioja is rustic, warming, and designed to pair perfectly with the region's dominant export. The local signature dish is *patatas a la Riojana*—a rich, comforting stew of chunky potatoes slow-cooked with spicy chorizo and pimentón. Because La Rioja is an agricultural heartland surrounded by fertile market gardens, meals also feature fresh red peppers, tender lamb, and artisan goat cheeses. Dining out remains exceptionally budget-friendly, especially when paired with endless glasses of robust red wine that cost less than a coffee back home.

The Backpacker Mindset in La Rioja

The Vibe: Intimate, welcoming, and deeply rewarding.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through La Rioja is all about slowing down, savouring exceptional flavours, and enjoying the relaxed pace of northern Spanish village life. Because the region is compact and well-connected by regional bus lines and the Camino trail network, hopping between Logroño, Haro, and wine-country villages is entirely seamless. Hostels and pilgrim *albergues* throughout the province offer warm, community-driven bases where you can swap stories with fellow travellers and wine enthusiasts. If you want a journey filled with legendary tapas crawls, historic underground cellars, and rolling vineyard vistas, La Rioja is an essential addition to your Spanish itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED LA RIOJA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

TINTO DREAMS HOSTEL
Calle La Ventilla, 30, 26200 Haro

PHONE: +34 605 438 091 / +34 691 079 138

EMAIL: info@tintodreamshostel.com

WEB: tintodreamshostel.com

ALBERGUE LOGROÑO CENTRO
Tr.ª Palacio, 6, 26001 Logroño, La Rioja, Spain

PHONE: +34 948 134 586

EMAIL: info@apartamentoslogrono.org

WEB: apartamentoslogrono.org

HOSTAL HISPANO
Calle La Cepa, 2, 26300 Nájera

PHONE: +34 941 362 957 / +34 941 363 615

EMAIL: info@albergueestella.com

WEB: hostalhispanonajera.com



ALBERGUE SANTIAGO APOSTOL
C. Ruavieja, 42, 26001 Logroño, La Rioja, Spain

PHONE: +34 941 25 69 76

EMAIL: ruavieja42@gmail.com

WEB: albergues caminosantiago.com

ALBERGUE VICTORIA
C. San Andrés, 10, 26258 Cirueña, La Rioja, Spain

PHONE: +34 628 98 33 51

EMAIL: Info@casavictoriarural.com

WEB: casavictoriarural.com

Find the full list

LA RIOJA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.

Book La Rioja Day Trips & Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By BigSus - Own work, CC BY 2.5, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3482560



EXTREMADURA

The Land of Conquistadors

Pronounced: *eks-tre-mah-DOO-rah*

Stretching across Spain's rugged southwestern interior all the way to the Portuguese border, Extremadura is one of the country's best-kept secrets—a wild, sun-drenched region of rolling cork oak forests, Roman ruins, and lonely mountain ranges. If you are looking to escape the crowded tourist traps and step into an authentic, raw slice of Spanish history, this sweeping historical frontier is an absolute goldmine. At home, you might be used to bustling urban sprawl or manicured tourist corridors, but stepping into Extremadura places you in a peaceful, unhurried landscape where massive medieval castles rise over empty pastures and black Iberian pigs roam free.

It is grand, fiercely traditional, incredibly budget-friendly, and offers young travellers an unforgettable journey through the birthplace of the Spanish conquistadors.

Mérida and Cáceres: Living Roman and Medieval History

The Vibe: Monumental, cinematic, and startlingly well-preserved.

For Backpackers: Extremadura's two historic heavyweights offer some of the most jaw-dropping historical sights in Europe without the massive crowds. In Mérida, founded by the Roman Empire in 25 BC, you can wander through one of the most complete and best-preserved Roman theatres in the world—where classical drama festivals are still hosted today—alongside soaring aqueducts and ancient temples. Just north lies Cáceres, a UNESCO World Heritage city whose walled medieval quarter feels like an untouched outdoor movie set. With its soaring stone palaces, defensive towers, and labyrinthine alleys where storks nest on rooftops, Cáceres offers an atmospheric, highly walkable base packed with budget-friendly tapas bars and welcoming student hostels.

Trujillo and the Land of Conquistadors

The Vibe: Dramatic, rugged, and steeped in ancient myth.

For Backpackers: Perched on a massive granite outcrop in the heart of the region sits Trujillo, a picturesque medieval town that gave birth to legendary explorers like Francisco Pizarro. The town's soaring central plaza is framed by magnificent Renaissance palaces and overlooked by a brooding Moorish castle. Wandering through Trujillo's quiet, sun-baked streets feels like stepping back into the 16th century. For nature-loving backpackers, a short trip outside town leads straight

into the breathtaking Monfragüe National Park—a dramatic biosphere reserve featuring rugged quartzite cliffs, soaring vulture populations, and pristine river gorges that offer world-class hiking away from the crowds.

Local Gastronomy: Jamón Ibérico and Rich Shepherd Fare

The Vibe: Earthy, decadent, and surprisingly wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: Food in Extremadura is legendary, deeply rooted in its agricultural and pastoral heritage, and remarkably kind to a backpacker's budget. This region is the sacred homeland of authentic *Jamón Ibérico de Bellota* (acorn-fed Iberian ham), widely considered the finest cured ham on earth. Dining out here also means feasting on rich shepherd's fare like *migas extremeñas* (crispy breadcrumbs fried with garlic, chorizo, and peppers), torta del Casar (a luxuriously creamy, pungent raw-sheep milk cheese), and slow-cooked local lamb stews, all washed down with robust, affordable regional wines.

Guadalupe and the Mountain Serenity

The Vibe: Mystical, remote, and breathtakingly scenic.

For Backpackers: Tucked away in the rugged Villuercas mountains, the tiny town of Guadalupe centers around the magnificent Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe—a stunning architectural masterpiece that blends Gothic, Mudéjar, and Renaissance styles, and which historically drew kings and pilgrims from across Europe. The surrounding mountain range offers incredible, rugged hiking trails through chestnut forests and rocky ridges. Because mass tourism has largely bypassed Extremadura, exploring these hidden moun-

tain villages provides a rare, peaceful glimpse into traditional Spanish rural life.

The Backpacker Mindset in Extremadura

The Vibe: Unspoiled, adventurous, and deeply rewarding.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Extremadura is all about slowing down, embracing the wild outdoors, and discovering a side of Spain that most travellers completely miss. While regional train lines and bus networks require a bit more planning than the high-speed corridors of Madrid or Barcelona, the reward is an authentic, uncommercialised travel experience where your money goes twice as far. Hostels and family-run guesthouses throughout the region offer warm, genuine hospitality. If you want a journey filled with Roman amphitheatres, soaring castles, world-class ham, and absolute tranquility, Extremadura is an essential addition to your Spanish itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED EXTREMADURA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

DELUXE HOSTELS & SUITES MÉRIDA
Calle Marquesa de Pinares, 36, 06800 Mérida, Badajoz

PHONE: +34 924 577 003

EMAIL: info@deluxehostels.es

WEB: deluxehostels.es

LA DESPENSA DE EXTREMADURA
Avenida de Cáceres / Avenida Martín Palomino, 40, 10600 Plasencia, Cáceres

PHONE: +34 927 421 719 / +34 927 412 314

EMAIL: ladespensadextremadura@gmail.com

WEB: ladespensadeextremadura.com

EXTREMADURA HOTEL
Avenida Virgen de Guadalupe, 28, 10001 Cáceres

PHONE: +34 927 629 639

EMAIL: info@albergueestella.com

WEB: extremadurahotel.com

HOSTAL MIRABEL
ctra nacional, 630 km 490 cruce de, Carretera Nacional 488, Km. 430, 10693 Riolobos, Cáceres, Spain

PHONE: +34 927 45 30 22

EMAIL: info@hostalaragon.org

WEB: extremadura.com

LA PENSIÓN DEL PARADOR
Avenida del Puente Romano, s/n, Galisteo, Cáceres

PHONE: +34 645 986 793

EMAIL: jesus@lapensiondelparador.com

WEB: lapensiondelparador.com

Find the full list

EXTREMADURA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



MURCIA

The Sunny Mediterranean Orchard

Pronounced: *MOOR-syah*

Stretching along Spain's sun-drenched southeastern coast between Alicante and Andalusia, Murcia is a warm, unpretentious region where fertile agricultural valleys meet wild Mediterranean coves and ancient Moorish history. If you are looking to escape the overcrowded, over-commercialised resort strips of the Costas and experience a genuinely relaxed Spanish lifestyle, this hidden coastal gem is an absolute goldmine. At home, you might be used to gloomy weather and frantic city rushes, but stepping into Murcia places you in Europe's sunniest orchard, where orange groves perfume the air, historic towns bask in perpetual light, and the pace of life remains

delightfully unhurried. It is vibrant, remarkably budget-friendly, and offers young travellers an authentic coastal adventure far off the typical tourist radar.

Murcia City: Baroque Splendour and Lively Student Squares

The Vibe: Vibrant, sunny, and effortlessly social.

For Backpackers: Sitting inland along the banks of the Segura River, Murcia city is the region's lively capital and a fantastic, wallet-friendly urban base. The city's absolute architectural crown jewel is the Cathedral of Murcia, a stunning masterpiece featuring a dramatic Gothic interior and a soaring Baroque facade that took centuries to complete. By day, backpackers can wander through shady plazas, explore the historic Real Casino de Murcia with its breathtaking Moorish-style interior, and browse bustling local food markets. As evening falls, the massive student population from the local university spills into lively public squares like Plaza de las Flores, where outdoor terraces buzz with energy, cheap local wines, and vibrant conversation well into the night.

Cartagena: Roman Amphitheatres and Maritime History

The Vibe: Historic, dramatic, and deeply rooted in the sea.

For Backpackers: Down on the coast lies Cartagena, a magnificent natural harbour city that has served as a strategic naval stronghold for over two thousand years. Stepping into Cartagena feels like an open-source history lesson: you can explore an astonishingly well-preserved Roman Theatre discovered right in the city centre, scale the heights of the Concepcion Castle for sweeping views over the Mediterranean, and tour vintage naval museums. The city's striking 19th-cen-

tury modernist architecture, colourful pedestrian boulevards, and bustling port side create a fantastic, highly walkable maritime atmosphere that feels entirely distinct from the rest of Spain's eastern coast.

Costa Cálida: Wild Coves and Therapeutic Mud Baths

The Vibe: Sun-soaked, rugged, and wonderfully refreshing.

For Backpackers: The Murcian coastline—known as the Costa Cálida (Warm Coast)—offers a stunning variety of uncrowded beaches and dramatic natural landscapes. Head to Cabo de Palos, a picturesque fishing village perched on a jagged rocky promontory, which serves as a world-class diving hotspot thanks to its thriving marine reserves. Just nearby lies the Mar Menor, a unique saltwater lagoon separated from the open Mediterranean by a long, narrow strip of land called La Manga. Here, backpackers can try windsurfing, kite-surfing, or indulge in the famous, mineral-rich therapeutic mud baths along the shores of Lo Pagán, all while spending next to nothing.

Local Gastronomy: Murcian Tapas and Caldero Rice

The Vibe: Flavourful, fresh, and exceptionally wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: Food in Murcia is a celebration of rich garden produce and abundant Mediterranean seafood, designed to keep travel budgets remarkably happy. The region's signature tapa is the *marinera*—a crunchy breadstick topped with Russian salad and a salted anchovy—alongside hearty meat pies called *pastel de carne*. Down by the coast, you must try *arroz caldero*, a rich, intensely flavourful fisherman's rice cooked in iron pots with local catch. Because Murcia is a major agricultural hub supplying much of Europe, fresh fruit and vegetables cost a fraction of what you would pay elsewhere,

and ordering local wines or regional *sidra* in traditional taverns always brings out generous, complimentary tapas plates.

The Backpacker Mindset in Murcia

The Vibe: Authentic, sunny, and deeply rewarding.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Murcia is all about embracing a warm, unhurried Mediterranean escape without the inflated tourist prices. Thanks to efficient regional train links and affordable bus routes connecting Murcia city, Cartagena, and coastal towns, getting around is straightforward and cheap. Hostels and family-run guesthouses throughout the region offer welcoming, community-focused bases where you can meet fellow travellers and swap stories under the southern sun. If you want a journey filled with Roman ruins, hidden cove beaches, incredible tapas, and year-round sunshine, Murcia is an essential, refreshing addition to your Spanish itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED EXTREMADURA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

THE CATHEDRAL HOSTEL
C. Trapería, n° 19, 3 izquierda, 30001 Murcia, Spain

PHONE: +34 968 93 00 07

EMAIL: thecathedralhostel.info@gmail.com

WEB: thecathedralhostel.com

LA CASA VERDE
Carril de la Esparza, 9, 30009 Murcia, Spain

PHONE: +34 650 19 12 10

EMAIL: recepcion@lacasaverdehostel.com

WEB: lacasaverdehostel.com

HOOMY HOSTEL
Calle Platería, 40, 30001 Murcia

PHONE: +34 654 06 28 93

EMAIL: N/A

WEB: hoomyhostel.com

LOOP INN HOSTEL CARTAGENA
Calle San Crispín, 34, 30202 Cartagena

PHONE: +34 868 451 760

EMAIL: reservas@loopinnhostels.com

WEB: loopinnhostels.com

IBIS BUDGET HUERTA DE MURCIA
Calle José Manuel Sánchez Pedreño, 6, 30009 Murcia

PHONE: +34 968 132 374

EMAIL: ha9n5@accor.com

WEB: all.accor.com

Find the full list

MURCIA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



THE BALEARIC ISLANDS & IBIZA

Sun-Drenched Coves, Ancient History, & Electric Nights

Pronounced: *lah-s EES-lah-s bah-leh-AH-rehs / ee-BEE-thah*

Floating lazily in the azure waters of the Mediterranean Sea off Spain's eastern coast, the Balearic Islands form an archipelago of breathtaking diversity. While glamorous Mallorca and tranquil Menorca offer rugged mountain trails and secluded turquoise coves, the wild beating heart of youth travel in the islands is undoubtedly Ibiza. Stepping onto the White Isle shatters any lingering myth that the Balearics are only for luxury resort tourists. Beyond the velvet-roped super-clubs lies a parallel universe of pine-clad hills, hippy markets, ancient Phoenician ruins, and crystalline coves that remain entirely free. For young travellers craving an explosive mix of world-

class electronic music, sun-soaked beach culture, and bohemian adventure, Ibiza and its sister islands are an absolute Mediterranean goldmine.

Ibiza: The Global Capital of Electronic Sound

The Vibe: High-octane, glamorous, and electric with nocturnal energy.

For Backpackers: Ibiza is legendary worldwide as the undisputed capital of dance music, drawing young revellers from every corner of the globe. But experiencing the island on a backpacker budget is entirely possible if you play your cards right. Staying in vibrant social hostel hubs around San Antonio or Ibiza Town puts you right on the doorstep of legendary sunset strips, cheap beach bars, and bustling port promenades. By day, recovery happens on stunning stretches like Playa d'en Bossa or Cala Conta; by night, the island transforms. While mega-clubs like Amnesia, Ushuaïa, and Pacha carry hefty entry prices, savvy backpackers can score discounted early-bird tickets, enjoy massive open-air pre-parties, or dance under the stars at legendary bohemian beach bars without completely draining their travel funds.

Beyond the Beats: Dalt Vila and Bohemian Markets

The Vibe: Historic, mystical, and effortlessly cool.

For Backpackers: When your feet need a break from dancing, Ibiza reveals a deeply historic and surprisingly peaceful soul. Head straight to Dalt Vila, the ancient fortified old town of Ibiza Town perched high on a hill overlooking the harbour. Encircled by massive 16th-century stone ramparts, its steep, cobbled lanes wind past whitewashed houses, art galleries, and panoramic viewpoints that earned it UNESCO World Heritage

status. During the day, explore the island's famous hippy roots by visiting legendary open-air markets like Las Dalias or Punta Arabí, where artisan crafts, vintage clothing, and live acoustic music capture the island's free-spirited 1960s heritage.

Hidden Coves and Turquoise Waters

The Vibe: Pristine, sun-soaked, and crystal-clear.

For Backpackers: The Balearic coastline boasts some of the cleanest, most dazzling turquoise water in Europe. In Ibiza, escaping the urban bustle is as simple as taking a cheap local bus to hidden coastal paradises like Cala Salada—a sheltered cove surrounded by pine trees where you can rent a paddleboard or sunbathe on smooth rocky ledges. If you want a surreal day trip, hop on a short ferry ride to the nearby uninhabited island of Formentera, where blindingly white sandy beaches and shallow Caribbean-clear waters create one of the most jaw-dropping natural escapes in the entire Mediterranean.

Local Gastronomy: Ibicenco Feasts and Seafood Paella

The Vibe: Fresh, savoury, and bursting with Mediterranean flavour.

For Backpackers: Food in the Balearics is a delicious celebration of sea and soil, though eating affordably requires a bit of local know-how in tourist hotspots. Sample traditional Ibicenco dishes like *bullit de peix* (a rich, saffron-infused fish stew served with rice) or *sobrassada* (a cured, paprika-spiced local sausage) in family-run taverns tucked away in inland villages like Santa Gertrudis. For budget-friendly dining along the coast, look out for daily set lunch menus (*menú del día*) or hit local bakeries for traditional *ensaimadas* (spiral sweet pastries

dusted with icing sugar) to fuel your morning beach missions.

The Backpacker Mindset in the Balearics

The Vibe: Sun-worshipping, liberating, and unforgettable.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Ibiza and the Balearics is all about balancing high-energy nightlife with slow, restorative days soaking up natural Mediterranean beauty. Getting around is straightforward using extensive regional bus networks and budget ferry lines linking the islands. Hostels across Ibiza offer social, vibrant bases where you can meet festival-goers, solo adventurers, and beach bums alike. If you want a journey filled with legendary sunsets, world-class electronic beats, ancient stone ramparts, and sparkling turquoise bays, the White Isle and its archipelago await you.



FIND TOP-RATED BALEARIC ISLANDS HOSTELS ON

Booking.com

HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

WE HOSTEL PALMA
Carrer dels Germans Schembri, 1, Ponent, 07014 Palma, Illes Balears

PHONE: +34 871 20 92 44

EMAIL: hello@wehostelgroup.com

WEB: wehostelgroup.com

THE BOC HOSTELS - CITY
Carrer de Son Pontivic, 16, Llevant, 07006 Palma, Illes Balears

PHONE: +34 683 10 12 22

EMAIL: bocity@thebocstay.com

WEB: thebochostels.com

CISNE BY NEST HOSTEL IBIZA
Carrer Vara de Rey, 7, 07820 Sant Antoni de Portmany, Illes Balears

PHONE: +34 685 54 01 83

EMAIL: cisne@nestshostels.com

WEB: nestshostels.com

AMISTAT ISLAND HOSTEL IBIZA
Carrer de Santa Rosalia, 25, 07820 Sant Antoni de Portmany, Illes Balears, Spain

PHONE: +34 971 34 38 34

EMAIL: info.ibiza@amistathostels.com

WEB: amistathostels.com

HOSTAL SA ROQUETA
Camí Vell de Sa Farola, s/n, 07769, Illes Balears, Spain

PHONE: +34 683 10 13 49

EMAIL: info@hostalsaroqueta.com

WEB: hostalsaroqueta.com

Find the full list

BALEARIC ISLANDS HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.

Book Ibiza Tours on GETYOURGUIDE.com



By Malagalabombonera - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=39717512



THE CANARY ISLANDS

Volcanic Titans and Eternal Spring in the Atlantic

Pronounced: *lah-s EES-lah-s kah-NAH-ree-ahs*

Floating out in the vast blue expanse of the Atlantic Ocean far off the northwest coast of Africa, the Canary Islands form an archipelago of astonishing, otherworldly contrasts. If your idea of Spain is confined to mainland plateaus or Mediterranean resort strips, the Canaries will completely blow your mind. This is a sun-drenched volcanic wonderland where towering black lava peaks rise above sea-of-clouds forests, deep ravines drop down to golden sand dunes, and eternal spring weather reigns year-round. For young travellers craving an epic mix of high-altitude mountain trekking, world-class surfing, surreal landscapes, and vibrant island hostel culture,

this Spanish archipelago is an absolute goldmine.

Tenerife: Volcanoes and North Coast Surf Culture

The Vibe: Dramatic, energetic, and visually staggering.

For Backpackers: Tenerife is the largest and most geographically diverse of the islands, dominated by Mount Teide—a colossal volcanic peak that stands as the highest point in all of Spain. Base yourself in the vibrant, historic northern student hub of La Laguna or the coastal surf town of El Médano to tap into the island's authentic youth energy. By day, you can catch cheap public buses up into Teide National Park to hike across lunar lava fields or take the cable car toward the summit for views that stretch across the entire ocean. When you hit the coast, you will find world-class windsurfing, black-sand volcanic beaches, and lively hostel terraces where international adventurers gather to plan their next expedition.

Gran Canaria: A Micro-Continent of Dunes and Canyons

The Vibe: Eclectic, rugged, and endlessly adventurous.

For Backpackers: Often described as a miniature continent, Gran Canaria packs an astonishing variety of landscapes into a relatively small island. In the south, you can wander across the surreal, rolling golden sand dunes of Maspalomas, which feel like a slice of the Sahara Desert dropped right beside the Atlantic. Heading inland reveals a breathtaking interior of plunging ravines, pine-forested ridges, and ancient cave dwellings like the cliffside village of Artenara. The capital city, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, offers a fantastic urban base featuring the historic Vegueta quarter, vibrant surf culture at Playa de Las Canteras, and some of the friendliest backpacker hostels in the Atlantic.

Lanzarote and Fuerteventura: Volcanic Badlands and Endless Waves

The Vibe: Surreal, windswept, and a surfer's dream.

For Backpackers: If you want scenery that feels like stepping onto another planet, head to the eastern islands. Lanzarote features a volcanic landscape of striking black-and-red craters, subterranean lava tubes, and whitewashed architecture designed by artist César Manrique. Just a short ferry ride south lies Fuerteventura, a wind-sculpted paradise famous for having some of the longest, most pristine white-sand beaches and most consistent Atlantic surf breaks in Europe. Budget-friendly surf camps, laid-back beach hostels, and cheap bicycle rentals make exploring these dramatic islands effortless for young travellers on a shoestring.

Local Gastronomy: Papas Arrugadas and Volcanic Wines

The Vibe: Earthy, unique, and remarkably wallet-friendly.

For Backpackers: Food in the Canary Islands is a delicious blend of Spanish, African, and Latin American influences. The absolute signature dish is *papas arrugadas*—small local potatoes boiled in heavy sea salt until wrinkled and served with fiery red or green *mojo* sauce. Because the islands enjoy a unique subtropical climate, you will also sample fresh tropical fruits like bananas and mangoes alongside hearty stews and freshly caught grilled fish. Dining out in local neighbourhood taverns is remarkably budget-friendly, especially when paired with distinctive local wines grown directly in rich volcanic ash craters.

The Backpacker Mindset in the Canaries

The Vibe: Sun-soaked, rugged, and endlessly liberating.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through the Canary Islands is all about embracing the elements, staying active, and enjoying a relaxed island pace where winter simply does not exist. Thanks to reliable local bus networks (*guaguas*) and cheap inter-island ferry and flight connections, hopping between the islands is straightforward. Hostels across the archipelago are vibrant, social, and welcoming, making it easy to link up with fellow adventurers for volcano hikes and surf sessions. If you want a year-round tropical escape filled with volcanic peaks, golden dunes, and legendary Atlantic sunsets, the Canary Islands are an essential addition to your travel itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED CANARY ISLANDS HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

MEDANO NEST HOSTEL
C. Tenerife, 11, 38612 El Médano, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

PHONE: +34 635 891 078 / +34 822 090 344

EMAIL: medanonest@gmail.com

WEB: nestshostels.com

LA TORTUGA HOSTEL
Calle Reykjavik, s/n, Residencial Las Amapolas, La Amapola 1, 38660 Costa Adeje

PHONE: +34 922 788 952

EMAIL: latortuga.tenerife@gmail.com

WEB: latortugahostel.com

PURA VIDA BY NEST HOSTEL
Calle Simancas, 54, 35010 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

PHONE: +34 640 141 670 / +34 928 269 183

EMAIL: puravida@nestshostels.com

WEB: nestshostels.com



KALUFA SURF HOUSE
Calle Barranco de Tinache, 10, 35560 El Cuchillo, Tinajo

PHONE: +34 610 633 426

EMAIL: kalufasurfhouse@gmail.com

WEB: kalufahouse.com

CASA JALOU
C. de San José, 35480 Agaete, Las Palmas, Spain

PHONE: +34 609 55 65 96

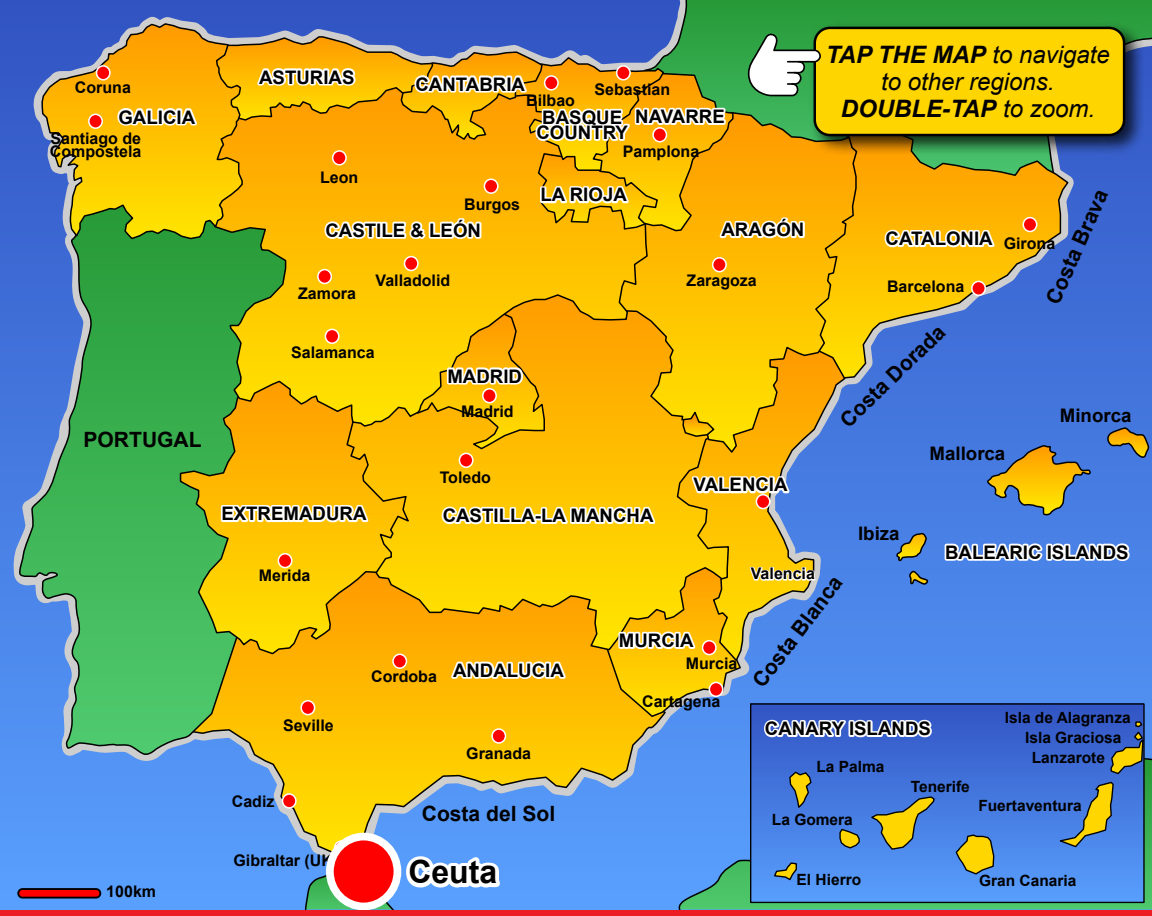
EMAIL: info@mbmgestionyservicios.com

WEB: mbmgestionyservicios.com

Find the full list

CANARY ISLANDS HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



CEUTA AND MELILLA

Cross-Continental Enclaves on the Edge of Africa

Pronounced: *SAY-oo-tah / meh-LEE-yah*

Perched dramatically on the northern Mediterranean coast of Africa, Ceuta and Melilla are Spain's unique, autonomous cities tucked directly against Morocco. If your idea of a European backpacking adventure is strictly confined to mainland Iberian rails and European capitals, these twin enclaves will completely challenge your perspective. Here, centuries of European and North African history collide in a vibrant cultural melting pot where Gothic churches stand alongside soaring mosques, ancient Phoenician and Portuguese ramparts guard sparkling harbours, and the aroma of mint tea mingles with traditional Spanish tapas. For young travellers craving

an off-the-beaten-track adventure rich in geopolitical intrigue, stunning coastal fortifications, and cross-continental exploration, these African outposts are an absolute goldmine.

Ceuta: The Peninsula Fortress of Hercules

The Vibe: Dramatic, maritime, and steeped in ancient myth.

For Backpackers: Connected to the African mainland by a narrow isthmus, Ceuta sits beneath the towering shadow of Monte Hacho—reputed by ancient mythology to be one of the legendary Pillars of Hercules. The city offers an incredible urban playground for backpackers, packed with layers of history. You can explore the monumental Royal Walls and the deep moat of San Felipe by kayak, wandering through ancient tunnels and defensive fortresses that date back to Portuguese and Spanish rule. The city's bustling central market and marina provide a lively social atmosphere, while the summit of Monte Hacho rewards hikers with breathtaking panoramic views across the Strait of Gibraltar all the way back to the European coastline.

Melilla: A Masterclass in Modernist Architecture

The Vibe: Art deco elegance meets multicultural vibrancy.

For Backpackers: Further east along the African coast lies Melilla, a stunning city that serves as Europe's hidden architectural crown jewel outside of Barcelona. Beyond its massive 15th-century Renaissance fortress walls—known as Melilla la Vieja—lies an astonishing collection of modernist and art deco buildings designed by disciples of Antoni Gaudí, featuring wrought-iron balconies, floral facades, and pastel hues. Melilla is a fascinating cultural crossroad where Spanish, Amazigh (Berber), Jewish, and Muslim communities live side

by side. Exploring the bustling central plazas, lively neighborhood souks, and underground defensive galleries offers a deeply immersive experience unlike anywhere else in Spain.

Coastal Beauty and Strait Waters

The Vibe: Sun-soaked, rugged, and intensely blue.

For Backpackers: Surrounded by the deep blue waters of the Mediterranean, both enclaves offer fantastic coastal escapes for water-loving travellers. In Ceuta, sheltered coves and pristine marine reserves like Playa de la Ribera and Playa de Almadraba provide world-class conditions for scuba diving, snorkelling, and paddleboarding right where two seas meet. Melilla boasts wide stretches of golden sandy beaches along its expansive bay, where you can catch Atlantic and Mediterranean breezes, surf, or relax at lively beach bars (*chiringuitos*) as local fishing boats head out into the evening waters.

Local Gastronomy: A Delicious Fusion of Cultures

The Vibe: Spiced, seafood-rich, and wonderfully affordable.

For Backpackers: Food in Ceuta and Melilla is a mouth-watering culinary collision of Spanish tradition and North African flavours. Backpacker feasting here centers on an incredible fusion: you can order traditional Spanish tapas of garlic prawns and jamón alongside fragrant Moroccan couscous, spiced lamb skewers (*pinchitos*), and sweet mint tea. Because of their unique duty-free status and thriving local markets, dining out, groceries, and drinks remain remarkably budget-friendly compared to mainland European hubs.

The Backpacker Mindset in Ceuta and Melilla

The Vibe: Bold, frontier-minded, and unforgettable.

For Backpackers: Backpacking through Ceuta and Melilla is all about embracing a rare geographical frontier where Europe meets Africa. Getting there is an adventure in itself, typically involving short, scenic ferry crossings from Algeciras or Málaga, or quick regional flights from the Spanish mainland. Hostels and family-run guesthouses in both cities offer welcoming, culturally rich bases where you can connect with curious locals and fellow global wanderers. If you want a journey filled with Phoenician walls, modernist architecture, cross-continental cuisine, and a truly unique travel story, Ceuta and Melilla are essential additions to your Spanish itinerary.



FIND TOP-RATED CEUTA & MELILLA HOSTELS ON

Booking.com HOSTELWORLD

or book direct

HOSTAL PLAZA RUIZ
Plaza del Teniente Ruiz, 3, 51001 Ceuta

PHONE: +34 956 516 716

EMAIL: hpruiz@hostalesceuta.com

WEB: hostalesceuta.com

HOSTAL CENTRAL
Paseo del Revellín, 15, 51001 Ceuta

PHONE: +34 956 516 716

EMAIL: ladespensadextremadura@gmail.com

WEB: hostalesceuta.com

HOSTAL GUTIÉRREZ
Pasaje Recreo Bajo, 65, Recinto Sur, 51001 Ceuta

PHONE: +34 956 510 981

EMAIL: N/A

WEB: N/A

HOSTAL RÍOJA
Calle Ejército Español, 10, 52001 Melilla

PHONE: +34 952 68 27 09

EMAIL: N/A

WEB: N/A

HOTEL MELILLA PUERTO
Explanada de San Lorenzo, s/n, 52004 Melilla

PHONE: +34 952 695 525 / +34 952 695 506

EMAIL: info@melillapuertohotel.com

WEB: melillapuertohotel.com

Find the full list

EXTREMADURA HOSTEL DIRECTORY

1000+ hostels with contact details,
interactive hostel-finder and itinerary planner.



CONTENTS

BACKPACKING SPAIN 2

SPAIN'S COAST
A Costa-By-Costa Paradise 7

CATALONIA
The Independent Pulse of the Northeast 14

BARCELONA
The Capital of Unforgettable Days and Endless Nights 21

MADRID
The Unstoppable Heart of Spain 27

ANDALUCÍA:
The Soul of Southern Spain 33

SEVILLE
The Sun-Drenched Heart of Southern Spain 39

VALENCIA
Sunshine, Paella, and Festival Vibes 46

THE BASQUE COUNTRY
Pintxos, Atlantic Surfing, and Adventure 53

GALICIA
The Misty Atlantic Paradise 60

THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
The Big Pilgrimage Adventure 67

ASTURIAS
Spain's Natural Paradise 74

CANTABRIA
The Northern Frontier 81

CASTILE AND LEÓN
The Heartland Of Kings 88

CASTILLA-LA MANCHA
Land of Windmills and Legends 95

TOLEDO
The City of Three Cultures 101

ARAGÓN
The Medieval Mountain Frontier 107

NAVARRE
Pyrenean Peaks and Running Bulls 114

LA RIOJA
The Valley of Vines and Medieval Monasteries 120

EXTREMADURA
The Land of Conquistadors 127

MURCIA
The Sunny Mediterranean Orchard 133

THE BALEARIC ISLANDS & IBIZA139
Sun-Drenched Coves, Ancient History, & Electric Nights 139

THE CANARY ISLANDS
Volcanic Titans and Eternal Spring in the Atlantic 146

CEUTA AND MELILLA
Cross-Continental Enclaves on the Edge of Africa 152