

1: Fodor, Eugene [WorldCat Identities]

FD SPAIN (Fodor's Spain) Mass Market Paperback - Be the first to review this item. See all 2 formats and editions Hide other formats and editions.

Bullfighting is the most widely known Spanish tradition. Some historians trace it to a cult of bull worship. Over 95 percent of the Spanish people about 38 million are Roman Catholic. Many Spaniards observe baptism and other important Catholic rites but do not attend church regularly. A law guarantees freedom of religion. As of , Spain had , Muslims, , Protestants, and 15, Jews. Spaniards, like the Catholics in other countries, believe strongly in divine help from the saints and especially from the Virgin Mary. Other national holidays include St. Paul June 29 , St. Every city or town also celebrates the feast day of its patron saint with processions, dancing, and bullfights. Pamplona is known for its celebration of San Fermin, when bulls are turned loose in the streets. The celebrations of Holy Week in many cities and towns of Spain include floats with scenes of the Passion and Death of Christ, and likenesses of the Madonna. The first three of these events are usually the occasion for big, expensive social gatherings in which the family shows its generosity and economic status. Quintos are the young men from the same town or village going into military service in the same year. They form a closely knit group that collects money from their neighbors to organize parties and serenade girls. In the mids, the government planned to replace required military service with an all-volunteer army. It is customary to shake hands, and in a social setting women usually kiss their friends on both cheeks. Groups of young people go together to discos, organize parties and excursions, and date among themselves. The average citizen spends a great deal of time outside of the house. There is an active street life; many people live downtown, frequent bars and restaurants, and go to bed late. Dinner is often eaten as late as Spaniards move from place to place less than Americans do. When Spaniards do move, it is typically for a job and many hope to return to their birthplace and settle there. Regional loyalties are usually strong. Spaniards love to go shopping and are interested in cars, gadgets, and entertainment. Cars are commonplace and have become a problem in big cities due to limited parking, pollution, congested traffic, and car theft. The public transportation system in Spain is excellent. Consequently, many people who work in cities have moved to towns on the outskirts that are now part of suburbia. In the s and s there was a building boom, so there is no housing shortage. Rent and the price of apartments are high. The mother has most of the responsibility for child-rearing. When children reach adolescence, their relationship with their families changes based on gender. A teenage male, while continuing to honor his mother, begins spending much of his time with other young men. Teenage girls and their mothers tend to grow closer than ever. Even after a daughter is grown and married, her mother generally continues to play an important role in her life. Spanish people usually marry within their own social class. Only church marriages were recognized in Spain until , when civil ceremonies were first allowed by law. Divorce has been legal since the s. Women have an ever-increasing role in Spanish society. Boutiques and ready-to-wear shops can be found all over the country. Many young people wear sports clothes and blue jeans. However, the average Spaniard pays more attention to personal appearance than his or her American counterpart. Children who attend private schools wear school uniforms. As in other Mediterranean countries, Spaniards use lots of olive oil, fresh vegetables, and garlic. Galicia is known for its seafood and stews. Catalonia is known for its fish casseroles and for cured and smoked meats. The regional dish paella originated in Valencia and has become a national delicacy. It consists of a rice-and-saffron base and can include mostly seafood a la marinera or several kinds of meats mixta. A wide variety of seafood is also popular. Spanish wine, champagne cava , sherry, brandy, and beer are all excellent. Secondary education or vocational training is available for students aged fourteen to sixteen. The adult literacy rate ability to read and write is estimated at 98 percent. Spain has thirty-one state-run universities and an increasing number of private ones. Students receive a diploma after three years of general study and a Licenciatura degree upon completing a program of specialized study lasting two or more years. Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes is widely regarded as the first great novel. It eventually became the most widely translated work other than the Bible. Musically, Spain gave the world the guitar. Spain is particularly known for its contribution to painting.

In earlier centuries, El Greco c. Under the regime of General Francisco Franco, industrial expansion was emphasized and the bulk of Spanish employment shifted to industry. Jobs in the service sector directly serving the public were the most common, as of statistics, followed by industry. Agriculture and fishing together came in third. Typical crops grown in the north are potatoes, beans, corn, and vegetables. In the central areas, crops include wheat, soybeans, sunflowers, lentils, chickpeas, and grapes and other fruits. In the Mediterranean area, vegetables, rice, and fruits, especially citrus, are grown. League matches are played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from September through May, with tournaments in the summer. It forms the basis of a sporting club with more than , members, one of the oldest such clubs in Europe. Basketball and tennis are also gaining popularity as spectator sports. Participant sports include hunting and fishing, sailing, soccer, cycling, golf, horseback riding, and skiing. Popular throughout the country, this ritualized fiesta involves grace, courage, and spectacle. In an afternoon of bullfighting, six bulls are usually killed by three different matadors. Young people enjoy going to the beach in the summer, and to the countryside and the mountains for hikes and picnics. In the evenings, they go dancing or have a drink with friends. The mild Spanish climate has encouraged an active night life, much of it outdoors in the streets, plazas, and sidewalk taverns and restaurants. Spaniards go to concerts, to the theater, and to movies. People of all ages are fond of television, perhaps the main source of entertainment today. Spain is also known for its handmade musical instruments, especially guitars. The nation has also faced major economic adjustments following its entry into the European Community EC. Spain suffers from a high rate of unemployment, with a notably large percentage of unemployed university graduates. Finally, like the rest of the developed countries, Spain shares a drug problem, crime in big cities, and illegal immigration from Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. Tourist Office of Spain. Francesc Fulquet May 29, 3: Your is a good but short article about Spain. I usually speak catalan, but I know "spanish" too and a little of galician. The language of Castilla, the spanish language, was introduced in Catalonia with blood and powder, with foreign laws after , and today catalans feel like second-class of spanish. There are lots who wants to create a State in Europe, like Scottish, or others.

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Gypsies, flamenco, horses, bulls—Andalusia is the Spain of story and song, simultaneously the least and most surprising part of the country: least surprising because it lives up to the hype and.

Food in Andalusia Spain The Iberian nation of Spain boasts a distinctly vibrant culture overflowing with bravado and tradition. Spain encompasses many stereotypes, though it offers much more to discover beneath the surface. From the food and entertainment to the social conventions, Spain stands out from other European countries with its distinct blend of swagger and charm. History Once under Roman rule, Spain passed through the hands of the Visigoths and later the invading Arabs. The Moors established Muslim rule throughout the south, reigning up through the Middle Ages. The feuding Christian kingdoms of Aragon, Castile, Navarre and Leon eventually united, waging war against the Moors and expelling them completely in The Spanish Civil War in the early 20th century brought dictator Francisco Franco to power for a couple of decades. Spain became a democratic constitutional monarchy in and later joined the European Union in Many Spaniards take a midday break from work or school to eat lunch and relax, and some businesses close down for a few hours each afternoon. The exact origins of the siesta are unknown, but Spanish people have embraced this custom for many centuries, partly as a way to avoid the midday heat and partly as a cultural tradition designed to slow down the pace of life and to unite the family. The majority of people living and working in major cities, such as Madrid and Barcelona, no longer take siestas, but the custom still remains prominent in provincial areas. Religion The state-funded Catholic Church holds considerable sway throughout Spain, though much of the population is becoming increasingly secular. Flamenco Flamenco consists of staccato dancing, castanets, hand clapping and passionate guitar picking. The southern region of Andalusia features the best flamenco in the country, especially in such cities as Seville and Granada. This violent sport continues to be immensely popular in many parts of Spain, despite the outrage and protests of various animal rights groups. Madrid, Seville, Granada and Pamplona have legendary bullrings in which matadors slaughter bulls in balletlike rituals dating back hundreds of years. Bullfighting season lasts from spring through fall. The annual running of the bulls in Pamplona also attracts hordes of tourists every July during the San Fermin Festival. Other gastronomical delicacies include seafood paella, chorizo sausage, gazpacho soup and tapas. Lunch is the biggest meal of the day, typically consisting of a soup or salad course followed by a main entree and a small dessert. The tradition of siesta plays into lunchtime, as many Spaniards tend to gather with their extended families for this leisurely meal, especially on Sundays. Locals also love to snack on tapas in the evening while enjoying glasses of wine or sherry. Futbol Futbol, or soccer, remains a national passion. Many of the best players and professional teams in the world are based in Spain. Bitter rivalries, such as the Real Madrid-Barcelona derby, send devoted fans into a frenzy.

3: Eugene Fodor feted as the spy who loved travel - Travel - News | NBC News

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Great restaurants Foodies argue that the fountainhead of creative gastronomy has moved from France to Spain"and in particular to the great restaurants of the EmpordÃ and Costa Brava.

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