TOURS BY AJALA

"Things to Know Before You Go" - SPAIN.

We have selected the following general information worth reviewing before your visit to Spain.

Spain is one of the world's main tourist destinations. Splendid beaches, delicious cuisine, vibrant nightlife and lively fiesta, makes Spain one of Europe's best getaways. It is diverse and a true melting pot of culture, influenced by North Africa and Latin Europe. Spain's history has mingled Christians, Muslims and Jews, creating a unique and architectural heritage.

Passport and Visa requirements

Passports are always required and must be valid until three months after the planned date of departure. Passport should be valid for at least three months beyond the period of stay. There should be one blank page, so the consulate can put the visa sticker in it.

U.S citizens may enter Spain for up to 90 days without a visa.

Health

Healthcare services are available throughout the country but may be limited in certain rural areas. Private healthcare is widely available. Upfront payment may be required.

Tap water is generally considered safe to drink, but keeping a supply of bottled water is recommended.

We also suggest carrying a simple traveler's first-aid kit containing remedies for headaches, minor stomach complaints, motion sickness and colds, as well as band-aids, antiseptics.

Travel insurance is recommended.

Weather and Clothing

Spain is a country with a mild climate all year round but still preserves its seasonal contrasts.

Spring - from March to June
Summer - from June to September
Autumn - from September to December
Winter - from December to March

Cotton and other light fabrics are comfortable for summertime. Pack a sweater or lightweight jacket for evenings and air conditioned interiors. Spring and autumn temperatures dictate medium weight clothing selections. More comfortable walking shoes with low or no heels are recommended. You will be required to cover up when visiting any religious sites (e.g. monasteries, cathedrals).

Currency and Credit Cards

The Euro is the official currency in Spain.

Cash is usually withdrawn from automatic teller machines at bank branches. ATMs are also available in shopping centres and areas, large urban centres and historic centres in small towns. If you need to change your money to Euros, you are able to do so at bureaus de change, at various banks and at the majority of hotels and travel agencies.

You can pay your in cash in almost all cases. If payment is made through a machine, it may be necessary to pay by card (Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards).

It may be advisable to notify your bank that you will be travelling to Spain so that they do not block your card.

Tips

It is not obligatory to give tips in Spain, as all establishments include the service charge. However, it is common to give tips in bars, and restaurants, hotels and taxis, varying between five to ten percent of the total amount.

Safety

Spain is one of the safest countries in the world but it is advisable to only carry with you the money you will need. Pay attention at times when there are large crowds of people in transport or shopping centres. Do not leave wallets or phones unattended and when possible, leave as many valuables in a secure locket in your hotel.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical service in Spain and Portugal is supplied at 220-240 volts/50 hertz.

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