

Spanish Relief



WHERE IS SPAIN?



It is in the southwest of Europe.

THE IBERIAN PENINSULA



THE LOCATION IN SPAIN

- Spain is located in the south -west of Europe.
- Spain's Geographical territory covers most of the Iberian Peninsula. It also includes The Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea, The Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, Ceuta and Melilla in North Africa.
- The territory of Spain occupies an area of 506.030 Km². Spain shares borders with **FRANCE, MOROCCO, ANDORRA** to the North and **PORTUGAL** to the West.
- The southern coast of Spain is only 14 kilometres from Africa.
- Also there are two Spanish cities in North of Africa: Ceuta and Melilla.

SPAIN'S BORDERS



GEOGRAPHICAL RELIEF

- In the **centre of the peninsula**, we find the Meseta as well the mountain ranges of the Sistema Central and The Montes of Toledo.
- **Bordering the Meseta**, we find other high mountain ranges such as the Sistema Ibérico, the Cordillera Cantábrica, The Montes de León and the Sierra Morena.
- **Outside the Meseta**, we find:
 - **Mountainous areas**, such as the pyrenees, the Macizo Galaico, the Cordilleras Costeras Catalanas, the Montes Vascos and the Sistemas Béticos.
 - **Large lowland areas**, such as the river valleys of the Ebro and the Guadalquivir.
- Spain's territory also includes many kilometers of coastline:
 - The **coasts in the north of Spain** are often rocky, with lots of high cliffs.
 - The **coasts in the South of Spain** are often low, with lots of sandy beaches.



Physical geography of Spain

Most of Spain is located on the Iberian Peninsula. There are lots of different types of landscapes in Spain.



Physical map of Spain

- Spain shares the **Iberian Peninsula** with Portugal.
- The **Pyrenees** form a natural border between France and Spain.
- The **Estrecho de Gibraltar** separates the Iberian Peninsula from Africa.



The Relief

The brown areas are mountains. The dark brown areas represent the highest mountains. The highest mountains on the Iberian Peninsula are separated from the Meseta Central.

Spain has two groups of islands: the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea and the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean.



The green areas represent coastal and river valleys. The Iberian Peninsula has two great river valleys: the Guadalquivir and the Ebro.

The yellow and orange areas show the Meseta Central, these are the high plains in the inland part of the Iberian Peninsula.

Mountain Ranges

- The **Cordillera Cantábrica** extends across the north coast of Spain. The highest points include the **Picos de Europa**.
- The **Pyrennes** are a natural border between France and Spain.
- The **Sistema Ibérico** is located in the north-east of Spain.



Mountain Ranges

- The **Sierra Morena** is located in the south of Spain between the rivers Guadiana and Guadalquivir.
- The **Cordillera Bética** extends across the south coast of Spain. It's home to the second highest mountain in Spain, **El Mulhacén**.
- The **Sistema Central** is the longest mountain range in Spain, extending over 700km.



THE MESETA (INTERIOR)

- The Meseta occupies more than half of Spain. It is a large, high plain that covers the centre of the Peninsula.
- It is crossed by two mountain ranges:
 - **El Sistema Central:** is a high mountain range with the high peaks, like Peñalara (2430 m). It divides the Meseta in two parts: Submeseta Norte and Submeseta Sur.
 - **Los Montes de Toledo:** is a low mountain range in the south of the Meseta.

MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING THE MESETA

– La Meseta is surrounded by different mountain ranges:

➤ **Los Montes de León:** to the north-west, are not very high.

➤ **La Cordillera Cantábrica:** to the north.

➤ **El Sistema Ibérico:** to the east.

➤ **Sierra Morena:** to the south.

THE EXTERIOR MOUNTAIN RANGES

- The exterior mountain ranges are separate from the Meseta:
 - **El Macizo Galaico:** is a low mountain range in the north east.
 - **Los Montes Vascos:** are located in the North, between la Cordillera Cantábrica y Los Pirineos.
 - **Los Pirineos:** are large mountain ranges, they mark the border between Spain and France.
 - **Las Cordilleras Costeras Catalanas:** are made up of two mountain ranges, Cordillera Litoral y cordillera Prelitoral.
 - **Las Cordilleras Béticas:** are made up of two mountain ranges: Penibética and Subbética.

RIVER BASIN OR DEPRESSION

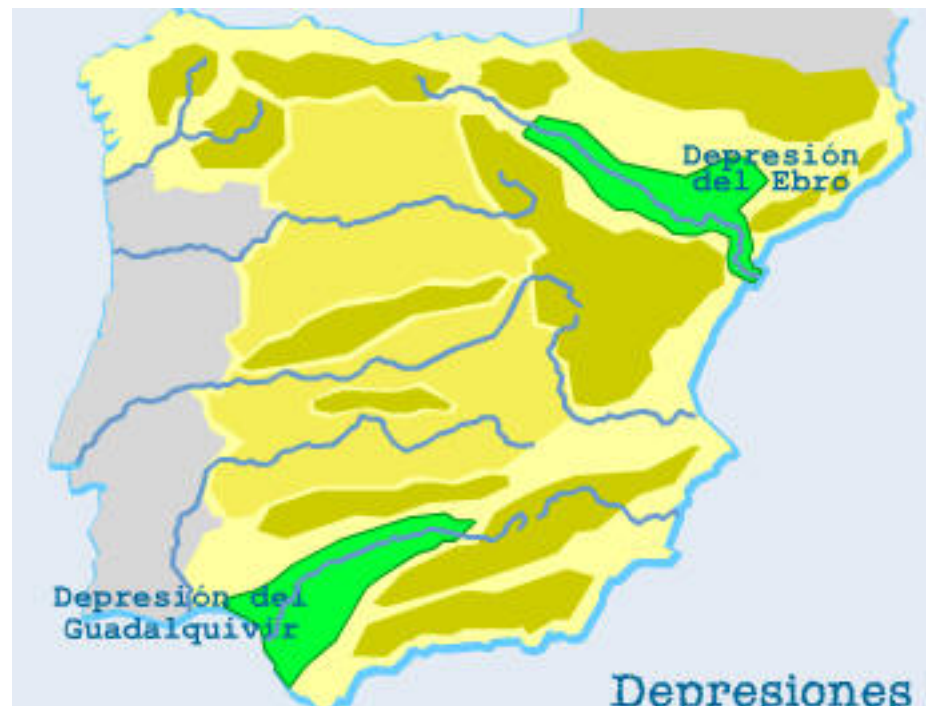
They are areas of low, flat land with rivers running through them.

➤ **El Delta del Ebro:** is a triangular-shaped valley, it is surrounded by mountains on three sides.

El Ebro and its tributaries flow through it and into the Mediterranean.

➤ **El Delta del Guadalquivir:** has a triangular shaped valley in the south of Spain. El

Guadalquivir and its tributaries flow through it and into the Atlantic.



COAST OF SPAIN

- Spain has a long coastline. There are 3094km of coastline on the Peninsula, 910 km on the Balearic Islands and 1126km on the Canary Islands.
- The coastline of Spain is surrounded by Mediterranean Sea, Cantabrian Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.
 - Mediterranean coast can have steep and rocky parts and flat, sandy parts.
 - Cantabrian Sea is steep and rocky and has many cliffs and rias.
 - Atlantic Coast can have high, rocky parts and has many capes, rias or low and sandy and has many beaches and dunes.



INLAND LANDSCAPES

Spain's relief includes two groups of islands, called archipelagos.

THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

They are located in the Mediterranean Sea, off the east coast of Spain.

They are made up of an archipelago of five islands: Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza, Formentera and Cabrera.

Curiosities:

- **MALLORCA E IBIZA** are fragments of **Cordilleras Béticas**.
- **MENORCA** is connected to the **Cordilleras Costero Catalanas**.
- **MALLORCA** has two large mountain ranges: Sierra Tramuntana and Sierra de Levante and a plain between them.
- **MENORCA, IBIZA and FORMENTERA** are flatter and have lower hills.

THE CANARY ISLANDS

They are located in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Africa.

They consist of seven islands: Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Tenerife, La Gomera, La Palma and El Hierro.

Curiosities:

- They are **volcanic** in origin. The volcanoes in La Palma, Tenerife and Lanzarote are still **alive**.
- **LANZAROTE** and **FUERTEVENTURA** are less mountainous than the other islands.
- **El Teide** is the volcano in Tenerife. The coastline of the Canary Islands is generally **steep and rocky**.

ARCHIPELAGOS

Canary Islands



Balearic Islands



RIVERS IN SPAIN

Depending on the Sea or ocean the flow into.

Spain's rivers belong to one of the three watersheds:

- The major rivers that flow into the **Atlantic Ocean** are the **Miño, Duero, Tajo, Guadiana and Guadalquivir**. The rivers are long and carry high volumes of water that flow into the Atlantic Ocean.
- The major rivers that flow into the **Mediterranean Sea** are the **Ebro, Ter, Llobregat, Turia and Segura**. Most of the rivers that carry water to the Mediterranean Sea are short and have limited and irregular water flow, except the Ebro.
- The major rivers that flow into the **Cantabrian Sea** are the **Bidasoa, Nervión and Nalón**. The rivers that flow into the Cantabrian Sea are short as they start in the mountains near the coast. Their flow is regular and high due to abundant rainfall.



River watersheds

- Atlantic
- Cantabrian
- Mediterranean

The major rivers begin high in the summits of the mountain ranges of Spain.

The **Tajo** is the longest and one of the most important rivers in the Iberian Peninsula, it provides fresh drinking water for central Spain and Portugal.



Rivers in Spain

River	Source	Mouth
Tajo	Sistema Ibérico	Atlantic Ocean
Ebro	Cordillera Cantábrica	Mediterranean Sea
Duero	Sistema Ibérico	Atlantic Ocean
Guadalquivir	Cordillera Bética	Atlantic Ocean