

TRANSPORTATION

Spain's international transportation links are well developed, as might be expected of a nation that receives over 50 million visitors a year.

AIR

Spain has 45 airports located next to major towns and cities, with 20 airports capable of receiving international flights. Thirty-five major airlines have regular flights to Madrid, Barcelona and other principal cities. Air travel is well organized with regular flights between Spain's main cities with the capitals of North Africa, Western Europe and North America. Two airlines dominate Spanish commercial aviation, IBERIA (Líneas Aéreas de España) and AVIACO (Aviación y Comercio). Iberia has flights three times a week through Toronto, Montreal and Madrid. During the late 1980's, air transport attracted an increasing share of the freight traffic previously carried by RENFE (the national railroad) and by Spanish shipping companies. Most business people use IBERIA, the national airline, for domestic business travel. Charter flights are also numerous, especially during the tourist season.

MARINE

Major shipping lines call at Cadiz, Cartagena, Barcelona, Bilbao, Tarragona, Valencia, Algeciras, Seville, Huelva, La Coruña, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Las Palmas, Vigo, Gijón, Avilés, and others with container, roll-on/roll-off, and break bulk service. Ocean transit time from the Eastern seaboard of Canada averages 10 days to two weeks to most Spanish ports of call. All major cities in the south of Spain have regular, sometimes daily, schedules to the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, and the enclave cities of Ceuta and Melilla. With an extensive coastline, coastal steamers and ferries for both passengers and freight are readily available. Marine transport accounted for over 90 percent of imported and exported goods traffic in 1989.

ROADS

Super-highways (2,000 kilometres) connect all of Spain's major cities, and the rest of the highway system (20,000 kilometres) is good, but somewhat congested. In 1989, 90 percent of all inland freight (measured in ton-km) was carried by road. Super-highways, with tolls, connect Northern and Eastern Spain, and connects Bilbao, Barcelona, Zaragoza, Tarragona and Valencia with France. The principal routes between Spain and France are through Irun-Bayonne and Port Bou-Perpignan; and to Portugal, via Ciudad Rodrigo-Guarda and Badajoz-Elvas.

RAIL

Spain has over 13,000 kilometres of railway track in operation, of which half is electrified. The national railroad, RENFE, provides service to most cities and offers good service for freight. Spain's government approved a major thirteen-year renovation and modernization plan in 1987 aimed at improving the railway network up to the best European standards by the year 2000. The national railroad provides inexpensive service to most cities, but distance and time factors usually preclude business people from using the system. Although rail is a reasonable method for transporting freight, trucking has been gaining a greater share over the past decade.