

SPAIN – GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, CULTURE AND CUISINE

At school we can learn about Spain's location and historic events in our history and geography lessons. In this article I want to show you some interesting facts about this country that you might not know yet.

Spain is located on the Iberian Peninsula. Its population is about 48 million and the size is 504,782 square km, so it is larger than Poland. The country shares its borders with Portugal, Gibraltar, France, Andorra and its coast lies on the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. The relief in Spain includes plains, plateau surrounded by hills and the Pyrenees in the north. Apart from that the landforms include the Andalusian Plain, Cantabrian Mountains, the Sierra de Guadalupe Mountains and the Canary Islands off the west coast of Africa. The highest point is Pico de Teide 3,718 m on Tenerife on Canary Islands. The main bodies of water are the Tagus River, the Ebro River, Lake Sanabria, the Bay of Biscay the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

The climate in Spain is different across the country - the Mediterranean type of climate is dominant in the most of the country, with dry summers and cool to mild wet winters. Oceanic type is dominant in the north, semi-arid in the south-east and warm-summer continental in the north-east.

Spain has a high rate of urbanisation – more people live in the cities than in the countryside. The major cities are Madrid, the capital city, and Barcelona, then Valencia, Seville, Zaragoza, Malaga. Famous places are Alhambra fortress in Granada, Sagrada Familia, Pamplona, Ibiza, Mosque of Cordoba, Monserrat.

The culture of Spain is widely known and has been promoted by famous Spanish such as Miguel de Cervantes, the author of *Don Quixote*, Hernan Cortez and Fernando Pizarro explorers from XVI century, Julio Iglesias – singer, Enrique Iglesias, Pablo Picasso – painter, Salvador Dali – artist.

Do you know what the Spanish like to eat? They have so many different tastes and a wide range of dishes including: paella, gazpacho, chuleta de cerdo, fabada, patatas bravas, tortilla crema catalana.

Everything about Spain, its cuisine, climate, the beautiful islands and coasts, and the cultural heritage make thousands of tourists come to visit this country every year. No wonder that tourists from our small town, Lidzbark, are among them.