

# SPAIN





# Why Spain?

- Easy access to all of Europe
- Diverse lifestyle options, from cosmopolitan city living to coastal or mountain villages
- Sophisticated, cosmopolitan urban life
- Historic towns and cities
- Dozens of coastal living options
- Rural, mountain retreats



# Country Pros

- Very affordable cost of living in non-urban areas
- Easy to get “back home” and to rest of Europe
- Madrid—top city lifestyle in Europe
- Geographic diversity
- Culturally rich – Mediterranean beaches to the Pyrenees mountains

# Country Cons

- Economy recovering from recession—high unemployment (14% vs. 26% post-crisis high)
- Bureaucracy—lots of red tape; everything takes more time than expected
- Seasonal weather extremes in parts – Madrid and Seville can reach well over 100° (F) in summer and winter can be cold and rainy

# At A Glance

- **Residency Visas**

- Best options available for retirees: “**Investor**” or “**Non-lucrative**”.

**Investor:**

- A minimum 2 million euros sovereign debt purchase; or
- Establishing a business that creates employment or post-graduate study; or
- Property purchase with a minimum value of 500,000 euros (the Golden Visa)

**Non-Lucrative:**

- Must show evidence of 26,000 euros (per person) in a bank account plus private healthcare. Initially lasts a year, then must reapply.

# At a Glance

- **Ease of Access**
  - Two international flight hubs in **Madrid** and **Barcelona**.
  - Many low-cost European airlines operate in secondary cities.
- **Health Care**
  - **Public and private health systems** operate – retirees (or “jubilados”) usually use private insurance for access to private facilities - complete care for a 68-year-old is €155 /mo. (€1 = \$1.04 Nov. 2022).

# Barcelona







# Barcelona Pros

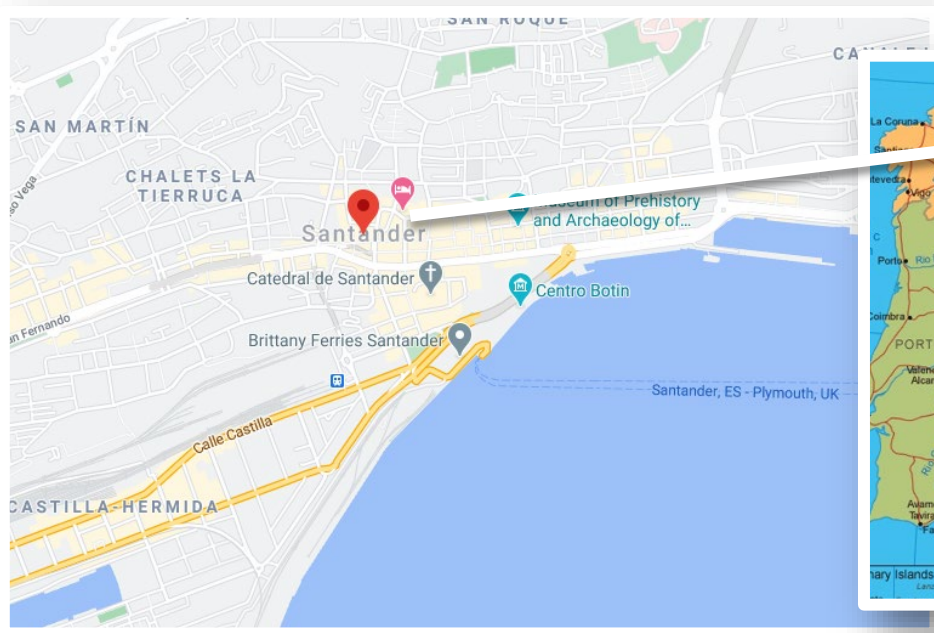
- Easy access to the Costa Brava, Pyrenees and France
- Great cultural scene
- Beach and city life
- Fantastic food scene
- English widely spoken
- Low-cost airlines
- High speed trains
- Ferry services to Balearics



# Barcelona Cons

- Lots of tourists most of the year (not August)
- Petty crime is constant
- Hot and sticky in July and August
- Strongly Catalan/separatist movement - anti-Madrid sentiment
- Property prices higher than most other Spanish cities

# Santander





# Santander Pros

- Green and lush scenery, very rare for snow to fall
- Beautiful beaches
- History and culture
- Great for water sports, especially sailing
- Great for lovers of seafood
- Ferry service direct to UK and northern European ports
- Good road network to France
- Mostly Spanish tourists
- Low crime rate
- University town

# Santander Cons

- Has a mild, Atlantic climate. Average winter temperatures 46F-53F; summers rarely above 86F
- No guarantee of hot, dry summer, and expect some rain every month
- Limited tourist influence, so not as cosmopolitan as Barcelona or Madrid
- Only has regional airport so must connect for flights to USA

# Cádiz







# Cádiz Pros

- **Weather** –among European cities Cádiz has the second warmest winter
- **Historic** coastal southern city on the Mediterranean. Oldest continuously inhabited city in Western Europe
- Lower housing **acquisition and rental** cost – €1303/square meter in city center. Winter/low season substantially less
- **Population** of 114,000 (2021 census) –**University** town – University of Cádiz
- Easy access from nearby Tarifa to **Morocco** by boat

# Cádiz Cons

- Due to small, declining population Cádiz may lack adequate cultural attractions for some emigrants
- Cádiz is the provincial capital with the highest unemployment rate in Spain
- Quiet during the low season
- Limited access: Jerez (43 km) and Seville (128 km) airports

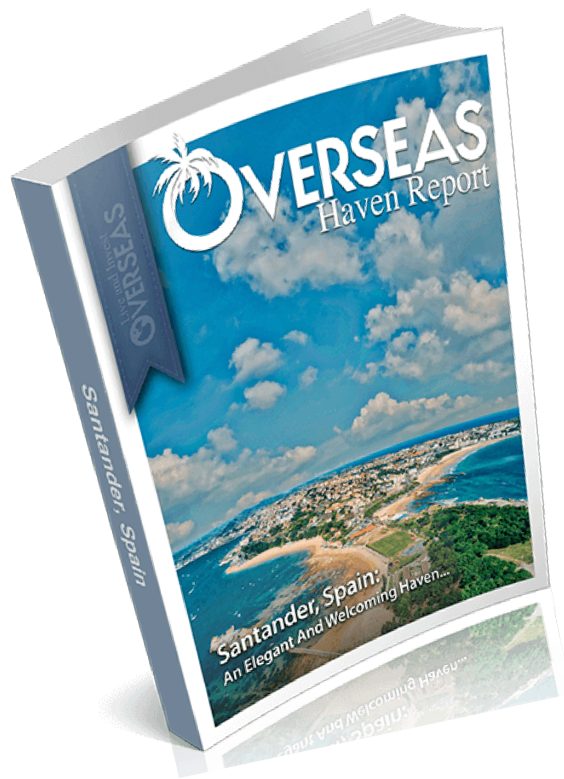
# Noteworthy

- **Rail network** with the second highest number of miles of high speed rail in the world
- **Surprisingly high cost** of some household goods like vitamins and over-the-counter medications such as aspirin
- **Very low crime rate:** The homicide rate is 33 times lower than in the USA.(Source: Nationmaster.com)
- **Excellent infrastructure** mostly constructed in the last 30-35 years

# Grading Spain

- English Spoken – B-
- Health Care – A-
- Climate – A-
- Infrastructure – B
- Accessibility – B
- Safety – B+
- Culture – A-
- Recreation – B
- Taxes – B-
- Schools – B-

# Recommended Resources



## Overseas Haven Reports

Complete, fully illustrated reports on a specific region or city identified by our experts as an overseas retirement haven.

Want to know more? Connect with us through the Networking Chat tab!

# Recommended Resources



## Discover Europe Kit

This all-new program features six fully-illustrated reports covering our top picks for Old World living on a budget, plus the special 100+ page guide Exploring Europe: A Grand Tour Of The Old World's Most Romantic Places To Spend Time.

Each report is loaded with residency and cost of living information, firsthand experiences, and insights on enticing and affordable European enclaves and lifestyles.

Want to know more? Connect with us through the Networking Chat tab.

# Recommended Resources

## Overseas Living Letter



Subscribers of *Overseas Living Letter* will be introduced to each and every one of the world's top retirement havens, in complete and current detail.

Each month brings complete and in-depth reports on the **world's top overseas havens**, including full details on residency, visa options, health care, taxes, and itemized monthly budgets for all of the world's top retirement havens.

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