

# SPAIN

and the Iberian Peninsula: Places and Geographic Features

This map focuses on the country of **SPAIN** and other geographic and political aspects of the **IBERIAN PENINSULA**. **SPAIN** is located in the western part of the continent of Europe. Spain is bordered by the country of **PORTUGAL** to its west, with the countries of **FRANCE** and tiny **ANDORRA** in the Northeast. **SPAIN** has many mountain ranges, and has long stretches of coastline on both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

**SPAIN** has five very different topographical regions. The northern area along the coast is mountainous, with many farmland valleys and forests. The central plateau, called the Meseta, is almost a mile above sea level; Madrid is one of the many cities in this area. The southern region of Andalucía is mostly mountainous with many rivers flowing through its valleys. The region of Levant is in the east along the Mediterranean coast. The northeast section of Spain is called Catalonia where the large and long River Ebro forms a lowland river valley and discharges into the Mediterranean.



## MAP ACTIVITIES

**BODIES OF WATER:** Label each of the following bodies of water. Shade with blue pencil along coastlines and rivers.

Atlantic Ocean  
Bay of Biscay  
Alboran Sea

Mediterranean Sea  
Strait of Gibraltar  
Balearic Sea

Golfo de Valencia  
Ebro River  
Duero River  
Guadiana River

Golfo de Cádiz  
Tajo River  
Guadalquivir River  
Jucar River

**CITIES**  
Using the symbol in the MAP KEY, draw in and label the capital city of **MADRID**.

Label these cities marked on the map.

**Spanish cities:**

Málaga	Cádiz
Valladolid	Zaragoza
Barcelona	A Coruña
Vigo	Seville
Bilbao	Salamanca
Badajoz	Toledo
Valencia	Cartagena

**Portuguese cities**

**LISBON:** capital  
Coimbra  
Faro  
Setubal

Porto  
Braga  
Lagos

**AUTONOMOUS CITIES in Africa**

Melilla  
Ceuta

**ISLANDS**

Balearic Islands  
Formentera  
Majorca  
Canary Islands: see note below left

Ibiza  
Menorca

**COASTLINES**

Costa Brava  
Costa del Azahar  
Costa del Sol  
Costa Verde

Costa Dorada  
Costa Blanca  
Costa de la Luz

**MOUNTAINS**

On this map, some of the following mountain ranges have been drawn in. Complete these ranges, color and label them.

Pyrenees  
Sierra Morena  
Cordillera Cantábrica  
Sistema Ibérico  
Sistema Central  
Sistema Béticos  
Sierra Nevada

**HIGH PEAK**

Label the highest peak in mainland Spain.  
Mulhacén: 3,478 m./11,411 ft.

**COUNTRIES**

Label each:  
**SPAIN**  
**ANDORRA**  
**MOROCCO**

**FRANCE**  
**PORTUGAL**  
**ALGERIA**

### MAP KEY

- Mountains
- Highest Peak
- River
- City
- Capital

Two wild animals found in **SPAIN** are endangered: the Mediterranean Monk Seal and the Iberian Lynx.



**The Iberian Peninsula**  
The box-shaped Iberian peninsula includes the countries of Portugal, Spain, Andorra, a very small area of France, and the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar. It is one of three major peninsulas in Europe. The others are the Italian Peninsula and the Balkan Peninsula.

**The Pyrenees Mountains**  
This large mountain range separates Spain from France, with Andorra in the middle of the range. The Pyrenees, older than the Alps, separate the Iberian Peninsula from continental Europe. A section of the famous bicycle race, the Tour De France winds through these mountains. Huge waterfalls occur in many parts of these rugged peaks.

**Strait of Gibraltar**  
This is a narrow passage of water separating Europe from Africa. The strait at its narrowest point is only 8 miles wide where Atlantic Ocean meets Mediterranean Sea. Throughout history this passageway and the surrounding land has been an important location. Whoever controlled this area determined who could travel and trade between the large bodies of water.

Today, the land in Spain next to the strait is named **Gibraltar**, the Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. This small 2.5 square mile area of land is controlled by the British.



**ONLINE MAPPING EXTRAS!**

The **CANARY ISLANDS** off the Northwest coast of Africa are part of **SPAIN** and are not shown on this map. Go to our [www.cartocraze.com](http://www.cartocraze.com) website and download a map of these islands to complete labeling **SPAIN**.

Many of the **EXPLORERS** to the **NEW WORLD** began their journeys in **SPAIN** and **PORTUGAL**. Visit [www.cartocraze.com](http://www.cartocraze.com) website to see other material related to this topic.

