

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Spain



Read for more information on LGBTQ+ rights in Spain, race and ethnicity, religious diversity, and women's rights

Race and Ethnicity in Spain

Spain has a rich cultural history and is home to 49 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The [country's heritage](#) is heavily influenced by Celtic and Iberian cultures, as well as 900 years of Moorish rule. Elements of this history are visible in architecture, cuisine, language, music, and traditions.

Spain is becoming an increasingly diverse country. While the Spanish government does not collect data on its population's race or ethnicity, [Index Mundi's 2021 estimate](#) reports that its ethnic makeup is 84.8% Spanish, 1.7% Moroccan, 1.2% Romanian, 12.3% other. [According to Diversity Abroad](#), 10% of residents in Spain are non-citizens from Morocco, China, Romania, Colombia, Ecuador, Bulgaria, Germany, and Ukraine.

In a [2014 blog post](#), Jessica Poitevian shares her personal experience with her racial identity as a Black woman in Spain. (She is not affiliated with Arcadia).

Religion in Spain

Spain is a majority Roman Catholic country. Catholicism's influence in Spain is evident in important cultural events such as festivals during Holy Week. However, its religious makeup is diversifying with an influx of migrants predominantly from Morocco, Pakistan, and Senegal. [Index Mundi](#) reports that there are approximately 1.9 million Muslims living in Spain in 2021. Additionally, [World Atlas](#) finds that an estimated 20 to 22 percent of Spain's population is atheist or agnostic.

Spain.info notes that Islam, Judaism, Protestantism, and Hinduism all have their own places of worship, which you can find using their [Ministry of Justice search engine](#).

LGBTQIA+ Rights in Spain

Spain is a progressive country in terms of gay rights and acceptance. Gay marriage was legalized in Spain in 2005 (a decade ahead of the United States), and a 2019 survey conducted by [Equadex](#) reported that 89 percent of Spaniards felt that society should accept homosexuality. Additionally, the survey reported that 83 percent of Spaniards felt that transgender persons should be allowed to have their true identity reflected in their legal documents.

Advocacy group [Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gais, Trans, Bisexuales, Intersexuales y más](#) (FELGTBI+) discusses the need for more progress with transgender rights in Spain. The website shares current campaigns to improve quality of life for LGBTQIA+ people living in Spain. The [International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association](#) finds that Spain is one of the most welcoming countries in to world to the LGBTQIA+ community, and shares many [gay-friendly businesses and Pride events](#) for travelers to enjoy in Spain.



Women's Rights in Spain

Women are gaining power in Spain, with much progress having been made since legal limitations were imposed on women during the Franco regime in 1939-1975. The [World Economic Forum](#) now finds that Spain is in the top 10 countries for gender equality (2020). In 2018, Spain had the [most female-centric government in the world](#) with 65 percent of Pedro Sanchez's cabinet being women.

Spanish women are still fighting against male violence in demonstrations such as the [2021 International Women's Day March in Madrid](#). Women face [inequality in the job market](#) and as a result have pushed for longer parental leave and support. However, USA Traveler Assist notes that Spain is a [safe country for female tourists](#), and advises women to be generally mindful of their surroundings while traveling as they would anywhere else.

Disability in Spain

The advocacy group [European Disability Forum](#) discusses some of the highlights and drawbacks of disability support in Spain. Spain has a high level of involvement in current EU efforts to promote equal rights of those with disabilities. Specifically, it has taken a leadership role in the project [Bridging the GAP](#), an EU-funded project to create inclusive legislation and services for disabled persons.

[Spain.info](#) assures travelers with disabilities that there are options for accessible tourism. Most tourism services offer accommodations, especially in transport, museums, and restaurants. Spanish airports offer assistance services free of charge and travelers can submit a request for these services on their [website](#). Take a look at the website [Spain is Accessible](#), which gives a realistic approach to activities that travelers with disabilities can enjoy.