Practical Tips for the Traveller to Spain

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If you travel to Spain, you probably have heard already about flamenco dancing and bullfights, as this is the international image of Spain. Nevertheless, there is much more to it than that. Medieval Cathedrals, Moorish palaces and fortresses make up many city centers in Spain.

In Spain, the official language is Castilian, or Spanish. English is widely spoken in the most touristic areas.

Spain is a modern country up to par with the changing times. However, some of the values, customs and manners of the locals have not changed that much. These are some things you should know:

* People usually greet each other with a hand shake. Nevertheless, if they are related, they may give each other a kiss on each cheek.

* If you happen to be invited to someoneÂ´s house for a meal, it is good manners to take something along like wine, chocolates or dessert.

* Men are expected to wear jackets at some restaurants.

* Dinner is taken quite late at night, sometimes between 9-11 pm, and it is common to see kids up until midnight.

* Most people take a nap known as â€œsiestaâ€• after lunch, around 3-4 pm.

Tips for Shoppers

The shops open quite early in the morning and close very late at night. But they close in the afternoon (between 2-5 pm) for their lunch and siesta time.

Some good things to bring back home from the souvenir shops are leather goods and crafts, porcelain and Chinas, silver jewelery and Moroccan clothing or accessories.

If you eat at a restaurant or cafeteria, it is considered appropriate to leave a small tip for the waiter.

Transportation in Spain

The transportation infrastructure of Spain is very good, with over thirty airports connecting the major cities and numerous international flights. The most important ones are the airports of Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Alicante and Malaga. Some of these airports offer duty free shops, banks, restaurants and cafeterias.

There is a good network of roads north to south and east to west, with some toll booths in the highways. It is always good to have some change in Euros and cents, to pay the tolls.

If you have electric appliances with you, remember that the voltage in Spain is 220 volts. It is a good idea to get a transformer or to purchase one at the hotel. Most hotels have internet services available.

Beware of pick pockets when out in crowded market areas, and make sure to lock your car and not

let any valuables inside.

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