

Spain - the country of cultural traditions and tourism by Raya and Aleksandar

Slides:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1N-OjSU3hvT0LgzjUZLxi4OR3ESH_de-mmILq9bQOEou/edit?usp=sharing

Recording:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WJwKVREdhSSJ-_7zmWKjW-EQmSWOnam/view?usp=sharing

Spain has a rich and complex history that stretches back thousands of years. Prehistoric groups, including the Celts, Iberians, and Basques, first settled the region. Later, the Romans established a powerful presence in the region, followed by a period of Visigothic rule in the 5th century. As in much of western Europe, the culture of Spain was marked decisively by the period of Roman rule. In language, religion, even architectural traditions, the Romans left a lasting legacy. However, the subsequent course of Spanish history added elements to the country's cultural development that were missing or much weaker in other European countries. The most important differences stem from the Arabic-speaking Muslims from the Middle East and North Africa who invaded Spain in 711 and dominated much of the country for almost 800 years. The Muslim cultural influence was very strong, especially in the area of language. Through contact with Muslims, Christian Europe was able to recover much of the cultural and intellectual heritage of Classical antiquity. It also gained access to many scientific advances made by Muslims. Spain's cultural mix was further enriched by the presence of a large and influential Jewish population, and medieval Spain witnessed one of the periods of greatest cultural achievement in Jewish history.

Because of the great variety of Prehistoric groups the cultural traditions are numerous and well-known in the whole world. Some of the traditions are:

Flamenco

Bullfighting

The festivals in Spain

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Spain/Daily-life-and-social-customs>

FLAMENCO

Flamenco is a form of popular artistic expression representing a long-standing tradition that appears on the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This art form combines vocal music and dance. Flamenco has become a true identity for numerous communities, such as the gypsy ethnic group, where it is transmitted from generation to generation through dynasties of artists, families, flamenco clubs, numerous important festivals and schools, whose numbers are growing each year.

<https://www.spain.info/en/discover-spain/flamenco-spain/>

BULLFIGHTING

The national spectacle of Spain and many Spanish-speaking countries, in which a bull is ceremoniously fought in a sand arena by a matador and usually killed. Bullfighting season in Spain runs from March to October. The practice is also known as a corrida de toros. Since the late-1980s, bullfighting in Spain has declined in popularity due to animal welfare concerns, its association with blood sport, and its links to nationalism.

<https://www.britannica.com/sports/bullfighting>

Some of the most interesting and unusual festivals in Spain are:

- La Tomatina
- San Fermin
- Semana Santa

LA TOMATINA

At around 12 Noon a number of trucks haul the bounty of tomatoes into the centre of the town. The fight does not begin until one brave soul has climbed to the top of a two-story high greased-up wooden pole and reached the coveted ham at the top. The signal for the beginning of the fight is the firing of water cannons. The fight ends in 1 hour, after that the town is being cleaned with water from a Roman aqueduct акведукт. Some people find water in Bunol river where they wash themselves.

<https://www.latomatinatours.com/>

SAN FERMIN

This event takes place each morning during the fiestas of Sanfermin, between the 7th and the 14th of July, at 8 o'clock in the morning. Usually, the run should just take between 2 and 3 minutes to complete, unless something adverse occurs. Apparently, the butchers were responsible in olden times for bringing in the bulls from the ranches and the young apprentice butchers began to accompany the bull minders when these would shepherd the bulls up to the bullring. Often

they would run ahead of the bulls to entice them forward. With the passing of time, the event became popular with the general public and the men began to run in front of the bulls instead of remaining behind the animals as the bull minders always do.

<https://www.sanfermin.com/en/running-of-the-bulls/quick-guide-what-is-the-running-of-the-bulls/>

SEMANA SANTA

A religious festival, Semana Santa (Holy Week) is a big deal in Spain. It celebrates the Passion of Christ in the Catholic tradition the week before Easter. Each region has its own distinct traditions, but flamboyant parades fill the streets all over the country with festivities beginning on Palm Sunday and finishing with dramatic processions on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. You'll see life-sized floats of biblical characters being carried through the streets, people walking with crosses or candles and religious spectacles throughout the week.

<https://www.ceastudyabroad.com/blog/content-creator/2023/08/04/top-7-cultural-celebrations-in-spain>

As a result of the rich culture of the country, tourism is growing rapidly every year. Due to the different cultures of the Spanish regions, each part of the country is filled with amazing and different traditions attracting more and more new tourists.