

**SPAIN
MADE
SIMPLE**
SANDTONS

LOCATIONS MADE SIMPLE

Spain is not one country. It is seventeen regions, each with a different climate, cost structure, and lifestyle.



THE QUICK GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Spain is not one country. It is seventeen regions, each with a different climate, cost structure, and lifestyle.

The Reality: Where you live will define your experience. Choose wrong, and you will overpay, overheat, or feel isolated. Choose right, and Spain becomes paradise.



THE CLIMATE DIVIDE: SUN VS. GREEN



Mediterranean Coast

Barcelona to Malaga to Sotogrande. 300+ sunny days. Mild winters (10-18C). Hot summers (28-35C). Beach lifestyle. Higher costs.



Interior

Madrid, Castilla. Continental climate. Cold winters (0-10C). Scorching summers (38-42C). Lower humidity. Cheaper than coast.



Northern Spain

Basque Country, Galicia, Asturias. Green, rainy, mild. Think Ireland or Scotland. 150-180 rainy days per year. Lower costs. Stunning nature.



Canary Islands

Eternal spring. 20-28C year-round. Atlantic beaches. Popular with remote workers and retirees seeking year-round outdoor living.



THE BIG THREE CITIES: CHOOSE YOUR VIBE

Barcelona

Best For: International business, tech startups, beach + city lifestyle.

Cost: High. Rent for 1-bedroom center: €1,200-1,800 /month.

Vibe: Cosmopolitan, fast-paced, tourist-heavy.

Cons: Overcrowded, license freeze on short-term rentals, expensive.

Madrid

Best For: Career advancement, Spanish immersion, central Europe access.

Cost: High. Rent for 1-bedroom center: €1,200-1,800 /month.

Vibe: Corporate, energetic, culturally rich.

Cons: Extreme summers (40C+), no beach, traffic congestion.

Valencia

Best For: Work-life balance, value for money, beach + city combo.

Cost: Moderate. Rent for 1-bedroom center: €800-950 /month.

Vibe: Relaxed, creative, bike-friendly, family-oriented.

Why Winning: 20% cheaper than Madrid/Barcelona. 300 sunny days. Fastest-growing expat hub in Spain.

SANDTONS Insight

Valencia is the 2026 winner for quality-of-life-per-euro. If you are choosing between the big three, start here.

RETIREE HAVENS: GOLF, RESORTS, AND ALL-INCLUSIVE LIVING



Sotogrande

Concept: Master-planned resort. Marinas, polo, 5 golf courses. International community.

Best For: Wealthy retirees wanting "country club" living with privacy and prestige.

Cost: Premium (villas from €800,000 to €20m+).



La Manga Club

Concept: 560-hectare resort. 3 championship golf courses. Tennis academy. Hotel + villas.

Best For: Golfers and active retirees. All amenities on-site.

Cost: Mid-range (apartments from €180,000).



Marbella/Estepona

Concept: Luxury coastal towns. 15+ golf courses within 30 minutes. Premium healthcare. English widely spoken.

Best For: Affluent retirees seeking services, golf, and a vibrant expat community.

Cost: High (apartments from €300,000).



Las Colinas (Alicante)

Concept: Spain's #1 golf resort (award-winning). Gated, nature reserve setting, beach club access.

Best For: Retirees wanting exclusivity, design, and appreciation potential.

Cost: Premium (villas from €500,000 to €10m+).

DIGITAL NOMAD HUBS: COWORKING, CONNECTIVITY, COMMUNITY

Valencia



Why: Best value. Coworking ecosystem (Wayco, Vortex). 300 days of sun. Mediterranean beach.

Monthly Budget: €2,400 (rent, utilities, coworking, food).

Vibe: Creative, relaxed, bike-friendly.

Barcelona



Why: International hub. Startup scene. Highest connectivity (flights to 150+ cities).

Monthly Budget: €3,200.

Vibe: Fast-paced, cosmopolitan.

Cons: Expensive, crowded.

Malaga



Why: Rising tech capital. Year-round sunshine. Major airport. Lower costs than Barcelona/Madrid.

Monthly Budget: €2,600.

Vibe: Sunny, entrepreneurial, growing fast.

Las Palmas



Why: Year-round 20-28C. Ocean-view coworking. Established nomad community. Surf + work.

Monthly Budget: €2,200.

Vibe: Tropical, laid-back.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY ZONES: SCHOOLS, SAFETY, BEACH ACCESS



Sotogrande

Schools: International Montessori School. Gated communities. Safe. Golf courses for teens.

Best For: Families prioritizing security, space, and premium education.



Valencia

Schools: 15+ international schools (British, American, IB).

Best For: Families wanting urban + beach lifestyle at 30% lower cost than Madrid/Barcelona.



La Moraleja

Schools: Highest concentration of international schools in Spain (American School, ICS, King's College).

Best For: Expat executives. Embassy families.

Vibe: Secure, suburban, premium.



Pozuelo/Aravaca

Schools: American School of Madrid, British Council School.

Best For: Families wanting proximity to central Madrid but with green space and top schools.



Marbella

Schools: Laude schools (British curriculum).

Best For: Families wanting beach lifestyle, international community, and year-round sun.

QUICK DECISION: WHERE SHOULD I LIVE?



I want the lowest
cost of living

Verdict

Murcia, Granada, or
Extremadura. Expect to pay
40% less than Madrid.



I want year-round
warmth and beach

Verdict

Costa del Sol (Malaga,
Marbella) or Canary Islands.



I want the best
schools for my kids

Verdict

La Moraleja (Madrid),
Sotogrande, or Valencia.



I am a digital
nomad on a budget

Verdict

Valencia or Las Palmas.



I am a retiree who
golfs

Verdict

Sotogrande, La Manga, or Las
Colinas.



LET SANDTONS GUIDE YOU



[Link to Location Consultation]

EXPLORE THE SPAIN MADE SIMPLE SERIES

Visas Made Simple

Mortgages Made Simple

Property Made Simple

NIE Made Simple

Living Made Simple

& more on our geo-dedicated websites



NEED PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE?

We monitor 50+ markets daily. We know which neighborhoods have international schools. We know which buildings allow short-term rentals. We know which towns are pricing out vs. which are still undervalued.

Get personalized guidance on:

- Location strategy based on your lifestyle profile
- Property tours in your shortlisted areas
- School visits and enrollment support
- Neighborhood due diligence and market data

CONTACT SANDTONS LOCATIONS TEAM

BEYOND THE GUIDE?

We handle everything—location scouting, property viewings, school visits, and neighborhood introductions.



[Explore Professional Services](#)

