

On Holiday With Your Electric Vehicle to Spain: What You Need to Know

Despite being famous for its siestas, Spain is not a country to sleep on. The nation is renowned for its food, football, beaches, and booze and is undoubtedly one of the best countries. Spain will deliver no matter what you wish to accomplish on your holiday. There are thousands of beaches to choose from if you want to relax, swim and fish-watch. There are even more incredible restaurants that will feed you and your tastebuds. And for those wishing to party, look no further; Spain is one of the most popular destinations in Europe. The list of activities goes on; ultimately, there is something for everyone in Spain.

Numerous Governments across the globe are supporting the movement toward sustainable travel, introducing incentives and providing financial support. Spain is a part of this movement and is excited about the change to electric. However, the switch to green transportation is definitely in its infancy, and Spain still has much work to be done to accommodate for growing need for charging stations. Regardless, Spain can still be travelled and enjoyed via electric vehicle, but some planning and research are required.

Charging Your Vehicle in Spain

In some regions of the country, the infrastructure is in place to allow easy use of an electric vehicle, whereas, in others, it remains a challenge. With Spain's large land mass and high population density, Spain has struggled to keep up with the increasing demand for charging stations.

The Spanish government has introduced several enticing initiatives to encourage the switch to electric vehicles, boasting some of the most generous schemes in Europe. The country is taking strides to make EV technology cheaper and more accessible. One program, Moves III, invested €400 million and offers large grants to private EV owners and self-employed EV drivers. As well as supporting individuals, the Moves III program provides monetary support to individuals and small companies to build charging infrastructure.

Where Can I Charge my Electric Vehicle in Spain?

Most charging points are concentrated along the North, East, and West coastlines. Then, moving into the central regions of Spain, most charge stations are centred around Madrid, the capital city.

Apps and websites are the easiest way to locate charging stations, such as chargemap, placetoplug, and electromaps. In addition, the apps and websites allow you to narrow down what type of charging station you're looking for and the location, and they can even allow you to book a slot.

How Many Charging Stations are in Spain?

Spain ranks fifth among the European nations with zero-emission vehicles, with the fifth largest infrastructure globally for electronic cars. There are over 10,000 charge stations in Spain, spread over 3,000 locations. 83% of charge stations are slow chargers, with only 500 fast chargers. Tesla drivers can utilise Tesla Supercharge points, whereas the options for other vehicles that want to charge faster than 50 kW are relatively limited.

Although the number of charge stations appears to be high, vast stretches of the country are entirely inaccessible by electric vehicles, with 150-180 kilometres of road without charging points. For example, the main route between Zaragoza and Madrid has very few charging points.

Although there is a reasonably high number of electric vehicles, there are comparatively few charging stations. For example, Spain has one of the fewest charging stations in Europe compared to its number of inhabitants, with only 250 per million inhabitants.

How Do I Charge in Spain?

There are two different kinds of plugs used with eclectic vehicles. The EU standard is a type 2 'Mennekes' plug, which is more common. There is also the CHAdeMo connector which is compatible with a quick charge. However, this model is more common in Asia, but some European cars will also utilise it.

To charge in Spain, you first need to locate a charge point. Then, using an app, set up the charge. Next, find the charging cable, connect the car, and the charging program will begin automatically. Some LED lights will turn on to indicate that the charge is in progress.

How Do I Pay for a Charge in Spain?

The charging cost in Spain at regular charging stations is low and can often be free, thanks to generous government incentives. Generally, it costs between €0.25 and €0.30 per kWh. And for a full battery will cost between €15 and €20 for a 60kWh battery.

As with most countries, you must download several apps to set up each charge. Apps such as Recarga Publica Iberdrola, Waylet, Ionity, Electomaps, Wenea and Zunder. You often need to pay through the app, but some stations will take debit or credit cards.

Places to Visit in Spain.

The lively cities of Madrid and Barcelona are bursting with exceptional food, museums, culture, and stunning architecture. The Spanish countryside is varied and vibrant, with the green, luscious North and the dry, arid south. One of the most attractive features of Spain is the weather, with sunshine all year round.

A road trip around Spain will tick all the boxes for any holiday-goer. You can soak up the scenes in the city and soak in the sea at one of the many beaches. There truly is something for everyone.

What are the Top Nature Spots to Visit in Spain?

The primary natural attraction we think of when we imagine Spain is the beaches. This assumption isn't unreasonable or incorrect because the beaches are world-class and worth visiting. However, the Spanish landscape offers much more—regions such as the Pyrenees, Sierra Nevada, and even the dry plains of Andalucia delight adventurers and explorers.

The Spanish Pyrenees, 'Parque Nacional de Ordesa y Mote Perdido', share a border with France and rival its towering peaks at 3355m high. The park provides glacial scenes, waterfalls, dense forestry, canyons, and much more. The Spanish Pyrenees is an ideal spot for those looking to include some hiking, canyoning, or biking.

For the historian holiday-makers, Cueva de Tito Bustillo provides some of the finest cave art in Spain. The art dates back to around 15,000 BCE and is listed as a World Heritage Site.

The caves are situated on the east coast and would make an incredible pitstop between beach hopping.

Although Spain is more than its beaches, the three coasts provide enough sand and sea to soothe the soul. The Asturian coast along the northwest of Spain is overflowing with over 600 beaches. The beaches are less busy than some other regions of Spain due to its cooler climate and Atlantic waters but can provide a calm, less touristy space to relax.

Southern Spain is a popular choice, with the name 'Costa del Sol' or coast of the sun, it does what it says on the tin. With countless cute coastal villages and hundreds of beaches, this region of Spain is an easy bet for a beach getaway. Although some stretches are overflowing with visitors, clubs, and inauthentic eateries, you can do a little research to find some lesser-known regions to have an authentic Andalusian experience.

What Cities Should I Visit in Spain?

With a population of over 47 million, Spain has a few metropolitan hubs. Barcelona, Seville, and Madrid are the main cultural centres. Barcelona is the biggest city in Catalonia, situated on the east coast of Spain. The city provides countless opportunities to satisfy its visitors, from its culinary scene to its aesthetic architecture. Barcelona is an ideal place to enjoy high-quality seafood tapas and some sangria, then wander the beautiful, sunny streets.

Seville is another one of the top tourist destinations in Spain, and for a good reason. It's renowned for its quirky architecture and rich history, boasting its claim to fame as the birthplace of Flamenco. The city is smaller than Barcelona and easier to explore in a few days without driving or using public transport. The Seville Cathedral, the Royal Alcazar, and the Archbishop's Palace are a few sites to marvel over on your visit to Seville. The city is old; founded in the 8th century BC and has changed hands numerous times. This history and combination of cultures are reflected in its unique architectural design.

Finally, Madrid. Despite being the nation's capital, Madrid is one of the lesser visited cities. Madrid is pedestrian-friendly, so you can park the car for a charge and explore freely. The fashion, the nightlife, the museums- there's plenty to see and do in Madrid. The city also maintains several green spaces, such as Retiro park and Madrid Rio, to allow its inhabitants to escape the concrete and the people. The gardens are beautiful and great for relaxing in a major city.

Accommodation and Charging

Can I Charge my Electric Vehicle at Hotels in Spain?

If you're planning on staying at a hotel in Spain, picking somewhere with charging facilities is worthwhile. It will save you precious time, money, and stress on your holidays. Many hotels keep up with the times and add charging stations to ensure they entice all guests. Some two or three-star hotels have added charging stations, such as Hostal Martinval, HTOP BCN City Hotel, and City Hotel.

Additionally, many luxury hotels have upgraded their vehicle facilities for those seeking a more indulgent getaway. Hotels such as Bas Apartments Garcia, MH Apartments S.Familia, and Hotel Ilunion Bel-Art provide charging stations for their guests.

Can I Charge my Electric Vehicle at Campsites in Spain?

Although facilities are being improved, it's entirely location specific when it comes to campsites. Some newer campsites will have charging stations, but you must check with each provider. Additionally, check the charge maps online or on an app because charge stations at campsites will show up, allowing you to choose a camp based on its facilities. If in doubt, always contact the campsite directly to check.

Can I Charge my Electric Vehicle at Holiday Homes in Spain?

As charging stations become a non-negotiable part of many people's holidays, all accommodation types are evolving and including charging stations. For example, websites like Airbnb provide an 'electric vehicle charging station' filter to allow users to only view holiday homes with charging facilities. Additionally, you can contact the site hosts to ask them directly if they have charging facilities or know of one nearby.

Alternatively, if you don't feel like being limited by your charging needs when choosing accommodation, use the charge maps to find stations near you. It is an extra step when planning that could allow you to have the best of both worlds. For example, checking the charging station map while looking at air bnbs and holiday homes will allow you to choose an accommodation you love near a charging station.

To Summarise.

Taking your electric vehicle to Spain is an excellent way to experience the variety of attractions Spain offers. One day you can transform your holiday, leaving a national park and its mountains to replace it with sandy beaches. All visitors can enjoy Spanish culture, from coast to coast, city to city. The country is not necessarily the most accessible to explore via an electric vehicle, but it's possible.

Conducting appropriate research on the route you want to take, planning your charge stops, and finding accommodation that provides charging will make the trip more feasible. Certain regions of the country are more sparse in charging facilities, so electing to avoid these regions may be worthwhile. However, with adequate preparations, a road trip around Spain is an incredible way to spend the holidays and will not disappoint.