

# SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

## SPAIN



AREA 497,548 sq km  
POPULATION 46,755,000  
MONEY Euro

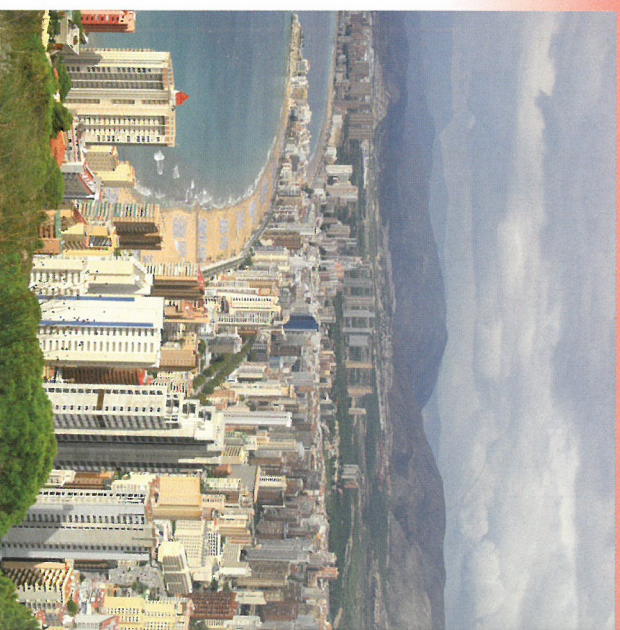
## PORTUGAL



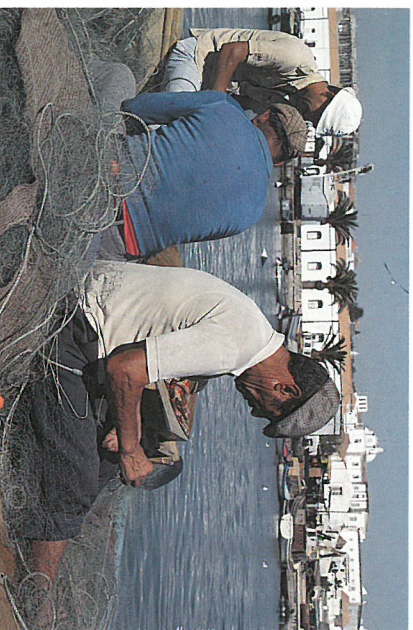
AREA 88,797 sq km  
POPULATION 10,760,000  
MONEY Euro

**S**PAIN and Portugal are separated from the rest of Europe by the high Pyrenees Mountains. Most people travelling by land from the north reach Spain along the Atlantic or Mediterranean coasts.

The Meseta is the very high plateau of central Spain. Winters are very cold, and summers are very hot. The capital city, Madrid, is about 650 metres above sea level. Olives and grapes are the main crops, and both Spain and Portugal export famous wines such as sherry and port. Cars are a major export from Spain nowadays. Both Spain and Portugal have fine cities with great churches and cathedrals, built when they were the richest countries in the world.



▲ **Benidorm on the Costa Blanca** ('White Coast') is a famous tourist resort in Spain. Until the 1960s Benidorm was a quiet fishing village. Since then, all these skyscrapers have been built as hotels and apartments for tourists who come by aeroplane to enjoy the sun, sea and sand.



▲ **Portuguese fishermen mending their nets at Tavira, on the Algarve.** They continue to land sardines and other fish, but the town relies on the tourist trade for most of its income.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Gibraltar is still a British colony, but it is only 6 square kilometres in area. Spain still owns two towns in Morocco: **Ceuta** and **Melilla**. Spain wants Gibraltar – and Morocco wants Ceuta and Melilla. The argument has been going on for nearly 300 years....

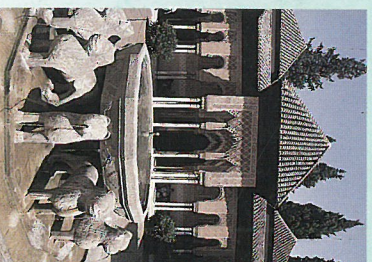
## THE ALHAMBRA PALACE



This beautiful palace in Granada, Spain, was built by the Moors (Arabs from North Africa). The Moors ruled southern Spain for hundreds of years, until 1492. The Arabs brought new

ideas and new crops to Europe, such as oranges, rice and sugar-cane, which are still grown in Spain today.

The photo (left) of the Court of Lions shows the stone lions carved 600 years ago by Arab craftsmen.



▲ **Village in southern Spain.** The old houses crowd closely together, and roads are very narrow: wide enough for a donkey, but not for lorries. People whitewash their houses to reflect the rays of the hot sun. Some of the roofs are used as balconies.



People visit **Spain** for holidays: the **Costa Brava** (Rugged Coast), **Costa Blanca** (White Coast), **Costa del Sol** (Coast of the Sun) and the **Balearic Islands** (Majorca, Minorca and Ibiza).

People also enjoy holidays in the **Canary Islands**. These belong to Spain – find them on page 55. These volcanic islands have fertile soil. Some have lava cones and black sand.

**SPAIN AND PORTUGAL**

In **Portugal** the **Algarve** coast is the most popular holiday area. **Madeira** is a Portuguese island far out in the Atlantic Ocean (see page 55). It is another holiday area that is also famous for its wine.

