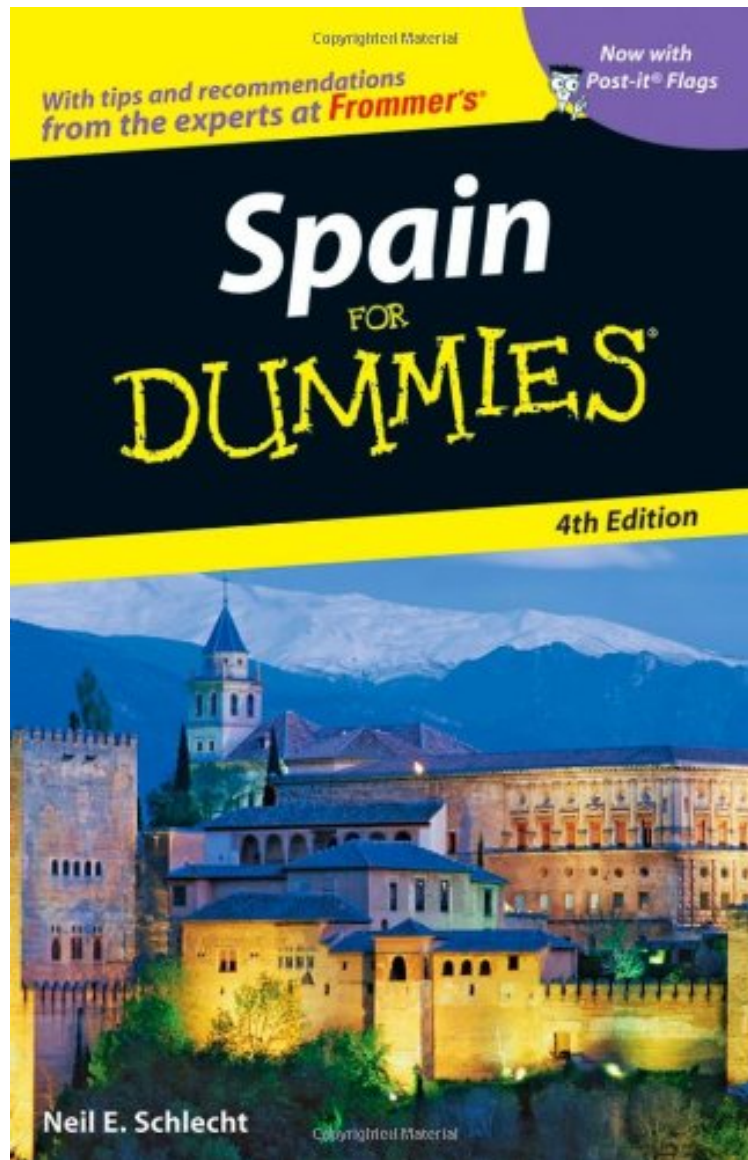


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Spain For Dummies

Neil Edward Schlecht

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Art and architecture lovers, ecotourists, history buffs, gourmands, wine aficionados, culture scholars, outdoor sports fanatics—Spain truly has something for everyone. Its good weather and many varied attractions make it ideal for year-round vacationing. Spain is the home of diverse cultures and traditions. From the stoic independence of the Basques to the progressive architecture and design of the Catalans and the sultry rhythms and sun-drenched siestas of the Andalusians, you'll discover an intriguing, welcoming country. This guide gets you going with info on: The three major areas: Northern Spain, including Barcelona, the Costa Brava, and the Basque Country; Central Spain, including Madrid and Castile, and Southern Spain, including Andalusia, Seville, Cordoba, and Granada How to get the best seats at a bullfight Strolling Barcelona's La Rambla, a vibrant street parade, or tripping along on a tavern and tapas crawl Racing with beasts at the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona or leisurely strolling the crooked streets in a lively old district such as Cordoba's Juderia, Salamanca's old quarter, Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, Granada's Albaycin District, and more Exploring some of the finest art museums in Europe and seeing masterpieces by El Greco, Goya, Picasso, Miro, Dali, Chillida, Titian, Raphael, Botticelli, Rubens, and more Dining on Catalan haute cuisine in Barcelona, traditional Basque dishes in Bilbao, nueva cocina vasca in San Sebastian, truffles and foie gras in Madrid, regional and traditional French dishes in Cordoba, or tantalizing tapas anywhere Architecture dating back to the Romans and Moors, including Museo Guggenheim Bilbao, Segovia's Roman Aqueduct, Avila's city walls, and Granada's Alhambra, a place of magic, mystery, and legend Staying in an opulent early-20th-century palace, a 16th century convent, a farmhouse estate dating to the tenth century, an intimate inn, or roughing it and backpacking around Spain Meandering through Andalusia's pueblos blancos amid the rolling hills and olive groves and near the famous sherry wineries and prancing horses in Jerez and the southern beaches of the Costa de la Luz and Costa del Sol Like every For Dummies travel guide, Spain For Dummies, 4th Edition includes: Down-to-earth trip-planning advice What you shouldn't miss — and what you can skip The best hotels and restaurants for every budget Handy Post-it Flags to mark your favorite pages Whether you enjoy fiestas or siestas, vibrant cities or laid-back seacoasts, with this guide, you can plan a fantástico vacation.

From the Back Cover Explore Spain the fun and fantástico way From Madrid to Barcelona...art museums to bullfights...history to outdoor sports...slopes to seacoasts...fiestas to siestas... Spain has it all. With this friendly guide, you'll take the bull by the horns and plan your perfect trip! About the Author A writer and cycling aficionado who has lived in Spain, Brazil, and Ecuador, Neil E. Schlecht now resides in Litchfield County, Connecticut. His first exposure to Spain was as a college sophomore teaching English at Col.legi Sant Ignasi in Barcelona. He returned to Barcelona just before the 1992 Summer Olympics and stayed for most of the following decade, working as a consultant on social and economic development projects for the European Union and as a contributing writer for a Spanish art and antiques magazine. The author of a dozen travel guides, as well as articles on art and culture and art catalogue essays, Neil is especially keen on assignments that take him back to Spain. The author counts among the highlights of his Spanish travels a few treasured road miles cycling in the Navarra countryside alongside Miguel Indurain, Spain's five-time Tour de France champion. Neil's favorite reminder of Spain is his Labrador retriever, who hails from a farm on Ibiza, one of the Balearic Islands. Despite her relocation to the United States, she plays deaf to any commands not in Spanish.