

Spain Offers Most Everything for American Tourist

By ANDRE DEL AMO
United Press International
Madrid - (UPI) - A tourist paradise with almost everything under the sun to offer at rock bottom prices makes Spain a prime attraction for the American visitor vacationing in Europe.

The hard-to-please traveler can find anything from camel riding in the Canary Islands deserts to sailing in the Bay of Biscay in this land of the fiesta.

The traditional hospitality of the Spanish people along with the government's facilities for tourists make Spain an attractive place to visit. Experienced travelers and well-informed tourists appreciate this.

Fast, efficient jet travel whisks visitors from New York City to the Spanish capital in less than seven hours. And Madrid is a good place to start exploring the land of Don Quixote. A sidewalk plaque in one of the central "plazas" or squares here marks the exact center of the Iberian Peninsula.

Afternoon Siesta
Late meal times, and long afternoon siesta and emphasis on nightlife are a few of the pleasant customs here. Three o'clock in the afternoon is a good time to start thinking about eating. A half an hour later and you're at the table. And after this a good way to while away the hot and lazy afternoons during the summer is to take the traditional siesta which conveniently ends just in time for "merienda" or tea time in a sidewalk cafe.

Dinner, a long, multi-course affair, can be had anytime from nine p.m. to midnight.

And the Spanish capital contains the most famous bull fighting ring in the world:

the "Monumental." Spain's so-called "national pastime" provides spectators with hard packed emotion and some of the colorful pageantry of a by-gone age as man risks his life fighting a vicious horned killer.

Art plays an important part

Tourist Must Adjust Focus if He Plans Vacation in Holland

Amsterdam - (UPI) - The American tourist who plans to spend his vacation in Holland must adjust his focus. If he is used to seeing sights on a grand scale, he will have to prepare himself for changes every mile or so.

Holland is as full of history and scenery as, say England, but squeezed into an area only one-eighth as large. With its excellent road system, which enables the tourist to cross Holland from border to border within a couple of hours, the tourist runs the risk of having crossed Holland without realizing its variety.

The farmhouse typical of one area, its shape going back to the dark ages, may be succeeded by an equally ancient but different type of farm building only a few miles farther on.

Not Many Problems
The American tourist will not find many problems on his way when entering the country, either by plane, one of the well-known ships of the Holland-America line, or luxury train of the trans-European express. English is understood practically everywhere and spoken by many people.

Prices are low, and Amsterdam, nerve center of life in Holland and focal point of the tourist industry, this sea-

son has acquired an additional, ultra-modern hotel space of 1,565 beds.

Dating back to the 13th century, Amsterdam has often been compared to Venice, a comparison which at first sight seems farfetched or even boastful.

It might be conceded that it lacks the romance of black-eyed, soft-voiced gondoliers and the perpetual Italian sunshine, but the houses which line the miles and miles of Amsterdam canals proudly keep up their reputation when compared to the colorful but often sadly neglected Venetian palaces.

If the Amsterdam merchant kings of the 17th century had been knighted, their houses would have been called palaces, which in view of their costly sculptured ceilings and staircases they often are.

The Holland Festival
From June 15 to July 15 the Holland Festival will be held in Amsterdam, the Hague and Rotterdam, with concerts, opera, ballet and theatrical performances by world famous international groups.

To mark the opening in Amsterdam thousands of lights will be strung along the most picturesque canals. Old towers will be illuminated and even if you have taken a boat trip through the canals during the day you should go again by night.

From Amsterdam several interesting trips can be made, north to Marken and Volendam, where the gay national costumes, picturesque houses and fishing fleet keep attracting tourists.

The Friday cheese market at Alkmaar, a well preserved old town, is also of interest. A trip to Alkmaar could include a visit to the 18 miles long Zuiderzee Dike, completed in 1932 as the starting point for the present land re-

clamation program, which is in full swing in the former Zuiderzee and along the southern coastline of Zeeland.

The old town of Enkhuizen east of Alkmaar, dreams of its once rich past as one of the East-India company ports.

Points of Interest
West and south of Amsterdam are several points of interest, the nearest to the city being the Aalsmeer Flower Auction, which on week days auction millions of flowers for home and foreign markets. The auction hall looks like a miniature bulbfield with its gay pattern of flowers.

The big flower event of the year is the annual national flower show "Keukenhof" at Lisse, between Haarlem and the Hague. In a 60-acre park with ponds and lakes millions of narcissi, hyacinths and tulips in all varieties create a breathtaking sight.

From the Keukenhof, it is only a short drive to the Hague, the seat of government. The Hague, a rather sedate city, is in the unique position of having a fashionable seaside resort Scheveningen right on its doorstep.

As last point on this trip one should visit Delft, one of the most beautiful old cities of Holland where the world famous Delftware is still made.

Wherever you go in Holland you will find water. It manifests itself in many forms: winding brooks and rivers, straight canals with busy barge traffic, the big western European rivers, Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt which all find their outlet in the North Sea off the Dutch coast, and many lakes.

Holland's canals, taken together would cover two-thirds of the distance between the earth and the moon.

potato omelet; "paella," a dish made up of rice, seafood and chicken; "gazpacho," a cold vegetable-type soup, and "turron," a sweet nut filled dessert treat.

More than 400 tons of seafood are brought into Madrid daily from the Spanish coasts.

Eating Is Cheap
Like most things in this country eating is cheap. A good meal at a neighborhood restaurant costs about 25 pesetas (42 cents) and includes a small bottle of wine. The high-priced luxury restaurants charge up to 300 pesetas (\$5) for a superb four-course meal.

One good way to get lured out of Madrid is hearing about some of Spain's famous fiestas. The main ones are held in Seville, Valencia and Pamplona.

For all-out merriment and wide open celebrations Pamplona is the place to be during the week-long "Feria" of San Fermin. Top-notch bullfighting and dancing follow the morning bull runs through the streets made famous by Hemingway.

Reasonable Transportation
One of the best things about travelling in Spain is the extensive and reasonably priced transportation network.

Spain's two national airlines, Iberia and Aviaero, along with the government's Renfe Railways offer fast and efficient service throughout the country.

Railway travel, often the cheapest means of transportation, works out to about a little over a half a peseta a kilometer or just under two U.S. cents per mile. Air fare is just about twice this price, but comes out cheaper when considering the time element.

About 75 per cent of all foreign tourists spend their vacation by the seaside in the coastal region and the Canary and Balearic Islands.

The main tourist centers on the Mediterranean lie near Barcelona in the area known as the "Cost Brava" and near Malaga in the area called "Costa Del Sol." Both of these coastal strips offer miles of sandy beaches, crystal clear water and plenty of sunshine.

America's streets and highways will have to handle an additional 24 million vehicles in the next decade, according to a survey by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

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Patio Furniture More Comfortable

If most of your summer leisure living is going to center around your patio, yard or home pool, then it's important to think about fixing up your outdoor living room.

There's more color and comfort in new furniture for outdoor living than ever before. Handsome weatherproof fabrics combine with lightweight, sturdy metals and woods to shape up good-looking chairs, chaise lounges and tables.

Rustic, robust redwood furniture vies with slim, elegant pieces in aluminum tubing for the top position in outdoor furnishings.

Redwood is weather-resistant and keeps its good looks for years and years. It looks equally smart on the porches as it does outdoors on the patio.

Cushions and padding for redwood furniture are reversible - often with prints on one side and solid colors on the other. Or they may show up in sunny-mood plaids, stripes or abstract designs.

Pull-up chairs, comfortable chaise lounges, tete-a-tete chairs with center table top unit, round umbrella tables, picnic sets, serving carts and coffee tables are among the outdoor living pieces made of redwood.

In tubular aluminum styles the choice of pieces is equally large and attractive. Aluminum furniture styles come with plastic-coated webbing backs and seats... thick, comfy pads covered in fabrics or plastics... or upholstered in fabric-supported plastics.

Aluminum pieces are more popular and practical in areas where sudden rains and long winters demand easy portability and convenient storage features.

For indoor-outdoor use, more and more bamboo cane and rattan furniture is being used. For a sun room, screened-in patio or covered porch, these oriental-inspired pieces give a look of smart elegance to their settings.

PORTUGAL POPULAR
Lisbon, Portugal - (UPI) - Quiet, sunny Portugal is increasing in popularity with American tourists because it is easily accessible, hospitable and can be seen in about two or three days. Lisbon is only about seven hours by air from New York. Food, drink and lodging is lower priced than many of the larger European capitals.

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