

SPAIN – GREECE

joined in our
differences

Tradition and customs

Spanish customs to surprise you

One of the best parts about travelling is discovering new customs and traditions. In Spain, with its rich culture, history, and cuisine, you are sure to do just that! From the late lunches and dinners to the kiss-kiss greetings, you will notice some surprising cultural differences

What 's the culture like in Spain ?

Spain has a vibrant and warm culture. The people are passionate, expressive, and loving,. They prioritise family and make time to enjoy the company of their loved ones, especially over food. They live to enjoy life and that's why they take things slowly. They don't hold back when celebrating traditional festivities and are proud of their artistic, historic, and cultural heritage.

1. Double cheek kissing

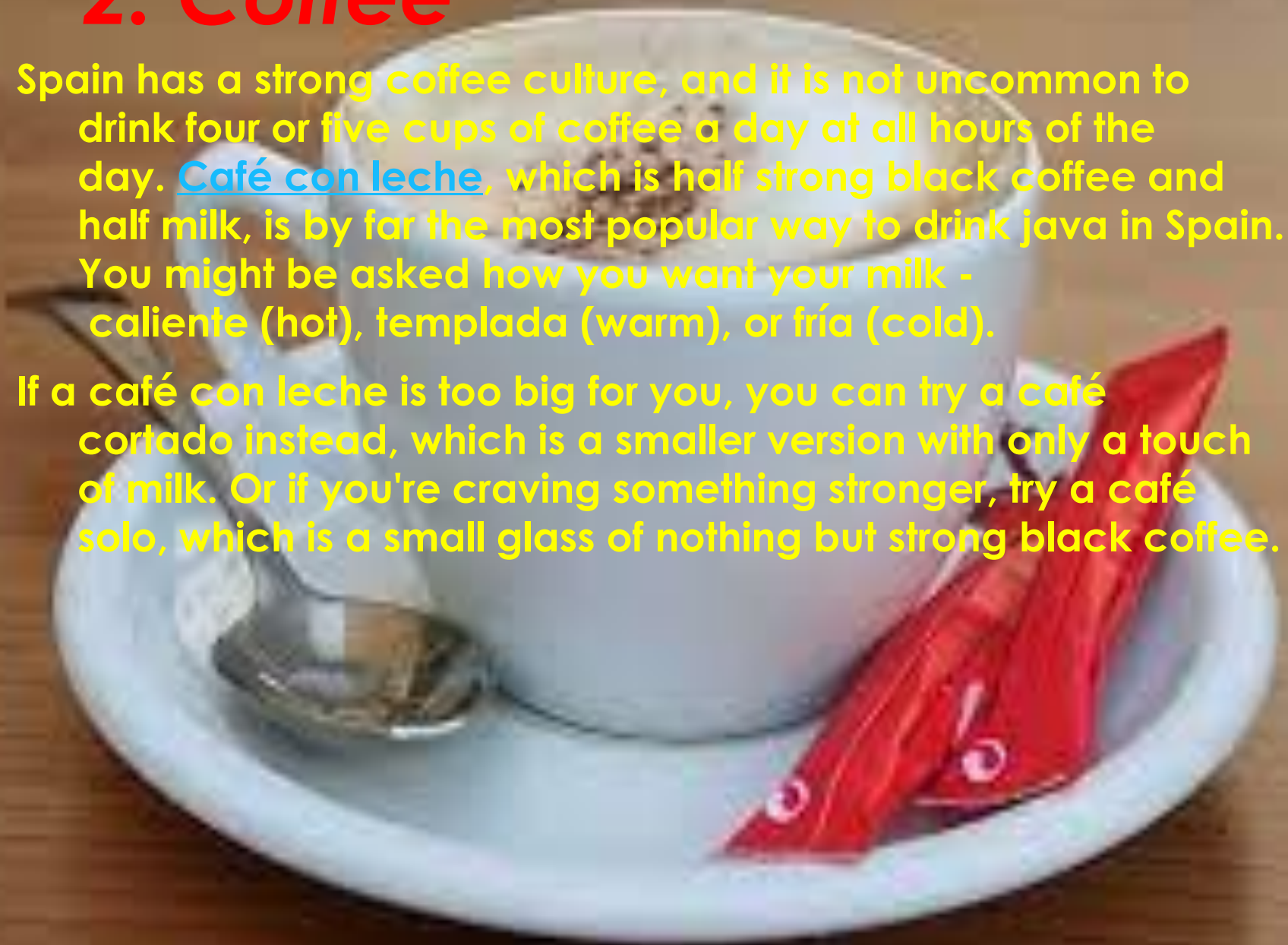
In Spain, people greet each other and say goodbye with a kiss on each cheek. Don't be mistaken - these aren't wet, sloppy kisses! In fact, these aren't really proper kisses at all. People usually touch their right cheeks together and make a kissing sound, then repeat the process on the left side.

People don't do this every morning when they come into work, but if you meet a friend for drinks or you are introduced to someone new, the double cheek kiss is given to say hello and goodbye. Women are always greeted this way, but two men shake hands with each other unless they are relatives.

2. Coffee

Spain has a strong coffee culture, and it is not uncommon to drink four or five cups of coffee a day at all hours of the day. [Café con leche](#), which is half strong black coffee and half milk, is by far the most popular way to drink java in Spain. You might be asked how you want your milk - caliente (hot), templada (warm), or fría (cold).

If a café con leche is too big for you, you can try a café cortado instead, which is a smaller version with only a touch of milk. Or if you're craving something stronger, try a café solo, which is a small glass of nothing but strong black coffee.



3. Spanish food culture

Food's such an important part of Spanish culture.

Some famous, traditional dishes found all over Spain include *tortillas de patatas* (potato omelette), *albóndigas* (meat balls), *croquettes calamares*, *gazpacho* (cold soup), *bocadillos* (sandwiches), *Paella* – which is mostly a lunch dish, and *churros*.



A chalkboard menu titled "TAPAS DE SEVILLA" listing various tapas dishes and their prices. The menu is written in white chalk on a dark background. The dishes are listed on the left, and the prices are on the right, separated by dotted lines. The prices are in Euros (€).

TAPAS DE SEVILLA	
- cocktail de marisco	3,50
- pastel de berenjena	3,10
- lagrimita de pollo	3,00
- ensalada mixta	5,10
- adobo sevillano	2,50
- hueva de bacalao	3,00
- boquerones	2,50
- tortillita de camarones	3,00

4. Siesta

The Spanish *siesta* is one of the country's most well-known traditions. Nowadays, few Spaniards are able to commute all the way home to have a midday nap, but many shops still close at lunchtime - usually from 2 pm to 4 or 5 pm.

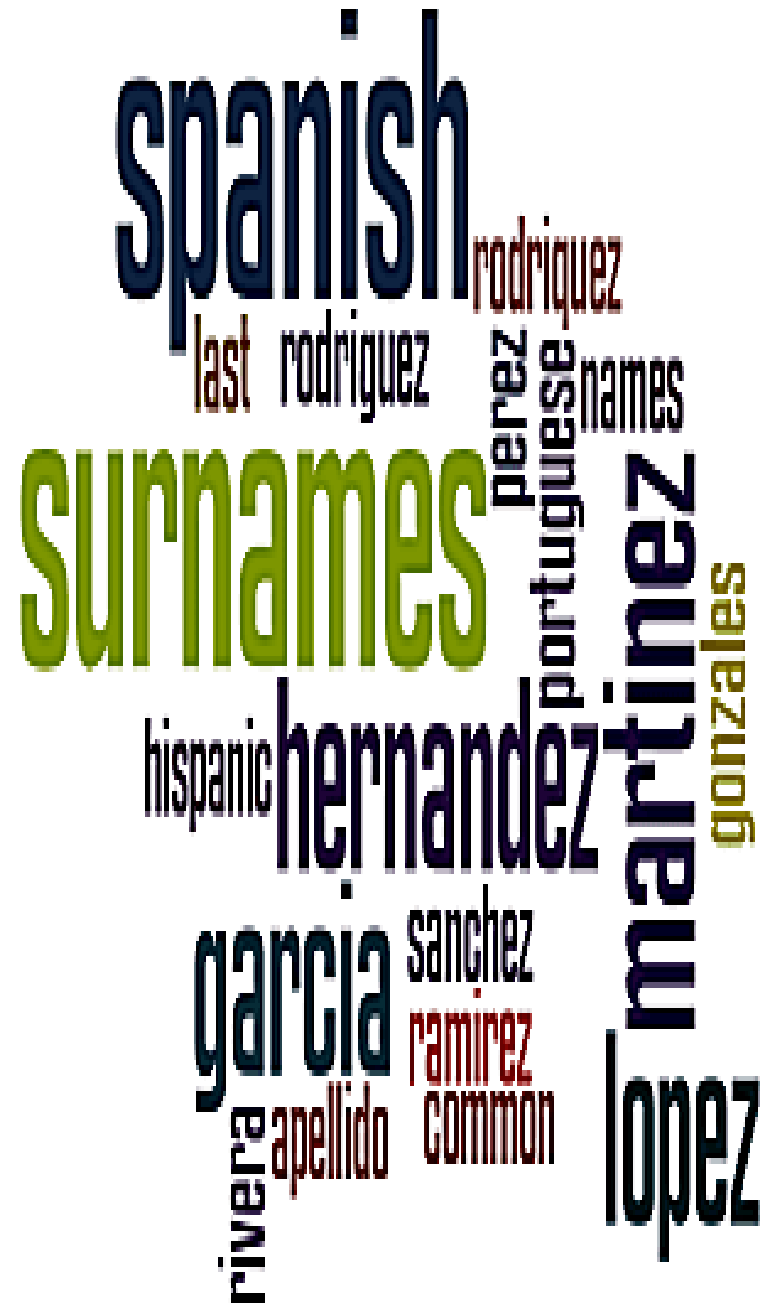


5. *Unlucky day*

In Spain, Tuesday the 13th, not Friday the 13th, is considered to be an unlucky day. A common saying warns against doing anything important on this day: *ni te cases, ni te embarques* (don't get married or embark [on a voyage by ship or plane]).

6. Surnames

Everyone has two surnames, which they take from their father (first surname) and their mother (second surname). A woman keeps her surnames when she gets married instead of adopting the surnames of her husband.



Traditional spanish celebrations

A background image showing a bullfighting scene. A matador in a traditional red and gold suit is on the left, holding a red cape. A large black bull is on the right. The background is a red and white striped wall.

Holy Week or Semana Santa is a huge religious festival before Easter.

La Tomatina festival in Valencia is a day in August when people gather in the town square to throw squashed tomatoes.

The Fallas festival of Valencia is a 5 day festival in March.

El Día de Reyes Magos is a Christmas tradition in Spain.

Bullfighting is steadily being phased out or has been phased out in Barcelona and the Catalan region. You may still see it in Pamplona.

Traditions in Greece

Customs and traditions in Greece are an important aspect of the culture. There are either of a religious character or coming from paganism.

The Greeks are very superstitious and believe a lot in religion.




Traditional festivities

Name day celebration

Most Greeks are named after a religious saint. A very important tradition is that everyone who has a name coming from a saint celebrated by the church celebrates his name on a given day of the year. On the "name day" of someone, his friends and family visit him without invitation and offer wishes and small presents. The hostess of the house offers pastries, and sweets to the guests. In Greece, name days are more important than birthdays.



Coffee in Greece - Try it !!!

A photograph of a table set with various coffee drinks and a traditional Greek coffee pot (dallah) against a backdrop of a blue sea and mountains. The table is light blue. On the left is a clear glass of water. Next to it is a tall, colorful paper cup with a black straw. In the center is a white ceramic cup on a saucer with a small cookie. To the right is a traditional copper dallah with a long handle, and next to it is another white ceramic cup on a saucer. A tall, clear glass with a black straw is also present. The background shows a calm blue sea and distant green mountains under a clear sky.

Coffee breaks can be really long in Greece, and meeting over a cup of coffee is also the perfect excuse to meet, talk, relax, play board games, or even read the news.

Freddo Cappuccino



Coffee choices vary a great deal—from warm to cold—and range from the popular frappé to the more traditional Greek coffee, as well as even more fashionable options, many of them with Italian-flavored names such as freddo cappuccino and freddo espresso

frappe



FOODS TO EAT IN GREECE

- Because of Greece's geography and history, some Greek foods seem very similar to the foods of the Middle East, Italy, France, and other countries along the Mediterranean Sea. most traditional Greek dishes are meant to be shared with loved ones.



FOODS TO EAT IN GREECE

- ⦿ **Horiatiki Salata** (, also known as “Greek salad”

The main components are tomatoes, cucumbers, red onions, green peppers, Kalamata olives, and a big slab of feta cheese, the undisputed king of Greek cheeses.

- ⦿ **Fasolada** is another of the Greek national dishes. “Fasolada” translates simply to “bean soup with white beans tomatoes, onions, and carrots, extra-virgin olive oil, oregano or bay
- ⦿ **Gyros** is a popular Greek street food, and it's one of the best things to grab as a fast-food lunch. It's no wonder that the delicious Gyro is officially recognized as a national food of Greece.

Traditional festivities

Carnival

In Greece, the Carnival is called "Apokries".

Everyone is costumed and parties take place in the streets and bars, throwing colored confetti to each other. The Carnival is believed to come from paganism, and more precisely from the old festivities worshipping Dionysus, the god of wine and feast.

Clean Monday or Lent Monday is the first day of the Lent (Saracosti), and the end of Apokries, during which families go for a picnic in the countryside and fly kites.



Traditional festivities

A close-up photograph of two hands holding two bright red, smooth Easter eggs. The hands are positioned one above the other, with the top hand holding an egg slightly higher than the bottom hand. The background is a plain, light color.

Easter

Easter is the most important celebration for the Greeks, even more than Christmas. On Good Thursday women dye eggs in red and bake buns

Traditional festivities

On Good Friday, the day of mourning, the Epitaphios, the tomb of Christ with its icon, decorated with flowers, is taken out of the church and carried around the village followed by a slow procession. After the procession returns to the church where the believers kiss the image of the Christ.





Traditional festivities

During the night of the Holy Saturday (Megalo Savato), everybody dresses well and goes to the church. Just before midnight, all of the lights of the church are turned off, while the priest lights a candle from the Eternal Flame, sings the psalm *Christos Anesti* (meaning Christ has risen) The bells ring continuously and people throw fireworks. The Good Saturday Dinner takes place after midnight and consists of mayritsa, tsoureki (Easter cake) and red eggs.

On Easter Sunday, the family roasts the lamb on the spit.



Superstitions



- ◉ The Evil Eye (Mati)

Some Greeks, especially in villages, believe that someone can catch the evil eye, or *matiasma*, from someone else's jealous compliment or envy.

To avoid the *matiasma* (evil eye) those who believe in it wear a charm, a little blue bead with an eye painted on it.

- ◉ Spiting

It is believed that spitting chases the devil and the misfortune away. That is when someone talks bad news (deaths, accidents, etc), the others slightly spit three times saying *flou, flou, flou*.

Superstitions

- The expression *Piase Kokkino*

When two people say the same thing together at the same time, they immediately say *piase kokkino* (touch red) one to another and both have to touch any red item they can find around them. This happens because Greeks believe that saying the same thing is an omen and that the two persons will get into a fight or an argument if they don't touch something red.