



WEC SPAIN

**SHORT TERM WORKER'S
WEC TREK MANUAL**

JANUARY 2008

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WELCOME TO SPAIN!

Welcome to Spain, on behalf of the WEC Spain Team. We are glad that you have chosen to take some time to come to Spain to serve the Lord and to possibly consider if this is where He may be leading you for future ministry. This little orientation manual seeks to help you out with some questions you may have and to endeavour to make your time here more profitable. We hope it will be of some help!

You may be staying with families, either missionaries or local people. We ask that you respect your hosts and offer to help with household tasks.

Here are some brief thoughts on what you might expect out of your time here in Spain.

CULTURE SHOCK

One of your biggest challenges here will be to deal with “culture shock”. You will have talked about this during your orientation time and now you get to see it in reality.

At first everything looks great, new and exciting, but eventually this will wear off (maybe it won't if you are only here for a short time). Culture shock is a depressing sense of feeling alienated and disoriented in an unfamiliar setting. You can't communicate; you can't understand what people say to you; you're not sure what to do in different situations; even the simplest tasks become baffling; you are always making mistakes; you feel too dependent on others; you feel of no use.

Then you start missing the familiar things, the ways you're used to. Negative feelings towards Spain creep in. “If it was only like it is in my country I wouldn't feel so bad.” “Why do they do things that way?” “Why are all the shops closed at midday (2-5 p.m.)? How stupid! Don't they want my business?” “Why do we have to wait such a long time to buy train tickets? Why aren't they more efficient?” “Can't I just do it my way? I'd get it done a lot quicker!”

Keep in mind this phrase and it will save you a lot of anguish: ***It's not wrong, it's just different.*** We get so used to the way our own culture does things that sometimes we have little tolerance for change. When you find yourself getting irritated at the way they do things in Spain, say this to yourself: ***It's not wrong, it's just different.*** There is no one culture which is 100% correct in the way it does everything. What may be completely logical in one culture is the opposite in another. Look out for the good things about Spain and Spaniards: their friendliness, willingness to chat, the beauty of the country, etc.

We get a lot of practice in WEC because we are an international and interdenominational mission. Here on the Spanish field we have a wide range of nationalities and church backgrounds, from Baptist to Brethren, from Anglican to Lutheran, from House Churches to Pentecostal and Charismatic. We are from the U.S.A., Australia, South Africa, Germany, New Zealand, Holland, Great Britain, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Canada and Spain. We're quite a mixture!

You may see things that surprise you here and wonder about the Christians. Most Christians here will drink wine and beer, so don't be shocked. Also, it is quite normal to go with friends to a bar, but the bars here are more like cafeterias in other countries. They also serve soft drinks, coffee, sandwiches, etc. In fact, if you go out for

breakfast you will most likely go to a bar for some *café con leche y un bollo* (coffee with milk and a sweet roll). Just keep in mind that there are unpleasant and sinful things about your own country and culture, however rosy it might seem to you in your homesickness.

As you go through some or all of those situations and emotions, you will have regular opportunity to debrief with someone as each short-termer will be assigned a mentor during their time here.

LIFE IN SPAIN

Okay, you say, enough of this. Tell me what it's like in Spain! After all, that's what I'm here for.

MADRID

We'll start with Madrid as this is the capital. Madrid is situated in the geographic centre of the Iberian peninsula at 660 metres (2,178 feet) above sea level. The city is situated at the foothills of "Sierra de Guadarrama" (maximum height 2,430 metres – 8,019 feet) on the bank of the river Manzanares.

Its climate is Mediterranean-Continental, influenced by its shape of hills and valleys. The annual average temperature is about 13°C (55°F). The most pleasant seasons are Spring and Autumn (Fall) with an average temperature of 18-20°C. It is a city without many rainy periods. It mainly rains in May and October. Winters are cold and dry with an average temperature of 5°C (41°F), and summers are quite dry and hot reaching over 40°C (over 104°F). The proximity of the mountains of Toledo to the south of Madrid and Guadalajara and Mirasierra to the north, make for one of the healthiest climates in Europe. This is in spite of its pollution problems, which of course most big cities have. The population of Madrid including its suburban area is approaching 5 million.

There are lots of things to see in Madrid (see later section) and you can get around easily on the Metro (subway) and the buses.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

a) Metro Madrid provides a complete network of 12 lines, which are colour-coded for easier use (see Metro map - `plano`). It is the easiest, fastest and cheapest way to travel around the city. It is open from 6:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. and trains run every 3-5 minutes during the day and every 10-15 minutes at night (from 11:00 pm onwards). The price of a single ticket (sencillo) is 1.00 euro, but you can buy a ten-ride ticket (bono-metro) for 6.40 euros. Both of them can be acquired at the metro counter and at vending machines in the stations. If you plan on using the metro/bus regularly you can also buy a monthly pass (`abono`). To obtain one, you need to go to the `estanco` with a copy of your passport and a passport-sized photo. The closest Metro station to the WEC local is **San Blas**, on **Line #7**, the orange line. If you are going somewhere by yourself at night, you should walk over to **Las Musas** metro as at times there are drug-addicts hanging around the San Blas metro station. If there is a group of people travelling together it is safe, but if you are by yourself go to Las Musas. (See section on "Safety")

b) Bus The EMT (Municipal Transport Company) covers the whole city with its 150 lines. Buses can be red or yellow, and bus stops are marked with signposts making

it possible to see the number and route of each bus. Ticket prices are the same as the metro and can be used on both. Apart from the metro, tickets can be purchased from *estancos* - tobacco shops, newspaper kiosks, and at an EMT bureau. The closest bus to the WEC local is the **#48**, which runs along Avenida Canillejas a Vicálvaro. Other local bus routes are **#140** and **#38**.

There are other buses (green in colour) which go to places outside of the Madrid city limits. These are more expensive, but a 10-ride *bono* can also be purchased.

c) Trains and Buses There are various private bus companies (Continental) which will take you to the towns outside of Madrid as well as the state run train system (RENFE). In Madrid there are three railway stations which connect Madrid with the rest of Spain and Europe.

Chamartin is the most modern and important, with destinations to the northeast and south of Spain and to most of the European capitals. You can get there by metro. The "Chamartin" metro stop is located on Line #10, the dark blue line. **Atocha** station is located in the south of Madrid, and trains go to the south and southeast of Spain as well as to Portugal. There is a metro stop for "Atocha RENFE" station on Line #1, the light blue line.

Príncipe Pío or **Norte** is the third train station located in the west of Madrid near the Royal Palace (Palacio Real). It is located on #10, the dark blue line and #6, the grey line. Trains destined for the north and northwest of Spain leave from here.

Estación Sur at Méndez Alvaro and **Avenida de America** are the main bus stations in Madrid.

CURRENCY AND CHANGE

On January 1st 2002 the official Spanish currency became the Euro, conforming to 11 other countries in the European Union. There are coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 centimos, 1 and 2 euros. The paper notes come in these amounts: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 euros. For current exchange rates with countries outside the European Monetary Union see lists in local banks and the bureau de change. You can change money in most banks. They are open from 9:00 to 14:00 daily and some open longer for one day a week, usually Thursday. During the summer they are closed on Saturdays. Another possibility is to change money at the Change Bureau which is open until late. Most of these are located in the centre of Madrid between Metro Callao and the Puerta del Sol. You can also exchange money at the airport and train stations.

Most places accept VISA, Mastercard and American Express credit cards (with identification necessary when making a purchase), and there are many bank automatic cash machines which allow for cash withdrawal of euros using your card.

A TYPICAL DAY IN SPAIN

You will quickly notice a difference in the daily schedule here in Spain, especially in the summer with the heat. Spaniards generally get up between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m., depending on what time they start work. They usually eat *desayuno* (breakfast) consisting of bread, cookies or cakes dipped in coffee or thick chocolate, if they eat breakfast at all. It is common to do this in a bar on the way to work or after working for an hour or two. Most workers take a break around 10:30 for a sandwich.

Generally speaking, the stores and businesses shut at 1:30 or 2 p.m. and people go home to eat with their families. *La Comida* (lunch) is the main meal of the day eaten

between 2 and 3 pm. The main midday meal may start with a light soup or a vegetable dish, followed by the meat course, which may consist of lentils, beans or chickpeas and perhaps meat. Bread (in the form of a long bread stick - `pan`), eaten with the main course and not with the soup, is always on the table. There will most likely be salad, seasoned with salt, vinegar and oil. The meal may conclude with a sweet course and almost always fresh fruit, followed by coffee. Wine and soda water are generally on the table in Christian as well as non-Christian homes. You will need to adapt yourself to this schedule of eating your main meal at midday (between 2 and 3 pm).

Next is *Siesta* time, more of a rest period than a sleep, which is necessary with the summer heat. With everything closed and the sun scorching down, hardly anyone is seen on the streets until after 6 pm or later. Most of the stores open again at 5:00 pm or even later during the summer.

After taking a siesta most people will then have a snack called *merienda*. This could merely be coffee (coffee on ice in the summer) and some cookies, a sandwich or a yoghurt. It's a long time between *comida* and *cena*, especially when you have ministry commitments in the evening.

Things really start happening again outdoors after the sun goes down (which in July and August is after 9 pm). People are out on the streets strolling around, talking, sitting in the parks and at sidewalk cafés until 1 or 2 am. You'll be surprised to see children playing outside at 11 pm or midnight! Remember, ***it's not wrong, it's just different***. After all, they have to do something to survive the heat.

Supper (*cena*) is a light meal, during the winter after 8 pm, and in the summer as late as midnight. For Spaniards it may include soup (gazpacho, a cold summer soup), cheese, eggs, cold salads, sliced cold meats or sausage, and bread.

SHOPPING TIMETABLE

Most shops are open from Monday to Friday, from 10 am until 1:30 or 2:00 pm and then from 4:30 or 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. On Saturdays they are generally only open in the morning, and on Sundays most stores are closed except for small bread shops and bars. There are a few major department stores and shopping malls open in the Madrid area.

When you go to the small shops to purchase things, you may see a jumble of people instead of a line (queue). Spaniards do not quietly wait their turn at the end of an orderly line of people. If you want to be served in turn (and not cause any problems), you must boldly ask (or shout!) “¿Quién es la última?”, which means “who is the last one?”. When someone answers, keep your eye on him or her and make sure you are served after that person. At meat, poultry, fish or vegetable stalls in larger supermarkets, this initially unnerving experience is made easier by simply taking a number from a little machine and waiting your turn. In the checkout line ladies sometimes leave their baskets or trolleys to save their place while they go off and pick up some more goods. Be polite and let them do so, even if you think it's unfair.

If you shop at the bigger supermarkets you can usually get by without Spanish. You can always point at fruits, vegetables, lunch meats and cheese and say “*un kilo*” or “*medio kilo*”. (Americans remember we're on the metric system here, one kilo equals 2.2 pounds. So if you want a pound of something, you're safe to ask for half a kilo, “*medio kilo*”).

STAMPS AND LETTERS

You can purchase stamps (*sellos*) at the *estancos* (tobacco shops.) or at the post office (*correos*). If you can't ask for that amount, show them the letter and say "*Necesito un sello*". If the letter is more bulky than usual they need to weigh it in order to give you the correct stamp. They are helpful enough. Of course, you can always take them to the *correo* post office. The nearest post office to the local is in the "Centro Commercial Las Rosas", which is a short bus ride or 30 minute walk away. It is open all day including Saturdays. The main Post Office of Madrid is located at Plaza Cibeles (Metro: Banco de España) and is open all day. All other post offices are only open in the mornings. You can post letters in the yellow mailboxes.

TELEPHONE

The Spanish phone system is expensive for overseas calls. It is best if you use a phone calling card which you can purchase from locutorios. If you don't have one and really need to call home, call collect. The public phones take coins or cards, which can be purchased in the tobacco shops. This could be a way to call home if you don't have a phone credit card because you would be able to control how much you spend.

SAFETY

Is Madrid a safe city? Generally speaking, yes. We don't have a problem with violent crimes with guns, etc. There are some problems and especially being foreigners we must be careful. Pickpockets and purse snatchers are the big problems here. Some rules to follow: Don't take your passport with you unless you need it to change money. You should make a photocopy of it and carry that with you for identification, which the law requires you to have, but don't carry the actual passport around town. There's a copy machine at most *Papelerías* (newspaper shops).

Men, keep your money in your front pocket. Women, always hang on to your handbags or purses, especially when sitting in restaurants, bars, buses and on the metro. Don't set any bags, purses, or camera bags on the pavement, even for a minute to take a photo.

When you are downtown, people may instantly recognise you as a foreigner and will be watching for you to set something down or to distract you. Tourists are the main objects of the pickpockets and purse snatchers. With a bit of wisdom you won't have any problems at all, but please take precautions especially if you are alone. The main thing is to try and be aware of who is around you and what they are doing. It was mentioned earlier that drug-addicts hang out at the **San Blas** metro entrance at times. If you are in a group, there isn't a problem. If one or two girls are going out by themselves at night, it is better to walk over to **Las Musas**.

You may be asked for money by beggars in the metro stations when you go downtown. Some people might give a hard luck story about being out of work with a wife and 10 children to support. (If you can't understand Spanish you won't know what he's talking about anyway!) It is very difficult to discern who is telling the truth and who really is in need. Many drug addicts use the money to buy drugs and spend the whole day begging. If you feel you must give, don't give a lot, a few céntimos at the most. If you open your wallet for some coins be careful they don't grab it and run. Most Spaniards keep a few loose coins in their pockets for this purpose.

If you go to the Retiro Park, people will also be begging for money there. Many homeless people live in the park, so it's not a good idea to "try and get away from it all" by going deeper into the park by yourself with a book or to write letters. If you are

sitting by yourself and someone comes towards you, be ready to get up and leave in a hurry—just act as nonchalant as you can and you'll be okay. The most important thing is to look like you know what you're doing and where you're going, even if you don't. Madrid is a safe city as long as you take these precautions. You just need to be alert and use some common sense.

THE WEC SPAIN TEAM

WEC in Spain is known as **Evangelización Mundial para Cristo (EMC)**. We are registered as an "entidad religiosa" with the Spanish Ministry of Justice. The headquarters of WEC in Spain is at Avenida de Canillejas a Vicálvaro 131, Local 6, 28022 Madrid, (telephone: 9324 0123; Fax: 9324 1455; e-mail: info@wecspain.org). The current WEC Team in Spain consists of 33 missionaries working in 4 areas of Spain; Madrid, Talavera de la Reina, Gijón and The Basque Country. The current Field Leaders are Steve and Coralie Preston who live in the South of Madrid. The closest train station to them is 'San Cristóbal Industrial' - which is the 3rd stop from Atocha on the Aranjuez line. The journey takes 12 minutes.

Our team vision is '*For God's glory, seeing teams working together, making disciples, forming churches*'. We are currently involved in church support, training and preparation for church planting in unreached areas.

In addition to these ministries, which are focused on the 'normal' strata of society, WEC International is involved in the Rainbows of Hope ministry which collaborates with national churches in reaching out to underprivileged and immigrant children. Rainbows of Hope is based in Torrejón de Ardoz, Madrid.

WHAT YOU'LL BE INVOLVED IN

You will find that the Spanish people are not overly receptive. They are not lining up to hear the Gospel because they just don't think they have a spiritual need and you may not see anyone come to Christ while you are here. You will have an opportunity to plant seeds, to talk with Spaniards, to challenge what they think (or challenge them to think) about God and about salvation. You will also see how deep the roots of Catholicism go into the Spaniards' minds and how suspicious they are of anything that is not Catholic, even though they may never set foot in the Catholic Church. You will see for yourselves that our work here is not easy, and we hope that you will have a burden to pray for Spain when you return home.

IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING!!

As the WEC Spain Team, we once again give you a big welcome. We are excited, together with you, at what the Lord is going to do in and through you. Remember that we are in a spiritual battle together. The enemy is not as happy as we are that you've come, and he will try to discourage you in many ways. Stand firm, knowing that greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Hopefully this orientation manual should help to answer basic questions. Please feel free to ask as many questions as you'd like to about Spain, WEC, missions, Catholicism in Spain, etc. We are here to help you have a beneficial time.

There is some more helpful information attached on places of interest in your time off in Madrid. You need some time to relax as well!

Here are a few phone numbers and addresses in case you need some help

Tiny Kuppen
 C/Butrón 27-7-C
 28022 MADRID
 Tel: 91 313 0236
 Mobile: 699767336

Steve and Coralie Preston
 C/Principal 17-4^a
 28021 MADRID
 Tel: 91 723 2280
 Mobile: 60 5557532

Sjaak and Mija Regoord
 C/Hierba Buena 3-Bajo A
 28850 Torrejón de Ardoz
 Tel: 91 6780958
 Mobile: 657564781

Because we believe this, we are here:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.”

John 3:16-17

*“How, then, shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘**HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!**’”*

Romans 10:14-15

MADRID, THE CITY: HOW TO ENJOY IT

Many of us never get to know this city, other than the one tiny corner of it where we live. That's a shame because it's a fascinating place, and knowing it helps us to understand the people here better, which in turn helps us relate to them and to share the Gospel. So it's time well spent. A few ideas to try:

ART: The Atocha area has three great art museums, among the world's best, which you shouldn't miss: The Prado, Thyssen-Bornemisza, and Reina Sophia. Don't try to do them all in a day or you'll die young! Don't drag little children around them either: these are mainly for adults.

The primitive religious paintings in the first two are outstanding, while the Velázquez, Goya, and El Greco in the Prado will draw you again and again. The Thyssen houses the world's largest private collection. Its Impressionist paintings are a personal favourite. The Reina Sofía concentrates on modern art. Nearby is the impressive Retiro Park, or the Royal Botanic Gardens for a quiet rest after all that art.

THE AREA: You can also spend a couple of hours walking around the area between Atocha and Sol, the city's official centre. Walk up the Calle de Santa Isabel, for example, which has interesting views to the left down historic streets, past a massive convent and several old palaces, an old market and the Cinema Dore, a specialist cinema with a classic exterior.

A few streets away to the north is another historic area where you can visit Lope de Vega's house (Calle de Lope de Vega), see many old houses, palaces and convents, plus most of Spain's national Government buildings which are often housed in old palaces.

Continue west from these toward Sol, down the Calle de Alcalá, to see another good art museum at no. 13: The Royal Academy of San Fernando. In Sol itself, look for the plaque on the Town Hall's front wall in memory of the great uprising of 2nd May against Napoleon, more than 150 years ago. You may have already seen Goya's famous paintings of these events in the Prado.

ABOUT THE CITY: There are two official museums that help you learn about the city's history: the Municipal Museum, with its Baroque façade, tries to do so mainly through art (it has some interesting drawings from the Civil War) and by exhibiting objects from earlier eras found in Madrid. A few remains of pre-historic animals (displayed in the basement) are interesting.

The nearby Romantic Museum (check in advance that it's open) is worth a visit. Sorry, the museum's name refers to a historical period only! The nearby old, narrow streets may be interesting to wander around if you have some spare time to get a sense of local life, although you'll probably conclude that even though it's near Gran Vía, this is a low-income area with many difficulties for those who live in it (Metro: Tribunal).

The **Royal Palace** (Metro: Opera) is worth seeing, making you more aware of the historical divide between rich and poor here. The gardens below are delightful. Within walking distance is the Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida, the little church with Goya's tomb and a charming series of frescoes painted by Goya in his prime.

Walking directly south from the Palace's frontage will bring you into another area of old Madrid. The historic church of San Francisco el Grande is not worth visiting, but it's on the site of a church traditionally founded by Frances of Assisi. Nearby is the famous old church of San Andrés with an amazing Baroque interior. The nearby streets date from Moorish Madrid, before the Christian conquest. You'll recognise it all from what you've learned in the Municipal Museums.

A main difficulty with Spanish churches in general is that the many idols prevent us from enjoying their art and architecture. However, do go into some of them so you know what they're like. Pray for their priests and for those who worship there.

The tourist office in the **Plaza Mayor** (the square where heretics used to be burned) should be able to give you details of a walking tour through the "Madrid of the Austrias", the city in its prime. You may be able to catch glimpses up an old stairway in the Plaza, a few are still left, or into some of the interiors, virtually unchanged for several hundred years.

The old streets below the Plaza will give you some idea of what Madrid was like until quite recently. You can still walk into the courtyards of a couple of the city's traditional posadas (inns) hundreds of years old, in streets such as the Cava Baja, although they're now lived in by families.

Madrid has many museums, some small and intimate, based mainly on one man's collection of art and objects (Museo Sorolla, Cerralbo, or Lázaro Goldiano), while others house major collections. Take time to see a selection of them, choosing days when entry is free or reduced, using the tourist office maps of Madrid to help you plan. Take sandwiches and bottled water or eat lunch in some old café where you are the only visitors.

One learns most by planning to visit one or two museums in the same area, then just wandering around the nearby streets, taking in the life of the city and the atmosphere. It's a great way to spend your days off. You can pray for the people and the places where you walk.

OUTSIDE MADRID: On hot days, cool off in the Royal Gardens of Aranjuez, or the picnic spots in the forests above the great Monastery of El Escorial. Historic cities such as Toledo, Avila and Segovia are within easy reach by car, train or bus and are fascinating spots for anyone wanting to learn more about Spain's people, history and art. Take a trip to Alcalá de Henares or Chinchón, all within easy distance of Madrid by coach or train.