Spanish phrases for travel

A practical phrasebook for getting around, checking in, eating out, and paying. Spanish phrases and audio links come from Vocabcord's Spanish 500 collection.

How to use this sheet

Try each situation before reading the answer key. For pronunciation, open the online phrase list at vocabcord.com/blog/spanish-travel; the online phrases have playable audio.

When you need a little help

Spanish	English	Usage note
No entiendo.	I don't understand.	
¿Habla inglés?	Do you speak English?	Usted form, used for polite or formal address.
Perdone, mi español no es muy bueno.	Sorry, my Spanish isn't very good.	
Más despacio, por favor.	Slower, please.	
¿Puede repetir, por favor?	Could you say that again, please?	
¿Me lo puede escribir?	Can you write that down for me?	
¿Cómo?	Sorry?	The polite way to ask someone to repeat; ¿qué? on its own sounds curt.
Lo siento, no le he entendido.	Sorry, I didn't catch that.	

Finding your way and taking transport

Spanish	English	Usage note
¿Dónde está la parada del autobús?	Where's the bus stop?	
¿Cómo llego al centro?	How do I get to the city centre?	
¿Está lejos?	Is it far?	
¿Se puede ir andando?	Can I walk there?	Andando is Spain; caminando is what you hear across Latin America.
Todo recto.	Straight ahead.	Spain says recto; Latin America says derecho, which a Spaniard hears as the right-hand side.
A la derecha.	On the right.	
A la izquierda.	On the left.	
¿Este autobús va al aeropuerto?	Does this bus go to the airport?	
¿Dónde tengo que bajarme?	Where do I get off?	
Un billete sencillo, por favor.	A single ticket, please.	Billete is Spain; boleto or pasaje in Latin America.
¿Cuánto cuesta el billete?	How much is the ticket?	
¿A qué hora sale el próximo tren?	What time is the next train?	
¿De qué andén sale?	Which platform does it leave from?	Vía on the departures board means the same thing.
¿Dónde puedo coger un taxi?	Where can I get a taxi?	Coger is everyday Spain. In Mexico, Argentina and much of Latin America it is obscene; say tomar there.
Al aeropuerto, por favor.	To the airport, please.	
Me he perdido.	I'm lost.	
¿Puede enseñármelo en el mapa?	Can you show me on the map?	

Checking in and sorting out your room

Spanish	English	Usage note
Tengo una reserva a nombre de Kowalski.	I have a booking under Kowalski.	
¿Tiene habitaciones libres?	Do you have any rooms?	
Una habitación doble para dos noches.	A double room for two nights.	
¿Cuánto cuesta la noche?	How much is it per night?	
¿El desayuno está incluido?	Is breakfast included?	
¿A qué hora hay que dejar la habitación?	What time is check-out?	
¿Puedo dejar la maleta aquí?	Can I leave my suitcase here?	
¿Me da otra llave?	Could I have another key?	
No funciona el aire acondicionado.	The air conditioning isn't working.	
No hay agua caliente.	There's no hot water.	
¿Puedo pagar ahora?	Can I pay now?	
¿Me puede pedir un taxi?	Could you call me a taxi?	

Ordering food and asking for the bill

Spanish	English	Usage note
Una mesa para dos, por favor.	A table for two, please.	
La carta, por favor.	The menu, please.	Carta asks for the list of dishes. Menú can mean a set meal or the menu itself; menú del día is the set daily offering.
¿Qué me recomienda?	What do you recommend?	
¿Qué lleva este plato?	What's in this dish?	
Soy vegetariano.	I'm vegetarian.	Vegetariana if you are a woman.
Agua con gas, por favor.	Sparkling water, please.	
Un café con leche, por favor.	A white coffee, please.	
¿Me trae la cuenta, por favor?	Could I have the bill, please?	A polite way to ask for the bill when you are ready to pay.
¿Podemos pagar por separado?	Can we pay separately?	
¿Dónde está el baño?	Where's the toilet?	Servicios or aseos on signs in Spain; baño is understood everywhere.
¿Se puede pagar con tarjeta?	Do you take cards?	
Para llevar, por favor.	To take away, please.	
¿Tienen algo sin carne?	Do you have anything without meat?	
¿Me pone un vaso de agua del grifo?	Could I get a glass of tap water?	Free by law in Spain; poner is the bar verb for serving anything.

Paying and getting what you need

Spanish	English	Usage note
¿Cuánto cuesta?	How much is it?	
¿Cuánto es?	How much is that?	For the total at the till; ¿cuánto cuesta? for a single item you are holding.
¿Con tarjeta o en efectivo?	Card or cash?	
Con tarjeta, por favor.	Card, please.	
¿Puedo pagar con el móvil?	Can I pay with my phone?	
Solo aceptamos efectivo.	Cash only.	
Medio kilo de esto.	Half a kilo of this.	
¿Dónde hay un cajero?	Where's a cash machine?	
El cajero no me ha devuelto la tarjeta.	The cash machine kept my card.	

Practice from memory

Say your answer in Spanish before checking the answer key. More than one phrase may work in a real conversation.

1. You did not catch what someone said. Ask them to repeat it, please.

2. Ask how to get to the city centre.

3. Ask whether this bus goes to the airport.

4. Tell the hotel receptionist you have a booking under Kowalski.

5. Ask whether breakfast is included.

6. Ask for the bill politely.

7. Ask whether you can pay by card.

8. Ask where the nearest cash machine is.

Answer key

1. ¿Puede repetir, por favor? (Could you say that again, please?)

2. ¿Cómo llego al centro? (How do I get to the city centre?)

3. ¿Este autobús va al aeropuerto? (Does this bus go to the airport?)

4. Tengo una reserva a nombre de Kowalski. (I have a booking under Kowalski.)

5. ¿El desayuno está incluido? (Is breakfast included?)

6. ¿Me trae la cuenta, por favor? (Could I have the bill, please?)

7. ¿Se puede pagar con tarjeta? (Do you take cards?)

8. ¿Dónde hay un cajero? (Where's a cash machine?)

Regional language note

The collection leans toward European Spanish and notes variants where useful. For example, billete is usual in Spain; boleto or pasaje is common in parts of Latin America. Coger is ordinary for transport in Spain; tomar is a safer choice in much of Latin America.

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