[Template:For](/wiki/Template:For" \o "Template:For) [Template:Original research](/wiki/Template:Original_research) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Use British English](/wiki/Template:Use_British_English) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement)

**Catalonia** ([Template:Lang-ca](/wiki/Template:Lang-ca), [Template:Lang-oc](/wiki/Template:Lang-oc), [Template:Lang-es](/wiki/Template:Lang-es))[Template:EfnTemplate:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) is an [autonomous community](/wiki/Autonomous_communities_of_Spain) of the [Kingdom of Spain](/wiki/Spain), located on the northeastern extremity of the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula). It is [politically](/wiki/Spanish_politics) designated as a [*nationality*](/wiki/Nationalities_and_regions_of_Spain) by its [Statute of Autonomy](/wiki/Statute_of_Autonomy_of_Catalonia).[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn)[[1]](#cite_note-1) Catalonia consists of four [provinces](/wiki/Provinces_of_Spain): [Barcelona](/wiki/Province_of_Barcelona), [Girona](/wiki/Province_of_Girona), [Lleida](/wiki/Province_of_Lleida), and [Tarragona](/wiki/Province_of_Tarragona). The capital and largest city is [Barcelona](/wiki/Barcelona), the [second-largest city](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_Spain) in Spain.

Catalonia comprises most of the territory of the former [Principality of Catalonia](/wiki/Principality_of_Catalonia), with the remainder now part of France's [Pyrénées-Orientales](/wiki/Pyrénées-Orientales). It is bordered by [France](/wiki/France) and [Andorra](/wiki/Andorra) to the north, the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) to the east, and the Spanish autonomous communities of [Aragon](/wiki/Aragon) to the west and [Valencia](/wiki/Valencian_Community) to the south. The official languages are [Catalan](/wiki/Catalan_language), [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language), and the [Aranese dialect](/wiki/Aranese_dialect) of [Occitan](/wiki/Occitan_language).[[2]](#cite_note-2) In the late [8th century](/wiki/8th_century), the counties of the [March of Gothia](/wiki/Septimania) and the [Hispanic March](/wiki/Marca_Hispanica) were established by [Francia](/wiki/Francia) as feudatory vassals across and near the eastern [Pyrenees](/wiki/Pyrenees) as a defensive barrier against Muslim invasions. The eastern counties of these marches were united under the rule of the Frankish vassal the [Count of Barcelona](/wiki/County_of_Barcelona), and were later called Catalonia. In 1137, Catalonia and the [Kingdom of Aragon](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Aragon) were united by marriage under the [Crown of Aragon](/wiki/Crown_of_Aragon), and the Principality of Catalonia became the base for the Crown of Aragon's naval power and expansionism in the Mediterranean. In the later Middle Ages [Catalan literature](/wiki/Catalan_literature) flourished. Between 1469 and 1516, the King of Aragon and the Queen of [Castile](/wiki/Crown_of_Castile) married and ruled their kingdoms together, retaining all their distinct institutions, [Courts](/wiki/Catalan_Courts) ([parliament](/wiki/Parliament)), and [constitutions](/wiki/Catalan_constitutions). During the Franco-Spanish War (1635–59), [Catalonia revolted](/wiki/Catalan_Revolt) (1640–52) against a large and burdensome presence of the Spanish army in its territory, becoming a [republic](/wiki/Catalan_Republic) under French protection. Within a brief period France took full control of Catalonia until it was largely reconquered by the Spanish army. Under the terms of the [Treaty of the Pyrenees](/wiki/Treaty_of_the_Pyrenees) in 1659, which ended the wider Franco-Spanish War, the [Spanish Crown](/wiki/Spanish_Crown) ceded the northern parts of Catalonia, mostly incorporated in the county of [Roussillon](/wiki/Roussillon), to France. During the [War of the Spanish Succession](/wiki/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession) (1701–14), the Crown of Aragon sided against the [Bourbon](/wiki/House_of_Bourbon) [Philip V of Spain](/wiki/Philip_V_of_Spain), whose subsequent victory led to the [abolition](/wiki/Nueva_Planta_decrees) of non-Castilian institutions in all of Spain and the replacement of Latin and other languages (such as Catalan) with Spanish in legal documents.

In the nineteenth century, Catalonia was severely affected by the [Napoleonic](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars) and [Carlist Wars](/wiki/Carlist_Wars). In the second half of the century Catalonia experienced industrialisation. As wealth from the industrial expansion grew, Catalonia saw a [cultural renaissance](/wiki/Renaixença) coupled with incipient [nationalism](/wiki/Catalan_nationalism) while several workers movements appeared. In 1914, the four Catalan provinces formed a [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Catalonia), and with the return of democracy during the [Second Spanish Republic](/wiki/Second_Spanish_Republic) (1931–39), the [Generalitat of Catalonia](/wiki/Generalitat_of_Catalonia) was restored as an autonomous government. After the [Spanish Civil War](/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War), the [Francoist](/wiki/Francoist_Spain) dictatorship enacted repressive measures, abolishing Catalan institutions and banning the official use of the Catalan language again. From the late 1950s through to the early 1970s, Catalonia saw [rapid economic growth](/wiki/Spanish_miracle), drawing many workers from across Spain, making Barcelona one of Europe's largest industrial metropolitan areas and turning Catalonia into a major tourist destination. Since the [Spanish transition to democracy](/wiki/Spanish_transition_to_democracy) (1975–82), Catalonia has gained some political and cultural autonomy and is now one of the most economically dynamic communities of Spain. [Template:TOC limit](/wiki/Template:TOC_limit)

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## Etymology and pronunciation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The name *Catalunya* (Catalonia)—spelled *Cathalonia*, or *Cathalaunia*, in [Mediaeval Latin](/wiki/Mediaeval_Latin)—began to be used for the homeland of the [Catalans](/wiki/Catalans) (*Cathalanenses*) in the late 11th century and was probably used before as a territorial reference to the group of counties that comprised part of the [March of Gothia](/wiki/Septimania) and [March of Hispania](/wiki/Marca_Hispanica) under the control of the [Count of Barcelona](/wiki/Count_of_Barcelona) and his relatives.[[3]](#cite_note-3) The origin of the name *Catalunya* is subject to diverse interpretations because of a lack of evidence.

One theory suggests that *Catalunya* derives from the name *Gothia* (or *Gauthia*) *Launia* ("Land of the [Goths](/wiki/Goths)"), since the origins of the Catalan counts, lords and people were found in the [March of Gothia](/wiki/Septimania), known as *Gothia*, whence *Gothland* > *Gothlandia* > *Gothalania* > *Cathalaunia* > *Catalonia* theoretically derived.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) During the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages), [Byzantine](/wiki/Byzantine) chroniclers claimed that *Catalania* derives from the local medley of [Goths](/wiki/Goths) with [Alans](/wiki/Alans), initially constituting a *Goth-Alania*.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Other less plausible theories suggest:

* *Catalunya* derives from the term "land of castles", having evolved from the term *castlà* or *castlan*, the medieval term for [the ruler](/wiki/Castellan) of a [castle](/wiki/Castle).[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[7]](#cite_note-7) This theory therefore suggests that the names *Catalunya* and [*Castile*](/wiki/Castile_(historical_region)) have a common root.
* The source is of Celtic origin, meaning "chiefs of battle". Although the area is not known to have been occupied by [Celts](/wiki/Celts), a Celtic culture was present within the interior of [Iberia](/wiki/Iberia) in pre-Roman times.[[8]](#cite_note-8)\*The [Lacetani](/wiki/Lacetani), an [Iberian](/wiki/Iberians) tribe that lived in the area and whose name, due to the [Roman](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) influence, could have evolved by [metathesis](/wiki/Metathesis_(linguistics)) to *Katelans* and then *Catalans*.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10)

In English, *Catalonia* is pronounced [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en). The native name, *Catalunya*, is pronounced [Template:IPA-ca](/wiki/Template:IPA-ca) in [Central Catalan](/wiki/Central_Catalan), the most widely spoken variety whose pronunciation is considered standard.[[11]](#cite_note-11) The [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language) name is *Cataluña* ([Template:IPA-es](/wiki/Template:IPA-es)), and the [Aranese](/wiki/Aranese_language) name is *Catalonha* ([Template:IPA-oc](/wiki/Template:IPA-oc)).

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Tarragona.Pont_del_diable_aqüeducte.jpg) [Roman aqueduct](/wiki/Roman_aqueduct) in [Tarragona](/wiki/Tarragona). [thumb|The Medieval church of](/wiki/File:Sant_Climent_de_Taüll.jpg) [Sant Climent](/wiki/Sant_Climent_de_Taüll) in [Taüll](/wiki/Taüll), located at the foothills of the [Pyrenees](/wiki/Pyrenees).

### Pre-Roman and Roman period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

In pre-Roman times, the area that is now called Catalonia in the north-east of [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula), like the rest of the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) side of the peninsula, was populated by the [Iberians](/wiki/Iberians). Coastal trading colonies were established by the [ancient Greeks](/wiki/Ancient_Greece), who settled around the [Roses](/wiki/Roses,_Girona) area. Both Greeks and [Carthaginians](/wiki/Carthage) briefly ruled the territory in the course of the [Second Punic War](/wiki/Second_Punic_War) and traded with [the surrounding Iberian population](/wiki/Pre-Roman_peoples_of_the_Iberian_Peninsula).

After the Carthaginian defeat by the [Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic), the north-east of Iberia became the first to come under Roman rule and became part of [Hispania](/wiki/Hispania), the westernmost part of the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire). [Tarraco](/wiki/Tarraco_(Tarragona)) (modern [Tarragona](/wiki/Tarragona)) was one of the most important Roman cities in Hispania and the capital of the [province](/wiki/Roman_province) of [Tarraconensis](/wiki/Tarraconensis).

### Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

After the fall of the [Western Roman Empire](/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire), the area was conquered by the [Visigoths](/wiki/Visigoths) and was ruled as part of the [Visigothic Kingdom](/wiki/Visigothic_Kingdom) for almost two and a half centuries. In 718, it came under [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) control and became part of [Al-Andalus](/wiki/Al-Andalus), a province of the [Umayyad Caliphate](/wiki/Umayyad_Caliphate). From the conquest of [Roussillon](/wiki/Roussillon) in 760, to the conquest of [Barcelona](/wiki/Barcelona) in 801, the [Frankish empire](/wiki/Frankish_empire) took control of the area between [Septimania](/wiki/Septimania) and the [Llobregat](/wiki/Llobregat) river from the Muslims and created heavily militarised, self-governing [counties](/wiki/County). These counties formed part of the [Gothic](/wiki/Septimania) and [Hispanic](/wiki/Spanish_March) marches, a [buffer zone](/wiki/Buffer_zone) in the south of the Frankish empire in the former province of Septimania and in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula, to act as a defensive barrier for the Frankish empire against further Muslim invasions from Al-Andalus.

These counties came under the rule of the [counts of Barcelona](/wiki/Count_of_Barcelona), who were Frankish [vassals](/wiki/Vassal) nominated by the emperor of the Franks, to whom they were [feudatories](/wiki/Feudatory) (801–987). The earliest known use of the name "[Catalonia](/wiki/Principality_of_Catalonia)" for these counties dates to 1117. During the 9th century, the Count [Wifred the Hairy](/wiki/Wifred_the_Hairy) made its title hereditary and founded the dynasty of the [House of Barcelona](/wiki/House_of_Barcelona), which ruled Catalonia until 1410.

[300px||left|thumb|The ancient counties of Rosselló and Cerdanya on a present-day political map.](/wiki/File:Rosselló_i_Cerdanya_sobre_mapa_actual.png) In 987 [Borrell II](/wiki/Borrell_II), Count of Barcelona, did not recognise [Hugh Capet](/wiki/Hugh_Capet) as his king, making his successors (from Ramon Borell I to Ramon Berenguer IV) de facto independent of the Carolingian crown. At the start of eleventh century the Catalan Counties suffer an important process of feudalisation, partially controlled by the [Peace and Truce Assemblies](/wiki/Peace_and_Truce_of_God) and by the power and negotiations of the Counts of Barcelona like [Ramon Berenguer I](/wiki/Ramon_Berenguer_I). In 1137, [Ramon Berenguer IV, Count of Barcelona](/wiki/Ramon_Berenguer_IV,_Count_of_Barcelona) decided to accept [King Ramiro II of Aragon's](/wiki/Ramiro_II_of_Aragon) proposal to marry Queen [Petronila](/wiki/Petronilla_of_Aragon), establishing the dynastic union of the County of Barcelona with the [Kingdom of Aragon](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Aragon), joining the [Crown of Aragon](/wiki/Crown_of_Aragon) and making the Catalan counties that were united under the county of Barcelona into a [principality](/wiki/Principality) of the Aragonese Crown.

In 1258, by means of the [Treaty of Corbeil](/wiki/Treaty_of_Corbeil_(1258)), the [Count of Barcelona](/wiki/Count_of_Barcelona) and King of Aragon, of Mallorca and of Valencia, [James I of Aragon](/wiki/James_I_of_Aragon) renounced his family rights and dominions in [Occitania](/wiki/Occitania) and recognised the king of France as heir of the [Carolingian Dynasty](/wiki/Carolingian_Empire). The king of France formally relinquished his nominal feudal lordship over all the Catalan counties, except the [County of Foix](/wiki/County_of_Foix), despite the opposition of the King of Aragon and Count of Barcelona. This treaty transformed the principality's [*de facto*](/wiki/De_facto) union with Aragon into a [*de jure*](/wiki/De_jure) one and was the origin of the definitive separation between both geographical areas Catalonia and [Languedoc](/wiki/Languedoc).

[thumb|A 15th-century miniature of the](/wiki/File:Cortes_Catalanas.jpg) [Catalan Courts](/wiki/Court_(royal)). As a coastal territory, Catalonia became the base of the Aragonese Crown's maritime forces, which spread the power of the Aragonese Crown in the Mediterranean, and made Barcelona into a powerful and wealthy city. In the period of 1164–1410, new territories, the [Kingdom of Valencia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Valencia), the [Kingdom of Majorca](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Majorca), [Sardinia](/wiki/Sardinia), the [Kingdom of Sicily](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Sicily), [Corsica](/wiki/Corsica), and (briefly) the [Duchy of Athens](/wiki/Duchy_of_Athens), were incorporated into the dynastic domains of the [House of Aragon](/wiki/House_of_Aragon).

At the same time, the Principality of Catalonia developed a complex institutional and political system based in the concept of a pact between the [estates of the realm](/wiki/Estates_of_the_realm) and the king. Laws had to be approved in the [General Court of Catalonia](/wiki/Catalan_Courts), one of the first parliamentary bodies of Europe that banned the royal power to create legislation unilaterally (since 1283).[[12]](#cite_note-12) The Courts were composed of the three Estates, were presided over by the king of Aragon, and approved the [constitutions](/wiki/Catalan_constitutions), which created a compilation of rights for the citizenship of the Principality. In order to collect general taxes, the Courts of 1359 established a permanent representative of deputies position, called the Deputation of the General (and later usually known as [Generalitat](/wiki/Generalitat_of_Catalonia)), wich gained political power over the next centuries.

The domains of the Aragonese Crown were severely affected by the [Black Death](/wiki/Black_Death) pandemic and by later outbreaks of the plague. Between 1347 and 1497 Catalonia lost 37 percent of its population.[[13]](#cite_note-13) In 1410, King [Martin I](/wiki/Martin_of_Aragon) died without surviving descendants. Under the [Compromise of Caspe](/wiki/Compromise_of_Caspe), Ferdinand from the Castilian [House of Trastámara](/wiki/House_of_Trastámara) received the Crown of Aragon as [Ferdinand I of Aragon](/wiki/Ferdinand_I_of_Aragon).

### Modern Era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|left|The Principality of Catalonia (1608).](/wiki/File:Cataloniae_principatus_1608.jpg) The grandson of Ferdinand I, [Ferdinand II of Aragon](/wiki/Ferdinand_II_of_Aragon) and Queen [Isabella I of Castile](/wiki/Isabella_I_of_Castile) were married in 1469, later taking the title the [Catholic Monarchs](/wiki/Catholic_Monarchs); subsequently, this event was seen by historiographers as the dawn of a unified Spain. At that point, though united by marriage, the Crowns of [Castile](/wiki/Crown_of_Castile) and [Aragon](/wiki/Crown_of_Aragon) maintained distinct territories, each kept its own traditional institutions, parliaments and laws. Castile commissioned expeditions to the [Americas](/wiki/Americas) and benefited from the riches acquired in the [Spanish colonisation of the Americas](/wiki/Spanish_colonization_of_the_Americas), but in time, also carried the main burden of military expenses of the united Spanish kingdoms. After Isabella's death, Ferdinand II personally ruled both kingdoms.

By virtue of descent from his maternal grandparents, Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile, in 1516 [Charles I of Spain](/wiki/Charles_I_of_Spain) became the first king to rule Castile and Aragon simultaneously by his own right. Following the death of his paternal ([House of Habsburg](/wiki/House_of_Habsburg)) grandfather, [Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor](/wiki/Maximilian_I,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), he was also elected [Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor](/wiki/Charles_V,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), in 1519.[[14]](#cite_note-14) The [Catalan Revolt](/wiki/Catalan_Revolt) (1640–52) saw Catalonia rebel (briefly as a republic) with French help against the Spanish Crown for overstepping Catalonia's traditional rights during the [Thirty Years' War](/wiki/Thirty_Years'_War). Most of Catalonia was reconquered by the Spanish monarchy but Catalan rights were recognised. [Roussillon](/wiki/Roussillon) was lost to France by the [Peace of the Pyrenees](/wiki/Peace_of_the_Pyrenees) (1659).

[thumb|260px|*Corpus de Sang* (7 June of 1640), one of the main events of the Catalan Revolt.](/wiki/File:Els_segadors.jpg) The most significant conflict concerning the governing monarchy was the [War of the Spanish Succession](/wiki/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession), which began when the childless [Charles II of Spain](/wiki/Charles_II_of_Spain), the last Spanish Habsburg, died without an heir in 1700. Charles II had chosen [Philip V of Spain](/wiki/Philip_V_of_Spain) from the French [House of Bourbon](/wiki/House_of_Bourbon). Catalonia, like other territories that formed the Crown of Aragon, rose up in support of the Austrian Habsburg pretender [Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor](/wiki/Charles_VI,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) in his claim for the Spanish throne as Charles III of Spain. The fight between the houses of Bourbon and Habsburg for the Spanish Crown split Spain and Europe.

The [fall of Barcelona](/wiki/Siege_of_Barcelona_(1713–14)) on 11 September 1714 to the [Bourbon](/wiki/House_of_Bourbon) king [Philip V](/wiki/Philip_V_of_Spain) militarily ended the Habsburg claim to the Spanish Crown, which became legal fact in the [Treaty of Utrecht](/wiki/Treaty_of_Utrecht). Philip felt that he had been betrayed by the Catalan Courts, as it had initially sworn its loyal to him when he had presided over it in 1701. In retaliation for the betrayal, the first Bourbon king introduced the [Nueva Planta decrees](/wiki/Nueva_Planta_decrees) that incorporated the territories of the Crown of Aragon, including Catalonia, as provinces under the Crown of Castile in 1716, terminating their separate institutions, laws and rights, within a united kingdom of Spain. During the second half of 18th century Catalonia started a successful process of [proto-industrialization](/wiki/Proto-industrialization).

### Industrialisation and beyond[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

At the beginning of the nineteenth century Catalonia was severely affected by the [Napoleonic](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars) and [Carlist Wars](/wiki/Carlist_Wars). In the latter half of the 19th century, it became an industrial center. To this day it remains one of the most industrialised parts of Spain. During those years, Barcelona was the focus of important revolutionary uprisings, while the Catalan language saw a cultural renaissance (the [*Renaixença*](/wiki/Renaixença)).

[300px|thumb|](/wiki/File:Semana_Trágica_(1909).jpg)[Tragic Week](/wiki/Tragic_Week_(Catalonia)), 1909. In the first third of the 20th century, Catalonia gained and lost varying degrees of autonomy several times. In 1914, the four Catalan provinces were authorized to create a Commonwealth (*Mancomunitat*), without any legislative power or specific autonomy, that was disbanded in 1925 by the dictatorship of [Primo de Rivera](/wiki/Miguel_Primo_de_Rivera). After the fall of the dictator and a brief proclamation of the Catalan Republic, it received its [first Statute of Autonomy](/wiki/Statute_of_Autonomy_of_Catalonia_of_1932) during the [Second Spanish Republic](/wiki/Second_Spanish_Republic) (1931), establishing an autonomous body, the Generalitat of Catalonia, that included a parliament, a government and a [court of appeal](/wiki/Tribunal_de_Cassació), and the left-wing independentist leader [Francesc Macià](/wiki/Francesc_Macià) was elected its first President. This period was marked by political unrest and the preeminence of [Revolutionary Catalonia](/wiki/Revolutionary_Catalonia) during the [Spanish Civil War](/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War) (1936–39). The Anarchists had been active throughout the early 20th century, achieving the first [eight-hour workday](/wiki/Eight-hour_day) in Europe in 1919.

[300px|thumb|Proclamation of the Republic in Barcelona on 14 April 1931.](/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_102-11543,_Madrid,_Ausrufung_der_Zweiten_Spanischen_Republik.jpg) The defeat of the [Second Spanish Republic](/wiki/Second_Spanish_Republic) in the [Spanish Civil War](/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War) brought fascist [Francisco Franco](/wiki/Francisco_Franco) to power as dictator. His regime imposed linguistic, political and cultural restrictions across Spain. In Catalonia, any kind of public activities associated with [Catalan nationalism](/wiki/Catalan_nationalism), [republicanism](/wiki/Republicanism), [anarchism](/wiki/Anarchism), [socialism](/wiki/Socialism), [liberalism](/wiki/Liberalism), [democracy](/wiki/Democracy) or [communism](/wiki/Communism), including the publication of books on those subjects or simply discussion of them in open meetings, was banned. Franco's regime banned the use of Catalan in government-run institutions and during public events, and also the Catalan institutions of self-government were abolished. The pro-Republic of Spain President of Catalonia, [Lluís Companys](/wiki/Lluís_Companys), was taken to Spain from his exile in the German-occupied France, and was tortured and executed in the [Montjuïc Castle](/wiki/Montjuïc_Castle) of Barcelona for the crime of 'military rebellion'.[[15]](#cite_note-15) During later stages of [Francoist Spain](/wiki/Francoist_Spain), certain folkloric and religious celebrations in Catalan resumed and were tolerated. Use of Catalan in the [mass media](/wiki/Mass_media) had been forbidden, but was permitted from the early 1950s[[16]](#cite_note-16) in the theatre. Publishing in Catalan continued throughout the dictatorship.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The years after the war were extremely hard. Catalonia, like many other parts of Spain, had been devastated by the war. Recovery from the war damage was slow and made more difficult by the international trade embargo against Franco's dictatorial regime. By the late 1950s the country had recovered its pre-war economic levels and in the 1960s was the second fastest growing economy in the world in what became known as the [Spanish miracle](/wiki/Spanish_miracle). During this period there was a spectacular growth of industry and tourism in Catalonia that drew large numbers of workers to the region from across Spain and made the area around Barcelona into one of Europe's largest industrial metropolitan areas.

After Franco's death in 1975, Catalonia voted for the adoption of a democratic Spanish Constitution in 1978, in which Catalonia recovered political and cultural autonomy, restoring the Generalitat from the exile in 1977 and adopting a [new Statute of Autonomy](/wiki/Statute_of_Autonomy_of_Catalonia_of_1979) in 1979. Today, Catalonia is one of the most economically dynamic communities of Spain. The Catalan capital and largest city, Barcelona, is a major international cultural centre and a major tourist destination. In 1992, [Barcelona hosted](/wiki/1992_Summer_Olympics) the [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/Summer_Olympic_Games).

### 21st Century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

On 9 November 2015, Catalan lawmakers approved a plan for secession from Spain by 2017 with a vote 72 to 63. The plan was suspended by the [Spanish Constitutional Court](/wiki/Constitutional_Court_of_Spain).[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|left|270px|](/wiki/File:Pedraforca2.jpg)[Pedraforca](/wiki/Pedraforca).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

The climate of Catalonia is diverse. The populated areas lying by the coast in Tarragona, Barcelona and Girona provinces feature a [Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Csa*). The inland part (including the Lleida province and the inner part of Barcelona province) show a mostly [continental Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Continental_Mediterranean_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Csa*). The Pyrenean peaks have a [mountain](/wiki/Highland_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *H*) or even [Alpine climate](/wiki/Alpine_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *ET*) at the highest summits, while the valleys have a maritime or [oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) sub-type ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Cfb*).

In the Mediterranean area, summers are dry and hot with sea breezes, and the maximum temperature is around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Winter is cool or slightly cold depending on the location. It snows frequently in the Pyrenees, and it occasionally snows at lower altitudes, even by the coastline. Spring and autumn are typically the rainiest seasons, except for the Pyrenean valleys, where summer is typically stormy.

The inland part of Catalonia is hotter and drier in summer. Temperature may reach [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), some days even [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Nights are cooler there than at the coast, with the temperature of around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Fog is not uncommon in valleys and plains; it can be especially persistent, with [freezing drizzle](/wiki/Freezing_drizzle) episodes and subzero temperatures during winter (record from −36 °C), along the [Segre](/wiki/Segre_River) and in other river valleys.

[thumb|Geomorphologic map of Catalonia:](/wiki/File:Catmorfo.png) [Template:Unbulleted list](/wiki/Template:Unbulleted_list)

### Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Catalonia has a marked geographical diversity, if we consider the relatively small size of its territory. The [geography](/wiki/Geography) is conditioned by the Mediterranean coast, with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of coastline, and large relief units of the [Pyrenees](/wiki/Pyrenees) to the north. The Catalan territory is divided into three main geomorphological units:[[20]](#cite_note-20)

* The Pyrenees: mountainous formation that connects the Iberian Peninsula with the [European continental territory](/wiki/Continental_Europe), and located in the north of Catalonia;
* The Catalan Coastal mountain ranges or the Catalan Mediterranean System: an alternating delevacions and planes parallel to the Mediterranean coast;
* The [Catalan Central Depression](/wiki/Catalan_Central_Depression): structural unit which forms the eastern sector of the Valley of the Ebre.

The Catalan Pyrenees represent almost half in length of the Pyrenees, as it extends more than 200 km. Traditionally differentiated the Axial Pyrenees (the main part) and the [Pre-Pyrenees](/wiki/Pre-Pyrenees) (southern from the Axial) which are mountainous formations parallel to the main mountain ranges but with lower altitudes, less steep and a different geological formation. The highest mountain of Catalonia, located north of the comarca of Pallars Sobirà is the Pica d'Estats (3,143 m), followed by the Puigpedrós (2,914 m). On the Pre-Pyrenees is located the [Serra del Cadí](/wiki/Serra_del_Cadí), that separtes the valley of [Cerdanya](/wiki/Cerdanya) from the Central Depression.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Pla_de_Bages.JPG)[Pla de Bages](/wiki/Pla_de_Bages) (part of the Central Depression) and the mountain of Montserrat. Central Catalan Depression is a plain located between the Pyrenees and Pre-Coastal Mountains. The Depression lands are located between 200 and 600 meters. The plains and the water that descend from the Pyrenees have made it fertile territory for [agriculture](/wiki/Agriculture) and there are built numerous irrigation canals. Other important plain is the [Empordà](/wiki/Empordà), located on the northeast.

The Catalan Mediterranean system is based on two (more or less) parallel ranges to the coast, in a Northwest direction towards the Southwest. These two mountain ranges are the Coastal and the Pre-Coastal. The Coastal Range is minor extent and it has lower altitudes, while the Pre-Coastal is larger in both length and height. The most relevant mountains of this area are [Montserrat](/wiki/Montserrat_(mountain)) and the [Montseny](/wiki/Montseny). Within the ranges are a series of plains, the entities over which form the Coastal and the Pre-Coastal Depressions. The Coastal Depression is located on the East of the Coastal Range towards the coast. The Pre-Coastal, on the other hand, is located in the interior, between the two mountain ranges, and constitutes the basis of the plains of [Vallès](/wiki/Vallès) and [Penedès](/wiki/Penedès).

### Flora and fauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Catalonia is a showcase of European [landscapes](/wiki/Landscapes) on a small scale. Just over 30,000 square kilometers hosting a variety of substrates, soils, climates, directions, altitudes and distances to the sea. The set is of great ecological diversity and a remarkable wealth of landscapes, habitats and species.

The fauna of Catalonia consists broadly of a combination of a minority of animals endemic from thid land and the majority of animals which are also present in other places. Much of Catalonia enjoys a Mediterranean climate (except mountain areas), which makes many of the animals that live there are adapted to Mediterranean ecosystems. Of mammals, are plentiful [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar), red fox, as well as the [roe deer](/wiki/Roe_deer) and, in the Pyrenees, there is located the [Pyrenean chamois](/wiki/Pyrenean_chamois). Other species such as the [bear](/wiki/Bear) have been reintroduides recently.

### Hydrography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Estanybanyoles.jpg)[Lake of Banyoles](/wiki/Lake_of_Banyoles). [thumb|](/wiki/File:Tossa_de_Mar_Buchten_1.JPG)[Tossa de Mar](/wiki/Tossa_de_Mar), Costa Brava. Most of Catalonia belongs to the [Mediterranean Basin](/wiki/Mediterranean_Basin). The Catalan hydrographic network consists of two important basins, the one of the [Ebro](/wiki/Ebre) and the one that comprises the internal basins of Catalonia (respectively covering 46.84% and 51.43% of the territory), all of them flow to the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean). Furthermore, there is the [Garona](/wiki/Garona) river basin that flows to the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean), but it only covers 1.73% of the Catalan territory.

The hydrographic network can be divided in two sectors, an occidental slope or Ebre river slope and one oriental slope constituted by minor rivers that flow to the Mediterranean along the Catalan coast. The first slope provides an average of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year, while the second only provides an average of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)/year. The difference is due to the big contribution of the Ebre river, from which the [Segre](/wiki/Segre_(river)) is an important tributary. Moreover, in Catalonia there is a relative wealth of groundwaters, although there is inequality between [*comarques*](/wiki/Comarca), given the complex geological structure of the territory.[[21]](#cite_note-21) In the Pyrenees there are many small lakes, remnants of the [ice age](/wiki/Quaternary_glaciation). The biggest is the one of [Banyoles](/wiki/Banyoles).

The Catalan coast is almost rectilinear, with a length of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and few [landforms](/wiki/Landform)—the most relevant are the [Cap de Creus](/wiki/Cap_de_Creus) and the [Gulf of Roses](/wiki/Gulf_of_Roses) to the north and the [Ebro Delta](/wiki/Ebro_Delta) to the south. The [Catalan Coastal Range](/wiki/Catalan_Coastal_Range) hugs the coastline, and it is split into two segments, one between [L'Estartit](/wiki/L'Estartit) and the town of [Blanes](/wiki/Blanes) (the [Costa Brava](/wiki/Costa_Brava)), and the other at the south, at the Costes del [Garraf](/wiki/Garraf).[[22]](#cite_note-22) The principal [rivers in Catalonia](/wiki/List_of_rivers_of_Catalonia) are the [Ter](/wiki/Ter_(river)), [Llobregat](/wiki/Llobregat), and the [Ebre](/wiki/Ebre), all of which run into the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean).

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Politics of Catalonia](/wiki/Template:Politics_of_Catalonia) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [150px|thumb|left|Lluís Companys, President of Catalonia between 1933 and 1940, executed by Franco's regime.](/wiki/File:Lluis_Companys.jpg) [Template:Triple image](/wiki/Template:Triple_image)

After Franco's death in 1975 and the adoption of a democratic constitution in Spain in 1978, Catalonia recovered and extended the powers that it had gained in the [Statute of Autonomy](/wiki/Statute_of_Autonomy) of 1932[[23]](#cite_note-23) but lost with the fall of the [Second Spanish Republic](/wiki/Second_Spanish_Republic)[[24]](#cite_note-24) at the end of the [Spanish Civil War](/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War) in 1939.

This autonomous community has gradually achieved more [autonomy](/wiki/Self-governance) since the approval of the [Spanish Constitution of 1978](/wiki/Spanish_Constitution_of_1978). The Generalitat holds exclusive jurisdiction in culture, environment, communications, transportation, commerce, public safety and local government, and shares jurisdiction with the Spanish government in education, health and justice.[[25]](#cite_note-25) In all, the current system grants Catalonia with "more self-government than almost any other corner in Europe".[[26]](#cite_note-26) The support for Catalan nationalism ranges from a demand for further autonomy and the [federalisation](/wiki/Federalisation) of Spain to the desire for independence from the rest of Spain, expressed by Catalan independentists.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The first survey following the Constitutional Court ruling that cut back elements of the 2006 Statute of Autonomy, published by [*La Vanguardia*](/wiki/La_Vanguardia) on 18 July 2010, found that 46% of the voters would support independence in a referendum.[[28]](#cite_note-28) In February of the same year, a poll by the [Open University of Catalonia](/wiki/Open_University_of_Catalonia) gave more or less the same results.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Catalonia's rating is tied for worst with between 1 and 5 other autonomous communities of Spain, depending on the rating agency.[[62]](#cite_note-62) In the context of the [2008 financial crisis](/wiki/2008_financial_crisis), Catalonia was expected to suffer a [recession](/wiki/Recession) amounting to almost a 2% contraction of its regional GDP in 2009.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Catalonia's debt in 2012 was the highest of all Spain's autonomous communities,[[64]](#cite_note-64) reaching €13,476 million, i.e. 38% of the total debt of the 17 autonomous communities,[[65]](#cite_note-65) but in recent years its economy recovered a positive evolution and the GDP grew a 3.3% in 2015.[[66]](#cite_note-66)