

Spain



Global rank

#4

Rank in Europe

#3

GRWI score

0.796

Spain: overview

Ranking & scores by dimension



Rank

Cybersecurity	Economic and social conditions
#10	#10
COVID-19 response and handling	Digital and physical infrastructure
#11	#19

Score

Cybersecurity	Economic and social conditions
0.892	0.757
COVID-19 response and handling	Digital and physical infrastructure
0.755	0.754



Overview

Spain ranks 4th in GRWI and is in the world's Top 10 ranked countries for cybersecurity (10th). The same is said for its economic and social conditions ranking (also 10th), which is encouraging. Spain does slightly fall behind when it comes to digital and physical infrastructure (19th), which is logical when observing that Internet quality is also ranked fairly low (19th), plus internet affordability (currently 33rd). The numbers suggest that Spain has not been the most proactive in progressing its digital infrastructure to accommodate all types of workers (including remote workers) post-pandemic. It's by no means the cheapest destination for remote workers to flock to either, but it's important to note that Spain has a lower cost of living than Germany or Denmark, while the quality of life will be high and a bit kinder on the purse strings.

Cybersecurity

Spain ranks 10th in cybersecurity rankings, which is encouraging. Despite its shortcomings in digital infrastructure and internet quality, we can perhaps conclude that Spain's good cybersecurity ranking indicates attempts to create a better working environment for workers. While not a long-term infrastructure overhaul, moves are being made to modernize methods of protecting people currently operating in the country. We can see this as a positive step.

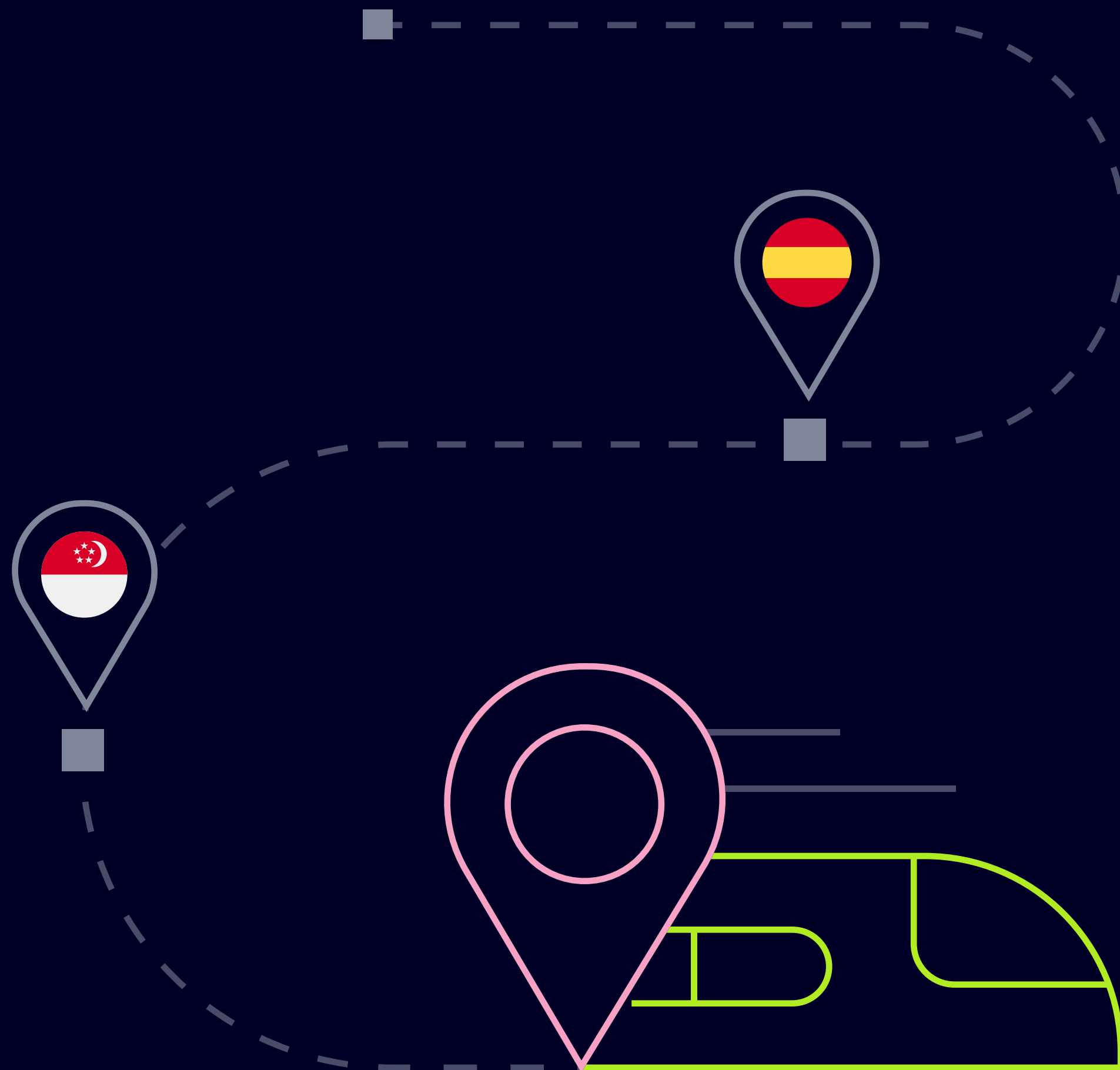
Comparison with neighboring countries

The trio of Spain, France, and Portugal

Spain ranks highest overall among its neighboring countries — Spain (4th), France (10th), and Portugal (18th). They all rank fairly well compared to one another in cybersecurity. Spain leads the way in 10th, with France (11th) and Portugal (15th) not too far behind. The cost of living does separate them, with France being significantly more expensive to work out of (ranked 54th overall) and Portugal offering a far cheaper option (ranked 31st) than even Spain (at 38th).

France, however, does outperform the others in digital and physical infrastructure. The same goes for internet quality, which suggests that France is better equipped for hosting an influx of remote workers. All three countries rank high in tourism attractiveness, so any of these destinations should be a great place to explore for remote workers. They should be easier to adapt and integrate into than other countries in Europe or the rest of the world. Economic and social conditions appear better in the Iberian peninsula, with Spain and Portugal offering significantly better rankings (10th and 3rd respectively) than France (ranked 34th).





Finding a non-neighboring country that has similar index results

More alike than one could have thought

Remote workers looking for other countries than Spain that could fill their destination criteria should seriously consider Singapore. There are few better countries when it comes to digital infrastructure (2nd), physical infrastructure (2nd), and internet quality (4th). Universal health coverage (3rd), safety (15th), and tourism attractiveness (7th) just about eclipse Spain's figures, but generally speaking, they are very consistent with one another.

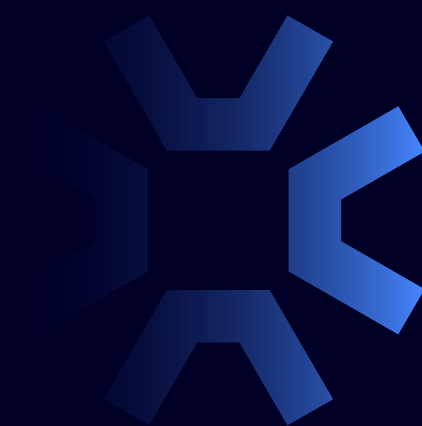
Again, the convenience of global location may be the deciding factor for remote workers choosing between the two. The cost of living is higher in Singapore. However, so is English proficiency. While both countries inevitably have statistics to improve, it's clear that Singapore is a digital-first country that offers the necessary amenities to make it a suitable location to support remote workers, perhaps more than Spain, despite its lower overall ranking.



Top remote destinations for Spanish workers

Overall

Spain offers a complete experience for remote workers. The cybersecurity rank is high, the cost of living — while not perfect — is still more affordable than some other countries at the top of the rankings, and economic and social ranks are among the most respectable on the list. Working remotely here would be a good experience, but it comes with some negatives to assess. Lower English proficiency and slow uptake of proper digital infrastructure could be crucial factors in some workers opting for other countries over Spain.



In terms of safety

If safety comes first

For its overall safety, Spain ranks fairly low (only 26th). Many countries are above Spain, but Croatia, Slovenia, and Poland, also rank higher overall, so these destinations could be a quality choice for anyone concerned about general safety.



In terms of tourism attractiveness

Best workcation destination

Spain is very highly ranked in tourism attractiveness (1st), so there aren't that many better places to take a workcation if that's your desired experience. Further afield countries offer perhaps a more worldly experience with similar amenities to explore further — the US, the United Kingdom, and Japan or Singapore in the Far East could also be attractive destinations for remote workers.



In terms of English proficiency

Not to get lost in translation

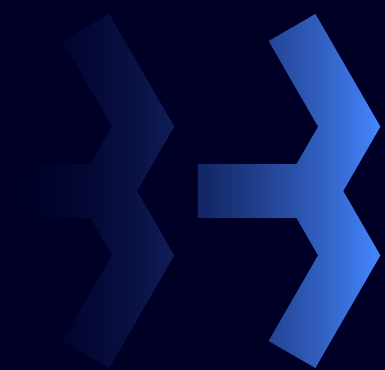
If remote workers would like to go somewhere outside Spain without being challenged by language barriers, all the English native speaking countries are worth looking into. Still, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Austria, Denmark, Singapore, Norway, Belgium, Portugal, Sweden, Finland, and Croatia could also be destinations to choose from — they all rank above Spain in English proficiency level. The USA, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Singapore are in the Top 10 overall index, so those countries are high on the decision list.



In terms of cost of living

Getting the most out of your money

Managing your money wisely is essential wherever you decide to travel. However, Spain offers a more affordable experience than its neighboring countries. There are many destinations to choose from, like Turkey or Morocco close by, or South America for example, but for a top European destination ranked highly in many other categories, Spain is well worth considering, whatever size your budget is.



In terms of Internet quality

Staying connected

The quality of the internet is significant for any remote worker. Unfortunately, Spain is not that great in that respect as it ranks only 19th. This is by no means a terrible ranking. Still, then most of the Top 10 countries in the overall index can offer a higher quality internet connection which may be a determining factor for many remote workers.

Analyzing Spain in terms of dimensions where it outperforms many other countries

Or is it better to stay at home?

Depending on personal priorities, there are solid options to choose from the Top 10 ranking or the entire list of countries. Overall, Spain has great and consistent rankings in the essential categories. Remote workers will be safe digitally and physically in an economically and socially sound environment. Life in Spain will be manageable on a budget if living fairly inexpensively. There are far more 'digitally-prepared' destinations if you solidify your online connection and remain able to undertake work without concern for unstable connections. For the attractiveness of the location, quality of life, and proximity to other countries, Spain is a very desirable option for remote workers.



Would you like to know more?

If you have any questions, please don't
hesitate to contact us at:

press@nordlayer.com

nordlayer.com/global-remote-work-index

