



GEORGIA - SPAIN COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

Atlanta is home to an Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Spain. Ignacio Luis Taboada has served as Honorary Vice Consul since 1995. Spain has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1836.

In October 2012, Elavon, a leading global payments provider based in Atlanta, announced a joint-venture relationship with Banco Santander in Spain. This relationship aims to enhance services and incorporate new technologies to better provide clients with industry-leading payment solutions.

Georgia and Spain both share the experiences of hosting the Summer Olympic Games. In 1992, the Olympic Games were held in Barcelona, and the following games were held in Atlanta in 1996.

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Europe since 1973. Since that time, the office has assisted hundreds of European firms locating in Georgia and Georgia companies exporting to Europe.

Academics

In the Fall semester of 2024, 204 Spanish students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers at least 91 study abroad programs to Spain. Emory University maintains a permanent teaching facility at the University of Salamanca. The Georgia Institute of Technology offers eight faculty-led study abroad programs and five exchange programs to Spain.

Arts, Culture and Tourism

In 2023, 11,700 Spanish visitors spent nearly \$14.5 million in the state of Georgia.

In 2016, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta featured an installation called “Tiovivo: Whimsical Sculptures” by Spanish designer Jaime Hayon. Hayon visited Atlanta to present his art at the exhibit opening.

In 2014, Spanish novelist Andrés Barba Muñoz presented his latest work of fiction at the AJC Decatur Book Festival, the largest independent book festival in the U.S.

Acclaimed Spanish puppetry company Periferia Teatro de Titeres performed at Atlanta’s Center for Puppetry Arts in 2014.

Atlanta Ballet Company Member Sergio Masero-Olarte is from Madrid, Spain.

Inspired by the Spanish novel, Atlanta Ballet Orchestra presented Don Quixote in February 2018.

In August 2022, the Museum of Arts and Sciences hosts an international full dome film festival featuring multimedia artwork and artistic experiences from 14 countries, including Spain.

The world-renowned Georgia Boy Choir toured Spain and Portugal in the summer of 2016.

In 2018, Diego el Cigala, Spain's best performing flamenco singer performed at the annual Savannah Music Festival.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2023, Georgia exports to Spain totaled \$529.3 million. Spain is the 24th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Spain include civilian aircraft, turbojets and turbopropellers, kraft paper and paperboard, chemical woodpulp of soda or sulfate, and compression-ignition combustion piston engines.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Spain: kraft paper and paperboard, chemical woodpulp of dissolving grades, and peanuts.

IMPORTS: In 2023, Georgia imports from Spain totaled \$1.16 billion. Spain ranks 23rd among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Spain to Georgia include motor vehicles for the transport of goods, biodiesel and mixtures, organo-sulfur compounds, sporting shotguns and rifles, and unglazed ceramic flags and paving.

Investment

There are at least **29 Georgia companies with operations in Spain**, including but not limited to:

- Acuity Brands
- Equifax
- Georgia-Pacific
- Invesco
- Manheim
- NCR
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Travelport
- UPS
- Westrock Company

There are at least **22 Spanish facilities operating in Georgia**. These Spanish-affiliated companies employ 635 Georgians.

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily non-stop flights from Atlanta to Madrid and Barcelona. In 2024, the airport expects 615 flights carrying 170,000 passengers between Georgia and Spain.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) has an established relationship with Spain. The Port of Savannah offers direct weekly container ship service to the ports of Algeciras, Barcelona, Tarragona, and Valencia.

About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) plans, manages and mobilizes state resources to attract new business investment to Georgia, drive the expansion of existing industry and small business, locate new markets for Georgia products, inspire tourists to visit Georgia and promote the state as a top destination for arts events and film, music and digital entertainment projects. For more information, visit www.georgia.org.

GDEcD's International Representatives in Europe

Ellen Kraft
Managing Director
ekraft@georgia.org

**Information valid as of September 2024*

