



Spain Research Guide

ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION UNKNOWN

FamilySearch Indexed Records: Try searching in the indexed records for the name of your ancestor if they were born before 1900. Limit your results to the country of Spain and the name of the province if known. If there are no results, you will have to find more information from home sources or by asking family members.

Contact Family Members: If you do not have even a minimal amount of information AND have no idea of where and when to look, you will need to contact family members who might have that information. This could be older aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION AND NAMES OF PARENTS, SPOUSE, OR CHILDREN ARE KNOWN

Civil Registration in Spain began in 1870 but these records have not been microfilmed or digitized. Some municipalities in Spain began keeping civil registration records before 1870. Catholic Church records are excellent sources for accurate information on names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths. Virtually every person who lived in Spain was recorded in a church record.

FamilySearch Indexed Records: Try searching first in indexed records as explained above.

FamilySearch Browsable Images: If there are no results from the previous search for your ancestor or any siblings, you will have to browse images for the locality. On the **Search** page, click the **Continental Europe** portion of the map then select **Spain** from the list of countries. Select a record collection from **Image-Only Historical Records** and browse the collection page-by-page for your ancestor.

FamilySearch Catalog: Not all records for Spain are online, be sure to check the catalog before giving up on finding records. Under **Search** on the home page select **Catalog**. Type **Spain** and click **Search**. A list of available records will appear. Your search can be localized by selecting **Places within Spain** at the top and then choosing the exact locality where your ancestor lived. If the records are filmed they will be located in FamilySearch collections called Spain, Province of [name of province], Municipal records.

RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Who to Search For? If you don't know the names of the parents, but you know the name of the spouse and/or the names of some of his children, begin with a marriage search (if they married in Spain and you know the place). Or begin with a search for the birth/baptism record for one of their children (if you have an approximate birthdate and place).

FamilySearch Wiki: The Wiki is a research guide and contains many links to help you

research better. On the FamilySearch home page, go to **Search** and select **Wiki**. Type **Spain** and press enter. This page has research tools, website links and general information.

FamilySearch Community: You can get immediate research and handwriting help from a community of researchers through the FamilySearch Communities. Go to <http://community.familysearch.org/> and click **Groups**. Search for **Latin American Genealogy Research** or **Investigación Genealógica** to find the group for Hispanic genealogical research. While the second group is in Spanish, the members will respond to posts written in English. On the group pages, you can post research questions and upload documents to get translation help.

FINDING A LOCALITY

It is important to insure that you have the correct province for the locality. You can find the name of the province several ways. Check Google.com, todopueblos.com, or diccionariomadoz.org. Of these websites the last two are online available in Spanish. Use Google Chrome to help you translate the page if needed. Enter the name of the locality and begin to search. You might also try entering the name of the locality in the FamilySearch Catalog. It must be spelled correctly.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Dokuklik.snae.org: This website has online parish indexes for the three provinces of the Basque Country – Álava, Guipúzcoa, and Vizcaya.

Pares.mcu.org: You can find addresses and information about the archives in Spain.

Province of Tarragona Church Records: <http://www.ahat.cat/Principal/FonsDocumentals>
These are images of church records from throughout the Diocese of Tarragona. The page is in Catalan and but there is an option for English. This website requires a FREE subscription.

Antzinako.org: This is a website for the Basque region of Spain with some extracted records. The record collections are not complete.

List of parishes by diocese or by province:

<http://www.conferenciaepiscopal.es/index.php/iglesia-catolica-en-espana/parroquias-de-cada-diocesis.html>.

Civil Registration offices, searchable by name of municipality, judicial district, or province:

http://www.mjusticia.gob.es/BUSCADIR/ServletControlador?apartado=buscadorGeneral&tipo=RC&lang=en_gb.

For other online resources please review the Wiki article **Hispanic Genealogy Resources Online**.

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