



## 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.

The Consulate General of Spain in Miami has jurisdiction over Georgia. Jaime Lacadena Higuera serves as Consul General.

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 2022, 189 Spanish students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected study abroad programs around the world, but these programs are expected to return to former participation levels soon. In previous years, the University System of Georgia (USG) offered at least 99 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

COVID-19 severely impacted the tourism industry in Georgia, but international visitation is expected to reach past numbers soon. In 2021, 7,272 Spanish visitors spent nearly \$6.77 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 Argentina.

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 2021, Georgia exports to Spain totaled **\$338.3 million**. Spain is the **29th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Spain include civilian aircraft, containers for liquefied gas, kraft paper and paperboard, petroleum gases, and paper and paperboard.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Spain: kraft paper, containers for compressed or liquefied gas, peanuts, and kaolin.

**IMPORTS:** In 2021, Georgia imports from Spain totaled **\$708.2 million**. Spain ranks **28th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Spain to Georgia include tiles and plates, firearms, biodiesel, organo-sulfur compounds, and parts of gas turbines.

### Investment

There are at least **29 Georgia companies have 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 2022, there will be an estimated 455 flights between Spain and Georgia with over 117,000 passengers.

International connectivity has been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions ease, the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport expects a return to pre-COVID connections.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with Spain, offering regular shipping services to Algeciras, Barcelona, 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](http://www.georgia.org).

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