

**CITIES AND SITES OF  
SPAIN, A HANDBOOK  
FOR TOURISTS**

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Cities and sites of Spain, a handbook for tourists by Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond (Mrs. Main)

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**MRS. AUBREY LE BLOND (MRS. MAIN)**

**CITIES AND SITES OF  
SPAIN, A HANDBOOK  
FOR TOURISTS**



# CITIES AND SIGHTS OF SPAIN

A HANDBOOK FOR TOURISTS

By MRS. AUBREY LE BLOND  
(MRS. MAIN)

AUTHOR OF "TRUE TALES OF MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE," ETC.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY THE AUTHOR.



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PORTUGAL STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS

1904

TO MY MOTHER,  
WHOSE SYMPATHETIC INTEREST HAS EVER BEEN  
MY GREATEST INCENTIVE TO BRING  
BACK SOME RECORD OF  
MY TRAVELS,  
I DEDICATE THIS LITTLE VOLUME.

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## PREFACE

**T**HERE is a Spain of brigand-infested roads, of impossible hotels, of every discomfort which the traveller can meet with. Of this Spain I know nothing, for it is the Spain of yesterday.

But though of yesterday it lingers still in people's minds, and many to whom a tour in Spain would be even more delightful than one in Italy, fear that the country is really too uncomfortable for the ordinary traveller.

The following pages, written after three journeys, amounting together to about 6,000 miles, will show what I think of Spain of to-day, and my object in putting this book together has been to place in the hands of those who propose visiting Spain a supplement to the guide books they will carry.

To see Spain intelligently, it has been necessary to take with one a perfect library. I am anxious to enable travellers to dispense, while on the spot, with the greater number of these books, and I have attempted in a small way to do for some of the towns of Spain that which other writers have done so admirably for France and Italy. I have not described any place I have not myself visited, but I hope in future years to see many more of the towns of Spain. I cannot claim to have given a full account of the manners and customs of Spaniards, a complete knowledge of which is only possible after a lengthened residence in the country. I have only described what may be



seen by anyone who makes the most of his opportunities while taking a tour through the peninsula.

I shall feel extremely grateful if any travellers using this book will let me have such corrections or suggestions as may occur to them, if the result of their personal observation and experience. A letter addressed to me to 67, The Drive, Brighton, will always find me.

For very much useful help, especially in reading the proof sheets of this book, I am indebted to the Rev. John and Mrs. Bailey. I have also to thank Mr. Henry Mayhew of the British Museum for valuable assistance, and Mr. Reddan of the Foreign Office, and many others, some of whom are personally unknown to me. I must also insist on expressing my gratitude to my friend and publisher, Mr. Edward Bell, whose advice has saved me from more than one blunder.

The names of places in Spain are spelt as in the railway time table.

The map has been compiled with special reference to the routes indicated. Both the 50 cent. railway guide and the one sold at 1 peseta contain small maps; the latter guide is to be preferred for its clearer type. The illustrations are from photographs by the author except when otherwise stated. The architectural drawings are by Mr. C. E. Mallows of Bedford.

Since this little book first appeared, repeated visits to Spain have but confirmed me in my opinion that no other part of Europe offers so varied and attractive a field to nearly every type of traveller. I am glad to have an opportunity of making a few necessary corrections, and shall be indebted to any traveller who points out errors which may remain.

E. LE BLOND.

*May, 1904.*

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