



Spanish mobile phone SIM cards – Buyers Guide

Choosing your mobile network can be a challenging task, especially when there are many mobile network providers. Luckily Spain only has 3 main mobile network providers; Movistar, Vodafone, and Amena.

With this guide we try to make the process of choosing your network easier. We do this by taking you through the various specifics you need to consider to make your choice. At the bottom of this guide you will find the various calling plans from each provider.

- **Movistar** - the first mobile operator in Spain, as part of Telefónica it has the best quality network, but with the highest rates.
- **Vodafone** - bought the second operator in Spain, Airtel, in 2002 and has been aggressively expanding market share. Expect a good quality network and reasonably low rates.
- **Amena** - is Spain's third provider, and it is growing fast. They offer the lowest rates, but the quality of the network can be a bit less in some areas and in buildings with thick walls.

NOTE

Spain operates on a GSM network. For Europeans and many other countries, this means that your current phone will probably work in Spain. If you are coming from North America or parts of Asia you will probably have a CDMA phone, which will not work. For a GSM phone, you need to check whether your phone is unlocked (some phones are specific to the network you already have, for example some Orange handsets) and you just need a new SIM card.



Consider the following

1. What network are my friends using?

All mobile providers offer cheap rates to other mobiles on the same network, and high rates to mobiles of other networks. Thus it is a good idea to ask your friends which provider they use. If most of your friends are on a particular network, and you plan to call them the most, it is probably wise to choose the same network your friends are on. If you plan to make many calls to fixed lines, also consider the rates to fixed lines, as they differ per provider.

2. Quality VS Price

What is more important to me, the price I pay for my calls, or the quality of the calls I make and receive? If quality is your most important requirement, choose Movistar. If however price is the most important requirement and you really need to enjoy the lowest possible rates, choose Amena. Do you want the best of both worlds, low rates (but not the lowest) and good quality (but not the best) choose Vodafone.

3. When do I make most of my calls?

All providers have divided their calling plans into time frames: hourly rates and universal rates. **Hourly rates** divide the day into several time segments each with their associated price per minute. For example, Amena breaks up the day into 3 segments: 8:00-16:00, 16:00-24:00 and 24:00-8:00. Tariffs are much lower in the early morning and late in the day and are at their peak during business hours. **Universal rates** are simpler in that they offer one fixed rate regardless of the time of day, but it is on average higher.

4. SMS messages, connection charges, and incoming calls?

All mobile network providers charge a €0,12 connection fee when a call is made to fixed phones and mobiles.

All incoming calls are free as long as you are on Spanish territory.

SMS messages cost 15 cents with Movistar and Vodafone. They cost 9 cents with Amena.



Calling plans



Activa Total	
Calls to fixed lines and other Movistar mobile phones	
All days of the week at any hour	
0,21€/min	
0:00h	24:00h
Calls to mobile phones from other networks	
All days of the week at any hour	
0,48€/min	
0:00h	24:00h

Activa Club	
Calls to Movistar mobile phones	
All days of the week at any hour	
0,12€/min	
0:00h	24:00h
Calls to mobile phones from other networks and fixed phones	
All days of the week at any hour	
0,48€/min	
0:00h	24:00h

Activa Tu Tiempo	
Calls to fixed phones and mobiles from all networks	
Monday to Friday	
0,12€/min	0,48€/min
0:00h	24:00h
4:00h	16:00h
Calls to fixed phones and mobiles from all networks	
Saturdays, Sundays and all national Holidays	
0,12€/min	
0:00h	24:00h

Activa 24 Horas	
Calls to fixed phones and mobiles from all networks	
All days of the week at any hour	
0,30€/min	
0:00h	24:00h



Just Landed

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Tarjeta Tiempo Libre			
Calls to fixed phones and mobiles from all networks			
Monday to Friday			
0,59€/min		0,12€/min	
6:00h	16:00h		6:00h
Calls to fixed phones and mobiles from all networks			
Saturday, Sunday and national Holidays			
0,12€/min			
0:00h			24:00h

Tarjeta Decreciente			
Calls to fixed phones and other Vodafone mobiles			
All days of the week at any hour			
0,20€/min		0,10€/min	
First call of the day		Further calls on the same day	
Calls to other mobile networks			
All days of the week at any hour			
0,50€/min		0,25€/min	
First call of the day		Further calls on the same day	

Auto Recargable			
Calls to fixed phones and mobiles from all networks			
All days of the week at any hour			
0,28€/min			
0:00h			24:00h



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Tarjeta Duo	
Calls to your Duo Partner (1 person of your choice that also has an amena mobile)	
All days of the week at any hour	
0,03€/min	
0:00h	24:00h
Calls to fixed phones and all other mobile phones	
All days of the week at any hour	
0,30€/min	
0:00h	24:00h

Tarjeta Joven			
Calls to fixed phones and mobile phones from all networks			
Monday to Friday			
0,80€/min	0,12€/min	0,06€/min	
8:00h	16:00h	24:00h	8:00h
Calls to fixed phones and mobile phones from all networks			
Saturday, Sunday and national Holidays			
0,12€/min	0,12€/min	0,06€/min	
8:00h	16:00h	24:00h	8:00h

Tarjeta Ocio			
Calls to fixed phones and mobile phones from all networks			
Monday to Friday			
0,72€/min		0,12€/min	
8:00h	16:00h		8:00h
Calls to fixed phones and mobile phones from all networks			
Saturday, Sunday and national Holidays			
0,12€/min			
0:00h			24:00h