



Caring for  
your world.

Your  
relocation  
guide to  
Spain



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Memb No: A091



|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| TELEPHONE:                    | Country code (34) + Area code<br>(area codes, beginning with 9, have to be added in local and long distance calls)         |
| STANDARD TIME:                | GMT +1 hour  |
| WEIGHTS & MEASURES:           | Metric   |
| ELECTRICITY:                  | 220v, AC 50Hz, only in remote areas off urban nuclei<br>old 110/115 voltage  |
| INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:    | No special requirements  |
| PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:              | Jan 1, 2, 6, depending on region either Maundy Thursday<br>or Easter Monday, May 1, Aug 15, Oct 12, Nov 1,<br>Dec 6, 8, 25 |
| OFFICE HOURS:                 | 09.00-13.30, 16.00/16.30-20.00   |
| BANK HOURS:                   | Vary due to tourist seasons  |
| EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:  | 091 – Police<br>092 – Police and Ambulance   |
| UK EMBASSY:                   | UK Embassy<br>Fernando el Santo 16, E – 28010 Madrid<br>Tel: (91) 700 8200   |
| TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION: | Secretaria General de Turismo,<br>Maria de Molina 50, 28006 Madrid<br>Tel: (91) 411 4014                                   |
| SPANISH EMBASSY IN LONDON:    | 39 Chesham Place<br>London SW1X 8SB<br>Tel: 0870 005 6975<br>Fax: 0207 235 9905  |
| CONSULAR SECTION:             | Tel: 08700 56 975  |

## Customs

**Spain is part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required to import personal effects and household goods if originating from another EU country. However, should you be from outside the EU the following applies.**

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Spain from outside the EU. It is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.**

## Household Goods

### Spanish Citizens:

Documents required

- Passport copy
- Fiscal Identification number (N.I.F)
- Certificate of change of residence, issued by the Spanish Consulate at origin, stating that the shipper has been living in the country for more than one year
- Registration certificate at the Town Hall in Spain (upon arrival)
- Valued Inventory list in Spanish, valued and signed by the customer
- Set of forms duly signed
- Bill of Lading or Airway bill

### Foreign Citizens:

Documents required: Non-members of the EU

- Passport copy
- Consulate residence certificate or company certificate stating that the shipper has been living / working at origin at least during the last 12 months
- NIE number (This number is obtained when applying for a work / residence permit. NIE number must be registered at AEAT data base (Spanish treasure department)
- Set of forms duly signed
- Valued Inventory list in Spanish, valued and signed by the customer
- Registration with local Town Hall in Spain (upon arriving)
- Bill of Lading or Airway bill

### Members of the EU:

Documents required: Permanent Residence

- Copy of passport
- Consulate residence certificate or company certificate stating that the shipper has been living / working at origin at least during the last 12 months

- Certificado de Registro de Ciudadanos de la Union (European certificate) or NIE number registered at AEAT database (Spanish Treasure Department)
- Set of forms duly signed
- Valued Inventory List in Spanish, valued and signed by the customer
- Registration with local Town Hall in Spain (upon arriving)
- Bill of Lading or Airway bill

Spanish citizens must import their household goods within 12 months following the date of issuance of the Change of Residence Certificate.

Foreign citizens must import their household goods within 12 months from the date of issuance of their first Spanish Residence permit.

Household goods cannot be sold or transferred before one year after the importation.

Your stay abroad (outside the EU) must have been at least for one year.

**Electrical appliances, carpets, works of art and other items subject to special Customs requirements should be stowed conveniently at the container door to facilitate their location if Customs inspection is ordered.**

The customs forms are provided by the local agent in Spain.

All documents must be available by the time shipment arrives at Spanish port. If clearance procedures cannot be initiated, shipment will be declared abandoned one month after date of arrival and may be auctioned by customs. Unpredictable expenses such as, eventual transport of the shipment to a special customs area for inspection, unstuffing or stuffing for such purpose etc are not included in the destination rates and are collected locally from the shipper.

## Diplomats Removals

Documents required:

- Diplomatic passport
- Inventory list in Spanish, signed by owner
- Diplomatic franchise

Duty free entry.

Import of alcohol is prohibited for diplomats.

## Wedding trousseaux

Documents required:

- Documents as in Household goods above
- Certificate of change of residence issued by local authorities at origin
- Wedding certificate or Spanish Family book certified by the Spanish Consulate

Only foreign citizens marrying Spanish citizens or foreigners living in Spain are allowed to import duty free new items, but within a reasonable quantity.

### **Inheritance**

Documents required:

- Valued list of the inherited household goods
- Death certificate
- Testament or certificate confirming the right to the inheritance
- Certificates from the country of origin and the Spanish Ministry of Finance to confirm payment and / or exemption of payment of taxation over inheritances both in the country of origin and in Spain

All documents must be verified and authenticated by the Spanish Consulate at origin. They must be translated if they are not in Spanish language.

Translation must be approved by the Spanish Consulate and / or the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **New Furniture**

Documents required:

- Import licence, if invoice value is lower than €3000
- Invoice stamped by the Spanish Consulate at origin

Subject to payment of customs duties and taxes.

### **Works of Art and Antiques**

Duty free entry if they are part of household goods and proportional to the social status of the importer.

They must be in the owner's possession during 6 months at least and they must not be sold. Also duty free entry if articles are less than 100 years old.

Works of art / antiques imported for sale in Spain are subject to different regulations.

Works of art / antiques which are expected to be re-exported at a later date and which are not imported into Spain for sale, must be clearly classified upon entry to allow later exportation. Customs clearance of works of art / antiques can only be done in Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia.

### **Collections, Jewellery, Metals**

Duty free entry if they are part of the household goods and if they are proportional to the social status of the person.

### **Used motor vehicles and motorcycles**

Documents required:

- Car/motorcycle must be in shipper's possession for a minimum of 6 months

- Photocopy of passport
- Original of registration card
- Car purchase invoice

The car / motorcycle definitive importation is summited, in case the vehicle has all the requirements the taxes and duties are exonerated, otherwise taxes are 28% of CIF value.

### **Firearms (hunting arms)**

Before the arrival of the arms, the following permits must be obtained:

- Valid Spanish firearms permit
- Valid Spanish Hunting licence

Firearms will be retained by Spanish Civil Guard on entry for inspection and registration. They will be returned to owner once permits are presented and inspection is passed.

Importation of firearms, and the permits for them are restricted.

It is suggested that they are not included with household goods, because unload and inspection will be delayed. If shipper insists, place firearms close to the door and advise exact location.

### **Arms for personal use, explosives, ammunitions**

Importation prohibited.

### **Plants**

Importation prohibited.

Only household plants moved as personal effects from any EU country.

### **Pets**

Documents required:

- Vaccination certificate
- Certificate of health

Dogs, in some Spanish cities are subject to annual payment of a tax (or licence).

### **Food**

Prohibited.

### **Wood Packaging Regulations**

The European member states have adopted the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM). This regulation requires all wood packing materials to be treated for the transport of goods to the EU from other countries.

## General Information on Kingdom of Spain

### Background

Spain's powerful world empire of the 16th and 17th centuries ultimately yielded command of the seas to England. Subsequent failure to embrace the mercantile and industrial revolutions caused the country to fall behind Britain, France, and Germany in economic and political power. Spain remained neutral in World War I and II but suffered through a devastating civil war (1936-39). A peaceful transition to democracy following the death of dictator Francisco FRANCO in 1975, and rapid economic modernization (Spain joined the EU in 1986) gave Spain a dynamic and rapidly growing economy and made it a global champion of freedom and human rights. More recently the government has focused on measures to reverse

a severe economic recession that began in mid-2008. Austerity measures implemented to reduce a large budget deficit and reassure foreign investors have led to one of the highest unemployment rates in Europe. Spain assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2015-16 term.

### Climate

The climate is temperate, clear hot summers in the interior more moderate and cloudy along the coast, cloudy and cold winters in interior, partly cloudy and cool along the coast.

### Population

The population is estimated at 40,397,000 and over three quarters of the population live in urban areas.

### Environmental Issues

Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from raw sewage and effluents from the offshore production of oil and gas, water quality and quantity nationwide, air pollution, deforestation and desertification.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the Euro.

**Notes:** 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 & 5 euros

**Coins:** 2 & 1 euro then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 & 1 cents

Credit cards are generally accepted everywhere, like hotels, restaurants, shops and also petrol stations.

### Economy

After experiencing a prolonged recession in the wake of the global financial crisis that began in 2008, in 2014 Spain marked the first full year of positive economic growth in seven years, largely due to increased private consumption. At the onset of the financial crisis, Spain's GDP contracted by 3.7% in 2009, ending a 16-year growth trend, and continued contracting through most of 2013. In 2013, the government successfully shored up struggling banks - exposed to the collapse of Spain's depressed real estate and construction sectors - and

in January 2014 completed an EU-funded restructuring and recapitalisation program.

Until 2014, credit contraction in the private sector, fiscal austerity, and high unemployment weighed on domestic consumption and investment. The unemployment rate rose from a low of about 8% in 2007 to more than 26% in 2013, but labor reforms prompted a modest reduction to 22% in 2015. High unemployment strained Spain's public finances, as spending on social benefits increased while tax revenues fell. Spain's budget deficit peaked at 11.4% of GDP in 2010, but Spain gradually reduced the deficit to just under 7% of GDP in 2013-14, and 4.7% of GDP in 2015. Public debt has increased substantially - from 60.1% of GDP in 2010 to nearly 101% in 2015.

Exports were resilient throughout the economic downturn and helped to bring Spain's current account into surplus in 2013 for the first time since 1986, where it remained in 2014-15. Rising labor productivity and an internal devaluation resulting from moderating labor costs and lower inflation have helped to improve foreign investor interest in the economy and positive FDI flows have been restored.

The government's efforts to implement labor, pension, healthcare, tax, and education reforms - aimed at supporting investor sentiment - have become overshadowed by political activity in 2015 in anticipation of the national parliamentary elections in December. The European Commission criticized Spain's 2016 budget for its easing of austerity measures and its alleged overly optimistic growth and deficit projections. Spain's borrowing costs are dramatically lower since their peak in mid-2012, and despite the recent upturn in economic activity, inflation has dropped sharply, from 1.5% in 2013 to a negative 0.6% in 2015.

### International Disputes

In 2003, Gibraltar residents voted overwhelmingly by referendum to remain a British colony and against a "total shared sovereignty" arrangement while demanding participation in talks between the UK and Spain; Spain disapproves of UK plans to grant Gibraltar greater autonomy. Morocco protests Spain's control over the coastal enclaves of Ceuta, Melilla, and the islands of Penon de Velez de la Gomera, Penon de Alhucemas and Islas Chafarinas, and surrounding waters. Morocco serves as the primary launching site of illegal migration into Spain from North Africa. Portugal does not recognise Spanish sovereignty over the territory of Olivenza based on a difference of interpretation of the 1815 Congress of Vienna and the 1801 Treaty of Badajoz.

### Education

State education is free but it is only conducted in Spanish. However, this does not seem to present a problem for young children who tend to pick up the language quickly. Attending a Spanish school is definitely one of the best ways of ensuring that both the child, and in most cases, the family, become integrated into the local Spanish community.



It is often a good idea for the family and especially the children to have some Spanish lessons prior to coming to Spain.

In Spain, children must attend the school closest to where they live, so if you decide to live in an area full of British Expats, you're likely to find plenty of British children in the local school.

In order to get your child into a Spanish school, you will need all the necessary paperwork, proof of residency (usually in the form of proof of address), the child's full birth certificate, passport, photos, and immunisation record etc. for specific information, it is best to contact the school direct, or the appropriate town hall.

If your child is older or in the middle of a GCSE or A level course, it may be advisable to consider an International School. Fees for day students are usually cheaper than in the UK and you will have the advantage of having your child privately educated. These schools also tend to offer qualifications better known to UK universities. Some schools offer a system of English and Spanish curricula which enables students to be qualified for either Spain or the UK.

In the Spanish state system school starts at the age of 6. At 16 students are awarded a 'titulo do graduado escolar' certificate and many will then stay to study for their "baccalaureate" which leads to University entrance.

Those pupils that have not completed the four years or are less academic are awarded a school certificate and they can then go onto attend a vocational school (formacion profesional).

## Religion

94% are Roman Catholic and 6% others.

## Languages

Castilian Spanish is the language understood by people throughout the country, although pronunciation varies from region to region.

Apart from there are three main regional languages, i.e. basque Bilbao, San Sebastian areas, northern Spain, Catalan (150kms north and south of Barcelona area) and gallego (next to Portugal).

## Health

Nationals of EU countries can get free medical treatment in Spain on production of the relevant paperwork, (form E111 for British people), although private insurance is highly recommended. Spain has a very good national health service that works alongside a wonderful private sector. Hospitals are of a very high standard.

- **The heat** – Make sure you drink plenty of liquids. Always carry a bottle of water with you when it's very hot. Alcohol is not the right liquid.
- **Prickly heat** – An itchy rash caused by perspiration under the skin. If it happens to you, keep cool, bathe often and use talcum powder on the rash.

- **Salt deficiency** – Sweating can lead to a loss of body salt so make sure you have plenty of salt with your meals.
- **Funny tummy** – New and strange diets can cause minor tummy upsets. If you find yourself unwell, drink plenty of fluids and avoid fatty foods. Fish and shellfish from the Mediterranean should only be eaten cooked and from a good restaurant.
- If you suffer from any health problems, consult your doctor before you set off for Spain. Any medication you take with you should be kept in their original containers and if possible take copies of your prescriptions with you. Get your doctor to write out the generic name for your medication and not the brand name, this way a drug can be matched with the Spanish equivalent.
- **Tap Water** – Over recent years the water system in Spain has undergone great improvements and tap water in builtup areas is relatively safe. Unfamiliar water can still cause minor stomach upsets and you may wish to purchase agua mineral, bottled water. Agua con gas is fizzy water and agua sin gas is still water. In small villages, the water may be well water and not mains so if in doubt ask.
- **Contact with animals** – Take care with wild animals such as cats and dogs in Spain. Many carry diseases and rabies is still a problem here. A bite from an infected animal can be a disaster. Stray cats and dogs roam all over Spain and the best thing to do is avoid contact with them.
- **Chemists** – Chemists (farmacias) are plentiful in Spain and are marked with a large green cross. The law states that farmacias must operate on a rota system so that there is always one open. Local press carry details of the duty farmacia. Details are also posted on the door of the farmacias. You can obtain basic medical advice here. There are also alternative chemists such as Chinese clinics and herbal clinics. Most speak English.
- **Dentists** – Any dentistry carried out will normally have to be paid for as they are all private. The yellow pages of the telephone directory carries a good list of dentists (dentistas). You will often find a dentist in the large supermarkets. Prices are similar to the UK but the service is much better. Many dentists in Spain are ex-national health service.

## Cuisine

The dominant and richly-varied Spanish cuisine combines expansive regional flavours (Andalusian, Basque, Galician, Valencian, Castilian, Riojana) from the mediterranean, the sun-drenched south, the rugged central plateau and the lush green north. Despite its location, Madrid also has much to offer in the realm of seafood, in fact anyone up early will see the truckloads of fresh fish being brought into the city every morning. Spain is second to Japan for seafood eating.

Tapas are one of Spain's great contributions to world gastronomy. For the most informal setting, tapas or snacks can be had with a drink in most bars and cafes, a good way to sample a large variety of tastes in a short time.

Given the love of meat, vegetarian restaurants are thin on the ground, but their numbers are increasing.

### **Electricity**

In urban areas and most rural zones, voltage generally is 220AC-50Hz, with 2 round-pin type fittings. On extremely rare occasions you may still find 110/115v - 50Hz and the American type flat-prong plugs.

Lamp fittings are of screw type, with the exception of hydrogen lamps, which are plug-in.

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date we cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*