

Moving to Spain Checklist

3-6 months before departure

- Choose your target region/municipality (work, schools, climate, connectivity).
- Confirm your immigration route (UK citizens are non-EU): visa type, required documents, consulate appointment.
- Set a realistic budget + buffer (moving, rent deposit, taxes/fees, 6-9 months reserve).
- Arrange housing (rent/buy) and collect proof of address (rental contract, deeds, utility bill).
- Check passport validity for everyone (and keep digital + paper copies).
- Collect key documents: birth/marriage certificates, criminal record check (if needed), diplomas, prescriptions.
- Apostille + sworn translations where required (official documents).
- Health cover plan: private insurance for visa (if required) + travel cover for the transition period.
- Plan income: job contract, self-employed setup, pension proof, or evidence of sufficient funds.
- If you have pets: microchip, rabies vaccine, and travel paperwork (rules depend on route).

1 month before departure

- Cancel or transfer contracts: rent, utilities, internet, subscriptions.
- Arrange address change + mail forwarding.
- Digital hygiene: backups, password manager, 2FA, access to banking/ID apps.
- Medical: request a summary of medical records + enough medication for the first weeks.
- Driving: check rules for using a UK licence in Spain; plan required appointments/paperwork.
- If moving with children: collect school records, vaccination proof, IDs.
- Prepare a 'first week' folder: passports, visa docs, insurance, housing contract, emergency contacts.

First week in Spain

- Activate SIM / phone plan and basic internet.
- Register on the Padrón (Empadronamiento) at your local Ayuntamiento (if eligible).
- Open a Spanish bank account (requirements vary by bank and residency status).
- Book / attend NIE & residency appointments (or TIE process if applicable).
- Locate a GP/clinic and understand your health coverage options (private vs public).

First 1-3 months

- Finalize residency paperwork and keep copies of all approvals, receipts, and appointments.
- Set up Social Security registration if working (employee or self-employed).
- Put utilities on your name and confirm direct debits work (electricity, water, internet).
- Arrange home insurance (and car insurance if you have a vehicle).
- Register with the Spanish tax agency (Agencia Tributaria) if required; consider a gestor/accountant.
- If you drive: follow the steps for licence exchange and/or vehicle registration if needed.

Ongoing (first year)

- Review tax residency status and filing obligations (Spain + UK) with a professional if unsure.
- Update banks, insurers, and authorities with your new address where relevant.
- Build your local admin routine: appointments, renewals, and document storage.