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Spain

Official Name: Kingdom of Spain

LAST UPDATED: DECEMBER 28, 2015

Embassy Messages

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Quick Facts

- **PASSPORT VALIDITY:**
6 months recommended
- **VACCINATIONS:**
None
- **BLANK PASSPORT PAGES:**
1 page per stamp
- **CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR ENTRY:**
None
- **TOURIST VISA REQUIRED:**
Not required for stays less than 90 days
- **CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR EXIT:**
None

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Embassies and Consulates

U.S. Embassy Madrid**Calle Serrano, 75
28006 Madrid****Spain****Telephone:** +(34) (91) 587-2200**Emergency After-Hours Telephone:** +(34) (91) 587-2200. Ask to speak to the duty officer if you need emergency assistance outside business hours.**Fax:** +(34) (91) 587-2303askacs@state.gov

Routine and emergency services for U.S. citizens are provided by the American Citizens Services section of the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy. Appointments are required for routine consular services. Additional information is available through the [U.S. Citizen Services page](#) on the Embassy's website. To make an appointment, please visit the [U.S. Embassy's online appointment system](#) for U.S. Citizen Services.

CONSULATES**U.S. Consulate General Barcelona****Paseo Reina Elisenda de Montcada, 23-25
08034 Barcelona, Spain****Telephone:** +(34) (93) 280-2227**Emergency After-Hours Telephone:** +(34) (91) 587-2200. Ask to speak to the duty officer if you need emergency assistance outside business hours.**Fax:** +(34) (93) 280-6175BarcelonaACS@state.gov

The U.S. Consulate General in Barcelona provides many services for U.S. citizens, including emergency passport services. The American Citizens Services section's assistance also includes, but is not limited to, routine passport services, notary services, and Consular Reports of Births Abroad. The Consulate General also assists in emergencies, including deaths, arrests and crisis situations. You need to [make an online appointment](#) for routine consular services. For assistance regarding Andorra, please contact the U.S. Consulate General in Barcelona.

U.S. CONSULAR AGENCIES

U.S. Consular Agencies

There are five consular agencies in Spain, which provide limited services to U.S. citizens. Passport applications may be submitted at the agencies. However, the agencies are not authorized to issue passports and will forward the applications for processing. Anyone requesting service at one of the consular agencies should call ahead to verify that the service requested will be available on the day you expect to visit the agency. The agencies' contact information is below. **Please note that the emergency after-hours telephone number for all of Spain is: (34) 91 587 2200.** Ask to speak to the duty officer if you call this number for emergency assistance outside business hours.

U.S. Consular Agency - Fuengirola (Málaga)**Avenida Juan Gómez "Juanito", 8
Edificio Lucía 1º-C
29640 Fuengirola (Málaga), Spain****Telephone:** +(34) (95) 247-4891**Fax:** +(34) (95) 246-5189

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

malagaconsagency@state.gov

U.S. Consular Agency - Las Palmas**Edificio Arca****Calle Los Martinez de Escobar 3, Oficina 7****35007 Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain****Telephone:** +(34) (92) 827-1259**Fax:** +(34) (92) 822-5863

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

canariasconsagency@state.gov**U.S. Consular Agency - Palma de Mallorca****Edificio Reina Constanza****Porto Pi, 8, 9-D****07015 Palma, Islas Baleares, Spain****Telephone:** +(34) (97) 140-3707 or (34) (97) 140-3905**Fax:** +(34) (97) 140-3971

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

pmagency@state.gov**U.S. Consular Agency - Seville****Plaza Nueva 8-8 duplicado****2nd Floor, Office E-2 No.4****41101 Sevilla, Spain****Telephone:** +(34) (95) 421-8751**Fax:** +(34) (95) 422-0791

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

sevillaconsagency@state.gov**U.S. Consular Agency - Valencia****Doctor Romagosa 1, 2-J****46002, Valencia, Spain****Telephone:** +(34) (96) 351-6973**Fax:** +(34) (96) 352-9565

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

valenciaconsagency@state.gov**Destination Description**

See the Department of State's State's [Fact Sheets on Spain](#) for information on U.S. – Spain relations.

Entry, Exit & Visa Requirements

Spain is a party to the [Schengen Agreement](#). Visit the [Embassy of Spain](#) website for the most current visa and entry requirement information.

- **Passport should be valid for at least six months beyond your stay.**
For additional details about travel into and within Schengen countries, please see our [Schengen fact sheet](#).
- You may enter Spain for up to 90 days for tourist or business purposes without a visa.
- **Students and prospective students** should visit the [Embassy of Spain](#) website for additional information on entry requirements.
- **Prospective residents** or those wishing to stay in Spain longer than 90 days must obtain prior information about the procedures from the relevant bodies, mainly from the [Ministry of Interior](#) and the [Ministry of Employment and Social Security](#). You will need an official criminal records check from the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS). These documents carry the apostille from the state authority for state criminal records and by the Department of State for the FBI records. You can make an appointment with us if you need a letter from the Embassy or Consulate General asking local police to take your fingerprints for this purpose.

HIV/AIDS Restrictions: The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Spain.

Information about [dual nationality](#) or the [prevention of international child abduction](#) can be found on our website. For further information about customs regulations, please read our [Customs Information page](#).

Safety and Security

Spain, like the rest of the world, faces an increased threat of international terrorist incidents. Despite publicly announcing a “definitive cessation of armed activity” in 2011, the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) organization has not disbanded or disarmed. Historically, foreigners have been killed or injured collaterally in ETA terrorist attacks.

Like other countries in the Schengen area, Spain’s open borders with Western European neighbors also allow for the possibility of terrorist groups entering and exiting the country undetected. Spain’s proximity to North Africa makes it vulnerable to attack from al-Qaida in the Maghreb region.

Crime: While only a small proportion of visitors to Spain are impacted by crime, street crimes against tourists occur in the principal tourist areas. Madrid and Barcelona in particular report frequent incidents of pickpocketing, mugging, as well as occasional violent attacks, some of which require the victim to seek medical attention.

- **Use common sense** and the same personal security measures you would use normally.
- **Do not leave bags unattended.** Avoid placing passports, cash or other valuables in the outer pockets of backpacks or purses.
- **Be alert to criminal schemes.** Thieves who work in teams may distract your attention, while an accomplice makes off with your valuables. **If you are stopped by a plainclothes policeman while walking or driving, ask for a uniformed law enforcement officer.**
- See the [Department of State](#) and the [FBI](#) pages for information on scams.

Victims of Crime: Report crimes to the local police at 112 and contact the U.S. Embassy at (34) 91 587 2240 or the Emergency after-hours telephone: (34) 91 587 2200. Remember that local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.

See our webpage on [help for U.S. victims of crime overseas](#).

We can:

- Help you find appropriate medical care
- Assist you in reporting a crime to the police
- Contact relatives or friends with your written consent
- Explain the local criminal justice process in general terms
- Provide a list of local attorneys
- Provide our information on [victim’s compensation programs in the U.S.](#)
- Local resources available to victims of crime can be found at <http://www.mjusticia.gob.es/cs/Satellite/Portal/es/servicios-ciudadano/oficinas-asistencia-victimas>
- Provide an emergency loan for repatriation to the United States and/or limited medical
- support in cases of destitution
- Help you find accommodation and arrange flights home
- Replace a stolen or lost passport

Domestic Violence: U.S. citizen victims of domestic violence may contact the Embassy for assistance.

For further information:

- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Call us in Washington at 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts.
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) .
- See [traveling safely abroad](#) for useful travel tips.

Local Laws & Special Circumstances

Criminal Penalties: You are subject to local laws. If you violate local laws, even unknowingly, you may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.

Furthermore, some laws are also prosecutable in the United States, regardless of local law. For examples, see our website on [crimes against minors abroad](#) and the [Department of Justice](#) website.

Arrest Notification: If you are arrested or detained, ask police or prison officials to notify the U.S. Embassy immediately. See our [webpage](#) for further information.

- Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking illegal drugs in Spain are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.
- **Most cities in Spain have banned the consumption of alcohol in the street**, other than in registered street cafes and bars. You could be arrested or fined if you break the law.
- **Driving under the influence could land you in jail immediately.**
- **Local police can require you to produce identification to establish your identity upon request and submit you to further questioning.**
- In some cases, a copy of your passport may serve as sufficient identification if you do not feel comfortable carrying your actual passport. If you choose to carry your passport with you, remember this also increases the risk that it could be lost or stolen.

Faith-Based Travelers: See the [Department of State's International Religious Freedom Report](#).

LGBTI Travelers: There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBTI events in Spain. Spain welcomes LGBT travelers. See our [LGBTI Travel Information](#) page and section 6 of the [Department of State's Human Rights report](#) for further details.

Persons with Mobility Issues. Spanish law mandates access to buildings for persons with disabilities. The government generally enforces these provisions; levels of assistance and accessibility differ between regions.

- Madrid, Barcelona, and many of the other major cities have made great strides in making public transportation, museums and other public buildings accessible to those with physical disabilities.
- Most buses have ramps to accommodate wheelchairs and many metro stations have elevators for the same purpose.
- Taxis that can accommodate wheelchairs are available, but must generally be called in advance.
- In historic areas and in some other areas, sidewalks can be narrow and have uneven surfaces. Tourists should take this into account when planning their visit.

Students: See our [Students Abroad](#) page and [FBI travel tips](#) .

Women Travelers: While the incidence of sexual assault is statistically low, attacks do occur.

- Be aware of "date-rape" drugs, including GHB and liquid ecstasy.
- Be cautious in bars and clubs where alcohol is served. Leaving your drink unattended or accepting a drink from a stranger can lead to serious crime if drugs are slipped into the drink.

See our travel tips for [Women Travelers](#).

Health

Good medical care is available in Spain. Regulations regarding medications may vary from those in the United States. Spanish regulations do not permit the international shipment of medication, so please **do not ship medication from the United States to Spain**. Spanish customs authorities have the legal right to retain medication shipped from the United States.

- **Obtain [supplemental insurance](#)** to cover medical evacuation.
- **We do not pay medical bills.** Be aware that Medicare does not apply overseas.
- Carry prescription medication in original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription.
- Make sure your health insurance plan provides coverage overseas. Most care providers overseas only accept cash payments. See our webpage for more [information on insurance providers for overseas coverage](#).
- Be up-to-date on all [vaccinations](#) recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For further health information, go to:

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC)

Travel & Transportation

Road Conditions and Safety: While in Spain, you may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. Traffic in Madrid and Barcelona is faster paced than in U.S. cities and can be unnerving because of unfamiliar signs or motorbikes weaving between traffic lanes.

- Obey the traffic light located at their stop line, as there are separate traffic lights for each side of the intersection.
- Be alert when driving at night in urban areas because of the possibility of encountering drivers or pedestrians under the influence of alcohol.
- Night driving in isolated rural areas can be dangerous because of farm animals and poorly marked roads.
- Rural traffic is generally heavier in July and August as well as during the Christmas and Easter seasons.
- Emergency services, including roadside assistance, are plentiful, competent, and can be easily accessed by dialing 112 from any phone.

Traffic Laws:

- **It is against the law to use a mobile phone without a hands-free device while driving.** There is a 300 Euros fine for violating this regulation, which may also cause you to lose your license.
- All drivers and passengers are required to wear a reflective vest if they need to stop on the roadside. A reflective triangle warning sign is also mandatory if you stop on the roadside.
- You must have liability insurance to operate any car or motorcycle.
- **You must obtain an International Driving Permit prior to your arrival if you plan to drive in Spain.** The permits are only valid for one year.
- **It is illegal to rent a vehicle if you don't have an International Driving Permit. Your rental car may be impounded and you will be required to pay a fine if stopped.**
- If you are stopped by the Spanish National Police or the Guardia Civil, they may levy fines on the spot and issue a receipt for payment. This ensures that the fine is paid by a foreigner who may not return to Spain to pay the fine.

Public Transportation: Public transportation in large Spanish cities is generally excellent.

- **Only use clearly identified cabs,** ensure that taxi drivers always switch on the meter, except for trips originating to and from the airport, and ask for a receipt.
- Official taxis to and from the Madrid airport to the city center charge a €30 flat rate and do not charge by the meter.
- Rail service is comfortable and reliable, but varies in quality and speed. Intercity buses are usually comfortable and inexpensive.

Please refer to our [Road Safety page](#) for more information. Also, we suggest that you visit the website of Spain's [national tourist office](#) and national authority responsible for road safety.

Aviation Safety Oversight: The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the Government of Spain's Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of Spain's air carrier operations. Further information may be found on the [FAA's safety assessment page](#).

Please see Fact Sheet for this country.

Assistance for U.S. Citizens

U.S. Embassy Madrid
Calle Serrano, 75
28006 Madrid
Spain

- Telephone
+(34) (91) 587-2200
- Emergency After-Hours Telephone
+(34) (91) 587-2200
- Fax
+(34) (91) 587-2303
- Email
askacs@state.gov
- [U.S. Embassy Madrid](#)

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