

EU Citizen's Spain Readiness Checklist

A first-step planning check for EU women considering a move to Spain

"This is not legal advice. It is the list I wish someone had handed me when I was still in the 'could I actually do this?' stage — quietly googling, quietly calculating, quietly wondering if leaving was something other people did. It is not. Here is where to start."
— Mila

THIS CHECKLIST IS FOR YOU IF:

- You are an EU citizen living in the UK, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, or Denmark
- You have been quietly wondering whether you could actually move to Spain
- You feel stuck, unsure, or overwhelmed by the practical side of leaving
- You are not ready to book flights yet — but you want to know where to start

1. YOUR LEGAL FOUNDATION

- ☐ I have checked current official guidance on what my EU citizenship allows in Spain
- ☐ I understand that moving to Spain still involves registration steps, even as an EU citizen
- ☐ My passport or national ID is valid, and I have checked which documents I would need
- ☐ I know what NIE means and that I will need one once I am resident

2. FINANCIAL CLARITY

- ☐ I have a rough idea of first-month costs (flights, deposit, first month's rent)
- ☐ I have looked at average rents in at least one Spanish region
- ☐ I have thought about how I would access money in Spain, such as international cards, transfer services, or a local account
- ☐ I have a rough savings buffer figure in mind before I move

3. REMOTE WORK STATUS

- ☐ I know whether my current work can be done remotely
- ☐ I have considered what working from abroad would mean for my situation
- ☐ I have thought about what a location-flexible work setup would look like for me

4. SPAIN PRACTICALITIES

- ☐ I have researched at least one region of Spain and why it appeals to me
- ☐ I have looked at one flat rental platform (Idealista or Fotocasa)
- ☐ I know what empadronamiento is and why it matters for residents
- ☐ I have looked into how healthcare registration works for EU residents in Spain
- ☐ I have thought about Spanish banking and when I would need a local account

5. LIFE LOGISTICS

- ☐ I have thought about what basic Spanish I would want before I go
- ☐ I have found at least one online community for my target region
- ☐ I have thought about what I would need practically in week one
- ☐ I have considered any family or childcare logistics relevant to my move

REFLECTION — three questions worth sitting with

What is the one thing that feels most unclear right now?

What is one thing you could actually look into this week?

What would need to feel clear enough for you to take one concrete next step?

"You do not need to have all of this sorted before you start. You just need to know where the gaps are. That is what this is for. The planning is the work. You are already doing it." — Mila