



Spain

CAPITAL

Madrid

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Spanish

CURRENCY

Euro (EUR)

Guide version: V2 draft**Disclaimer**

This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Wedding trousseaux: Foreign citizens marrying Spanish nationals or foreigners residing in Spain may import new items duty-free within reasonable quantities, with wedding certificate and residency documentation.

Documents

For Spanish Nationals Returning from Abroad

- **Passport copy**
- **Fiscal Identification Number (N.I.F.)**
- **Certificate of Change of Residence (Baja Consular), issued by the Spanish Consulate at origin, confirming the shipper has been living abroad for more than one year**

- **Registration certificate at the Town Hall in Spain (Empadronamiento) — obtained upon arrival**
- **Detailed, itemized inventory in Spanish, valued and signed by the owner**
- **Original Bill of Lading or Airway Bill**
- **Set of customs forms, duly signed (provided by the Spanish destination agent)**

For Foreign Citizens — Non-EU Nationals

- **Passport copy**
- **NIE number (Número de Identificación de Extranjero), which must be registered as an active tax payer in the AEAT database (Spanish Tax Agency) via Modelo 030 form**
- **Consulate residence certificate, or company certificate confirming the shipper has been living/working at origin for at least the last 12 consecutive months, along with the last 2 years' tax receipts from the country of origin**
- **Detailed, itemized inventory in Spanish, valued and signed by the owner**
- **Original Bill of Lading or Airway Bill**
- **Registration with the local Town Hall in Spain (upon arrival)**
- **Set of customs forms, duly signed**

For Foreign Citizens — EU Nationals

- **Passport copy**
- **Consulate residence certificate or company certificate confirming the shipper has been living/working at origin for at least the last 12 consecutive months**
- **Certificado de Registro de Ciudadanos de la Unión (EU Registration Certificate) or NIE Number registered in the AEAT database**
- **Detailed, itemized inventory in Spanish, valued and signed by the owner**
- **Original Bill of Lading or Airway Bill**
- **Registration with the local Town Hall in Spain (upon arrival)**
- **Set of customs forms, duly signed**

For Diplomats

- **Diplomatic passport**
- **Inventory list in Spanish, signed by the owner**

- **Diplomatic Franchise (obtained from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs — allow approximately 2-3 weeks)**
- **NIE number registered in the AEAT database**
- **Set of customs forms, duly signed**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Plastic packaging tax (as of 1 January 2024): A tax on non-recycled plastic is due on applicable products. Consult the destination agent for products that trigger this levy.

Special territories: The Canary Islands, Ceuta, and Melilla have separate customs regimes and are not part of the EU customs territory. Shipments to these destinations are subject to different (and in some cases more complex) import procedures than mainland Spain. Always consult the destination agent for shipments destined to these areas.

Inheritance: Inherited household goods require a valued list, death certificate, testament or certificate of right to inheritance, and certificates from both the country of origin and the Spanish Ministry of Finance confirming tax payment or exemption. All documents must be authenticated by the Spanish Consulate at origin and translated into Spanish if not already in Spanish.

Household goods qualify for duty-free entry when the following conditions are all met: the goods have been owned and used by the importer for a minimum of 6 months; the importer has lived outside Spain (outside the EU for the purpose of this exemption) for at least 12 consecutive months; and the shipment arrives within 12 months of the date of issuance of the Change of Residence Certificate (for Spanish nationals) or within 12 months of the first Spanish Residence Permit issuance (for foreign nationals).

Goods cannot be sold or transferred within one year of importation.

If a Spanish Residence Permit is not yet available at the time of customs clearance, a Bank Guarantee equal to 40–60% of the total declared value of the inventory will be required. The Bank Guarantee is released once the permit is regularized, which must occur within 6 months. The owner's employer, company, or a person already registered at the Spanish Tax Office (AEAT) must represent the owner at Customs if a Residence Permit is not in hand.

All documents must be available when the shipment arrives at the Spanish port. If customs clearance cannot be initiated, the shipment will be declared abandoned one month after arrival and may be auctioned.

Electrical appliances, carpets, and works of art should be stowed conveniently near the container door to facilitate inspection if Customs orders it.

Unpredictable additional expenses — including transport to a special customs inspection area, unstuffing/restuffing, and inspection fees — are not included in standard destination rates and are collected from the shipper locally.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and controlled substances
- Counterfeit currency, goods, or documents
- Firearms, ammunition, and explosives `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- Hunting firearms `PERMIT REQUIRED` — must obtain a valid Spanish firearms permit and hunting licence before shipment arrives; firearms will be retained by the Spanish Civil Guard on entry for inspection and registration; strongly recommended not to include firearms in a household goods shipment, as this will delay overall clearance
- Arms for personal use, explosives, and ammunition: importation prohibited
- Fresh food and meat products
- Plants (prohibited, except household plants brought from other EU countries as personal effects)
- Pictures, sculptures, Persian carpets, and art items that are not part of personal household goods
- Antiques imported for commercial sale without proper licensing
- Species and products covered by CITES (ivory, tortoiseshell, coral, reptile skins, certain live animals, etc.) `CITES` `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- Material infringing intellectual property rights
- Goods that violate public morality or national security

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Intra-EU imports (from EU member states): There are no customs duties on goods moving between EU member states. For personal use quantities of alcohol and tobacco, no formal limits apply, but Customs may investigate quantities above the following guidance thresholds: cigarettes (800), cigarillos (400), cigars (200), smoking tobacco (1 kg), spirits over 22% (10 L), spirits under 22% (20 L), wine (90 L, of which no more than 60 L sparkling), beer (110 L).

Non-EU imports by air or sea: The following personal use allowances apply for passengers aged 17 and older arriving from outside the EU: cigarettes (200) or cigarillos (100) or cigars (50) or smoking tobacco (250 g); spirits over 22% ABV (1 L) or spirits/liqueurs under 22% (2 L); still wine (4 L); beer (16 L). Goods above these quantities are subject to import duty and excise.

Alcohol in shipments: Subject to customs duties and taxes when included in household goods shipments from outside the EU.

Works of art and antiques: Duty-free as part of household goods if they have been in the owner's possession for at least 6 months, are proportional to the owner's social status, and will not be sold. Items less than 100 years old may enter duty-free. Customs clearance of works of art and antiques can only be carried out at customs offices in Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia. Works of art imported for sale are subject to different regulations.

Collections, jewellery, and precious metals: Duty-free as part of household goods if proportional to the owner's social status.

Fur coats: May be subject to Customs examination.

New furniture: Subject to import duties and taxes; import licence required if invoice value is below EUR 3,000, plus invoice stamped by the Spanish Consulate at origin.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- Photocopy of passport
- Original vehicle registration card
- Vehicle purchase invoice
- Car must have been in the shipper's possession for a minimum of 6 months
- Technical details sheet (manufacturer's technical documentation for the specific brand, model, and year; if unavailable, equivalent official documentation obtained online from the manufacturer is accepted)
- If the vehicle model is not sold within the EU: a document from the manufacturer confirming which EU model the vehicle corresponds to (for homologation purposes)

Specific Information

Vehicles imported under the transfer-of-residence exemption are duty-free when all conditions are met. If the vehicle does not meet all requirements, taxes and duties are assessed at 32% of the

CIF (cost, insurance, freight) value.

All vehicles must comply with EU technical standards. Non-EU vehicles require homologation: the vehicle must be brought to EU type-approval specifications, which can be a complex and costly process. Owners of right-hand-drive vehicles or vehicles with non-EU specifications should consult the destination agent and the DGT (Dirección General de Tráfico) well in advance. After clearance, the vehicle must be registered with the DGT and pass an ITV (Inspección Técnica de Vehículos) — the Spanish equivalent of an MOT — before it can be driven on Spanish roads.

Pets

Requirements

- **ISO 11784/11785-compliant 15-digit microchip (implanted before or at the time of primary rabies vaccination)**
From EU Member States or Part 1 Listed Countries (e.g., USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand)
- **Current rabies vaccination (administered at the same time as or after microchipping; 21-day wait after primary vaccination before travel)**
From EU Member States or Part 1 Listed Countries (e.g., USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand)
- **EU Pet Passport (for resident EU pets) or EU Health Certificate (for non-EU-resident pets) or government-issued Pet Passport from a Part 1 listed country**
From EU Member States or Part 1 Listed Countries (e.g., USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand)
- **Health certificate issued and signed by a government-authorized veterinarian**
From EU Member States or Part 1 Listed Countries (e.g., USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand)
- **ISO-compliant microchip**
From the United Kingdom
- **Current rabies vaccination**
From the United Kingdom
- **Animal Health Certificate (AHC), valid for 6 months — do not use an EU Pet Passport for UK-origin pets**
From the United Kingdom
- **ISO-compliant microchip**
From Part 2 Listed or Unlisted Countries (higher-risk rabies status)
- **Current rabies vaccination**
From Part 2 Listed or Unlisted Countries (higher-risk rabies status)

- **Rabies titer test (Rabies Neutralising Antibody Test, RNAT), taken no earlier than 30 days after vaccination and at least 3 months before travel**

****From Part 2 Listed or Unlisted Countries (higher-risk rabies status)****

- **EU Health Certificate**

****From Part 2 Listed or Unlisted Countries (higher-risk rabies status)****

- **Additional documentation as required by EU import regulations for unlisted countries**

****From Part 2 Listed or Unlisted Countries (higher-risk rabies status)****

Specific Information

Spain is an EU member state and follows EU pet import regulations for dogs, cats, and ferrets. The EU modified its non-commercial pet transport regulations in April 2026, with a transition period until March 2027.

No quarantine is imposed if all requirements are met. If requirements are not met, the animal will be quarantined (if facilities are available), returned to the country of origin, or euthanized. The importer bears all associated costs.

Microchip must be implanted before the rabies vaccination — if vaccinated first, the vaccination does not count for EU purposes. Only ISO 11784/11785-compliant microchips are accepted; it is advisable to bring a scanner if the pet has a non-standard chip. After 1 January 2028, all EU-bound pet microchips must be ISO-compliant.

Pets entering Spain must do so with their owner. Non-commercial transport applies to a maximum of 5 pets per passport/vehicle (proof of competition or show participation required for more than 5).

Some Spanish municipalities require dogs to be registered and pay an annual dog tax or licence. Muzzles are required for dogs in certain areas. Confirm local requirements with the destination agent.

Ferrets must also be vaccinated against rabies. All pets may be subject to examination by a customs veterinarian on entry.

Wolves, wolf hybrids, Savannah cats, and Bengal cats (unless 5th generation removed from the wild) cannot be imported under standard pet travel regulations.

Consignment Instructions

Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air, sea, and road shipments.

All documents — including the inventory, bills of lading, NIE documentation, and customs forms — must be available before the shipment arrives at the Spanish port. If clearance cannot be initiated upon arrival, Spanish Customs may declare the shipment abandoned after one month, at which point it may be auctioned.

Inventories must be in Spanish, itemized, valued, and signed by the owner. Customs may order physical inspection of the container; electrical appliances, carpets, and works of art should be placed near the container door.

Additional costs for customs inspection, transport to a customs examination area, or unstuffing are borne by the shipper and are not included in standard destination charges.

ISPM 15 compliance is required for all wood packaging material.

For shipments to the Canary Islands, Ceuta, or Melilla, entirely separate import procedures apply. Always coordinate directly with the local destination agent.

Cultural & Other Information

Spain — officially the Kingdom of Spain — is a country in southwestern Europe occupying most of the Iberian Peninsula. It has a population of approximately 47.4 million. The capital is Madrid; other major cities include Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, and Bilbao. Spain is a member of the European Union and the Eurozone.

The official national language is Castilian Spanish, with Catalan, Galician, and Basque recognized as co-official languages in their respective autonomous communities. Spain operates under a parliamentary constitutional monarchy.

Spain has a diverse climate ranging from Atlantic in the north to semi-arid Mediterranean in the southeast. The working week is typically Monday through Friday, though siesta culture still persists in smaller towns. Spain uses the Euro (EUR).

- [Spain — OpenFactBook](#)
- [Spain — Wikipedia](#)
- [Spanish Tax Agency \(Agencia Tributaria — AEAT\)](#)
- [Dirección General de Tráfico — DGT \(Vehicle Registration\)](#)

- [Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food — Animal Health \(MAPA\)](#)
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(Exteriores\)](#)
- [EU Pet Travel Regulations](#)
- [PetTravel.com — Spain Pet Import Requirements](#)

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Spain](#)

<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Spain&lat=40.42&lng=-3.70&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Spain>

- [Foreign Embassies in Spain](#)

<https://www.embassypages.com/spain>

- [Spain's Embassies Abroad](#)

<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/en/Paginas/index.aspx>