

— Procedures Upon Arrival —

1. Buy an eSIM card for your phone if you want to have 2 lines (USA-Spain).

-Buy the eSIM with a local number/sms/data outside the airport in your name with a company such as Orange, Movistar, Vodafone

2. Purchase a transportation card (bus/metro)....usually €10 for 10 rides...cost might vary

3. Register your residency (where you live) at your local town hall “empadronarse”

-You must go in person and bring your rental or ownership contract.

4. Open a bank account.

-You'll need your passport and phone number if you want a non-resident account, for all others you need an address.

-Banks such as BBVA, Santander, Sabadell are everywhere.

-You could also just use Wise and an online bank like N26.

5. Apply for the National Identity Document (DNI) - only for citizens -

-You'll need to request deregistration at the consulate in San Francisco and inform them that you no longer live in the USA.

-You will need to have SF email a “DNI Birth certificate” to the local police station you are applying for the DNI...no a regular birth certificate.

6. Request the Foreigner Identification Number (NIE) for any family member that it's not a citizen.

-Note: You will need a spouse or family reunification visa (visa de arraigo familiar) from the SF consulate before traveling to Spain.

7. Apply for the Foreigner Identification Card (TIE) which is nothing more than a card that contains the NIE.

8. Enroll in Social Security - Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social (INSS).

-This can be done online.

9. Obtain the health card “Tarjeta sanitaria”

10. Get a digital certificate (digital signature)

...this is important as it will make your life easier to do any government paperwork online.

11. European health card.

-This can be done online; however for any family member that holds a TIE, this must be done in-person at an office.

12. Spanish driver's license (you may be able to exchange it) if your country participates on this program; unfortunately, USA doesn't.

-You could get an international driving permit from AAA but this is only good for a short term.

****IMPORTANT****

If you plan to reside outside of Spain for more than 3 years, you must "express your desire to preserve" the Spanish citizenship as stated in Articles 24 and 25 of the Civil Code.