

August
2022



Moving to Gran Canaria

The complete relocation guide



Gran Canaria

welcomes you

Follow this step-by-step guide for an easy and smooth landing experience. Packed with local intelligence and practical tips, let us guide you through this fast-track relocation process.



1 | About this guide

2 | Gran Canaria at a glance

- 3 | Why Gran Canaria?
- 4 | Gran Canaria in figures

5 | Connectivity

- 6 | Map of air connectivity
- 7 | Connectivity and Mobile Coverage

8 | Reading guide

*We recommend
you to start here!*

- 9 | Short stays
- 11 | Long stays

13 | Getting started in Gran Canaria

- 14 | Business structures
- 15 | Employee (for a spanish company)
- 16 | Self-employed worker
- 17 | Setting up a company
- 19 | Remote workers

20 | Administrative procedures to work and live in Gran Canaria

- 21 | Administrative levels
- 22 | Documentation
- 23 | Visa
- 24 | Types of visas
- 27 | Foreigner Identification Number (NIE)
- 28 | Registration with the Social Security Service
- 30 | Municipal census registration
- 31 | Foreigner Identity Card (TIE)
- 32 | EU Citizen Registration Certificate (CRC-EU)

33 | Taxation

- 34 | Personal Income Tax (IRPF)
- 36 | Non-Resident Income Tax (IRNR)
- 37 | Other taxes

38 | Living in Gran Canaria

- 39 | Cost of living

41 | Housing

- 42 | Renting property
- 44 | Purchasing property

46 | Areas

- 47 | Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
- 49 | Metropolitan area
- 50 | North
- 51 | East
- 52 | South
- 53 | Centre

54 | Transport

- 54 | Public transport
- 56 | Private transport

57 | Health care

- 58 | European Health Insurance Card
- 59 | Individual Health Insurance Card

60 | Security

61 | Education

66 | Other formalities

- 67 | Opening a bank account
- 68 | How to contract internet/phone services
- 69 | Digital certificate
- 70 | Importing to the Canary Islands
- 72 | Driving license - Registering a foreign vehicle

73 | Workspaces and offices

77 | Learn Spanish

79 | Contacts of interest

- 81 | Consulates

84 | Printable checklist

87 | Sociedad de Promoción Económica de Gran Canaria (SPEGC)

About this guide

Moving to a new country can often be a challenging experience. Like any new resident, a number of questions may arise when relocating: What type of business structure will allow me to carry out my professional activity with all the necessary guarantees? Where should I ideally seek for a house or an office? How do I enrol my children in school?

The aim of this guide is to **provide you with the answers** to these and many other questions that typically arise when relocating. **It is aimed at professionals of all backgrounds and nationalities** who plan on establishing themselves either temporarily or permanently in Gran Canaria.


This guide is not a substitute for the advice and support offered by private consultants and/or public institutions.

Feel free to share the content of this guide and if you have any specific queries, contact us at **bestingrancanaria@spegc.org**.

This guide is mainly intended for use by relocated professionals, expatriates, remote workers and entrepreneurs. Although it is undoubtedly of interest to companies, it is not strictly a 'Business Guide'.

Best In Gran Canaria publishes and regularly updates several documents of interest for companies.

A Tax Guide is available outlining all the fiscal advantages that make Gran Canaria an ideal destination for business operations and investment.

Feel free to download your copy directly at www.bestingrancanaria.com. Do not hesitate to contact us for more information and/or a case-specific analysis. 



Get started well in advance and make sure you comprehend all registration procedures and administrative tasks, including their level of importance and potential complexities. Allow for sufficient preparation time.

Gran Canaria has a number of relocation companies and professionals, along with consultants and legal advisers specialized in these areas.

Gran Canaria at a glance



Why Gran Canaria?

Gran Canaria has become an international magnet for international ventures, companies, professionals and talent. When you choose Gran Canaria, not only are you opting for an ideal work & life balance, **you are also choosing a global, well-connected, safe, stable and welcoming island.**

Based on a consistent political, legislative and social stability and a high standard of services and infrastructures, Gran Canaria is the perfect place to set up your business and develop a professional and personal career. **Gran Canaria is a project accelerator on its own, a strategically-located operations base and a trusted test-bed for innovations and ideas.** Quality of life and the World's best climate come included in this unique deal.



European
and Spanish
territory



Well-connected



Safety



Low
taxes



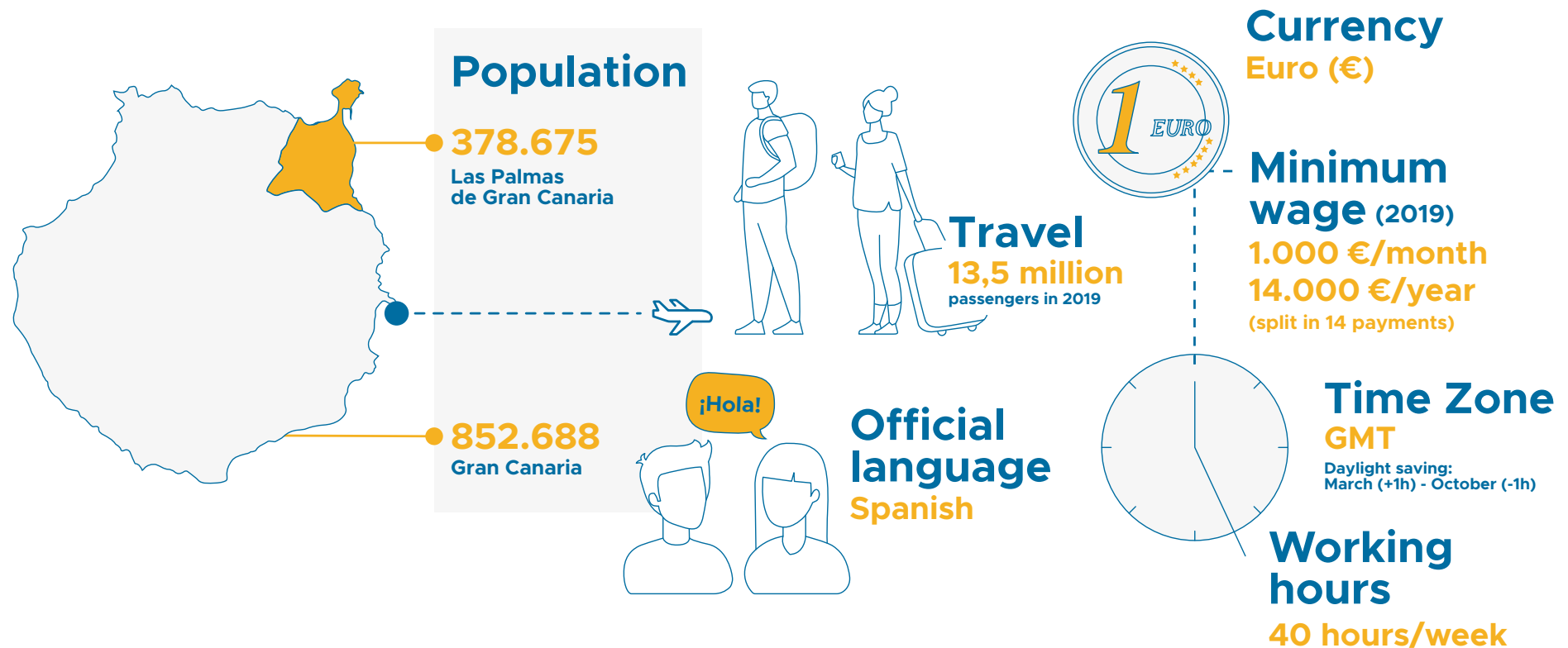
Quality of life /
Cost of living



Leisure &
culture

Gran Canaria

in figures



! Tips

- ◆ There are various levels of public administration. This guide outlines the main administrative procedures.
- ◆ Public authorities may not always be able to help you in English. Our proposal: request assessment by local bilingual consultants and lawyers.
- ◆ Gran Canaria is a highly sought-after destination with a very competitive real estate sector. We do provide practical tips to best tackle the house search.

Connectivity



Map of air connectivity

Gran Canaria is the single-most important connectivity node in the whole region. Gran Canaria International Airport (LPA) connects the island with over 130 destinations in Spain, the rest of Europe and Africa. It is widely connected not only to international hubs, but also to nearly all mid-sized airports of Western and Northern Europe (20xGermany, 17xUK, 37xNordic countries). It is also the gate to 8 destinations in West Africa.

EUROPE

Germany: Berlin, Bremen, Cologne, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Erfurt, Frankfurt, Friedrichshafen, Hamburg, Hannover, Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden, Kassel, Leipzig, Memmingen, Münster, Munich, Nuremberg, Saarbrücken, Stuttgart, Weeze.

Austria: Graz, Linz, Salzburg, Vienna.

Belgium: Brussels, Liege, Ostend.

Denmark: Aalborg, Aarhus, Billund, Copenhagen.

Spain: A Coruña, Alicante, Asturias, Barcelona, Bilbao, El Hierro, Granada, Fuerteventura, Ibiza, Jerez de la Frontera, La Gomera, La Palma, Lanzarote, Madrid, Málaga, Melilla, Murcia, Palma de Mallorca, Pamplona, San Sebastián, Santander, Santiago de Compostela, Sevilla, Tenerife, Valencia, Vigo, Vitoria, Zaragoza.

Finland: Helsinki, Kuopio, Tampere, Turku, Oulu, Vaasa.

France: Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Paris, Toulouse.

Iceland: Reikiavik.

Ireland: Cork, Dublin, Shannon.

Italy: Bologna, Milan, Pisa, Rome, Treviso, Turin, Venice, Verona.

Luxembourg: Luxembourg.

Norway: Alesund, Bergen, Bodo, Harstad, Haugesund, Kristiansand, Molde, Oslo, Stavanger, Tromso, Trondheim.

The Netherlands: Amsterdam, Eindhoven, Rotterdam.

Poland: Katowice, Warsaw.

Portugal: Lisboa, Madeira.

United Kingdom: Belfast, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Doncaster, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Leeds, London (Gatwick, Stansted, Luton), Manchester, Newcastle.

Czech Republic: Prague.

Sweden: Borlänge, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Halmstad, Jönköping, Kalmar, Karlstad, Lulea, Malmö, Norrköping, Örebro, Sundsvall, Umea, Växjö.

Switzerland: Basilea, Ginebra, Zurich.

AFRICA

Gambia: Banjul.

Morocco: Agadir, Casablanca, Laayoune, Marrakech.

Mauritania: Nouadhibou, Nouakchott.

Senegal: Dakar.

Western Sahara: Laayoune.



Connectivity and Mobile Coverage

Gran Canaria is connected to several subsea cables crossing the Atlantic and is therefore a full-scale digital node. Thanks to its vast fiber network and multiple service-providers, **the island offers guaranteed high connectivity and security, at reduced costs.** The availability and level of service matches West European standards.

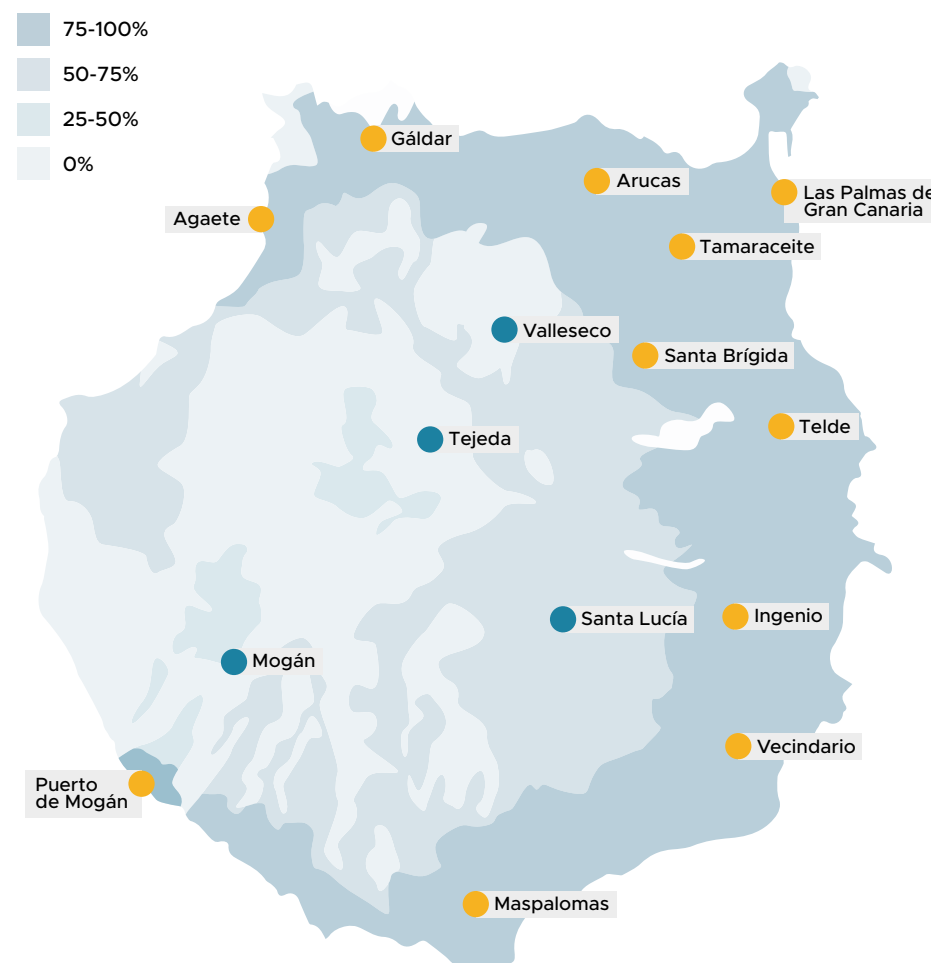
Access to rapid networks of up to 1 Gbps is guaranteed in the main urban centres of Gran Canaria and its industrial areas. In addition, all the main towns are equipped with fibre-to-the-home (FTTH).

Mobile coverage is guaranteed in all towns and villages up to 300/30Mbps (98% of the territory) thanks to the extensive deployment of the 4G+ network.

Wide band internet is also available in remote rural zones via the satellite technology on offer. A rather simple satellite dish/antenna installation enables internet surfing at 30 Mbps anywhere in Gran Canaria, on land or sea. [Eurona](#) is the leading installation company and service provider in rural zones.

Urban areas, business parks and industrial zones enjoy connection rates of up to 1 Gbps.

Fibre optic coverage >= 600 Mbps



Wide band coverage report, April 2020

Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation

Reading guide



Before arriving in Gran Canaria

02.

Preparing your trip Where do I come from?

Make sure you don't need a visa
(EU and EEA)

Apply for a visa, either in person or
through your employer, depending on
the nature of your plans in Gran Canaria

see page 23



01.

Self-assessment: *What activity will I be carrying out in Gran Canaria?* *What business form best suits my needs?*

Learn more about the legal implications
for remote workers

see page 19

Request advice before relocating: in
your home country (Spanish Embassy),
professionals (lawyers, advisers) and
institutions (SPEGC)



03.

Apply for the European Health Insurance Card

Only for EU and EEA citizens

see page 58

Private health insurance

When you arrive in Gran Canaria

04.

'Sign the contract with Gran Canaria'
**Essential steps to legally
operate in Spain**

< 90 day stay, no steps required

90 - 180 day stay, apply for NIE
see page 27

> 180 day stay
see page 34



05.

**Where do I see myself
living? And working?**

Start looking for a holiday home,
apartment, hotel, co-living, etc.
see pages. 42-43

Find your ideal working station
(office or coworking)
see pages 74-76

06.

**Mission
accomplished:
Start living in
Gran Canaria!**



Before arriving in Gran Canaria

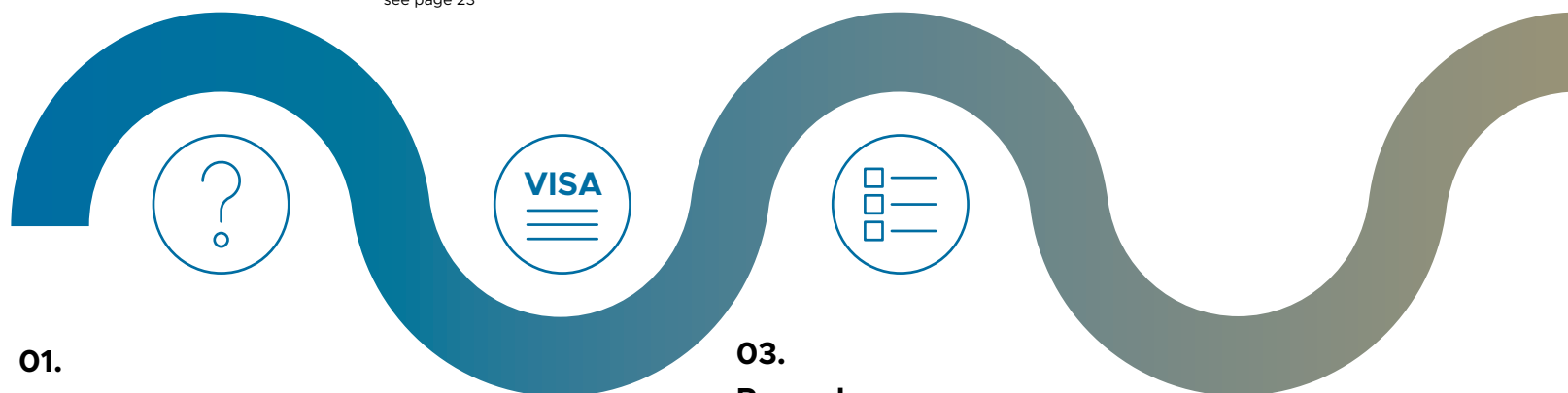
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see page 23



01.

Self-assessment: *What activity will I be carrying out in Gran Canaria?* *What business form best suits my needs?*

Determine the legal formula:
Employee? Sole trader? Business Owner?

see pages 14-18

Request advice before relocating: in your home
country (Spanish Embassy), professionals
(lawyers, advisers) and institutions (SPEGC)

03.

Procedures you can initiate in your home country

Apply for the NIE at the Spanish Embassy
see page 27

Check if your employer will be registering
you in the Social Security system or start the
procedure online before your arrival
see page 28

Search for temporary accommodation
see pages 42-43

Send your belongings (relocation companies)
see pages 70-71

European Health Insurance Card
see page 58

When you arrive in Gran Canaria

04.

'Sign the contract with Gran Canaria' Essential steps to legally operate in Spain

Initiate, resume or complete the legal procedures to ensure your **citizenship status** in Spain (NIE, TIE)

Initiate, resume or complete the legal procedures to ensure your **employment status** in Spain (Social Security, Health Card)



05.

Where do I see myself living? And working?

Start looking for your ideal home. Rent or buy?

see pages 42-45

Learn more about the main residential areas in Gran Canaria

see pages 47-53

Find your ideal working station (office or coworking)

see pages 74-76



06.

Practical family aspects

Familiarise yourself with the education system (3 types) and enrol your children

see pages 61-65

Get up to date with the health services

see page 57



07.

I have a place to live! Now what?

Municipal census registration

see page 30

Open a bank account

see page 67

Contract internet and telephone services

see page. 68

Other formalities: TIE application

see page 31

Is my driving licence valid?

see page 72



08.

Mission accomplished: Start living in Gran Canaria!



09.

Tax

Tax payable & rates

see pages 34-37

Getting started in Gran Canaria



Business structures

Anyone can come to Gran Canaria to engage in any professional activity provided that they comply with the formalities outlined in this section.

The main ways of operating in Spain are as follows:

Note

Non-nationals who wish to work as self-employed workers or set up a company must have their visa approved and obtain a tax identification number prior to initiating any activity.

Long stays

Employee (‘Empleado’)

working for a
Spanish company

Page 15

Sole Trader/Freelancer (‘Autónomo’)

Self-employed worker

Page 16

Business owner

Pages 17-18

Short stays

Remote worker

Employee or freelancer working for an overseas company that does not have a permanent establishment in Spain

Page 19

The ‘Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade’ (ICEX) is a state-owned enterprise which regularly publishes a [Business Guide](#) outlining the applicable procedures in greater detail.

Employee working for a Spanish company

An employee as defined under the Spanish terminology ('trabajador por cuenta ajena') refers to a person, regardless of its nationality, who voluntarily provides remunerated services under the management of another person, the employer or business owner. The latter may be a natural person ('persona física') or a legal person ('persona jurídica').

- ◆ The employee and the employer freely establish the terms of their employment relationship by mutual agreement.
- ◆ Wages and working hours are established by the applicable collective agreement. Agreements are traditionally negotiated every 2 years by trade unions and they have a regional scope. Whenever sector-specific agreements are not in place, the General Collective Agreement ('Convenio General de los Trabajadores') will apply.
- ◆ In general terms, the working week should not exceed 40 hours, saved from certain industries.

Formalities for employees:

Employees who have signed a contract with a Spanish company or a foreign company with a permanent establishment in Spain must confirm their legal status based on their employment contract:

1.

Request a
work visa*

*Only for non-EU
citizens



2.

Register with
Social Security



3.

Request Foreigner
Identification Number
(NIE)

General obligations of employers

- ◆ Employees must receive a signed copy of their employment contract.
- ◆ Employees must be registered in the Social Security system prior to commencing their employment activity.
- ◆ Employers are responsible for the health and safety of their workers, prevention of occupational risks and provision of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- ◆ Generally speaking, both the employer and the employee must give a minimum of 15 days' notice of termination of the employment contract (this may vary depending on the type of contract - see [here](#)).



Tips

- ◆ Make sure you understand all contractual terms (specifically the 'Grupo de Cotización', ie. Social security contribution group) and the applicable Collective Agreement prior to signing any contract.
- ◆ Check that your company is effectively registering you in the Social Security system. Expect an sms on the day of start; it will serve as registration and de-registration confirmation.
- ◆ You can check up on your employment history in Spain by requesting an automated report from the Social Security service ('Informe de Vida Laboral'). Access the link [here](#).

Self-employed worker (**'Autónomo/Trabajador por cuenta propia'**)

Sole traders/Freelancers or self-employed workers are natural persons who carry out their economic or professional activity directly and personally without involvement or management by a third party, whether or not they have employees.

To register as a self-employed worker, the procedure follows a national standard. The striking difference in the Canary Islands is that it is necessary to meet the requirements of the Canary Islands Tax Agency in order to apply the IGIC tax (VAT-substitute).

You must register in the category corresponding to the professional activity you are effectively going to engage in.

Formalities for self-employed workers:

1. Register with the AEAT*
2. Register with the Social Security
3. Register with the 'Canary Islands General Indirect Tax' (IGIC)

+ Other formalities which may or may not apply to your specific case.

*In the Canary Islands, it is necessary to register in the Business Register ('Censo de Empresarios') and for the Tax on Economic Activities (form 036 and 037). These formalities need to be fulfilled before the AEAT (Spanish Tax Agency), and the register with the 'IGIC' (form 400), before the ATC (Canary Islands Tax Agency, 'Agencia Tributaria Canaria').

€ As a self-employed worker, you may deduct expenses that are directly connected to your core business activity: you will need to comply with certain specifics and be able to back-up the deduction with payslips (employees' wages) and invoices (insurance, inputs, publicity, professional services, etc.). Make sure the key expenses are properly justified (office rental, electricity, water, telephone/internet and other expenses associated with renting your home as long as it is used to carry out your activity).

General obligations of self-employed workers

- ◆ Self-employed workers must declare their detailed earnings and pay their taxes on time and in due manner.
- ◆ If your customer is another independent Spanish professional or business, an additional 15% withholding tax must be deducted from your invoices.
- ◆ Generally speaking, they must invoice their customers in accordance with the service provided and the location of the customer, with a different application of indirect taxes (IGIC) and withholding taxes in each case (at least 3 scenarios): Canary Islands, rest of Spain, overseas (self-employed workers generally have various invoice templates).
- ◆ Monthly payment of the self-employed worker contribution (€294,00/month). New 'autónomos' can enjoy a flat rate during the first year of €60/month (in the Canary Islands this flat rate is extended for a further 12 months).



- ▶ For assistance registering as a self-employed worker, contact the [Ventanilla Única Empresarial](#) at the Chamber of Commerce of Gran Canaria (C/ León y Castillo, by appointment). They will deliver the necessary information and concise guidelines.
- ▶ Alternatively, you can contract the services of a private consultant/agency, which can help you with both the registration process and possible subsequent tax and invoicing formalities. The cost is relatively low and there are plenty of skilled local professionals.

Setting up a company

Setting up a business in Gran Canaria is rather simple and the registration procedure follows again a national standard. The Spanish legislation provides foreign investors with different types of commercial entities. We recommend that you undertake a thorough analysis of the available options before choosing one of them:

- ◆ **Incorporation of a Spanish company with its own legal personality (a separate legal person):**

Foreigners looking to invest in Spain have various corporate forms at their disposal. The most commonly used are the corporation/public limited company ('Sociedad Anónima', S.A.) and the private limited company ('Sociedad Limitada', S.L.).

- ◆ **Limited liability entrepreneur:**

Development of an activity directly by a natural person.

- ◆ **Branch or permanent establishment:**

Both figures lack their own legal personality, meaning that their activity and liability will always be directly linked to the parent company. This allows eligibility for certain tax breaks available in the Canary Islands.

- ◆ **Without establishing physical premises/operations base in Gran Canaria:**

Various forms available: execution of a distribution agreement, conducting transactions through an agent or sales representative, establishment of a franchise.

! Tips

It is important to carefully consider the different business structures available; not all of them allow full access to tax breaks and advantages listed under the Canary Islands special economic & tax regime (REF).

Legal professionals may be appointed to carry out the whole process.

	SA	SL
Minimum share capital	€60,000	€3,000
Minimum outlay at the time of incorporation	At least 25%, in the first instance	Fully paid up
Contributions	An expert report is required to assess non-monetary contributions	An expert report is not required to assess non-monetary contributions, but the members are jointly and severally liable for their authenticity
Subscribed capital	Shares	Equity interests
Shares/ Equity interests	Considered freely transferable	Not considered freely transferable

Once you have taken a firm decision about the legal form, the forthcoming rolling procedure will follow, with minor variations depending on the structure chosen:

1. Obtain the **Foreigner Identification Number (NIE, page 27) for foreign members and directors of the business.**

2. Check whether the proposed **business name is duly **available**, via a binding certificate.**

3. Open a bank/current account** in the name of the business and make the **minimum capital contribution**.**

4. Draft the **articles of incorporation and title deeds.**

5. Incorporation before a Notary Public.

6. Apply for a **Tax Identification Number (CIF) for the provisional entity.**

7. Payment of Stamp Duty.

8. Registration in the **Commercial Register.**

9. Obtain the definitive **Tax Identification Number (CIF).**

10. Legalisation of the **Official Company Books.**

11. Registration with the **Spanish tax authorities.**

***NOTE:** If the incorporation is carried out through a legal representative, the founder of the business must grant a power of attorney to the legal representative for it to act on his or her behalf.

This procedure is normally completed within a reasonable time frame (1-2 months)



- The above procedures can also be carried out with the support and assistance of the [Ventanilla Única Empresarial](#) at the Chamber of Commerce of Gran Canaria (C/ León y Castillo, by appointment)

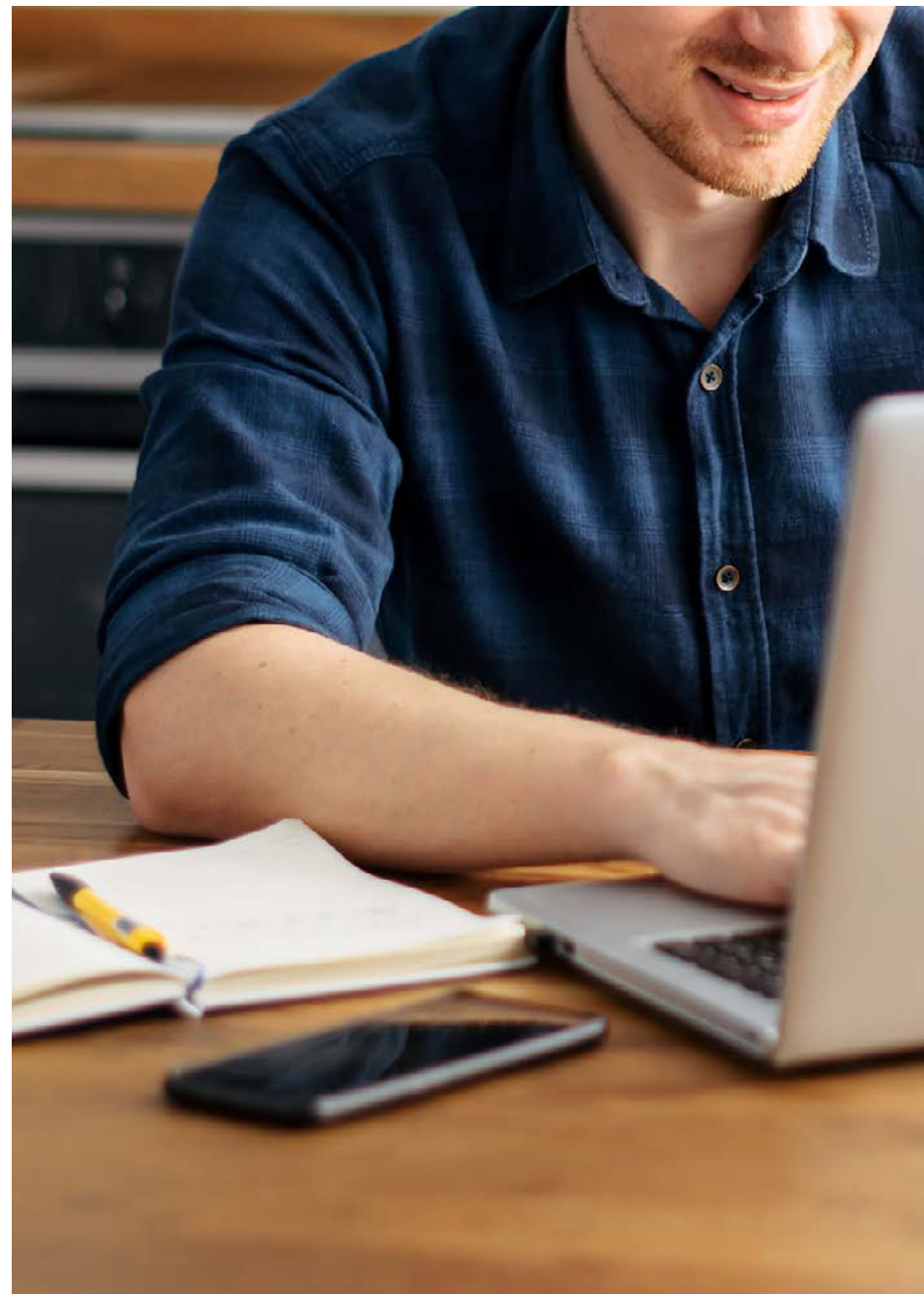
Remote workers

Persons working as employees for a company based overseas or freelancers, working in either cases remotely from Spain. They must take into account the following:

- ◆ All foreigners from non-EU countries must apply for a visa to enter Spanish territory.
- ◆ You may stay in Spain for up to 90 days as a tourist.
- ◆ If you plan to remain in Gran Canaria for more than 183 days we recommend that you carry out the procedures outlined on page 34.
- ◆ To find out which tax regimes applies to you, refer to the Double Taxation Agreements (DTA) between Spain and your country of origin.

! Tips

- ◆ Check whether your country of origin has a DTA with Spain. An updated list of the conventions currently in force can be found [here](#).
- ◆ It is vital for remote workers to determine their tax residence and duly comply with their tax obligations. This is best done on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the characteristics of the temporary relocation, nationality, etc. and the terms of the applicable DTA.
- ◆ We recommend that you contact tax experts both in your home country and in Gran Canaria to better clarify and optimize your tax burden.





Administrative procedures to work & live in Gran Canaria

Administrative levels

This section will provide you with an overview of the different institutions/entities and their respective functions.

Tips

- ◆ Despite the wide range of different agencies, administrative procedures are solely carried out before a single entity. Try to familiarise yourself with the different names and logos so you can identify them easily while on the island.
- ◆ The vast majority of tasks cannot be carried out entirely online. However, the appointment request system is fully digitalised and many forms can be downloaded, allowing you to fill them in and make any necessary payments prior to the date of the appointment.
- ◆ Later on, once you have your Digital Certificate, these formalities will be much simpler.
- ◆ Generally speaking, all procedures with the same agency are carried out in the same office/building. Familiarise yourself with their locations and make sure you have all your documentation duly prepared before the appointment.
- ◆ We highly advise a careful preparation of a dossier pertaining all necessary docs, originals and legally-validated copies (birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc.), as well as compliant passport photos. You can already start from home, saving a lot of time and effort and minimizing going backwards through the document chasing process.

European Union

General State Administration



Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation



National Police



Civil Guard



Social Security Treasury Office



Spanish Tax Agency

Regional Administration (Canary Islands)



Government of the Canary Islands



Canary Islands Police



Canary Islands Health Service

Gran Canaria Government (Cabildo)



Gran Canaria Island Council



Sociedad de Promoción Económica de Gran Canaria



Best in Gran Canaria



Tourism Board

Local authorities (21 municipalities)



City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



Local Police



Ayuntamiento de Telde
Municipal Councils of Gran Canaria (21)



...

Documentation

Regardless of how you choose to establish yourself in Gran Canaria, there are a number of mandatory administrative formalities and other recommended procedures that will greatly facilitate your stay on the island.

Non-EU citizens

● Procedures

● Visa
Work permit
see page 23

EU citizens

● Procedures

Necessary documentation

Comparison with documents of Spanish nationals

● ● Social Security
see pages 28-29

= Same document

● ● Foreigner Identification
Number (NIE)
see page 27

= Tax Identification
Number (NIF)

● ● Municipal Census Registration
(in the municipality of residence)
see page 30

= Same document

● EU Citizen Registration
Certificate (CRC-UE)
see page 32

= National Identity
Document (DNI)

● Foreigner Identity Card (TIE)
see page 31

Spanish citizens and non-nationals with residence permits have the same labour and social rights.

Nonetheless, the names given to the documents are different. For example, while Spaniards are asked to present their DNI, non-nationals will be asked for their TIE; both documents are equally valid and have the same function.

Minor/underage children will be granted same status and documentation as their respective parents (make sure you come along with official proof of the family relation). We recommend booking appointments together, so that all family members can complete the administrative procedures on the same day.



Visa

All foreigners wishing to enter Spain to travel, live, work or study and who are not nationals of one of the [member countries](#) of the European Economic Area (EEA), ie. EU states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, must request a short-stay visa or long-stay visa (more than 90 days) depending on the reason for their visit.

General Procedure

(each type of visa has its own specific characteristics)

Application

At least two months prior to the relocation or visit to Spain.

Where do I apply?

The Spanish Embassy in your country of origin.

Cost

Approximately €80.

Procedure

In person.

Tips

- ◆ The requirements or the application form may vary depending on your country of origin or the type of visa you wish to apply for.
- ◆ To find out which visa is the most appropriate for your situation, contact the Spanish consulate in your country of origin.
- ◆ Once you have your visa, the next step is to apply for your NIE.

Sample visa

Highly Qualified Professionals (TAC)

Level of difficulty



Most commonly issued visas (2019)



1.361
Intra-corporate
transfers



1.650
Highly qualified
professionals

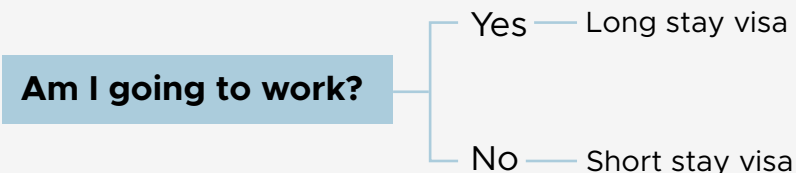


3.530
Family
reunifications

Types of visas

Short stay visa

To enter Spain for short stays (less than 90 days) you need to apply for a visitor or tourist visa, also known as a 'Schengen visa' after the agreement signed by various European countries including Spain (allowing travel to 26 other countries in the Schengen Area). For further information, click [here](#).



Long stay visas

♦ Self-employed workers

Residence Visa for Entrepreneurs and Business Activity ('Visado de Residencia para Emprendedores y Actividad Empresarial' - REM)

This visa is aimed at investors who present a business project to be carried out in Spain which is considered and accredited as being of general interest, and also for those who plan to enter and remain in Spain for a period of one year for the sole or main purpose of carrying out the preliminary formalities necessary to undertake a business activity. In order to apply for this visa, you will need to determine the type of activity you intend to carry out, demonstrate that you have the necessary professional qualifications to assume the project and prepare a business case to justify project's viability. Your application will be processed within three months from the date of registration.

♦ Employees

Residence Visa for Intra-Corporate Transfer ('Visado de Residencia por Traslado Empresarial' - TTI)

This visa may be requested by foreigners who move to Spain within the framework of an employment, professional or vocational training relationship with a business established in Spain under any of the permanent establishment formulas. In order to apply for this visa, your employer must previously apply in Spain for a Residence Permit for intra-corporate transfer, which is issued by the General Directorate for Migration ('Dirección General de Migraciones').

Residence Visa for Highly Qualified Professionals ('Visado de Residencia para Profesionales Altamente Cualificados' - TAC)

In order to apply for this visa, your employer must first obtain a Residence Permit for highly qualified professionals, which is processed by the Large Business and Strategic Groups Unit in Spain ('Unidad de Grandes Empresas y Colectivos Estratégicos').

Other types of visa

‘Residence Visa for Capital Investors’ (RIC)

A significant capital investment is considered to be any investment with a value equal to or greater than €2 million in Spanish public debt securities or with a value equal to or greater than €1 million in shares or equity interests in Spanish companies or bank deposits in Spanish financial institutions.

‘Residence Visa for Real Estate Acquisition’ (RIV)

Intended for foreigners who certify acquisition of real estate in Spain with an investment value equal to or greater than €500,000.

‘Residence Visa for Training or Research’ (RIN)

This visa is for foreigners wishing to carry out training, research, development and innovation activities in public or private entities.

Family Reunification Visa

The general family reunification visa entitles the holder (family member of a foreign citizen legally resident in Spain) to reside in Spain for a period of more than 90 days. This visa may be requested for ascendants, descendants and the applicant’s spouse or de facto partner.

Non-profit residence visa

Type of residence granted to non-EU citizens with proven means to sustain themselves economically. They are therefore not authorised to carry out any economic or professional activity in Spain. This visa allows the holder to stay in Spain for one year from the date of entry in Spanish territory and is aimed at citizens wishing to retire in Spain.

Case study

Obtaining a Residence Visa for an Employee

Stage 1

Opening of a master file for the company in the Immigration Office

Stage 2

Visa application for the employee

Both stages are processed by the employer at the Las Palmas Immigration Office. The company may be asked to prove that there is no national talent available to meet the job post requirements before a non-EU employee is allowed.

Stage 3

Processing of the worker's file

Carried out by the employee at the Spanish Consulate of the country of origin once the work permit has been approved in Spain.

- ◆ [Visa application form](#) (plus 2 copies) and Form M790 (tax).
- ◆ 3 recent passport-size colour photographs (without glasses).
- ◆ Passport (3 colour copies).
- ◆ Medical certificate confirming the applicant’s good state of health (2 copies) and Letter from the Spanish employer confirming contracting of medical insurance.
- ◆ Original work permit issued in Las Palmas (2 copies).
- ◆ Proof of criminal record or police certificate.

Stage 4

Completion of the process in Gran Canaria

Submission of documentation by the employee following the indications of the employer.

Non-EU citizens

! COVID-19

As a general rule, due to epidemiological restrictions and controls, online appointments are mandatory unless otherwise indicated.

Visa

NIE, Social Security, Municipal Census Registration...

From this point onwards, all foreigners (both EU and non-EU) will share **common procedures**.

The documentation will be different from that of Spanish nationals, but they will have the same legal validity before Spanish authorities and the procedures to be carried out are similar.

Foreigner Identity Card

EU citizens

EU Citizen Registration Certificate

Foreigner Identification Number (‘Número de Identidad de Extranjero’ - NIE)

The NIE is **compulsory** (regardless of your country of origin) and is essential for day-to-day formalities.

Procedure

When should I apply?

Within the first 90 days after arriving in Spain.

Where do I apply?

By appointment (two options)

- ◆ In your country of origin: Spanish Embassy.
- ◆ Start the procedure in Gran Canaria at the ‘Jefatura Superior de Policía de Canarias - Oficina de inmigración’ (main Immigration Office).

Cost

€9,84 ([document](#)).

How?

In person.

How long does it take?

EU citizens (same day), non-EU citizens (10 to 30 days).

! Tips

- ◆ Try to make an appointment as far in advance as possible in order to complete the necessary formalities as soon as you arrive in Gran Canaria.
- ◆ The NIE is not valid as a visa or residence permit.
- ◆ It will normally be a number beginning with X, Y or Z and will remain unchanged until you obtain the Spanish nationality.
- ◆ The NIE is valid for 3 to 6 months and must be renewed. For longer stays, you will need to apply for a Residence Card (TIE).

Level of difficulty



Necessary documentation

- ☐ **Passport** (original and copy).
- ☐ Written **statement** in Spanish explaining the reasons **why** you are applying for a NIE (work reasons, to open a bank account, copy of employment contract...).
- ☐ Case-specific **back-up documents**, when applicable (employment contract/job offer, Business Plan, proof of financial funds, private health insurance).
- ☐ Fill in two copies of the **form (EX-15)** and pay the administrative fees – make sure to bring along the proof of payment ([Form 790](#)).

>>Select the option: “Asignación de Número de Identidad de Extranjero (NIE) a instancia del interesado”

Registration with the Social Security Service (‘Afiliación a la Seguridad Social’)

Social Security is a public system in Spain whose main function is to protect the citizens in the event of unemployment and sickness and provide coverage in the form of social benefits and pensions. The Social Security system consists of two different contributory schemes: the general scheme on the one hand, and special scheme, when applicable. Their role is to regulate the manner and terms of the contributions by workers based on their activity.

- **General scheme (‘Régimen General’)**. This covers the main share of the national workforce and also sub-regimes such as the Special Agricultural System, the Special System for Household Employees and the Artists' Regime.
- **Special Schemes (‘Regímenes Especiales’)**. This category is subdivided into the following:
 - ◆ Special Scheme for Self-Employed Workers (RETA).
 - ◆ Special Scheme for Sea Workers.
 - ◆ Special Scheme for Coal Mining.
 - ◆ Special Scheme for civil service and military personnel and other public employees.

All employers and workers must be registered and contribute to the Spanish Social Security System. The employee contribution is an amount that workers must pay to Social Security, with the corresponding percentage (between 4% and 5% of the applicable base) being automatically deducted from their salary depending on their employment/professional category. The big financial burden lies however on the company side (they must contribute with a higher percentage, around 23%).

When applying for registration with the Social Security service, the worker is assigned an **Identification Number certifying registration in the Social Security System**.

Sample contract Public Employment Service

(commonly used by
Spanish employers)

▶ The contribution bases and rates for 2022 are listed [here](#).

! Tips

- ◆ Your Social Security identification number is unique and non-transferable and will accompany you throughout your life.
- ◆ We recommend that you reach an agreement with your employer: generally speaking, the employee is responsible for completing the procedure, although many employers assume this task on behalf of their employees.
- ◆ We also recommend that you go over the professional categories and the Social Security contribution scheme, along with the applicable collective agreement: these will be stated in the draft contract provided to you by your employer.

Registration with the Social Security Service

Procedure

- **When should I apply?**
Before starting the work and before requesting any public service (e.g. medical care).
- **Where do I apply?**
[Tesorería General de la Seguridad Social.](#)
- **Cost**
Free.
- **How?**
By the employee or the employer (in person or online) - [instructions](#)
- **How long does it take?**
Up to 45 days.



Level of difficulty



Necessary documentation

- ☐ Copy of **passport** or **NIE number**.
- ☐ Job offer or **employment contract**..
- ☐ Completed **form** ([TA1](#)).

INFORME SOBRE NÚMERO DE SEGURIDAD SOCIAL O NÚMERO DE AFILIACIÓN

El número de Seguridad Social o, en su caso, el número de afiliación asignado a

D^{ña} NOMBRE
APELLIDOS

cuyos datos identificativos constan a continuación:

Tipo y Número de Documento de Identidad: 0000000X
 Fecha de nacimiento: 00/00/0000
 Domicilio: XXXXXXXXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXX

es el siguiente: 00-0000000000

Este número identifica a D^{ña} NOMBRE
APELLIDOS

en sus relaciones con la Seguridad Social, debiendo incorporarse en las solicitudes de cualquier prestación o servicio de la Tesorería General de la Seguridad Social, de las Entidades Gestoras o Colaboradoras de la Seguridad Social o del Servicio Público de Empleo.

Para realizar cualquier consulta sobre otra cuestión referida a la gestión de la Seguridad Social puede utilizar el buzón de consultas de la página web www.seg-social.es, llamar al teléfono 901502050 o dirigirse a cualquier Administración de la Seguridad Social.

REFERENCIAS ELECTRÓNICAS			
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Este documento no será válido sin la referencia electrónica. La autenticidad de este documento puede ser comprobada hasta la fecha 00/00/0000 mediante el Código Electrónico de Autenticidad en la Sede Electrónica de la Seguridad Social, a través del Servicio de Verificación de Integridad de Documentos.

Municipal census registration (‘Empadronamiento’)

You need to register in the municipal census to demonstrate that you effectively live in a municipality of Spain. This document is required for certain formalities and also for you to be eligible for essential public services (health care, education).

Procedure

When should I apply?

With your NIE or Passport whenever you have your rental agreement in place.

Where do I apply?

By appointment in the town hall of the corresponding municipal council.

Cost

Free.

How?

In person.

How long does it take?

Up to one month, depending on the municipality.

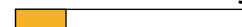
Benefits

- ◆ Discounts on local transport, tickets for museums, tourist attractions...
- ◆ You will benefit from a **75% discount** on the total price of travel fares between the Canary Islands and on routes between the Canary Islands and the Spanish mainland (airport and port taxes excluded).

How it works: Airlines allow you to indicate your status as a Canary Islands resident in the ticket booking process. Once this option is selected, the discount is automatically applied. In some cases (especially for air transport) you may require a certificate of registration or a travel certificate to prove your status, which may be obtained at your [municipal council](#).



Level of difficulty



Necessary documentation

- ☐ **NIE/Passport** (original and photocopy) - depending on the municipality.
- ☐ Photocopy and original of the **rental agreement** or authorisation signed by the owner.
- ☐ Individual or collective **registration form** (provided by the municipal council).
- ☐ If you have children, you must also bring a photocopy of their NIE/passport and **official family record book ('Libro de Familia')** or birth certificate.

Foreigner Identity Card (TIE)

The 'Tarjeta de Identificación de Extranjeros' (TIE) is the physical document used to certify the legal status of foreigners in Spain. This document/card contains your personal details: photo, name and surname, NIE number and type of authorisation to reside in Spain.

Procedure

When should I apply?

One month after arriving in Spain.

Where do I apply?

Immigration Office ([by appointment](#))

>>Select the option: 'Toma de huellas (expedición de tarjeta) y Renovación de tarjeta de larga duración'

Cost

On a case-by-case basis ([form](#))

The fee must be paid before the appointment.

>>Select the option: 'TIE que documenta la primera concesión de la autorización de residencia temporal, de estancia o para trabajadores transfronterizos'

How?

In person.

! Tips

- ◆ Holders of a seasonal residence and work permit are not required to apply for a TIE.
- ◆ For further information, click [here](#).



Level of difficulty



Necessary documentation

- ☐ Certificate of **registration with the Social Security Service**.
- ☐ Form (EX-17) - original and photocopy, and receipt **confirming payment of the fee**.
- ☐ **Passport** or travel document with entry stamp.
- ☐ **Three recent passport-sized colour photographs** on a white background.
- ☐ **Visa** (where applicable) or work permit.
- ☐ Certificate of current **municipal census registration** if you have changed your address (issued within the last three months by your municipality of residence). Original and copy.

EU Citizen Registration Certificate (CRC-EU)

Citizens of an EU or EEA member country who plan to live in Spain for a period of more than three months must apply in person to the Immigration Office for registration in the Central Register of Foreign Nationals ('Registro Central de Extranjeros').

Procedure

• When should I apply?

Three months after arriving in Spain.

• Where do I apply?

Immigration Office or National Police ([by appointment](#))

>>Select the option: 'Tramites Cuerpo Nacional de Policia > Policia-Certificado de Registro de Ciudadano de la Union Europea'

• Cost

€12,00 ([form](#))

The fee must be paid before the appointment.

>>Select the option: 'Certificado de registro de residente comunitario o Tarjeta de residencia de familiar de un ciudadano de la Unión'

• How?

In person.

Level of difficulty



Necessary documentation



- ☐ Official application form (EX-18) in duplicate, duly completed and signed.
- ☐ Valid passport or national identity card currently in force.

If you are an **employee**, you may provide any of the following documents:

- ☐ Declaration or certificate by your employer confirming your employment commitment, stating as a minimum the name and address of the company, tax identification number and contribution account code.
- ☐ Employment contract registered with the Public Employment Service ('Servicio Publico de Empleo') or notification of employment.
- ☐ Document of registration in the Social Security or consent to verify the data in the files of the Social Security Treasury Office.

If you are **self-employed**, you may provide any of the following documents:

- ☐ Registration in the Register of Economic Activities ('Censo de Actividades Economicas').
- ☐ Registration in the Commercial Register ('Registro Mercantil') confirming effective business establishment.
- ☐ Document of registration in the Social Security or consent to verify the data in the files of the Social Security Treasury Office.

For further information in other cases, click [here](#).



Taxation

Taxation

Tax residents in Spain, regardless of their nationality, are obliged to pay taxes on their annual worldwide income.

In order to determine the exact amount of your annual tax liabilities, it will be necessary to first clarify your tax residence status. Most countries have signed 'Double Taxation Agreements' with Spain, which regulate matters such as the criteria for determining tax residence and mechanisms to avoid excessive tax burdens applied in both territories. For more detailed information, click [here](#). You may guide yourself by the following rules of thumb to determine tax residence:

- Staying more than 183 days in Spanish territory during the calendar year.
- Having the main base of your activities or economic interests located in Spain, either directly or indirectly.
- Spain being the habitual residence of other family members (spouse and/or under-aged children).



Note

You will lose your previous resident status whenever your stay in Spain is longer than 183 days, among other possible reasons.

Personal Income Tax (IRPF)

Personal Income Tax ('Impuesto sobre la Renta de las Personas Físicas, IRPF') is a progressive tax and all individuals resident in Spain are obliged to pay it according to their income. Personal income tax is paid monthly through deductions from your salary, the percentage of which can be negotiated with your employer. Tax declarations are filed between 1 May and 30 June for the previous year.

The tax return can be filed either by telephone, [online](#) or in person. Its purpose is to make adjustments based on the total tax withheld by your employer in the previous year. Two possibilities may arise:

- ◆ You have paid more personal income tax than was due, in which case you will be entitled to a refund.
- ◆ You have paid less personal income tax than was due, in which case you will be required to pay the difference.

Both the refund and the payment of the amounts owed will be made automatically to the bank account that you specify when submitting the declaration, with the possibility of making payments in two instalments (june and november).

As a general rule, the following taxpayers are obliged to present a tax declaration:

- ◆ If you have earned more than €22,000 from a single source or income-paying company,
- ◆ or more than €14,000 from two or more sources (only those exceeding €1,500 are considered).

The taxable income is composed of a **general tax base (wage related)** and a **savings tax base**: while the general tax base includes mainly salaries, income derived from real estate and other economic activities and some capital gains, savings income is calculated from various financial-related sources (dividends, interests, capital transactions, insurance and future contracts, and the balance between capital gains and losses).

Wage Tax Rates, 2022

Taxable income - Above tax-free allowance

From	To	Rate
0,00 €	12.450,00 €	19%
12.450,01 €	20.200,00 €	24%
20.200,01 €	35.200,00 €	30%
35.200,01 €	60.000,00 €	37%
60.000,01 €	300.000,00 €	45%
+ 300.000,01 €	No limit	47%

Savings Tax Rates, 2022

Taxable income - Above tax-free allowance

From	To	Rate
0,00 €	6.000,00 €	19%
6.000,01 €	50.000,00 €	21%
50.000,01 €	200.000,00 €	23%
+ 200.000,01 €	No limit	26%

! Tips

- ◆ Your employer must provide an annual withholding certificate at the end of the year.
- ◆ The minimum tax-free personal allowance (€5,500 for individuals without children) must be deducted before calculating the tax payable, along with any other deductions or reductions that may apply in each case (for dependent children or other persons under your responsibility, etc.)

Non-Resident Income Tax (IRNR)

This is a direct tax on income earned in Spanish territory by individuals and entities that are not considered as residents in Spain, unless they pay personal income tax.

In addition to the tax residence, the concept of 'Permanent Establishment' (PE) is of vital importance, given that a non-resident may be considered by the Spanish Tax Agency (Agencia Tributaria) to be operating in Spain on this basis.

Different rates apply. The [IRNR](#) ('Impuesto de la renta de no residentes') establishes the following taxes levied on income from economic activities or property:

IRNR - No permanent establishment

- ◆ **Non-EU citizens:** 24% up to €600,000 (45% thereafter).
- ◆ **EU citizens:** 19% up to €600,000 (45% thereafter).

IRNR - With permanent establishment

- ◆ **General rate** of 30%.

The procedure can be carried out in a number of different ways; [online](#), by telephone or in person (appointment needed).



Note

A **Permanent Establishment (PE)** is considered to exist if you have facilities or workplaces in Spain on a continuous basis or when acting through an authorised agent/branch with powers of representation/attorney.

Special regime for expatriates

The IRNR only applies to non-resident citizens and companies, and also to certain types of tax residents who are treated as non-residents for tax purposes during their first six years in Spain.

Main requirements:

- ◆ You cannot have been a tax resident in Spain previously (during the 10 years prior to arrival).
- ◆ The transfer to Spain must be the consequence of an employment contract, an international assignment by the company (corporate manager or C-level appointment) or because you are going to be administrator of an entity.
- ◆ Income cannot be earned through a permanent establishment located in Spanish territory.

Only the income earned in Spain is taxed, at a special rate:

- ◆ 24% up to €600,000,
- ◆ after which your earnings are taxed at the maximum marginal rate.

Procedure:

If you meet these requirements, you must apply for this regime using [Form 149](#) within six months of your arrival to Spain.

Other taxes

Canary Islands General Indirect Tax (IGIC)

This is an indirect tax, similar to VAT but specific to the Canary Islands, which is levied on supplies of goods and services in the islands but at a significantly lower rate (generally 7%) than in mainland Spain and Europe.

Property tax ('Impuesto de Bienes Inmuebles' – IBI)

This tax is paid annually to local councils and is compulsory for owners of any type of property (garages, houses, flats, apartments, estates, etc.). If you are the lessee of a property, the lessor is liable for payment of this tax.

Wealth tax ('Impuesto sobre el Patrimonio')

Applicable if you own assets or rights of economic value (such as investments, savings, real estate, vehicles, boats or artwork). While residents must declare their total assets, non-residents only declare those located in Spanish territory. Currently, the minimum exemption in the Canary Islands is €700,000.

Road tax ('Impuesto de Circulación IVTM')

It is a compulsory tax to be paid to the municipality by owners of cars, motorbikes, and other vehicles.

Recommendation:

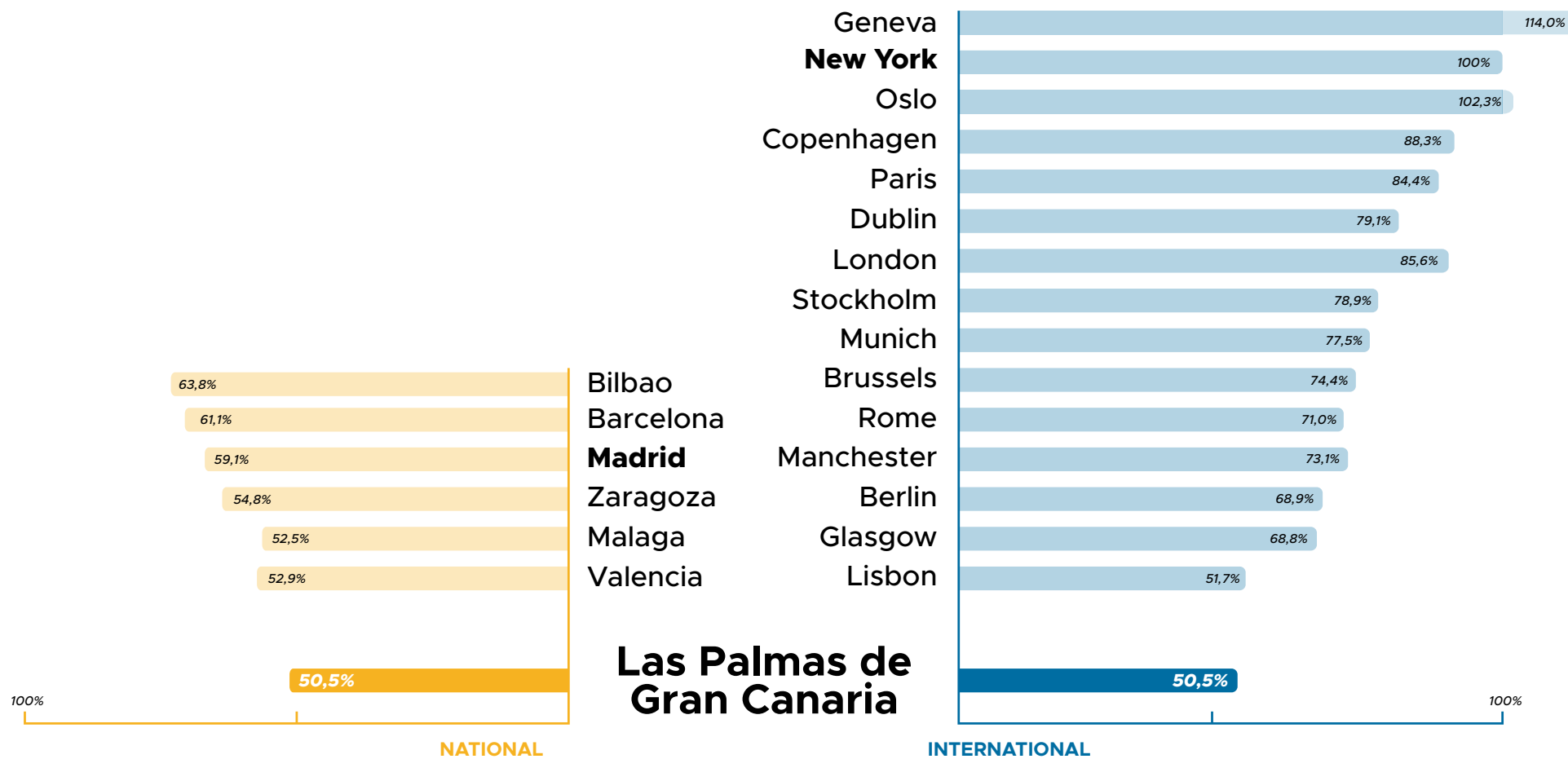
To facilitate the process and given the implications of international taxation requirements (especially if you have interests in other territories), you should seek professional advice from a lawyer or employment advisor.

For more information, ask for 'Best in Gran Canaria' Tax Guide!

Living in Gran Canaria



Cost of living



Source:
[Numbeo](#), first trimester (2022)

Cost of living



Expenses
(monthly)

Gran Canaria	Berlin	Madrid	Paris	London	Oslo	Brussels
Basic (Electricity, Heating, A/C, Water, Rubbish) for 85sqm apartment						
€67,88	€278,73	€127,97	€174,75	€243,10	€160,96	€155,28
Internet (60 Mbps or more, unlimited data, ADSL)						
€47,14	€36,39	€37,67	€29,66	€37,31	€47,37	€46,08

City Centre

Apartment (1 bedroom)						
€687,50	€1.075,66	€938,47	€1.265,38	€2.073,96	€1.351,13	€912,03
Apartment (3 bedrooms)						
€1.068,75	€2.088,23	€1.596,64	€2.711,25	€4.163,24	€2.139,21	€1.584,23

Outside of Centre

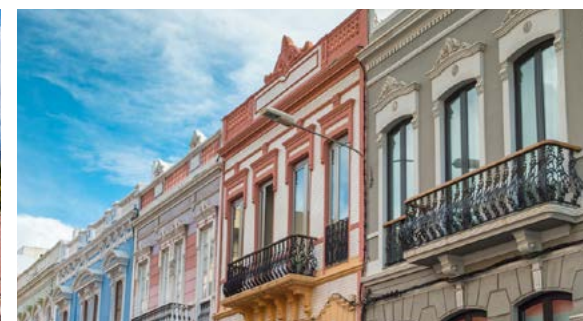


Rent
(monthly)

Apartment (1 bedroom)						
€483,88	€483,88	€701,98	€879,21	€1.542,50	€1.064,54	€733,34
Apartment (3 bedrooms)						
€825,00	€1.417,16	€1.105,00	€1.857,63	€2.536,61	€1.694,03	€1.315,42

Housing

Finding a place to live is often the main challenge for employees and digital nomads moving to Gran Canaria. The island is known for its diversity of landscapes and areas, so we strongly advise to take your time and consider all the available options.



Renting a property

Level of difficulty



Multiple accommodation options exist depending on the requirements and the likes of each person/family:

- **Short stays:** Apartments, Hotels, Coliving or Holiday Rentals.
- **Long stays:** Rental property (>12 months).

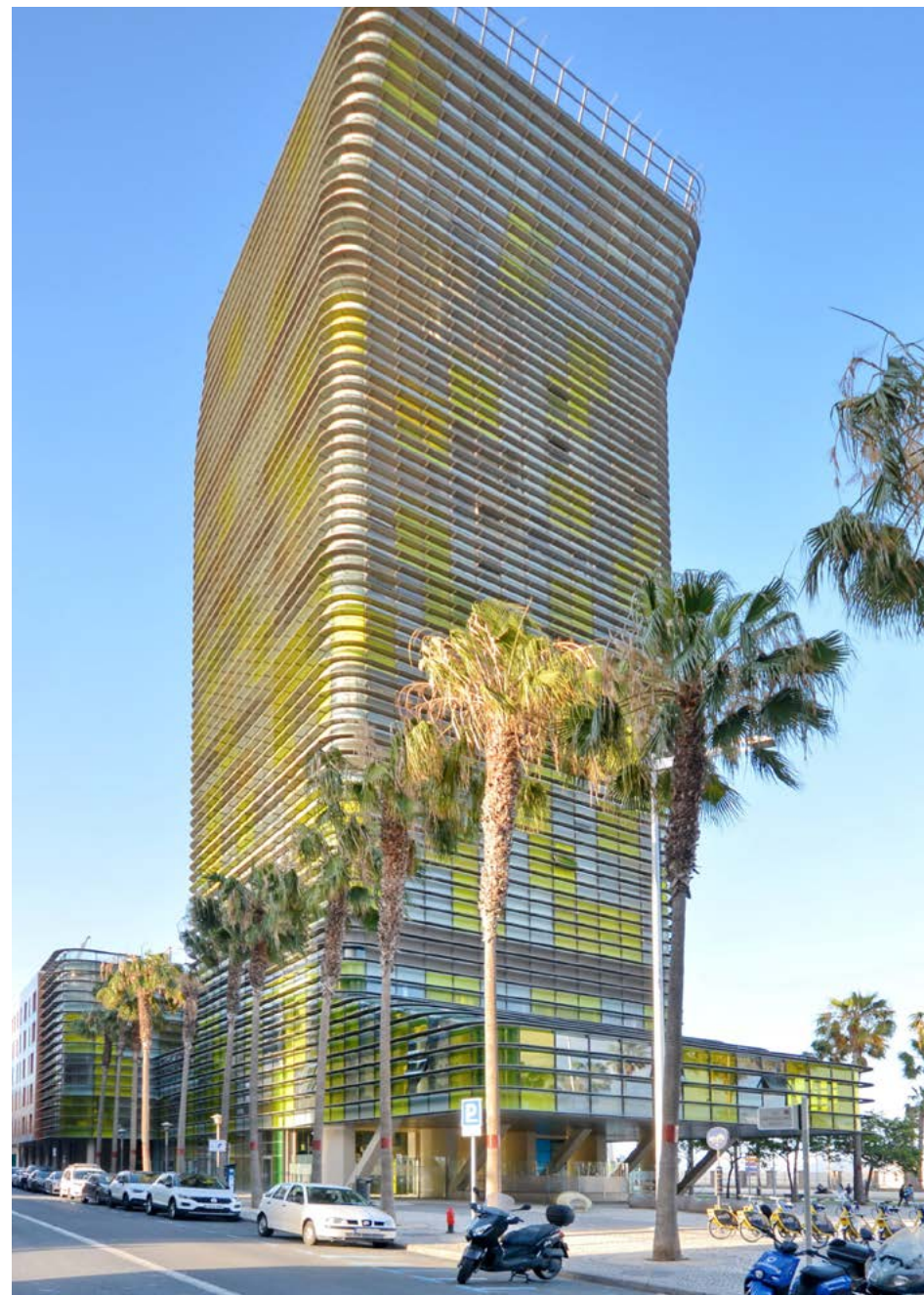
Searches

- ◆ Real estate agency*
- ◆ The most popular search websites, including rental properties offered by agencies and those offered directly by owners: [Fotocasa](#), [Idealista](#), [Yaencontre](#), [Enalquiler](#), [Tucasa](#), [Pisos.com](#), [Indomio...](#)

*Real estate agents charge a commission, usually equivalent to one month's rent.

? General information

- ◆ The lease is contracted directly with the owner of the property/ landlord.
- ◆ The standard term for contracts is 12 months (negotiable).
- ◆ The contract may be terminated without any penalty after the first six months (in the absence of penalization terms in the contract).
- ◆ Contracts may be automatically renewed for additional yearly terms up to a maximum of five years.
- ◆ The tenant must give four months' notice of the decision not to renew the contract and the landlord must give two months' notice.



€ Costs

- ◆ The deposit/bond is usually one month's rent (it may be up to two months' rent).
- ◆ The tenant must generally pay water, electricity and internet services.
- ◆ Municipal taxes (IBI) and building service charges must be paid by the landlord.

📄 Necessary documentation

- ☐ **Employment contract** and/or **payslip** (usually the last three documents). In the absence of employment contract, you may be asked to provide a proof of funds (**bank statement**).
- ☐ Copy of **National Identity Card, Passport or Foreigner Identification Number (NIE)**.
- ☐ Payment of the **deposit** or bond.

! Tips

- ◆ Review all the clauses of your contract in detail, as all payments and terms can be negotiated.
- ◆ The necessary documentation is more standard practice than a requirement: lessors will want to determine your creditworthiness and this can be done in a number of ways.
- ◆ In the Canary Islands, in addition to the contract, the relations between the parties are founded on mutual trust. If you are frank and open in your dealings, it will make things easier.
- ◆ The Canary Islands real estate market is mostly oriented towards short term or long term stays, with different price references per day/week. For those looking into mid-term contracts (e.g., 5 months), there is a more limited offer and hence we recommend allowing extra time for the search.



Purchasing a property

Level of difficulty



Gran Canaria is an ideal place to buy a property, even if you are not planning on living permanently on the island.

Searches

- ◆ Real estate agency*
- ◆ The most popular search websites, including rental properties offered by agencies and those offered directly by owners: [Fotocasa](#), [Idealista](#), [Yaencontre](#), [Enalquiler](#), [Tucasa](#), [Pisos.com](#), [Indomio...](#)

*In the case of purchases, agency costs are borne by the vendor.

? General information

Process (indicative)

Purchasing is usually a step-by-step decision process for both parties:

- ◆ **Offer:** The interested party submits a formal purchase proposal together with a small deposit, which is returned if the offer is rejected by the vendor.
- ◆ **Deposit agreement:** If the offer is accepted by the vendor, a binding contract is celebrated in which the purchaser makes a significant down payment (5%-15% of the purchase value). The parties undertake to conclude the sale and purchase at a future date (one, two or three months, etc.). This allows time to organise the financing while keeping the property reserved.
- ◆ **Signing of the sale and purchase agreement** (before a Notary Public).



- ◆ **Taxes and Property Registry costs:** At the purchaser's expense (approximately 10% of the cost of the property).
- ◆ **Mortgage/financed purchase:** Banks can provide financing of up to 80% of the estimated value (marginally different than purchase price). The regulatory framework is legally defined at a national level, although each bank offers different financial terms.

€ Costs

- ◆ The annual costs of home ownership are relatively low compared to the European average.
- ◆ **Property tax (IBI):** The amount varies depending on the size, location and type of property (€100-€500/year).
- ◆ **Service charges:** Monthly fee which varies depending on the services offered by your residential complex/building (€30-€150). Not applicable in the case of single-family or detached houses. In the Canary Islands it is not common for buildings to have a doorman.
- ◆ **Rubbish collection,** variable depending on the municipality (€0-€100 per year).
- ◆ Household **insurance** (not compulsory but recommended).
- ◆ **Utilities** (water, electricity, internet, etc.).

! Tips

You may want to seek advice from real estate professionals.

It is advisable to contract a local lawyer/specialist in the purchase process, preferably a native speaker or person fluent in your language.

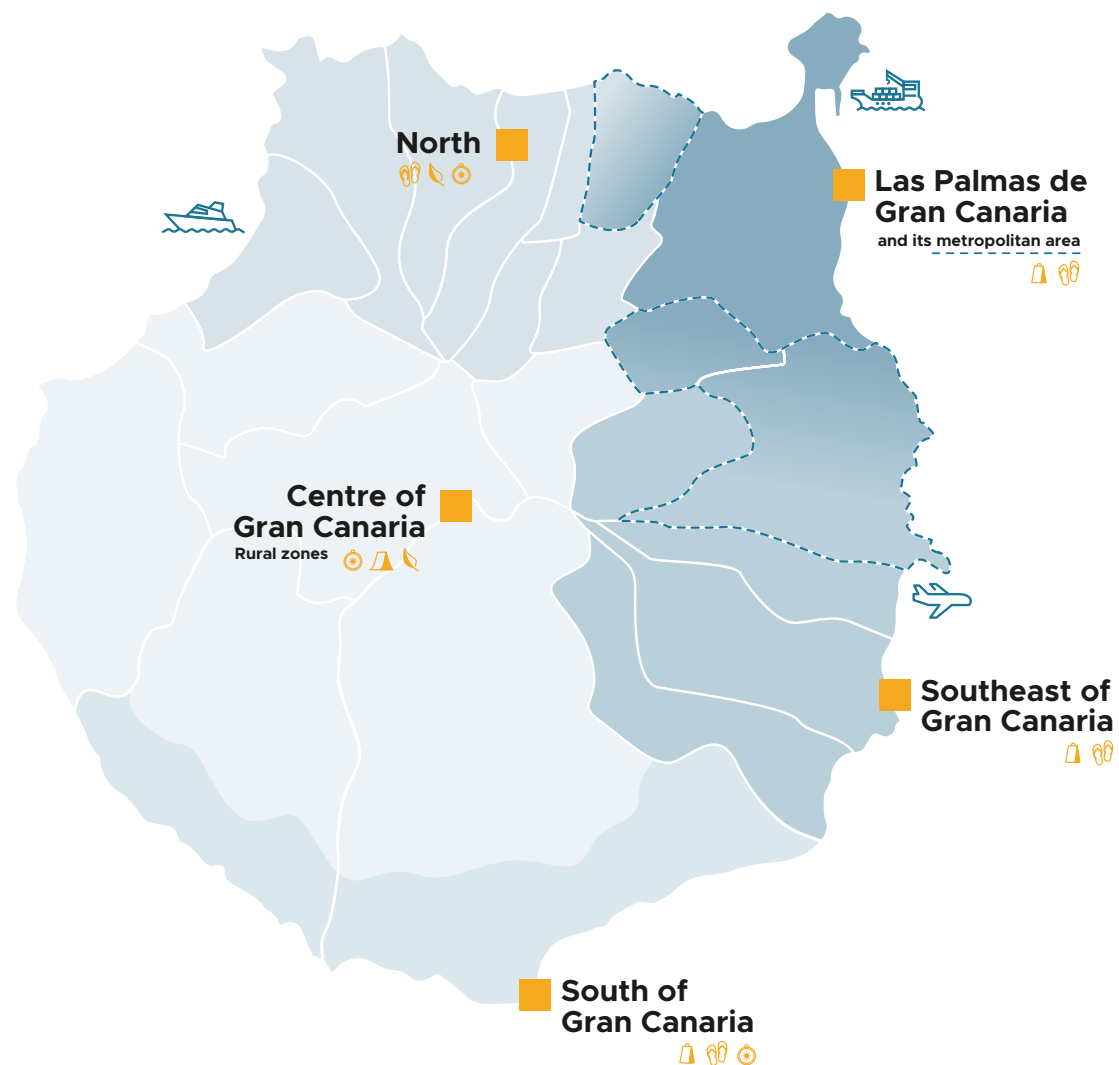
If you need financing, compare the offers of several banks or financial institutions.

All properties must be duly registered. You can ask for an official copy of the entry in the Property Register to be sure who the current owner is.



Areas

All the different zones of Gran Canaria have their own unique attractions and vibes, so find the one that best suits your lifestyle and expectations.



Key

-  Shops
-  Beaches
-  Hiking
-  Camping
-  Nature

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, co-capital of the Canary Islands, is one of the ten largest cities in Spain. In every sense, it is a diverse city brimming with contrasts: a business hub with a colonial past, open to the sea and with a cosmopolitan yet relaxed lifestyle. It is a large city that remains manageable in terms of size, offering all services and activities within short distances. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is the urban destination par excellence in the Canary Islands.

It is divided into two main areas: the lower part of the city (at sea-level), consisting of the districts of El Puerto, Ciudad Jardín, San Telmo, Triana and Vegueta; and the upper part, which includes the districts of La Minilla and Siete Palmas.

From North to South

- **La Isleta:** North of Las Canteras Beach, a charming area consisting mainly of small buildings and detached houses.
- **Guanarteme - Mesa y López - Puerto:** Close to the beach, this is one of the main shopping zones on the island. Located in a breathtaking natural setting, this is the city's business and leisure hub and home to the Port of Las Palmas and Las Canteras Beach. It offers a wide range of housing options. The neighbourhood is still facing a development boom.
- **Ciudad Jardín:** Quiet residential area close to parks and recreational areas, right in the city centre.
- **Triana - Vegueta:** The city's most emblematic district, this elegant neighbourhood is a culture, shopping and leisure haven.
- **Ciudad Alta:** Due to its location, expect amazing views of the city and the Atlantic Ocean. Plenty of new buildings and more affordable rents (Altavista, Las Rehoyas, Siete Palmas, Miller, Escaleritas...).



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



Districts

Isleta - Puerto - Guanarteme

Santa Catalina, Guanarteme, Las Canteras, La Isleta...

Centre

Míller Bajo, Triana, Alcaravaneras, Ciudad Jardín...

Ciudad Alta

Escaleritas, Las Torres, Siete Palmas, La Minilla...

Vegueta - Cono Sur - Tafira

Zárate, Hoya de la Plata, Pedro Hidalgo, Vegueta, Tafira Alta, Marzagán...

Tamaraceite - San Lorenzo - Tenoya

San Lorenzo, Almatriche, Tamaraceite, Lomo los Frailes, Costa Ayala...

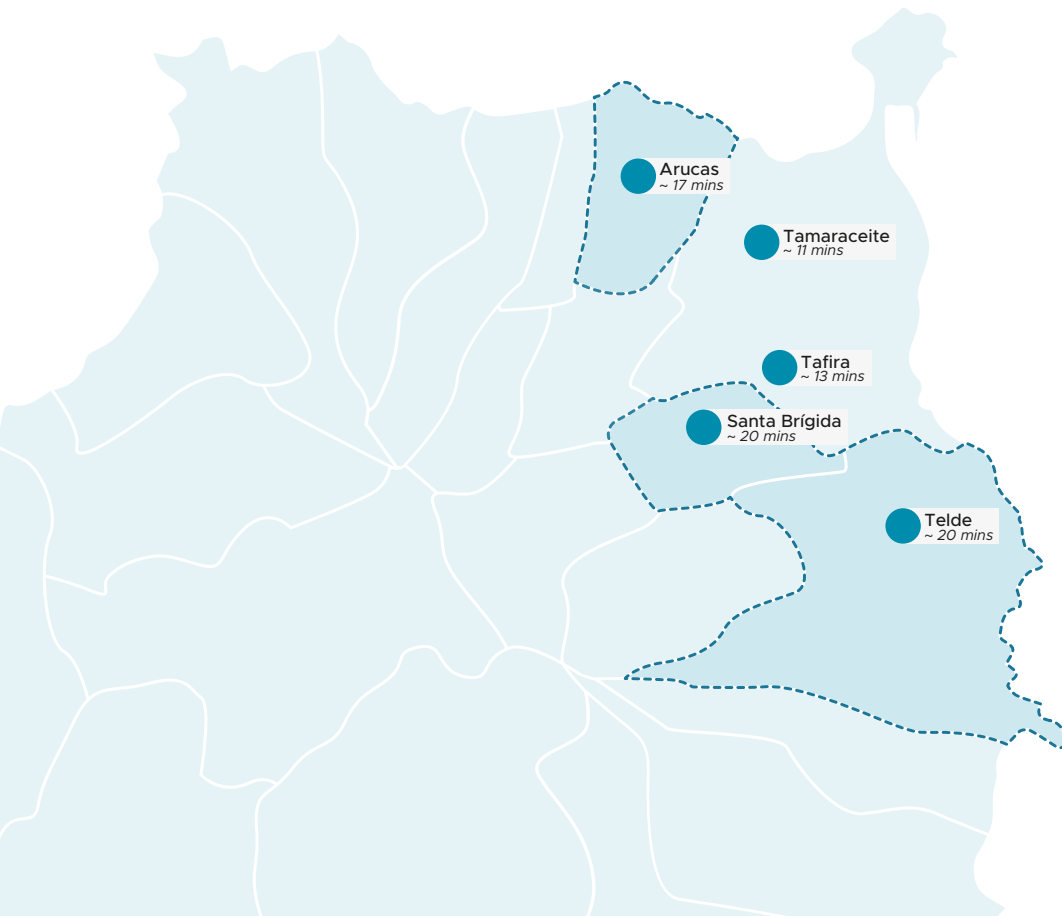
Key

- Shopping zone
- Shopping centre
- Beach
- Bus station
- Park
- Public hospital
- Private hospital

Metropolitan area

Thanks to a modern transport network, consisting of a recently built ring road around Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and several other arterial roads, the city is linked to the neighbouring towns and villages in as little as 10-20 minutes. Nearby municipalities include: Tafira, Santa Brígida, Telde and Arucas.

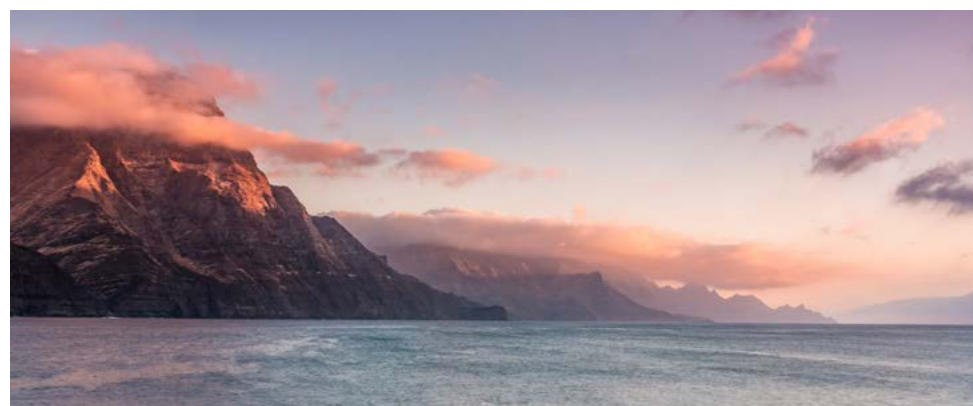
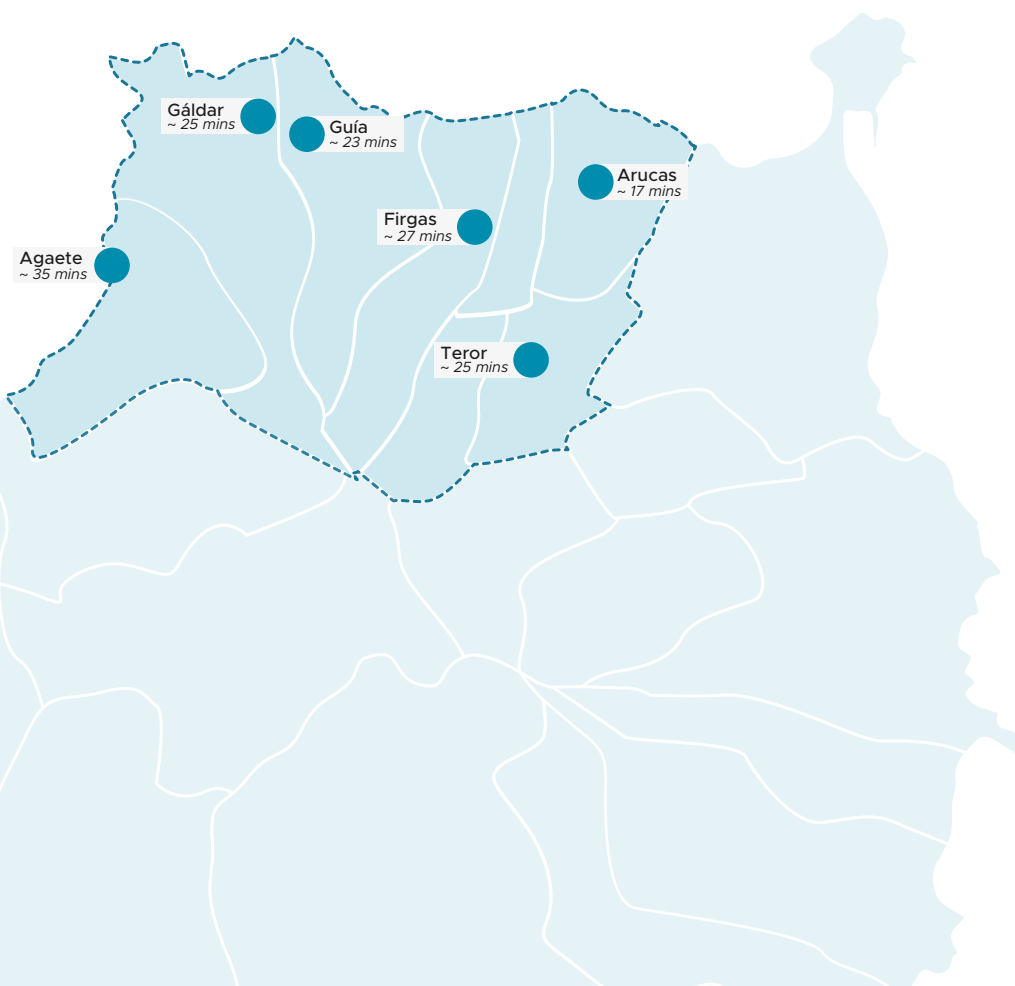
These towns vary in nature: Telde is Gran Canaria's second largest city, while others are medium-sized towns with all the necessary services (Arucas, Santa Brígida). They also have many green areas and easy access to the countryside and coastal towns.



~ Distance by car from Las Palmas city centre 

North of Gran Canaria

The north of Gran Canaria is the greenest part of the island. It is dotted with a wide variety of small villages, most of which are located in the areas known as 'Medianías' (between the coast and the mountains). They are located roughly 20-30 minutes' drive from the capital, with the main townships being Arucas, Teror and Gáldar. Generally speaking, this is a quiet area to live close to both urban facilities and nature, with a variety of options allowing you to choose between the countryside and the beach.

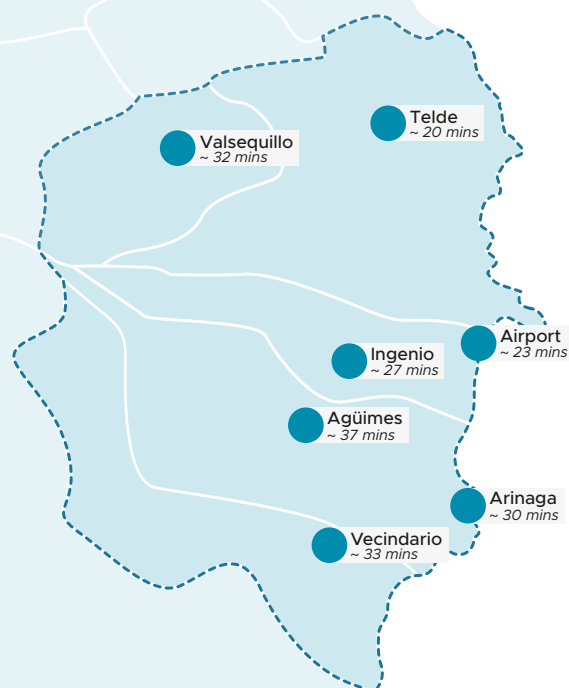


~ Distance by car from Las Palmas city centre 🚗

East of Gran Canaria

The eastern zone of Gran Canaria is home to a number of larger towns. One of the main cities is Telde (only 15 min. from the capital), along with other coastal towns such as Melenara, Taliarte and La Garita.

South of the airport, Ingenio, Agüimes, Arinaga and Vecindario (in the area known as the 'Sureste', ie. 'Southeast of Gran Canaria') are towns with a relaxed lifestyle and a wide range of leisure activities which stand out due to their proximity to the tourist areas. This large area is a good option for beach lovers and those who prefer detached houses and/or living on the outskirts of the city, where many services can be found within relatively short distances.



~ Distance by car from Las Palmas city centre 

South of Gran Canaria

Known primarily for its status as a tourist hub and for the large expatriate communities that live here, this area enjoys spectacular weather all year round.

The main towns include San Agustín, Playa del Inglés, Maspalomas and Arguineguín. Apart from the tourist zones, you can also find quiet residential areas consisting of detached houses with gardens.

Puerto de Mogán
~ 55 mins

Puerto Rico
~ 51 mins

Arguineguín
~ 45 mins

Maspalomas
~ 38 mins

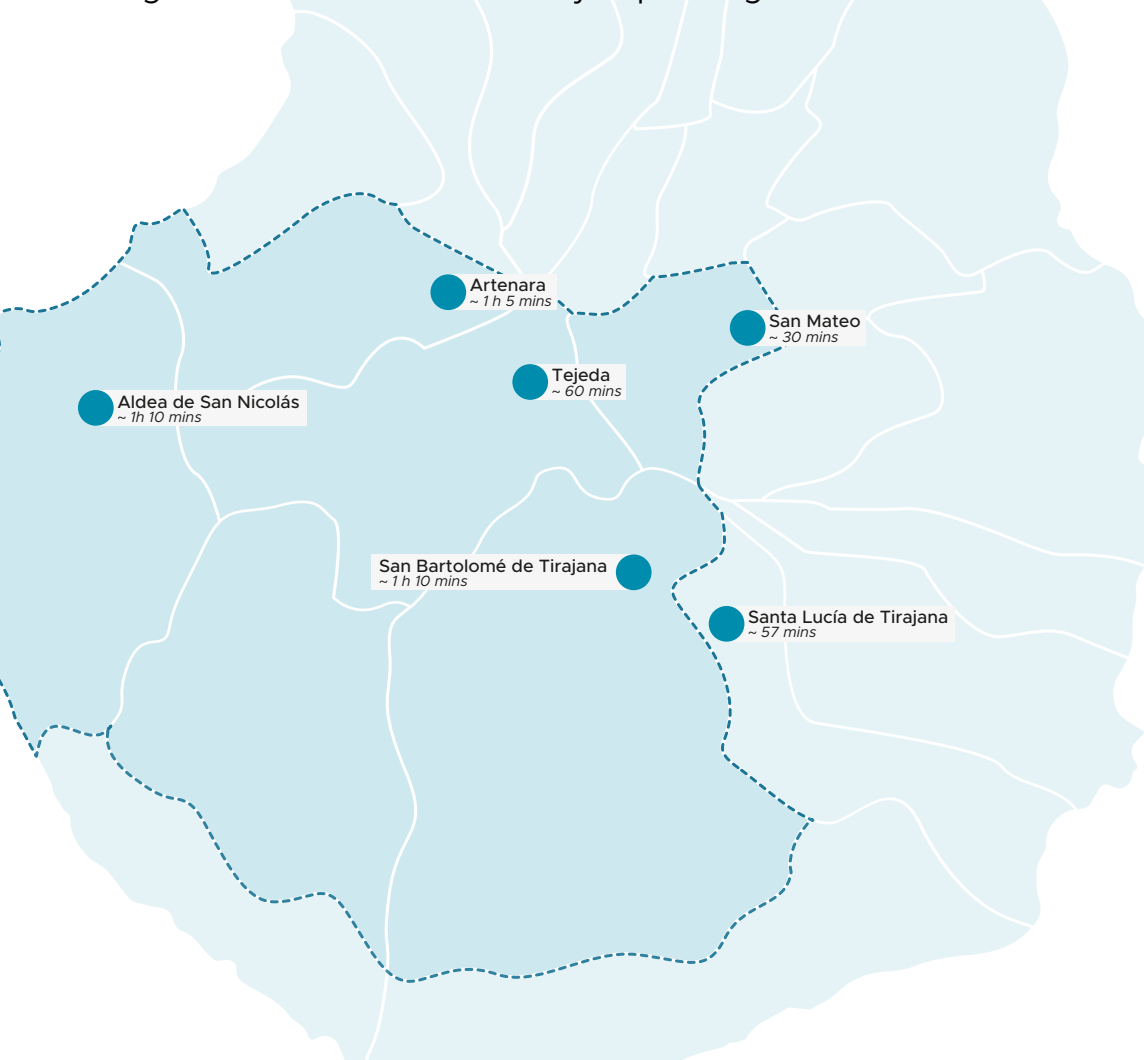
San Agustín
~ 36 mins



~ Distance by car from Las Palmas city centre 🚗

Centre of Gran Canaria

This is the ideal zone for nature lovers who like to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. With distances of around 50-70 minutes' drive from the capital, this zone offers a relaxed lifestyle and a wide variety of outdoor activities. The main townships include San Mateo, La Aldea, Artenara and Tejeda. This area has a number of nature reserves with limited construction and sustainable growth, while the connections to digital networks are constantly expanding.



~ Distance by car from Las Palmas city centre 🚗

Transport

Public transport

Gran Canaria has an extensive network of public buses (popularly known as 'guaguas'), which are easily recognisable by their colour (turquoise for intercity transport, yellow for city transport).

◆ Intercity bus

[Route finder](#)
([Guaguas Global](#))

The intercity public transport network (Global) covers the entire island. The cost of the tickets ranges from €1.40 to €9.40 (one way) depending on the distance. Currently only two payment options are available: credit card or transport card (recommended).

It is considerably cheaper to buy a transport card, either in the form of a rechargeable card or a [monthly pass](#), as it includes discounts and bonuses. You can use the [GuaguasGLOBAL](#) mobile app to find the product that suits your needs and enquire about routes, timetables and waiting times.



◆ Las Palmas de Gran Canaria city bus

[Route finder](#)
([Guaguas Municipales](#))

Guaguas Municipales is the urban public bus service for Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The municipal bus network has a wide range of connections and timetables so you can get around the city safely and on time. Tickets cost €1.40/trip, although cheaper options exist: The rechargeable card and the [monthly pass](#) ("Bono Guagua"). You can also download the [GuaguasLPA](#) mobile app to consult routes, timetables and waiting times.



◆ Other urban transport networks

Other municipalities such as Telde and Gáldar have their own routes connecting the town centre with the beaches and the mid-lands. Check with each local council.



Taxis

This is a very popular mode of transport, with fares being among the most competitive in Spain (€5.00-15.00/urban zone). Uber and private hire vehicle services have not gained popularity in Gran Canaria due to the excellent bus connectivity and the low cost of the taxis.

Useful information: a one-way trip from the Airport to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria costs roughly €35.



Sitycleta

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has a public bike rental service ([Sitycleta](#)) allowing you to cycle around the city from 6 am to 11 pm. It costs around €3/hour or you can also buy a weekly (€15) or annual (€40) pass. The city is continually expanding its network of cycle lanes to make it easier to get around by bike.

There is a single transport card ('Tarjeta Única de Transporte', yellow) that merges Sitycleta and Guaguas Municipales passes. You can request it online or at the various Guaguas Municipales offices.



Motosharing (private operator)

Motosharing is another alternative to get around the city with 100% electric scooters. All you have to do is download the [app](#), enter your details and start searching for available scooters on the live map. They are not parked at specific stations but rather dispersed through the city.



Private transport

The car is the most common mode of transport used by locals. If you decide not to bring your own vehicle, car rental is a good option to properly explore the island.

Gran Canaria has a wide range of local, national and international car hire companies, with a varied offer of cars and rates as well as special vehicles (vans).

! Tips

Read all the clauses of the rental agreement carefully before booking.

◆ Electric vehicles

[Charging points](#)

The Island's Council (Cabildo de Gran Canaria) has an extensive network of charging points at your disposal for electric cars. The following [website](#) offers further information on connection points.



24
Charging
points

A growing network



Health care

The Canary Islands public health system is on a par with European standards, with highly qualified health professionals and wide coverage of services for the entire island population. Depending on the service provider, there are two types of health care in Spain:

- **Public health care:** universal attention at no cost for those covered by the Public Health System, which is managed by the autonomous government.
- **Private health care:** medical services provided by private companies via health insurance or direct payment of the health services.

? General information

- ◆ Register with the Social Security service to gain access to public health care.
- ◆ Universal right to emergency medical care.
- ◆ Non-urgent health care (**primary care**) is provided by the Canary Islands Public Health System ('Servicio Canario de Salud') through its 'Centros de Salud' (Health Centres).
- ◆ Health Centres are assigned based on residence (municipality and area). Not all health centres have a 24-hour emergency service; once registered, you will be informed of the emergency centres closest to your home.
- ◆ Primary care is managed via a unique **general practitioner** (a GP is called a 'médico de cabecera' in Spanish and is assigned to you when registering at the health centre). If necessary, your doctor will refer you to specialists, either in specialty centres or directly in hospitals.
- ◆ Medicines are available from chemists on prescription (issued by your general practitioner or specialists).
- ◆ Generally speaking, each hospital covers a region of the island (Hospital Doctor Negrín - North, Hospital Insular - South).



89
Public Health Centres ('Centros de salud')



30
Emergency Health Centres (24 hours)



4
Public hospitals

Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Doctor Negrín
Hospital Insular
Hospital Universitario Materno-Infantil
Hospital Militar Juan Carlos I



1.741
Beds in public hospitals



11
Private hospitals

[Spanish private Healthcare Alliance](#)



1.380
Beds in private hospitals



Servicio Canario de la Salud

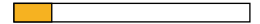
European Health Insurance Card

This is a single-person, non-transferable document that entitles you to receive public health care upon the same terms as the inhabitants of the country where you are staying, provided it is within the EU or the other countries that have signed the Schengen Treaty.

- ◆ The European Health Insurance Card identifies you as a user of the European Health System, granting you access to local health resources.
- ◆ It covers trips made for work, study or tourism purposes.
- ◆ Coverage is available in any of the 28 EU member states, along with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- ◆ The application process varies depending on the country of application.



Level of difficulty



! Tips

- ◆ Apply **at least one month before your trip** (the time it takes to receive the card varies depending on the country of origin).
- ◆ The application is completely free of charge.
- ◆ It is valid for **2 years**, after which it must be renewed. It is not valid if the reason for travel is to receive specific medical treatment or if it involves transfer of your usual residence.
- ◆ The coverage is limited to **essential services only**. It is not an alternative to travel insurance.
- ◆ In some cases, you will have to assume a fixed amount or a percentage of health care costs, depending on the agreements signed between Spain and the country of origin. These amounts are non-refundable.
- ◆ Further information is available [here](#).

Individual Health Insurance Card

'Tarjeta Sanitaria'

Procedure

- Register with Social Security.
- Go to the Health Centre closest to your home with the necessary documentation and **fill in the form** provided by the centre.
- The card will be sent to your home address or you can pick it up at your health centre.

Necessary documentation

- ☐ **DNI/NIE/TIE** of the holder.
- ☐ **Official Family Record Book** (only for beneficiaries under 14 years of age and always accompanied by a valid identity document).
- ☐ **Social Security** registration card. Possibility of [online](#) application (without digital certificate, see page 29).
- ☐ **Municipal census registration** (see page 30).

Contact

Personalised attention: 012
By appointment: 012 / 928 301 012
Medical emergencies: 112



Level of difficulty



Note

- ◆ Your health card is required to access free services. Carry it with you at all times.
- ◆ It is best not to go directly to the hospital (except in emergency situations); patients will not be admitted unless referred to hospitals by Health Centres.
- ◆ Appointments with your GP can be made [online](#) or by telephone.
- ◆ Outside business hours, if you need medicines (with a doctor's prescription) you need to go to the [chemists](#) on duty (24hr, several per municipality).
- ◆ Patients generally have the right to choose their doctor in primary care.
- ◆ Sick leave is processed exclusively through your GP.

Security

Gran Canaria has a very low crime rate, allowing its citizens to enjoy a quiet and relaxed lifestyle with security guaranteed at any time of the day.

Gran Canaria has four law enforcement agencies with different competences; the 'Guardia Civil' (Civil Guard), 'Policía Nacional' (National Police Corps), 'Policía Local' (Local Police) and the General Police Corps of the Canary Islands.



Main contacts

Emergencies: 112
Guardia Civil: 062
National Police: 091
Local Police*: 092
Fire Brigade: 112

*Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

! Tips

Each municipality has its own phone number for the Local Police; contact your municipal council to find out more details.

As in any other destination, common sense and caution are the best weapons to ensure personal safety.



12
Guardia Civil
stations



7
National Police
stations



30
Local Police
stations



12
Fire
Stations



8
Emergency
Response Bases

Law Enforcement Agencies



Guardia Civil
(Civil Guard)



National Police
Corps



General Police Corps
of the Canary Islands



Local Police



Gran Canaria
Fire Brigade



Gran Canaria Emergency
Consortium (Fire Brigade)

Education

Gran Canaria offers a wide range of schooling options covering all stages of education (**compulsory from 6 to 16 years of age**). All foreigners living in Spain are entitled to access to compulsory basic education, which is managed and regulated by the autonomous government (Canary Islands).

? General information

Primary schools (3-12 years) may be classified into three categories:

- ◆ **Public schools** ('Centro de Educación Infantil'/'Colegio Público') funded by the government, which are free for all Spanish residents. It is necessary to apply for pre-enrolment from the public authorities.
- ◆ **Subsidised schools** ('Colegio concertado'), which are privately managed and co-financed by parents and the government. The monthly cost varies depending on the school and the age of the pupil. The access rules are co-regulated by the school board and the public administration.
- ◆ **Private schools**, which are completely privately run and solely financed by parents. The school establishes its own rules, access requirements and availability of places under a curricular framework regulated by the public administration.

! Tips

Bear in mind that the Spanish school calendar may differ from the rest of Europe, generally having a greater concentration of holiday periods in the summertime.

The Government of the Canary Islands publishes the school calendar every year (see [here](#)). You also need to take into account local holidays, which vary depending on the municipality of residence.



209

Public schools applying CLIL* methodology

*Several subjects in English



9

Bilingual public schools



15

Private international schools



129

Secondary schools



3

Universities



22.140

University students



Gobierno de Canarias

Consejería de Educación,
Universidades, Cultura y Deportes

Public and subsidised schools

The schooling process in Spain is relatively straightforward, as long as you keep to certain deadlines. Both the [Department of Education, Universities, Culture and Sport](#) and schools annually publish on their websites the deadlines and procedures to be followed.

School enrolment process in public schools (3-16 years)

- The standard enrolment process begins between March and April, during which you must apply for a place at your school of first choice.
- Families can choose from among several schools according to their access preferences (access is awarded on the basis of a points system: siblings attending the same school, proximity to the family home or parent's place of work, etc.).
- The provisional lists are published around mid-April.
- Once you have obtained your place, you will have to complete the enrolment within the established deadlines:
 - ◆ **Pre-school and primary:** end of June.
 - ◆ **Secondary** (two calls): June and end of July.

The enrolment procedures can be carried out:

- In the corresponding school offices.
- On the online platforms of each [autonomous community](#) (you need to have previously obtained the NIE with permanent password for at least one of the legal guardians).

! Tips

- ◆ Enrolment is free of charge in public schools (consult the price for subsidised schools directly with the school).
- ◆ Check the availability of places in schools in the zone of your home or workplace.
- ◆ If you make the application outside the deadline, you will lose any priority in the ranking.
- ◆ Spanish education law requires all children between 3 and 16 years of age to attend school and in no case will they skip or lose a year. Education officials will facilitate the landing regardless of the month of arrival of the family.

National and international private schools

Gran Canaria has an outstanding offer of private schools and international schools with classes in languages such as English, German, Norwegian, Swedish and French.

Enrolment process for international and private schools

- You must make an appointment for an interview with the school.
- Process the required documentation (which varies depending on the school) and pay the initial enrolment fee.
- The cost per month/child ranges between €375 and €650.

Complete list of international schools

Name	Main Language	Education Level	Location	Contact	Web
Colegio Heidelberg	Alemán	3-18	Barranco Seco, 15, 35015 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	+34 928 35 04 62 info@colegioheidelberg.com admisiones@colegioheidelberg.com	heidelbergschule.com
Deutsche Schule	Alemán	3-18	Lomo del Drago, S/N, 35018 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	+34 928 67 07 50/ 928 67 07 54 verwaltung@dslpa.org	dslpa.org
Lycée Français International De Gran Canaria	Francés	3-18	Carretera de Taliarte, s/n, 35214 Telde, Las Palmas	+34 928 57 60 91 liceofrances.gc@mlfmonde.org	lfigrancanaria.com
Arenas Almas/Arenas Sur	Inglés	3-18	Maspalomas: Barranco del Negro, s/n. 35106 San Agustín: C/. Las Margaritas, s/n. 35100	Maspalomas: +34 928 14 20 28 info@colegioalmas.com San Agustín: +34 928 76 59 34 info@arenassur.com	arenasschools.com
Anita Conrad	Inglés Alemán	3-18	Firgas: Cambalud: Camino de los dolores, 11, 35432 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Calle Dr. García Castrillo, 19, 35005 San Bartolomé de Tirajana Dirección: Camino Lomo los Azules, s/n. 35106.	Firgas: +34 928 62 27 27 trilingualschool@anitaconrad.info Las Palmas: +34 928 29 25 09 kindergarten@anitaconrad.info San Bartolomé: +34 928 775 192 internationalschool@anitaconrad.info	anitaconrad.com

Complete list of international schools

Name	Main Language	Education Level	Location	Contact	Web
Arenas International Schools	Inglés	3-18	Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Llano de los Tarahales, 76 35013 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Arucas: Paseo San Patricio, 20, 35013 Arucas, Las Palmas	Las Palmas: +34 928 41 59 96 Arucas: +34 928 62 91 40	aisgrancanaria.com
Brains Internacional School	Inglés	3-11 11-18	Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Paseo de Tomás Morales, 111, 35004 Telde: Camino Angostura, 2, 35213, La Pardilla	Las Palmas: +34 928 29 64 44 gcabrera@colegiobrains.com Telde: +34 928 50 61 14 gcabrera@colegiobrains.com	colegiobrains.com
British School of Gran Canaria	Inglés	3-18	Tafira: Crta. Tafira a Marzagán s/n El Sabinal, 35017, Las Palmas San Bartolomé de Tirajana: Calle Mar de Azor, 3, El Hornillo. 35100	Tafira: +34 928 35 11 67 oficina@bs-gc.net San Bartolomé: (+34) 928 142 494 south@bs-gc.net	bs-gc.com
Canterbury School	Inglés	3-18	Maspalomas: Carr. Palmitos Park, 8, 35109, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Lomo el Diviso, s/n, 35018 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Plaza Milton, 3, 35005	Maspalomas: +34 928 14 28 89 maspalomas@canterburyschool.com Las Palmas: +34 828 11 34 00 info@canterburyschool.com Las Palmas: +34 828 11 30 23 milton@canterburyschool.com	canterburyschool.com
Colegio Hispano-Inglés	Inglés	3-18	Paseo Madrid, 4, 35004 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	+34 928 25 16 16 direccion@colegiohispanoingles.com info@colegiohispanoingles.com	colegiohispanoingles.com

In addition, Gran Canaria has at least 2 centres that follow the Montessori method.

Name	Main Language	Education Level	Location	Contact	Web
Oakley College	Inglés	3-18	Calle Zuloaga, 17, 35017 Tafira Alta, Las Palmas	+34 928 35 42 47 admin@oakleycollege.com	oakleycollege.com
The American School of Las Palmas	Inglés	3-18	Carr. a Los Hoyos, Km.1.7, 35017 Los Hoyos, Las Palmas	+34 928 43 00 23 info@aslp.org	aslp.org
Escuela Noruega Gran Canaria	Noruego	3-18	Calle Bjorn Lyng, 4, 35129 Barranco de la Verga, Las Palmas	+34 928 15 29 00 fde@canari.step.es postmottak@colegio.no	colegio.no
Colegio Sueco Svenska Skolan	Sueco	3-18	Urb. Rocas Rojas, C / Las Pitas 6, 35100 San Agustín	+34 928 77 14 12 info@svenskaskolangc.com	svenskaskolangc.com

Other formalities



Other formalities

Opening a bank account

Level of difficulty



Most banks operating in Spain offer similar standard services. The main differences are in terms of the fees charged and the size of their commercial network (branches). The vast majority of banks offer their services via the web and online apps.

Procedure

- Check with different banks about the services offered and the cost of fees, particularly for wiring funds to other countries.
- Bring all the necessary documentation on the day you open the bank account.

Necessary documentation

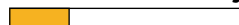
- ☐ **National Identity Card or Foreigner Identification Number** (NIE), in force.
- ☐ Document proving your **residence** in Spain/Gran Canaria (rental agreement, municipal registration certificate).
- ☐ Document certifying your current **employment situation** (employment contract, student card, etc.).

Tips

- ◆ Delivery of credit/debit cards usually takes about 15 days, but you will be able to use all services in the meantime. You can use mobile apps to withdraw money from a cash machine without a card.
- ◆ Some banks allow for 100% online bank account opening.
- ◆ It is better to go to the bank in person to make initial enquiries (fees, transfers, etc.) and open your account.
- ◆ Most banks will have English-speaking staff in their central offices (Calle Triana and Santa Catalina district).

How to contract internet/phone services

Level of difficulty



The process to contract internet services is getting simpler these days and only takes a few minutes to complete. It can be done in person in the shop, by telephone or via website.

The best options for internet or telephone services vary depending on how long you will be staying on the island:

- ◆ **Short term:** prepaid SIM card.
- ◆ **Long term:** contract-based mobile line.

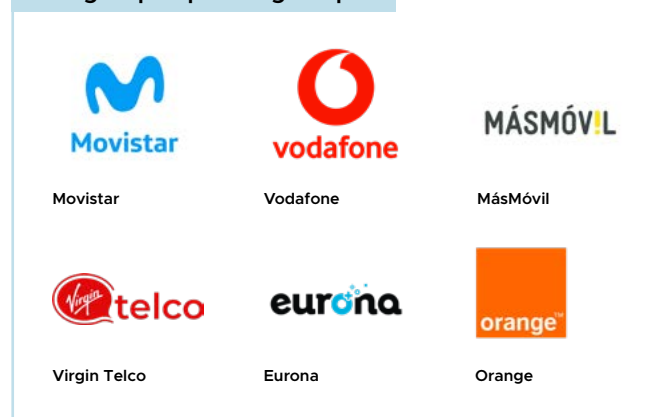
The market is constantly changing depending on the latest offers, although the most popular option is a combined package (mobile, landline, TV and internet).

The main companies operating in Spain are:
[Movistar](#), [Vodafone](#), [Orange](#), [Amena](#), [Yoigo](#),
[Pepe Phone](#), [Jazztel](#), [MásMóvil](#), [Lowi](#), [O2](#)...

Necessary documentation

- ☐ **Personal data** (name, surname, address).
- ☐ **Foreigner Identification Number** (NIE) or **Foreigner Identity Card** (TIE).
- ☐ **Bank account** number (only for contract-based lines).

Main groups operating in Spain



Tips

- ◆ Operators are constantly updating their offers via their websites. **You can check the connection speed/fibre availability of any physical address in Gran Canaria**, which may be a decisive factor when choosing your area of residence.
- ◆ The time it takes to install internet varies from company to company, although a time frame of between 7 to 15 calendar days is considered acceptable. It is unusual for it to take more than two weeks.
- ◆ Most companies require a 'loyalty period'; make sure you understand all the terms.
- ◆ The different companies have outlets throughout the city, but the central offices are located in Triana and will be staffed by English-speaking agents.

Digital certificate

Level of difficulty



The [digital certificate](#) (with software) allows you to carry out official procedures and formalities remotely via the internet. The set-up process can be somewhat complicated, but if you plan on spending a long time in Gran Canaria it can make life a lot easier.

- **[Pre-configuration](#)**

In order to apply for the certificate, first you need to install the software indicated in this section.

- **[Online Application for the Certificate](#)**

At the end of the application process, you will receive an Application Code in your email account that will be required when proving your identity and subsequently in order to download the certificate.

- **[Proof of identity at an Official Registry](#)**

Once you have completed the above stage and have your Application Code, you will need to prove your identity at one of the Official Registries. Find your nearest official registry [here](#).

NOTE: An appointment is required for the Spanish Tax Agency (AEAT), some Social Security offices and other offices. Check with the office before you go.

- **[Download the Digital Certificate](#)**

Approximately 1 hour after you have credited your identity at an Official Registry, you can then use the Application Code to download and install the certificate and make a backup copy (recommended).

Importing to the Canary Islands

The Canary Islands enjoy their own 'Economic and Tax Regime' (REF) conferring a series of special economic and fiscal rights which are fully compatible with European and Spanish legislation.

These special features include non-application of VAT (indirect tax applied in mainland Spain –IVA–, with its corresponding equivalent in each European country). This means, in practice, that **the Canary Islands are not part of the EU for Indirect Taxation purposes.**

All imports must be declared upon entry in the Canary Islands and pass through the Canary Islands Customs Offices to regulate payment of the tax equivalent to VAT (the IGIC).

You should therefore bear this in mind both when making online purchases (if the destination is the Canary Islands, VAT does not apply) and when shipping personal belongings to the island. We recommend confirming delivery terms with the logistics provider, forwarder or seller:

- ◆ If purchases/shipments are made under **DDP (Delivery Duty Paid)** incoterms with all costs and taxes included, the goods will be delivered to your address at no additional cost and the supplier will take care of all the necessary customs formalities.
- ◆ In other cases, purchase prices may be increased due to customs clearance charges or possible taxes to be paid by the purchaser.

General Rate:

Spanish mainland and Balearic Islands (VAT): 21%

► **Canary Islands (IGIC): 7%**



Contact

Call Centre Service
Hours: from 09:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Las Palmas Maritime Customs Office

General information: 928 30 25 00
Urgent imports/exports: 928 30 25 18

Gran Canaria Airport Customs Office

General information: 928 57 41 41

'Documento Único Administrativo' (DUA)

The DUA must be filed with the Spanish Tax Agency (AEAT) and/or the Canary Islands Tax Agency (ATC), if:

- The value of the goods exceeds €150 for **online purchases**;
- or regardless of the value, the import is subject to phytosanitary control;
- or for tax purposes, it consists of goods subject to special taxes or AIEM. This applies particularly in the case of imported foodstuff.

First of all, when shopping online remember to check two things:

- That the vendor or the sales portal actually delivers to the Canary Islands.
- That the purchase is exempt from VAT or equivalent tax (you will not pay VAT but you will have to pay IGIC on entry to the islands).

In most cases, the adjustment is automatic and you will receive the goods directly at home.

! Note

If the goods have a value of less than €150, you may need to arrange self-clearance with an H7 document, or clearance by operators who are in charge of transport or customs representatives. In both cases, DNI/NIE of the importer is needed, and in case of self-clearance, digital certificate is also necessary.

Level of difficulty



! Tips

- ◆ The customs declaration process is somewhat complex. You can either try to do it yourself or alternatively you can hire a customs broker for an additional service charge + the taxes owed (IGIC/AIEM).
- ◆ If you decide to bring your own car, it must be declared to Customs (provided it will remain in the Canary Islands for more than 6 months).
- ◆ You need to properly declare the contents and estimated value of any shipment you make.
- ◆ Most forwarding and relocation companies will do this task (DUA) on your behalf but you should check that this service is duly included in the agreed contract terms.

Driving license

Level of difficulty



The documentation required to certify your driving licence varies depending on your country of origin. This step is not always necessary:

- **For countries of the European Union** and the European Economic Area, it is sufficient to be in possession of the driving licence of your country of origin, which is equally valid in Spain. If you wish to validate your driving licence, you need to go to the Traffic Department for them to inform you of the procedure.
 - ◆ Registration of driving licences of EU and EEA citizens ([here](#))
 - ◆ Voluntary exchange of driving licences of EU and EEA citizens ([here](#))
- Citizens of **non-EU countries** need to apply for an International Driving Licence (provided you have a valid driving licence from your home country).

Registering a foreign vehicle

Foreign vehicles belonging to persons resident in the Canary Islands (for stays of more than 6 months) must be duly registered.

Procedure

- Ensure you have obtained the certificate of the technical examination.
- Go with your vehicle to the ITV (Vehicle Technical Inspection) Centre.
- Pay the corresponding taxes (this will vary depending on the country of origin or vehicle emissions).
- File the required documentation with the Traffic Department.

Necessary documentation

- ☐ Official vehicle **registration form**.
- ☐ **ITV (Technical Vehicle Inspection) certificate**. Annual vehicle check costs approximately €40.
- ☐ Sworn **translation** into Spanish of all vehicle documentation.
- ☐ Receipt confirming **payment of vehicle tax**.
- ☐ Receipt confirming **payment of the fees**.

Basic road rules

- ◆ In Spain you do drive on the right.
- ◆ The use of seat belts is compulsory.
- ◆ The speed limit on motorways is 120 km/h. In Gran Canaria, on busy stretches the speed limit is 80 km/h.
- ◆ Children under 12 years of age are prohibited from riding in the front seat. It is compulsory to use a child restraint.
- ◆ **Remember that vehicle insurance is compulsory.**

Workspaces and offices



Coworking spaces



Gran Canaria offers a wide variety of coworking spaces, most of which are located in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in two main areas: Mesa y López-Canteras-Puerto and Vegueta-Triana-Avenida Marítima, although they can also be found in other parts of the city and the island.

Coworking spaces Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Name	Email	Telephone	Web
Archipélago	manager@wearchipelago.com	+34 928 93 22 00	wearchipelago.com
AX Business Center	laspalmas@axbusiness.com	+34 928 432 856	axbusiness.com
Centro de negocios Delta & Bravo	info@delta-bravo.es	+34 928 38 54 21	delta-bravo.es
Cokids Workspace	hola@cokids.es	+34 600 789 553	cokids.es
CoolivingC	info@coolivingc.com	+34 928 26 95 53 +34 681 03 98 79	coolivingc.com
Dojo Coworking	hello@dojocoworking.es	+34 928 41 28 80	dojocoworking.es
El Núcleo	info@elnucleo.es	+ 34 687 84 25 14	elnucleo.es
Galaxy Gaming Center	info@galaxygaming.es	+34 615 01 19 31	galaxygaming.es
GoCoworking	info@gocoworking.es	+34 828 90 90 56	gocoworking.es
Hashtag Workspace	hola@hashtagworkspace.com	+34 630 00 82 44	hashtagworkspace.com
La Pecera Coworking	info@lapeceracoworking.com	+34 928 90 48 49	lapeceracoworking.com
Marine Park	info@marinepark.es	+34 928 13 18 14	marinepark.es
Palet Express Cajasiete	info@paletexpresscajasiete.com	+34 928 13 18 14	paletexpresscajasiete.com
Playa Chica Work	playachicawork@designstrategy.es	+34 677 82 58 44	playachicawork



Coworking spaces Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Name	Email	Telephone	Web
Repeople Coworking	we@repeople.co	+34 606 32 38 82	www.repeople.co
Soppa de Azul	info@soppadeazul.com	+34 928 46 60 88	soppadeazul.com
SWAP Coworking	hola@swapcoworking.com	+34 928 38 35 31	swapcoworking.com
Talleres Palermo	info@tallerespalermo.es	+34 609 05 65 49	tallerespalermo.es
Tigotan Hub	info.tigotanhub@dreamplacehotels.com	+34 928 973 315	tigotan-hub-coworking-las-palmas/
The House / The House Triana	hello@the-house.eu	+34 654 18 42 67	the-house.eu
Work Labs	info@worklabs.org	+34 669 64 95 75	work-labs.org
Work In Cholas			workincholas.com

Other zones of the island

Apa Espacios Multiusos (Telde)	business@apacentercanarias.com	(+34) 828 04 68 57 (+34) 637 66 71 67	APAespacio
Coworking Aruacas	info@coworkingarucas.com	+34 673 92 58 55	coworkingarucas
Coworking Maspalomas	info@coworkingmaspalomas.com	+34 638 16 97 95	coworkingmaspalomas.com
Coworking Neptuno (Maspalomas)	comercial@grupomur.com	+34 928 77 74 92	coworkingneptuno
Coworking Vecindario	hola@islared.com	+34 928 12 56 71	coworkingvecindario.com



Learn Spanish

Learn
spanish / 77



A photograph of a man and a woman in a fruit market. The man, wearing a green polo shirt and blue jeans, is holding a pineapple. The woman, wearing a red jacket and blue jeans, is looking at the pineapple. They are standing in front of a large display of various fruits, including bananas, pineapples, and oranges. A bell hangs from the top of the fruit display.

Learn Spanish

If you are planning to work or live in Gran Canaria, learning Spanish is as essential as any other language in everyday and business life.

The pace of learning varies depending on the amount of effort and dedication and the level of immersion you have on a daily basis. The good news is that Spanish is not a difficult language to learn and the island has plenty of options to make learning easier. In addition, the locals will appreciate your efforts and will be happy to help you with practical advice.

If you opt for a **private academy**, you need to know that there are a multitude of options available on the market and the prices are very similar, so focus on finding a teacher with whom you feel comfortable. The timetables tend to be more flexible and you can even sign up for individual lessons.

The **Escuela Oficial de Idiomas** (EOI) is a network of public centres specialising in teaching and certification of languages, including "Spanish for foreigners". The EOI offers annual courses for foreign residents who want to learn Spanish at a low price. The cost is very reasonable (less than €100/year) and the academic year is pegged to the regular schooling periods (October-June), with two classes per week. These classes are in high demand and the enrolment period starts around May-June. The Escuela Oficial de Idiomas has several language schools on the island (you can find them [here](#)). It is a highly recommended option if your time commitments allow.

The Language Department ("Aula de Idiomas") of the **University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria** offers face-to-face and mixed language courses with a more flexible format than the EOI. It also prepares its students for international certification exams. You can find more information [here](#).

Contacts of interest



Entities



Sociedad de Promoción Económica de Gran Canaria

📍 Avda. de la Feria 1, Infecar, 35012
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 424 600

✉ consultas@spegc.org

🌐 www.spegc.org



Ventanilla Única

📍 Calle León y Castillo, 24, 35003
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 43 22 20

✉ vue-pae@camaragc.es

🌐 www.camaragrancanaria.org



Patronato de Turismo (Tourism Board)

📍 Calle Triana, 93, 35002
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 21 96 00

🌐 www.grancanaria.com

Consulates

◆ Consular Agency of the US of America

📍 Los Martínez de Escobar 3
Of. 7 - Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 27 12 59
✉ laspalmascons@state.gov
🌐 es.usembassy.gov

◆ Consulate of Chile

📍 Dolores de la Rocha, 28 bajo
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 31 93 91
✉ laspalmasconchile@hotmail.com

◆ Consulate of Estonia

📍 C/. Argentina, 21 Telde
☎ (+34) 928 70 37 25

◆ Consulate of Greece

📍 Plaza de Santa Isabel, 1, 4ºB
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 31 17 88/928 30 05 43

◆ Consulate of Austria

📍 Hotel Eugenia Victoria. Avda. de Gran Canaria, 26, Playa del Inglés
☎ (+34) 928 76 13 50/928 76 25 00
✉ consuladodeaustria@gmail.com

◆ Consulate of Colombia

📍 Calle Obispo Codina 3, piso 2
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 330 949
✉ claspalmasdegrancanaria@cancilleria.gov.co
islascanarias.consulado.gov.co

◆ Consulate of Finland

📍 C. José Franchy Roca, 5-2
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 224 358
✉ sanomat.lsp@formin.fi

◆ Consulate of Guatemala

📍 Plaza de la Feria, 5
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 37 15 00
✉ laspalmas@embajadaguatemala.es

◆ Consulate of Brazil

📍 Avda. José Mesa y López 72, L6
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 22 58 88
✉ consuladohbrasillp@bbm.es

◆ Consulate of Cuba

📍 Calle Santiago Rusiñol, Nº12, Ciudad Jardín
☎ (+34) 928 24 46 42 ext. 3002
✉ consulado@canarias.embacuba.cu
🌐 misiones.cubaminrex.cu

◆ Consulate of France

📍 C. Alonso Quintero, 29, 2E
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 94 70 34
✉ info@agenceconsulairelaspalmas.fr

◆ Consulate of the Republic of Iceland

📍 Avda. Canarias, 22
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 36 58 70
✉ canaryislands@icelandconsulate.es

◆ Consulate of Cabo Verde

📍 C/ Arco 16
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 24 53 32
✉ consulcanarias@consuladocv.com
consuladocv.com

◆ Consulate of Equatorial Guinea

📍 Calle José Miranda Guerra, 12
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 24 45 92
🌐 consuladoguineaecuatorialcanarias.com

◆ Consulate of Germany

📍 C. Albareda, 3-2
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 49 18 80 / 928 49 18 70
✉ info@las-palmas.diplo.de
🌐 las-palmas.diplo.de

◆ Consulate of Indonesia

📍 Antonio María Manrique, 3, 4º - 11
☎ (+34) 928 424 998

Consulates

◆ Consulate of Ireland

📍 C. León y Castillo, 195, 1º derecha
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 29 77 28

✉ consuladoirlanda@step.es

◆ Consulate of Morocco

📍 C. León y Castillo 92-94
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 26 28 59 / 928 26 88 50

✉ consul@consuladomarruecoslp.com

◆ Consulate of the Philippines

📍 Av. Rafael Cabrera, nº 13 – Ofi. 1
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 29 70 40

🌐 administracion@consuladofilipinaslaspalmas.com

◆ Consulate of the Republic of Paraguay

📍 Avda. Rafael Cabrera, Nº 22 A,
1º Planta

☎ (+34) 928 48 53 65

✉ consulado@paraguaylp@gmail.com

◆ Consulate of Italy

📍 Calle Reyes Católicos, 44
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 24 19 11

✉ laspalmas.onorario@esteri.it

◆ Consulate of Norway

📍 C. Juan Rejón 67, 5º
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 495 035

✉ laspalmas@norskonsulat.com

◆ Consulate of Poland

📍 Calle Mayor De Triana, 104, 5º D
Las Palmas De Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 36 69 82

✉ consul@polonia.nom.es

◆ Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia

📍 C/. Padre José de Sosa, 26, 1º A
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 33 63 65

✉ consuladosloveniacaanarias@gmail.com

◆ Consulate of Japan

📍 C/. Triana, 120, 3º Planta Izquierda
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 244 012

🌐 Consulado de Japón

◆ Consulate of Panama

📍 C. Luis Morote 6, 6º - Oficina 4
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 266 071

✉ panaconsulcanarias@gmail.com

◆ Consulate of Portugal

📍 Calle Triana, 27, 2ª Dcha.
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 36 47 92

✉ consuladoportugal.laspalmas@economistas.org

◆ Consulate of Russia

📍 Calle José Franchy Roca, 5, Oficina
213 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 49 22 22 / 637 831 773

✉ info.canarias@consuladorusia.com

🌐 consuladorusia.com

◆ Consulate of Luxembourg

📍 C/. Pintor Juan Guillermo, 10 - Local
1, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 49 52 30

✉ laspalmas@consul-hon.lu

◆ Consulate of Peru

📍 Gral. Mas de Gaminde, 45, Oficinas Torre
Izquierda, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 607 918 888/928 933 948

✉ consulperucanarias@hotmail.com

◆ Consulate of Republic of Korea

📍 C/ Luis Doreste Silva, 60
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

☎ (+34) 928 23 06 99 / 928 23 04 99

✉ laspalmas@mofa.go.kr

🌐 overseas.mofa.go

◆ Consulate of Senegal

📍 Avda. Juan Carlos I 17 Bis, 2º Piso
Oficina 20, Las Palmas de GC

☎ (+34) 928 38 12 79

✉ info@senegalcانarias.com

🌐 senegalcانarias.com

Consulates

◆ Consulate of Sweden

📍 C/. Luis Morote, 6, 4
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 261 751
✉ grancanaria@consuladosuecia.com

◆ Consulate of Switzerland

📍 Urbanización Bahía Feliz
Oficinas Local 1
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 15 79 79
✉ laspalmasgc@honrep.ch

◆ Consulate of the United Kingdom

📍 C/. Luis Morote, 6,3º- Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
☎ (+34) 928 26 25 08
✉ spain.consulate@fco.gov.uk
🌐 gov.uk

◆ Consulate of Uruguay

📍 Calle los Martínez de Escobar, 8,
Piso 1, Oficina 7, Las Palmas de GC
☎ (+34) 928 27 84 86
✉ cglas Palmas@gmail.com
🌐 conurucanarias.es

Printable checklist



Start

Visa ● ☐ I have my visa approved

Appointments ● ☐ Appointment requested for NIE
☐ Appointment requested for Social Security

Health cover ● ☐ I have the European Health Insurance Card

Accommodation search ● ☐ I've found temporary accommodation

Arrival in Gran Canaria

Go to appointments ● ☐ Appointment for NIE
☐ Appointment with Social Security

Living in Gran Canaria ● ☐ I have a place to live
☐ I'm registered on the municipal census
☐ I have a Health Insurance Card (individual)
☐ I know where to enrol my children for school

Getting around Gran Canaria ● ☐ I'm familiar with the modes of local transport
☐ I have a driving license

Administrative formalities ● ☐ Foreigner Identity Card (TIE)
 ● ☐ EU Citizen Registration Certificate

Other formalities ● ☐ I've opened a bank account
☐ I've contracted internet and telephone services

Emergency contacts

Emergencies: 112
Guardia Civil: 062
National Police: 091
Local Police (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria): 092
Fire Brigade: 112
Gender Violence Hotline: 016

PRINT ME!

Procedures

- Non-EU citizens
- EU citizens
- Both

Start

Visa ● ☐ I have my visa approved

Health cover ● ☐ I have the European Health Insurance Card

Accommodation search ● ☐ I've found temporary accommodation

Arrival in Gran Canaria

Documentation ● ☐ Apply for NIE (90-180 day stay)

Getting around Gran Canaria ● ☐ I'm familiar with the modes of local transport
☐ I have a driving license

Where do I work? ● ☐ I've found a coworking or office space

Other formalities ● ☐ I've contracted internet and telephone services

Emergency contacts

Emergencies: 112
Guardia Civil: 062
National Police: 091
Local Police (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria): 092
Fire Brigade: 112
Gender Violence Hotline: 016

PRINT ME!

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- EU citizens
- Both

Sociedad de Promoción Económica de Gran Canaria

The SPEGC is a public sector entity fully participated by the governing body of Gran Canaria, the Island Council (Cabildo de Gran Canaria). Its main purpose is to **promote** the economic development of Gran Canaria by encouraging **investment** and **development** of economic and business activities that contribute to the economic growth of Gran Canaria and its inhabitants.

Its main **activities** include: support for creation and consolidation of businesses, promotion of innovation in production activities, provision of economic and business advice and attraction of foreign direct investments, start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures.

The island's promotion, through the [Best in Gran Canaria](#) and the [Gran Canaria Film Commission](#) initiatives, and the provision of the [Servicio de Apoyo a Empresas](#) (SAE) lie at the hearth of SPEGC's value proposition.



Services

- **Business Support Service (SAE):**
 - ◆ Support to obtain R&D financing.
 - ◆ Legal and tax advisory.
 - ◆ Comprehensive Support Service for Entrepreneurs.
 - ◆ Softlanding services.
- **Ad-hoc training** according to project/company needs.
- **Own offices** managed by the SPEGC (Gran Canaria Technology Park).

Promotional activities



☎ (+34) 696 17 01 94
✉ bestingrancanaria@spegc.org
🌐 www.bestingrancanaria.com



☎ (+34) 630 64 72 48
✉ grancanariafilm@spegc.org
🌐 www.grancanariafilm.com

Work spaces

The Gran Canaria Technology Park (PTGC) offers different work spaces to entrepreneurs and companies with innovative and/or technology-based business projects.

Who can apply for the work spaces?

The spaces aim to attract technological/innovative projects that generate high levels of qualified employment and are intended for individuals or companies implementing projects that meet the requirements specified in the offer.

They are located on two sites of the PTGC:

1. At INFECAR (PTGC-RFC): the site of Coworking B, the Incube Building, the Pasarela Building and the ICT-Tourism Demonstration Centre (CDTIC).

2. Tafira University Campus (PTGC-Campus de Tafira): the site of Multipurpose Buildings I, II, III and IV.

General services

- Offices of different sizes, from 14 m² to 60 m² approx.
- Furnished or unfurnished.
- Basic utilities (electricity up to 3.6 kW).
- Internet connection.
- Possibility of contracting an additional fibre line.
- Basic office cleaning and cleaning of common areas.
- Rest areas, lounge/canteen, vending machines.
- 24hr access.
- Work and meeting rooms (free of charge and subject to reservation).
- Mail receipt service.
- Surveillance.
- Security and Maintenance Service.
- Parking area (subject to availability).





For further enquiries or suggestions

bestingrancanaria@spegc.org

