

Kingdom of Spain



About Spain

Capital City:

- Madrid

Monetary Unit:

- Euro (€)

Major Languages:

- Spanish

Main Exports:

- Machinery
- Motor Vehicles
- Chemicals
- Aerospace

Our Immigration Services in Spain

Business & Temporary Residency Visas –

Guidance & assistance with short & long stay visa applications submitted with the Spanish consulates abroad

Transnational Work & Residency – For foreign nationals, who are not members of the EEA and will transfer to Spain as an intracompany transferee

Fixed Term Work & Residency – For foreign nationals who are not members of the EEA and will enter into an employment agreement to work for a Spanish employer

Residence Permits – For foreign nationals who are not members of the EEA and will stay in Spain for more than 90 days

The Spanish Economy

Home to over 45 million people, Spain has the fifth largest economy in Europe and twelfth largest in the world by GDP. Its accession to the European Community, now the European Union (EU), in January 1986 required the country to open its economy to trade and investment, modernize its industrial base, improve infrastructure, and revise economic legislation to conform to EU guidelines. Since doing so, its economy has grown and diversified.

Business formation procedures in Spain have become streamlined, and the overall entrepreneurial environment supports private-sector development. The Heritage Foundation ranks Spain's economy the thirty-first freest in the 2011 Index of Economic Freedom. Its 2011 score is 0.6 point higher than the prior year, reflecting improvements in half of the ten economic freedoms that offset a decline in freedom from corruption. Spain is ranked seventeenth in the Europe region, and its overall score is well above the world average.

Spain's economy represents approximately nine percent of EU output. Its principal export and import agreements are with France, Germany and Italy. The largest industries are tourism, chemicals and petro-chemicals and heavy industry. Perhaps the most important industry for Spain is foreign tourism, the second largest in the world. Also significant to the economy and accounting for nearly ten percent of the nation's workforce is its automobile industry, which ranks within the world's top ten automotive producers.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/3b7g3dg>
For more information about foreign investment in Spain, visit the web site at: <http://www.investinspain.org>

Business Travel to Spain

Spain is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) and party to the Schengen Agreements. Based upon the Schengen Agreements, individuals with passports issued by member states are currently permitted to travel without passport and visa controls within Schengen territory (<http://tinyurl.com/3p80l6e>). Foreign nationals who are not members of the Schengen territory must present a passport and may require a visa for entry to Spain. Further, there is a strict, cumulative limit of 90 days within a 180-day period that an individual may spend as a visitor within the Schengen Area.

Thus, foreign nationals who are not part of the Schengen area or otherwise exempt from presenting a passport for admission and wish to travel to Spain for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months beyond the intended dates of stay and contain at least two blank visa pages. U.S. and Canadian citizens generally are not required to obtain a visa in advance of business travel within the 90 day limitation. Individuals who will require a visa to enter Spain, including Indian and Chinese nationals should plan to apply well in advance of travel.

Permissible business activities as a visitor include attending business meetings, conferences and engaging in negotiations. If the stay will exceed the prescribed period or involve more than simple business meetings, a visa and/or work permit will be required. Employment in Spain is strictly prohibited without prior work authorization. The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains a foreign entry requirements tool at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3vq55p6>

Continued on next page.

Living in Spain

Spain is a major destination point for expatriates from all over the world due to its warm climate, diverse geography, business opportunities and favorable taxation rates. The Spanish government has reported that foreign residents comprise approximately ten percent of the population. The country is quite large in comparison to other European countries and offers a variety of areas that are popular expatriate destinations, including Barcelona, Cadiz, Madrid, and Seville. The Spanish people are considered especially social and friendly and generally exercise politeness in social and professional situations.

Spanish Business Culture

Business dress in Spain is characterized as stylish yet conservative. Men typically wear dark-colored suits with white shirts and high-quality ties. Women typically wear business suits or conservative dresses.

It is important to schedule in advance and be on time for business meetings, since punctuality is highly valued in Spain. Business meetings are scheduled in the morning or evening, since offices in Spain are closed from 2 to 5 p.m. for siesta.

Spanish Transnational Work Permit Process

1 Transnational Work & Residence Application for foreign national employee of a company that is not part of the EU/EEA submitted to the labor & immigration authorities

2 Foreign national applies for long stay, work/residence visa at the Spanish Consulate abroad

3 Foreign national's registration with the local authorities and application for foreigner's identification card

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Spain

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Spain. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: work permit and visa application preparation and filing; visa

stamping and residence permit application process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Spanish consulates abroad and local police stations may be available.

The lead time required to collect the necessary documents to support work and residency authorization applications for Spain can be significant. Thus, if your company's Spanish office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the documentary requirements and sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

Goel & Anderson, LLC
1984 Isaac Newton Square East
Suite 203
Reston, Virginia 20190
USA

Phone: +1 703.796.9898
Fax: +1 703.796.9005
E-mail: info@goellaw.com

www.goellaw.com