

SPAIN RISK ASSESSMENT



City & Country

Spain, Various

Prepared by

Sussex Abroad Office

Before you go –

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

VISA REGULATIONS

If your passport describes you as a British Citizen or a British Subject with Right of Abode in the United Kingdom, you don't need a visa to enter Spain. If you have another type of British nationality or another nationality altogether, you should check entry requirements with their nearest Spanish Embassy or Consulate. Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay.***Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website***

STAYING FOR LONGER THAN THREE MONTHS

If you're planning to stay in Spain for longer than 3 months you must register in person at the nearest Office for Foreigners (Oficina de Extranjeros) which is normally part of the Town Hall (Ayuntamiento), or at designated Police stations.

HEALTH

If you're visiting Spain, you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Spanish nationals. You should produce your EHIC prior to treatment. If you can't produce an EHIC at the time of receiving care, the hospital may ask for payment up front. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment. Private hospitals won't accept the EHIC and will ask you to pay for your treatment, or to provide evidence of adequate insurance***Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website***

TERRORISM

Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Spain. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners. The Spanish authorities take measures to protect visitors, but you should be vigilant and follow the instructions of the local authorities.

On 17/18 August 2017, there were 2 terrorist-related incidents where vehicles were driven directly at pedestrians, resulting in injuries and loss of life. These were in the Las Ramblas area of Barcelona and Cambrils, near Salou (100km southwest of Barcelona).

The Basque terrorist organisation ETA's last major attack was in 2006 and it hasn't mounted any attacks since 2009. In May 2018 it announced it was "disbanding". British nationals have not been a target of ETA terrorism.

Spanish police have disrupted a number of groups suspected of recruiting individuals to travel to Syria and Iraq from 2015 to the present date. Some of them expressed an intention to carry out attacks in Europe.

There's a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

Find out more about the [global threat from terrorism](#), how to minimise your risk and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

Type	Nature of the Hazard	Procedures to Minimise Risk
CRIME	Most visits to Spain are trouble-free, but you should be alert to the existence of street crime, especially thieves using distraction techniques. Thieves often work in teams of two or more people and tend to target money and passports.	Don't carry all your valuables in one place, and remember to keep a photocopy or scanned copy of your passport somewhere safe.
	Many people have their passports stolen while passing through airports, either on arrival in or departure from Spain	Take extra care to guard passports, money and personal belongings when collecting or checking in luggage at the airport, and while arranging car hire.
	In some city centres and resorts, thieves posing as police officers may approach tourists and ask to see their wallets for identification purposes.	If this happens to you, establish that the officers are genuine and if necessary show some other form of ID. Genuine police officers don't ask to see wallets or purses.
	Personal attacks, including sexual assaults, are rare but they do occur, and are often carried out by other British nationals.	Be alert to the possible use of 'date rape' and other drugs including 'GHB' and liquid ecstasy. Buy your own drinks and keep sight of them at all times to make sure they aren't spiked. Alcohol and drugs can make you less vigilant, less in

		control and less aware of your environment. If you drink, know your limit - remember that drinks served in bars are often stronger than those in the UK. Avoid splitting up from your friends, and don't go off with people you don't know.
DRUGS	Drugs and drink driving laws are stricter in Norway than in the UK.	Don't become involved with drugs of any kind. Possession of even small quantities can lead to heavy fines and/or imprisonment.
NATURAL DISASTERS	Forest fires occur frequently in Spain (including Spanish islands) during the summer months.	Take care when visiting or driving through woodland areas. Make sure cigarette ends are properly extinguished, don't light barbecues and don't leave empty bottles behind. You should be aware that causing a forest fire is treated as a criminal offence in Spain even if unintentional. If you see the on-set of a forest fire, call the emergency services on 112.
SWIMMING	Some beaches, especially around Spanish Islands, may have strong undercurrents. Most of them have a flag system.	Take care when swimming in the sea. Before swimming, make sure you understand the system and follow any

		warnings (a red flag means you mustn't enter the water). You should take extra care if there are no life-guards, flags or signs. Follow local advice if jellyfish are present.
CLIMATE	Temperatures in some parts of Spain can change very quickly.	Take extra care when planning a hike or walk to check local weather reports for warnings of extreme heat or cold temperatures.
DRUGS	Possession of even a small quantity of drugs can lead to arrest and detention. Possession of large quantities will probably result in prosecution and a prison sentence if convicted.	Don't get involved with drugs of any kind.

Please also note and be sensitive to the following:

- You must provide ID (your passport) if requested by a Police Officer. The Police have the right to hold you at a police station until your identity is confirmed.
- In any emergency, call 112. To report a crime, including stolen property and lost or stolen passports, visit the nearest Policia Nacional, regional police (Ertzaintza in the Basque Country, Mossos d'Esquadra in Catalonia, and Policia Foral in Navarre) or Guardia Civil Station to make a police report (denuncia). If you have had belongings stolen, you will need to keep the report for insurance purposes.

- When buying goods in Spain with credit or debit cards, all customers must show ID. You may be able to use a driving license or a photocopy of your passport, but you may be required to show your passport
- There have been a number of very serious accidents (some fatal) as a result of falls from balconies. Many of these incidents have been caused by British nationals being under the influence of drink or drugs and most should have been avoidable. Your travel insurance probably won't cover you for incidents that take place while you're under the influence of drink or drugs. - Avoid all demonstrations and follow the advice of police and local authorities.
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- In some parts of Spain it's against the law to be in the street wearing only a bikini or swimming shorts/trunks. Being bare-chested has also been banned. Some local councils will impose fines if you're caught wearing swimwear on the seafront promenade or the adjacent streets.
- For security reasons, some public authorities in Spain don't allow the burka or niqab to be worn in their buildings. If you visit Town Councils wearing a burka or niqab, you may be asked to remove it while in the building.