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Foreign travel advice

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Summary

Still current at: 24 April 2017

Updated: 21 April 2017

Latest update: Summary – there have been reports of an increase in holidaymakers being encouraged to submit a claim for personal injury if they have experienced gastric illness during their stay; you can find more information about the action you can take if you have suffered a personal injury on the Citizens Advice website; you should only consider pursuing a complaint or claim if you have genuinely suffered from injury or illness; if you make a false or fraudulent claim, you may face legal proceedings in the UK or Spain

There will be no change to the rights and status of EU nationals living in the UK, nor UK nationals living in the EU (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-leaving-the-eu-what-you-need-to-know>), while the UK remains in the EU.

Temporary restrictions may apply to car use in Madrid on days when air pollution levels are high. When in force, only cars with a number plate ending in an even number are allowed to circulate on even dates, and cars with number plates ending in an odd number on odd dates. Restrictions apply within the city boundaries (within the M30 inner ring road) between 6:30am and 9pm.

Exemptions may apply to cars with multiple occupants (3 people or more), motorbikes and mopeds, hybrid and zero-emission vehicles, those with a disabled badge and taxis. For more information you can follow Madrid Town Hall on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ayuntamientodemadrid/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/MADRID>), or call the 'Línea Madrid' citizen information and support line (in English) on 010 (from Madrid) or +34 915 298 210 (from outside Madrid).

Over 12 million British nationals visit Spain every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

There have been several deaths as a result of falls from balconies. Don't take any unnecessary risks, especially when under the influence of drink or drugs. See [Balcony falls](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/safety-and-security) (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/safety-and-security>)

There have been reports of an increase in holidaymakers being encouraged to submit a claim for personal injury if they have experienced gastric illness during their stay. You can find more information about the action you can take if you have suffered a personal injury on the Citizens Advice website (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/legal-system/personal-injury/personal-injuries/>). You should only consider pursuing a complaint or claim if you have genuinely suffered from injury or illness. If you make a false or fraudulent claim, you may face legal proceedings in the UK or Spain.

There is a general threat from terrorism. See [Terrorism](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/terrorism) (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/terrorism>)

You should apply for a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before you travel. If you already have an EHIC, make sure it hasn't expired. See [Health](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/health) (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/health>)

Some medical costs aren't covered by the EHIC. Take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-insurance>) before you travel.

Be alert to the existence of street crime. Thieves tend to target money and passports so don't keep them all in one place. Keep a copy of your passport somewhere safe. See [Crime](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/safety-and-security) (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/safety-and-security>)

If you're abroad and you need emergency help from the UK government, contact the nearest British embassy, consulate or high commission (<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/embassies>).

The Overseas Business Risk service (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-business-risk>) offers information and advice for British companies operating overseas on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

Elsewhere on GOV.UK

- [Driving abroad](https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad) (<https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad>)

- Hand luggage restrictions at UK airports (<https://www.gov.uk/hand-luggage-restrictions>)
- Renew or replace your adult passport (<https://www.gov.uk/renew-adult-passport>)

