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Checklist: Essential First Steps in Spain for Foreigners

Welcome to Spain! This checklist will help you organize your first steps and important procedures to get settled or manage your interests in the country. Check off each task as you complete it.

Essential Documentation and Registration

- ☐ Obtain the NIE (Foreigner Identification Number).
- ☐ Register at the town hall (Empadronamiento) in your locality of residence.
- ☐ EU/EEA/Swiss Citizens: Apply for the Union Citizen Registration Certificate (if your stay is > 3 months).
- ☐ Non-EU Citizens: Apply for the TIE (Foreigner Identity Card) once your visa/residence permit is granted.
- ☐ Verify the validity of your driver's license and whether you need to exchange it.

Finances and Banking

- ☐ Open a bank account in Spain (a non-resident or resident account, depending on your situation).
- ☐ Understand bank fees and options for international transfers.
- ☐ Learn about your initial tax obligations (IRNR for non-residents, IRPF if you become a resident).

Housing (Rental or Purchase)

- ☐ Look for accommodation: define the area, budget, and type of housing.
- ☐ If renting: understand the rental agreement, deposit (fianza), and duration.
- ☐ If buying:
 - ☐ Perform due diligence (Nota Simple, property charges, legal status).
 - ☐ Understand the preliminary purchase agreement (contrato de arras).
 - ☐ Calculate purchase costs and taxes (ITP/VAT, AJD, notary, registry).
- ☐ Set up utilities (electricity, water, gas, internet).
- ☐ Get home insurance.

Healthcare

- ☐ Verify your right to public healthcare (Social Security, European Health Insurance Card, S1 form).
- ☐ If necessary, purchase private health insurance with comprehensive coverage.
- ☐ Register at your local health center (centro de salud) and get your individual health card (TSI) if you are eligible.

Integration and Daily Life

- ☐ Consider taking Spanish classes if you are not fluent.
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with local business hours and customs.
- ☐ Know the emergency numbers (112).
- ☐ Explore public transport options.

This checklist is a general and non-exhaustive guide. Requirements and processes may vary. For detailed information and personalized advice, visit SpainTaxGuide.com or consult with a qualified professional.

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