

Healthcare in Spain



Spain has the best healthcare in the world according to 2020's **The Global Competitiveness Report** by the World Economic Forum, scoring 100 out of 100 points on their health pillar criteria. Bloomberg's recent post-pandemic "efficiency listing" for healthcare puts Spain's single-payer public health system in 16th place. In the same study, the U.S. came in 55th out of 57 countries. Canada placed at 27. Spain's life expectancy was ranked third longest worldwide and longest in Europe.

In major cities and popular tourist destinations, you will likely find better healthcare than what you have back home, with excellent doctors and modern amenities in large private hospitals and clinics. Spain has 22 hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities that are accredited by the Joint Commission International, the gold standard of hospital care. In general, costs run significantly less than in the U.S.

Outside the large cities, you may find relatively few private hospitals, but Spain's excellent public system is nationwide. You'll find public-system medical clinics even in Spain's small villages (though they may not be staffed every day, and English may not be spoken).

Citizens of non-EU countries (including the U.S. and Canada) must show that they have private health insurance valid in Europe to get a residence visa. After one to five years (depending on the community where you live), you can join Spain's public healthcare system for a monthly fee. Apply in your Autonomous Community.