

The Tenerife Professionals

Emigrating to Tenerife

Emigrating and working in Tenerife: A Guide for Germans, Austrians, and Swiss Citizens.

Here are the most important steps and requirements:

1. Applying for the NIE Number

The NIE number (Número de Identificación de Extranjeros) is essential for many bureaucratic processes in Spain. It is required for employment contracts, opening bank accounts, tax matters, and even finding accommodation. The NIE number can be applied for at the Spanish National Police and is a vital document for anyone wishing to live or work in Spain.

2. Right of Residence and Registration

As an EU citizen, you do not need a special residence or work permit to enter and stay in Tenerife. However, there is a registration requirement (Empadronamiento), meaning you must register with the local municipality after your arrival. This serves as proof of residence on the island and should be completed within a few months.

3. Social Security Registration

To work legally in Spain, you must be registered with the Spanish Social Security (Seguridad Social). Employees are usually registered by their employer, while the self-employed (Autónomos) must register themselves. Social security provides access to the Spanish healthcare system and pension insurance. It is important to ensure that registration is correctly completed, especially if done through your employer.

4. Job Hunting in Tenerife

If you have not yet secured employment, you can start looking for jobs either before your arrival or directly in Tenerife. There are several ways to find suitable positions:

- Online job portals like “Infojobs,” “Indeed,” or “LinkedIn” offer many job listings.
- Networking: The German and international community on the island is well connected and can be helpful in your job search. Personal introductions to potential employers are also recommended.
- Language skills: Knowledge of Spanish is essential for most jobs in Tenerife. In international companies or tourist facilities, English or German may suffice, but Spanish opens up far more opportunities. Professions in trades or tourism, especially with proficiency in both Spanish and English, are particularly in demand.

5. Finding Accommodation

Please contact:

info@die-teneriffa-profis.es

Gerrit Scharke +34 681 354 081 / Amanda Lenzlinger +34 682 792 839

It is advisable to start looking for housing in Tenerife early. Platforms like “Idealista” and “Fotocasa” as well as local real estate agencies are helpful in this process. For most rental contracts, the NIE number is required. Pay attention to the details when signing rental agreements, and if you plan to buy property, seek legal advice to avoid potential pitfalls.

6. Opening a Bank Account

A Spanish bank account is necessary for salary payments and other financial transactions. Opening an account is generally straightforward and requires the NIE number, proof of registration (Empadronamiento), and identification.

7. Health Insurance

By registering with social security, both employees and the self-employed have access to the Spanish healthcare system. Additionally, it may be advisable to take out private health insurance for more comprehensive coverage.

8. Tax Obligations

If you spend more than 183 days a year in Spain, you are considered a tax resident. This means that your worldwide income must be taxed in Spain. It is advisable to consult a tax advisor to learn about possible double taxation agreements between Spain and your home country and to avoid tax pitfalls.

9. Integration and Language Courses

To feel comfortable in Tenerife in the long term and succeed professionally, learning Spanish is crucial. There are numerous language schools on the island offering suitable courses. It is best to acquire basic Spanish skills before your move to make the transition smoother.

10. Self-Employment in Tenerife

For those wishing to become self-employed in Tenerife, there are several administrative steps to follow:

- Register with social security as self-employed.
- Register with the tax office.
- Pay monthly social security contributions.

Conclusion

By following these steps, relocating to Tenerife and starting a professional career should be a smooth process for citizens of Germany, Austria, or Switzerland.

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If you have any further questions or need assistance, ***The Tenerife Professionals*** are here to help.

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