

SPAIN
MADE SIMPLE
SANDTONS

NIE MADE SIMPLE

The NIE (Número de Identificación de Extranjero) is not just a tax number—it is your digital fingerprint in Spain.



THE QUICK GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The NIE (Número de Identificación de Extranjero) is not just a tax number—it is your digital fingerprint in Spain. You do not exist legally or financially without it.



WHAT IS IT FOR?

1

The Essential Uses

You cannot sign a deed, buy a car, or even accept a package from Amazon without it.

2

The Golden Rule

It is NOT a residency permit. It is just a number on a piece of white paper (A4).

3

The Common Mistake

Do not confuse the "White NIE" (Number only) with the "Green Card" (EU Residency) or "TIE" (Non-EU Photo ID).



HOW TO GET IT: THE STRATEGIC CHOICE

You have three routes. Choose based on your timeline, not just cost.



Slow & Steady

The Consulate

Best for: Planning months ahead

Process: Apply at the Spanish consulate in your home country.

Timeline: 1–3 months



Fast & Frustrating

The Police Station

Best for: Those already in Spain needing it urgently

Process: Book an appointment (Cita Previa) online and go in person.

Timeline: 1–4 weeks (if you can get an appointment)



Remote & Done

The Sandtons Way

Best for: Professionals who value time

Process: We use a Power of Attorney to handle everything. You don't even need to be in Spain.

Timeline: As fast as possible



SANDTONS Insight: THE "APPOINTMENT BOTTLENECK"

The government website for booking appointments often shows "No appointments available." This is not a glitch; it is a feature of the system's scarcity. Slots are released randomly.

Pro Tip: If doing it yourself, check at 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, and 2:00 PM when new slots often drop.

QUICK DECISION: WHICH ROUTE?

Assess your situation with our quick decision matrix

Buying Property soon?

Use Power of Attorney

We can get the NIE before you fly in to sign the deed.

Action: Use the Power of Attorney route.

Moving in 6 months?

Consulate Route

It saves you a trip, though it takes longer.

Action: Use the Consulate route.

Already here and stuck?

Let Us Help

Don't waste days refreshing the website.

Action: Let us secure the slot.

LET SANDTONS GET IT FOR YOU



[Link to NIE Service](#)

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Visas Made Simple

Mortgages Made Simple

Property Made Simple

NIE Made Simple

Living Made Simple

& more on our geo-dedicated websites



NEED PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE?

We've created dedicated resource hubs for different backgrounds. Get support tailored to your country of origin.

Get personalized guidance on:

- Tax optimization for US expats and reporting to the IRS
- UK family relocation and post-Brexit implications
- EU residency requirements and Padron registration
- International school comparisons (US, UK, EU curricula)
- Accurate, not abstract cost of living comparisons from where you live to where you want to live in Spain

US HUB

UK HUB

EU HUB

BEYOND THE GUIDE?

We handle everything—legal documents, tax registration, power of attorney, and complete relocation support including schools, insurance, and settling in.



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