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Ebooks

The Ultimate Guide to Live and Work Abroad

**Your step-by-step plan to relocate
and start your new job in Portugal,
Greece, Bulgaria, or Spain**

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Welcome to Your Next Big Step

Working abroad is an exciting opportunity that allows you to explore new cultures, gain international experience, and build both your personal and professional growth.

Whether you've already applied for a job or are still considering your options, **this guide will help you prepare for a smooth transition.**

In this chapter, we'll cover everything you need to know before moving, from budgeting and paperwork to finding housing and understanding healthcare systems. Use this as your step-by-step roadmap to ensure a stress-free relocation.

**Get Ready for
Your
International
Adventure**

01

Why Work Abroad? The Benefits of an International Career

Relocating to a new country for work comes with many advantages, including:

- **Professional Growth:** Gain valuable international experience and expand your network.
- **Higher Earnings Potential:** Some countries offer better salaries and benefits than your home country.
- **Cultural Immersion:** Experience a new way of life, from language to traditions.
- **Personal Development:** Build resilience, adaptability, and global awareness.
- **Improved Work-Life Balance:** Many European countries prioritize work-life balance and offer generous leave policies.

While the idea of moving abroad is thrilling, preparation is key to making the experience a success.



How to Use This Guide

This guide is divided into country-specific chapters that provide tailored information on essential topics like housing, healthcare, and transportation.

Each section gives you a complete picture of what to expect in **Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria, and Spain**.

Start with this preparation chapter, then jump to the country section relevant to your move for more details.



Step 1: How Much Money Should You Save Before Moving?

One of the biggest mistakes new expats make is underestimating their **initial costs**. Before you receive your first paycheck, you'll need to cover expenses such as:

- **Flight tickets:** Costs vary depending on your location and season.
- **Temporary accommodation:** Hotels, Airbnb's, or hostels for the first few weeks.
- **Rental deposit:** Most landlords require one to three months' rent upfront.
- **First-month living expenses:** Food, transport, and utilities.
- **Healthcare costs:** Some countries require private insurance before granting work permits.



Save
Money!

💡 **Recommended savings:** Aim to have at least 2–3 months of living expenses before moving. (The minimum amount of money in your bank account recommended by the client is €1000)

Extra tip: Boost your savings with our referral program!



At **City Job Offers**, we're not just here to help you relocate—we've got a simple way to pad your budget too. With our **referral program**, you can invite friends to sign up with us.

For every friend who lands a job through us, you earn a bonus. It's an easy way to stash some extra cash for your adventure!

Head to our site for the details and start sharing your unique link today—it'll make your move abroad that much smoother.

Step 2: Essential Documents Needed in Any Country

Regardless of where you're moving, these are the must-have documents:

- ✓ **Valid Passport** (with at least 6 months validity)
- ✓ **Visa or Work Permit** (depending on your nationality and destination)
- ✓ **Proof of Employment** (contract, job offer letter)
- ✓ **Social Security Registration** (NIF, NIE, AMKA, or local equivalent)
- ✓ **Health Insurance Policy**
- ✓ **Proof of Accommodation** (rental agreement, temporary housing confirmation)
- ✓ **Bank Statements or Financial Proof** (to show sufficient funds for initial expenses)
- ✓ **Police Clearance Certificate** (some employers may require a background check)
- ✓ **Academic and Professional Certificates** (translated if necessary)

💡 **Pro Tip:** Always carry both physical copies and digital backups of your documents (stored securely in cloud storage like Google Drive or Dropbox).



Step 3: Finding Accommodation Before Arrival

Finding housing in a new country can be stressful, especially from abroad. To make the process easier:

🔍 **Start searching early:** Join expat groups, rental websites, and local Facebook housing communities.

🏠 **Consider temporary housing:** Book a short-term rental (Airbnb, hostel, or hotel) for the first month while you look for a permanent home.

📄 **Understand rental contracts:** Research deposit policies and required paperwork in your destination country.

💡 **Pro Tip:** Beware of scams! Never send money before signing a contract and verifying the landlord's identity.



Step 4: Healthcare & Health Insurance

Healthcare systems vary by country, and understanding your coverage is crucial:

- **Public Healthcare:** Available in most EU countries but may require registration.
- **Private Insurance:** Sometimes necessary for expats, depending on visa requirements.
- **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC):** If you're an EU citizen, this grants access to public healthcare in EU countries.

💡 **Pro Tip:** Research the best health insurance options before arriving to avoid gaps in medical coverage.



Step 5: First Steps Upon Arrival

Once you land in your new country, here's what you should do first:

- 1 Register for a Tax ID (NIF, NIE, AFM, or equivalent)** – Required for opening a bank account and starting work.
- 2 Open a Local Bank Account** – Needed for salary deposits and everyday transactions.
- 3 Get a SIM Card** – A local phone number makes job and apartment hunting easier.
- 4 Sign Up for Healthcare** – Register with the public system or activate private insurance.
- 5 Explore Your Neighborhood** – Locate supermarkets, pharmacies, and transportation hubs.

💡 Pro Tip: The first week is crucial for setting up your life. Take care of these essentials as soon as possible!



Your Journey Starts Now!

Now that you know the basics, it's time to dive deeper into your destination of choice.

👉 **Next step:** Choose your country-specific chapter (**Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria, or Spain**) and start preparing for your move! 🚀

Portugal – Your New Life in the Atlantic Hub



Welcome to Portugal

Portugal is one of the most attractive destinations for expats, offering a warm climate, a rich cultural history, affordable living, and a welcoming community.

Whether you're moving to **Lisbon, Porto**, or another city, understanding the essentials of living and working in Portugal is key to a smooth transition.








Documentation

To legally work and live in Portugal, you must have the following documents:

- **NIF (Número de Identificação Fiscal)** – Required for employment, banking, and rental contracts.
- **Social Security Registration** – Necessary for healthcare access and work benefits.
- **Visa & Work Permit (if applicable)** – Depending on your nationality, a visa may be required before entering Portugal.
- **Residency Registration** – If staying long-term, you must register with local authorities to obtain a residence certificate.

Useful Links:

- [Portuguese Tax Office \(Finanças\)](#) – Apply for NIF online.
- [Social Security Portugal](#) – Register for social security benefits.
- [SEF \(Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras\)](#) – Immigration and visa requirements.

 **Pro Tip:** You can apply for a NIF remotely via legal services or in person at the Portuguese tax office (Finanças).



Housing

Finding a place to live in Portugal can be competitive, especially in Lisbon and Porto. Here's what you need to know:

Best Neighborhoods for Expats:

- **Lisbon:** Alfama, Alcântara, and Parque das Nações (modern and international).
- **Porto:** Boavista, Ribeira, and Foz do Douro.
- **Faro & Algarve:** Ideal for a relaxed lifestyle near the coast.

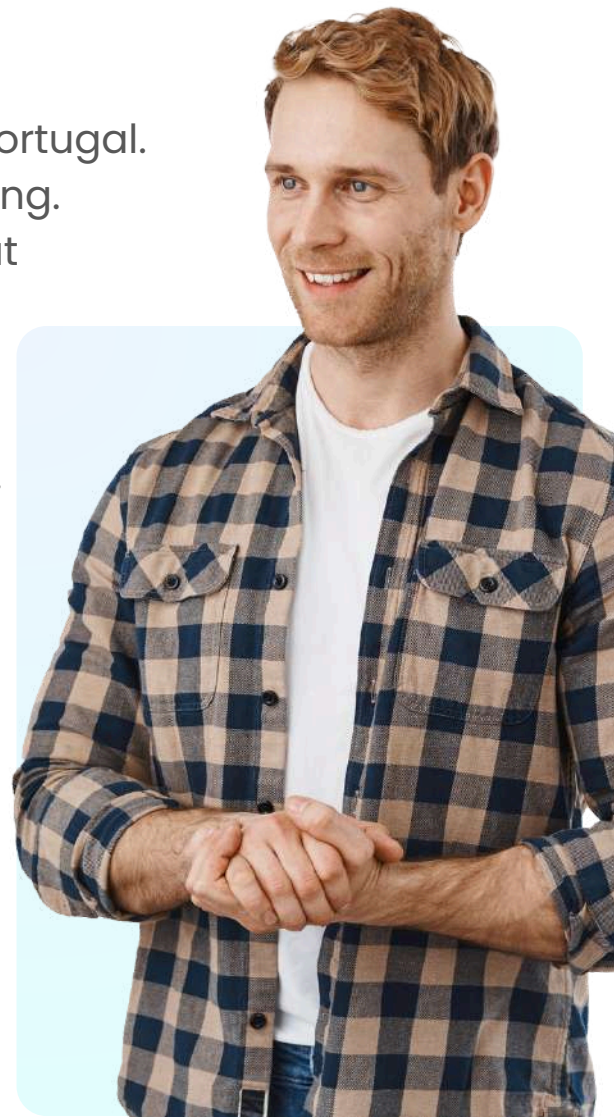
Rental Platforms:

- **Idealista** – Largest rental platform in Portugal.
- **OLX** – Local classifieds, including housing.
- **Facebook Housing Groups** – Join expat groups in Lisbon, Porto, and Algarve.

Short-term vs. Long-term Leases:

- **Short-term:** Airbnb, Flatio, Spotahome.
- **Long-term:** Most landlords require 1–3 months' rent upfront + deposit.

💡 **Pro Tip:** Some landlords prefer direct deals without agencies, but always request a contract to protect your rights.



Healthcare

Portugal has a high-quality healthcare system, and as a resident, you will have access to both public and private healthcare.

- **Public System** (SNS – Serviço Nacional de Saúde)
 - Covers doctor visits, hospital care, and emergency services.
 - Requires Social Security registration to access services at lower costs.
- **Private Insurance Options**
 - Many expats opt for private health insurance to avoid long wait times.
 - Providers: Médis, Multicare, and Allianz Portugal.
- **Pharmacies & Emergency Care**
 - Pharmacies are marked with a green cross and operate late hours in major cities.

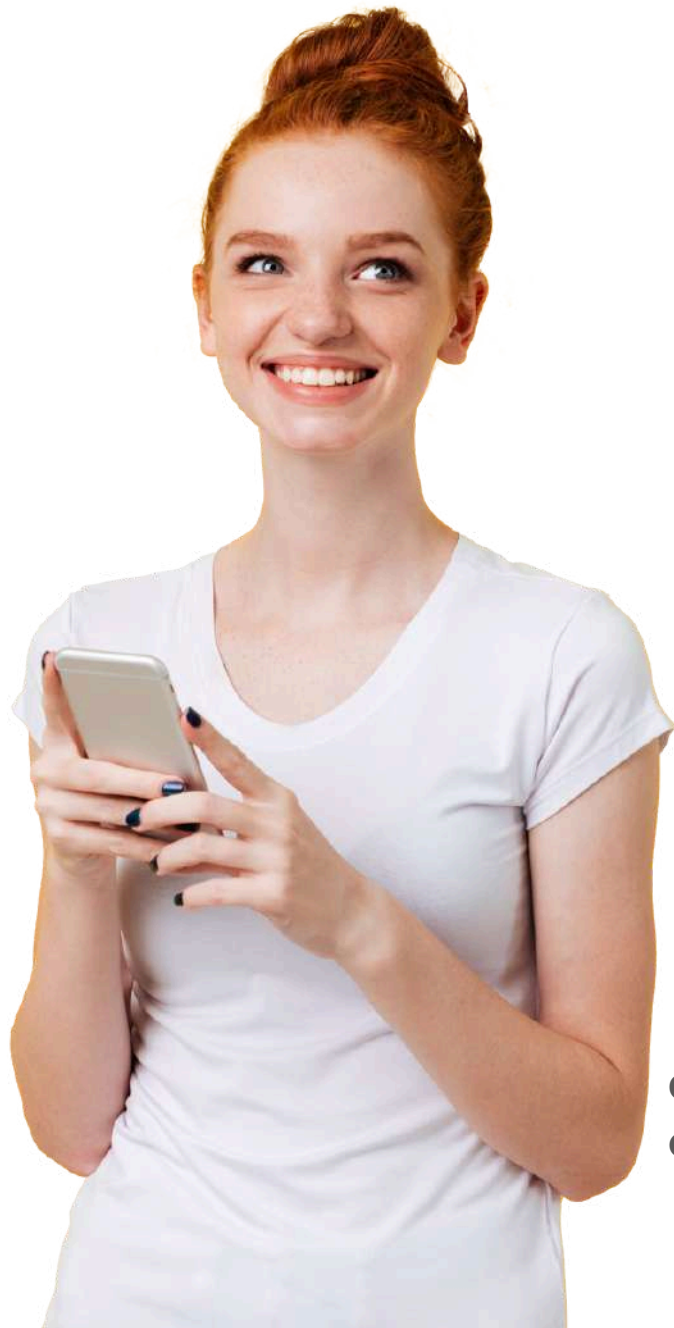
Emergency Number: 112 (for ambulance and urgent medical assistance).

💡 Pro Tip: If you're from the EU, the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** allows temporary access to healthcare before switching to SNS.



Transportation

Getting around in Portugal is affordable and well-connected, especially in major cities.



- **Public Transport in Lisbon & Porto:**
 - Metro, buses, trams, and suburban trains.
 - Monthly transport card (Navegante in Lisbon, Andante in Porto): ~€40.
 - Apps: Moovit, Carris (Lisbon), and STCP (Porto).
- **Taxis & Ride-Sharing:**
 - Uber, Bolt, and FreeNow are widely used.
 - Taxis are available but often more expensive than ride-sharing apps.
- **Intercity Travel:**
 - Trains: Comboios de Portugal (CP) connects major cities.
 - Buses: Rede Expressos offers long-distance bus routes.

💡 **Pro Tip:** If commuting daily, getting a monthly transport pass saves a lot on travel costs.

Cost of Living

Portugal is one of the most affordable Western European countries, but prices vary by city.

Expense	Lisbon (€)	Porto (€)	Faro (€)
Rent (1-bed apt)	900-1,500	700-1,200	600-1,000
Utilities (electricity, water, internet)	100-150	90-140	80-130
Public Transport	40-50	30-40	30-40
Meal at a Restaurant	12-20	10-18	10-16
Groceries (monthly)	200-300	180-250	180-250

 **Pro Tip:** Living in suburbs (such as Almada for Lisbon or Gaia for Porto) can significantly reduce rent costs.



Culture & Adaptation

Portugal is welcoming, relaxed, and culturally rich. Here's what you should know before arriving:

- **Language Basics**

- Learning some **Portuguese phrases** will help in daily life.
- English is widely spoken in Lisbon, Porto, and tourist areas.

- **Work Culture**

- Hierarchical but friendly work environments.
- Lunch breaks can last **up to 2 hours** in traditional offices.

- **Social Life & Networking**

- Meetups, expat groups, and language exchanges are great for making friends.
- Portuguese people enjoy **long meals, coffee breaks, and outdoor socializing.**

💡 **Pro Tip:** Building a local network early on will help you settle faster and discover hidden gems beyond the tourist areas.



Final Thoughts

Portugal is an excellent choice for expats, offering affordable living, a vibrant culture, and a great work-life balance. With the right preparation, your transition will be smooth and enjoyable.

🔗 Useful Resources & Expat Communities:

- [Internations Portugal](#) – Connect with other expats.
- [Meetup Lisbon & Porto](#) – Find social and professional events.
- [Government Portal](#) – Official guide for residency and work regulations.

👉 **Next step:** If Portugal is your chosen destination, make sure to finalize your paperwork and housing search before arrival! 🚀

**Greece –
Culture, History,
and Job
Opportunities**

03

Welcome to Greece

Greece offers a perfect blend of rich history, stunning landscapes, and growing job opportunities for expats. Whether you're moving to **Athens, Thessaloniki, or a Greek island**, knowing what to expect will help ensure a smooth transition.








Documentation

To legally work and live in Greece, you will need the following documents:

- **AFM (Αριθμός Φορολογικού Μητρώου – Tax Identification Number)** – Required for employment, banking, and rental agreements.
- **ΑΜΚΑ (Αριθμός Μητρώου Κοινωνικής Ασφάλισης – Social Security Number)** – Necessary for accessing public **healthcare and social security benefits**.
- **Visa & Work Permit (if applicable)** – Required for non-EU citizens before entering Greece.
- **Residence Permit** – If staying long-term, expats must apply for a residence permit within 90 days of arrival.

Useful Links:

- [Greek Tax Office \(AADE\) – Apply for an AFM.](#)
- [IKA \(Social Insurance Institute\) – Social security and healthcare registration.](#)
- [Greek Ministry of Migration – Visa and residence permit requirements.](#)

 **Pro Tip:** You must apply for an AFM in person at the local tax office (DOY), so schedule an appointment as soon as you arrive.



Housing

Finding accommodation in Greece depends on your city of choice. Athens and Thessaloniki offer the most options, while island living can be pricier.

- **Best Neighborhoods for Expats:**

- **Athens:** Kifisia (green and family-friendly), Kolonaki (central, upscale), Exarchia (bohemian, affordable).
- **Thessaloniki:** Kalamaria (coastal, relaxed), Valaoritou (downtown, vibrant), Toumba (budget-friendly).
- **Greek Islands:** Santorini and Mykonos are expensive, while Crete and Rhodes are more affordable.

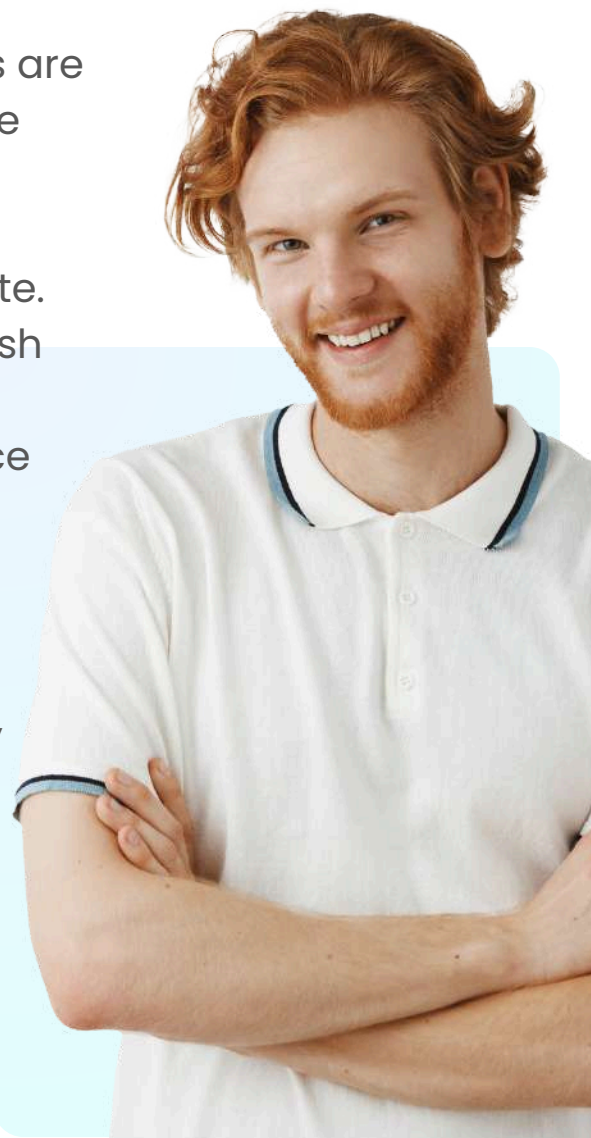
- **Rental Platforms:**

- **Xe.gr** – Greece’s largest real estate site.
- **Spitogatos** – Rental listings with English support.
- **[Facebook Groups]** – Expats in Greece often share rental opportunities.

- **Short-term vs. Long-term Leases:**

- **Short-term:** Airbnb, Blueground, and Flatio.
- **Long-term:** Rental contracts typically require 1-2 months’ deposit.

💡 **Pro Tip:** Some landlords prefer direct deals without agencies, but always request a contract to protect your rights.



Healthcare

Greece has both a public healthcare system (ESY) and a strong network of private clinics.

- **Public Healthcare (ESY - Εθνικό Σύστημα Υγείας)**
 - Covers basic medical services at public hospitals and clinics.
 - Requires AMKA registration to access low-cost services.
- **Private Insurance Options**
 - Many expats opt for private health insurance to access shorter wait times.
 - Providers: Interamerican, Ethniki, and Allianz Greece.
- **Pharmacies & Emergency Care**
 - Pharmacies (φαρμακεία) are widely available and often have 24-hour locations.
 - Emergency Number: 116 (for ambulance and urgent medical assistance).

Useful Links:

- [EOPYY](#) – Greek National Health Insurance provider.
- [IKA](#) – Public healthcare and social security portal.

 **Pro Tip:** Expats should check if their home country has a healthcare agreement with Greece to ease the transition.




Transportation

Greece has an extensive but sometimes inconsistent public transportation system. In major cities, public transit is affordable and widely used.



- **Public Transport in Athens & Thessaloniki:**
 - Metro, buses, and trams are common in Athens, while Thessaloniki relies mostly on buses
 - Monthly pass: ~€30 for unlimited metro, bus, and tram use
 - Apps: OASA Telematics, Moovit, and Google Maps for transit schedules
- **Taxis & Ride-Sharing:**
 - Taxis are relatively cheap, with apps like BEAT offering English-language booking
 - Uber operates only with licensed taxis in Greece
- **Intercity Travel:**
 - Trains: OSE connects Athens to other major cities
 - Buses: KTEL Greece provides extensive intercity bus routes

 **Pro Tip:** In Athens, the metro is the fastest and most reliable mode of transport, especially for daily commutes.

Cost of Living

Greece offers a relatively low cost of living compared to other European countries.

Expense	Athens (€)	Thessaloniki (€)	Crete (€)
Rent (1-bed apt)	500-900	400-700	350-600
Utilities (electricity, water, internet)	100-150	90-130	80-120
Public Transport	30-50	25-40	25-40
Meal at a Restaurant	10-20	8-15	7-12
Groceries (monthly)	200-300	180-250	170-230

 **Pro Tip:** Living outside city centers significantly reduces rental costs, especially in Athens and Thessaloniki.



Culture & Adaptation

Greek culture is warm, family-oriented, and deeply rooted in history. Here's what to keep in mind:

- **Language Basics**

- Greek is the official language, but many people in cities speak English.
- Learning basic Greek phrases will help you in daily life.

- **Work Culture**

- Workdays typically start at 9-10 AM, with extended lunch breaks.
- Networking and social connections are crucial for career success.

- **Social Life & Networking**

- Expats can connect through platforms like Internations and Meetup.
- Cafés and tavernas are central to social life in Greece.

💡 Pro Tip: Greeks are known for their hospitality. Showing interest in the culture and traditions will help you integrate faster.



Final Thoughts

Greece offers an amazing balance of work, culture, and leisure. With proper preparation, you can fully enjoy your new life in this beautiful Mediterranean country.

🔗 Useful Resources & Expat Communities:

[Internations Greece](#) – Connect with other expats. Meetup

[Athens & Thessaloniki](#) – Find social and professional events

[Government Portal](#) – Official guide for residency and work regulations

👉 **Next step:** If Greece is your chosen destination, start finalizing your visa, housing, and job arrangements before your move! 🚀

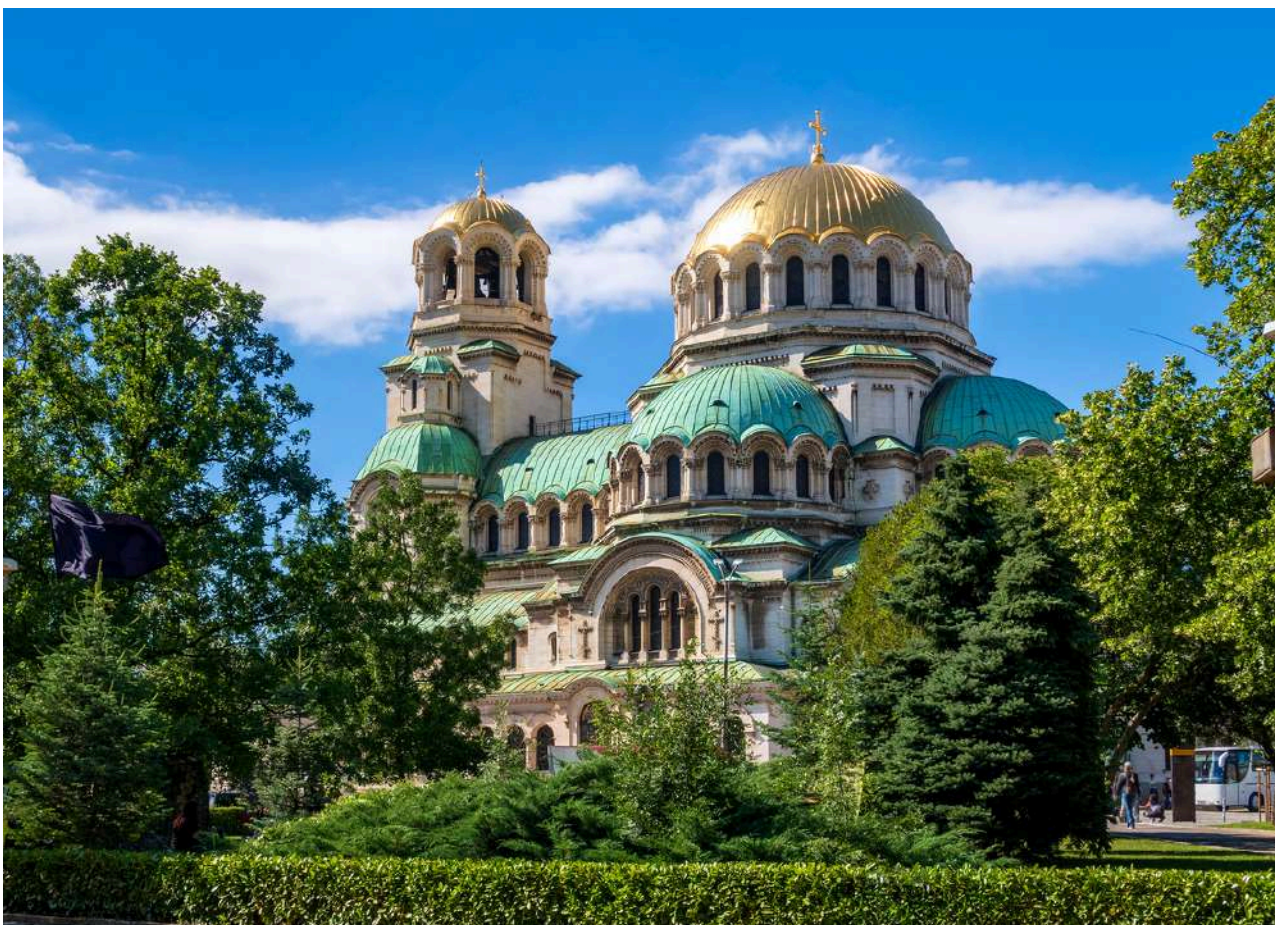
Bulgaria – The Affordable European Gem

04

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Welcome to Bulgaria

Bulgaria is an emerging destination for expats, offering a **low cost of living, rich cultural history, and growing job opportunities**. Whether you're moving to Sofia, Plovdiv, or a smaller town, understanding the essentials of working and living in Bulgaria will make your transition easier.

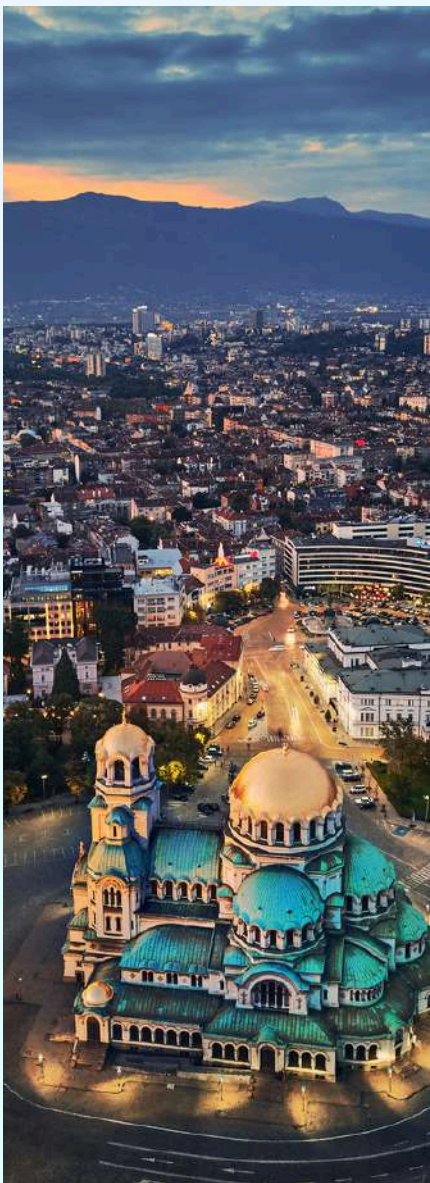






Documentation

To work and live in Bulgaria legally, you will need the following documents:



- **Bulgarian Personal Identification Number (EGN/ЛНЧ)** – Required for employment, banking, and social security.
- **Social Security Registration** – Necessary for accessing public healthcare and work benefits.
- **Visa & Work Permit (if applicable)** – Required for non-EU citizens before entering Bulgaria.
- **Residence Permit** – Expats planning to stay for over 90 days must apply for a long-term residence permit.

Useful Links:

- [Bulgarian Ministry of Interior](#) – Visa and residence permit information.
- [National Revenue Agency](#) – Tax and social security registration.
- [Bulgarian Employment Agency](#) – Work permits and job listings.

 **Pro Tip:** EU citizens can stay and work without a visa but must register with the local authorities for a residence certificate.

Housing

Finding accommodation in Bulgaria is generally affordable, but prices vary by city.

- **Best Neighborhoods for Expats:**

- **Sofia:** Lozenets (upscale), Vitosha (quiet, near nature), Studentski Grad (affordable, lively).
- **Plovdiv:** Kapana (artistic, central), Trakia (modern, budget-friendly).
- **Varna:** Primorski (coastal, international), Levski (residential, affordable).

- **Rental Platforms:**

- **Imoti.net** – Largest real estate platform.
- **OLX Bulgaria** – Classifieds including housing.
- **[Facebook Groups]** – Expats frequently post available rentals.

- **Short-term vs. Long-term Leases:**

- **Short-term:** Airbnb, Booking.com, and Flatio.
- **Long-term:** Typically requires 1-2 months' deposit.

💡 **Pro Tip:** Many landlords expect cash payments and minimal paperwork, but always insist on a formal contract..



Healthcare

Bulgaria offers both public healthcare and private medical facilities, with many expats choosing private healthcare for better service.

- **Public Healthcare (ESY – Εθνικό Σύστημα Υγείας)**
 - Covers basic medical services at public hospitals and clinics.
 - Requires AMKA registration to access low-cost services.
- **Private Insurance Options**
 - Many expats opt for private health insurance to access shorter wait times.
 - Providers: Interamerican, Ethniki, and Allianz Greece.
- **Pharmacies & Emergency Care**
 - Pharmacies (φαρμακεία) are widely available and often have 24-hour locations.
 - Emergency Number: 116 (for ambulance and urgent medical assistance).

Useful Links:

- [EOPYY](#) – Greek National Health Insurance provider.
- [IKA](#) – Public healthcare and social security portal.

 **Pro Tip:** Expats should check if their home country has a healthcare agreement with Greece to ease the transition.



Transportation

Bulgaria's public transportation is affordable and efficient in major cities but limited in smaller towns.

- **Public Transport in Sofia & Plovdiv:**
 - Metro, buses, and trams operate within Sofia.
 - Monthly pass: ~€25 for unlimited public transport use.
- **Apps:** Moovit, Sofia Urban Mobility Center for routes and schedules.
- **Taxis & Ride-Sharing:**
 - Affordable compared to Western Europe.
 - Recommended apps: TaxiMe, Yellow Taxi, and Bolt.
- **Intercity Travel:**
 - Trains: BDZ operates national railway services.
- **Buses:** Karat-S and Union Ivkoni offer extensive bus routes.

💡 **Pro Tip:** In Sofia, the metro is the fastest and most reliable way to commute.



Cost of Living

Bulgaria is one of the most affordable countries in Europe for expats.

Expense	Sofia (€)	Plovdiv (€)	Varna (€)
Rent (1-bed apt)	400-700	300-500	350-600
Utilities (electricity, water, internet)	80-130	70-120	75-125
Public Transport	25-40	20-35	20-35
Meal at a Restaurant	8-15	6-12	7-14
Groceries (monthly)	180-250	160-220	170-230

💡 Pro Tip: Renting outside city centers can save 20-30% on housing costs.



Culture & Adaptation

Bulgaria has a unique mix of European and Balkan traditions, with a strong emphasis on hospitality and family.

- **Language Basics**

- Bulgarian is the official language, but English is spoken in business areas.
- Learning basic phrases helps with integration.

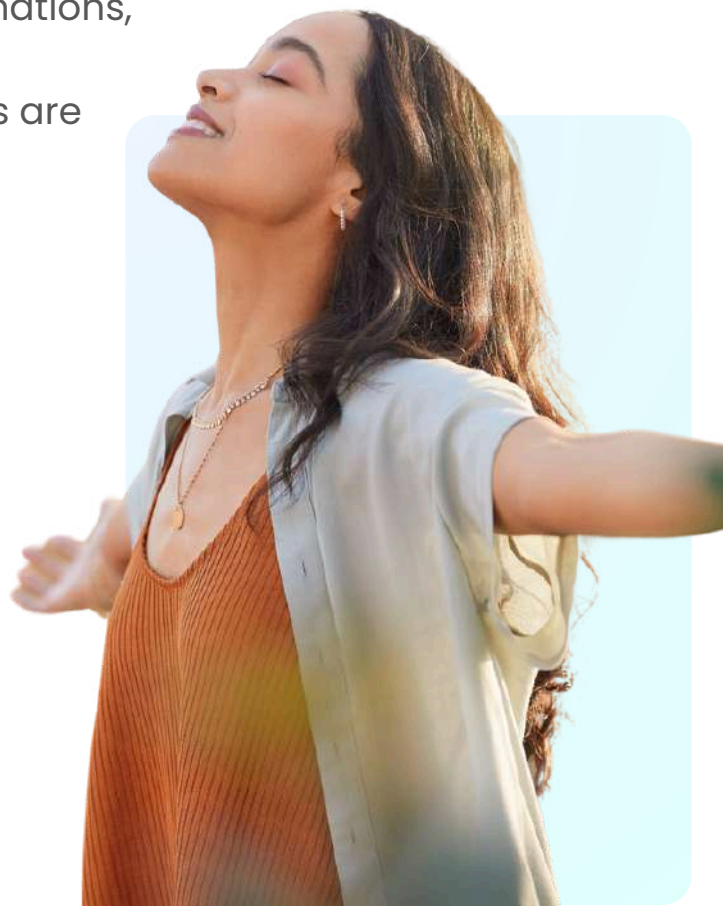
- **Work Culture**

- A mix of traditional and modern work practices.
- Bureaucracy can be slow; patience is key.

- **Social Life & Networking**

- Expats can connect through Internations, Meetup, and Facebook groups.
- Local cafés and coworking spaces are popular for networking.

💡 **Pro Tip:** Bulgarians shake their heads for "yes" and nod for "no"—this can be confusing at first!




Final Thoughts

Bulgaria offers a low cost of living, diverse culture, and growing job market, making it an attractive destination for expats.

Useful Resources & Expat Communities:

- [Internations Bulgaria](#) – Connect with expats.
- [Meetup Sofia & Plovdiv](#) – Social and professional events.
- [Government Portal](#) – Official guide for residency and work regulations.

 **Next step:** If Bulgaria is your chosen destination, start preparing your visa, housing, and job search now! 

**Spain – Work
and
Mediterranean
Lifestyle**

05

Welcome to Spain

Spain is a top destination for expats, offering a **warm climate, rich culture**, and excellent work opportunities. Whether you're moving to **Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia**, or another city, knowing the essentials will help make your transition smooth.







Documentation

To legally work and live in Spain, you will need the following documents:



- **NIE (Número de Identidad de Extranjero)** – A tax identification number required for work, banking, and housing.
- **Social Security Number (Número de Afiliación a la Seguridad Social)** – Required for accessing healthcare and work benefits.
- **Visa & Work Permit (if applicable)** – Necessary for non-EU citizens before arrival.
- **Empadronamiento (Resident Registration)** – Mandatory for all residents to register with the local town hall.

[Useful Links:](#)

- [Spanish Tax Agency](#) – NIE application and tax information.
- [Seguridad Social España](#) – Social security and healthcare registration.
- [Expat Visa Information](#) – Official immigration and visa details.

Pro Tip: You must apply for a NIE in person at a Spanish police station or consulate, so book an appointment early.

Housing

Finding housing in Spain varies depending on the city. Madrid and Barcelona are more expensive, while Valencia and Seville offer more affordable options.

- **Best Neighborhoods for Expats:**

- Madrid: Malasaña (trendy), Chamberí (residential), Retiro (family-friendly).
- Barcelona: Gràcia (artsy), Eixample (central), Poblenou (modern, near the beach).
- Valencia: Ruzafa (lively), El Carmen (historic), Benimaclet (student-friendly).

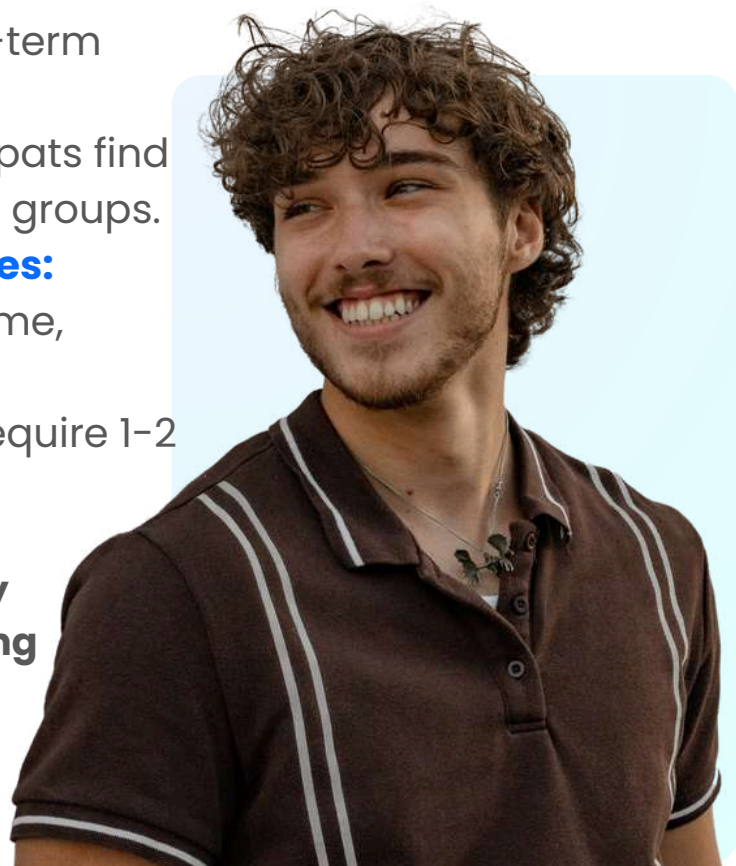
- **Rental Platforms:**

- Idealista – Largest real estate platform in Spain.
- Fotocasa – Reliable for long-term rentals.
- Facebook Groups – Many expats find housing through community groups.

- **Short-term vs. Long-term Leases:**

- Short-term: Airbnb, Spotahome, Uniplaces.
- Long-term: Most landlords require 1-2 months' deposit.

💡 Pro Tip: Renting outside the city center can save 20–30% on housing costs.



Healthcare

Spain has an excellent healthcare system, with public and private options available.

- **Public Healthcare (Seguridad Social)**
 - Free or low-cost medical services for residents.
 - Requires social security registration.
- **Private Healthcare**
 - Faster service, English-speaking doctors, and shorter wait times.
 - Providers: Sanitas, Adeslas, Mapfre.
- **Pharmacies & Emergency Care**
 - Pharmacies (farmacias) are widely available, many open 24/7.
 - Emergency Number: 112 (ambulance and urgent care services).

Useful Links:

- [SNS \(Sistema Nacional de Salud\)](#) – Spain's public health system.
- [Sanitas](#) – One of Spain's largest private health insurers.

 **Pro Tip: EU citizens can use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before transitioning to Spain's public healthcare system**



Transportation

Spain's public transportation system is efficient and affordable, especially in major cities.



- **Public Transport in Madrid & Barcelona:**
 - Metro, buses, and trams are common.
 - Monthly pass: ~€50 for unlimited travel.
 - Apps: Moovit, EMT Madrid, TMB Barcelona.
- **Taxis & Ride-Sharing:**
 - Uber, Cabify, and Bolt operate in most cities.
 - Traditional taxis are metered and widely available.
- **Intercity Travel:**
 - High-speed trains: Renfe AVE connects major cities.
 - Buses: Alsa and Avanza provide long-distance travel.

💡 **Pro Tip:** The metro is the fastest way to travel in Madrid and Barcelona, while smaller cities rely more on buses.

Cost of Living

Spain offers a lower cost of living than many other Western European countries, but costs vary by location.

Expense	Madrid (€)	Barcelona (€)	Valencia (€)
Rent (1-bed apt)	900-1,500	800-1,400	600-1,000
Utilities (electricity, water, internet)	100-150	90-140	80-130
Public Transport	50-60	45-55	40-50
Meal at a Restaurant	12-20	10-18	8-15
Groceries (monthly)	200-300	180-250	160-230

Pro Tip: Living in suburban areas or smaller cities like Granada or Alicante can save a lot on housing costs.



Culture & Adaptation

Spain is known for its laid-back lifestyle, vibrant culture, and strong work-life balance.

- **Language Basics**

- Spanish is the official language, but Catalan, Galician, and Basque are spoken in some regions.
- Learning basic Spanish will help in everyday life.

- **Work Culture**

- Siesta culture still exists in smaller towns but is rare in big cities.
- Networking is crucial, and personal relationships help in job searches.

- **Social Life & Networking**

- Expats can connect through Internations, Meetup, and Facebook groups.
- Outdoor terraces, tapas bars, and beaches are common social spots.

💡 **Pro Tip:** Spaniards eat late (lunch at 2–3 PM, dinner at 9–10 PM).

Adjusting to meal times will help with social integration.



Final Thoughts

Spain offers an amazing quality of life, affordable healthcare, and rich culture, making it a great expat destination.

Useful Resources & Expat Communities:

- Internations Spain – Connect with other expats.
- [Meetup Madrid & Barcelona](#) – Social and professional networking events.
- [Government Portal](#) – Residency and work regulations.

 **Next step:** If Spain is your chosen destination, start preparing your NIE, job search, and housing arrangements before arrival! 

Useful Resources & Final Checklist

06

Essential Resources for a Smooth Transition

Whether you're relocating to **Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria, or Spain**, having the right tools and information at your fingertips can transform a daunting move into an exciting adventure. This chapter equips you with a **comprehensive toolkit**—essential resources, practical tips, and a final checklist—to ensure a seamless transition to your new home.



Final Checklist Before Moving

Documents & Paperwork: Prepare these essentials well in advance to avoid last-minute stress:

Valid Passport – Ensure it has at least 6 months validity beyond your planned stay and enough blank pages for visas or stamps.



Work Visa & Residence Permit – Check requirements based on your nationality and destination (e.g., [SEF](#) for Portugal, [extranjeros.empleo.gob.es](#) for Spain).



Local Tax Identification Number – Essential for taxes, banking, and employment:



- Portugal: NIF (apply via [Finanças](#))
- Greece: AFM (via tax offices or [myAADE](#))
- Spain: NIE (via [Agencia Tributaria](#))
- Bulgaria: EGN (issued upon residency registration)

Social Security Registration – Links you to healthcare and benefits (e.g., [Seguridad Social](#) in Spain).



Health Insurance – Opt for public systems (via social security) or private coverage; confirm reciprocal agreements like the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) if applicable.



Proof of Accommodation – Rental agreement, property deed, or host letter, including your name and address.



Bank Account Setup – Open a local account (e.g., BBVA or Santander in Spain) or use online banking like Wise or Revolut.



Emergency Contacts – List local authorities, your embassy, and healthcare providers; share with family back home.



Final Checklist Before Moving

Housing & Cost of Living: Settle into your new home with ease:

Research Rental Prices & Neighborhoods – Use platforms like Idealista (Spain & Portugal), Fotocasa (Spain), Spitogatos (Greece), or Imoti.net (Bulgaria).



Book Temporary Accommodation – Secure a hotel, Airbnb, or short-term rental for your first weeks to buy time for permanent housing.



Plan Initial Living Costs – Budget for rent, groceries, transport, utilities, and a buffer for unexpected expenses (e.g., 2-3 months' worth).



Understand Deposit & Lease Agreements – Deposits can be 1-3 months' rent; clarify terms like notice periods and maintenance responsibilities.



 **Pro Tip:** Arrive with a flexible mindset—temporary housing lets you explore neighborhoods firsthand before committing.

Final Checklist Before Moving

Employment & Finances: Secure your financial foundation:

Ensure Your Work Contract is Signed & Understood – Review hours, duties, and termination clauses; seek translation if needed.



Confirm Salary, Benefits & Taxation Details – Understand net pay after taxes (e.g., check Agencia Tributaria for Spain's tax guides).



Arrange Bank Transfers & Budget for Currency Exchange – Minimize fees by transferring larger sums; use services like Wise or bank partnerships.



Explore Job Portals for Additional Opportunities – Browse LinkedIn Jobs, Indeed, Glassdoor, or EURES.



 **Pro Tip:** Set up automatic tax payments if possible to avoid penalties while you adjust.

Final Checklist Before Moving

Healthcare & Safety: Stay healthy and prepared:

Register with the Local Health System – Link this to social security (e.g., Portugal's SNS, Greece's EFKA).



Locate Nearest Hospitals & Pharmacies – Use Google Maps or local health websites to pinpoint options.



Get Emergency Service Numbers – Save 112 (EU-wide emergency) and country-specific lines (listed below).



Understand Workplace Safety & Labor Rights – Review local laws (e.g., Portugal's ACT).



 **Pro Tip:** Carry a small first-aid kit and prescription copies during your move.

Final Checklist Before Moving

Transportation & Daily Life: Navigate your new surroundings confidently:

Learn About Local Public Transport – Research passes and routes:



- **Portugal:** Carris (Lisbon), Metro Porto
- **Greece:** OASA Telematics, Hellenic Trains
- **Bulgaria:** Sofia Urban Mobility
- **Spain:** Renfe, TMB (Barcelona)

Download Navigation & Transport Apps – Google Maps, Citymapper, or local apps like those above.



Learn Basic Language Phrases – Master greetings, directions, and essentials via Duolingo or Tandem.



Join Local Expat & Networking Groups – Connect via Meetup, Internations, or Facebook groups.



 **Pro Tip:** Get a local SIM card or eSIM on arrival for affordable data and calls.

Useful Links & Official Websites

General Expat & Government Resources

- **Expat Arrivals** – Country guides and moving tips.
- **Internations** – Global expat communities.
- **EURES** – EU job mobility portal.
- **Your Europe** – EU rights, permits, and regulations.

Country-Specific Government Websites

- **Portugal:** [Portuguese Government Portal](#)
- **Greece:** [Greek Ministry of Migration](#)
- **Bulgaria:** [Bulgarian Government](#)
- **Spain:** [Spain Official Portal](#)

Housing & Cost of Living

- **Idealista** – Rentals in Spain & Portugal.
- **Fotocasa** – Spanish property listings.
- **Spitogatos** – Greek housing marketplace.
- **Imoti.net** – Bulgaria's real estate platform.

Useful Links & Official Websites

Job Search & Career Development

- **LinkedIn Jobs** – Professional networking and jobs.
- **Indeed** – Global job listings.
- **Glassdoor** – Company reviews and salaries.
- **EURES** – EU job opportunities.

Public Transport & Navigation Apps

- **Portugal:** Carris Lisbon, Metro Porto
- **Greece:** OASA Telematics, Hellenic Trains
- **Bulgaria:** Sofia Urban Mobility
- **Spain:** Renfe, TMB Barcelona

Language Learning & Cultural Adaptation

- **Duolingo** – Free language courses.
- **Tandem** – Language exchange with natives.
- **Meetup** – Social and networking events.
- **Internations** – Expat events and connections.

 **Pro Tip:** Attend a local cultural event within your first month to immerse yourself in the community.

Conclusion: You're Ready to Start Your New Life!

Relocating abroad is a bold step toward a life-changing experience. Armed with this guide, you're prepared to thrive in Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria, or Spain. From securing your paperwork to finding a home and building a network, you've got the tools to succeed.

 **Final step: Review your checklist, connect with expat communities, and embrace the journey ahead—your new chapter starts now!** 





Q cityjoboffers

This guide was created with care, caffeine, and a passion for helping you live and work abroad.

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This guide provides general information and tips. Legal and immigration regulations are subject to change, so always consult local authorities or official websites for up-to-date information