Fernshore

PREMIUM REPORT

YOUR MOVE, RESEARCHED

# Portugal, Spain, Mexico and Italy, compared

01




02




03




04




Prepared for you

From the US · November 2026

PREPARED FOR YOU

# Inside your report

Your countries side by side first, then a full section for each. Each country section is also in your reports on its own.


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| How they compare | 02–05 | Mexico (country 3 of 4) | 38–54 |
| Portugal (country 1 of 4) | 06–21 | Italy (country 4 of 4) | 55–71 |
| Spain (country 2 of 4) | 22–37 | Sources | 72 |


Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

YOUR COUNTRIES, COMPARED

# How they compare.

The same questions asked of each country. The tables show where the countries differ; the best match page shows how closely each country fits your answers.

Portugal · Braga, Spain · Zaragoza, Mexico · Mérida, and Italy · Turin. Each has its own section after this comparison; these pages set them side by side.

Mérida has the lowest monthly cost for your household, $1,200–1,800 (USD); Turin the highest, $1,900–2,700.

All 4 places have a monthly cost for your household with an upper end at or below your $5,000 monthly living budget. This is spending headroom, not money left after tax.

**The main cities:** Braga (Portugal), Zaragoza (Spain), Mérida (Mexico), and Turin (Italy). Each country's chapters look most closely at these cities. Which place suits you depends on permission, tax and housing, and the trade-offs are set out country by country.

## Portugal · Braga

Main city: Braga. Also covered: Coimbra and Porto.

## Spain · Zaragoza

Main city: Zaragoza. Also covered: Granada and Alicante.

## Mexico · Mérida

Main city: Mérida. Also covered: Querétaro and Oaxaca de Juárez.

## Italy · Turin

Main city: Turin. Also covered: Bologna and Bari.

Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

Checked 23 October 2026 to 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

YOUR BEST MATCH

# Your best match across the countries.

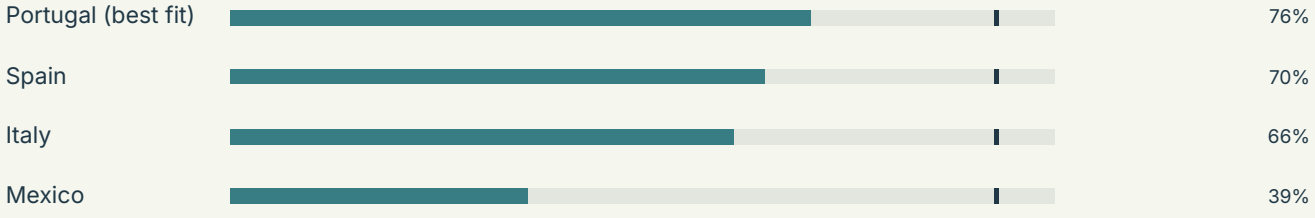
Portugal fits your answers best of the 4 countries, at 76% match, and Coimbra is the city in it that fits you best at 78%.

BEST COUNTRY
Portugal
76% match

BEST CITY
Coimbra
78% match in Portugal

BASED ON
9 of 9
things you weighed

## HOW THE COUNTRIES FIT YOU · MATCH OUT OF 100




The line marks a full match. The score is for the country as a whole.

## THE BEST CITY IN EACH COUNTRY

| COUNTRY | BEST CITY FOR YOU | CITY MATCH | COUNTRY MATCH |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Portugal** | Coimbra | 78% | 76% |
| **Spain** | Alicante | 72% | 70% |
| **Mexico** | Querétaro | 46% | 39% |
| **Italy** | Turin | 65% | 66% |

Each part is scored, then weighted by how much it matters to you. The match is the weighted average of the parts we could score. Each country section ends with how its cities were scored.

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SIDE BY SIDE

# Permission and cost.

Figures are the ones in each country section.

PERMISSION TO STAY

| | VISA ROUTES | KEY FIGURE |
|---|---|---|
| **Portugal · Braga** | A fixed stay up to one year, or a route if you plan to stay longer | More than €3,700 a month |
| **Spain · Zaragoza** | A fixed stay up to one year, or a route if you plan to stay longer | More than €2,900 a month |
| **Mexico · Mérida** | A stay of up to 180 days, or a year or longer | More than $4,700 a month |
| **Italy · Turin** | Remote workers and freelancers: the digital nomad / remote worker visa; if that does not fit, self-employment or employment with an Italian employer | More than €28,000 a year |

MONTHLY LIVING COST · $ WHERE A REFERENCE RATE EXISTS

| | IN LOCAL CURRENCY | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| **Portugal · Braga** | €1,200–1,800 (our estimate) | $1,300–2,100 |
| **Spain · Zaragoza** | €1,500–2,300 (our estimate) | $1,600–2,600 |
| **Mexico · Mérida** | MX$22,000–32,000 (our estimate) | $1,200–1,800 |
| **Italy · Turin** | €1,700–2,400 (our estimate) | $1,900–2,700 |

Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

SIDE BY SIDE

# Tax and fit.

Tax rules depend on your own situation; each country section sets out how they apply to you.

TAX POSITION

| | THE MAIN TAX QUESTION |
|---|---|
| **Portugal · Braga** | A year away may not line up with a US tax year or with Portugal's 12-month test. |
| **Spain · Zaragoza** | Spain decides residence by calendar year; the US exclusion counts any 12 months. |

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## TAX POSITION

| | THE MAIN TAX QUESTION |
|---|---|
| **Mexico · Mérida** | Mexico looks at where your home is, not only how many days you spend. |
| **Italy · Turin** | Italy counts days, home and registration; the US keeps taxing you as a citizen. |

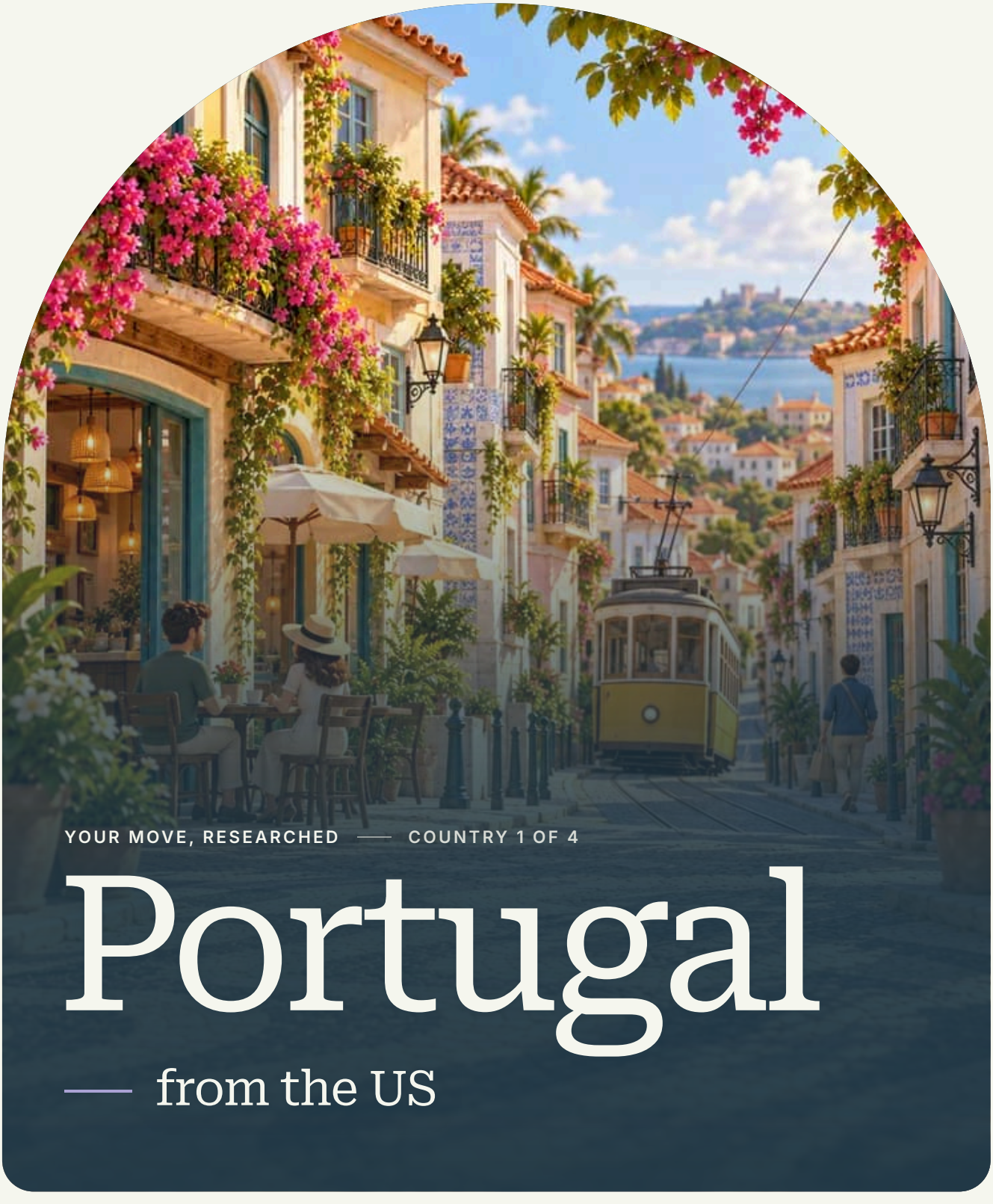
## FIT TO YOUR PRIORITIES

| | HOW IT FITS YOU | THE COMPROMISE |
|---|---|---|
| **Portugal · Braga** | Main city: Braga. Also covered: Coimbra and Porto. | Winters are wet and cool: at the Braga station the 1991 to 2020 normals put October (197.8 mm), December (190.3 mm) and January (179.5 mm) as the wettest months, and July (27.9 mm) as the driest. Check heating and damp in any home. |
| **Spain · Zaragoza** | Main city: Zaragoza. Also covered: Granada and Alicante. | Hot summers and cold winters. AEMET's 1981 to 2010 normals for Zaragoza airport give an average July high of 32.4°C, a January low of 2.7°C, about 23 frost days and 22.5 days of fog a year, and 322 mm of rain. Check cooling, heating and the energy rating of any home. |
| **Mexico · Mérida** | Main city: Mérida. Also covered: Querétaro and Oaxaca de Juárez. | Heat. The state climate chart built from national weather service data puts May as Yucatán's warmest month, with an average daily maximum of 35.8°C, and the rainy season from June to October. INEGI describes Mérida's climate as warm and sub-humid with summer rains, and tropical cyclones were the climate events that led to the most federal disaster funding in the state between 1999 and 2018. If heat is hard for you, reconsider Mérida before committing, and ask how any home is cooled. |
| **Italy · Turin** | Main city: Turin. Also covered: Bologna and Bari. | Air quality and winters are the trade-offs to weigh. The Rebaudengo traffic station reached 36 days above the PM10 daily limit by 13 December 2025, against 35 allowed in a year, though 2025 was one of the lowest years in its series. Turin has about 21 days of frost a year on average, a coldest night averaging -4.5 degrees and a hottest day averaging 35.6, with about 41 nights above 20 degrees and 977.6 mm of rain a year. |

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Fernshore

PREMIUM REPORT



YOUR MOVE, RESEARCHED — COUNTRY 1 OF 4

# Portugal

## — from the US

Prepared for you
November 2026

PREPARED FOR YOU

# A country deep dive

Explore the permission, tax and practical questions that shape the move, then compare Braga with Coimbra and Porto.

| | |
|---|---|
| PERSON | United States; living in United States; moving alone. |
| WORK | Employee. Job moving with you: Yes, my employer has agreed. |
| EARNINGS | $100,000 gross per year. |
| MOVING FUNDS | $50,000 accessible. Protect $20,000; up to $30,000 is available for the move. |
| LIVING ALLOWANCE | $5,000 a month, excluding tax, social contributions and business costs. We worked out your monthly budget as about $5,000: 60% of your income before tax, to leave room for tax and saving. |
| PRIORITIES | Cost of living, Climate. |
| TIMING AND CALLS | Moving within a year; staying for about a year; working hours 09:00–17:00 (America/New York). |

## Inside your report


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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| Housing | 15–16 | | |


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CHAPTER 01 · YOUR COUNTRY IN FOCUS

# Portugal

A change of scene. Your work comes with you.

## Braga is the city this report looks at most closely. Whether Portugal fits you comes down to permission, tax and housing.

Coimbra and Porto are shown for contrast.

The Braga spending model's upper end is about $2,900 below your $5,000 monthly living budget, excluding personal tax, social contributions and business costs.

## At a glance, for you

**Your routes.** A fixed stay up to one year, or a route if you plan to stay longer.

**Money test.** Your income is above the safe target (more than €3,700 a month). Same test for a fixed stay up to one year and the route if you plan to stay longer.

**Living costs.** For your household, about €700–910 / $780–1,100 a month before rent, and about €510–660 / $570–750 a month in rent for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease. These are our estimates.

**Braga.** Your main city: a walkable northern city.

THE TRADEOFF

A cool, wet winter in the north: the official climate normals for Braga give a January mean of 8.6 °C and 1,387 mm of rain a year. The apartment's heating, insulation and ventilation matter as much as the neighbourhood.

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CHAPTER 02 · VISA AND RESIDENCE

# Permission that fits your plans

Keep your remote job or clients. Settle the length of stay before choosing a path.




From the United States to Portugal

REMOTE WORK VISAS / 2026

## More than €3,700 a month / approx. $4,200

Income averaging a set minimum over the last three months (to be safe, have more than €3,700 a month), set at four times the Portuguese minimum wage of €920 for 2026. The embassy's checklists for both remote-work visas, dated 10 November 2025, ask for this income and list no separate savings or balance requirement. The 2025 to 2028 wage agreement between the government and social partners plans a minimum wage for 2027 of €970 and a minimum wage for 2028 of €1,020.

## A fixed stay up to one year

Research the temporary stay visa for remote work first. The national visa portal says temporary stay visas allow a stay of less than a year, are valid for the whole stay and allow multiple entries. The embassy's checklist asks for travel insurance, a return flight ticket, proof of accommodation such as a signed lease, an FBI police certificate and a personal statement.

## If you plan to stay longer

Research the residency visa for remote work. It has two steps: a consular visa valid for four months with two entries, then a residence permit through AIMA after you arrive. AIMA says a first residence permit is valid for two years and can be renewed for periods of three. The embassy's checklist lists similar core documents.

## Where your income stands against the safe targets

**A fixed stay up to one year:** Your income is above the safe target (more than €3,700 a month).

**If you plan to stay longer:** Your income is above the safe target (more than €3,700 a month).

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

## What your documents must establish

Employees can show an employment contract or an employer declaration confirming the work link, and the temporary stay checklist also accepts a promise of a contract. Freelancers can show articles of association, a service contract or a document attesting services to clients, and the temporary stay checklist also accepts a proposal of a service contract. Both checklists list a tax residence certificate (from the USA, for the residency visa). The IRS issues residency certification on Form 6166; confirm with the embassy which document it accepts. The FBI certificate must be apostilled and issued less than 90 days before submission. The national visa processing fee is €110.

**TIME THE APPLICATION**

The national visa portal sets decision deadlines of 30 days for a temporary stay visa and 60 days for a resident visa. The embassy suggests applying at least two months ahead and says decisions can take the maximum time Portuguese law allows. Expect a separate AIMA step for the residence permit after you arrive, with its own wait, and plan your dates around it.

**Where to apply:** Apply through your nearest embassy or consulate of Portugal.

**THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE YOU COMMIT**

Is this a fixed year or a stay that might continue? Confirm exact dates and the current embassy checklist before booking non-refundable travel or signing a lease. Neither path is approved for you, and visa permission and tax are separate questions.

CHAPTER 03 · YOUR TAX POSITION

# Your dates matter, too

Look at both tax systems before deciding what you can comfortably spend.

**THE DATES QUESTION**

## A year away may not line up with a US tax year or with Portugal's 12-month test.

Portugal counts days in any 12-month period that begins or ends in the tax year, and any day including an overnight stay counts. The US foreign earned income exclusion has a physical presence test of 330 full days abroad in 12 months, and you miss it if you fall short, whatever the reason. Exact start and end dates, and any visits to the US, need checking.

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## Expect Portuguese tax residence

Portugal treats you as resident if you stay more than 183 days in a relevant 12-month period, or have a home that suggests you mean to keep it as your usual residence. Residence can start from the first day of your stay, and residents are taxed on worldwide income, including income earned outside Portugal. Pensions are their own income category in the Código do IRS (article 11) and are taxed at the general progressive rates, which run from 12.50% to 48.00% in 2026. Interest and dividends not taxed at source are usually taxed at a flat 28%, and rent from homes at 25%. The older non-habitual resident regime is closed to new arrivals unless they qualified under its transitional rule (Law 82/2023, article 236), and IFICI, the regime for new residents, covers listed research, innovation and qualified roles; its exemption for foreign-source income does not extend to pensions.

## The US keeps its claim on you

US citizens abroad generally file as they would at home. The expatriation tax provisions apply to people who renounce citizenship, not to leaving the country. If you file before meeting a residence test, you report worldwide income and can amend later. The 2026 exclusion limit is $132,900, and it needs a foreign tax home plus a qualifying test. Foreign accounts together above $10,000 at any point in the year are reportable on an FBAR. The 1994 treaty sets conditions for taxing employment and independent services income, but no tax saving is assumed. For pensions, it makes a pension for past employment taxable only in the country where you live, while Social Security benefits and other public pensions may be taxed by the paying country; its saving clause still lets the US tax its citizens as if the treaty did not exist.

## Check contributions separately

Under the US-Portugal social security agreement, a self-employed person resident in Portugal is assigned Portuguese coverage, and one resident in the US is assigned US coverage. A certificate shows which system covers you. Portugal's contributions code sets the rate for independent workers at 21.4%, applied to 70% of service income, with a €20 monthly floor and a cap at 12 times the social support index. Employees of an employer abroad may fall under different rules, so ask both agencies. The same agreement is why your Social Security stays coordinated while you live in Portugal. This is a mechanism, not your bill. This decides which country you and your employer pay social security contributions to while you work there.

## Your US state and special regimes

Moving abroad does not automatically end residency for state tax, and your ties to your state matter. California, for example, treats you as a resident if you are domiciled there but outside the state for a temporary or transitory purpose, and other states set their own tests. Portugal's tax incentive for scientific research and innovation (IFICI) targets research and innovation activities and asks for no Portuguese tax residence in the previous five years plus an eligible activity. Check whether you qualify before you count on the 20% rate.

**Before committing:** get a dated tax reserve and filing plan from an adviser who knows both US and Portuguese rules.

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CHAPTER 04 · HEALTHCARE AND SETUP

# Build a working base

Confirm access, documents and the home itself. An administrative number is only one step.

## 01 Healthcare through the transition

The temporary stay checklist asks for travel insurance covering medical expenses, urgent assistance and repatriation. The government's migrants guide says a foreign national with legal residence can get an SNS user number, and that the number alone does not guarantee the SNS covers your costs. For that, the record also needs identification, a NIF, a full Portuguese address and a valid residence permit. AIMA asks for health insurance or proof that you are covered by the SNS when you apply for the permit. Do not assume SNS access on a visa alone. Medicare.gov says Medicare has limited coverage outside the US, so budget for private cover until you confirm your position.

## 02 Banking and accepted documents

Banco de Portugal says accounts can be opened in person or at a distance. The bank asks for identification details with supporting documents: a valid identification document such as a passport or residence permit, a tax identification number or an equivalent number issued by a foreign authority, and the full address of permanent residence. Banks may ask for other details, so check each bank's exact requirements and fees.

## 03 A home that suits your day

Check heating, ventilation and which bills are included. At the national weather service's Braga station, the 1991 to 2020 average is 24 days a year with a minimum below 0 °C, 8.5 of them in January, so ask how the building copes with cold and damp. Confirm fibre at the exact address and the installation date, then test upload speed, call quality and mobile backup if you will work or study from home. Visit at the times of day you will actually be there.

> **Before a deposit:** get written tenancy terms, the exact upfront amount and confirmation of which income evidence the landlord accepts. Visa checklists ask for a signed lease or other accommodation proof, so ask whether the contract will satisfy that.

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CHAPTER 05 · THE CITY IN FOCUS

# Braga

A walkable northern city.

**MONTHLY LIVING**
€700–910
Our estimate, without rent · Approx. $780–1,100

**RENT ALLOWANCE**
€510–660
Our estimate, a 1 bedroom home, 12-month lease · Approx. $570–750

**YOUR WORKING HOURS**
14:00–22:00
Local time in Braga today. After clocks change in New York on 14 March: 13:00–21:00.

## What gives Braga its character

### 01 Historic streets, everyday walks

Braga Cathedral, Romanesque in origin with a Manueline porch and granite façades, anchors the old town, and the medieval city grew north around it from a Roman foundation. Without a car, start with homes close to the places you would go every day.

### 02 The city of fountains

The heritage inventory calls Braga the “city of fountains”: many of the fountains in its squares still work, as they have since the Middle Ages, which it puts down to the water table under the city. Visit a shortlisted street on foot at different hours to see which squares feel lived in.

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## 03 Hills and green space

Bom Jesus do Monte, on the slopes of Mount Espinho above the city, has been a UNESCO World Heritage property since 2019. It centres on a Via Crucis with chapels, fountains and gardens, and the Stairway of the Five Senses. Test the trip from a prospective home, since a green break only becomes routine if the trip works.

## 04 Local buses

TUB's 2026 tariff, in force since 21 February 2026, lists a normal monthly pass at €12 for one zone and €24 for two. Reduced passes exist for some groups, so confirm which fare you would pay.

> **YOUR MAIN COMPROMISE**
>
> Winters are wet and cool: at the Braga station the 1991 to 2020 normals put October (197.8 mm), December (190.3 mm) and January (179.5 mm) as the wettest months, and July (27.9 mm) as the driest. Check heating and damp in any home.

# Before choosing a flat

### Home condition

Look for damp, test the heating and open the windows to feel the ventilation.

### Internet

Run a speed test and a video call from the flat before you sign.

### Daily essentials

Walk to groceries, a pharmacy and transport at the times you would go.

### Light and noise

Visit when you would normally be at your desk to check street noise, light and a quiet place for calls.

# What to ask the landlord

### Lease and costs

Ask for the lease length, what the rent includes and which bills you pay on top.

### Deposit

Ask the landlord in writing what deposit is required, when it is returned, and whether a guarantor or notary costs apply, before comparing.

### Documents

Ask which documents the landlord accepts as proof of income, and whether a local tax or ID number is needed.

### Notice and leaving

Ask how much notice you must give and what happens if you leave early.

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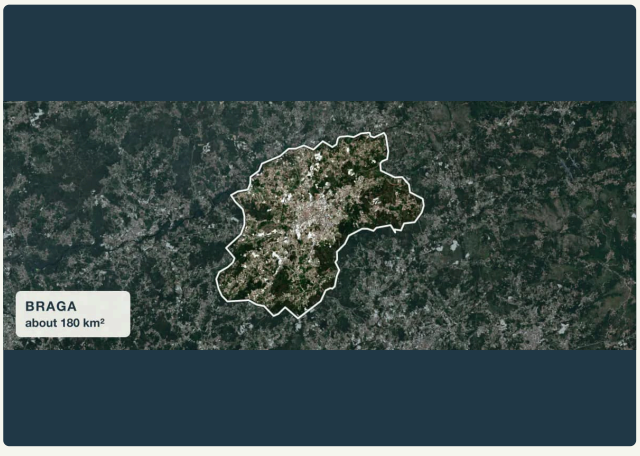
CHAPTER 06 · FINDING A HOME

# Find your part of Braga

Three areas to start with. The actual flat, your working day and the walk to essentials decide the rest.




Portugal, with Braga marked.




Braga and its boundary. The areas below are described in words; their boundaries are not drawn.

## Areas to compare

### 01 Historic centre

São João do Souto and the Maximinos, Sé e Cividade union

Rua do Souto is the reference street of São João do Souto, with the castle keep at one end and the Episcopal Palace at the other, in the heart of the old town.

**Your test:** Start here for central city life. Visit on a weekday morning and after dinner to check street and building noise.

### 02 São Vicente

The parish of São Vicente, next to the centre

São Vicente is an urban parish next to the centre, strong in commerce and services, so shops and daily errands are close at hand.

**Your test:** Compare an actual flat with the central streets. Walk to your usual shops and check how the building handles winter damp.

### 03 São Vítor

The parish of São Vítor, Rua de São Victor and Rua D. Pedro V

Rua de São Victor and Rua D. Pedro V follow the line of a Roman road out of the city, and hat-making grew up around the parish church. It is the largest of the central parishes.

**Your test:** Compare desk space, light and acoustics, then check bus times from the actual stop.

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RENT IN BRAGA · OUR ESTIMATE

### A 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease

### €510–660 / $570–750

PER MONTH

Furnished, for 1 to 3 months: €690–890 / $770–1,100 a month.

Official median for new leases in Braga: €8.68 per m² a month.

UP FRONT

About €1,500–2,000 / $1,600–2,300: a deposit, usually two months, and the first month's rent.

Price is only the first filter. A home you can afford still needs suitable lease terms and acceptable documents and a flat that supports your working day.

CHAPTER 07 · OTHER PLACES TO INVESTIGATE

# Other ways to settle

Use these alternatives to test what matters most. The figures shown are a guide, not a quote.

RENT A MONTH FOR A 1 BEDROOM HOME, 12-MONTH LEASE (OUR ESTIMATE)

| PLACE | WHERE | RENT |
|---|---|---|
| **Braga** | The main city | €510–660 / $570–750 |
| **Coimbra** | Solum | €530–690 / $590–780 |
| **Porto** | Bonfim | €820–1,100 / $920–1,300 |

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01 / COIMBRA / SOLUM

### University streets. A riverside city.

Coimbra is a university city on the Mondego, and Solum is a well-structured urban area with bakeries, restaurants and a shopping centre alongside green areas. UNESCO added the University of Coimbra, Alta and Sofia to the World Heritage List in 2013. Rents run about 9% above Braga's, the Move-C monthly pass costs €30 for one municipality, and winters are milder and drier: January averages 10.1 °C, with 866 mm of rain across the year.

**Your deciding question:** can a one-bedroom flat comfortably suit your daily routine, and what do bills add?

**Rent (our estimate).** €530–690 / $590–780 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

**Up front.** About €1,500–2,100 / $1,600–2,400: a deposit, usually two months, and the first month's rent.

**Living costs for your household (our estimate).** €710–920 / $790–1,100 a month before rent.

Applied to a 50 m² one-bedroom flat

02 / PORTO / BONFIM

### More connections. More choice.

Porto is the larger city, with more connections and more choice, and Bonfim is one of its central parishes. Rents there run about 70% above Braga's, and winters are mild: January averages 10.2 °C, with 1,147 mm of rain a year.

**Your deciding question:** will the landlord accept your records, and does this address fit your routine?

**Rent (our estimate).** €820–1,100 / $920–1,300 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

**Up front.** About €2,400–3,300 / $2,700–3,800: a deposit, usually two months, and the first month's rent.

**Living costs for your household (our estimate).** €840–1,100 / $940–1,300 a month before rent.

Applied to a 50 m² one-bedroom flat

CHAPTER 08 · FINANCES AND VERDICT

# Protect your room to choose

The figures here are for Braga, your main city. The country decision still depends on permission, tax and housing.

BRAGA / MONTHLY PLANNING MODEL, FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| Rent, 1 bedroom home (our estimate) | €510–660 | $570–750 |
| Everyday living costs, without rent (our estimate) | €700–910 | $780–1,100 |
| Home internet (our estimate) | €30–40 | $33–46 |

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

### BRAGA / MONTHLY PLANNING MODEL, FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| Insurance and care provision | €40–110 | $45–130 |
| Local transport | €12–24 | $13–28 |
| **Total** | **€1,200–1,800** | **$1,300–2,100** |

Before personal tax and social contributions.

You are moving alone, so for you that means living costs of about €700–910 a month before rent and rent of about €510–660 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

### BRAGA / MONTHLY LIVING COSTS WITHOUT RENT (OUR ESTIMATE)

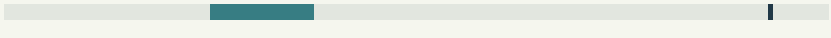
| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| One adult | €700–910 | $780–1,100 |
| Two adults | €1,100–1,500 | $1,200–1,700 |
| Two adults and two school-age children, in public school | €1,900–2,500 | $2,100–2,900 |
| Each further adult | €440–570 | $490–650 |
| International school, per child | €900–1,200 | $1,000–1,400 |

### BRAGA / RENT A MONTH FOR A WHOLE HOME (OUR ESTIMATE)

| | 12-MONTH LEASE | FURNISHED, 1 TO 3 MONTHS |
|---|---|---|
| Studio | €330–430 / $370–490 | €450–580 / $500–660 |
| 1 bedroom | €510–660 / $570–750 | €690–890 / $770–1,100 |
| 2 bedrooms | €690–900 / $770–1,100 | €940–1,300 / $1,000–1,500 |
| 3 bedrooms | €880–1,200 / $990–1,400 | €1,100–1,600 / $1,200–1,900 |

Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

### BRAGA / MONTHLY COSTS AGAINST YOUR BUDGET · USD




$5,000 a month: your living budget

The Braga spending model's upper end is about $2,900 below your $5,000 monthly living budget, excluding personal tax, social contributions and business costs. This is spending headroom, not money left after tax.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

We worked out your monthly budget as about $5,000: 60% of your income before tax, to leave room for tax and saving.

YOUR MOVING FUND

For your household, the move costs about €3,700–4,900 / $4,100–5,600 to set up. That is a deposit and the first month's rent for a 1 bedroom home, three months of living costs and the €110 visa fee. This is our estimate, a guide to plan with, not a quote.

Your available savings of $30,000 cover this comfortably.

Add documents, cover, travel and temporary stays on top. Do not count prepaid rent twice.

## Our country verdict

For you, Portugal matches what you told us at 76%, based on 9 of the 9 things you weighed. It does best on internet and safety. Climate is the weaker side.

For your passport, the visa side looks strong.

Against your monthly budget of $5,000, rent and everyday costs for your household (our estimate) come in at or under it in 3 of the 3 cities we scored.

The cities that fit you best in Portugal: Coimbra (78%), Braga (76%), and Porto (76%). The next page shows how each was scored.

Rents are medians for new leases across all home types, not quotes for a particular flat.

THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Confirm dates and permission, a tax reserve, an acceptable tenancy, and healthcare and connectivity from arrival.

PORTUGAL · BEST FIT FOR YOU

# Best fit for you in Portugal.

**Coimbra fits your answers best of the 3 cities we scored in Portugal, at 78% match. Portugal as a whole is 76% match.**

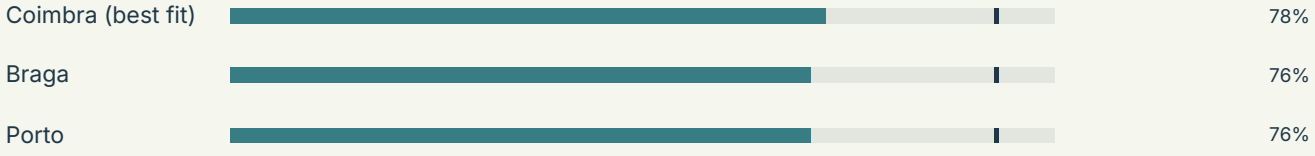
BEST FIT
Coimbra
Of 3 cities scored in Portugal

MATCH
78%
How closely it matches what you told us

BASED ON
9 of 9
things you weighed

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

### HOW THE CITIES IN PORTUGAL FIT YOU · MATCH OUT OF 100




The line marks a full match.

### COIMBRA / HOW THE 78% IS MADE UP

| WHAT MATTERS | HOW IT DOES | HOW MUCH IT MATTERS TO YOU |
|---|---|---|
| **Safety** | Strong | Matters most, 21% of the score |
| **Internet** | Strong | Matters a lot, 16% of the score |
| **Cost of living** | Mixed | Matters a lot, 16% of the score |
| **Career and work** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Visa for your passport** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Climate** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **English** | Strong | Matters a little, 5% of the score |
| **Retirement** | Strong | Matters a little, 5% of the score |
| **Healthcare** | Strong | Matters a little, 5% of the score |

Cost of living and climate are scored for Coimbra itself. The rest are scored for Portugal as a whole. Each part is scored, then weighted by how much it matters to you. The match is the weighted average of the parts we could score.

In Coimbra, rent and everyday costs for your household are about €1,200–1,700 / $1,300–2,000 a month (our estimate). The whole range is at or under your monthly budget of $5,000. Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

The trade-off: Coimbra is weaker on cost of living, which makes up 16% of your score. Braga is very close behind at 76%.

This report covers Braga, Coimbra, and Porto in depth.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

MAKE THE FINDINGS USEFUL

# Before you commit to Portugal.

**These findings depend on the points below. Settle them before you commit.**

## Things to settle before you commit

**Confirm the right duration and visa.** Settle whether this is a fixed year or a longer move, then check the current embassy checklist for that visa.

**Price the tax and contribution position.** Get a dated tax reserve and filing plan covering the US, your state and Portugal before committing to costs.

**Price the running costs.** Get quotes for utilities, internet, health cover and groceries for the exact home you are considering.

**Confirm the lease, cover and cash sequence.** Get written tenancy terms, healthcare cover from arrival and an upfront amount that leaves your reserve untouched.

> **What would change the picture:** Unacceptable tenancy documents, an unaffordable tax reserve, an unsuitable visa path or a winter routine you dislike. This report is still useful if those checks lead you away from Portugal.

**To reconfirm before you commit:** Requirements for 2027 need reconfirmation. The Portuguese minimum wage is scheduled to rise to €970 in 2027, which would change the four-times income figure.

Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

Fernshore

PREMIUM REPORT



YOUR MOVE, RESEARCHED — COUNTRY 2 OF 4

# Spain

## — from the US

Prepared for you
November 2026

PREPARED FOR YOU

# A country deep dive

Explore the permission, tax and practical questions that shape the move, then compare Zaragoza with Granada and Alicante.

| | |
|---|---|
| PERSON | United States; living in United States; moving alone. |
| WORK | Employee. Job moving with you: Yes, my employer has agreed. |
| EARNINGS | $100,000 gross per year. |
| MOVING FUNDS | $50,000 accessible. Protect $20,000; up to $30,000 is available for the move. |
| LIVING ALLOWANCE | $5,000 a month, excluding tax, social contributions and business costs. We worked out your monthly budget as about $5,000: 60% of your income before tax, to leave room for tax and saving. |
| PRIORITIES | Cost of living, Climate. |
| TIMING AND CALLS | Moving within a year; staying for about a year; working hours 09:00–17:00 (America/New York). |

## Inside your report


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Country fit | 24 | Granada and Alicante | 32–33 |
| Permission | 25–26 | Finances | 33–35 |
| Tax | 26–27 | Best fit | 35–36 |
| Healthcare and setup | 28 | Next steps | 37 |
| Zaragoza | 29–30 | Sources | 72 |
| Housing | 31–32 | | |


Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.



CHAPTER 01 · YOUR COUNTRY IN FOCUS

# Spain

A change of pace. Your work comes with you.

## Zaragoza is the city this report looks at most closely. Whether Spain fits you comes down to permission, tax and housing.

The Zaragoza spending model's upper end is about $2,400 below your $5,000 monthly living budget, excluding personal tax, social contributions and business costs.

## At a glance, for you

**Your routes.** A fixed stay up to one year, or a route if you plan to stay longer.

**Money test.** Your income is above the safe target (more than €2,900 a month). Same test for a fixed stay up to one year and the route if you plan to stay longer.

**Living costs.** For your household, about €860–1,200 / $960–1,400 a month before rent, and about €600–780 / $670–880 a month in rent for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease. These are our estimates.

**Zaragoza.** Your main city: a large city between Madrid and Barcelona.

THE TRADEOFF

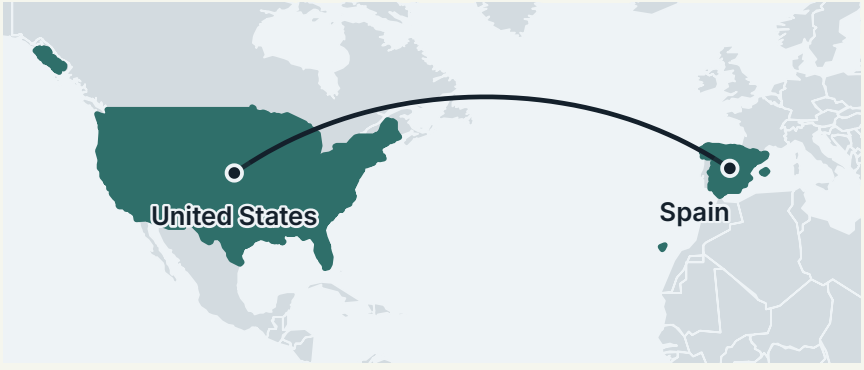
More paperwork before you travel. Your nearest consulate asks for an NIE, an apostilled and translated FBI check, health insurance from an insurer authorised in Spain, and proof of Spanish Social Security coverage, all before the visa is decided.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

CHAPTER 02 · VISA AND RESIDENCE

# Permission that fits your plans

Keep your remote job or clients. Settle the length of stay before choosing a visa.




From the United States to Spain

REMOTE WORK VISA / 2026

## More than €2,900 a month / approx. $3,300

The visa asks for monthly income of 200% of the Spanish minimum wage, which the 2026 royal decree sets at €1,221 a month. Spanish consulates read that rule in two ways: the consulate publishes a lower figure, and the embassy, which counts the wage over 12 payments instead of 14, arrives at a higher one. Together they give about €2,400 to €2,900 a month; to be safe, have more than €2,900 a month. Check the amount with the consulate that serves your state, and recheck it in 2027, as the minimum wage changes each year.

## A fixed stay up to one year

Research the visa for international telework first. It lasts up to one year, or less if the work period is shorter, and is enough on its own to live in Spain and work remotely while it is valid. Employees may work only for companies outside Spain; freelancers may take Spanish clients for up to 20% of their professional activity. You need a degree or at least three years of experience. The non-lucrative visa does not fit: the consulate says it allows no work at all, including remote work.

## If you plan to stay longer

Research the residence permit for international telework, decided in Spain by the large companies unit (UGE). It can last up to three years and be renewed for two years at a time while the conditions still hold. Visa holders can apply in the 60 days before the visa expires. The consulate also says US citizens in Spain without a visa, within their 90 days, can apply for the permit directly.

## Where your income stands against the safe targets

**A fixed stay up to one year:** Your income is above the safe target (more than €2,900 a month).

**If you plan to stay longer:** Your income is above the safe target (more than €2,900 a month).

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

## What your documents must establish

Employees: a company certificate showing at least three months with the employer, your pay, and explicit permission to work from Spain. Freelancers: proof of at least three months with one or more clients outside Spain, and that the work continues for at least a year. Both: a certificate showing the company has operated for at least a year, an NIE, an FBI check issued within six months with an apostille and sworn translation, Spanish-registered health insurance, proof of Spanish Social Security coverage (the employer's registration in Spain, or your own registration as self-employed), and a signed commitment to meet Social Security obligations.

**TIME THE APPLICATION**

Get the NIE first: your nearest consulate says it normally takes 20 to 30 days. The consulate then has a legal deadline of 10 working days, counted from when it forwards the file, not from your appointment. For the residence permit, the law sets 20 working days, after which silence counts as approval. The US citizen fee is $190.

**Where to apply:** Apply through your nearest embassy or consulate of Spain.

**THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE YOU COMMIT**

Is this a fixed year or a stay that might continue? Check how your employer or clients can show Spanish Social Security coverage before booking anything, and confirm the current figures with the consulate for your state. Neither visa is approved for you, and visa permission and tax are separate questions.

CHAPTER 03 · YOUR TAX POSITION

# Your dates matter, too

**Look at both tax systems before deciding what you can comfortably spend.**

**THE DATES QUESTION**

## Spain decides residence by calendar year; the US exclusion counts any 12 months.

Spain treats you as resident for a whole calendar year if you spend more than 183 days there in that year, counting sporadic absences, or if your main economic interests are there. The US foreign earned income exclusion's physical presence test needs 330 full days abroad within 12 consecutive months. A year that starts mid-year can split across two Spanish tax years, so exact dates and any US visits need checking.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

## Expect to become Spanish tax resident

Any one of the criteria is enough: more than 183 days in the calendar year, or Spain as the main base of your economic activities or interests. Residence applies to the whole year, because a change of residence does not split the tax year. Residents pay personal income tax (IRPF) on income from all sources. Pensions, including pensions paid from abroad, are employment income on the general scale, where the state rates run from 9.50% to 24.50% for 2025 and each region adds its own scale. Interest and dividends go on a separate savings scale, with state rates from 9.50% to 15.00% plus the regional scale. Spain's special regime for newcomers names employment, company administration, entrepreneurial activity and highly qualified work, not retirement or pensions.

## Check contributions separately

Under the US-Spain agreement, self-employed people resident in Spain are assigned Spanish coverage, but someone who moves their self-employment for five years or less stays in the original country's system. Your nearest consulate nevertheless asks for proof of Spanish coverage with the visa, so ask both agencies how the two fit. Spanish self-employed contributions are based on actual net income. An employee of a US company needs the employer's position confirmed. This is a mechanism, not your bill.

## The US keeps its claim on you

US citizens abroad generally file as they would at home, on worldwide income. The 2026 exclusion limit is $132,900. You can usually take foreign income tax as a credit, but not on income you exclude. Foreign accounts together above $10,000 at any point in the year are reportable on an FBAR. Article 20 of the 1990 US-Spain treaty makes a pension for past employment, and an annuity, taxable only in the country where you live, while Social Security benefits may be taxed by the paying country; pensions for government service are taxable only in the paying country unless you are both a resident and a national of the other. The US still taxes its citizens as if the treaty had not come into effect, so a tax saving is not assumed.

## Your US state and Spain's special regime

Moving abroad does not automatically end residency for state tax, and each state decides for itself. California's tax board treats a permanent move to Spain as ending residency on the day you move, while a temporary absence leaves you a resident; your nearest embassy or consulate says its domicile does not change until you can show clear and convincing evidence that you have left it and set up a new one. Spain's special regime for people moving there requires no Spanish residence in the previous five tax years, and covers employees working remotely; holders of the telework visa are named as meeting that condition. Freelancers qualify only in narrower cases, such as an approved entrepreneurial activity or highly qualified work for start-ups. You opt in on form 149 within six months of the start date in your Social Security registration. Eligibility has not been established, so no special rate is assumed.

**Before committing:** get a dated tax reserve and filing plan from an adviser who knows both US and Spanish rules.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

CHAPTER 04 · HEALTHCARE AND SETUP

# Build a working base

Confirm access, documents and the home itself. An identity number is only one step.

## 01 Healthcare through the transition

The telework visa needs public or private health insurance from an insurer authorised in Spain, covering everything the public system covers for the whole authorisation, with no co-payments or limits. Travel insurance is not accepted. The certificate is not needed if you prove Spanish public Social Security coverage instead. Price the insurance before you apply, since it is a fixed monthly cost.

## 02 NIE, TIE and the padrón

The NIE is a personal number for dealing with Spanish administrations; the consulate says it does not give the right to live in Spain. A residence permit lasting more than six months is followed by a foreigner identity card (TIE); one embassy page describes requesting it within a month of entering, and warns appointments can take weeks. Everyone living in Spain must register on the padrón of the municipality where they usually live.

## 03 Banking and US reporting

Spanish law obliges banks to offer a basic payment account to people who legally reside in the EU. The Banco de España says its fee is capped at €3 a month, including up to 120 payments a year in euros within the EU. Check each bank's documents and fees, since a newcomer may not yet have every paper a bank asks for. A Spanish account counts toward the FBAR $10,000 threshold.

## 04 A home that suits your daily routine

Check heating, cooling and which bills are included. Spanish law sets the cash deposit for a home at one month's rent, and a landlord may ask for an extra guarantee of up to two months on a contract of up to five years; you cannot be required to take rent-default insurance. Confirm fibre at the exact address and the installation date, then test upload speed and call quality if you rely on a connection. Visit at the times of day you will actually be at home.

> **Before a deposit:** get written tenancy terms, the exact deposit and any extra guarantee, and confirmation of which income evidence the landlord accepts from a remote worker or freelancer. Some landlords ask for a Spanish work contract, so ask early.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.



CHAPTER 05 · THE CITY IN FOCUS

# Zaragoza

A large city between Madrid and Barcelona.

**MONTHLY LIVING**
€860–1,200
Our estimate, without rent · Approx. $960–1,400

**RENT ALLOWANCE**
€600–780
Our estimate, a 1 bedroom home, 12-month lease · Approx. $670–880

**YOUR WORKING HOURS**
15:00–23:00
Local time in Zaragoza today. After clocks change in New York on 14 March: 14:00–22:00.

## What gives Zaragoza its character

### 01 Between two big cities

Zaragoza is the capital of Aragon and the fifth Spanish city by population, at a crossroads between other large cities. Its international airport, high-speed train station and road network put the main destinations in the north and centre of Spain two to three hours away. If you expect regular trips, compare the journey from a prospective home to the station.

### 02 An old town to walk

The old quarter is monumental and pedestrianised. Its sights include the Basílica del Pilar, the Cathedral of El Salvador and the 11th-century Aljafería palace, and the streets around them are known for tapas and nightlife. Check evening noise before renting close to the busiest streets.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

## 03 Tram, buses and bikes

Zaragoza has sustainable urban transport and kilometres of cycle lanes. Check the nearest stop from any home you consider, and the current fares with the city council.

## 04 Rents by district

Rents vary by district: a typical rented home costs about €522 a month in Delicias and about €649 in Centro, so the part of town you choose matters as much as the city. These are rents declared on tax returns, not asking prices for homes on the market today.

**YOUR MAIN COMPROMISE**

Hot summers and cold winters. AEMET's 1981 to 2010 normals for Zaragoza airport give an average July high of 32.4°C, a January low of 2.7°C, about 23 frost days and 22.5 days of fog a year, and 322 mm of rain. Check cooling, heating and the energy rating of any home.

# Before choosing a flat

### Home condition

Look for damp, test the heating and open the windows to feel the ventilation.

### Internet

Run a speed test and a video call from the flat before you sign.

### Daily essentials

Walk to groceries, a pharmacy and transport at the times you would go.

### Light and noise

Visit when you would normally be at your desk to check street noise, light and a quiet place for calls.

# What to ask the landlord

### Lease and costs

Ask for the lease length, what the rent includes and which bills you pay on top.

### Deposit

The most the law lets a landlord take as a deposit is one month of rent, about €600–780 / $670–880 at this rent. Whether one is asked, and any advance rent, is set in the lease.

### Documents

Ask which documents the landlord accepts as proof of income, and whether a local tax or ID number is needed.

### Notice and leaving

Ask how much notice you must give and what happens if you leave early.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

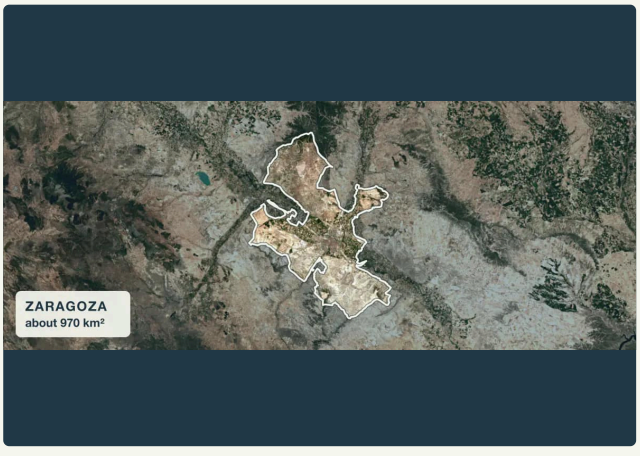
CHAPTER 06 · FINDING A HOME

# Find your part of Zaragoza

Three areas to start with. The actual flat, your working day and the walk to essentials decide the rest.




Spain, with Zaragoza marked.




Zaragoza and its boundary. The areas below are described in words; their boundaries are not drawn.

## Areas to compare

### 01 Centro

Paseo de Sagasta and Plaza de España

Centro is the district around Paseo de Sagasta and Plaza de España, the central, higher-rent part of Zaragoza. A typical rented home there is 76 m² at about €649 a month.

**Your test:** Start here for central city life. Compare what the rent includes with homes where you pay heating yourself.

### 02 Universidad

Plaza de San Francisco and Avenida de Valencia

Universidad is the district around Plaza de San Francisco and Avenida de Valencia. A typical rented home there is 80 m² at about €630 a month.

**Your test:** Check whether a spare room would work as a quiet space, and how much upfront cash an extra guarantee ties up.

### 03 Delicias

Avenida de Madrid and Parque Delicias

Delicias is the district around Avenida de Madrid and Parque Delicias, with the lowest rent per m² of the districts shown. A typical rented home there is 69 m² at about €522 a month.

**Your test:** Compare more space with a longer trip to the old town, and check how central heating is billed.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

RENT IN ZARAGOZA · OUR ESTIMATE

### A 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease

€600–780 / $670–880

PER MONTH

Furnished, for 1 to 3 months: €790–1,100 / $880–1,300 a month.

Official median for new leases in Zaragoza: €8.33 per m² a month.

UP FRONT

About €1,200–1,600 / $1,300–1,800: the deposit, at most one month of rent by law, and the first month's rent.

Price is only the first filter. A home you can afford still needs suitable lease terms and acceptable documents and a flat that supports your working day.

CHAPTER 07 · OTHER PLACES TO INVESTIGATE

# Other ways to settle

Use these alternatives to test what matters most. The figures shown are a guide, not a quote.

RENT A MONTH FOR A 1 BEDROOM HOME, 12-MONTH LEASE (OUR ESTIMATE)

| PLACE | WHERE | RENT |
|---|---|---|
| **Zaragoza** | The main city | €600–780 / $670–880 |
| **Granada** | Zaidín census district | €650–850 / $720–960 |
| **Alicante** | Campoamor census district | €730–940 / $810–1,100 |

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

01 / GRANADA / ZAIDÍN CENSUS DISTRICT

### At the foot of the Sierra Nevada. Hotter summers, colder nights.

Granada sits at the foot of the Sierra Nevada, between the rivers Darro and Genil, with the Alhambra, the Generalife and the Albaicín listed as World Heritage. A typical rented home costs about €585 a month, and the 2024 rise in rents was 4.1%. Summers are hotter and nights colder than in Zaragoza: July highs average 34.8°C at the airport, with about 48 frost days a year.

**Your deciding question:** can a home here stay comfortable through a hot summer and a cold winter?

**Rent (our estimate).** €650–850 / $720–960 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

**Up front.** About €1,300–1,700 / $1,400–2,000: the deposit, at most one month of rent by law, and the first month's rent.

**Living costs for your household (our estimate).** €830–1,100 / $930–1,300 a month before rent.

02 / ALICANTE / CAMPOAMOR CENSUS DISTRICT

### A coastal city. Milder winters, fast-rising rents.

Alicante is a port city on the Costa Blanca at the foot of the Santa Bárbara castle, with an old quarter, the Explanada de España promenade and the El Postiguet beach. A typical rented home costs about €610 a month, and rents rose 5.1% in 2024, the third largest rise among provincial capitals. Winters are milder, with a January low of 6.3°C and a July high of 30.3°C.

**Your deciding question:** will a landlord accept your income records, and does a port city with a castle and a long seafront fit your routine?

**Rent (our estimate).** €730–940 / $810–1,100 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

**Up front.** About €1,400–1,900 / $1,500–2,200: the deposit, at most one month of rent by law, and the first month's rent.

**Living costs for your household (our estimate).** €880–1,200 / $980–1,400 a month before rent.

CHAPTER 08 · FINANCES AND VERDICT

# Protect your room to choose

The figures here are for Zaragoza, your main city. The country decision still depends on permission, tax and housing.

ZARAGOZA / MONTHLY PLANNING MODEL, FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| Rent, 1 bedroom home (our estimate) | €600–780 | $670–880 |
| Everyday living costs, without rent (our estimate) | €860–1,200 | $960–1,400 |
| Home internet (our estimate) | €25–33 | $28–38 |

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

ZARAGOZA / MONTHLY PLANNING MODEL, FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| Health insurance | €60–150 | $67–170 |
| Local transport | €30–50 | $33–57 |
| **Total** | **€1,500–2,300** | **$1,600–2,600** |

Before personal tax and social contributions.

You are moving alone, so for you that means living costs of about €860–1,200 a month before rent and rent of about €600–780 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

ZARAGOZA / MONTHLY LIVING COSTS WITHOUT RENT (OUR ESTIMATE)

| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| One adult | €860–1,200 | $960–1,400 |
| Two adults | €1,400–1,900 | $1,500–2,200 |
| Two adults and two school-age children, in public school | €2,300–3,100 | $2,500–3,500 |
| Each further adult | €530–690 | $590–780 |
| International school, per child | €950–1,300 | $1,000–1,500 |

ZARAGOZA / RENT A MONTH FOR A WHOLE HOME (OUR ESTIMATE)

| | 12-MONTH LEASE | FURNISHED, 1 TO 3 MONTHS |
|---|---|---|
| Studio | €400–510 / $440–580 | €510–670 / $570–760 |
| 1 bedroom | €600–780 / $670–880 | €790–1,100 / $880–1,300 |
| 2 bedrooms | €820–1,100 / $920–1,300 | €1,000–1,400 / $1,100–1,600 |
| 3 bedrooms | €1,000–1,400 / $1,100–1,600 | €1,300–1,800 / $1,400–2,100 |

Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

ZARAGOZA / MONTHLY COSTS AGAINST YOUR BUDGET · USD




$5,000 a month: your living budget

The Zaragoza spending model's upper end is about $2,400 below your $5,000 monthly living budget, excluding personal tax, social contributions and business costs. This is spending headroom, not money left after tax.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

We worked out your monthly budget as about $5,000: 60% of your income before tax, to leave room for tax and saving.

**YOUR MOVING FUND**

For your household, the move costs about €3,700–5,000 / $4,100–5,700 to set up. That is a deposit and the first month's rent for a 1 bedroom home and three months of living costs. This is our estimate, a guide to plan with, not a quote.

Your available savings of $30,000 cover this comfortably.

Add documents, cover, travel and temporary stays on top. Do not count prepaid rent twice.

## Our country verdict

For you, Spain matches what you told us at 70%, based on 9 of the 9 things you weighed. It does best on safety and internet. Climate is the weaker side.

For your passport, the visa side looks strong.

Against your monthly budget of $5,000, rent and everyday costs for your household (our estimate) come in at or under it in 3 of the 3 cities we scored.

The cities that fit you best in Spain: Alicante (72%), Granada (71%), and Zaragoza (70%). The next page shows how each was scored.

Rents are medians declared for tax, not quotes for a particular flat.

**THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE YOU COMMIT**

Confirm dates and permission, how Spanish Social Security coverage will be shown, a tax reserve, an acceptable tenancy, and health insurance from arrival.

SPAIN · BEST FIT FOR YOU

# Best fit for you in Spain.

**Alicante fits your answers best of the 3 cities we scored in Spain, at 72% match. Spain as a whole is 70% match.**

**BEST FIT**

Alicante

Of 3 cities scored in Spain

**MATCH**

72%

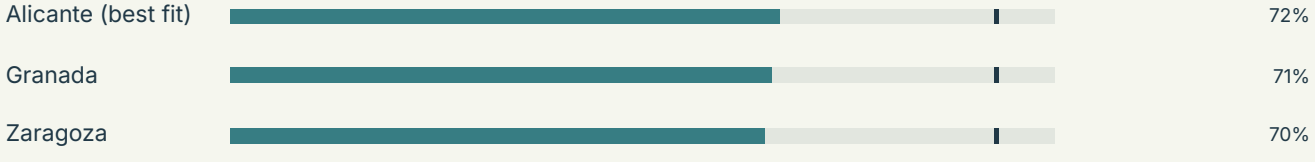
How closely it matches what you told us

**BASED ON**

9 of 9

things you weighed

**HOW THE CITIES IN SPAIN FIT YOU · MATCH OUT OF 100**




The line marks a full match.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

ALICANTE / HOW THE 72% IS MADE UP

| WHAT MATTERS | HOW IT DOES | HOW MUCH IT MATTERS TO YOU |
|---|---|---|
| **Safety** | Strong | Matters most, 21% of the score |
| **Internet** | Strong | Matters a lot, 16% of the score |
| **Cost of living** | Mixed | Matters a lot, 16% of the score |
| **Career and work** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Visa for your passport** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Climate** | Mixed | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Retirement** | Strong | Matters a little, 5% of the score |
| **Healthcare** | Strong | Matters a little, 5% of the score |
| **English** | Mixed | Matters a little, 5% of the score |

Cost of living and climate are scored for Alicante itself. The rest are scored for Spain as a whole. Each part is scored, then weighted by how much it matters to you. The match is the weighted average of the parts we could score.

In Alicante, rent and everyday costs for your household are about €1,600–2,100 / $1,700–2,400 a month (our estimate). The whole range is at or under your monthly budget of $5,000. Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

The trade-off: Alicante is weaker on cost of living, which makes up 16% of your score. Granada is very close behind at 71%.

This report covers Zaragoza, Granada, and Alicante in depth.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

MAKE THE FINDINGS USEFUL

# Before you commit to Spain.

**These findings depend on the points below. Settle them before you commit.**

## Things to settle before you commit

**Confirm the right duration and visa.** Settle whether this is a fixed year or a longer move, then check the current telework visa page of the Spanish consulate for your state.

**Settle Social Security coverage.** Ask an adviser or the relevant agency how coverage in Spain will be shown for an employee or a self-employed worker, and check the US agreement position with both agencies.

**Price the tax position and running costs.** Get a dated tax reserve covering the US, your state and Spain, and quotes for health insurance, utilities, internet and groceries.

**Confirm the lease, cover and cash sequence.** Get written tenancy terms, health cover from arrival and an upfront amount that leaves your reserve untouched.

> **What would change the picture:** No workable way to show Social Security coverage, an unaffordable tax reserve, landlords who will not accept your income records, or a climate you dislike. This report is still useful if those checks lead you away from Spain.

**To reconfirm before you commit:** Requirements for 2027 need reconfirmation. The teleworker income test is a percentage of the Spanish minimum wage, which is set each year by royal decree. Rent figures are 2024 medians from tax data.

Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

Fernshore

PREMIUM REPORT



YOUR MOVE, RESEARCHED — COUNTRY 3 OF 4

# Mexico

## — from the US

Prepared for you
November 2026

PREPARED FOR YOU

# A country deep dive

Explore the permission, tax and practical questions that shape the move, then compare Mérida with Querétaro and Oaxaca de Juárez.

| | |
|---|---|
| PERSON | United States; living in United States; moving alone. |
| WORK | Employee. Job moving with you: Yes, my employer has agreed. |
| EARNINGS | $100,000 gross per year. |
| MOVING FUNDS | $50,000 accessible. Protect $20,000; up to $30,000 is available for the move. |
| LIVING ALLOWANCE | $5,000 a month, excluding tax, social contributions and business costs. We worked out your monthly budget as about $5,000: 60% of your income before tax, to leave room for tax and saving. |
| PRIORITIES | Cost of living, Climate. |
| TIMING AND CALLS | Moving within a year; staying for about a year; working hours 09:00–17:00 (America/New York). |

## Inside your report


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Country fit | 40–41 | Querétaro and Oaxaca de Juárez | 49–50 |
| Permission | 41–42 | Finances | 51–52 |
| Tax | 43–44 | Best fit | 53–54 |
| Healthcare and setup | 44–45 | Next steps | 54 |
| Mérida | 45–47 | Sources | 72 |
| Housing | 48–49 | | |


Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.



CHAPTER 01 · YOUR COUNTRY IN FOCUS

# Mexico

Same time zones, a different pace. Your work comes with you.

## Mérida is the city this report looks at most closely. Whether Mexico fits you comes down to permission, tax and housing.

Mérida is the main place in this report: a walkable colonial centre in the Yucatán with markets, free weekly culture, cenotes and beaches within a day trip, and rents far below Mexico City's. The price is heat: May averages a 35.8°C daily maximum, so a cooled home matters.

The Mérida spending model's upper end is about $3,200 below your $5,000 monthly living budget, excluding personal tax, social contributions and business costs.

## At a glance, for you

**Your routes.** A stay of up to 180 days, or a year or longer.

**Money test.** Your income is above the safe target (more than $4,700 a month).

**Living costs.** For your household, about MX$11,000–15,000 / $600–830 a month before rent, and about MX$10,000–14,000 / $540–770 a month in rent for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease. These are our estimates.

**Mérida.** Your main city: a walkable old city in the Yucatán.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

THE TRADEOFF

A high solvency test and uneven safety. Two consulates checked ask for about $4,500 to $4,600 a month in income (to be safe, have more than $4,700), or about $76,000 to $78,000 in average savings (to be safe, have more than $79,000), for temporary residence. The US State Department's advice for Mexico is Level 2, exercise increased caution, with Level 3 (reconsider travel) or Level 4 (do not travel) for parts of several states.

CHAPTER 02 · VISA AND RESIDENCE

# Permission that fits your plans

Keep your remote job or clients. Settle the length of stay before choosing a path.




From the United States to Mexico

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE / 2026

## More than $4,700 a month

Monthly income net of taxes and deductions over the last six months, set in the rules as 680 days of UMA (MXN 117.31 a day in 2026). The alternative is an average monthly balance of 11,460 days of UMA over the last twelve months. San Diego and Las Vegas ask for about $4,500 to $4,600 a month or about $76,000 to $78,000 in savings. To be safe, have more than $4,700 a month, or more than $79,000 in savings. Confirm the amount with the consulate for your state.

## A stay of up to 180 days

As a visitor you cannot stay longer than 180 days, and the immigration officer at entry decides how many days you get; the maximum is not automatic. The US State Department page says a visa is required when visiting for more than 180 days. The visitor category does not allow paid activities in Mexico. Ask the immigration institute (INM) whether remote work for a foreign employer is allowed as a visitor, and treat a year-long stay as needing residence.

## A year or longer

Research the temporary resident visa, applied for at a Mexican consulate before you travel. The status lasts more than 180 days and up to four years. The visa itself is valid for 180 days and one entry, and you must get the residence card from the migration institute (INM) within 30 days of arriving. Your nearest consulate asks employees for a supervisor's letter that explicitly agrees with you living in Mexico and working remotely.

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Your nearest embassy or consulate accepts proof of self-employed income such as a business licence or 1099 forms. The same visa has two grounds that rest on money rather than income. For property, a public deed must show that you own real estate in Mexico worth more than a threshold set in UMA days (91,710 days at MXN 117.31 a day; to be safe, aim for more than MXN 11,000,000). For a company, the original deed or policy of a Mexican company must show that you hold part of its share capital and have paid in more than a threshold set in UMA days (45,850 days at MXN 117.31 a day; to be safe, aim for more than MXN 5,400,000). A foreign company can use the same 45,850 days instead, shown by title to movable goods or fixed assets it uses for business, together with proof that it carries out business in Mexico, such as contracts, invoices, a business plan, licences or an IMSS certificate showing at least three workers.

## Where your income stands against the safe targets

**Temporary residence:** Your income is above the safe target (more than $4,700 a month).

## What your documents must establish

Employees: six months of bank statements showing the income, plus an employment letter on company letterhead with your position, salary and, in San Diego, explicit agreement to remote work from Mexico. Freelancers: six months of statements plus a business licence or, in Las Vegas, 1099 forms, payslips or proof of direct deposits. Savings option: twelve months of statements. Statements must be originals with a bank stamp or a bank verification letter. Requirements differ by consulate.

### TIME THE APPLICATION

The rules give consulates up to 10 working days to decide; your nearest embassy or consulate says 1 to 10 working days from the appointment. The visa fee at both consulates checked is $56. San Diego books appointments through MiConsulado and Las Vegas by email; San Diego advises against buying flights before the visa is issued. Then allow for the INM card appointment within 30 days of entry. The 2026 federal fee for the temporary resident card is MXN 11,140.74 for up to one year and MXN 25,057.82 for four years.

**Where to apply:** Apply through your nearest embassy or consulate of Mexico.

### THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Is this a fixed stretch under 180 days or a year or more? Check which consulate serves your state, its current dollar figure, and how it treats self-employed income before booking anything. No path is approved for you, and immigration status and tax are separate questions.

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CHAPTER 03 · YOUR TAX POSITION

# Your dates matter, too

Look at both tax systems before deciding what you can comfortably spend.

THE HOME QUESTION

## Mexico looks at where your home is, not only how many days you spend.

Under the Federal Tax Code, you are resident in Mexico if you set up your home there. If you also keep a home in the US, Mexico looks at your centre of vital interests, for example whether more than half your income comes from Mexican sources or your main professional activity is there. The US exclusion's physical presence test separately needs 330 full days abroad within 12 months.

## Mexican residents are taxed on worldwide income

If you become resident, Mexican income tax applies to all your income wherever it comes from. Employees paid by an employer that does not withhold Mexican tax, including pay from abroad, work out monthly provisional payments themselves, pay them by the 17th of each month and file an annual return. Freelancers face their own registration, invoicing and payment rules.

## The US keeps its claim on you

US citizens abroad generally file as they would at home, on worldwide income. The 2026 foreign earned income exclusion limit is $132,900. You can usually take Mexican tax as a credit, but not on income you exclude. Foreign accounts together above $10,000 at any point in the year must be reported on an FBAR. The US-Mexico treaty settles dual residence by permanent home, then centre of vital interests, but its saving clause lets the US keep taxing its citizens. On pensions, Article 19 taxes private pensions and annuities only in the country where you live and social security benefits and other public pensions only in the paying country, and Article 20 taxes a pension for government service only in the paying country unless you live in and are a national of the other. As a Mexican resident you pay Mexican tax on a foreign pension, interest and dividends like any other worldwide income.

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### No social security agreement with Mexico

Mexico is not on the Social Security Administration's list of agreements in force, so there is no agreement to prevent paying into both systems. US self-employment tax applies to net self-employment profit even when that income is excluded from income tax. An employee of a US company needs the employer's position confirmed. This is a mechanism, not your bill. This decides which country you and your employer pay social security contributions to while you work there.

### Your US state may not let go

Moving abroad does not automatically end state residency. California's tax board, for example, says you are a resident of the place where you have your closest connections, and lists factors such as where your spouse and children live, your principal residence, the state that issued your driver's licence, where you are registered to vote and where your bank accounts are. It also has a safe harbour for some people who leave under an employment contract for at least 546 days in a row. Other states set their own rules, so check your state tax authority. If both countries treat you as resident, the treaty tie-breaker applies, but it does not remove US filing. No tax saving is assumed.

**Before committing:** get a dated tax reserve and filing plan from an adviser who knows both US and Mexican rules.

CHAPTER 04 · HEALTHCARE AND SETUP

# Build a working base

**Confirm access, documents and the home itself. An identity number is only one step.**

## 01 Healthcare through the transition

Arrange private cover from the day you arrive; a comprehensive private plan costs about MXN 2,000 to 2,650 a month per adult aged 30 to 50, and more at older ages. The IMSS family health insurance (Seguro de Salud para la Familia) is a voluntary scheme for people with no other social security, paid as one annual fee per person by age: MXN 11,550 for ages 20 to 29, MXN 12,350 for 30 to 39, MXN 14,350 for 40 to 49 and MXN 14,850 for 50 to 59, in force from 1 March 2026. IMSS asks for a CURP and a social security number (NSS) for each person, an official ID and proof of address. It does not insure people with certain existing conditions, such as malignant tumours, chronic liver or kidney disease, heart failure or HIV, and waiting times apply to some conditions. Ask IMSS whether temporary residents are accepted.

## 02 CURP and RFC

Foreign temporary and permanent residents get a CURP, the population registry number, automatically when INM issues their foreigner number, and it should be printed on the residence card. With a CURP, you can register for an RFC, the tax number, online with SAT. Registering with tax obligations means visiting a SAT office within 30 days for a password or e.firma.

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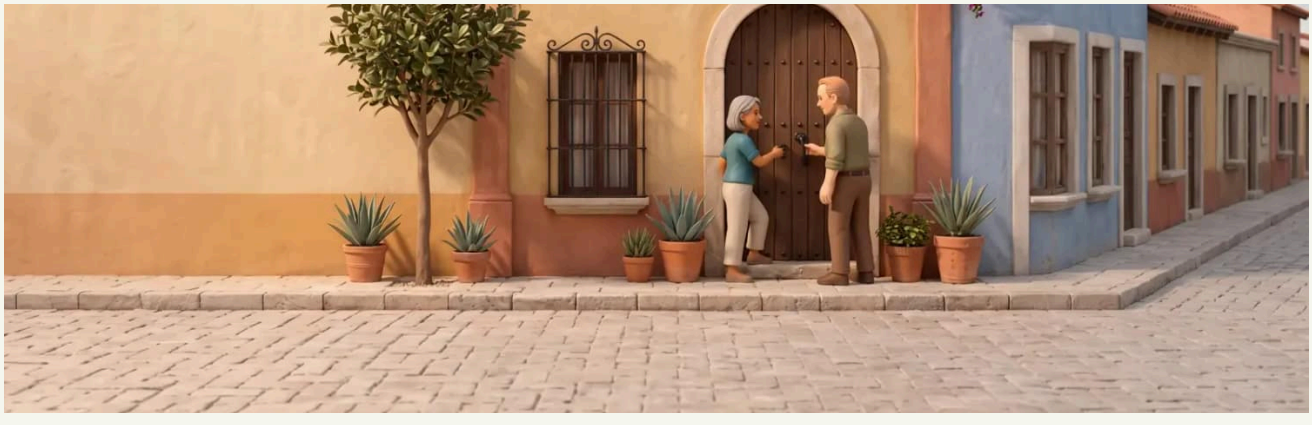
## 03 Banking and US reporting

Mexican banks must identify every client before opening an account. The central rules as first issued in 2009 accept a passport or the INM document that shows your immigration status as personal ID for a foreign national, and ask for a proof of address no older than three months, such as a utility bill or bank statement, when your address is not on your ID. A 2021 amendment says that, to open the higher-level accounts in person, banks must ask foreign nationals for an original valid passport or INM document and verify it. Each bank adds its own list and fees, so ask for them in writing. A Mexican account counts toward the FBAR $10,000 threshold.

## 04 A home that suits your day

PROFECO, the federal consumer protection agency, says a lease must be in writing and should name the parties, the address, a detailed description of the home and its condition, the rent, any guarantee, that it is for housing, and its term, usually one year. It advises spelling out which services are included in the rent, such as electricity and water, who pays for damage, and whether a guarantor is needed. In Yucatán the hottest month averages a 35.8°C daily maximum, so ask how a home in Mérida is cooled. Confirm internet at the exact address, test upload speed and call quality, and visit at the times of day you will actually be there.

> **Before a deposit:** get written tenancy terms, the deposit, any guarantor or double-deposit condition and notary costs in writing, and confirm which income evidence the landlord accepts from a remote worker or freelancer.



CHAPTER 05 · THE CITY IN FOCUS

# Mérida

**MONTHLY LIVING**

MX$11,000–15,000

Our estimate, without rent · Approx. $600–830

**RENT ALLOWANCE**

MX$10,000–14,000

Our estimate, a 1 bedroom home, 12-month lease · Approx. $540–770

**YOUR WORKING HOURS**

08:00–16:00

Local time in Mérida today. After clocks change in New York on 14 March: 07:00–15:00.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

# What gives Mérida its character

## 01 An old centre to explore

The Plaza Grande is the heart of the historic centre, with the Cathedral of San Ildefonso, the Palacio de Gobierno, the Palacio Municipal and the Casa de Montejo around it. The Palacio de Gobierno holds 27 murals by Fernando Castro Pacheco. The markets of Lucas de Gálvez, Santiago and Santa Ana serve regional dishes, and the Calle 60 corridor runs from the Plaza Grande to the Parque de Santa Ana. Check how far a prospective home is from the streets you would actually use.

## 02 Free culture through the week

Every Thursday at 21:00 the Parque de Santa Lucía hosts the trova yucateca. On Sundays the Biciruta links the Ermita de Santa Isabel, the Plaza Grande and Paseo de Montejo as far as the Monumento a la Patria. The tourism board suggests seeing Paseo de Montejo on foot, by bicycle or by horse-drawn carriage. Check the current calendar for something you would choose to attend.

## 03 Cenotes and the coast within a day trip

The tourism board lists cenote experiences near Mérida, among them Los 3 cenotes de Cuzamá, a circuit of about 8 km in an animal-drawn truck open on Saturdays and Sundays from 08:00 to 16:00. It also names the beaches of Progreso, Chicxulub, Telchac, Sisal and Celestún, and the archaeological sites of Dzibilchaltún, Mayapán, Chichén Itzá and Uxmal. If weekends outdoors matter to you, compare the trip from a prospective home, with or without a car.

## 04 Buses, the IE-TRAM and a regional advisory

On the Anillo Periférico line of the Va y Ven buses, a 2022 state decree sets an ordinary fare of MXN 12 a trip and MXN 5 for regular students and people over 60 with the smart card; children under six and people with disabilities travel free. The tourism board says the IE-TRAM connects Mérida with Kanasín and Umán, which in turn connect to Tren Maya stations. The operator sets the fares on the other Va y Ven lines and on the IE-TRAM, so check the current fare before you plan a daily commute. The US State Department rates Yucatán state Level 1, exercise normal precautions, and Mexico overall Level 2, exercise increased caution.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

**YOUR MAIN COMPROMISE**

Heat. The state climate chart built from national weather service data puts May as Yucatán's warmest month, with an average daily maximum of 35.8°C, and the rainy season from June to October. INEGI describes Mérida's climate as warm and sub-humid with summer rains, and tropical cyclones were the climate events that led to the most federal disaster funding in the state between 1999 and 2018. If heat is hard for you, reconsider Mérida before committing, and ask how any home is cooled.

## Before choosing a flat

### Home condition

Look for damp, test the heating and open the windows to feel the ventilation.

### Internet

Run a speed test and a video call from the flat before you sign.

### Daily essentials

Walk to groceries, a pharmacy and transport at the times you would go.

### Light and noise

Visit when you would normally be at your desk to check street noise, light and a quiet place for calls.

## What to ask the landlord

### Lease and costs

Ask for the lease length, what the rent includes and which bills you pay on top.

### Deposit

Ask the landlord in writing what deposit is required, when it is returned, and whether a guarantor or notary costs apply, before comparing.

### Documents

Ask which documents the landlord accepts as proof of income, and whether a local tax or ID number is needed.

### Notice and leaving

Ask how much notice you must give and what happens if you leave early.

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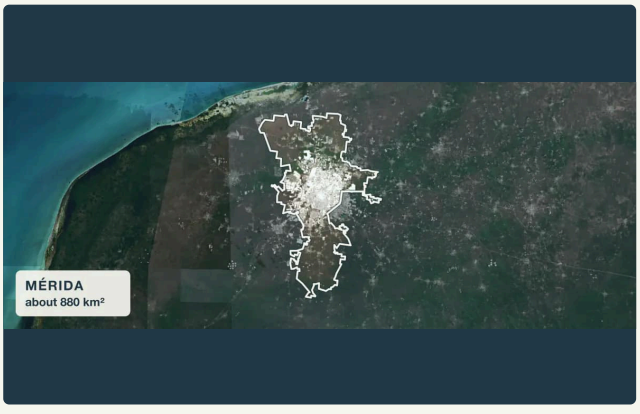
CHAPTER 06 · FINDING A HOME

# Find your part of Mérida

Three areas to start with. The actual flat, your working day and the walk to essentials decide the rest.




Mexico, with Mérida marked.




Mérida and its boundary. The areas below are described in words; their boundaries are not drawn.

## Areas to compare

### 01 Centro

Around the Plaza Grande

The historic centre has the Plaza Grande, the cathedral and government buildings, museums such as the Palacio Cantón and the Casa Montejo, the Calle 60 restaurant corridor and the Lucas de Gálvez, Santiago and Santa Ana markets. The Va-y-Ven airport line stops at the ADO bus terminals and at Santa Lucía. A one-bedroom apartment here usually rents for MXN 13,000 to 24,000 a month.

**Your test:** Visit after dark and on a weekday morning to check street noise and the walk home.

### 02 Paseo de Montejo

The avenue and the Calle 47 corridor

Paseo de Montejo is lined with 19th-century mansions now used as museums, galleries and cafés, and has the Monumento a la Patria along it. A second restaurant and café corridor runs along Calle 47 between the end of the avenue and the Parque La Plancha. The Sunday Biciruta passes along the avenue. A one-bedroom apartment here usually rents for MXN 14,000 to 25,000 a month.

**Your test:** Check the walk to the centre in daytime heat and which streets stay noisy at night.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

## 03 Kanasín and Umán

Along the IE-TRAM

The IE-TRAM connects Mérida with Kanasín and Umán, which in turn connect to the Tren Maya stations at Teya and Umán. It suits someone who wants a larger home for less and can plan a regular commute: a one-bedroom apartment usually rents for MXN 7,000 to 12,000 a month.

**Your test:** Time the trip from a prospective home to where you would work, at the hours you would travel.

RENT IN MÉRIDA · OUR ESTIMATE

### A 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease

### MX$10,000–14,000 / $540–770

PER MONTH

Furnished, for 1 to 3 months: MX$13,000–18,000 / $710–990 a month.

UP FRONT

About MX$31,000–41,000 / $1,700–2,300: a deposit, usually two months, and the first month's rent.

Price is only the first filter. A home you can afford still needs suitable lease terms and acceptable documents and a flat that supports your working day.

CHAPTER 07 · OTHER PLACES TO INVESTIGATE

# Other ways to settle

Use these alternatives to test what matters most. The figures shown are a guide, not a quote.

RENT A MONTH FOR A 1 BEDROOM HOME, 12-MONTH LEASE (OUR ESTIMATE)

| PLACE | WHERE | RENT |
|---|---|---|
| **Mérida** | The main city | MX$10,000–14,000 / $540–770 |
| **Querétaro** | Centro Histórico | MX$11,000–15,000 / $600–830 |
| **Oaxaca de Juárez** | Centro Histórico | MX$9,500–13,000 / $520–720 |

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

01 / QUERÉTARO / CENTRO HISTÓRICO

## A colonial centre. A milder, inland climate.

The tourism board describes the Metrópoli Creativa around a Historic Centre that is a World Heritage site, with a wine and cheese region about an hour away. UNESCO describes a colonial town whose Spanish grid sits beside the winding streets of the Indigenous quarters, with 1,400 designated monuments. The state climate chart puts May as the warmest month at an average daily maximum of 29.8°C, with winter lows near 6°C. The US State Department rates Querétaro state Level 2, exercise increased caution, with no specific travel restrictions for US government employees there.

**Your deciding question:** do you prefer a cooler inland climate and a historic centre to Mérida's heat?

**Rent (our estimate).** MX$11,000–15,000 / $600–830 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

**Up front.** About MX$34,000–45,000 / $1,800–2,500: a deposit, usually two months, and the first month's rent.

**Living costs for your household (our estimate).** MX$12,000–16,000 / $650–880 a month before rent.

Historic Monuments Zone of Querétaro, inscribed by UNESCO in 1996

About 4 square kilometres and 203 blocks, with 1,400 designated monuments

INEGI describes the municipal climate as semi-dry temperate, with 500 to 700 mm of rain

02 / OAXACA DE JUÁREZ / CENTRO HISTÓRICO

## Markets and mountains. A highly seismic zone.

UNESCO describes a historic centre laid out as a grid, with 1,200 inventoried monuments, together with the Monte Albán archaeological site, and says the city lies in a highly seismic zone, which is why its buildings are low with thick walls. INAH describes the Monte Albán site museum, which presents a city of the Olmec, Zapotec and Mixtec peoples inhabited over about 1,500 years, and Mitla, a Zapotec site where stone was worked like jewellery, reached from the city on Highway 190. The state climate chart, which covers the whole state, puts April and May as the warmest months at an average daily maximum of 31.7°C, with the rainy season from June to October. The US State Department rates Oaxaca state Level 2, exercise increased caution, with no travel restrictions for US government employees in Oaxaca City or Monte Albán.

**Your deciding question:** are you comfortable with earthquake risk and a smaller city's services for a year?

**Rent (our estimate).** MX$9,500–13,000 / $520–720 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

**Up front.** About MX$28,000–38,000 / $1,500–2,100: a deposit, usually two months, and the first month's rent.

**Living costs for your household (our estimate).** MX$10,000–13,000 / $540–720 a month before rent.

Historic Centre of Oaxaca, with 1,200 inventoried monuments

Located in a highly seismic zone, according to UNESCO

INEGI describes the municipal climate as semi-dry semi-warm, with 600 to 1,000 mm of rain

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

CHAPTER 08 · FINANCES AND VERDICT

# Protect your room to choose

The figures here are for Mérida, your main city. The country decision still depends on permission, tax and housing.

MÉRIDA / MONTHLY PLANNING MODEL, FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

| | MX$ | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| Rent, 1 bedroom home (our estimate) | MX$10,000–14,000 | $540–770 |
| Everyday living costs, without rent (our estimate) | MX$11,000–15,000 | $600–830 |
| Home internet (our estimate) | MX$390–520 | $21–29 |
| Health cover (IMSS family insurance, ages 20 to 59) | MX$960–1,300 | $52–72 |
| Local transport | MX$480–720 | $26–40 |
| **Total** | **MX$22,000–32,000** | **$1,200–1,800** |

Before personal tax and social contributions.

You are moving alone, so for you that means living costs of about MX$11,000–15,000 a month before rent and rent of about MX$10,000–14,000 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

MÉRIDA / MONTHLY LIVING COSTS WITHOUT RENT (OUR ESTIMATE)

| | MX$ | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| One adult | MX$11,000–15,000 | $600–830 |
| Two adults | MX$18,000–24,000 | $980–1,400 |
| Two adults and two school-age children, in public school | MX$31,000–40,000 | $1,700–2,200 |
| Each further adult | MX$7,000–9,000 | $380–500 |
| International school, per child | MX$14,000–19,000 | $760–1,100 |

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

MÉRIDA / RENT A MONTH FOR A WHOLE HOME (OUR ESTIMATE)

| | 12-MONTH LEASE | FURNISHED, 1 TO 3 MONTHS |
|---|---|---|
| Studio | MX$8,000–11,000 / $430–610 | MX$10,000–14,000 / $540–770 |
| 1 bedroom | MX$10,000–14,000 / $540–770 | MX$13,000–18,000 / $710–990 |
| 2 bedrooms | MX$14,000–19,000 / $760–1,100 | MX$19,000–25,000 / $1,000–1,400 |
| 3 bedrooms | MX$22,000–28,000 / $1,200–1,600 | MX$28,000–37,000 / $1,500–2,100 |

Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

MÉRIDA / MONTHLY COSTS AGAINST YOUR BUDGET · USD




$5,000 a month: your living budget

The Mérida spending model's upper end is about $3,200 below your $5,000 monthly living budget, excluding personal tax, social contributions and business costs. This is spending headroom, not money left after tax. We worked out your monthly budget as about $5,000: 60% of your income before tax, to leave room for tax and saving.

YOUR MOVING FUND

For your household, the move costs about MX$66,000–86,000 / $3,600–4,800 to set up. That is a deposit and the first month's rent for a 1 bedroom home and three months of living costs. This is our estimate, a guide to plan with, not a quote.

Your available savings of $30,000 cover this comfortably.

Add documents, cover, travel and temporary stays on top. Do not count prepaid rent twice.

## Our country verdict

For you, Mexico matches what you told us at 39%, based on 9 of the 9 things you weighed. It does best on visa for your passport. Safety is the weaker side.

For your passport, the visa side looks strong.

Against your monthly budget of $5,000, rent and everyday costs for your household (our estimate) come in at or under it in 3 of the 3 cities we scored.

The cities that fit you best in Mexico: Querétaro (46%), Oaxaca (43%), and Mérida (39%). The next page shows how each was scored.

THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Confirm dates and the right status, your consulate's solvency figure and how it treats your income, a tax reserve for both countries, an acceptable tenancy, and health cover from arrival.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

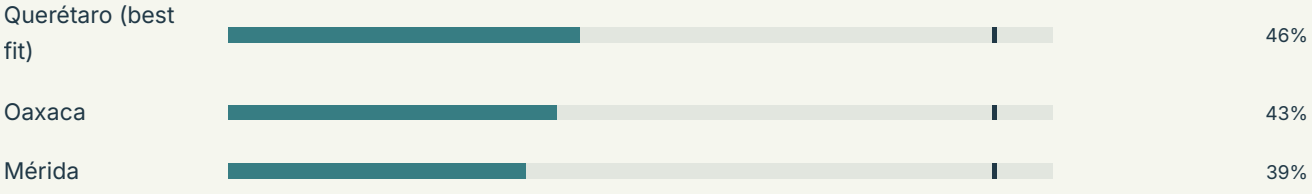
MEXICO · BEST FIT FOR YOU

# Best fit for you in Mexico.

Querétaro fits your answers best of the 3 cities we scored in Mexico, at 46% match. Mexico as a whole is 39% match.

| BEST FIT | MATCH | BASED ON |
|---|---|---|
| Querétaro | 46% | 9 of 9 |
| Of 3 cities scored in Mexico | How closely it matches what you told us | things you weighed |

## HOW THE CITIES IN MEXICO FIT YOU · MATCH OUT OF 100




The line marks a full match.

## QUERÉTARO / HOW THE 46% IS MADE UP

| WHAT MATTERS | HOW IT DOES | HOW MUCH IT MATTERS TO YOU |
|---|---|---|
| **Safety** | Weak | Matters most, 21% of the score |
| **Cost of living** | Mixed | Matters a lot, 16% of the score |
| **Internet** | Mixed | Matters a lot, 16% of the score |
| **Visa for your passport** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Climate** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Career and work** | Mixed | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Retirement** | Strong | Matters a little, 5% of the score |
| **Healthcare** | Mixed | Matters a little, 5% of the score |
| **English** | Weak | Matters a little, 5% of the score |

Cost of living and climate are scored for Querétaro itself. The rest are scored for Mexico as a whole. Each part is scored, then weighted by how much it matters to you. The match is the weighted average of the parts we could score.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

In Querétaro, rent and everyday costs for your household are about MX$23,000–31,000 / $1,200–1,800 a month (our estimate). The whole range is at or under your monthly budget of $5,000. Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

The trade-off: Querétaro is weaker on safety (scored for Mexico as a whole), which makes up 21% of your score. Oaxaca is very close behind at 43%.

This report covers Mérida, Querétaro, and Oaxaca de Juárez in depth.

MAKE THE FINDINGS USEFUL

# Before you commit to Mexico.

**These findings depend on the points below. Settle them before you commit.**

## Things to settle before you commit

**Confirm the right duration and path.** Settle whether this is under 180 days or a year or more, then check the temporary resident page of the Mexican consulate for your state.

**Prepare the income evidence.** Gather six months of statements and either an employer letter agreeing to remote work from Mexico or proof of your self-employed income.

**Price the tax position and missing budget lines.** Get a dated tax reserve covering the US, your state and Mexico, and quotes for health insurance, electricity, internet and groceries.

**Confirm the lease, cover and cash sequence.** Get written tenancy terms, the guarantor or deposit condition, health cover from arrival and an upfront amount that leaves your reserve untouched.

> **What would change the picture:** Income or savings below your consulate's figure, an employer unwilling to confirm remote work from Mexico, an unaffordable tax reserve, landlords who will not accept your income records, or heat you cannot live with. This report is still useful if those checks lead you away from Mexico.

**To reconfirm before you commit:** Requirements for 2027 need reconfirmation. The solvency test is set in days of the UMA, which INEGI updates each February, and each consulate converts it to dollars at its own rate.

Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

Checked 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

Fernshore

PREMIUM REPORT



YOUR MOVE, RESEARCHED — COUNTRY 4 OF 4

# Italy

## — from the US

Prepared for you
November 2026

PREPARED FOR YOU

# A country deep dive

Explore the permission, tax and practical questions that shape the move, then compare Turin with Bologna and Bari.

| | |
|---|---|
| PERSON | United States; living in United States; moving alone. |
| WORK | Employee. Job moving with you: Yes, my employer has agreed. |
| EARNINGS | $100,000 gross per year. |
| MOVING FUNDS | $50,000 accessible. Protect $20,000; up to $30,000 is available for the move. |
| LIVING ALLOWANCE | $5,000 a month, excluding tax, social contributions and business costs. We worked out your monthly budget as about $5,000: 60% of your income before tax, to leave room for tax and saving. |
| PRIORITIES | Cost of living, Climate. |
| TIMING AND CALLS | Moving within a year; staying for about a year; working hours 09:00–17:00 (America/New York). |

## Inside your report


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Country fit | 57–58 | Bologna and Bari | 66–67 |
| Permission | 58–59 | Finances | 67–69 |
| Tax | 60–61 | Best fit | 69–70 |
| Healthcare and setup | 61–62 | Next steps | 71 |
| Turin | 63–64 | Sources | 72 |
| Housing | 65–66 | | |


Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.



CHAPTER 01 · YOUR COUNTRY IN FOCUS

# Italy

A real visa, with paperwork. Remote work is allowed, for highly qualified people.

## Turin is the city this report looks at most closely. Whether Italy fits you comes down to permission, tax and housing.

Turin is the main case: a northern city at the foot of the Alps, on the river Po, where new long-term leases average about €470 a month for a 50 m² flat and GTT's ordinary monthly pass costs €38. Bologna and Bari are shown for contrast.

The Turin spending model's upper end is about $2,300 below your $5,000 monthly living budget, excluding personal tax, social contributions and business costs.

## At a glance, for you

**Your routes.** Remote workers and freelancers: the digital nomad / remote worker visa; if that does not fit, self-employment or employment with an Italian employer.

**Money test.** Your income is above the safe target (more than €28,000 a year).

**Living costs.** For your household, about €940–1,300 / $1,000–1,500 a month before rent, and about €650–840 / $720–950 a month in rent for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease. These are our estimates.

**Turin.** Your main city: a northern city at the foot of the Alps, on the river Po.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

THE TRADEOFF

Italy has a visa made for remote work, but it is narrow. It is for highly qualified workers, it asks for a lease in your own name before you apply, and it is separate from the elective residence visa, which does not allow any work. As a US citizen you also keep filing US tax returns once you become Italian tax resident.

CHAPTER 02 · VISA AND RESIDENCE

# Permission that fits your plans

**Decide first whether you will work in Italy, and how. That decides the visa, and several visas do not allow work at all.**




From the United States to Italy

DIGITAL NOMAD / REMOTE WORKER VISA / INCOME TEST · REMOTE WORKERS AND FREELANCERS: THE DIGITAL NOMAD / REMOTE WORKER VISA

### More than €28,000 a year / approx. $31,400

The test is lawful income of at least three times the level that exempts someone from health-service co-payments, and US consulates say it must come from work you will do in Italy. The figures on official pages run about 24,800 to 27,000 euros a year; to be safe, have more than 28,000 euros a year. The threshold is updated, so ask the consulate that will handle your file which figure it applies. Pension, rent, investment and Social Security income does not count for this visa.

## Remote workers and freelancers: the digital nomad / remote worker visa

This national visa is for non-EU citizens doing highly qualified remote work: employees of a company are 'remote workers' and freelancers are 'digital nomads'. You qualify through a recognised degree, or a higher professional qualification with at least five years of experience (three years in the last seven for ICT executives and specialists), plus at least six months of prior experience in the field. You need health insurance for the whole stay (US consulates ask for at least 30,000 euros of cover) and a registered lease or deed in your name for the whole visa period. Remote workers also need a contract paying at least the collective-agreement level and not below the ISTAT median, and an employer declaration. No work authorisation is needed (the "nulla osta al lavoro", which the police headquarters or the Immigration Desk otherwise issue for self-employed or employed work), and the permit lasts one year and is renewable while you keep your work, home and insurance.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

## If that does not fit: self-employment or employment with an Italian employer

The self-employment visa (professionals and entrepreneurs) needs a work authorisation (the nulla osta) from the police headquarters (Questura), proof of funds and lodging, and falls under annual quotas: the Prime Minister's decree of 2 October 2025 authorises 650 self-employment entries for 2027. An employee visa needs an Italian employer to request the work authorisation (the "nulla osta al lavoro", an entry clearance) at the Immigration Desk before you apply; the same decree authorises 76,200 non-seasonal employee entries for 2027, with a click day on 16 February 2027 for non-seasonal work in the sectors listed in the decree. The Labour Ministry's page of 1 October 2026 says applications under the decree can be pre-filled on the Interior Ministry's ALI portal from 23 October to 7 December 2026 and submitted until 31 December 2027, while quota remains.

## Where your income stands against the safe targets

**Remote workers and freelancers: the digital nomad / remote worker visa:** Your income is above the safe target (more than €28,000 a year).

## What your documents must establish

For the digital nomad or remote worker visa, US consulates ask for a passport valid at least 15 months past your travel date with two blank pages, proof of residence in the consulate's area, the national visa form and an ICAO photo, travel medical insurance showing cover for medical costs, hospitalisation and repatriation, proof of your qualifying profession, a lease in your name that the landlord has registered with the tax agency, proof of income, proof of at least six months of experience, the fee (cashier's check or money order) and a return envelope. All applicants for national visas are fingerprinted from 11 January 2025. Another embassy asks for apostilled copies with Italian translations, so ask whether your consulate does too. For elective residence, expect bank and pension letters and your last two tax returns, a signed lease or deed and a one-way ticket reservation.

> **TIME THE APPLICATION**
>
> US citizens can visit Italy without a visa for up to 90 days within any 180-day period, and the Italian Foreign Ministry lists the United States as exempt on those terms. A longer stay needs a national visa applied for before you travel. The EU's Entry/Exit System, fully operational since 10 April 2026, registers fingerprints and a facial image when non-EU visitors enter. ETIAS, the EU travel authorisation planned for visa-free visitors, has no start date yet. Ask your consulate how long the digital nomad visa takes. A consulate in Australia gives up to 30 days for remote salaried employment and 120 days for digital nomads, and one in Canada says some national visas take 45 to 90 business days. The embassy page gives up to 90 days for elective residence and advises applying 90 days ahead. After arrival you must apply for the permesso di soggiorno at the Questura for your home within 8 working days; the Government FAQ says you can start work once that application is filed.

**Where to apply:** Apply through your nearest embassy or consulate of Italy.

> **THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE YOU COMMIT**
>
> Decide whether you are a remote worker with an employer, a freelancer, or someone with passive income only, because each uses a different visa.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

CHAPTER 03 · YOUR TAX POSITION

# Tax residence: how your dates count

Look at both tax systems before deciding what you can comfortably spend. This is a mechanism, not your bill.

THE RESIDENCE QUESTION

### Italy counts days, home and registration; the US keeps taxing you as a citizen.

Since 2024 you are Italian tax resident if, for most of the year (183 days, or 184 in a leap year), you are registered in the resident population register, have your residence or domicile in Italy, or are simply physically present, counting part-days. Domicile now means where your personal and family relationships are mainly based, and register entry is a rebuttable presumption, not absolute proof. The US foreign earned income exclusion's physical presence test needs 330 full days abroad in 12 consecutive months, so arrival and departure dates and US visits need counting under both systems.

## Expect to become Italian tax resident

Living in Italy for most of the year makes you resident, taxed on worldwide income. For 2026 the IRPEF scale is 23% up to 28,000 euros, 33% from 28,000 to 50,000 and 43% above; the Revenue Agency's own table still shows 35% in the middle, but a notice on the same page and the Finance Ministry confirm 33%. On top come a regional and a municipal surcharge: Piedmont lists 1.62%, 2.68%, 3.31% and 3.33% across its four bands for 2026, and Turin 0.8% up to 28,000 euros, 1.1% to 50,000 and 1.2% above, with income up to 11,790 euros exempt from the municipal part. Other places set different rates. Foreign pensions and other income are added to your income and taxed on the same scale. Interest, dividends and most financial gains are taxed at a flat 26% substitute rate. Two special regimes are aimed at people who live on foreign income: foreign pensioners who move their tax residence to a municipality of up to 30,000 inhabitants in Sicily, Calabria, Sardinia, Campania, Basilicata, Abruzzo, Molise or Puglia can opt for a 7% substitute tax on foreign-source income for nine tax periods (the limit was 20,000 before 7 April 2026), and a new-resident option charges a flat €300,000 a year on foreign-source income, plus €50,000 for each family member, for people who were not resident in Italy in at least nine of the previous ten years.

## Italy's reliefs may not fit you

Freelancers can use the flat-rate scheme (regime forfetario): one 15% substitute tax, or 5% for the first five years of a genuinely new activity, up to 85,000 euros of takings. Exclusions include employment income above 35,000 euros in the previous year (2025 and 2026), and work done mainly for current or recent employers. The impatriate regime taxes only 50% of employment and self-employment income produced in Italy (up to 600,000 euros) if you were not resident in the three prior years, commit to four years of residence and meet the 'high qualification or specialisation' tests; it covers the year you move and four more, and 40% if you move with a minor child. Ask an Italian adviser how either applies to US-source work or a US employer.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

### The US keeps its claim on you

US citizens abroad generally file as they would at home, on worldwide income. The 1984 treaty lets each country tax its citizens as if the treaty did not exist, with listed exceptions. It also makes Italy and the US give credit for each other's tax, and treats income taxed by the US only because of citizenship as arising in Italy to avoid double tax. The 2026 exclusion limit is $132,900, and you cannot take a foreign tax credit on income you exclude. Foreign accounts above $10,000 in total at any time in the year are reportable on an FBAR. Article 18 makes pensions for past employment and annuities taxable only in the country where you live, and the protocol treats Social Security payments the same way, but the saving clause still lets the US tax its citizens.

### Contributions and your US state

Self-employed in Italy without other pension cover pay into INPS's Gestione Separata at 26.07% for 2026, up to an income ceiling of 122,295 euros. The US-Italy social security agreement assigns self-employed US nationals who would be covered by both countries to US coverage, with certificates; ask both agencies how that works when you live and work in Italy. Moving abroad does not automatically end state tax residency, and each state decides for itself. California's tax board treats you as resident where you have your closest connections and lists factors such as where your family lives, your home, your driver's licence, where you vote and where you bank; your nearest embassy or consulate says its domicile does not change until you can show clear and convincing evidence that you have left it and set up a new one. Check your own state's rules before you leave.

**Before committing:** get a dated tax reserve and filing plan from an adviser who knows both US and Italian rules.

CHAPTER 04 · HEALTHCARE AND SETUP

# Build a working base

Confirm cover, numbers and the home itself. The visa is only one step.

## 01 Tax code and registration

Foreign residents abroad can request a codice fiscale at the Italian consulate in their country of residence, and the Questura issues one when you apply for a permesso di soggiorno; the Government FAQ says the tax code is generated and sent to digital nomad permit holders with the permit. It is the identifier used with public bodies. Once in Italy you register your residence with the municipal registry: Turin sets 20 days from the move for the declaration and 45 days to check it, in a procedure described mainly for EU citizens and Italians, so ask the registry what a non-EU citizen should bring. Registration matters for Italian tax residence.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

## 02 Healthcare cover

You need private health insurance for the whole stay to get the digital nomad visa; US consulates ask for at least 30,000 euros of cover. Some foreigners without compulsory enrolment can join the national health service voluntarily. In Turin, the local health authority (ASL Città di Torino) states on its enrolment form 2,000 euros for applicants who are not students, religious personnel or au pairs, says that payment also covers dependent family members, and gives an income-based calculation (7.5% of income up to 20,658.28 euros and 4% above that, up to 51,645.69 euros), so ask what you would pay on your income. The Piedmont region says enrolment is an annual payment that cannot be split and is valid for the calendar year. Ask the health authority where you will live whether a digital nomad permit holder can use this option or must enrol.

## 03 Banking and US reporting

The Bank of Italy says consumers legally staying in the EU have the right to a basic account (conto di base) if they do not already hold a payment account and anti-money-laundering rules do not stand in the way, and that banks may not refuse automatically because of a risk category (notice of 5 August 2026). Ask a bank which documents it wants from a new arrival. Italy's tax code is the usual first identifier. An Italian account counts toward the FBAR threshold of $10,000 across all foreign accounts, and Italian income should be tracked in euros and dollars for both returns.

## 04 A home with a registered lease

A registered lease in your name for the whole visa period is a visa requirement. The Revenue Agency's guide describes the 4+4 free-rent contract, transitional contracts up to 18 months, and a deposit capped at three months' rent. Ask landlords early whether they accept foreign income records or want a bank guarantee. Confirm in writing that the landlord will register the lease.

> **Before a deposit:** get the written lease, the contract type (4+4 or transitional), the deposit (three months at most), any agency fee and what the annual building expenses (spese) cover, the energy class, and confirmation that the landlord will register the lease so it can support your visa and residence.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.



CHAPTER 05 · THE CITY IN FOCUS

# Turin

A northern city at the foot of the Alps, on the river Po.

**MONTHLY LIVING**

€940–1,300

Our estimate, without rent · Approx. $1,000–1,500

**RENT ALLOWANCE**

€650–840

Our estimate, a 1 bedroom home, 12-month lease · Approx. $720–950

**YOUR WORKING HOURS**

15:00–23:00

Local time in Turin today. After clocks change in New York on 14 March: 14:00–22:00.

## What gives Turin its character

01 **Royal city, walkable centre**

Turin was Italy's first capital, with Roman street planning, Piedmontese Baroque, long arcaded streets and the Royal Residences, and more than 300 km of tree-lined avenues and parks between the hills and the river Po.

02 **The Alps close by**

Turin sits at the foot of the western Alps, leaning against the hills and embraced by the Po. Check the journey to the mountains from any flat you consider.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

## 03 Public transport you can price

GTT's ordinary monthly Formula U pass for the urban network costs 38 euros, the 12-month pass 310 euros and the weekly pass 12 euros. The urban pass includes Trenitalia second-class travel between listed urban stations.

## 04 Rents vary by zone

For a 50 m² flat the Revenue Agency's ranges run from about €340 to €505 a month in Vanchiglia - Borgo Rossini to €530 to €795 in the historic centre. These are registered leases and valuation ranges, not asking rents.

**YOUR MAIN COMPROMISE**

Air quality and winters are the trade-offs to weigh. The Rebaudengo traffic station reached 36 days above the PM10 daily limit by 13 December 2025, against 35 allowed in a year, though 2025 was one of the lowest years in its series. Turin has about 21 days of frost a year on average, a coldest night averaging -4.5 degrees and a hottest day averaging 35.6, with about 41 nights above 20 degrees and 977.6 mm of rain a year.

# Before choosing a flat

### Home condition

Look for damp, test the heating and open the windows to feel the ventilation.

### Internet

Run a speed test and a video call from the flat before you sign.

### Daily essentials

Walk to groceries, a pharmacy and transport at the times you would go.

### Light and noise

Visit when you would normally be at your desk to check street noise, light and a quiet place for calls.

# What to ask the landlord

### Lease and costs

Ask for the lease length, what the rent includes and which bills you pay on top.

### Deposit

Ask the landlord in writing what deposit is required, when it is returned, and whether a guarantor or notary costs apply, before comparing.

### Documents

Ask which documents the landlord accepts as proof of income, and whether a local tax or ID number is needed.

### Notice and leaving

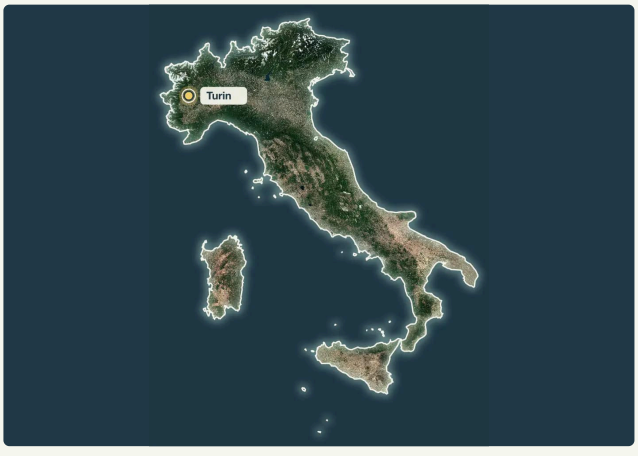
Ask how much notice you must give and what happens if you leave early.

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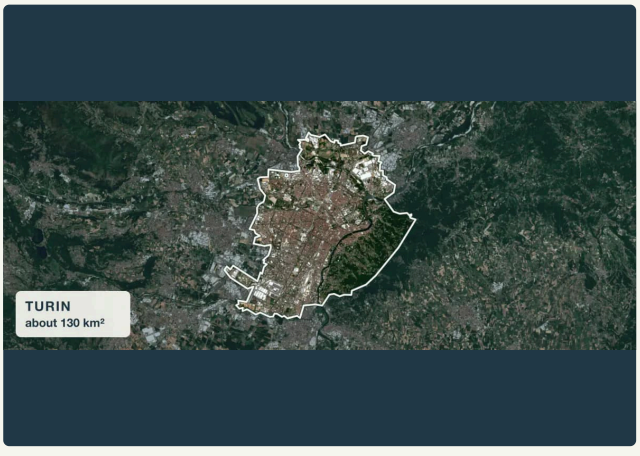
CHAPTER 06 · FINDING A HOME

# Find your part of Turin

Three areas to start with. The actual flat, your working day and the walk to essentials decide the rest.




Italy, with Turin marked.




Turin and its boundary. The areas below are described in words; their boundaries are not drawn.

## Areas to compare

### 01 Centro

Historic centre, OMI zone Roma

Centro is the historic centre, with the Roman quarter and the arcaded streets. The Revenue Agency's range for a 50 m² flat in normal condition is about €530 to €795 a month, the highest of the three zones here.

**Your test:** Visit on a weekday evening to judge noise and traffic against your daily routine.

### 02 San Salvario

South of Porta Nuova, towards the Valentino park

San Salvario lies south of Porta Nuova towards the Valentino park. The Revenue Agency's range for a 50 m² flat in normal condition is about €390 to €585 a month.

**Your test:** Walk the streets on a weekday morning and on a weekend night to see how the mix of homes, shops and nightlife suits you.

### 03 Vanchiglia - Borgo Rossini

North-east of the centre, OMI zone C18

Vanchiglia and Borgo Rossini lie north-east of the centre. The Revenue Agency's range for a 50 m² flat in normal condition is about €340 to €505 a month, below the centre and San Salvario.

**Your test:** Compare the range here with the city average of about €470 a month for 50 m² to see what this area costs against Turin as a whole.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

RENT IN TURIN · OUR ESTIMATE

## A 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease

€650–840 / $720–950

PER MONTH

Furnished, for 1 to 3 months: €850–1,100 / $950–1,300 a month.

UP FRONT

About €1,900–2,600 / $2,100–3,000: a deposit, usually two months, and the first month's rent.

Price is only the first filter. A home you can afford still needs suitable lease terms and acceptable documents and a flat that supports your working day.

CHAPTER 07 · OTHER PLACES TO INVESTIGATE

# Other ways to settle

Use these alternatives to test what matters most. The figures shown are a guide, not a quote.

RENT A MONTH FOR A HOME

| PLACE | WHERE | RENT, A GUIDE |
|---|---|---|
| **Turin** | The main city | €650–840 / $720–950 |
| **Bologna** | Andrea Costa - Saragozza (OMI zone D21) | €840–1,100 / $940–1,300 |
| **Bari** | Madonnella (OMI zone B1) | €418 / $468 |

01 / BOLOGNA / ANDREA COSTA - SARAGOZZA (OMI ZONE D21)

### A university city with arcades. Higher rents than Turin.

Bologna is the capital of Emilia-Romagna, with one of Europe's largest medieval centres and porticoes recognised by UNESCO in 2021. New long-term leases average about €13.0 per m² a month, against about €9.4 in Turin, so a typical flat costs roughly €180 a month more. Winters are similar, with about 18 frost days a year against Turin's 21, and regional and municipal tax surcharges differ from Piedmont and Turin.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

> **Your deciding question:** is a larger northern city worth about 180 euros more a month in typical rent than Turin?

**Rent (our estimate).** €840–1,100 / $940–1,300 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

**Up front.** About €2,500–3,300 / $2,800–3,700: a deposit, usually two months, and the first month's rent.

**Living costs for your household (our estimate).** €1,000–1,400 / $1,100–1,600 a month before rent.

Applied to a 50 m² one-bedroom flat

02 / BARI / MADONNELLA (OMI ZONE B1)

### A southern port city. Mild winters, hot summers.

Bari is the capital of Apulia, a southern port city with a waterfront and an old town. For the Madonnella zone the Revenue Agency's range for a 50 m² flat in normal condition is about €335 to €500 a month. Winters are mild, with under one day of frost a year, but summers are hot: about 102 days above 25 degrees and 89 nights above 20 degrees, with 570.2 mm of rain a year.

**Your deciding question:** does a southern city with hot nights suit your working routine, and what would a landlord there actually ask?

**Rent.** €418 / $468 a month.

Midpoint of the Revenue Agency's range for the Madonnella zone: €6.7 to €10.0 per m² a month, first half of 2026, for a flat in normal condition (€8.35 at the midpoint)

Applied to a 50 m² flat: the range gives €335 to €500 and the midpoint is shown

The Puglia average for new long-term ordinary leases in 2025 was about €4.5 per m² a month

**Upfront.** Italian law caps a deposit at three months' rent, €1,254 on this rent. This is a ceiling for planning, not a quote. €1,254 / $1,405

It is not like for like with the Turin and Bologna figures.

CHAPTER 08 · FINANCES AND VERDICT

# Protect your room to choose

**The figures here are for Turin, your main city. The country decision still depends on permission, tax and housing.**

TURIN / MONTHLY PLANNING MODEL, FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| Rent, 1 bedroom home (our estimate) | €650–840 | $720–950 |
| Everyday living costs, without rent (our estimate) | €940–1,300 | $1,000–1,500 |
| Home internet (our estimate) | €25–33 | $28–37 |

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

### TURIN / MONTHLY PLANNING MODEL, FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| Health cover | €60–170 | $67–200 |
| Local transport | €38 | $42–43 |
| **Total** | **€1,700–2,400** | **$1,900–2,700** |

Before personal tax and social contributions.

You are moving alone, so for you that means living costs of about €940–1,300 a month before rent and rent of about €650–840 a month for a 1 bedroom home on a 12-month lease.

### TURIN / MONTHLY LIVING COSTS WITHOUT RENT (OUR ESTIMATE)

| | € | APPROX. $ |
|---|---|---|
| One adult | €940–1,300 | $1,000–1,500 |
| Two adults | €1,500–2,000 | $1,600–2,300 |
| Two adults and two school-age children, in public school | €2,500–3,300 | $2,800–3,700 |
| Each further adult | €580–760 | $640–860 |
| International school, per child | €950–1,300 | $1,000–1,500 |

### TURIN / RENT A MONTH FOR A WHOLE HOME (OUR ESTIMATE)

| | 12-MONTH LEASE | FURNISHED, 1 TO 3 MONTHS |
|---|---|---|
| Studio | €430–560 / $480–630 | €560–720 / $620–810 |
| 1 bedroom | €650–840 / $720–950 | €850–1,100 / $950–1,300 |
| 2 bedrooms | €890–1,200 / $990–1,400 | €1,100–1,500 / $1,200–1,700 |
| 3 bedrooms | €1,100–1,500 / $1,200–1,700 | €1,400–1,900 / $1,500–2,200 |

Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

### TURIN / MONTHLY COSTS AGAINST YOUR BUDGET · USD




$5,000 a month: your living budget

The Turin spending model's upper end is about $2,300 below your $5,000 monthly living budget, excluding personal tax, social contributions and business costs. This is spending headroom, not money left after tax.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

We worked out your monthly budget as about $5,000: 60% of your income before tax, to leave room for tax and saving.

YOUR MOVING FUND

For your household, the move costs about €4,700–6,200 / $5,200–7,000 to set up. That is a deposit and the first month's rent for a 1 bedroom home and three months of living costs. This is our estimate, a guide to plan with, not a quote.

Your available savings of $30,000 cover this comfortably.

Add documents, cover, travel and temporary stays on top. Do not count prepaid rent twice.

## Our country verdict

For you, Italy matches what you told us at 66%, based on 9 of the 9 things you weighed. It does best on safety and internet. Climate is the weaker side.

For your passport, the visa side looks strong.

Against your monthly budget of $5,000, rent and everyday costs for your household (our estimate) come in at or under it in 2 of the 2 cities we scored.

The cities that fit you best in Italy: Turin (65%) and Bologna (64%). The next page shows how each was scored.

Italy has a purpose-built visa for remote workers and freelancers, but it is narrow, and the elective residence visa for retirees allows no work at all.

THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Confirm whether you meet the highly-qualified test, which income figure your consulate applies, how health cover and social security will be shown, a tax reserve for both countries, and a lease the landlord will register.

ITALY · BEST FIT FOR YOU

# Best fit for you in Italy.

**Turin fits your answers best of the 2 cities we scored in Italy, at 65% match. Italy as a whole is 66% match.**

| BEST FIT | MATCH | BASED ON |
|---|---|---|
| Turin | 65% | 9 of 9 |
| Of 2 cities scored in Italy | How closely it matches what you told us | things you weighed |

HOW THE CITIES IN ITALY FIT YOU · MATCH OUT OF 100




The line marks a full match.

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TURIN / HOW THE 65% IS MADE UP

| WHAT MATTERS | HOW IT DOES | HOW MUCH IT MATTERS TO YOU |
|---|---|---|
| **Safety** | Strong | Matters most, 21% of the score |
| **Internet** | Strong | Matters a lot, 16% of the score |
| **Cost of living** | Mixed | Matters a lot, 16% of the score |
| **Career and work** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Visa for your passport** | Strong | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Climate** | Weak | Matters, 11% of the score |
| **Retirement** | Strong | Matters a little, 5% of the score |
| **Healthcare** | Strong | Matters a little, 5% of the score |
| **English** | Mixed | Matters a little, 5% of the score |

Cost of living is scored for Turin itself. The rest are scored for Italy as a whole. Each part is scored, then weighted by how much it matters to you. The match is the weighted average of the parts we could score.

In Turin, rent and everyday costs for your household are about €1,500–2,100 / $1,600–2,400 a month (our estimate). The whole range is at or under your monthly budget of $5,000. Estimates are a guide to plan with, not a quote.

The trade-off: Turin is weaker on climate (scored for Italy as a whole), which makes up 11% of your score. Bologna is very close behind at 64%.

This report covers Turin, Bologna, and Bari in depth.

Checked 23 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.

MAKE THE FINDINGS USEFUL

# Before you commit to Italy.

**These findings depend on the points below. Settle them before you commit.**

## Things to settle before you commit

**Confirm the right visa and income figure.** Settle which visa fits you (remote worker, freelancer or passive income only), then ask the consulate for your area which income threshold and documents it applies today.

**Settle social security and health cover.** Ask INPS and the US Social Security Administration how the totalization agreement applies, and ask the local health authority whether you may or must join the national health service.

**Price the tax position and running costs.** Get a dated tax reserve covering the US, your state and Italy (including whether the flat-rate or impatriate schemes apply), and quotes for health cover, internet and groceries.

**Confirm the lease and the cash sequence.** Get a registrable lease in your name, the deposit and fees in writing, and an upfront amount that leaves your reserve untouched, before you book an appointment.

> **What would change the picture:** No qualification that fits your degree or experience, an income below the consulate's threshold, income that is passive only (which suits only the elective residence visa), an unaffordable tax reserve, landlords who will not accept your income records, or winter and air quality you dislike. This research is still useful if those checks lead you away from Italy.

**To reconfirm before you commit:** Requirements for 2027 need reconfirmation. The digital nomad income test is tied to a health-contribution exemption threshold that is updated each year, and US consulate pages still print a 2024 figure. The 2027 entry quotas are set by the Prime Minister's decree of 2 October 2025 and the joint circular of 1 October 2026; check the Italian tax rates for 2027 when they are published.

Your answers are as you gave them; documents, contracts, exact dates and healthcare needs are not verified.

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TO CLOSE

# Thank you for reading.

**You came looking for a place that works for your cost of living and climate.**

Portugal fits your answers best of the 4 countries, at 76% match, and Coimbra is the city in it that fits you best at 78%. It does best on internet and safety, which both matter to you.

**Your first step in Portugal:** Confirm the right duration and visa. Settle whether this is a fixed year or a longer move, then check the current embassy checklist for that visa.

## What this report covered

This report set Portugal, Spain, Mexico, and Italy side by side, then took each country in turn: country fit, permission to stay, tax, healthcare and setup, housing, finances, and your best fit.

## Sources

This report draws on 195 official sources, checked between 3 and 27 October 2026. In your own report, this links to your sources page, where you can see, search and filter every one of them.

Your sources page

Independent research, not a government service, official eligibility decision or tax, legal or immigration advice.

Satellite pictures: Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2025.

> Thank you for trusting us with your plans. We hope this report makes your decision clearer, and we wish you well with whatever you choose.

Checked 23 October 2026 to 27 October 2026. Information to plan with, not legal, tax or immigration advice.