

A few tips to consider when booking your holiday

1. PASSPORT

You will not be allowed to travel unless your passport has at least 6 months remaining on your passport at the date of departure. If you need a new passport, apply early. You do not have to wait until your passport expires before you renew it. If you renew your passport before it expires, any unexpired period of validity rounded up to the nearest whole month (minimum of one month, maximum of nine months) will be added to your new passport. This period is calculated from the point at which your new passport is authorised for issue, not from date of application. You therefore need to apply at least six weeks before your passport expires to get this benefit.

2. DRIVING

Your UK driving license entitles you to drive in Spain – please make sure you take both parts with you if you are intending to rent a car.

The police can be very hot on speeding. If stopped for an offence, you may be required to pay an on-the-spot fine in cash. The fines are much heavier than you might expect in England. They will drive you to a cashpoint if you do not have the cash on you at the time!

Alcohol – the Spanish drink drive limit is roughly half that in the UK so we advise you to elect a driver or take a taxi.

3. TRAVEL INSURANCE

For your own protection, we recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance. **Don't wait until a couple of days before you travel** to arrange your insurance – get it at the same time you book your flights and accommodation. If you are unfortunate enough to need to cancel your holiday at any time prior to departure, you will then be fully covered.

4. FLIGHT BOOKINGS

In these uncertain financial times, we recommend purchasing flight tickets with a credit card rather than a debit card. That way, if you are unfortunate enough to suffer from any problem with your chosen airline, at least your money will be safeguarded.

5. AIRPORT PARKING

Parking at some UK airports in busy times can become fully booked quite early so we advise you to avoid any last minute challenges by booking early. You can also save money by booking in advance and online. There is a page on our website to help you with this.

6. MONEY

It is not necessary to take a lot of cash with you. Cash machines are plentiful in Lanzarote and debit/credit cards are accepted in most shops and restaurants. You may need to show ID if you want to use a credit or debit card in a shop – your passport or photo driving license.

Both Monarch Airlines and easyJet offer an excellent alternative to cash – a pre-load chip-and-pin debit card which provides an excellent exchange rate and no charges. This is a very convenient and secure way to carry funds and the card is readily accepted in shops, restaurants and all cash machines. You do not have to fly either airline apply for this facility. Application online: <http://www.monarchcard.co.uk/> or <https://prepaidcard.easyjet.com/> <https://www.caxtonfx.com> you can easily top up your card online (or someone at home could do this for you) from a UK debit card and the funds will be available in seconds.