

Travelling outside of Spain/EU without the TIE (Foreigner Identity Card)

We are writing to provide important clarification regarding your ability to travel outside of Spain or the European Union **before you receive your TIE (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero / Foreigner Identity Card)**. Obviously, this applies only to non-EU residents.

There are two main scenarios you must consider, depending on the status of your TIE application:

Scenario 1: You have already had your fingerprints taken

If you have already attended your appointment at the Police Station (*Comisaría de Policía*) to have your fingerprints taken (*toma de huellas*), you can leave European territory **without any problem**.

Action Required: You must go to the nearest Police Station (no prior appointment is needed) and request a document called an ***Autorización de Regreso*** (Return Authorisation).

- This document officially authorises you to leave and re-enter Spanish territory, and by extension the Schengen Area, without any time limitation on your return date.

Example for Scenario 1:

*"You had your TIE appointment and fingerprints taken on **October 15th**. You plan a trip outside of the EU from **November 1st to December 15th**. Since you have the fingerprint receipt, you can apply for the **Autorización de Regreso** at the Police Station. Once you have this document, your trip is fully authorised, regardless of the trip's duration or your visa's expiry date."*

Scenario 2: You have NOT yet had your fingerprints taken

If you have not yet attended your appointment for the fingerprinting process, you **can only travel outside the Schengen Area** if **BOTH** of the following conditions are met:

1. **Visa End Date Condition (A):** The end date of your visa (which is printed on the sticker in your passport) must **not** occur before you return to European territory.

2. **90-Day Limit Condition (B):** The total time elapsed between your entry into Spain (stamp in your passport/visa) and your return from your trip outside of Spain must **not exceed 90 days** (as this travel falls under the initial tourist period granted by your visa).

Example for Scenario 2 (90-Day Limit Applied):

*"You entered Spain on **September 5th** with a visa valid for 90 days (until December 4th). You want to travel outside the EU from **November 1st to November 30th**.

- *Condition A is met:* Your visa is still valid when you return (Nov 30th < Dec 4th).
- *Condition B is met:* The total period from your entry to your return (Sept 5th to Nov 30th) is **86 days**, which is less than the 90-day limit. Therefore, **travel is permitted**."*

"Example of NO PERMITTED travel: If you entered on **September 5th** and planned to return on **December 20th**, the total time elapsed would be 106 days. Since this exceeds the 90-day limit of your initial visa, **travel is NOT permitted** without the **Autorización de Regreso** or the TIE."

Please check your specific situation carefully before making any international travel plans.