

Spain Draws 15 Million Tourists For First Half Of 2008

In a recent study by Frontur, an international tourism institution in Spain, the country has seen a 3.3 percent growth in tourism during the first six months of 2008. Of the 15 million tourists, most were French, English, Scandinavian or Italian. Poor economic conditions worldwide do not seem to be taking a toll on Spanish tourism. Millions of people are simply planning their vacations to better accommodate a strained economy. **Barcelona Tourism** Barcelona is leading the race as the favorite tourism spot in Spain for 2008. In the past four months, Barcelona has hosted more than 24 percent of the 15 million people who have visited Spain. Barcelona is a popular destination for historians and those who appreciate fine art and amazing architecture. **Canary Islands Tourism** The Canary Islands have been a major contender in the tourism battle since the mid-1950s. Millions of tourists book accommodations on one or more of the Canary Islands each year. The year-round tropical climate, volcanic landscapes, mountains and miles of beaches offer a unique experience for tourists. The 2008 season is booming and it is highly recommended that visitors book accommodations months in advance. **Andalusia Tourism** Andalusia is commonly called "the heart of Spain" and has been the destination of choice for 2.1 million tourists so far in 2008. The city of Seville is one of the primary historic attractions in Andalusia. The history of Andalusia dates back to pre-Roman times. Some of the most prominent architecture from throughout the ages still stands today. **Valencia Tourism** Valencia has played host to 1.6 million tourists in 2008. Valencia's original name, Valentia, means strength and vigor. The city was named after Emperor Valens. Like most Spanish tourist destinations, Valencia is rich in history, architecture, art and culture. Valencia's white beaches are very popular destinations during the summer. **Madrid Tourism** Madrid is the capital of Spain and boasts many world-famous museums. El Prado, Reina Sofia and Thyssen-Bornemisza are only a few of the most famous museums in the city. The city itself is robust and offers lessons in history and culture from just a stroll along its streets. More than 3 million people call Madrid home and are very hospitable to tourists year-round. **Tourism in Spain Grows Despite Economic Conditions** No matter your destination in Spain, you're sure to find the culture and history simply amazing. The largest theme park in Europe is Siam Park on the island of Tenerife, and the [Tenerife weather](#) is almost always good for holidays. The park offers roller coasters, water attractions, a variety of shows and children's play areas. The Canary Islands and various locations across Spain are easily accessible by way of low-cost airlines. The growing number of low-cost flights to and from many European destinations makes planning your vacation budget even easier. Tourists are very much aware of the economic decline in their own countries, as well as in their destination countries. To the well-seasoned traveler, this simply presents an exercise in planning and budgeting. Poor economic conditions are on the minds of people worldwide. The struggling economy began to raise concerns in 2007. Tourism boards and nations that rely heavily on tourism were prepared for the possibility that poor economic conditions might hinder travel in 2008.

About the Author

Tribune Properties produce a series of travel guides for Spain, and their holiday information includes [Barcelona hotels](#) and for the Canary Islands the [Lanzarote weather](#)

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