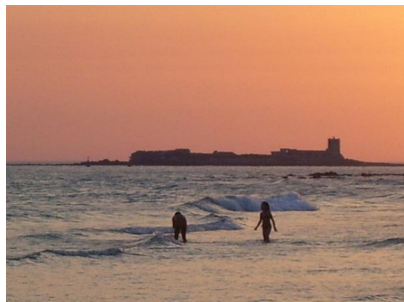


ANDALUSIA RECORDED 4.3% INCREASE IN OVERNIGHT STAYS



The hotel establishments in Andalusia recorded in August 6.2 million overnight stays, which is an increase of 4.3% compared with the same month in 2012, according to data from the Survey Spot Occupancy released by the Office of Tourism through the Statistical Analysis System and Tourism of Andalusia (SAETA).

The positive trend was announced by the counselor of Tourism and Commerce, Rafael Rodriguez, who emphasized "the positive tendency that began in May". Andalusia is one of Spanish autonomous communities

Rodriguez said that, if the data of the poll conducted prior to the publication of the results of the month by the National Statistics Institute (INE) is confirmed, it would suppose **"the best record as a destination in stays during August in the last decade", also overcoming the last poll with a 66.2% , 0.9 percentage points more.**

In regard to the offer of the accommodation facilities, adding hotel establishments, campsites, and rural tourism, it reached a total of 7.16 million overnight stays during the last month, which means an increase of stays by 3.8%.

Rodriguez pointed out that Andalusia "will close one of the best summers in its history in terms of volume of overnight stays, surpassing the levels previous to the crisis with a sustained growth of international visitors with a strong national market recovery."

Rodriguez also explained that it shows that the action of public and private operators implied in the local tourism industry "is in the right way, with excellent results arising from the coordination of promotional activities and the available resources."

As for the outlook for September, according to data emerging from this poll, the hotel establishments expect to surpass 44 percent occupancy.

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