

# SPAIN RECEIVES 6.5 MILLION FOREIGN TOURISTS INCREASING BY 4.5%



Up to February, Spain received 6.5 million foreign tourists, which represents an increase of 4.5% over the same month in 2014. This increase marks a new high in the records of the Frontier Tourist Movement Survey (Frontur) released by the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism.

In February, a total of 3.28 million international tourists visited the country. **This is 5.3% more than in the same month in 2014**, according to the survey conducted by the Office of the Deputy Director General of Knowledge and Tourism Studies in the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism. February witnessed a 20.5% increase in entries from Italy as well as Switzerland (+ 13.5%) and the USA (+ 12.3%).

All major source markets experienced growth in the first two months of the year, with the largest increases being for Italy (+ 20.4%), United States (+ 18.7%), Switzerland (+ 9.4%), Belgium (+ 8.6%) and Portugal (+ 8.3%).

From January to February, the UK, the main source market for tourist visitors to Spain, recorded growth of 2.7%, reaching 1.2 million visitors and representing 18.9% of total inflows. It was followed by France which comprised 15.7% of total arrivals and grew by 2.1% to over one million visitors. Germany ranked third as the source country for tourists with 972,455 visitors in the first two months of 2015, representing a 3.4% increase and 15.1% of total inflows to Spain.

In the other markets, Italy, with 399,966 tourists, increased the number of tourists visiting Spain by 20.4%, representing 6.2% of the total. **Inflows from the rest of Europe as a whole increased by 16.5%, amounting to a total of 351,106 tourists and 5.4% of all arrivals.**

The survey shows 121,313 tourist arrivals from the United States, an increase of 18.7% and 1.9% of total visitors to Spain. In contrast, with 706,025 arrivals, the number of visitors from Scandinavia fell by 6.1%, despite being the fourth source market and comprising 10.9% of foreign tourist inflows to Spain.

Russia provided Spain with 20.2% fewer visitors (80,136 tourists) in the first two months of the year, while the Netherlands recorded a decline of 3.3% with 242,694 tourists. For the rest of America, the number of visitors also fell by 4.3% to 249,061 visitors.

Date: 2015-03-30

Article link:

<http://www.tourism-review.com/spain-45-increase-in-intl-visitors-in-january-and-february-news4503>