# British couple arrested in Ibiza after trying to skip £2,700 cruise bill amid rising tourist tensions



Two British holidaymakers have found themselves in legal trouble in Ibiza after allegedly attempting to flee a cruise ship to avoid an extravagant bill for room service amounting to nearly £2,700. The couple, aged 23 and 18, was arrested at Ibiza Airport shortly after hastily leaving the vessel when it docked on the island. According to a spokesperson from the National Police in Ibiza, they are facing charges of fraud for trying to evade payment for services consumed during their stay aboard the cruise liner.

On May 21, the pair was said to have hurriedly gathered their belongings and attempted to make their escape around 3 PM, only to be intercepted by police after crew members reported their behaviour. The police operation that ensued successfully led to their apprehension before they could board a flight to depart the island. While the specifics of their arraignment and possible court appearance remain unclear, their story sheds light on a broader issue prevalent in popular tourist destinations like Ibiza, which is grappling with problems related to unruly tourist behaviour.

These incidents are not isolated. Just last year, locals across Spain were expressing their frustration with "overtourism," which they argue has led to rising living costs and a degradation of their quality of life. In one particularly controversial case, a local resident posted a video on social media depicting a chaotic flight filled with rowdy tourists heading to Ibiza, calling for stricter regulations on alcohol consumption aboard flights. That video highlighted a rising sentiment among residents who feel that the influx of tourists often deteriorates their living conditions. The individual complained about fellow passengers “acting like wild animals” during the flight, which has sparked dialogue about the need for change in how the tourism industry operates.

Spain's Balearic Islands, including Ibiza, have been at the forefront of this discourse, witnessing significant protests from locals demanding measures to mitigate the impact of tourism. The Spanish government has attempted to address these concerns through regulations, including limited alcohol sales in certain situations and the implementation of rent caps aimed at protecting local residents from being priced out of their own communities. However, these measures have met with mixed results, and the ongoing protests indicate that the situation is likely to persist.

Further complicating the narrative of tourists misbehaving abroad, other recent incidents in Ibiza have seen various arrest cases, including a group of six individuals faced with accusations of refusing to pay a €12,300 restaurant bill. These incidents highlight a pattern of behaviour that raises alarms for local authorities, prompting discussions on how best to regulate tourism and uphold communal standards without stifling an industry that is vital for many local economies.

Considering these factors, it is apparent that the challenges presented by mass tourism in Ibiza and similar destinations require urgent and meaningful dialogue among the government, local residents, and tourists. The balance between maintaining a vibrant tourism industry and safeguarding the quality of life for residents is delicate and must be navigated carefully to ensure that both communities and visitors can coexist harmoniously.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743809/Brits-arrested-fleeing-cruise-Ibiza-settling-bill.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://cadenaser.com/baleares/2025/05/23/detienen-por-estafa-en-ibiza-a-una-pareja-que-se-fue-de-un-crucero-sin-pagar-mas-de-3000-euros-radio-ibiza/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://cadenaser.com/baleares/2025/05/23/detienen-por-estafa-en-ibiza-a-una-pareja-que-se-fue-de-un-crucero-sin-pagar-mas-de-3000-euros-radio-ibiza/), [[4]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1931761/british-tourist-refuse-to-pay-restaurant-bill-ibiza)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://inspain.news/british-man-arrested-in-ibiza-over-e12000-restaurant-bill-dispute/), [[7]](https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2024/05/25/124203/mallorca-tourism-britons-arrested-palma-airport-for-not-paying-hotel-bill.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.surinenglish.com/spain/six-people-arrested-ibiza-after-refusing-pay-20240805183848-nt.html), [[5]](https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2024/08/05/126321/mallorca-tourism-briton-arrested-for-refusing-pay-000-euro-restaurant-bill-suspect-accompanied-five-women-ibiza.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743809/Brits-arrested-fleeing-cruise-Ibiza-settling-bill.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://cadenaser.com/baleares/2025/05/23/detienen-por-estafa-en-ibiza-a-una-pareja-que-se-fue-de-un-crucero-sin-pagar-mas-de-3000-euros-radio-ibiza/> - A 23-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman from Britain were arrested in Ibiza for allegedly attempting to evade a €3,000 bill on a cruise ship. The couple hurriedly left the ship upon docking, but were apprehended at Ibiza Airport before they could depart the island. ([cadenaser.com](https://cadenaser.com/baleares/2025/05/23/detienen-por-estafa-en-ibiza-a-una-pareja-que-se-fue-de-un-crucero-sin-pagar-mas-de-3000-euros-radio-ibiza/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.surinenglish.com/spain/six-people-arrested-ibiza-after-refusing-pay-20240805183848-nt.html> - In August 2024, six individuals, including a 77-year-old British man and five women aged 24 to 39 from Argentina, Greece, and Poland, were arrested in Ibiza for refusing to pay a €12,300 restaurant bill. They claimed a seventh person had invited them, but had left before the bill arrived. ([surinenglish.com](https://www.surinenglish.com/spain/six-people-arrested-ibiza-after-refusing-pay-20240805183848-nt.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1931761/british-tourist-refuse-to-pay-restaurant-bill-ibiza> - A 77-year-old British man and five women were arrested in Ibiza for refusing to pay a €12,300 restaurant bill. They alleged that a seventh person had invited them and left before the bill arrived. ([express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1931761/british-tourist-refuse-to-pay-restaurant-bill-ibiza?utm_source=openai))
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6. <https://inspain.news/british-man-arrested-in-ibiza-over-e12000-restaurant-bill-dispute/> - A 77-year-old British man and five women were arrested in Ibiza for refusing to pay a €12,291 restaurant bill. They claimed a seventh person had invited them and left before the bill arrived. ([inspain.news](https://inspain.news/british-man-arrested-in-ibiza-over-e12000-restaurant-bill-dispute/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2024/05/25/124203/mallorca-tourism-britons-arrested-palma-airport-for-not-paying-hotel-bill.html> - Two British tourists were arrested at Palma Airport in May 2024 for attempting to leave a hotel in Palmanova without paying a €192 bill. They were intercepted before departure and taken to court, where they paid the outstanding amount. ([majorcadailybulletin.com](https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2024/05/25/124203/mallorca-tourism-britons-arrested-palma-airport-for-not-paying-hotel-bill.html?utm_source=openai))