# British tourists queue from dawn to win sunbed battles in Spanish resorts



In a striking demonstration of holiday desperation, British tourists have been seen queuing for over an hour at the Barceló Lanzarote Active Resort in the Canary Islands, all in pursuit of prime sunbed real estate. On May 28, footage captured diners resorting to alarm clocks as early as 8am, despite pool openings not scheduled until 9:30am. The lines of determined sunseekers, armed with towels, sunscreen, and flip-flops, have become a routine spectacle at this popular resort. Isabelle Hanssen, a guest from the Netherlands, observed this phenomenon, noting that the queue often consists of British holidaymakers with a smattering of Germans.

This scenario reflects a broader trend in holiday behaviours, as British tourists across popular destinations in Spain engage in their own version of sunbed warfare. Reports from Mallorca indicate that some guests have begun placing towels at pool entrances as early as 6:30am, leading hoteliers to adapt by delaying pool openings. The lengths some travellers will go to reserve a spot underscore the intense competition for limited seating around hotel pools, particularly among middle-aged and older visitors. Similar scenes unfolded in Tenerife, where tourists queued as early as 6am to secure sunbeds at the Spring Hotel Bitacora, showcasing a well-orchestrated ballet of hurried placements and competitive dashes upon opening.

The rising tensions surrounding this increasingly ritualistic struggle for sunbeds have attracted criticism, with some viewers branding the behaviour as “pathetic” and indicative of deeper issues around holiday etiquette. Reports of confrontations over sunbed claims have become commonplace, such as an incident involving two British holidaymakers engaged in a heated dispute at a Lanzarote hotel and another altercation in Turkey where a tourist faced violence over a sunbed complaint. Such incidents shed light on the darker side of this holiday phenomenon, highlighting the lengths to which some individuals will go to secure leisure time, sparking outrage and incredulity among both tourists and local residents.

Even as this spectacle unfolds, the debate over more equitable sunbed allocation practices persists, with some commentators suggesting that hotels should consider assigning sunbeds per room to mitigate the chaos. A refreshing yet cautious proposal, it speaks volumes about the frustrations many tourists experience: trying to enjoy a leisurely holiday while entangled in the competitive fervour of daily sunbed reservations.

As the holiday season rolls forward, the stakes for securing sunbathing spots show no sign of abating. Locals in various Spanish resorts have taken to mocking the queuing behaviours of tourists, with unflattering terms like “the walking dead” being thrown around in jest. The practice of reserving sunbeds with towels remains a point of contention, leading to rising tensions between locals and visitors. As these antics capture headlines and social media attention, one must wonder what, if anything, can be done to bring a sense of order—and dignity—back to beach holidays.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14760907/Sunbed-wars-begin-British-holidaymakers-queue-HOUR-secure-best-poolside-spots-Canary-Islands-resort.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/holiday/hotels/2023/06/21/114221/british-holidaymakers-into-overdrive-beat-hotels-sunbed-war-mallorca.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/holiday/hotels/2023/06/21/114221/british-holidaymakers-into-overdrive-beat-hotels-sunbed-war-mallorca.html), [[3]](https://www.express.co.uk/travel/articles/1654865/Spain-sunbed-wars-holidaymakers-queue-hotel-tenerife)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14760907/Sunbed-wars-begin-British-holidaymakers-queue-HOUR-secure-best-poolside-spots-Canary-Islands-resort.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.canarianweekly.com/posts/Hotel-guests-told-go-back-to-bed-after-taking-sunbed-hogging-to-extreme-levels)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/2024/08/12/watch-british-tourists-are-branded-the-walking-dead-by-locals-in-benidorm-over-video-of-early-morning-queue-for-sunbeds/), [[6]](https://metro.co.uk/2023/08/09/benidorm-tourists-frantically-dash-to-secure-sunbeds-19303021/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/2024/05/26/watch-british-tourists-in-benidorm-are-kicked-off-their-sunbeds-by-a-hotel-security-guard-after-trying-to-bag-them-too-early/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14760907/Sunbed-wars-begin-British-holidaymakers-queue-HOUR-secure-best-poolside-spots-Canary-Islands-resort.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/holiday/hotels/2023/06/21/114221/british-holidaymakers-into-overdrive-beat-hotels-sunbed-war-mallorca.html> - In June 2023, British holidaymakers in Mallorca adopted new tactics to secure sunbeds, including placing towels at pool entrances before opening times. Some hotels responded by delaying pool openings to deter early risers. Guests reported queues forming as early as 6:30 am, with towels lining up outside locked pool doors. This behaviour was predominantly observed among middle-aged and older tourists, highlighting the lengths to which some will go to reserve prime poolside spots.
3. <https://www.express.co.uk/travel/articles/1654865/Spain-sunbed-wars-holidaymakers-queue-hotel-tenerife> - In August 2023, British tourists at the Spring Hotel Bitacora in Tenerife were filmed queuing from 6 am to secure sunbeds by the pool. The hotel's pool opened at 8 am, leading guests to wait up to 90 minutes. Upon opening, many rushed to claim their preferred spots, with some even running to beat others. This scene underscores the intense competition among holidaymakers for limited poolside seating.
4. <https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/2024/08/12/watch-british-tourists-are-branded-the-walking-dead-by-locals-in-benidorm-over-video-of-early-morning-queue-for-sunbeds/> - In August 2024, British tourists in Benidorm were filmed queuing for sunbeds at the Hotel Sol Pelicanos Ocas. A security guard released a cordon, allowing guests to rush to the pool area. Locals mocked the tourists, referring to them as 'the walking dead' and criticising the practice of reserving sunbeds with towels. This incident highlights the ongoing tensions between tourists and locals over sunbed reservations in popular Spanish resorts.
5. <https://www.canarianweekly.com/posts/Hotel-guests-told-go-back-to-bed-after-taking-sunbed-hogging-to-extreme-levels> - In June 2023, guests at a Tenerife hotel were filmed unstacking sunbeds at dawn to reserve spots before the pool opened. A fellow guest captured the footage, urging them to 'go back to bed.' This behaviour reflects the lengths some tourists will go to secure prime poolside positions, leading to tensions with other guests and hotel staff.
6. <https://metro.co.uk/2023/08/09/benidorm-tourists-frantically-dash-to-secure-sunbeds-19303021/> - In August 2023, tourists at the Melia Hotel in Benidorm were filmed sprinting to secure sunbeds as soon as the pool area opened at 9 am. Some guests sent their children ahead to claim spots, highlighting the intense competition for limited poolside seating. This behaviour underscores the lengths to which holidaymakers will go to ensure a prime spot by the pool.
7. <https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/2024/05/26/watch-british-tourists-in-benidorm-are-kicked-off-their-sunbeds-by-a-hotel-security-guard-after-trying-to-bag-them-too-early/> - In May 2024, two British tourists at the Melia Hotel in Benidorm were escorted off their sunbeds by a security guard after attempting to claim them before the official opening time. The hotel's policy restricted access to the pool area until 9 am, leading to tensions when guests tried to reserve spots early. This incident highlights the ongoing issues surrounding sunbed reservations in popular Spanish resorts.