# British tourists spark ‘sunbed wars’ frenzy at Magaluf resort pool



In a scene reminiscent of a sporting event, British holidaymakers at a resort in Magaluf have become the focus of viral attention after a video captured them racing to secure prime sunbeds as soon as the pool area opened. The footage, filmed at the Sol Barbados hotel, shows eager guests queuing before the opening and then sprinting towards the sunbeds, quickly placing towels and personal items to claim their spots. This spectacle has sparked a mix of amusement and embarrassment among onlookers, with some tourists reflecting on the lengths people go to for sunbathing privileges.

This incident, which occurred during a busy holiday week from July 24 to July 31, 2024, illustrates a widespread phenomenon among holidaymakers in popular destinations. An anonymous tourist from Birmingham described the scene as both entertaining and deeply concerning, commenting that such behaviour exemplifies a troubling aspect of holiday culture. With dozens of guests jostling for the best spots, the competitive atmosphere was palpable, leading to concerns about safety and fairness in the race for loungers.

The sunbed rush isn't unique to Magaluf; similar scenes have played out across various resorts in Spain and other holiday hotspots. A recent report from Gran Canaria highlighted that British tourists often queue as early as 7:30 am to secure loungers, creating a frenzy as the pool opens at 8 am. Reports indicate that hotel staff are increasingly frustrated, with many establishments now implementing policies to combat the issue. This includes the removal of unattended towels after a set period to encourage fair use of sunbeds, reflecting a growing recognition of the problematic nature of this behaviour.

The phenomenon has garnered attention on social media, with tourists using platforms like TikTok to share their experiences. One particularly sensational TikTok video showed rows of sunbeds commandeered by towels, effectively rendering them unusable for hours at a time. "Absolutely ridiculous," one holidaymaker described it, labelling it the "worst sunbed wars" they'd ever witnessed. Such tactics have led to complaints from those unable to find a place to relax, as entire rows of loungers remain reserved yet unused throughout the day.

Further illustrating the intensity of the situation, some tourists have been reported to queue overnight, staking their claims on loungers as early as 6:30 am, leading to what has been called a ‘crazy’ system that defies hotel policies against reserving sunbeds. Local tourism officials have noted a generational divide, with older tourists often adhering to traditional etiquette while younger guests are more aggressively competing for the best spots.

As the sunbed wars escalate, many are left pondering the cultural implications of such aggressive behaviours while on holiday. The balance between relaxation and competition is becoming increasingly skewed, raising questions about how resorts can adapt to ensure that all guests have a fair chance to enjoy the sun and the pool.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14787881/Video-Ready-set-Brits-holiday-race-reserve-sunbeds-Magaluf-resort-pool.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.thestar.co.uk/watch-this/british-tourists-run-claim-sunbeds-video-4736418)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14787881/Video-Ready-set-Brits-holiday-race-reserve-sunbeds-Magaluf-resort-pool.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/holiday/hotels/2023/06/15/114077/sunbed-war-has-broken-out-mallorca-video.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.express.co.uk/travel/articles/836148/viral-video-imgur-sun-loungers-hotel-holiday), [[5]](https://metro.co.uk/2017/07/31/brit-tourists-filmed-sprinting-to-bag-sunbeds-nearest-swimming-pool-6819424/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.dailystar.co.uk/travel/travel-news/brits-defy-sunbed-rules-majorca-30270375), [[7]](https://travel.nine.com.au/latest/spain-resort-guests-running-to-pool-sunbeds-video/eef69808-a5bd-4fc6-acc1-9c84d4b2efa1)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14787881/Video-Ready-set-Brits-holiday-race-reserve-sunbeds-Magaluf-resort-pool.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thestar.co.uk/watch-this/british-tourists-run-claim-sunbeds-video-4736418> - A video captures British holidaymakers at the Sol Barbados hotel in Magaluf, Mallorca, queuing and then sprinting to secure the best sunbeds as soon as the pool area opens. The footage shows guests placing towels and belongings on sunbeds to reserve them, leading to a scene of eager competition. An anonymous tourist from Birmingham expressed shock at the sight, describing it as both amusing and embarrassing. The incident occurred during a stay at the Meliá Hotels resort from July 24 to July 31, 2024.
3. <https://www.express.co.uk/travel/articles/836148/viral-video-imgur-sun-loungers-hotel-holiday> - A viral video from a Gran Canaria hotel shows British tourists racing to claim sun loungers as soon as the pool area opens. Guests queue at the entrance, and upon opening, rush to secure the best spots, placing towels and bags on the loungers. This behaviour has become problematic, with hotel staff instructed to remove unattended towels after a few hours. The video highlights the lengths some holidaymakers go to in order to reserve sunbeds, even if it means leaving their belongings unattended.
4. <https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/holiday/hotels/2023/06/15/114077/sunbed-war-has-broken-out-mallorca-video.html> - In Mallorca, a British tourist shared a TikTok video highlighting the extreme measures guests take to reserve sunbeds. The footage shows rows of poolside loungers covered with guests' towels in the evening, effectively reserving them for the entire week. The tourist described the scene as 'absolutely ridiculous,' noting that the sunbeds remain unoccupied, preventing others from using them. This behaviour has been termed the 'worst sunbed wars' they've ever seen.
5. <https://metro.co.uk/2017/07/31/brit-tourists-filmed-sprinting-to-bag-sunbeds-nearest-swimming-pool-6819424/> - British holidaymakers at the Servatur Waikiki resort in Gran Canaria were filmed sprinting to claim sunbeds near the pool as soon as it opened. Guests queued from 7:30 am, and upon the pool's opening at 8 am, rushed to secure the best spots, placing towels on multiple loungers. Hotel insiders noted that British and Irish tourists were the most aggressive in reserving sunbeds, leading to staff removing unattended towels after a few hours to ensure fairness.
6. <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/travel/travel-news/brits-defy-sunbed-rules-majorca-30270375> - At a Majorca resort, British tourists defied sunbed reservation rules by queuing overnight to secure loungers. Guests lined up towels outside the pool area before it opened, with some arriving as early as 6:30 am to reserve spots. This behaviour led to a 'crazy' overnight queuing system, with tourists aiming to reserve sun loungers despite hotel policies against such practices.
7. <https://travel.nine.com.au/latest/spain-resort-guests-running-to-pool-sunbeds-video/eef69808-a5bd-4fc6-acc1-9c84d4b2efa1> - A video from the Spring Hotel Bitacora Playa de las Américas in Spain shows holidaymakers racing to claim sunbeds as soon as the pool area opens. Guests gather at the gates, and upon opening, surge towards the limited number of sunbeds. The video, shared on TikTok, highlights the competitive nature of securing poolside loungers, with some guests reportedly waiting as long as 90 minutes to nab a spot.