# Majorca braces for large-scale protests over rising overtourism on June 15



UK tourists planning to visit Majorca are being cautioned about upcoming protests against overtourism set for Sunday, June 15. As local residents express their frustrations over the soaring figures of visitors and the resultant strain on the island's infrastructure, demonstrators will gather in Plaça Espanya at 6pm. The protests are part of a broader movement taking place across popular Spanish destinations, including Ibiza and Menorca, and are organised by the Southern Europe Network Against Touristification.

This year's protests echo those held during the same season last year, when similar concerns were raised by the group Menys Turisme Més Vida (Less Tourism, More Life). Highlighting issues like overcrowding, housing shortages, and environmental degradation, the group argues that the boom in tourism is detrimental to the local way of life. In a statement shared online, they condemned the Balearic government's focus on attracting wealthy tourists and the accompanying billion-dollar developments, while local housing problems remain unresolved. The protests anticipated for this summer aim to amplify these messages, with estimates suggesting participation from approximately 60 groups, trade unions, and environmental organisations.

The impact of tourism on local communities is significant; tourism accounts for about 45% of the Balearic Islands' economy, making it both a vital and burdensome industry. A protest in May 2024 saw around 10,000 people march in Palma, demanding limits on property purchases by non-residents and better control over holiday accommodations. These concerns were echoed in other regions such as the Canary Islands, where similar protests were held over the rising cost of living attributed to mass tourism.

While demonstrators are advocating for sustainable tourism practices, the Balearic Islands’ tourism minister cautioned against any "acts of hate" towards tourists, urging visitors to maintain their holiday plans despite the protests. This sentiment aims to balance the necessity of tourism for the local economy with the legitimate grievances of residents facing the adverse effects of such high visitor numbers. The minister emphasised that enhancing the tourists' experience should not come at the expense of local communities.

Majorca's residents are not opposed to tourism per se; rather, they wish for it to be managed in a way that respects the local culture and environment. As articulated in recent social media posts, locals want to share their heritage and natural beauty with visitors but are calling for a more sustainable approach that does not compromise their identity. The protests this June will serve as a platform for a continued dialogue on finding a balance between tourism and livability for those who call the islands home.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/travel/uk-tourists-majorca-warned-overtourism-31826624), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/us/news/2024/07/26/acts-of-hate-tourists-not-tolerated-balearic-minister/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/travel/uk-tourists-majorca-warned-overtourism-31826624), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-protest-against-mass-tourism-spains-balearic-islands-2024-05-25/), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-protest-spains-mallorca-against-mass-tourism-2024-07-21/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/07/22/thousands-in-mallorca-demand-less-tourism-more-life-in-pushback-against-overtourism), [[6]](https://www.euronews.com/travel/2024/08/12/demonstrators-in-mallorca-protest-high-costs-of-housing-and-saturated-public-services)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/travel/uk-tourists-majorca-warned-overtourism-31826624> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-protest-against-mass-tourism-spains-balearic-islands-2024-05-25/> - In May 2024, approximately 10,000 individuals protested in Palma de Mallorca against mass tourism, demanding restrictions on property purchases by non-residents and more control over holiday accommodations. Protesters argued that the influx of tourists has driven up living costs and made housing unaffordable for locals. Similar protests occurred in Menorca and Ibiza, highlighting widespread concerns over the impact of tourism on local communities. Tourism constitutes 45% of the Balearic Islands’ economy, making the region highly dependent on holidaymakers. Demonstrations also took place in April in the Canary Islands, with locals seeking a cap on tourist numbers to manage the impact on housing costs and rentals. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-protest-against-mass-tourism-spains-balearic-islands-2024-05-25/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/07/22/thousands-in-mallorca-demand-less-tourism-more-life-in-pushback-against-overtourism> - In July 2024, thousands demonstrated in Mallorca against the negative impacts of overtourism. Organisers of the march stated that uncontrolled tourist numbers are causing a drop in wages, loss of quality of life, and an increase in housing prices. Demonstrators marched under the banner 'Let's change course - let's put limits on tourism', with around 3,000 people from over 140 organisations taking to the streets. They were demanding action before a summer season that experts say will set new records in the city and the wider region of Catalonia. ([euronews.com](https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/07/22/thousands-in-mallorca-demand-less-tourism-more-life-in-pushback-against-overtourism?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/us/news/2024/07/26/acts-of-hate-tourists-not-tolerated-balearic-minister/> - In July 2024, the Balearic Islands' tourism minister warned that 'acts of hate' towards tourists would not be tolerated, urging holidaymakers to ignore protests and continue visiting the Spanish archipelago. About 20,000 protesters filled the streets of Palma, Majorca's capital, demonstrating against mass tourism with posters aimed at British and German visitors. Despite the protests, officials aimed to limit any long-term damage to the vital tourism industry. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/us/news/2024/07/26/acts-of-hate-tourists-not-tolerated-balearic-minister/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-protest-spains-mallorca-against-mass-tourism-2024-07-21/> - In July 2024, thousands of anti-tourism activists protested in Palma de Mallorca against mass tourism, a crucial industry for the country. Carrying models of planes and cruise ships, about 10,000 protesters demanded less tourism, citing increased housing costs and unaffordability for locals. The protest is part of a series of demonstrations in popular destinations like Barcelona, Malaga, and the Canary Islands. The Balearic Islands, a major tourist hub, generates 45% of its GDP from tourism, attracting 14.4 million visitors last year. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-protest-spains-mallorca-against-mass-tourism-2024-07-21/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.euronews.com/travel/2024/08/12/demonstrators-in-mallorca-protest-high-costs-of-housing-and-saturated-public-services> - In August 2024, protesters in Mallorca stormed a popular beach in the latest protest against overtourism. Members of the 'Occupem Les Nostres Platges' ('Occupy Our Beaches') movement gathered at the popular Balneario 6 area of S'Arenal beach in Palma. More than 100 protesters laid out their towels and took a symbolic dip in the sea, calling for stricter limits on tourism. Demonstrators on S'Arenal beach said they are no longer able to enjoy their area as it is overrun by tourists. ([euronews.com](https://www.euronews.com/travel/2024/08/12/demonstrators-in-mallorca-protest-high-costs-of-housing-and-saturated-public-services?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2024/05/30/majorca-islanders-vow-to-block-tourists-from-beaches/> - In May 2024, islanders in Majorca vowed to block tourists from 'every centimetre' of beach as protests against the effects of over-tourism intensified. Tourism has brought great wealth to the Balearic Islands, but locals now say they are being choked by traffic congestion, high prices, overcrowding, and unaffordable rents. After about 10,000 islanders marched through the streets of Palma, the capital, protesting against saturation tourism, new demonstrations are planned. Similar protests have occurred in Ibiza and Minorca, the two other Balearic Islands. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2024/05/30/majorca-islanders-vow-to-block-tourists-from-beaches/?utm_source=openai))