# Canary Islands face tourism tensions as activists plan disruption and government reviews laws



The Canary Islands are on the cusp of significant changes in their tourism sector amid growing tensions and protests over the impacts of the influx of visitors. Activist groups have announced plans to launch a campaign from May 18 aimed at disrupting tourist hotspots and challenging political figures, signalling increasing unrest in the region, particularly on the island of Tenerife.

The activist group Canarias tiene un límite (The Canaries Have a Limit) has been vocal in condemning the current tourism model, which it describes as "predatory" and exclusive to a privileged few. Speaking about their forthcoming actions, the group declared, "From now on, we will take our fight to the very spaces where their predatory model is perpetuated." They further committed to boycotting public events, confronting politicians during public appearances, and occupying symbolic tourist areas until "real change is achieved." The group characterised their campaign as "firmer, more direct, [and] more uncomfortable for those who refuse to listen and take real measures," reflecting widespread frustration among residents.

In response to these challenges, the Canary Islands government launched a public consultation on April 21 to update key tourism legislation for the first time in decades. The review targets the General Tourism Law of 1995 and the 2013 Law on Tourism Renewal and Modernisation, aiming to bring regulations in line with "current challenges and realities facing the islands."

Alfonso Cabello, spokesperson for the regional government, emphasised the inclusive nature of the consultation, stating, "We're doing this the Canary Islands way - extending a hand and listening to everyone." Jessica de León, the Islands' Minister of Tourism and Employment, highlighted the need to balance tourism with residents' well-being, underscoring that "The new regulation must align with today's social and environmental realities, correcting outdated elements and integrating changes from national and regional rulings, including Constitutional Court decisions."

Public responses from visitors and observers have varied. One British commentator expressed sympathy for the challenges residents face, saying, "You have to feel some sympathy with the Islanders, they need tourism but they need the right kind of tourism. All inclusive kills the local economy however at the same time they need to manage the costs charged and the amount of tourists that can be on the island at the same time." Another visitor recommended British tourist destinations as alternatives, naming the North Yorkshire Moors, Whitby, Scarborough, and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. A third observer suggested the government could implement housing initiatives, possibly limiting AirBnB properties to a small proportion of available housing stock to improve living conditions for residents.

The tourism sector is pivotal to the Canaries’ economy, making the outcomes of these protests and legislative updates critical to the islands' future. The ongoing public consultation and activist campaign highlight the tensions between maintaining a thriving tourist industry and protecting the social and environmental fabric of the communities that host it.

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

## Bibliography

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7. <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/canary-islands-set-overhaul-tourism-31506807> - Please view link - unable to able to access data