# Aggressive Hyalomma lusitanicum Ticks Found in Popular Tourist Regions, Carrying Dangerous Diseases



Large, aggressive ticks known as Hyalomma lusitanicum are currently prevalent in various regions popular with UK tourists, including Spain, Portugal, southern Italy, and the Balearic Islands. Health experts have noted the presence of these ticks in multiple locations including Spain, North Africa, Italy, Malta, Algeria, and Morocco. The ticks are known to actively seek out their prey, often running towards them once their presence is detected.

These ticks are carriers of diseases such as the deadly Crimean-Congo fever, and they can also transmit Rickettsia aeschlimannii along with several species of Babesia, Anaplasma, Theileria, and Trypanosoma, which can infect wildlife, livestock, and humans. Their activity begins in spring when temperatures average 10.5°C and they seek hosts when daily temperatures range from 22°C to 27°C.

Reports from the CDC indicate that Hyalomma lusitanicum has been recorded in numerous other countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey. Specialists suggest these ticks could expand further into Eastern and Northern Europe as temperatures rise.