# Hotel strikes threaten holiday plans in Balearic Islands amid wage dispute and rising tourism tensions



As summer approaches, tourists eyeing holidays in the Balearic Islands—Mallorca, Ibiza, and Menorca—face potential disruptions due to impending strikes by hotel workers. The Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT), the largest hospitality union in the region, has announced plans for multiple strike days in June and July, aiming to highlight ongoing frustrations regarding pay and working conditions. The decision reflects a growing discontent that has been fermenting within the hospitality sector, exacerbated by stalled negotiations over a new collective agreement.

The workers' demands are significant. They are seeking a 19 per cent wage increase over the next three years, while employers have only offered a rise of 8.5 per cent, a disparity that appears to have widened tensions significantly. UGT's general secretary for the Balearics, José García Relucio, has stated that if no agreement is reached, the union will not hesitate to proceed with a multi-day strike, beginning with an initial protest scheduled for June 6 outside the Mallorcan Hotel Federation, followed by further actions throughout July.

This wave of unrest is part of a broader trend in Spain, where discontent among hospitality workers has been growing. Recently, numerous protests have engulfed the country, particularly in tourism-heavy regions, as locals voice their concerns over the impacts of mass tourism. In tandem with these worker strikes, Spain's government is also grappling with regulatory challenges associated with the booming holiday rental market. Recently, over 65,000 holiday homes were removed from platforms like Airbnb due to illegal listings, highlighting ongoing tensions between tourism and local housing rights.

The crackdown is seen as a necessary move amid rising public anger over how short-term rentals affect local housing, particularly in major cities. Indeed, data suggest there is a correlation between the expansion of tourist rentals and increased rental prices for locals, leading authorities to consider new tax regimes and stricter regulations on short-term lets to combat the issue.

As British tourists continue to favour Spain—evidenced by a recent YouGov survey showing 15.9% of respondents identifying it as their top destination for 2025—the impending strikes could disrupt plans for thousands. With the UK and Spain maintaining a long-standing tourism relationship, such unrest may sour the experience for holidaymakers who traditionally flock to the sun-drenched islands.

The situation is further strained by recent anti-tourism protests in the Canary Islands, where demonstrators have called for measures to limit the number of visitors, citing overcrowding and resource depletion as major concerns. In this charged atmosphere, both workers and local residents are rallying for sustainable tourism practices, demanding that the benefits of tourism be more equitably shared with the communities that host visitors.

As the hospitality industry navigates these complex issues, the balance between catering to tourists and addressing the needs of local communities remains precariously tipped. Should hotel strikes proceed as planned, the ramifications for holidaymakers—and the broader Spanish tourism model—could be profound, reflecting a crucial juncture for stakeholder negotiations in one of the world's most popular tourist destinations. In this rapidly evolving landscape, the call for change could be the necessary catalyst for cultivating a more sustainable future for Spain’s iconic tourist regions.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14740019/hotel-strike-Brits-favourite-holiday-islands.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://cadenaser.com/baleares/2025/05/22/la-hosteleria-balear-ante-el-primer-match-ball-ugt-calendariza-movilizaciones-y-amenaza-con-huelgas-radio-mallorca/)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14740019/hotel-strike-Brits-favourite-holiday-islands.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://cadenaser.com/baleares/2025/05/22/la-hosteleria-balear-ante-el-primer-match-ball-ugt-calendariza-movilizaciones-y-amenaza-con-huelgas-radio-mallorca/)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14740019/hotel-strike-Brits-favourite-holiday-islands.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.surinenglish.com/spain/airbnb-charged-for-including-thousands-illegal-ads-20241219080012-nt.html), [[7]](https://www.euractiv.com/section/platforms/news/spain-to-crack-down-on-holiday-rentals-to-address-housing-crisis/)
* Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14740019/hotel-strike-Brits-favourite-holiday-islands.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2025/01/13/130451/spain-eyes-tax-hike-for-holiday-rentals-bid-lower-rents.html), [[7]](https://www.euractiv.com/section/platforms/news/spain-to-crack-down-on-holiday-rentals-to-address-housing-crisis/)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14740019/hotel-strike-Brits-favourite-holiday-islands.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.idealista.com/en/news/property-for-rent-in-spain/2025/04/25/839941-canary-islands-reach-agreement-with-airbnb-to-remove-holiday-rental-listings)
* Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14740019/hotel-strike-Brits-favourite-holiday-islands.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.rentalscaleup.com/spains-top-court-upholds-barcelonas-short-term-rental-ban-airbnb-pushes-back/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14740019/hotel-strike-Brits-favourite-holiday-islands.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://cadenaser.com/baleares/2025/05/22/la-hosteleria-balear-ante-el-primer-match-ball-ugt-calendariza-movilizaciones-y-amenaza-con-huelgas-radio-mallorca/> - The UGT union in the Balearic Islands has announced a series of mobilizations, potentially leading to multiple days of strikes in July, due to stagnation in negotiations for a new hospitality agreement. The union accuses employers of not addressing key worker demands, including significant wage increases and reduced working hours. José García Relucio, UGT's general secretary, stated that without an agreement in principle, they will call for a multi-day strike. The planned actions include a rally on June 6th outside the Mallorcan Hotel Federation, with further actions likely to follow over several days in July. ([cadenaser.com](https://cadenaser.com/baleares/2025/05/22/la-hosteleria-balear-ante-el-primer-match-ball-ugt-calendariza-movilizaciones-y-amenaza-con-huelgas-radio-mallorca/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.surinenglish.com/spain/airbnb-charged-for-including-thousands-illegal-ads-20241219080012-nt.html> - Spain's Ministry of Consumer Affairs has initiated a disciplinary case against Airbnb for listing thousands of illegal advertisements on its platform. Despite previous warnings to remove these listings, Airbnb failed to comply, leading to the opening of the case. If found guilty, Airbnb could face fines up to €100,000 or between four and six times the illicit profit obtained. ([surinenglish.com](https://www.surinenglish.com/spain/airbnb-charged-for-including-thousands-illegal-ads-20241219080012-nt.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2025/01/13/130451/spain-eyes-tax-hike-for-holiday-rentals-bid-lower-rents.html> - Spain is considering increasing taxes on holiday rentals to align them with business tax rates. This move aims to address the housing crisis and rising rents, as short-term rentals have been linked to increased housing costs. Authorities are also investigating Airbnb for failing to remove inaccurate rental advertisements. ([majorcadailybulletin.com](https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2025/01/13/130451/spain-eyes-tax-hike-for-holiday-rentals-bid-lower-rents.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.idealista.com/en/news/property-for-rent-in-spain/2025/04/25/839941-canary-islands-reach-agreement-with-airbnb-to-remove-holiday-rental-listings> - The Canary Islands government and Airbnb have signed an agreement to identify and remove holiday rental listings that breach regulations in the archipelago. Over 150 listings have been removed in three weeks after being flagged by the regional government's inspection service for non-compliance. This collaboration aims to ensure transparency within the sector and protect residents and regulated tourist accommodations. ([idealista.com](https://www.idealista.com/en/news/property-for-rent-in-spain/2025/04/25/839941-canary-islands-reach-agreement-with-airbnb-to-remove-holiday-rental-listings?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.rentalscaleup.com/spains-top-court-upholds-barcelonas-short-term-rental-ban-airbnb-pushes-back/> - Spain's Constitutional Court has upheld Barcelona's plan to phase out all short-term rental licenses by 2028. The ruling dismissed claims that the ban violates private property rights, granting the city full legal authority to eliminate its 10,000 licensed tourist apartments. Airbnb has pushed back against the decision, highlighting potential impacts on the short-term rental market. ([rentalscaleup.com](https://www.rentalscaleup.com/spains-top-court-upholds-barcelonas-short-term-rental-ban-airbnb-pushes-back/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/platforms/news/spain-to-crack-down-on-holiday-rentals-to-address-housing-crisis/> - Spain's government announced a crackdown on short-term and seasonal holiday lettings amid rising anger from locals who feel priced out of the housing market. The government will investigate listings on platforms such as Airbnb and Booking.com to verify if they have licenses. Consumer rights minister Pablo Bustinduy stated that advertising unlicensed properties should be illegal and punished. ([euractiv.com](https://www.euractiv.com/section/platforms/news/spain-to-crack-down-on-holiday-rentals-to-address-housing-crisis/?utm_source=openai))