# Canary Islands launch public consultation to update tourism laws amid overtourism concerns



The Canary Islands are poised for significant changes in their tourism laws as the local government has initiated a comprehensive public consultation aimed at updating regulations established in 1995 and 2013. This move comes in response to mounting concerns among residents of prominent islands such as Tenerife, Lanzarote, and Gran Canaria, where growing dissatisfaction over overtourism has been a prominent issue.

The consultation, announced on Monday, seeks to modernise the islands’ legal framework to better address the contemporary challenges brought about by high visitor numbers. Local media have indicated that the updated legislation will take into account the current realities faced by the Canary Islands’ communities and industries. The initiative arrives in the lead-up to planned anti-mass tourism protests scheduled to take place across the archipelago on 18 May. These demonstrations are being organised by Canarias Tiene Un Límite (The Canaries Have a Limit), a coalition of various organisations who have expressed frustration at what they describe as governments and institutions repeatedly ignoring residents’ demands for measures to limit tourism numbers.

One of the major concerns driving the legislative review, as reported by Canarian Weekly, is the acute housing shortage in popular tourist destinations. The draft laws aim to safeguard locals’ access to affordable, long-term accommodation, responding directly to complaints over rising rents and the scarcity of housing options for residents. In addition to addressing housing issues, the new legislation is expected to clearly define the status of areas heavily frequented by tourists, information that will be pivotal in planning and enhancing infrastructure and public services to accommodate the population influx.

Gran Canaria, among other islands, remains a highly favoured holiday spot, attracting visitors from around the world. However, local activists and residents assert that current tourism volumes exceed what the environment and communities can sustain, leading to calls for stricter regulations.

The Canary Islands government’s consultation process represents a significant step towards rebalancing the demands of tourism with the needs and well-being of its residents, particularly as public demonstrations highlight community concerns. The outcomes of this consultation will be closely watched by residents, business stakeholders, and environmental groups alike.

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

## Bibliography

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3. <https://www.holidu.co.uk/magazine/legal-requirements-canary-islands> - Provides background on the existing legal requirements for holiday rentals in the Canary Islands, underscoring the necessity of revising these regulations within the context of broader tourism reforms.
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