

Tourism in Spain

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In many countries of the world tourism is a developing system that provides introduction to the history, culture, customs, spiritual and religious values of the country and its people, revenue to the Treasury. Tourism is one of the most powerful factors that enhances the prestige of the country, increases its value in the eyes of the international community.

Today, Western Europe is the largest tourist region in the world. In 2000 it was visited by 403 million tourists. In this case, 55% of tourists travel within Europe. Today, Spain has a leading position in the ranking of world tourism powers, both in terms of arrivals and revenues in the industry. In 2001 the country was visited by 75.5 million people, not less than 65% (49.5 million) belong to the category of tourists. Today the number of tourists increased by 5% to 423.6 million. The incomings continue growing rapidly, now the country has about 31.7 billion euro per year. This is due to a specific policy of the Spanish Government, aimed at the building of the tourism industry in key sectors of the economy, which gives huge profits to the state budget.

The infrastructure in Spain is well-developed and varied. According to the Spanish National Institute of Tourism in Spain there are 11598 hotels; 1872 hotels belong to the category of 4-5 stars, this is 16% of all Spanish hotels. In this sector 144 thousand employees work. For tourists 226 thousand of restaurants and bars work, 172 golf courses, 27 ski stations, 226 sports ports allocated for sailing lessons, 2992 travel agencies serve people.

In March 2012 Spain received about 3.6 million foreign tourists, 2.5% more than the same period a year earlier. The highest number of tourists in the Spanish direction, according to the Spanish Institute for Tourism Studies (IET) was from the UK (21.4%, or 771,000 people), German tourists (17.1%, or about 615.5 thousand), and the French (14%, or 504.7 thousand).

By the end of 2013 Spain was in the top list of the most popular countries in the world (after France and the United States), with a record number of 60 million people. According to the National Statistics Institute of Spain, in 2013, inbound tourism grew by 0.6%, domestic tourism in the country, on the contrary, continues to fall.

Thus, tourism in Spain will always grow, because it is the country that everyone wants to visit.

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