

Friday, [April 23rd 2010](#)

## **Ash-cloud travel restrictions cost Spain's tourism industry 259 million Euros**

Spanish tourism lost 252 million Euros over six days because of travel restrictions caused by the volcanic ash cloud which grounded air traffic in Europe, industry body Exceltur said on Wednesday.

**Tourism** accounts for around 11% of **Spain's** gross domestic product. **Airline losses** are not included in the overall figure but it was not clear whether this figure took account of gains from hosting tourists forced to stay in Spain after their flights home were cancelled. No one at the institute was immediately available to comment.

The **Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajokull** is still erupting but is spewing less **ash**, experts said on Wednesday. The **ash cloud** has not reached **Madrid** and the airport has remained open.

The British Embassy was operating a stand at Madrid's **Barajas airport** to take passengers, who had flown into Madrid, up to northern France by bus to catch a ferry back to Britain.

There are no economy-class flights available from Madrid to London until May, the website of airline **Iberia** showed.