

Spain attracts close to 60m visitors in 2007



Spain continued to be one of the world's foremost travel destinations last year, with some 59.7 million visitors.

Figures released by tourism trade body Exceltur show that the number of foreign visitors increased by 2.2 per cent in comparison with the previous year.

The ongoing expansion of low-cost airlines was thought to be one of the major contributors to the growth, as well as the rising popularity of the city breaks market.

A by-product in the growth of the short breaks sector was a reduction in the amount of time and money that the average visitor spent in Spain last year.

The Iberian country is expected to see its tourism numbers increase again this year, Reuters reports.

Jose Luis Zoreda, executive vice-president of Exceltur, said: "For 2008, we expect 60.7 million tourists in Spain."

Spain achieved growth in tourism last year in spite of the significant success of some of its rival destinations, with visitor numbers in countries such as Turkey and Egypt increasing by as much as 18 per cent, according to the Exceltur figures.

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