

Spanish tourism will benefit from instability in Egypt

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Tourists stroll on Maspalomas Beach, on the southern shore of Spain's Gran Canaria island.
EFE/File

Madrid, Jul 16 (EFE).- Spain's tourism sector will benefit from the instability in Egypt, the Alliance for Tourism Excellence, or Exceltur, predicted on Tuesday.

The "unexpected" situation, which will translate into as many as 730,000 additional tourists visiting Spain, has forced Exceltur to revise upwards its forecast for tourist activity this year.

Having forecast a 1 percent decline in January, Exceltur now expects a fall of only 0.4 percent.

"We're coming out of the recession, exclusively due to the pull of foreign demand," Exceltur vice president Jose Luis Zoreda said at a press conference, going on to say, "That pull is very close to being able to compensate, although still not 100 percent, for the fall in domestic demand."

"The key element has been the turbulence in Egypt and, to a much greater degree, the instability of Turkey, where the dissuasive effect is great, on the order of 3 percent," Zoreda said.

He went on to say that in the case of Egypt, it is in the last quarter of the year when competing Spanish destinations, like the Canary Islands, could see themselves greatly benefiting.

Exceltur forecasts that revenues from foreign tourism will exceed 45 billion euros (\$59.1 billion) in 2013.