

# ICFF'06 New York

## **Exceltur Predicts 58 Million Tourists Will Visit Spain**

Exceltur, the association of leading Spanish tourist agencies, has increased their initial forecast for industry growth this year by 4.8% to 58 million foreign tourists. Substantial growth was reported by all tourist related industries, except airlines, in the second quarter of the year. Expectations are high within the urban and resort hotel industry as well as among tour operators. However income from tourism, according to predictions from business owners, will drop 1.2% in Spain or an average 3.5% per tourist.

The Exceltur report, which incorporates 25 of largest airlines, hotel chains and travel agents says that to date, more people visit Spain than previously estimated, through package tours with hotel included, and the trend should continue throughout the summer. That, along with the increase in urban and rural tourism is behind the predicted annual rise in hotel stays.

According to Exceltur, that accounts for the optimistic outlook of Spanish businesses in the tourist industry that are looking forward to as successful a summer as they experienced this spring.