

## Spanish residents take to streets against mass tourism

25th July 2024



Thousands of people in Spain are protesting against mass tourism. In Barcelona, residents have sprayed tourists in restaurants with water guns. On the island of Mallorca, 10,000 people took to the streets holding banners that read: "Enough is

enough!" and "Mallorca is not for sale." People in Mallorca are angry that their rents are increasing. It is becoming almost impossible for locals to buy a house because of tourism. Property prices are sky-high because companies are buying them to rent to tourists. A spokesperson for Airbnb said: "The people who work in the tourism industry can't afford the rent in their own city." She added: "We believe that basing the economy...on...tourism is unsustainable and has to change."

Residents in tourist areas have many complaints. They say tourism has a negative effect on their lives. Many can no longer find somewhere to live. Some have to move out of their homes because landlords are increasing rents. Daily life is also becoming a problem. Buses and trains are full of tourists with backpacks and suitcases. Towns are having problems keeping their streets clean. This is because of increasing litter. Local people also complain that they cannot eat at their favourite restaurants because of tourists. Spain is not the only country where tourism is becoming a problem. Japan, Austria and Mexico have acted to find a balance between helping local people and sustainable tourism.

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [dw.com](https://www.dw.com) / [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk)

### Writing

It's better for people to go on vacation in their own country. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Spain / tourism / water guns / angry / rent / buy a house / locals / economy / change / complaints / negative / daily life / buses / trains / litter / restaurants / sustainable

### True / False

- 1) One hundred thousand people protested in a city in Spain. T / F
- 2) People in Barcelona sprayed tourists with water guns. T / F
- 3) People on the island of Mallorca said their island is not for sale. T / F
- 4) Many people who work in tourism do not have enough money for rent. T / F
- 5) Residents in tourist areas have no complaints. T / F
- 6) Backpacks and suitcases are not allowed on buses in Spain. T / F
- 7) Locals in Spain are having problems eating at their favourite restaurants. T / F
- 8) Austria and Mexico want to balance helping local people and tourists. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <b>protesting</b>  | a. raising             |
| 2. <b>tourists</b>    | b. demonstrating       |
| 3. <b>banners</b>     | c. waste               |
| 4. <b>impossible</b>  | d. posters             |
| 5. <b>industry</b>    | e. packed              |
| 6. <b>increasing</b>  | f. visitors            |
| 7. <b>full</b>        | g. taken steps         |
| 8. <b>litter</b>      | h. eateries            |
| 9. <b>restaurants</b> | i. business            |
| 10. <b>acted</b>      | j. out of the question |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about tourism?
- b) What do you think of protests?
- c) What things would you protest against?
- d) What would you do if someone sprayed you with water in the streets?
- e) Are Spanish people right to protest against mass tourism?
- f) What are rents in your country like?
- g) What's your country like for tourists?
- h) Should we vacation in our own countries rather than go overseas?

## Phrase Match

1. protesting against
  2. People in Mallorca are angry that their rents
  3. Property prices are
  4. people who work in the
  5. basing the economy on tourism
  6. Residents in tourist areas have many
  7. tourism has a negative effect
  8. full of tourists with
  9. the only country where tourism is
  10. find a
- a. are increasing
  - b. on their lives
  - c. is unsustainable
  - d. becoming a problem
  - e. tourism industry
  - f. balance
  - g. mass tourism
  - h. complaints
  - i. sky-high
  - j. backpacks

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of mass tourism?
- c) What kind of tourist are you?
- d) What do you think of tourists in your country?
- e) What rules do tourists need to follow?
- f) What damage does mass tourism create?
- g) How can tourism be more sustainable?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a tourism expert?

## Spelling

1. detessrni have sprayed tourists
2. holding nrbaes
3. It is becoming almost ilebspomsi
4. ryertppo prices
5. the tourism sndrtiyu
6. basing the meocnoy on tourism
7. many lptsomiacn
8. tourism has a eveintga effect
9. backpacks and ueicastss
10. because of increasing teritl
11. find a nclbaae
12. easlibasutn tourism

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. f	3. d	4. j	5. i
6. a	7. e	8. c	9. h	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Barcelona

You think Barcelona is the best city to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these cities (and why): New York, Tokyo or Cairo.

### Role B – New York

You think New York is the best city to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these cities (and why): Barcelona, Tokyo or Cairo.

### Role C – Tokyo

You think Tokyo is the best city to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these cities (and why): New York, Barcelona or Cairo.

### Role D – Cairo

You think Cairo is the best city to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these cities (and why): New York, Tokyo or Barcelona.

## Speaking – Cities

Rank these with your partner. Put the best cities to visit at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Barcelona
- Cairo
- New York
- Tokyo
- Sydney
- Delhi
- Shanghai
- Rio de Janeiro

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.