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# Catalonia was the first destination for camping site travellers in the Spanish state in the month of March, and the second for rural accommodation

**According to the report from the *Observatori de Turisme de Catalunya*, Catalanian camping sites experimented a 71.2% inter-annual increase in the number of travellers, and doubled the number of night stays**

Wednesday, 4 May 2005.— Catalonia was the first destination for camping site travellers in the Spanish state in the month of March, and the second for rural tourism accommodation. According to the report elaborated by the *Observatori de Turisme de Catalunya* involving the figures made public today by INE, the Spanish Statistics Institute, Catalanian camping sites received 94,602 visitors, a figure that represents 32.6% of the total number of visitors to these establishments in the Spanish state. As for the occupancy results in the rural tourism establishments for the month of March, Catalonia received 21,193 visitors, a figure that represents 12.2% of the total in the Spanish state.

Catalonia was the leading destination for visitors in camping site establishments, generating 294,687 night stays, most of which (92%) corresponded to the home market (272,100 night stays). As regards foreign tourism, Catalanian camping sites hosted 7,058 foreign travellers, generating 22,613 night stays. The average stay in Catalonia was of 3.1 night stays per traveller, and the level of occupancy per plot reached the figure of 34.2% (-7.1%), a reduction due to a double increase of the offer with respect to last year. As for the whole of the Spanish state, the number of travellers in camping sites reached a total of 289,866. After Catalonia, the Autonomous Communities with the highest number of visitors were Andalusia (54,866 travellers) and the Valencian Community (51,190 travellers).

Catalonian rural tourism establishments registered 21,193 travellers, which represents 12.9% of the total for the Spanish state. As for night stays, most night stays out of a total of 58,063 corresponded to the home market, with 55,695 night stays. The Spanish state received a total of 535,088 travellers generating 462,420 night stays. Regarding the average stay, the average is now 2.7 night stays per traveller, with a 28.2% inter-annual increase. The level of occupancy per bed is 21.4%, 9.4 points higher than last year's. Apart from Catalonia, Castilla-León (36,747



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travellers) and Andalusia (13,118 travellers) were the other leading destinations during this period.