

Catalonia stands as the first destination of foreign tourism, with two million tourists during the month of August, a 12.1% higher than this month last year

According to the Frontur report corresponding to the month of August, Catalonia stands for the fourteenth consecutive month as first destination of all international tourism arriving in the Spanish state

Tuesday, 20 September 2005.— Catalonia stands as the first destination of foreign tourism in the Spanish state, with two million foreign tourists during the month of August. The Catalonian destinations are those experimenting the highest growth in the State (+12.1%). France and the United Kingdom are still the first sending markets for Catalonia, with an important growth during this period, mainly concerning the number of tourists arriving from France (+23.5%).

Nearly 3 in 10 foreign tourists visiting the Spanish state chose Catalonia. In the month of August, the Catalonian destinations received nearly 30% (27.2%) of the total international tourism. The leading sending countries were France, with a share of 42.6%, United Kingdom (12.9%), Italy (8.7%), Netherlands (7.3%) and Germany (7.2%).

**Arrivals of foreign tourists, by Autonomous Community of destination
August 2005**

Autonomous Commun.	Month of August			Accum. since January	
	Tourists	% over Sp. state	% Interan. variation	Tourists	% Interan. variation
Andalusia	1,103,150	15.3%	-0.5	5,603,645	1.2
Balearic Islands	1,590,634	22.0%	-0.5	7,038,134	1.3
Canary Islands	752,525	10.4%	-3.1	6,116,689	-2.2
Catalonia	1,960,738	27.2%	12.1	10,044,240	12.6
Valencian Comm.	581,836	8.1%	0.1	3,556,766	10.0
Madrid Comm.	308,387	4.3%	4.6	2,339,059	7.7
Rest of Aut. Comm.	920,819	12.8%	25.0	3,971,143	16.5
Total State	7,218,089	100%	5.5	38,669,673	6.0

As for the annual evolution, Catalonia stands for the fourteenth consecutive month as the first destination of all international tourism arriving in the Spanish state. Until the month of August, the Catalanian destinations received ten million foreign tourists, a 12.6% higher than the figure for the first eight months of 2004. This growth doubles the Spanish state's total (6%).