

**YOUR FULL FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST: SEE INSIDE**

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Hotel nights booked in Spain in October fall 83 percent on travel restrictions

*Madrid.*—The number of nights booked by tourists in Spanish hotels fell 83% in October compared with the same month a year ago as travel restrictions ravaged the tourism industry, data from the INE national statistics office showed yesterday.

The October data was worse

than the 78% fall recorded in September after new measures were taken throughout the country to stop a second wave of COVID-19 infections.

Despite a slight uptick in activity after Spain emerged from a strict coronavirus lockdown in June, overall hotel bookings in the first ten

months of the year have slumped 72% compared with the same period a year earlier, INE said.

Tourism, which accounts for about 12% of Spain's economic output, has been devastated since the pandemic brought global travel to a grinding halt.

# BIG FAMILIES COULD BE STUFFED OVER CHRISTMAS



● **Government recommend that office gatherings and similar celebrations in the run-up to the holidays be held on restaurant terraces, outside, or in a place with “no more than two walls”.**

*Palma.*—The Spanish government is to propose a “different” Christmas and New Year under coronavirus restrictions with just six people at parties - although it hopes the “soul and spirit” of the festive season will still shine.

A health ministry draft document to be discussed with regional health chiefs, said the government would recommend that office gatherings and similar celebrations in the run-up to the holidays be held on restaurant ter-

racés, outside, or in a place with “no more than two walls”.

They would be limited to six people.

The document proposed “planning a different Christmas without taking out the soul and spirit that makes it one of our citizen’s most beloved holidays”.

The regional health chiefs could still introduce changes. Catalonia’s 1 government said last week it wanted to allow gatherings of up to 10 people for Christmas.

Spain, which has more than 1.58 million COVID-19 cases - western Europe’s second highest tally after France - and 43,131 dead - imposed a six-month state of emergency in October, giving regions legal backing to impose curfews and other restrictions.

Families of more than six people living together would still be able to party without the six-person cap, which applies to celebrations with any invited guests on Christmas Eve,

Christmas, New Year’s Eve and on New Year’s day.

The start of the nighttime curfews in force in most Spanish regions would be moved to 1 a.m. from 11 p.m. on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

As for the *Three Wise Men* processions held all over Spain on the eve of the Jan. 6 Epiphany Day, which are popular among children, the health ministry recommends to hold «static» processions instead.

See Inside.

## Nursing homes will be first to get COVID-19 vaccine in Spain

*Madrid.*—Elderly residents and staff in nursing homes will be the first to get vaccinated against the coronavirus in Spain, Health Minister Salvador Illa said yesterday, unveiling a national vaccination plan due to begin in Janu-

ary. Other healthcare workers will be next to be vaccinated, Illa said, with a total of 18 groups of citizens being, one after the other, allowed to get the vaccine in one of Spain’s 13,000 local public health centers.

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