

YOUR FULL FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST: SEE INSIDE

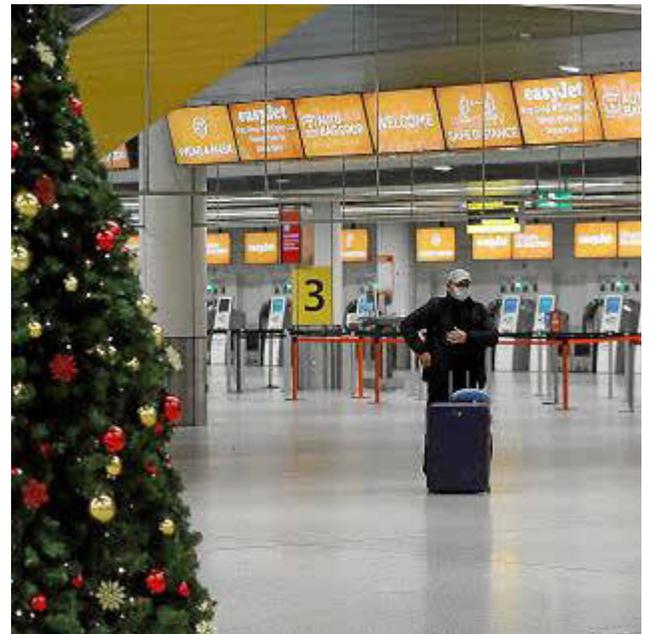
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Tier system introduced in the Balearics: See Page 3

Eating out on Majorca? See Our Guide Inside



Gatwick Airport sees travel boost from new testing rules

The boss of Britain's Gatwick Airport said the introduction of shorter quarantine times from mid-December was boosting travel, and that the combination of testing and a COVID-19 vaccine means he is optimistic holidays can restart next year.

Gatwick, Britain's second busiest airport, is opening a new COVID-19 testing facility on Monday, offering passengers discounted tests. CEO Stewart Wingate hopes by making it easier and cheaper to get a test, more people will travel.

From mid-December, travellers arriving in England will have to quarantine for five days instead of 14 if they have a negative test, a rule change which Wingate said is helping.

"We are seeing already an uptick in flights, so we should expect to see about 100 flights per day by the time we get to the middle of December, and across the Christmas period," he told Reuters in an interview. The pandemic has battered the aviation industry, leaving Gatwick particularly exposed as airlines such as British Airways and Virgin Atlantic have prioritised flights from Heathrow, Britain's no.1 airport to the west of London. During England's latest lockdown in November, Gatwick, easyJet's biggest base, had about four flights a day, a startling drop from 600 flights a day this time last year. Some of Gatwick's airlines, such as Norwegian, are fighting for survival. Wingate, who has had to axe 45% of Gatwick's staff during the pandemic, forecast a travel recovery next summer, when he expected the airport's airlines to be flying between 60% and 70% of their 2019 capacity. "I expect once the vaccinations roll out and the testing is rolled out, we should expect to see quite a strong performance in the market next summer," he said. The testing site in a long-stay car park at Gatwick will initially be able to test up to 500 people per day, but this could be ramped up to 2,000 a day, and then 4,000 a day given sufficient demand, according to testing company ExpressTest.

THE BIG SPANISH HOTEL SALE

Madrid.—The number of hotels for sale in Spain surged by 19% in October compared to March, with most of those on offer in holiday hotspots, leading property portal Idealista said yesterday.

Spain's economy is heavily hospitality dependent and lockdowns to contain the coronavirus have hit hard.

In the Balearic Islands, the number of hotels on sale jumped 84% over the period, while for Andalusia the increase was 45%. Overall, 557 hotels were on sale in the country as of October, 101 of them in Catalonia, Idealista said. Almost a third of Spanish hotels were closed in October, according to data from Spain's National Statistics Institute.

Registered hotel bookings were 83% lower last month than the same period last year, official data showed earlier this week.

Pollensa council gives green light for massive investment in Hotel Formentor: See Inside

Palma festive joy: Inside

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