



Mediterranean Security Report

2nd edition 2014

Section 800 - Intelligence

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Note: The intelligence provided in this document is only indicative of the crime and security situation at the time of publication. It is intended to provide the client with assessed situational awareness based on past and present observations and available information. The intelligence is not predictive and does not cover all eventualities. Allmode is not liable for any advice or information given in these reports.

The Mediterranean Report



As the seasonal migration of the Super yachts begins from the winter cruising grounds of the Caribbean to the stunning shores of the Mediterranean, Allmode Intelligence will also be following the same route.

Over the summer months we will be issuing a number of 'Mediterranean Security Reports' which will outline security based information on different locations across the Mediterranean. The purpose of these reports are to aid vessels and their crews with up to date information that will help them build better knowledge of an area and thus improve their situational awareness.

Situational Awareness (SA) is all about having the information you need to make effective decisions. There will always be occasions when people are required to make critical choices – sometimes at a fast pace – and the vast majority of errors that can occur are as a direct result of failure in situational awareness.

For the majority of vessels and crew visiting the Med, it will be a very familiar sight, however for some it may be their first time and often, as with many locations across the globe, looks can be deceiving and can lull people into a false sense of security.

Intelligence is more than information and news gathering. It is the process by which information is collated, verified, analysed and used to respond effectively to time critical information. Current, historical and creditable intelligence not only tells you what the risks are but projects possible hot spots of criminal activity.

At Allmode we do not outsource intelligence but gain real time situational awareness and speed of reporting by continually developing our product, and getting the time critical information out to our teams and clients. These reports will look into areas such as crime, corruption and political issues within certain areas and offer advice on how to stay safe and in some cases advice on areas to avoid. It will also offer advice on any relevant health advisories to be aware of and travel information for those wishing to travel and tour certain areas or regions.

Crime Overview



This second edition of the report will focus on the Mediterranean coast of Spain and the Spanish Balearic Islands. The all year round mild climate and the extensive sandy beaches of the Mediterranean have been attracting tourists to Spain for decades and the summer resorts are popular with Spaniards too.

The Spanish tourism industry is of major significance, accounting for approximately 6.4% of GDP or around €62.1 billion (\$81.8 billion). The Blue Flag is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach or marina meets its stringent standards for water quality and environmental management. In 2014, Spain broke its own record of blue flag beaches, achieving 681 flags becoming the lead nation in the Northern hemisphere. Spain is also the leader in blue flags for marinas.

Unwanted attention on the streets of any city in Spain is a problem that virtually every woman faces. A barrage of verbal comments, known as *piropos*, can follow you as you simply walk down the street. People may call out from passing cars. The comments can be very obscene or complimentary. The attention does not mean you will be physically accosted in any way. It is best to simply ignore the comments and develop a tough skin. If you hear "Qué quiere, mi amor?" you are probably just being asked politely what you want. Do not overreact - there really are lots of nice people in Spain who just want to talk to you. You will hear this question in stores, taxis, and other public places.

Spain generally has a similar crime rate to most other European Countries and is considered a safe destination for tourists and business people. In 2013, the overall crime figures for reported crime dropped for all categories except residential burglaries, which rose by 3.6%. This may be a reflection of the recent economic difficulties and high rates of unemployment.

Nevertheless, street crime continues to be a concern, most notably in urban areas and those frequented by tourists. Foreign tourists seem to be the targets of choice for pickpockets and thieves, who operate in hotel lobbies, restaurants, public transit systems, airports, and other areas frequented by tourists. The highest incidence of street crime is during the local holiday period (late November – early January, August, and Easter) and the summer tourist season.

There is an impression amongst a small percentage of the Spanish population that crime is related to the increase in the number of foreigners living in Spain. 70% of all crimes are committed by Spaniards and 30% by foreigners, even though foreigners make up only 15% of the resident population. This may be partly due to media portrayals of the '*Costa del Crime*' as a bolthole for British criminals due to the lack of an extradition treaty in the 1970s. According to some recent estimates, as many as 30 or 40 British criminal gangs are known to operate in southern Spain, alongside Dutch, Eastern European and Irish gangs, the latter fleeing recent crackdowns in their Dublin strongholds.

Spain is the principal route of entry of drugs and narcotics into the European Union. About half of the cocaine found by law enforcement agencies in Europe is found by Spanish police. Spain has a high number of drug users, leading the table of cocaine users in Europe. The so-called Galician Mafia is the main trafficker of cocaine into Spain and onward to European

countries. Central American gangs such as MS-13 and the Mexican cartels also view Spain as a conduit to lucrative European markets. On 20 July 2014, Spanish police arrested one of Colombia's most wanted criminals on the outskirts of Alicante. Nicknamed '*The Rat*', Hernan Alonso Villa was a leader of a drug cartel called '*The Office of Envigado*' which is linked to 400 murders in Colombia and large shipments of cocaine to Spain and Europe.

Spanish authorities also warn of the availability of so-called "date-rape" drugs and other drugs, including gamma hydroxybutyrate (GBH) and liquid ecstasy. GBH is associated with the nightclub and rave scene and causes a euphoric high but is dangerous when mixed with alcohol. When diluted in drinks GBH is virtually undetectable and is sometimes slipped unknowingly into someone else's drinks.

Spanish authorities aggressively mobilized to deal with the threat of international terrorism following the 11 March 2004, bombing of the commuter railway at the Atocha Station in Madrid by terrorists inspired by, but not directly affiliated with, Al Qaeda (AQ). Terrorism remains an ongoing concern given Spain's proximity to North Africa and its large Islamic population. Spain serves as a natural gateway for Islamic extremists desiring entry into Europe and is known to serve as a logistical hub for operations in Europe and the Middle East.

Euskadi ta Askatasuna (ETA) – '*Basque Fatherland and Liberty*' is an indigenous terrorist organization established in 1959. The stated objective of ETA is to establish an independent Basque Nation in the area of northern Spain. ETA has been blamed for over 840 deaths in the 40+ years that they have been fighting for independence. ETA normally provided advance notice of impending attacks by calling in the time and location of bombings. On 20 October 2011, ETA declared a "*definitive cessation of armed activities.*" Although ETA has not launched any attacks since the declaration, the group has not disarmed nor disbanded, and the government remains wary of additional attacks.

A variety of different law enforcement organizations operate in Spain. While many cities have their own municipal police, the Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) have responsibility for general policing in rural areas. In urban areas, generally those with a population of more than 20,000, the National Police Corps (Cuerpo Nacional de Policía) assumes responsibility for general policing.

The number for any emergency (police, fire, ambulance) is **112**. In most metropolitan areas of Spain, English speakers are normally on duty to assist non-Spanish speakers.

Barcelona



Barcelona is the capital city of the autonomous community of Catalonia in Spain and the country's 2nd largest city, with a population of 1.6 million. Barcelona is the fourth most-visited city in Europe and is a magnet for tourists of all sorts. It is particularly renowned for its architectural works, as host of the 1992 summer Olympics and is a world class conference and exposition centre. In 2009, the city was ranked Europe's third and one of the world's most successful as a city brand and fourth best city for business and fastest improving European city. Recently the city bore the full brunt of economic recession with declines in both employment and GDP per capita but there are some signs of the beginning of an economic recovery.

The City is also a regional transport hub with the Port of Barcelona being one of Europe's principal seaports and busiest European Passenger Port. The Port is managed by the Port Authority of Barcelona. Its 7.86 km² (3 sq mi) are divided into three zones: Port Vell (the Old Port) (see *photo*), the commercial/industrial port, and the logistics port (Barcelona Free Port). The Port is currently undergoing an enlargement that will see it double in size and capacity.

Marina Port Vell has undergone recent renovation and is already a popular destination for many owners, captains, crew and guests. With phased marina completions beginning in autumn 2013, Marina Port Vell boasts 162 fully serviced berths for power and sail yachts and super yachts of up to 120 metres. Marina Port Vell claims to deliver the highest standard of service and security for their guests and their yachts.

Tourist scams are certainly not unique to Barcelona. The City has an unfortunate reputation for being a major hotspot for petty crime, particularly pickpocketing. Some areas are worse than others, and in general the more tourists there are, the greater the risk.

Cruise ships unload at the bottom of La Rambla and most other tourists head there within a few hours of arrival, so this is an obvious high-risk place. In the summer extra police patrols are on La Rambla, which is the street in Barcelona that has most pickpockets.

Be particularly wary on the beach, on the metro, in any public parks and in other tourist hotspots such as Passeig de Gracia, The Monjuic, Plaza Reial, Gothic and Port Areas as they are considered to be higher risk.

Common tourist scams are as follows:

The Pea and Cup Game - this one catches naive tourists all the time, so just don't get involved. In fact avoid being drawn to street entertainment in general, as pickpockets will use the distraction opportunities that they create.

Gypsy Lucky Heather Scam - in which an adorable old gypsy lady will take all your money in exchange for a bit of '*lucky heather*'.

The Hit and Run – common bag or camera snatching is most likely to occur in crowded places, at street tables outside restaurants, the metro and the beach.

The Bird Poo Scam – where an individual offer to help you clean some bird mess off your shirt or jacket. There are a few variations on this type of distraction. Tricksters might flick a dab of mustard or ketchup on your back or accidentally knock your drink over. If anything like this happens, go into a bar or restaurant and ask for a tissue and some help.

The Fake Policeman – this scam is fairly rare. If you are stopped by plain clothes policemen who are not in uniform, then they might well be fake police. Real Spanish policemen are not corrupt. Real Spanish policemen do not fine people on the street. Real Spanish policemen never ask tourists for ID. So if you are stopped by plain clothes policemen and they want to fine you or see your ID, then they might be fake police. Ask to see their ID, be very aware and tell them you prefer to go to the police station. Do not give them money or show them any ID. They will snatch your wallets.

Signing the Petition – this is where a small group, usually teenagers, asks you to sign a petition for a worthy cause while their friends relieve you of your purse or wallet.

While tourist scamming, bag snatching and pickpocketing is fairly common, street crime in Barcelona is very rarely violent. The Spanish do not generally drink to excess, which generally keeps the nightlife peaceful and limits brawls and fights. Don't drink too much yourself, as most pickpocket scams are particularly effective if you, *'the mark'*, has had too much to drink. Public drunkenness in Spain projects a poor cultural representation, increases your vulnerability to crime, and may result in temporary incarceration if the police become involved.

It is strongly advised not to wear expensive looking jewellery when out and about. Keep all cash and credit cards secure and use a "day purse/wallet" for incidentals. Don't be seen fishing around for cash in public.

If you carry a shoulder bag, make sure you wear it diagonally across your body at all times and ideally keep the bag itself in front of you. If you wear it over just one shoulder, it's a prime target for a snatch by a thief on a moped or bike. Choose one with a broad strap, as thieves have been known to cut through thin straps with scissors or a blade.

Don't stand by the carriage door on the Metro, as it is a common tactic to grab something just as the door is about to close and jump off. It is generally considered safe to walk about Barcelona at night, but try not to walk alone and avoid unlit areas. This advice applies particularly to females.

In Barcelona the local police, the Guardia Urbana, are unlikely to get involved with petty thefts (under €400 in value). Petty crime in Barcelona can be reported to the police online at the following link which may be necessary for subsequent insurance claims:

https://www10.gencat.net/jusinte_di/AppJava/cargacapcalera.do

Valencia



Valencia is the third largest city in Spain after Madrid and Barcelona, with a population of around 1.5 million people. Once described as '*grimy backwater*' for many years the city was punished by General Franco for being the capital of the Republic during the Spanish Civil War and was unloved by much of the rest of the country.

Recently Valencia has undergone a renaissance. Its historic centre is one of the largest in Spain and this heritage of ancient monuments and cultural attractions now makes Valencia one of the Country's most popular tourist destinations. The most emblematic symbol of the new Valencia is the City of Arts and Sciences, a vast space-age complex of buildings designed by Valencian architect Santiago Calatrava. An opera house, a science museum, aquarium and showcase tennis court have all been constructed, attracting visitors from all over the world, and are frequently used as the backdrop in adverts for new sports cars.

Fallas is the biggest fiesta of the year and one of the most important in the country heralding the coming of spring. Valencians like to mark the changing of the seasons with a concentration of fireworks, "fire-cracker concerts" and bonfires.

The Port of Valencia is the 5th busiest container port in Europe and the busiest container port on the Mediterranean Sea handling 4.3 million TEUs (2011). The Port is also an important employer, with more than 15,000 employees who provide services to more than 7,500 ships every year.

The Port Authority of Valencia also controls two satellite ports. The Port of Sagunto serves as an importation point for approximately 3 million tonnes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) per annum and other commodities such as:- iron and steel, fertilizers, construction materials, timber and perishable products. The Port of Gandia specialises in the export and import of forestry products: timber, reels, pulp, paper and furniture.

The Marina in Valencia is called Juan Carlos 1 Marina. It was renovated in preparation for the arrival of the America's Cup to Valencia in 2007 and is situated to the east of the City, next to the Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches. The Royal Marina has two docks - one outer and one inner. The Outer Dock is made up of the north and south docks - both of these provide shelter for the entrance and exit of boats. The Inner Dock is used only for vessels that are more than 30 metres long. Both have room for over 600 vessels from 10 to 150 metres in length.

There are a few bars and restaurants at the Marina. However, for a more vibrant evening of bars and restaurants it is best to head to the promenade of the Malvarossa and Las Arenas beaches next to the Marina. Here you can find a whole stretch of seafood restaurants, cafes and cocktail bars.

As Valencia is a Mediterranean city it gets its share of petty crime. However, violent crime is extremely rare in Valencia. Generally, Valencia is a very safe city, surprisingly so for a city of its size.

Some parts of the Malvarossa Neighbourhood behind the Malvarossa Beach do not have a good reputation and you should be cautious about walking through there. It is recommended in the tourist guides that you take the tram or a taxi to the Beach.

Cabanyal can be very pleasant to walk in, particularly the south side, which was recently renovated for the America's Cup. The area North of the Cabanyal Train Station, however, (at level with the end of Blasco Ibanez) has some streets squatted by *Gitanos* (Gypsies) and can feel very deserted, dirty and unpleasant. You may experience some begging or you may be offered drugs, but violent incidents there are virtually unknown.

The area close to Plaza de Carmen is reportedly rather seedy and run down. The Plaza de Carmen itself gets busy at night with young teenagers who can't enter age-restricted bars, however they tend to be doing nothing more than socialising. You may meet some scruffy characters, beggars and you may be offered drugs, but it is not considered dangerous.

The Turia River gardens are considered to be a great promenade by day, where everyone enjoys the atmosphere but it is not recommended to walk in the gardens after dark as many homeless people sleep there.

Alicante



Alicante is a historical city and port on the famous Costa Blanca south of Valencia. It is a popular and well established destination for European tourists. The official population of Alicante is 771,061 (2011) and about 15% of the population is foreign, most of them immigrants from Argentina, Ecuador, and Colombia who have arrived in the previous decade.

There are also more recent immigrants from other countries such as Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Morocco, many of whom are under illegal alien status and therefore are not accounted for in official population figures. The real percentage of foreign residents is higher, since the Alicante metropolitan area is home to many Northern European retirees who are officially still residents of their own countries.

The most important festival in Alicante is the Bonfires of Saint John (*Fogueres de Sant Joan*), which takes place during the summer solstice. This is followed a week later by seven nights of firework and pyrotechnic contests between companies on the urban beach Playa del Postiguuet. Another well-known festival is Moros i Cristians in Altozano or San Blas district. Overall, the city boasts a year-round nightlife for the enjoyment of tourists, fun-loving residents, and a large student population (approx 27,000) of the University of Alicante.

The Port of Alicante is mainly used for commercial and passenger traffic and is administered by the Port Authority of Alicante. The port has been reinventing itself since the industrial decline the city suffered in the 1980s with most mercantile traffic lost to Valencia.

In recent years, the Port Authority has established Alicante as one of the most important ports in Spain for cruises liner operations. In the 1990's the port underwent an expansion programme towards the south, and made provisions for converting some of the quayside into a zone of seafood restaurants, an extensive promenade with modern bars and nightclubs open until dawn.

Marina Alicante is only 50 metres from Alicante City Centre and is well placed to host visiting yachts up to 60m looking to sample the gastronomy, entertainment and rich culture of the region. Set against the backdrop of Mount Benacantil, Marina Alicante is a modern marina with approximately 810 berths for transient yachts. Nearby is a shopping area with a wide selection of boutiques, restaurants and bars for visitors to enjoy during their stay. The marina has good transport links to the surrounding areas and cities including Madrid, which is only 3 hours by car, or the airport which is 8km away.

The biggest crime problem in Alicante appears to be bribery and corruption of government officials and this is the crime of greatest concern to residents (2014). Violent crime is still relatively low in Spain compared to countries such as the US or UK, however there is a worrying increase in organised crime, particularly along the Mediterranean coast. The most prevalent crime that may affect residents and tourists alike is petty crime, often in the form of pick pocketing or bag stealing.

A common scam taking place on the beaches of the Costa Blanca is when a nearby sunbather will engage your trust by asking you to keep an eye on their bag while they swim.

Believing this person to be trustworthy, *'the mark'* asks the same person to return the favour, and when they return from the sea, their bags have disappeared, along with the friendly neighbour. It is also important to be on guard in busy shopping areas where pickpockets will exploit the slightest opportunity or distraction to steal wallets, purses or bags.

Tourists and travellers are the targets of some of Spain's most enterprising criminals, including highwaymen, who pose as accident or breakdown victims and rob motorists who stop to help them. There are periodic reports dating back to 2005 where criminal gangs would target tourists arriving at Alicante airport getting hire cars, follow them and then hijack them on the motorway. Their tactic is to follow you for a few miles and then clip your car so you have to pull over and then they steal your hire car and all its contents. The police cracked down on this at the time and several gangs were caught.

Unfortunately there are still reports of this activity. A hotspot for the gangs of highwaymen is the AP7 motorway between the French Border and the Alicante Region in southern Spain. More than 140 cases of theft on this route were reported to British Consulates in 2011. This phenomenon was again reported in 2012 as the UK Foreign Office warned British-registered cars are an easy target for motorway thieves. The British Embassy in Madrid reported a 10 per cent rise of this type of crime in the first quarter of 2012.

According to the UK Automobile Association (AA), this year (2014) more than 120 British drivers have been the victims of sneaky thefts on the AP-7 motorway. Thieves have been flagging cars down and then distracting their occupants while one of the offenders steals their possessions.

The AA's International Division warns that the thieves are focusing on stretches of the motorway going from airports to resorts. Drivers planning to take to the road in Spain are encouraged to "do their research" and continue to the next safest place if someone tries to flag them down. Once again distraction techniques can be very effective with honest people who think they are being a Good Samaritan.

The Balearic Islands



The Balearic Islands are an archipelago of Spain in the western Mediterranean Sea, near the eastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula. The four largest islands are: Mallorca, Minorca, Ibiza and Formentera. The archipelago forms an autonomous community and a province of Spain, with Palma as the capital. The co-official languages in the Balearic Islands are Catalan and Spanish. The marinas on the islands are some of the best in Spain and have excellent facilities which have made these cruising grounds some of the best in Europe.

MALLORCA is the largest island and the most commercialised. Palma de Mallorca, is the capital of the Balearic Islands. Tourism is an important industry and parts of the island, particularly around the southern coastline are heavily built up with high-rise hotels and apartments. Away from the coast it is a different story, particularly in the beautiful unspoiled Tramuntana hills.

Puerto Punta Portals - Mallorca is still one of the best marinas in the western Mediterranean. Portals is positioned about five miles west of Palma, and has numerous good restaurants, bars, and yachting facilities. There are berths for 60 yachts over 25m, and facilities include electricity, fresh water, pump-out, fuel, and Wi-Fi.

Marina Port De Mallorca - virtually the whole of the port of Palma is now given over to moorings for yachts. The Marina Port de Mallorca is positioned about halfway along the Paseo Marítimo, and within easy walking distance of the town. There are 45 berths for super yachts and all the usual facilities are in place, including Wi-Fi and high levels of security.

MENORCA is also a popular tourist destination but is much lower key and aimed at the family type holiday.

Club Maritimo De Mahon, Menorca - one of the biggest natural harbours in the world, Mahon manages to be historically interesting, picturesque, with excellent boating facilities. Moorings for big yachts are stern-to along the harbour front, with fresh water, electricity, and fuel. Restaurants, bars, and shops are all a short walk away.

IBIZA is famous for its rave scene, which is concentrated in the charming but busy capital of Ibiza Town, the high-rise canyons of San Ant3nio and in the resort of Playa d'en Bossa. Away from here the island is remarkably rural and there are lots of places to escape the crowds.

Marina Ibiza - Situated on the edge of Ibiza old town, this marina has 80 berths for yachts 30m over, and has a full range of facilities that include fresh water, electricity, pump-out, and cable TV. All the attractions of Ibiza Town are within walking distance.

The Balearic Islands although idyllic and a favourite holiday destination for many Europeans, also have their fair share of crime. Crime rates in the Balearics are much higher than the national Spanish average. In 2013, 66.4 crimes were reported per 1,000 inhabitants in the Balearics, a rate of crime only beaten by the Spanish North African enclave of Ceuta.

There is at least one factor that has to be taken into account when considering these figures, and that is the number of second homes that are left unattended. Many of these are only visited in the summer and belong to people from the hinterland. As there is greater temptation to rob vacant properties, their very proliferation does perhaps tend to make the statistics seem worse.

According to the Spanish interior minister, Jorge Fernandez Diaz, one of the main reasons for the high crime rate in the Balearics is its large floating population caused by the millions of tourists who visit the region every year, especially during the summer which is when most crimes are committed.

According to a survey by the polling organisation Gadeso, reported in "The Diario", just over a third of those living in Majorca have been in some way affected by various crimes related to cars, property or to the person. In Ibiza, the number rises to almost a half; Menorca has a better record, it would seem. In addition to actual incidents, the feeling of insecurity is increasing, and both real and imagined crimes are being blamed primarily on immigrants and the unemployed.

Political corruption has been a big problem in Mallorca for a long time, and with more and more illegal immigrants turning up on the islands adding to the mix, crime is on the increase.

There are reports from 2013 of gangs of street hookers in Palma de Mallorca mugging British men who refuse to have sex with them. Local police have advised that if a lone man is very drunk he is likely to be mugged without an offer of sex. The girls punch and claw victims and stamp on them with stiletto heels. It appears that these crimes are mainly associated with Nigerian prostitutes who in all likelihood were illegally trafficked to the islands.

Illegal narcotic trafficking is a problem on the islands. On 28 Feb 2014 eight members of a drug trafficking gang in Palma were sentenced to 21 years of prison altogether. The so-called *Kung Fu* gang was accused of selling heroin, cocaine and hashish in the shantytown of Son Banya. The leader of the gang, known as '*El Kung Fu*,' was sentenced to four-and-a-

half years in prison, where the rest of his gang was sentenced to in between two and three years.

On Ibiza illegal narcotics are particularly prevalent and there is a strong drug culture associated with the nightclub scene. The clubbing season starts at the end of May and continues until the start of October. In Spain personal possession of any drug is not a criminal offence. However, the line between '*personal*' and '*dealing*' is a very thin one.

The main narcotics used now are ecstasy, ketamine, gamma hydroxybutyrate (GBH) and cocaine. Estimates suggest that up to 40,000 ecstasy pills a week are sold on Ibiza. Ecstasy pills can be bought for as little as €6 (£5), the effects of which last several hours. In contrast a small bottle of beer at one of the island's many "*superclubs*" can cost twice as much at €12 (£10). On the streets of San Antonio, "*looky looky*" men loiter and ask people if they want to buy sunglasses, and then ask if they want to buy drugs.

In August 2013, two Ibiza club promoters Melissa Reid (19) from Lenzie, near Glasgow and Michaela McCollum Connolly (20) from Dungannon, Co Tyrone were detained in Peru at Lima's international airport on suspicion of being drugs mules. The women protested their innocence after customs officials found 11kg of cocaine worth £1.5million in their bags. They are now each serving a seven year jail sentence. Their experience highlights the dangers of carrying packages for other people – **don't**.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) indicates that the typical route for cocaine to enter Europe is by sea. Multi-tonne consignments are trafficked by cartels from Latin America, and are bought either directly into the Iberian Peninsula or into West Africa by air or sea and then bought in to Europe by sea and land through Morocco. From there, Ibiza's many unguarded miles of coastline offer simple smuggling opportunities.

According to the UNODC, the drug trade in Ibiza is run at the highest levels by a variety of importers, with Italian and Russian gangs and, in recent years, Romanian gangs. Next come mid-range wholesalers and then smaller wholesalers and street dealers. Some club street promoters who hand out flyers are also involved, usually working for rival British gangs from Manchester and Liverpool, while Algerian and Moroccan trinket-vendors are on the lowest rung of the ladder.

On 12 June 2013, members of a UK Merseyside gang who plotted to sell drugs to holidaymakers on the holiday island of Ibiza were jailed. A Spanish court was told the conspiracy unravelled after one of the group was caught trying to smuggle 2.5 kilos of cocaine through Ibiza airport. Prosecutors said the drug, which was 24% pure, had a street value of £150,000. The gang was caught after a police sting called Operation Trafalgar. The gang worked in small groups targeting hotels and apartments, selling ecstasy and cocaine. The thirteen accused – eleven from the UK Merseyside area, one from Ireland and one from Slovakia were all handed sentences ranging from 2-3 years.

Petty-theft on the islands is not uncommon, but should not be a problem if you take the necessary precautions previously described in this report. The most likely source of crime will be from other holidaymakers who may have had a touch too much to drink. Generally, though, the Balearics are considered fairly safe.

Allmode Summary and Advice

The 1st edition of the Mediterranean Report was based on a number of regions within the South of France. Each edition will highlight news on different regions of the Mediterranean to help create better Situational Awareness (SA) and highlight the risk of visiting a particular location.

It is important to remember that the Mediterranean Region, relies heavily on tourist revenues and news of criminal activity can negatively impact the economy. It comes as no surprise that not all criminal activity is reported. Similarly, those that are reported are not always released to the public domain therefore official statistics and information available do not always reflect the true threat.

As illustrated throughout this report, it is clear that petty crime is one of the most common risks throughout Spain and the Balearics and our advice would be to stay extra vigilant when visiting the regions. Ensure that you remain alert and maintain a high level of personal security.

Keep all valuables locked away and when out and about, refrain from taking large quantities of cash and use credit or debit cards instead. If you are carrying cash, then try to conceal it on your person rather than carrying it within a purse or bag. Reports have indicated that thieves will carry knives in order to cut the straps of bags or purses before taking off with your belongings. Be particularly wary of pickpockets; the distractions of street entertainment provide opportunities for thieves. Do not sign petitions on the streets and do not ask anybody to mind your valuables. Avoid excessive drinking when ashore and avoid the drug culture of the nightclubs.

Coastal crimes in the Mediterranean have shown an increase in boat / yacht robberies, so, when leaving boats / yachts, or indeed any form of accommodation, be sure to undertake basic security precautions and use common sense to ensure that you have closed and locked all doors and windows.

Stay extra vigilant during the hours of darkness by staying in groups when out on the streets to help to minimise your vulnerability.

Spain is not seen to suffer from a high level of murder rates but it is known that a large number of crimes go unreported so we only see a small part of the true picture and the true level of threat could be higher. With that in mind, when visiting these areas you are advised to improve your situational awareness and research the area you are due to visit fully.

This can be achieved in a number of ways; the use of full risk assessments, contacting the local Consulate or Embassy for any travel advice within the region and by keeping up to date on any local related news. Allmode can provide an in depth risk assessment on any area within the world upon request for more information you can contact:

intelligence@allmode.org)

Finally, Allmode would advise that you discuss the appropriate insurance needed with your Broker before transiting or visiting the region.

Health Advisory

If you're visiting Spain, you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Spanish nationals. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment. Private hospitals won't accept the EHIC and will ask you to pay for your treatment or provide evidence of adequate insurance.

You should also know that in Spain pharmacists are able to prescribe minor medications, like antibiotics, without a prescription from a doctor. If you know you can take a certain medication for an illness you have had previously, you could go to the pharmacy and request that medicine. You may or may not be able to get it that way. However, it is always best to consult with a trained medical doctor before taking any drugs.

Food and water standards in Spain are similar to those in the United States and the rest of Europe. Most visitors do not need to take special food or water precautions beyond what they normally do at home.

On 5 June 2013, the Spanish authorities issued alerts detailing areas of increased risk for rabies following an incident involving a domestic dog. The risk of rabies for travellers to Spain generally is low and rabies pre-exposure vaccination is not recommended. You should avoid contact with domestic and wild animals. Rabies is known to be present in bats in Spain.

Rabies is a viral disease that causes acute inflammation of the brain in humans and other warm-blooded animals. The time period between contracting the disease and the start of symptoms is usually one to three months; however it can vary from less than one week to more than one year. Globally most cases are the result of a dog bite, with this being the cause in more than 90% of cases in countries where dogs commonly have rabies.

Animal control and vaccination programs have decreased the risk of rabies from dogs in a number of regions of the world.

Do not ignore animal bites or scratches. Washing bites and scratches for 15 minutes with soap and water also appears to be somewhat effective and may help avoid infection. If bitten consult a doctor or hospital for anti-rabies treatment without delay. Only a few people have survived a rabies infection and this was with extensive treatment. Rabies causes about 26,000 to 55,000 deaths worldwide per year.

Legionnaires' disease is a bacterial infection which typically causes pneumonia but may also involve other organ systems. The disease is usually transmitted by airborne droplets from contaminated water sources, such as cooling towers, air conditioners, whirlpools, and showers. Legionnaires' disease is not transmitted from person-to-person.

The most recent outbreak of Legionella infection in Spain was reported in August 2013 from the Eastern Valles region in Catalonia, causing 14 cases, none of them fatal. The source has not yet been identified.

In general, no special immunizations or medications are necessary for travel to Spain.

Yachting News



23 July 2014 - Manoeuvres began early on Wednesday to remove the rusty hulk of the Costa Concordia cruise liner from the Italian island where it struck rocks and capsized two years ago, killing 32 people. A convoy of 14 vessels, led by the tug boat Blizzard, will start to tow the Concordia later on Wednesday to a port near Genoa in northern Italy where it is due to arrive on Sunday, before being broken up for scrap. The once-gleaming white luxury liner sank off the holiday island of Giglio in January 2012 after

sailing too close to shore. Its wreck has remained there ever since as engineers embarked on one of the largest maritime salvage operations in history. Over the past week, salvagers have slowly lifted the 114,500-tonne ship from underwater platforms by pumping air into 30 large metal boxes, or sponsons, attached to the hull. Franco Porcellachia, engineer in charge of the salvage, said on Tuesday that his team had done everything in their power to make sure the ship, which is around two-and-a-half times the size of the Titanic, was structurally sound. "When we are in sight of the port of Genoa, we can declare victory," said Franco Gabrielli, the head of Italy's civil protection service, on Wednesday. The whole salvage operation is set to cost the ship's owners Costa Crociere, a unit of Carnival Corp over 1.5 billion euros (\$2 billion), its chief executive said earlier this month. The wreck's departure removes both the physical remains, which prompted worries about pollution on the picturesque Tuscan coastline, and the visual spectre of a chaotic evacuation of crew and passengers, some of whom jumped ship and swam ashore.



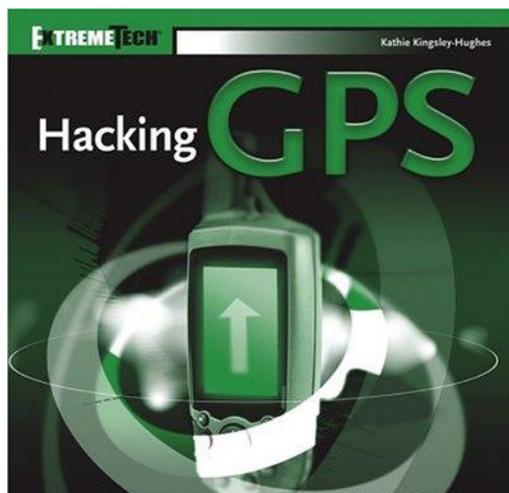
09 July 2014 - A former Google executive is thought to have died after a high-class prostitute gave him a fatal dose of heroin during a liaison on board his 50-foot yacht. Alix Tichelman, 26, was arrested by police in Santa Cruz, California on 4 July and later charged with the manslaughter of 51-year-old Forrest Hayes, a father of five who had worked as an engineer for several companies including Google, Apple and Sun Microsystems. The incident took place in November 2013, when Mr Hayes and Ms Tichelman met at his yacht in a Santa Cruz harbour. Police say security footage

from the yacht shows Ms Tichelman injecting Mr Hayes with a dose of heroin. He appeared to suffer a bad reaction to the drug, and quickly became unconscious. *"The video shows the victim suffering medical complications and going unconscious,"* Santa Cruz Deputy Police Chief Steve Clark said. *"Rather than provide first aid or call 911, Ms Tichelman proceeds to gather her belongings including the heroin and needles. The video also shows Ms Tichelman stepping over the victim's body several times as she is gathering her belongings. At one point, she steps over the body to finish a glass of wine. Finally, she leaves the boat and reaches back in to lower the blind and conceal the victim's body from outside view."*



21 Feb 2014 – 17 metre luxury yacht Armageddon was hijacked by pirates in the Gulf of Roccapina, near southern Corsica. A group of pleasure boaters had probably the worst day of their life when 4 armed pirates boarded the yacht. The Armageddon is built for long ocean crossings and it is almost unbelievable to have been attacked by pirates in a small motor boat in the calm south western coast of Corsica known as a popular yacht destination. After boarding the yacht, the

pirates without any efforts captured the 3 people on board the vessel. The 3 occupants of the Armageddon were locked in a cabin for 3 hours and after that were left on a lifeboat kilometres from the coast. The yacht is worth over a million Euro and was stolen.



In **June 2013**, in international waters some 30 miles off the coast of Italy, the White Rose of Drachs began to drift starboard. Inexorably, the \$80 million, 65-meter luxury super-yacht yielded its GPS-determined course until it was under complete control by hijackers. No alarms went off. As far as the ship's GPS equipment was concerned, the signals it was getting were authentic, and once a location discrepancy was reported by the ship's navigation system, a course correction was initiated by the crew. But those signals were not authentic, and the ship was not on course. The signals were in fact being sent from the White Rose's upper deck by University of Texas/Cockrell School of Engineering graduate

students as an experiment. A team from the school had been invited aboard while the White Rose sailed from Monaco to Rhodes, Greece, on the Mediterranean Sea. Using a blue box about the size of a briefcase, the duo spoofed the ship's GPS signals, sending counterfeit signals that slowly, subtly overpowered the authentic GPS signals until the ship ultimately came under their control. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctw9ECqJ8L0>

Security Awareness Training

Are your crew compliant with the mandatory STCW 95 modules?

STCW Regulation VI/6 became mandatory on 1st January 2014. This regulation requires all seafarers on ships subject to the ISPS Code to have received security related training and instruction relevant to their assigned duties on-board.

- **Proficiency in Security Awareness**

ALL seafarers who **do not** have specific security-related duties on board are required to hold a Proficiency in Security Awareness Certificate ([PSA](#)) and will need to take an approved course approx. 4 hours in length.

- **Proficiency in Designated Security Duties**

All seafarers with **designated** security duties stipulated in the ship security plan will be required to hold a certificate of Proficiency in Designated Security Duties ([PDSD](#)) and will need to take an approved course approximately 10 hours in length.



Are your Crew prepared?

New STCW 95 – proficiency in security awareness & for seafarers with designated security duties.

Course Topics:

- Reporting a security incident
- Security threat procedures
- Enhancement of maritime security through heightened awareness
- Recognition of security risks and threats
- Maintaining security awareness and vigilance
- Maintaining conditions set out in a Ship Security Plan.
- Vessel Security Inspections
- Security equipment and systems.

On 1st January 2014, security training required for seafarers will change.

STCW Regulation VI/6 will enter into force. This regulation requires all seafarers on ships subject to the ISPS Code to have received security related training and instruction relevant to their assigned duties on-board.

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- Vessel Security Training
- Security Equipment and Systems Introduction

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- Yourself
- Increase your awareness
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