Spain has the most competitive tourism industry in the world, a global study by the World Economic Forum (WEF) has found.

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The report takes into account 90 individual-indicators measuring elements such as a-destination's natural and cultural resources, its-health and hygiene conditions, its travel-infrastructure, its security levels, its price-competitiveness and its adaptation to new-technologies.

With beautiful heritage sites-throughout the country,-Spain boasts top marks for-its cultural resources"

After Spain, the best-performing nations are-France, Germany, United-States, Britain,-Switzerland, Australia,-Italy, Japan and Canada.

The report notes that Spain-is the third-most-visited country in the world,-with around 60.6 million annual arrivals, and has-growth prospects thanks to an influx of tourists-from emerging markets, including China, Brazil and-Mexico.

The comprehensive study gave Spain an overall-score of 5.31 out of seven, a grade that is broken-down into four major areas: enabling environment,-travel and tourism policy, infrastructure, and-natural and cultural resources.

“With beautiful heritage sites throughout the-country, it boasts top marks for its cultural-resources, and also scores highly for business-travelers with a significant number of-international conferences,” reads the report. “It-has a high ranking (fourth) on online searches for-entertainment – restaurants, nightlife and-attractions – as well as prioritization of the-travel and tourism industry (sixth) and tourism-service infrastructure (fourth).”

Of the four blocks, Spain did best in-infrastructure, scoring 5.68 out of seven. Its-second strongest area was its natural and cultural-resources, driven among other things by its wealth-of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and sports-facilities.

Its worst score was for travel and tourism policy-(4.66), principally as a result of price-competitiveness. Most other economies performed-even worse on this point, however, allowing Spain-to remain near the top of the charts. The best-prices were to be found in Egypt, Indonesia,-Malaysia and Tunisia.

In the previous 2013 edition, Spain ranked fourth-while Switzerland held the top spot. The-methodology has been changed this year to include-more variables and incorporate new data. The new-system “optimizes the allocation of variables to-form a cleaner structure,” the report explains.