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The number of overseas tourists visiting the UK reached a record 12.3m for the year to May, according to figures released by the International Passenger Survey.
There was a 6% increase in visitor spend to £18.2bn for the 12-month period.
Chairman of VisitBritain Christopher Rodrigues welcomed the increase in arrivals but said the real challenge lay ahead as the UK's global competitors raised their game in response.
"Our major competitors, which include the USA, France, China and Spain are all raising their game with improved visa processing, lower taxes and increasing investment in tourism infrastructure and marketing because they understand that in a time of weak economic growth and high unemployment - particularly amongst the young - investing in Tourism is a proven winner - creating jobs, delivering growth and providing significant proven returns on investment.

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**Consultez la source sur Veille info tourisme:** Le Royaume Uni accueille un nombre record de touristes étrangers