

## Pool renting app thrives in Spain's hot summer

A cooling dip in the mid-July swelter of central Spain no longer requires owning a private pool, or risking Covid-19 contagion at crowded public swimming facilities, Aura Cenet discovered.



Source: [Unsplash](#)

The 21-year-old waitress from Madrid, Spain and her three friends hired a private pool in the garden of a house in Arroyomolinos, a town 28km southwest of the capital city, using the [Swimmy app](#).

"You are better protected here, without anyone to bother you. It's a good idea, I don't think I will go back to a municipal pool," Cenet told *Reuters* as she relaxed in the pool.

The pandemic has buoyed businesses such as pool manufacturing and maintenance across the world, as more people chose to avoid community pools and beaches.

Spain's Fluidra, the world's largest swimming pool equipment maker, in May posted a 40-fold jump in profit and said demand for residential pools was likely to remain strong.

Owners using the Swimmy app can earn up to €1,200 (R20,865) per month by renting out their pools, said Estefania Leiva, communications director at the Spanish arm of Swimmy, which was founded in 2017 in France.

Prices in the Madrid area typically range from €12 to 30 (R177) per person for a half-day.

## **Number of reservations double**

"Even though restrictions have been relaxed this year, in May and June we have doubled the number of reservations compared with last year," Leiva said.

A new surge in infections this month has forced several regions to reimpose some restrictions in the past couple of weeks.

She said there were 150,000 app users who take their pick between some 3,500 private pools in Spain and France. Swimmy is also operating in Italy, Germany and the United States.

The owner of the pool rented out by Cenet and her friends started using the app last year.

"I rarely enjoy the swimming pool...so if I only use it a couple of hours I prefer others to enjoy it and the money comes in very handy because this kind of swimming pool is expensive to maintain," said Vanessa Ghirardato.

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