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ESSENTIAL SPAIN

EASY PLANNING
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PULLOUT MAP

2025

IBIZA AND THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

Updated by
Emy Rodriguez Flores




 **Sights**
★★★★☆

 **Restaurants**
★★★★☆

 **Hotels**
★★★★☆








 **Shopping**
★★★★☆

 **Nightlife**
★★★★☆

season; often booked out.  *Rooms from: €300*  *Venda de Sa Punta 3205, Es Pujols*  *616/654982*  *www.canai-sha.com*  *Closed roughly Oct.–May*  *6 apartments*  *Free Breakfast.*

Casa Formentera

\$\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Legendary nightlife brand Pacha's hotel brings "barefoot simplicity and understated comfort" to Ibiza's laid-back sister island of Formentera.

Pros: unbeatable beachfront location; free parking; yoga classes overlooking the sea. **Cons:** limited facilities nearby; expensive; minimum two-night stay in high season.  *Rooms from: €650*  *Camí es Arenals, Km 11, Formentor*  *971/313535*  *casafortmentera.com*  *Closed Oct.–May*  *14 rooms*  *Free Breakfast.*

Shopping

The island of Formentera has three main crafts markets: El Pilar de la Mola, San Francesc Xavier, and Es Pujols. Stores and workshops sell handmade items, including ceramics, jewelry, and leather goods. La Mola's crafts market draws shoppers on Sunday and Wednesday from May to mid-October. May through mid-October, crafts are sold in the morning at the San Francesc Xavier market and in the evening in Es Pujols. For art, the Sant Ferran night market is a vibrant open-air gallery from June to October, except Sunday and Wednesday.

Mallorca

Saddle-shaped Mallorca is more than five times the size of Menorca or Ibiza. The Sierra de Tramuntana, a dramatic mountain range soaring to nearly 5,000 feet, runs the length of its northwest coast, and a ridge of hills borders the southeast shores; between the two lies a flat plain that in early spring becomes a sea of almond blossoms, the so-called snow of Mallorca. The island draws close to 14 million visitors annually, many

bound for summer vacation packages in the coastal resorts. The beaches are beautiful, but save time for the charms of the northwest and the interior: caves, bird sanctuaries, monasteries and medieval towns, local museums, outdoor cafés, and village markets.




GETTING HERE AND AROUND

From Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca is a 50-minute flight, an 8-hour overnight ferry, or a 4½-hour catamaran journey.

If you're traveling by car, Mallorca's main roads are well-surfaced, and a four-lane, 25-km (15-mile) motorway penetrates deep into the island between Palma and Inca. The Vía Cintura (Ma-20), an efficient beltway, rings Palma. For destinations in the north and west, follow the "Andratx" and "Oeste" signs on the beltway; for the south and east, follow the "Este" signs. Driving in the mountains that parallel the northwest coast and descending to a cornice (cliff-side road) is a different matter; you'll be slowed not only by the narrow winding roads but also by tremendous views, tourist traffic, and groups of cyclists.

VISITOR INFORMATION

CONTACTS Oficina de Turismo de

Mallorca.  *Plaça de la Reina 2, Palma*  *971/173990*  *www.mallorca.es/en.*

Palma de Mallorca

If you look north of the cathedral (La Seu, or the seat of the diocese, to Mallorcans) on a map of the city of Palma, you can see around the Plaça de Santa Eulàlia a jumble of tiny streets that made up the earliest settlement. Farther out, a ring of wide boulevards traces the fortifications built by the Moors to defend the larger city that emerged by the 12th century. The zigzags mark the bastions that jutted out at regular intervals. By the end of the 19th century, most of the walls had been demolished; the only place you can still see the massive defenses is at Ses

Voltes, along the seafront west of the cathedral.

A *torrent* (streambed) used to run through the middle of the old city, dry for most of the year but often a raging flood in the rainy season. In the 17th century, it was diverted to the east, along the moat that ran outside the city walls. Two of Palma's main arteries, La Rambla and the Passeig des Born, now follow the stream's natural course. The traditional evening paseo takes place on the bustling Born.

If you come to Palma by car, park in the garage beneath the Parc de la Mar (the ramp is just off the highway from the airport, as you reach the cathedral) and stroll along the park. Beside it run the massive bastions guarding the Palau Reial de l'Almudaina; the golden and massive cathedral rises beyond. Where you exit the garage, there's a ceramic mural by the late Catalan artist and Mallorca resident Joan Miró, facing the cathedral across the pool that runs the park's length.

If you begin early enough, walking along the ramparts at Ses Voltes from the mirador beside the cathedral is spectacular. The first rays of the sun turn the upper pinnacles of La Seu bright gold and then begin to work their way down the sandstone walls. From the Parc de la Mar, follow Avinguda Antoni Maura past the steps to the palace. Just below the Plaça de la Reina, where the **Passeig des Born** begins, turn left on Carrer de la Boteria into the Plaça de la Llotja. (If the Llotja itself is open, don't miss a chance to visit—it's the Mediterranean's finest Gothic-style civic building.) Stroll through the Plaça de la Drassana to the **Museu d'Es Baluard** at the end of Carrer Sant Pere. Retrace your steps to Avinguda Antoni Maura. Walk up the Passeig des Born to Plaça de Rei Joan Carles I, then right on Carrer de La Unió.

GETTING HERE AND AROUND

Palma's Empresa Municipal de Transports (EMT) runs 40 bus lines and a tourist train in and around the Mallorcan capital. Most buses leave from the Intermodal station, next to the Inca railroad terminus on the Plaça d'Espanya; city buses depart from the ground floor, while intercity buses leave from the underground level. The tourist office on the Plaça d'Espanya has schedules (or check www.emtpalma.cat/en). Bus A1 connects the airport with the city center and the port; No. 2 circumnavigates the historic city center; No. 20 connects the city center with the Porto Pi shopping mall; No. 46 and No. 4 go to the Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró, and Bus A2 connects S'Arenal with the airport. The fare for a single local ride is €2; to the airport, it's €5.

Boats from Palma to neighboring beach resorts leave from the jetty opposite the Auditorium, on the Passeig Marítim. The tourist office has a schedule.

BUS INFORMATION Empresa Municipal de Transports. ✉ *Calle Josep Anselm Clavé 5, Palma* ☎ 971/214444 🌐 www.emtpalma.cat.

BUS STATION Estació Intermodal. ✉ *Pl. d'Espanya s/n, Palma* ☎ 971/177777 🌐 www.tib.org.

TAXI INFORMATION Radio-Taxi Ciutat. ✉ *Francesc Sancho 7, Palma* ☎ 971/201212 🌐 www.radiotaxiciutat.com.

VISITOR INFORMATION

CONTACTS Oficina de Turismo. ✉ *Pl. de la Reina 2, Palma* ☎ 971/173990 🌐 www.visitpalma.com, www.mallorca.es/en.

TOURS

City Sightseeing

BUS TOURS | The open-top City Sightseeing bus leaves from behind the Palau de la Almudaina every 20–25 minutes starting at 10 am and makes 16 stops throughout the town, including La Rambla, the Passeig Marítim, and the Castell de Bellver.

Tickets are valid for 24 or 48 hours, and you can get on and off as many times as you wish. All Palma tourist offices have details. ✉ *Passeig Marítim 16, Palma* 🌐 *city-sightseeing-spain.com/en/25/palma-de-mallorca* 📄 *From €25.*

CRUISE SHIP TRAVEL TO PALMA DE MALLORCA

With some 800 cruise-ship arrivals a year, Palma is the major port of call in the Balearic Islands; ships dock at either the Estació Marítima or Porto Pi, at the far west end of the harbor, where the docking facilities include eight berths, six-passenger terminals, a permanent gangway with a luggage conveyor belt, and a bank. From the landing, it's a brisk 2½-km (1½-mile), half-hour walk along the harbor via Avenida Gabriel Roca to the historical center of Palma. The promenade is essentially a waterfront row of restaurants, hotels, car- and bike-rental agencies, and cafés: it makes more sense to ride into town than walk. Cruise lines provide their own shuttle buses; a taxi from the stand at dockside to the Plaça de la Reina, just below the cathedral, costs about €10. Alternatively, you can take the municipal Bus No. 1 to Plaça d'Espanya (€3).

The parts of Palma most worth seeing lie within the ring of boulevards, from the Passeig Mallorca around to Avenida Gabriel Alomar i Villalonga, that trace the long-gone medieval walls of the city. To do justice to Palma's rich repository of medieval monuments and museums and the glories of its modernist art and architecture takes at least a full day. An overnight stay in port would give you time for an excursion to Valldemossa, Deià, and the Tramuntana mountains or to Sóller—all of them highly recommendable trips.

Best Bets



Castell de Bellver. The only circular castle in Spain.

La Seu. Palma's cathedral is glorious, inside and out.

Es Baluard Museu. This major collection of modern art includes work by Miró and Picasso.

Train to Sóller. Relax in one of the retro wooden rail cars on the hourlong trip to this delightful little town on the island's north coast.

Sights

Ajuntament (Town Hall)

GOVERNMENT BUILDING | Along Carrer Colom is the 17th-century *ayuntamiento* (town hall). Stop in to see the collection of *gigantes*, the vast painted and costumed mannequins paraded through the streets during festivals, displayed in the lobby. The olive tree on the right side of the square is one of Mallorca's so-called *olivos militaries*—purported to be more than 1,000 years old. The adjacent building is the Palau del Consell, the headquarters of the island's government, a late-19th-century building on the site of a medieval prison. The *Palau* (palace) has its collection of *gigantes* and an impressive stained-glass window over the ornate stone staircase; visits inside can be arranged by appointment (✉ *visites@conselldemallorca.net*). ✉ *Pl. Cort 1, Centro* 📞 *971/225900* 🌐 *www.palma.cat*.

Banyes Arabs (Arab Baths)

RUINS | One of Palma's oldest monuments, the 10th-century public bathhouse has a beautiful walled garden of palms and lemon trees. In its day, it was not merely a place to bathe but a social institution where you could soak, relax, and gossip with your neighbors. ✉ *Carrer*

Teatre Principal

NOTABLE BUILDING | Take time to appreciate the neoclassical symmetry of this theater, Palma's chief venue for classical music. The opera season here usually runs through June. ✉ *Carrer de la Riera 2, Centro* ☎ 971/219700 *information, 971/219696 tickets* 🌐 *teatreprincipal.com* 🎫 *Performances vary.*

Beaches

Es Trenc

BEACH | **FAMILY** | Even though it's nearly an hour's drive from Palma, this pristine 2-km (1-mile) stretch of fine white sand on Mallorca's southern coast, much longer than it is wide, is one of the most popular beaches on the island—arrive late in summer and you'll be hard-pressed to find a space to stretch out. At times, the water can be a bit choppy, and there are occasional patches of seaweed—but otherwise, the clear, clean water slopes off gently from the shore for some 30 feet, making it ideal for families with younger kids. Es Trenc is in a protected natural area free of hotels and other developments, which makes for good bird-watching. Naturists lay their claim to part of the beach's eastern end. **Amenities:** food and drink; lifeguards; parking (fee); toilets. **Best for:** nudists, partiers, swimming, walking. ✉ *MA6040, Colònia de Sant Jordi* ↕ *10 km (6 miles) south of Campos, 6½ km (4 miles) east of Colònia Sant Jordi.*

Restaurants

★ Adrián Quetglas Restaurant

\$\$\$\$ | **SPANISH** | Adrián Quetglas, an Argentinian-born chef of Mallorcan descent, cooked in some of the finest kitchens in London, Paris, and Moscow before he returned to Mallorca in 2015 to launch this solo venture. Despite being awarded a Michelin star, Quetglas remains committed to the democratization of fine dining and delivering the

Cuevas del Drach

Mallorca's "Dragon Caves" are four large caves that reach a depth of 80 feet below the surface, housing one of the largest underground lakes in the world and a dazzling array of stalagmites and stalactites that form identifiable shapes such as the Virgin of the Cave, the Buddha, and the Valley of Montserrat. The hour-long tour includes visiting the caves and a short classical music concert performed on the lake by musicians in an illuminated boat. For more info, check 🌐 *www.cuevasdeldrach.com/en.* 🎫 *From €17.*

pleasure of high-end gastronomy to a broader audience. **Known for:** five-course lunch menu only €55; accessible fine dining; awarded one Michelin star in 2023. 💰 *Average main: €85* ✉ *Passeig de Mallorca 20, Centro* ☎ 971/781119 🌐 *adrianquetglas.es* ☹ *Closed Sun. and Mon.*

Botànic

\$\$\$ | **MEDITERRANEAN** | In the leafy garden of the Can Bordoy boutique hotel, Botànic is a plant-forward restaurant that also features locally sourced meat and fish. The menu is inspired by Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Mexico cuisines but firmly rooted in Mediterranean flavors. **Known for:** seasonal, local produce; healthy and flavor-packed dishes; lovely patio. 💰 *Average main: €20* ✉ *Forn de la Glòria 14, Centro* ☎ 971/750550 🌐 *eatbotanic.com.*

★ DINS Santi Taura

\$\$\$\$ | **CATALAN** | Local culinary wunderkind Santi Taura is using his eponymous restaurant in the El Llorenç Parc de la Mar hotel to explore historical recipes of the island, served in an ultrachic, contemporary setting. Some of the most

emblematic dishes include *panada de peix de roca*—a “Mallorcan dim sum” of rockfish pie, believed to be one of the oldest recipes on the island—and a dish of rabbit with lobster, which combines the sea and the mountains. **Known for:** awarded one Michelin star in 2024; bar seating lets you see the chef at work; no menu, only an 11-step tasting “journey”.

💰 *Average main:* €110 📍 *Pl. de Llorenç Villalonga 4, Centro* 📞 656/738214

🌐 www.dinssantitaura.com 🕒 *Closed Sun.–Tues. No lunch Wed. and Thurs.*

👉 *Adults only.*

Forn de Sant Joan

\$\$\$\$ | **MEDITERRANEAN** | This former bakery turned restaurant (*forn* means “bakery” or “oven” in Mallorquin) dates back to the 19th century and features exposed brick walls, patterned floor tiles, modern art, and picture-perfect Mediterranean tapas. A cocktail bar on the ground floor overlooks the street, and one of the three distinct dining areas is where bread dough was once prepared. **Known for:** former 19th-century bakery; elevated tapas and Mediterranean dishes; cocktail bar.

💰 *Average main:* €28 📍 *Carrer de Sant Joan 4, Palma* 📞 971/728422 🌐 www.fornandesantjoan.com.

Marc Fosh Restaurant

\$\$\$\$ | **SPANISH** | Having received the first Michelin star on the island, the Marc Fosh restaurant packs a punch. Its pre-organized lunch and dinner experiences are packed with Mallorcan dishes from all around the island. **Known for:** modern and sharply contrasts traditional architecture; most produce used comes from local vendors; come hungry, there are many courses. 💰 *Average main:* €120 📍 *Carrer de la Missió 7A, Palma* 📞 971/720114 🌐 www.marcfosh.com 🕒 *Closed Sun and Mon.*

☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

Café La Lonja (*Sa Llotja*)

🇺🇸 | **TAPAS** | An excellent spot for coffee or a G&T, this is a classic establishment in the old fishermen’s neighborhood. The sunny terrace in front and the bar inside are excellent places for drinks and sandwiches. **Known for:** a great pit stop; terrace with views of the Llotja; coffee and snacks. 💰 *Average main:* €6 📍 *Carrer de la Llotja 2, Palma* 📞 971/722799 🌐 cafelalonja.com 🕒 *Closed Mon.*

🏨 Hotels

★ Calatrava

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | In a 19th-century building on a quiet square in the old town, Calatrava is one of many historic buildings converted into elegant, art-laden boutique hotels in recent years. **Pros:** great old-town location; spacious rooms, renovated in 2023; drinks and breakfast served on the rooftop with sea views. **Cons:** no pool or gym; arriving by car is tricky (but the hotel can arrange parking); limited breakfast options. 💰 *Rooms from:* €420 📍 *Pl. de Llorenç Villalonga 8, Centro* 📞 971/728110 🌐 www.calatravahotel.com 🛏️ 16 rooms 🍳🕒 *Free Breakfast.*

★ Can Alomar

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | Can Alomar is the perfect urban retreat if you want to be in the center of it all. **Pros:** great location; superb cuisine; impeccable service. **Cons:** next door to the bustle—and nightlife; lacks things to do in the off-season; only one restaurant. 💰 *Rooms from:* €800 📍 *Sant Feliu 1, Palma* 📞 871/592002 🌐 www.canalomarhotel.com 🛏️ 16 rooms 🍳🕒 *Free Breakfast.*

Castillo Hotel Son Vida

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | This lovely hotel in a 13th-century estate is a 10-minute drive from Palma, with several nearby golf courses. **Pros:** heaven for golfers; all bedrooms renovated in 2022 by renowned London design firm, Goddard Littlefair;

outstanding service. **Cons:** no coffee-making facilities in rooms; eating off-site requires a cab ride or a rental car; adults only. [🇺🇸] *Rooms from: €440* ✉ *Carrer de Raixa 2, Urbanización Son Vida, Ponent* 📞 971/493493 🌐 www.castillohotelsonvida.com 🏠 164 rooms 🌞 | Free Breakfast.

★ El Llorenç Parc de la Mar

\$\$\$\$ | HOTEL | In recent years, several high-end boutique hotels have opened in Palma de Mallorca, none more fabulous than El Llorenç Parc de la Mar. The setting, on a quiet square in the historic Calatrava neighborhood, is ideal for exploring the prettiest parts of Palma on foot. **Pros:** incredible split-level rooftop terrace; Michelin-starred restaurant; personalized service. **Cons:** tricky to get to by car; three-night minimum stay in peak season; rooms on the small side. [🇺🇸] *Rooms from: €550* ✉ *Pl. de Llorenç Vilalonga 4, Centro* 📞 971/677770 🌐 www.elllorenccom/en 🏠 33 rooms 🌞 | Free Breakfast.

Fontsanta Hotel Thermal Spa & Wellness

\$\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Next door to Es Trenc, the Fontsanta Hotel has the only thermal waters in Mallorca. **Pros:** thermal baths and spa on-site; superb attention to detail; you won't find a better location for exploring Es Trenc. **Cons:** children are welcome, but could get bored quickly; not a great place if you're not a nature lover; rooms are bit outdated. [🇺🇸] *Rooms from: €400* ✉ *Carretera Campos – Colonia de Sant Jordi, Km 8.2, Palma* 📞 971/655016 [information](http://www.fontsantahotel.com) 🌐 www.fontsantahotel.com 🏠 25 rooms 🌞 | Free Breakfast.

Gran Hotel Son Net, Puigpunyent

\$\$\$\$ | HOTEL | With only a distance of 15 minutes from the heart of Palma, Grand Hotel Son Net feels like another world. **Pros:** close enough to Palma; rooms are ample; most rooms have multiple windows. **Cons:** easy to get lost; some rooms can feel cramped; location is confusing if you're not a local. [🇺🇸] *Rooms from: €1,000* ✉ *Castillo Son Net s/n,*

Puigpunyent 📞 971/147-0000 🌐 sonnet.es 🏠 35 rooms 🌞 | No Meals.

Portella Palma

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Newly opened in 2024, Portella Palma mixes historical design with contemporary. **Pros:** urban-chic relaxation; next to Arab baths; quiet location in center of city. **Cons:** no on-site restaurant; minimal amenities; entrance easy to miss. [🇺🇸] *Rooms from: €400* ✉ *Calle de la Portella 9, Palma* 📞 871/626263 🌐 www.portellapalma.com/en 🏠 10 suites, 4 rooms 🌞 | Free Breakfast.

🍸 Nightlife

Mallorca's nightlife is always easy to find. Many of the hot spots are concentrated in the flashy marina 6 km (4 miles) west of Palma at **Punta Portals**, in Portals Nous, where the royal yacht is moored when former king Juan Carlos I comes in early August for the Copa del Rey international regatta. Another central area is **Avinguda de Gabriel Roca**. This section of the Passeig Marítim holds many taverns, pubs, and clubs. The network of streets in the old town around Carrer dels Apuntadors is also prime barhopping territory.

BARS AND CAFÉS

★ Bar Abaco

BARS | This bar's over-the-top baroque exuberance sets it apart from its humble setting. Urns and baskets of fresh flowers and fruit tumble onto the floor; stone pillars and vaulted ceilings, tall candles, and ambient opera music fill the space. ✉ *Carrer de Sant Joan 1, Palma* 📞 971/714939 🌐 www.bar-abaco.es.

Plaça de la Llotja

GATHERING PLACE | This square and the surrounding streets are the place for *copas* (drinking, tapas sampling, and general carousing). ✉ *Plaça de la Llotja, Palma*.

★ Wineing

WINE BAR | Tucked down Carrer dels Apuntadors, Wineing is a great place to try wines from across the island and

