

Balearic Islands



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Mediterranean Sea



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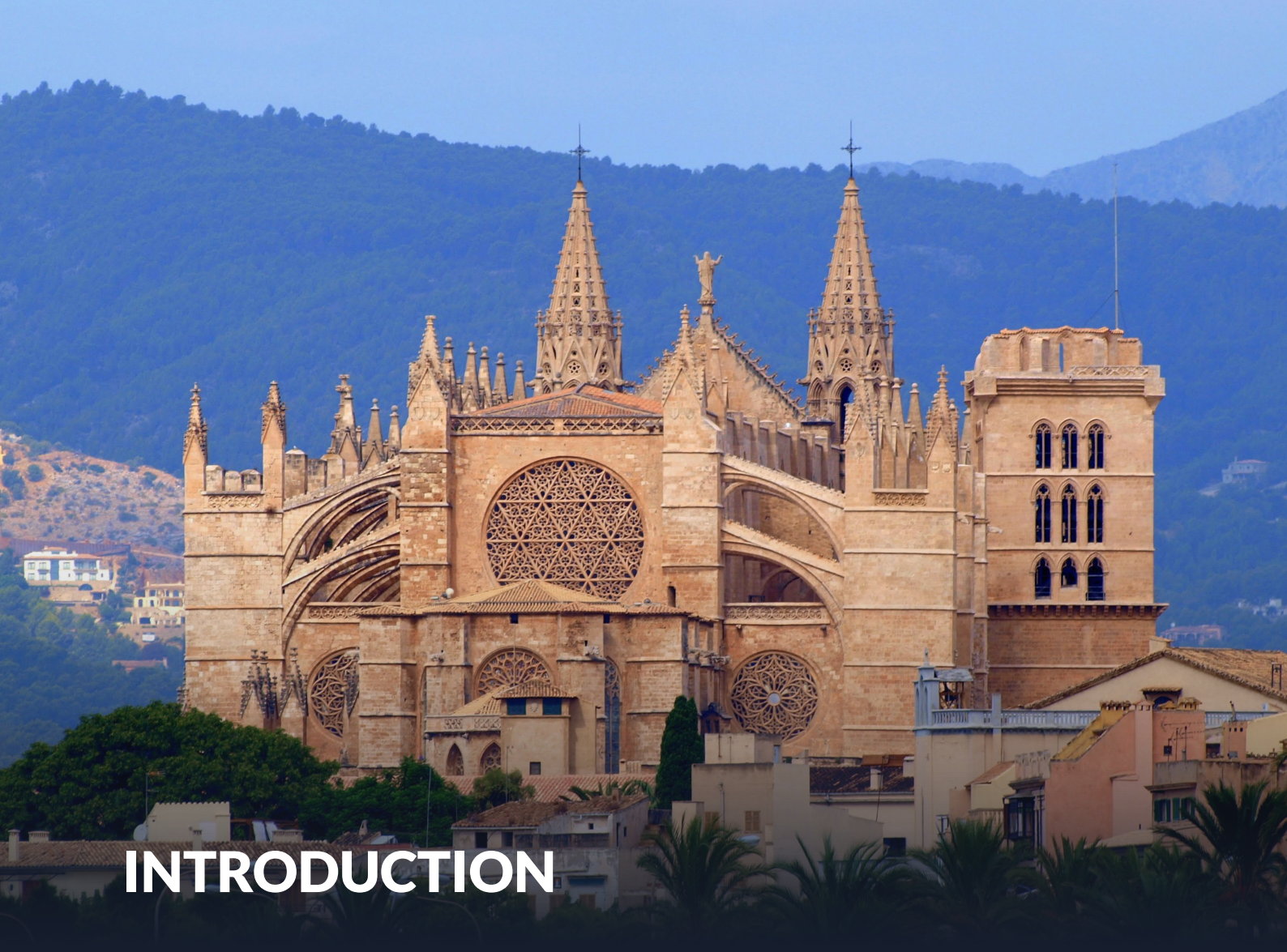
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Front Cover: Beaches of Cala Mitjana and Cala Mitjaneta, Menorca.

Back cover: Ibiza.

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INTRODUCTION

▲ LA SEU, PALMA
MALLORCA

Discover the special beauty of each of the Balearic Islands: **Mallorca**, **Menorca**, **Ibiza** and **Formentera**. The climate, with more than 300 sunny days per year, and the beautiful **countryside** mean there are endless possibilities for enjoying outdoor activities like water sports, horse riding, boat trips and ballooning.

The clear, warm waters of the Mediterranean are ideal for taking a refreshing dip on its fantastic **beaches**. The choice is endless, from family-friendly beaches with a full range of services, to hidden coves in idyllic surroundings where you can enjoy amazing sunsets.

Visit towns and villages steeped in the **culture** and history of the Balearic Islands, with museums, modernist palaces, Gothic churches and medieval castles. There are even pre-historic remains like the Bronze Age megaliths called “talayots”.

Entertainment is guaranteed, with concerts, festivals, clubs and so much more. You'll never have a problem finding something to do. Take part in a traditional festival, have a drink on a terrace overlooking the sea and dance till dawn in a beach club.

Come with us as we take a look at the main attractions and you'll be amazed by the beauty and magic of these islands.

MALLORCA

Nature, sports, beaches, charming villages, underground caves, a great range of leisure possibilities for families... Mallorca has so much to offer. So what are you waiting for?



▲ PLAZA MAYOR, PALMA
MALLORCA

CULTURE

The beautiful historical old town of **Palma**, the capital of the Island of Mallorca, is amazing. Overlooking the Roman wall which used to surround the city, the Gothic cathedral called **La Seu** rises majestically over the sea. It was restored by Antonio Gaudí and contains a spectacular mural created by Miquel Barceló. Nearby stands the **Almudaina**, another beautiful Gothic monument.

Its function is that of a Royal Palace, and it is one of the Spanish royal family's residences. You can see both buildings reflected in the waters of the artificial lake in the **Parque del Mar** before the tour continues towards **La Lonja**, which used to be the headquarters of the Guild of Merchants. It is one of the most beautiful buildings and is used as a venue for temporary exhibitions of art, photography, etc.

There are even more treasures in the narrow streets and alleyways in the town centre. The **March Palace Museum** has an interesting collection of contemporary sculptures and ancient books. Then, on to the **Convent of San Francisco**, which features a basilica and a Gothic cloister with slender columns.

The **Church of Santa Eulalia** has a surprisingly high bell tower and several gargoyles overlooking the terraces around the temple.

You can see some of the lesser-known pictorial works of Miró, one of the major figures in Surrealism, in the **Pilar y Joan Miró Foundation**.

For an unbeatable view of the island, you should go up to the Gothic-style **Bellver Castle**, about three kilometres from the historical town centre and one of very few round castles in Europe.



▲ BELLVER CASTLE, PALMA
MALLORCA

Head to the northern mountain range of the island to visit the **Miramar Monastery** and the monumental ensemble of the **Carthusian Monastery of Valldemossa**, in the town of the same name.

Travel back to prehistory at the Son Fornés museum, located in an old 18th-century mill in Montuïri, and discover what life was like in a **Talayotic village**. In the district of Artà you'll find one of the largest and best preserved: **Ses Païsses**, located in a pretty oak forest. And in Lluçmajor, the prehistoric village of **Capocorb Vell**.

▼ PILAR AND JOAN MIRÓ FOUNDATION
MALLORCA



SHOPPING IN MALLORCA

You'll just love the shopping streets in Palma like the **Calle Sant Miquel**, **Jaume III** and **El Born**. If you are looking for craftwork, browse the stalls in the **Plaça Major** in the morning and visit some of the century-old shops in the area, such as basket shops, chocolate shops, fabric shops, bakeries, pastry shops and cafes.

Every day of the week, there are lively open-air markets in many towns such as Alcudia, Artá, Calviá, Manacor, Pollensa, Sineu and more.

You might like to purchase some of Mallorca's most highly-prized traditional products like fabrics, gold and silver creations, basketwork and pottery. An excellent souvenir could be a **siurell**, which is a small, white clay figure with a whistle whose origins date back to the Talaiotic Period.

The unique pieces obtained using the **blown glass** technique, which originated with the Phoenicians and has been declared Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, will fascinate you with their colour and beauty: wineglasses, lamps, bottles, chandeliers...

Special mention should go to **leather goods**, like footwear, which are renowned worldwide for their quality. If you're interested in discovering the craft process involved in their production, you're best bet is to visit a factory in one of the towns where they are made, like Inca in the Raiguer Region in the centre of the island.



▲ ENSAIMADA
MALLORCA

TASTING MALLORCA

Taste the flavours and the variety of Mediterranean cuisine prepared with local products from the island: fish and seafood, locally produced meat and fruit and vegetables from the gardens.

Try the typical cold-meat products made from pork, like the renowned **sobrasada sausage**. And you'll love some of the traditional dishes like "**coca de trempó**", a flat pastry with several vegetables, or "**arròs brut**", spicy rice in broth, originally made with vegetables, meat and game.

For dessert you have the famous "**ensaimada**", a pastry cake in the form of a spiral and sprinkled with icing sugar. Mallorca is also famous for its **honey**. You can taste it in sponge cakes, marzipan and exquisite cheese cake. **Almonds** also play a leading role in local culinary tradition: you'll find them in ice creams and nougats.

In the **Santa Catalina Market**, the oldest in Palma, there is a blend of traditional and gourmet stalls. Take advantage of aperitif time to taste another exquisite product, **olives** with Protected Designation of Origin. And the **olive oil** of Mallorca, from centuries-old olive trees in the Serra de la Tramuntana, is another of the gastronomic treasures. The **wines** from its two designations of origin, Binissalem and Pla i Llevant, will make an ideal pairing.



▲ SIERRA DE TRAMUNTANA
MALLORCA

NATURE

In Mallorca, there is beauty everywhere you look. Marvel at the **Tramuntana mountain range**, the largest protected natural area in the Balearic Islands, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The easiest way to explore it is by taking the hundred-year-old railway from **Palma** to **Sóller** where it connects with a wooden tramcar. If you prefer hiking then take the Dry Stone Route. In the far north you'll get captivating views from the lookout points and coves of **Cape Formentor**, just a few kilometres from Port de Pollença. One of the most attractive excursions you can make during your stay in Mallorca is to the **natural monument of Torrent**

de Pareis, a spectacular cliff location. It is an impressive three-kilometre canyon which leads to the lovely **Sa Calobra Beach**. It can be reached on foot or by taking a boat from **Port de Sóller**.

In the town of **Campanet**, you'll find an extraordinary, spectacular natural phenomenon: the **Ses Fonts Ufanes natural monument**, a well which springs naturally from the ground and makes its way amongst the trees and the rocks.

The **Mondragó Nature Reserve** in **Santanyí** has abundant Mallorcan flora and fauna. Follow one of the four recommended routes on foot or by bicycle to experience ecotourism at its



▲ SES FONTS UFANES
MALLORCA

finest. Plus, you are in one of the best places for bird watching on the island, as more than 70 species coexist – from eagles and falcons to flamingos, birds of prey and migratory birds.

Even under the ground – can you imagine listening to a classical music concert in an underground cave with more than 5,000 years of history? In the district of Porto Cristo, you can experience this in two venues. In the **Drach Caves**, where Lake Martel awaits you, which you can cross by boat. And in the **Cuevas dels Hams**, the Plains of Fra Mauro, the Devil's Pi and the Sea of Venecia, an underground lake.

In the **Artá Caves**, located in the Capdepera cliffs, you seem almost able to make out Gothic constructions and monsters in the vast caverns. The **Campanet Caves** will captivate you with their spacious terraces with views of the Tramontana mountain range. In Palma, you'll find the colourful **Génova** caves 36 metres underground irrigated by fresh water.

If you like diving, then this is a paradise. Mallorca has a number of **Marine Reserves** around the coast, like those of the **Bay of Palma, Llevant** and **Migjorn de Mallorca**. Dive into **Sa Dragonera** to appreciate the incalculable value of *Posidonia oceanica* in the marine biodiversity of the Balearic Islands.

COAST AND BEACHES

The beauty of Mallorca's beaches and coves goes beyond summer. The fact that many of them are located in protected natural areas allows for incredible cycling and hiking routes. You will be able to explore coastal landscapes of dunes and cliffs, with diverse vegetation and lots of fauna.

In the Bay of Palma, you have several choices of city beaches with all the commodities, like **S'Arenal**, with its long, palm tree-lined seafront promenade. **The Oratori de Portals (or Cala Portals Nous)** is one of the most popular and easy to access.

Take a long walk feeling the sand under your feet on one of the largest beaches in the Balearic Islands, the Playa de **Alcúdia**. Or you could spend the day in the sunshine by the sea in **Es Port**, a popular sandy beach right next to the



▲ MALLORCA

Colònia de Sant Jordi, in the municipal district of **Ses Salines** in the south east.

If you'd rather be away from the town centres, then you should try **Portals Vells**, in the Calvià district, in a cove surrounded by pine trees and with crystal-clear waters.





▲ MALLORCA

MALLORCA WITH CHILDREN

Get a bird's-eye view of the amazing countryside: take your family up in a hot-air balloon. There are several options to choose from.

Have a day of fun in one of the **water parks** of Lluçmajor, Alcudia or Magaluf, or in the **adventure parks** in Calvià, Palma de Mallorca or Santa Ponça.

The island has several **aquariums and zoos** and numerous equestrian centres that host activities and **horse riding excursions**.

In addition to **cultural visits** to archaeological sites and castles in Mallorca, there are attractive **hiking routes** for children to discover unique places such as the S'Albufera nature reserve.

If you like speed, Marratxí and Can Picafort are home to three of the five karting circuits on the island.

① **More information:**
www.mallorca.es/

GETAWAY TO THE UNSPOILED ISLAND OF CABRERA

Ten kilometres south of Mallorca is the Cabrera Archipelago, a Maritime-Terrestrial National Park made up of 19 small islands and islets. A jewel of Mediterranean biodiversity with more than 400 botanical species, 200 types of fish, molluscs, crustaceans, reptiles, seabirds and birds of prey.

You can reach Cabrera, the largest island, by boat from the **Colònia de Sant Jordi**. Since there is only one 12-person shelter that is in high demand, visitors usually just do a day trip. There is a visitor centre and an ethnographic museum with Roman amphorae, ceramics and other ancient remains. Its 14th-century castle served to defend the island from pirates and corsairs. If you follow the

hiking trail to the **Nénsiola Lighthouse**, you will have a spectacular panoramic view 100 metres above sea level.

If you visit the Blue Cave by boat, you can take a swim or go snorkelling in a grotto that takes on an intense blue colour in the rays of the sun. To relax, you have beaches of all kinds: the sandy beaches of **Cas Pagés, Cala Donzell** and **Cala Santa María**; the pebble beach of **Sa Platgeta** or the gravel beaches of **Es Palmador** and **Cala Ganduf**.



MENORCA

Menorca is synonymous with relaxation and nature. It has been declared a Biosphere Reserve, it has a wonderful selection of coves and beaches of immeasurable environmental value, charming little fishing villages and countryside which is a delight for cyclists and hikers.

► CIUTADELLA
MENORCA



CULTURE

Menorca has numerous archaeological sites and prehistoric monuments of the **Talayotic culture** that have been declared UNESCO World Heritage sites. The island's legacy spans several cultures and civilisations, from early settlers and Romans to the British and French. Furthermore, since 2019 it has been a **Starlight destination and reserve** for its air quality and the visibility of its stars.

Explore **Ciutadella de Menorca**, once the capital of the island, with palaces, medieval buildings and narrow, cobbled streets. The tower of the **Castle of San Nicolás** is truly striking and seems to watch over the port. Once inside the historical town centre, you'll find an iconic architectural complex: the Catalan Gothic **Cathedral of Santa María**. To learn more about the island's past, you should visit the **Municipal Museum** on the Bastión de Sa Font, built on a cliff next to the port. At the end of June, you can take part in one of its most iconic festivities, the **Festival**



▲ SANTA MARÍA CATHEDRAL
CIUTADELLA, MENORCA

Photo: Juan Bautista Cofreces/123rf.com

of **Sant Joan**. You will discover the star role that horses play in all the important events in Menorca.

You should visit the **Naveta des Tudons**, a collective Bronze Age tomb which is one of the oldest buildings in Europe.

In the east of the island, there's further evidence of pre-historic times in the **Trepucó Talaiotic settlement**, which has one of Europe's oldest and best-preserved "taulas" (T-shaped Talaiotic construction exclusive to the island of Menorca). To go even further back in time, there's the amazing **Torre d'en Galmés**, a Pre-Talaiotic settlement with circular dwellings and the remains of a water collection system.

Mahón, the island's capital, lies at the eastern end of the island and is one of the largest natural harbours in the

world. You should visit the majestic **La Mola**, a typical polygonal German-style fortress; the **Menorca Museum** which exhibits finds from the archaeological digs; and the **Church of Santa María**, robust from the outside and neo-Gothic inside. Then there's the splendid **Portal de Sant Roc**, the remains of the medieval walls that surrounded the city. At the beginning of September, you can experience the popular festivities of **Mare de Déu de Gràcia**, with samples of gastronomy, parades, and the coming and going of decorated horses and riders through the city streets.

Discover an icon of Menorca's agricultural culture: the llocs, white country estates surrounded by green grass meadows where you can learn how Mahon cheese is made and also sample it.





SHOPPING IN MENORCA

One of the most enjoyable activities on the island is to visit open-air fairs and markets in search of handicrafts, such as Menorcan sandals, and typical foods, such as the famous Mahón cheese. You can take home a souvenir of your holiday while supporting local production. During the summer, there are some very special events like the **creative craft market in Es Castell**, a pretty little fishing village near the entrance to the port of Mahón.

In the **Ciutadella craft market**, also open in the summer and one of the most popular, you'll find everything: from jewellery and footwear to pottery and illustrations.



▲ MAHÓN CHEESE
MENORCA

TASTING MENORCA

The island's cuisine takes advantage of both the land and the sea. Delicious Menorcan **stuffed aubergines** are just one part of the selection of tasty vegetables featuring courgettes, peppers and artichokes. You really have to try "**caldereta de langosta**" (lobster casserole), one of the island's most iconic dishes, invented by the fishermen.

Then there's **Mahón cheese**, a local culinary benchmark. It is protected by its own Designation of Origin. It can be enjoyed on its own, or in pies, stuffed potatoes and salads.

Did you know...? Many studies reveal that **mayonnaise**, one of the most popular sauces in the world, may well have its origins in the island.

Legend has it that it was created in Mahón (where it gets its name) and that a local hotelier served it to Marshall Richelieu who commanded the troops that seized the port of Mahón. Enjoy your meals with a good **wine** from the island and taste the unique Menorcan gin, made from grapes and aromatic Mediterranean herbs.

The snacks made of fine flour doughs with a combination of sweet and savoury fillings are delicious and come in a great variety. The **crespells**, the **formatjades** (traditional Menorcan cheese pastry) and the **rubíols** are some of the must-tries.

At breakfast and tea time there will be so much to choose from: **carquinyols**, (pastries made from almonds); **crespells** (pastries made from flower, lard, olive oil, egg yolk, sugar and lemon): **coca bamba** (typical Mallorcan ensaimadas) and more.

NATURE

Apart from the extraordinary archaeological and cultural heritage, Menorca also offers a wealth of ecological and landscape features.

You can explore the island's different habitats on foot, by bicycle or on horseback. Or you could dive into its waters and discover the amazing natural treasures on the seabed.

Take a tour to the **s'Albufera des Grau Nature Reserve**, the green jewel of the archipelago. There are three routes for you to explore. You'll see megalithic buildings, unspoiled beaches and cliffs, lagoons, farmland... And the wealth of fauna includes endemic species like the osprey and the Balearic lizard.

At night, sign up for some stargazing activity, as Menorca is a **Starlight Tourist Destination**.



CALA TURQUETA
MENORCA

COAST AND BEACHES

The great biodiversity of the Menorcan coastline requires special protection. Ecotourism and walking or cycling trails are the best idea to discover Menorca's unspoilt beaches and coves hidden among unique natural enclaves.

The **Camí de Cavalls**, a 185-kilometre hiking and mountain biking route that circles the entire island, is the ideal way to explore the coast and also learn about its culture and history. It is divided into 20 sections and has a practical interactive map that shows you all the attractions along the way.

Fine, white sand and crystal clear waters are what characterise the southern beaches such as **Son Bou**, **Macarella**, **Cala Turqueta** and **Cala Blanca** and **En Forcat**, near Ciutadella. If you are going with children, **Binibèquer Nou**, in the municipality of Sant Lluís, has all the services of an urban beach. In the north, the beaches have reddish sand which contrasts with the blue and green shades of the sea, surrounded by dunes, such as **Binimel-là** or by cliffs, such as **Cala Morell**.

▼ CALA TORTUGA
MENORCA



MENORCA WITH CHILDREN

Your children can enjoy unforgettable experiences like horse and pony riding. Or you could take them on a guided boat trip. Set sail from the port of Ciutadella de Menorca and discover the unspoiled coves of the south from the sea. To discover the amazing cliffs and islets of the north coast you should take a boat from Fornells. Or sail in the waters of the port of Mahón.

Snorkelling, kayaking and diving are also suitable for young adventurers. There are plenty of activities to do in the spectacular **northern marine reserve**.

Fun is guaranteed in the **water parks** of Ciutadella, Sant Lluís and Es Mercadal. You can also visit the Alaïor Zoo.

In addition to the cultural routes through **Talayotic Menorca**, such as the spectacular Naveta des Tudons or visiting one of the island's **seven historic lighthouses**, **S'Albufera des Grau Natural Park** is ideal for planning excursions and admiring this fantastic Biosphere Reserve.

📄 **More information:**
www.menorca.es



IBIZA/EIVISSA

Ibiza (Eivissa in Catalan) is renowned for its long party nights, fine sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters, but it has so much more to offer. Its culture and biodiversity have led it to be recognised by UNESCO. You'll be captivated by its beauty.

▲ IBIZA

CULTURE

The Phoenician and Carthaginian civilisations have left quite a footprint on the island, as has the Renaissance era. From up in the historical old town of **Dalt Vila**, declared World Heritage, in the capital city of Ibiza you have fantastic panoramic views with the port at your feet. It is completely surrounded by impressive Renaissance city **walls** which were built to protect the town against pirates. The most monumental of the five access gates is the **Portal de ses Taules**, next to the **Mercado Viejo** or Old Market.

It is a real pleasure just to stroll through the maze of squares and narrow streets. The most striking features are the defensive bulwarks, the **ayuntamiento** or Town Hall (in what used to be a Dominican Convent) and the tiled vaults of the **Church of Santo Domingo**.

All roads lead to the **Cathedral of Santa María de las Nieves** which was built on the old Moorish walls. It is in Catalan Gothic style with a Baroque nave. It also houses the Diocesan Museum, which exhibits a splendid collection of

wonderful silver-gilt articles. On top of the Puig de Vila hill stands the **Almudaina Castle**, the tallest monument in the city with a medieval keep.

It is well worth spending some time in the city's museums. The **Archaeological Museum of Ibiza and Formentera** holds a unique collection of valuable ceramics, jewels and sarcophagi that span 3,000 years of history. If you like modern art then you should visit Ibiza's **Museum of Contemporary Art** (MACE) or you could discover the evolutionary history of the city from the great audiovisual model at the **Madina Yabisa Visitor Centre**.

Not to be missed is the **Monographic Museum and Punic Necropolis in Puig des Molins**. Some 3,500 tombs have been discovered in this Phoenician-Punic cemetery, one of the largest and best preserved in the world. The funerary items found in the tombs are exhibited in the museum: necklaces, charms, coins...

The next most significant archaeological sites on the island are those of **Ses Païsses**, **Cala d'Hort** and the Phoenician dwelling in **Sa Caleta**.

The beginning of September is great for music lovers, with live music in the heart of the walled city: the **Eivissa Jazz** festival is open to both local and international artists.

Join creative tourism and take part in exciting activities such as music, dance, photography, language and culinary workshops. And to go deeper into the traditional architecture of the island, follow the **White Churches route**, which are located in beautiful rural landscapes.



SES TAULES GATEWAY
IBIZA

Photo: theendup/123rf.com



BUST OF THE GODDESS TANIT, PUIG DES MOLINS MUSEUM
IBIZA

Photo: Javier Mendoza Cardona/123rf.com



DALT VILA
IBIZA

Photo: Malgorzata Slusarczyk/123rf.com



▲ IBIZA

SHOPPING IN IBIZA

When you're in the city of Ibiza, you can always do a little shopping in the **port**. Meander through the alleys of the **La Marina** neighbourhood and discover the variety of leather and jewellery craftwork, **Ibizan espadrilles** or **espadenyes**, or the **adlib fashion** of traditional embroidery and lace. If you prefer somewhere a bit more modern and spacious, then you should try the newer part of the city called the **zona del ensanche** and the area around the “**Mercado Nuevo**” or New Market

where you'll find magnificent, fresh, local produce.

Then there are the colourful, bustling, open-air street markets with a seventies feel. One of the oldest is the **Port of Ibiza street market**, a haven of costume jewellery and craft work. The **Las Dalias HippyMarket** in Sant Carles is also iconic: Take a look at their stalls while sipping a cocktail and listening to live music. Or you could meet the craft workers in the popular **Paseo de S'Alamera Hippy Market** in Santa Eulària.



▲ IBIZA

TASTING IBIZA

Healthy and so very tasty: that is how you would describe the island's cuisine. We recommend traditional dishes made from seafood and fresh, local produce. One of the most representative is the **“bullit de peix”** or fish stew. Stew made with vegetables, potatoes and rock fish, accompanied by the Mediterranean alioli sauce (olive oil and garlic) and rice **“a banda”** made with the fish broth. For something sweet, try **“orelletes”**, traditional, fried aniseed-flavoured cakes, which you'll find in any pastry shop.

One of the liveliest areas for dining is on a terrace in the port. You can find quiet and pleasant places in some of the inland villages.

NATURE

From the beach you get a wonderful view of the islands of Es Vedrà and Es Vedranell in the **Cala d'Hort, Cap Llençtrisca y Sa Talaia Nature Reserve**. This is the perfect place for diving, hiking and mountain-biking.



▲ SES SALINES NATURE RESERVE
IBIZA

You can look out over a myriad of landscapes in the **Ses Salines Nature Reserve** which goes from the south of Ibiza to the north of Formentera and includes the strait which separates the two islands. Underwater, seagrass beds of *Posidonia oceanica* grow, which have been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO for serving as a refuge and food for numerous species and for promoting oxygenation and transparency of the waters. On a stroll along the coast you will see the amazingly colourful salt pans, the dunes covered with ancient juniper trees and some extraordinary cliffs.

In the north of the island, in the sheer cliffs of the **Port de San Miquel**, you can visit the **Can Marçà caves**, which date back over 100,000 years. You can take a guided tour and see an amazing collection of stalactites and stalagmites.

SAN MIGÜEL PORT
IBIZA

COAST AND BEACHES

The beaches and coves of the Ibizan coastline form a natural heritage where sustainability is vital. Enjoy hiking with stunning views and unique ecosystems, along with small coves surrounded by cliffs and vegetation, such as **Cala d'Hort** and **Cala Xarraca**, and the flamingos and migratory birds that live in **Ses Salines**.

The city of Ibiza has two beaches in town which provide comprehensive services including sun loungers and parasols for hire, lifeguards and showers: **Ses Figueretes** and **Talamanca**. They can be reached on foot, by bicycle and public transport and they are accessible for those with reduced mobility. The spacious **Playa d'en Bossa**, between the municipalities of Ibiza and San José, shares the same conveniences.

▼ PLAYA D'EN BOSSA
IBIZA



EL COLOMER VIEWPOINT
MALLORCA

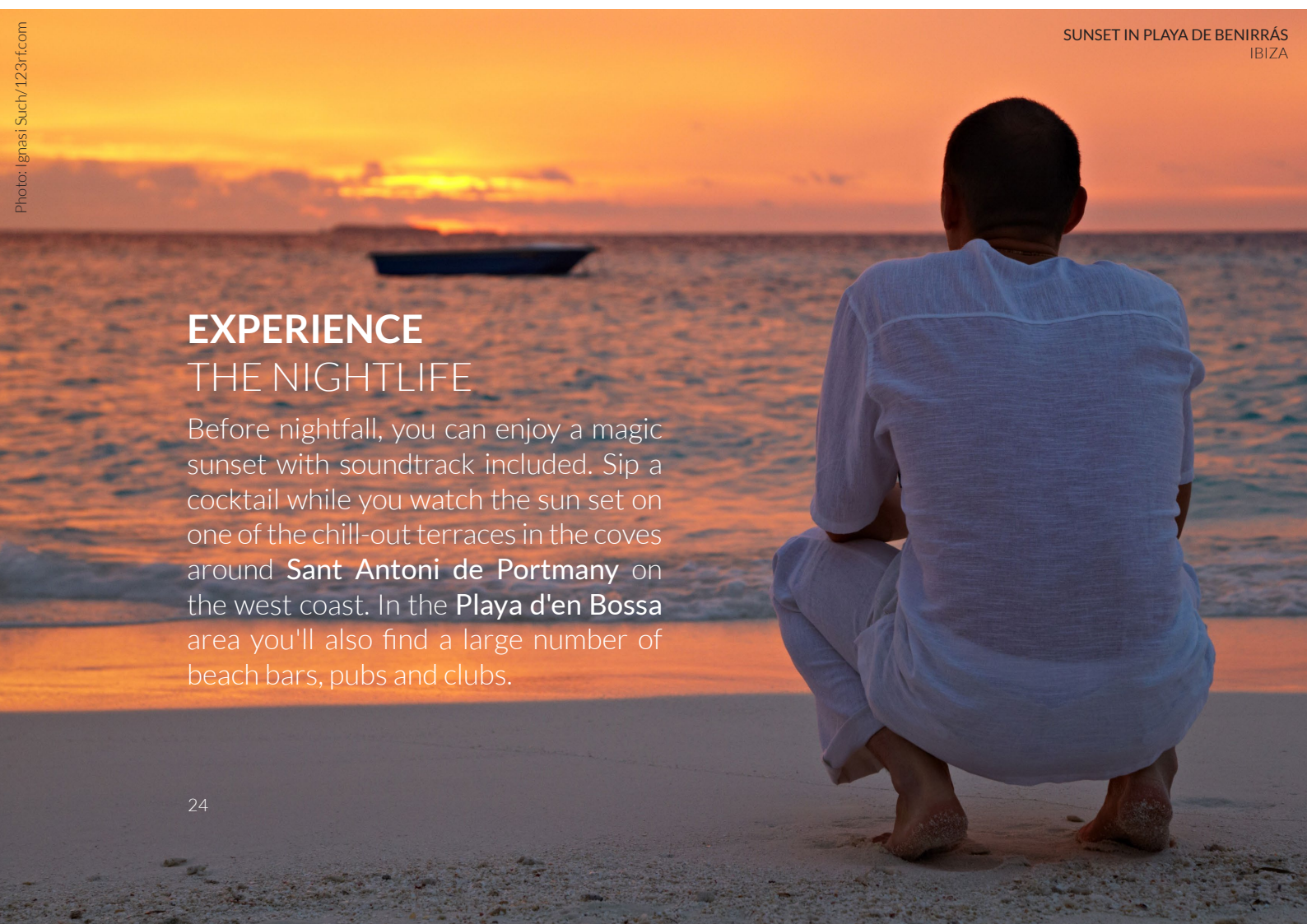


IBIZA WITH CHILDREN

Apart from playing in the sand and the gentle waves of the sea, there are a number of activities for children to have a great time: balloon rides, dramatised routes within the walled city, shows for children...

Bike rides are a great idea. There are several well-organised routes to choose from: amongst pine trees, salt pans and flamingos in the **Ses Salines Nature Reserve**. You could also visit the **Cap Blanc Aquarium** in Sant Antoni de Portmany, where you'll see typical marine species from the surrounding area, or you could take one of mini tourist trains which leave from the port and a number of different beaches and neighbourhoods.

SUNSET IN PLAYA DE BENIRRÁS
IBIZA



EXPERIENCE THE NIGHTLIFE

Before nightfall, you can enjoy a magic sunset with soundtrack included. Sip a cocktail while you watch the sun set on one of the chill-out terraces in the coves around **Sant Antoni de Portmany** on the west coast. In the **Playa d'en Bossa** area you'll also find a large number of beach bars, pubs and clubs.



IBIZA/EIVISSA

▲ IBIZA

If you're in the city of Ibiza, the place to go is the **La Marina** neighbourhood. There is an incredible festive atmosphere in the area around the port where you can have dinner, try some hand-made ice cream and stroll around the street market while you wait for the extravagant “parades” promoting fiestas and live performances in the clubs.

Enjoy the latest music played by the very best DJs and dance until dawn in some of the greatest clubs in the world. Everybody comes under the magic spell of the night in Ibiza.

📍 **Further information:** www.ibiza.travel



▲ IBIZA

FORMENTERA

If Formentera is famous for anything, it is for its white, sandy beaches bathed with crystal-clear, turquoise waters. Discover this jewel of nature which is as small in size as it is great in the beauty of its landscapes.

▼ FORMENTERA



YOU SHOULD TRAVEL THE ISLAND FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER

You'll find secret little hideaways full of delight: lagoons, dunes, salt pans, caves and woods full of juniper and pine trees. You can do so on foot, on horseback or by bicycle. There are 30 green routes, most of them accessible by bike which is perhaps the best way of exploring the approximately 19 kilometres from, one end of the island to the other.

Along the way, you'll find windmills and farmland. You can visit delightful little villages like **Sant Ferran de ses Roques** and **Pilar de la Mola**. **Sant Francesc Xavier**, the capital of the island, has charming, white-washed houses, shops and restaurants around the square, with a church which used to be a refuge against pirate attacks.

In the north, you'll come to **Ses Illetes**, one of the best sandy beaches in Europe, and then on to the **Es Trucadors** peninsula, a narrow stretch of sand in the north of the island which lies in the heart of the **Ses Salines Nature Reserve**, shared with the island of Ibiza.

The wide presence of **Posidonia meadows**, protected by UNESCO for their incalculable environmental value, will help you understand the importance of their conservation in the Balearic Islands. This endemic plant of the Mediterranean acts as a real lung of marine ecosystems.

Migjorn, in the south, is a five-kilometre long crescent-shaped beach which is a favourite with families. Nearby you'll find **Es Arenals**, a long beach with calm, shallow waters providing all kinds of services like sun loungers and parasols, a windsurf and diving school, delicious

restaurants and beach bars where you can sit and watch the sun go down.

You really shouldn't leave without exploring the iconic lighthouses. They can be found at the **Cap de Barbaria**, the southernmost point in the Balearic Islands, and at **La Mola**, in the east on a cliff about 120 metres above the sea.

To get your strength back, you can enjoy the delicious local cuisine. Try the renowned "**peix sec**" (dried fish), the cottage cheese and the herbal liqueur called "**hierbas**". You'll find an interesting souvenir by looking around the craft and art markets like the one in **La Mola** or **Sant Ferran**.

Follow local advice to practice responsible tourism and contribute to the sustainability of this fabulous natural heritage before you.

📍 **Further information:**
www.formentera.es



10 FANTASTIC BEACHES

Spectacular cliffs, huge unspoilt beaches, charming coves... find your favourite beach in the Balearic Islands and enjoy a dream holiday in its crystal-clear waters. Here is a small selection of 10 idyllic locations.



▲ CALÒ DES MORO
MALLORCA

CALÒ DES MORO, MALLORCA

To get here, you'll need to take a path which ends with a stone stairway. But it's well worth the effort: you'll love this little cove with fine, white sand and turquoise waters, six kilometres from Santanyí.

PLAYA DEL TORRENT DE PAREIS, MALLORCA

This is a just reward for hikers who take the trail through the gully. It is located at the mouth of the Torrent de Pareis in the heart of the Sierra de Tramontana, between two spectacular cliffs.

PLAYA DE FORMENTOR, MALLORCA

It is one of the largest beaches on the island and it is protected from the wind by hills covered with pines and oak trees. You can get there by car, you can take a boat from Port de Pollença or, for a longer excursion, you can go by catamaran from Port d'Alcúdia.

ES GRAU, MENORCA

This is Menorca's family-friendly beach par excellence and the largest in the s'Albufera des Grau Nature Reserve. It is protected by the Island of Colom and is next to the summer resort of Es Grau.

CALA PRESILI, MENORCA

You can relax in this unspoiled cove where not so many people go, it is near Mahón and just a short walk along the Camí de Cavalls pathway.

CALA ESCORXADA, MENORCA

This is one of the most idyllic and peaceful beaches in the south. It is far away from any town centre and it is more than a 50-minute walk to get there.

CALA SALADETA, IBIZA

The sister to the popular Cala Salada beach, accessible along a narrow track. It has fine sand and is surrounded by gentle, pine-covered hills.

PLAYA AIGÜES BLANQUES, IBIZA

The perfect choice for nudists. It is over 300 metres wide and is at the foot of a cliff. You can take a mud bath as if you were at a spa.



▲ CALÒ D'ES MORT
FORMENTERA

PLAYA DE SES ILLETES, FORMENTERA

Many people say this is one of the best beaches in the world because of its beauty, the incredible water, and the meadows of *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass which cover the seabed. It's great for snorkelling and you can go as far as the nearby islets.

CALÒ D'ES MORT, FORMENTERA

Incredibly beautiful and one of the most peaceful in the Balearic Islands, this little nudist cove is about ten kilometres from Sant Francesc Xavier, between the beaches of Es Migjorn and Es Ram. It is ideal for diving and enjoying the sunset. There you'll find a number of colourful little boathouses, traditional wooden constructions where the fishermen used to keep their boats.

BALEARIC ISLANDS

ALL YEAR ROUND

SUMMER

Apart from making the most of your time on the beach, this is the time for great music festivals in iconic venues like Valldemossa, Deià, Pollença and the Bellver Castle in Mallorca, and Mahón, in Menorca.

There's something to suit all tastes. In Mallorca you have world music (**Mallorca Roots Festival**), indie (**Mallorca Live Festival**) and rock (**Rock in Palma, Musicalvià**).

For those who love classical music, there is the **Ciutadella Summer Music Festival** in Menorca, which is held in the cloisters of the seminary in the Church of El Socorro. Performers include famous operetta singers and the "Illa de Menorca" Chamber Orchestra.

In summertime, the music never stops in Ibiza. The major clubs (Amnesia,

Ushuaïa, Hi Ibiza, Pachá...) and hotels organise great summer opening parties with the very best DJs and internationally famous groups.

Apart from music, there is also tradition: many places have festivals to honour their patron saints, like **Sant Joan** de Ciutadella in Menorca; **Sant Jaume** in Formentera, Moors and Christians in Pollença (Mallorca) and the so-called **Festes de la Terra** in Ibiza.

Also, don't miss the cultural agenda of museums such as the **Pilar and Joan Miró Foundation** in Palma de Mallorca; the gastronomic activity of the **Claustro del Carmen market** in Mahón or the **Sant Rafel de Sa Creu craft market** in Ibiza, where every Thursday you can see Ibizan artisans at work live.





AUTUMN

For music lovers, the chamber music season lasts until May, with performances by the **Baleares Symphony Orchestra** in lovely venues such as the typical Mallorcan patios and pretty towns in the island, like Alcúdia, Artà and Inca. On Sundays in October you have the **International Organ Festival** in Mallorca's cathedral. In November you can attend free concerts during **Santa Cecilia Week**, dedicated to the patron saint of music and held in churches and cultural centres in Palma. If you're into jazz, in Mallorca you have the **Alternatilla** with performances in a variety of places on Mallorca.

In mid-October you can see Ibiza in a different light at the **Ibiza Light Festival**, a cultural project that transforms iconic locations in the port and La Marina with

The perfect season for hiking and taking part in numerous sporting events: races, marathons and cycling tours.

lighting, video, sound and performance art.

Enjoy gastronomic forums, like the **TaPalma** tapas festival, in the capital of Mallorca. You can visit wine-cellars, olive mills and organic farms. To sample the delights of Ibiza cuisine, make a tour of the restaurants taking part in **Ibiza Sabors**.

At this time of the year there are a number of agricultural, craft, gastronomic and local product fairs, like **Dijous Bo de Inca**, one of the most popular, and the **Fira de Tardor**, or Autumn Fair, both in Mallorca.



FESTIVITIES OF SANT ANTONI AND SANT SEBASTIÀ
PALMA, MALLORCA

WINTER

During the coolest months, the islands show their most authentic and tranquil side. It's the favourite time for local residents. Come and share this experience. There is a wide selection of activities.

You will find many sporting events like the **Challenge Ciclista** and the **Powerman Duathlon** in Mallorca and the “**Camí de Cavalls**” race in Menorca. You can take part by running, cycling or skating in the “**Passeig a Passeig**” race in Ibiza.

Take in landscapes such as the almond trees in blossom in the

Ibizan valley of Corona, in the north of the municipality of San Antonio. Enjoy the various Christmas and New Year celebrations, such as the unique **song of the Sibyl of Mallorca**, declared Intangible Cultural Heritage. You can also attend traditional festivals such as **Sant Antoni**, which is celebrated in many municipalities in the Balearic Islands, such as **Sa Pobla, Manacor and Artà**, around 16 and 17 January. At the *foguerons* (bonfires) you will have the opportunity to sample typical products such as *sobrasada*, *botifarrons* or *espinagades*, a type of pie filled with cabbage and meat or fish.



▲ MALLORCA

SPRING

Spring moves to the rhythm of the music. There's something for everyone: from the **Jazz Obert Festival** in Menorca to **Sant Pepe Rock** in Ibiza, which is part of the Sant Josep de Sa Talaia programme of festivities.

If you like liturgical music, you'll really love **International Organ Week**, which takes place in the Basilica of Sant Francesc in Mallorca. Opera lovers have a date with the opera season held at the Teatro Principal de Mahón, in Menorca.

At this time of year there is an attractive programme for sports lovers, including **Formentera to run**, a 60-kilometre race which takes in the most beautiful parts of the island (at the end of May/beginning of June). You can also take part in the **Formentera-Ibiza Ultraswim crossing**, a 30-kilometre race between the two islands, with another shorter five-kilometre competition between the towns of Cala Llonga and Santa Eulalia, which is usually held in June.

This is also the time of year for nautical competitions like the **Princess Sofía**

▲ OBERT JAZZ FESTIVAL
MENORCA

SAR Trophy for sailors in Mallorca and the **Salt Route Regatta** in Ibiza and Formentera.

You can learn about the traditions in the islands, like **Easter Week** and the other festivals at **Easter**, and the typical cuisine. And in May there is the **festivity of Santa Eulària des Riu** in Ibiza. Especially impressive is **Medieval Ibiza**, held within the walled enclosure of Dalt Vila and **Es Firó de Sóller** (Sóller, Mallorca), where residents of the town act out the historic battle fought between Moors and Christians in 1561.

If you're really interested in wine, then you get to sample delicious wines from the islands at **Wine Days Mallorca**.

HOW TO GET THERE

BY SEA

Arriving in the islands by sea is a spectacular experience, especially if you disembark in Mahón or Ciutadella in Menorca. There are several companies that will take you by regular ferries to the main ports in the islands from Barcelona, Valencia and Dénia (Alicante). If you have your own boat, there are a number of marinas.

BY AIR

There are numerous flights to Palma, Mallorca and Ibiza. Many Spanish and international airlines have daily flights to the islands. There are no airports in Formentera. It takes half-an-hour to get there by ferry from Ibiza.



HOW TO GET AROUND IN THE ISLANDS

BY BUS

The scheduled bus services are a good way of really getting to know each of the islands. You can get further information on timetables and itineraries in the tourist information offices.

BY BICYCLE

There are many perfectly signposted routes that run through the Balearic Islands. You can hire a bike in many of the ports, towns and villages.

BY MOTORBIKE

A motorbike is an appealing choice if it's just you or you and your partner. You can rent a vehicle on all four islands.

BY CAR

There are numerous car-rental companies so you can travel freely around the islands. You can also bring your own vehicle on one of the ferries.

BY FERRY

There are daily ferries interconnecting the islands. There are several companies providing this service.



CO-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: CATALAN

Most local people speak their local dialect of Catalan (mallorquín, ibicenco and menorquín) and Spanish.

❶ Further information:

www.illesbalears.travel

www.spain.info



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