

MALLORCA TRAVEL GUIDE



Made by Dorling Kindersley

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PERSONAL GUIDES POWERED BY traveldk.com

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Practical Information

This section covers all the pre-travel basics to help you plan your trip - and how to get around once you've arrived. This is where to find out what paperwork you'll need, what to do about currency, food, avoiding cultural faux pas, web access, public transport, car rental, what plug to use – everything you need to feel informed, confident and ready to travel.

Planning Your Trip

1 Climate

Mallorca has mild, humid winters, and hot, dry summers. Expect daytime temperatures in winter to be above 12°C (53°F), and in summer not to fall below 30°C (86°F).

2 When to Go

Summer is high season in Mallorca. Autumn is thus a better time to visit, when the weather is still great, the water at its warmest and prices lower. Hiking and cycling are best in April. Nature lovers should come in spring or autumn, when birds are on the move and wildflowers are blooming.

3 Visas and Red Tape

EU citizens can enter Spain with just their valid ID card. Britons, Americans, Australians, New Zealanders and Canadians need only a valid passport for automatic permission to stay 90 days. All other nationalities must get a visa from their consulate. Some hotels will request your ID card or passport.

4 Spanish Embassies and Consulates

Spanish embassies or consulates in your home country can provide information about visiting, studying, working and retiring in Spain.

5 Spanish National Tourist Offices

This service will load you up with maps, pamphlets and brochures upon request. Contact them in your home country or, better still, pay them a visit if possible.

6 Mallorca Tourism Board

The Foment del Turisme in Palma is staffed by multilingual people who are a fount of knowledge about the island.

7 Internet Information

Mallorcans are not heavy users of the Internet, but there are some good multilingual web guides, as listed in the Directory.

8 Languages

The local language is Mallorquí, a dialect of Catalan, but Castilian (Spanish) is also spoken everywhere. Signs can be a confusing mixture of both. Many islanders who work in the tourist industry can also speak German and English, and often French, Italian and more.

9 Insurance

It is a good idea to take out private medical insurance, even if your country has reciprocal medical arrangements with Spain. Then, should you require treatment while on holiday, you will simply pay for the care, keep the receipts, and be reimbursed according to the terms of your policy. General travel insurance to cover flight cancellation and theft is also strongly recommended.

10 What to Take

Casual dress is generally acceptable, so bring lightweight, loose-fitting linens or cottons. A hat may also be useful, and don't forget your favourite sunscreen and other pharmaceutical items. At least one dressy

outfit is a good idea if you plan to visit an upmarket restaurant or club.

Getting to Mallorca

1 By Air from the Mainland

Scheduled flights and charters connect with all major Spanish and European cities. Visitors from the US will have to make the connection somewhere in Europe. Mallorca's airport is located 10 km (6 miles) southeast of Palma, with taxis and buses transporting visitors to the city and resorts.

2 By Air from Ibiza and Menorca

Iberia has the monopoly on inter-island flights and operates scheduled runs daily from both Ibiza and Menorca to Palma. There are often last-minute places available, but try to book ahead in high season.

3 Charters

Cheap charter flights are readily available (as are flights from the "no frills" airlines), but dates and times are fixed, and a refund unlikely if you can't use the ticket. From Spanish cities, you can check out Spanair; their one-way tickets are fairly priced.

4 Packages

Many travel agents offer packages including full- or half-board lodgings as well as flight and transfers, usually to the crowded, mass-market resorts.

5 By Ferry from the Mainland

Ferries and jetfoils run from Barcelona and Valencia (via Ibiza). The best bet is Transmediterránea's jetfoil (a huge catamaran) that in season does the trip twice a day in 4–5 hours (the other ferries will take up to 10 hours). The ride is generally comfortable and offers great previews of the mountainous western coast as you circle around the island to berth at the port of Palma. Buying a return ticket saves money.

6 By Ferry from Ibiza and Menorca

Transmediterránea and Balearia offer a regular ferry service from Ibiza and Menorca to Palma. Cape Balear de Crueros offers a passenger-only service to and from Cala Rajada, while Iscomar serves Port d'Alcúdia.

7 Bringing a Car

Fast ferries can be taken from Barcelona and Valencia. Inter-island ferries also carry cars, but some must be booked in advance in summer. (Hire cars cannot be transferred between islands.)

8 Cruises

Many cruise ships stop at Mallorca as part of a typical 10- or 15-day tour of Mediterranean ports. Cruise passengers rarely have enough time for any more than Palma's top sights and shops.

9 Private Boat

Marinas are dotted around the Mallorcan coastline, with no spot more desirable than Port Portals near Portals Nous (see Portals Nous and Bendinat), where members of the Spanish royal family usually moor their yachts.

Port d'Andratx is also well thought of, but there are many cheaper options.

10 Private Plane
Except for the odd private landing strip, all planes have to land at Palma airport. Balloon trips are an entertaining option on the east coast.

Getting Around Mallorca

1 Buses
Mallorca has an extensive network of buses. The central station is at Plaça Espanya in Palma; get a general timetable from any tourist agency. Palma also has a good urban bus system (EMT). Buy tickets on board.

2 Trains and Trams
There are two railway lines: one from Palma to Sóller, the other Palma to Inca (now continuing to Sa Pobla and Manacor). They have separate stations in Palma's Plaça Espanya. The delightful Sóller train, "Red Lightning", is first-class and offers special tourist runs in the morning, at extra cost. The utilitarian Inca train stops everywhere. An attractive tram runs from Sóller to Port de Sóller (see Tram from Sóller to Port de Sóller).

3 Driving
Driving here can be fun, so long as you're in no hurry. The Palma-Sóller and Palma-Inca roads are the only major highways. Other roads, though narrow and twisting, are in good repair for the most part, though you will need nerves of steel in some areas (see Hair-Raising Roads). Driving is the only way to see some of the sights and to fit a lot into one trip (see Walks and Drives).

4 Motorbikes
This is a popular option as most of the roads are ideal for scooting around on a two-wheeler. Motor-bikes and scooters can be rented in most towns.

5 Hiring a Vehicle
Car hire is quite cheap. Most big agencies are represented at Palma airport, or you can contact some directly to make comparisons. You'll need to be 21 or over, with a driver's licence and a credit card. Smaller cars are better for the narrow lanes.

6 Boats
Taking a boat is the only way to see some of Mallorca's most beautiful coves and cliffs that are inaccessible by road.

7 Taxis
Getting around by taxi – at least within the city of Palma – is quite a reasonable proposition. Fares are moderate, and there are enough taxis in circulation to give you a good chance of flagging one down at any time of day or night. A taxi ride across the whole island will cost from €60.

8 Cycling
Cycling along country lanes and mountain roads is an excellent mode of transport. Tandems and all sorts of other pedalling options are available for hire.

9 Gentle Walks
Some of the bigger port towns offer lovely promenades right along the water's edge. One of the best is the pedestrian-only Passeig Anglada Camarassa-Vorammar in Port de Pollença. Port de Sóller also has a broad path that loops around much of its beautiful bay.

10 Long-Distance Walks
Much of Mallorca is rough territory and perfect for hiking. Easy slopes with lots of vegetation can be found all over the island, but if you want real challenges, there's plenty of rugged mountain trails, many of which are sign-posted from town to town (see Hiking and Rock-Climbing & Walks and Drives).

Budget Tips

1 Off-Season Bargains
Coming out of season is by far the best way to make your holiday money go further in Mallorca. Prices plummet as the throngs of July and August become only a faint memory in the minds of hoteliers and restaurateurs. Low-season prices for everything can delight the budget-minded traveller, plus you have the luxury of being one of only a few, rather than one of uncountable thousands.

2 Package Deals
If you choose the location carefully, an all-inclusive package can mean excellent value. Make sure that transfers, taxes and other extras are also covered.

3 Self-Catering
If you can book far in advance, you should be able to secure one of the cheaper self-catering apartments in a pretty seaside town with good facilities (see Self-Catering Apartments).

4 Camping
There are two camp sites – the better one is Club Sun Picafort, 9 km (6 miles) southeast of Port d'Alcúdia. Reserve well in advance. Camping rough is prohibited within 1 km (half a mile) of the official camp sites, in urban areas and in zones prohibited for military or other reasons. You are allowed to camp rough elsewhere, but try to obtain permission from the landowner first.

5 Picnicking
Given the wealth of natural beauty on the island, much of it now given over to reserves, picnicking is a great proposal generally. There are also plenty of grocery stores out of which you can construct a memorable pastoral repast on the cheap.

6 Partying on a Budget
Not all pubs and clubs are pricey. Some of the best, in fact, do not impose a cover charge or minimum fee. And most pubs are so busy that no one will notice you nursing your brew all night.

7 IVA Sales Tax
If you buy anything that has a hefty sales tax tacked onto it, keep the receipt, fill out the paperwork, then get a portion of it reimbursed at the airport. Another option

for avoiding the 7% IVA is to have your purchases shipped directly home, thus making it an out-of-country sale.

8 Make Lunch the Main Meal

The daily lunch menu in most restaurants can save you a lot of money – as much as 75% of the à la carte cost (see Menú del Día). Portions are often generous, too, so you can make this your major meal of the day. It's also a great way to savour the cuisine of some of the top restaurants without forking out their top prices.

9 Laundromats

Unfortunately, regular laundries and tintorias (dry-cleaners) are quite expensive, and hotel services even more exorbitant. However, some hotels (eg Villa Sirena) offer clients the use of their washers for a nominal fee. A few lavanderías automáticas can be found in Palma, but don't bother looking anywhere else.

10 Reduced Admissions

Coupons for reduced group admissions to various attractions can help a lot when you've got a whole family to pay for. You'll find them in magazines, weekly papers, fliers and brochures. They are also handed out on the street, and tourist offices often have stacks of them.

Accommodation Tips

1 Area Options

This really rather small island offers a tremendous range of climates and terrains, from sophisticated city life to nearly alpine mountains, and from lush subtropical beaches to remote and wild plains. If you have the time, sample the diversity.

2 Determining Needs

It's worth thinking about what you require of your accommodation. A conventional hotel room with private bath and balcony, possibly with meals included in the price? Or would a self-catering apartment be more suitable, especially if you are travelling in a group or with family? Do you plan to stay in one area or do you want to see many of the island's sights? If the latter, you may want to consider renting a car.

3 Choosing the Best Location

Where do you want to base your stay? In one of the bustling areas, a smaller village or a remote location? Such options exist by the sea, up in the mountains or on private fincas (ranches), either working farms or those that have been transformed into resorts.

4 Price

The cost of accommodation varies widely. You don't have to spend a great deal to find your desired location, but if you want to add luxuries and superb cuisine to your locale, there are far more costly choices too.

5 Making a Reservation

If you plan to visit in the warm months or during holidays, make reservations as far in advance as possible. The good-value accommodation fills up quickly, and even high-end gems can be booked solid in July and August.

Confirm exact dates and type of accommodation with hotel management via email or fax.



6 Finding a Hotel on the Spot

Unless you want to spend hours casting about for a room, and possibly not finding anything in your price-range, this is not recommended, except in low

season. Even then, bear in mind that many establishments close in winter. Also remember that there are no official tourist agencies that handle reservations, so your search may involve lots of footwork.

7 Tipping

As elsewhere in Europe, tipping is not absolutely necessary. Workers are paid living wages and should not depend on tips. However, a few coins for services rendered by the hotel staff are never amiss. You can tip porters and bellboys on the spot, and leave something for the maid in your room – or a general tip for all staff at the check-out desk.

8 Hidden Extras

A tax of 7% may or may not be included in the quoted price of your room; it is always best to ask or you could end up paying more than you expected. Parking, phone use and breakfast may or may not be charged as extra; determine what you are liable for in advance.

9 Travelling with Children

Mallorca is well set up for family travel. With very few exceptions, children are more than welcome at hotels and resorts, and those under certain ages may even stay free. Many hotels have a full schedule of special events and activities for kids, often at no extra charge. (see Tips for Families)

10 Language

With many decades of international tourism behind them, most Mallorcans are by now polyglots, and are likely to manage very well in English as well as other languages. However, it's a good idea to learn a little of the local lingo, Mallorquí (a dialect of Catalan) and Spanish, at least for getting around and pleasantries.

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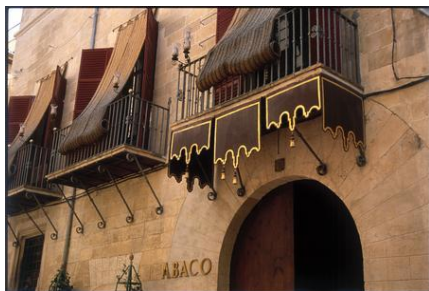
Places to Eat and Drink

Abaco

Perhaps the world's most romantic setting for drinks: an ancient courtyard and lush garden, with hundreds of fresh fruits, huge bouquets of fresh flowers, exotic birds twittering, soft candlelight and perfumed air (see also Abaco, Palma).

► *C/San Joan, 1 • 971 714939*

Abaco, Palma



Many can hardly believe their eyes when they first find this gorgeous place, set in the courtyard of a period townhouse. Candlelit, full of fresh flowers and fruit, and with the delightful touch of tropical birds in the magical garden, it is surely the best place in the world to have a drink. Outside of town, the same people run Abacanto, where they've done the same thing to an entire mansion.

Ambar, Santanyí



The shop stocks crafts from all the Balearic Islands: woven bags in traditional colours, candlesticks, basketry, lamps, glassware, ceramics, jewellery, decorative objects, antiques, clothing, hats and hangings.

► *C/Guardia Civil, 5*

Antik I Art, Pollença

A treasure-trove of paintings from the 18th–20th centuries, including Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Expressionism and Neo-Objectivity. There are also glass objects by Gallé, Lalique and Daum; German Bauhaus porcelain; extravagant jewellery; and Bohemian glass.

► *C/Miquel Capllonch, 9 • 971 534414*

Autèntic Mallorca, Portocristo

This special shop has all things Mallorcan: some 90 products including sandals, natural scents, dolls, musical instruments, glass, preserves, sausages, liqueurs, turrón (nougat), fig confections and olives.

► *C/Sant Jordi, 18 • 971 821108*

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► *C/Sant Jordi, 18 • 971 821108*

Bar Bosch

Perpetually busy and the most central bar of all, it's great for tapas and a drink any time of day.

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Bar Albatross, Port de Sóller

Full of fishermen exchanging tales in animated Mallorquin. Ask for una cana (a beer on tap).

► *C/Marina, 48 • 8pm–1am*

Bar Central

Tapas, bocadillos (sandwiches) and pastries in a classic, slightly fly-blown place.

► *Plaça Weyler, 10 • 971 721058*

Bar Claridge, Port de Sóller

A little bit of Britain. You'll find a friendly atmosphere, the usual beers, pub grub, ploughman's lunch and full English breakfasts.

► *Carrer Través, 48 • 971 630085 • 10am–late*

Bar Deportivo, Fornalutx



The main square in town is full of seating for several bars. This one is on the corner; others include Café Sa Plaça and Café Ca'n Benets. Locals and foreign visitors mingle till the early hours.

► *C/La Plaça, 1*

Barracuda, Port d'Andratx

Revellers of different ages come for the mix of soul, house, hiphop and Spanish music. Wednesday night is Club 21, mostly for German 20-somethings; Thursday is House Party, with guest DJs from Ibiza; Friday is Gay Night; Sunday is Flower Power, with music from the 1960s and 1970s.

► *Centro Commercial Las Velas, local 11 • 971 673606*
• *Best from 1am–7am*

3

Where to Stay

Aldea Cala Fornells I, Peguera Bay

Attractive bungalows scattered along a hillside, near shops and other services, all overlooking the gorgeous bay. There's a large pool for guests' use, and nearby you'll find tennis, horse riding and every water sport. All rentals are one-bedroom, one bath, and sleep up to four persons.

► **Map B4** • *Cala Fornells (Peguera)* • 971 686920 • www.mallorcahotelguide.com • Limited dis acc • Not all with air con • €€

Apartamentos Bouganvilla, Zona de Sa Coma

Low-rise bungalows on a limpid cove. The design is traditional Spanish, with arches, balconies and terraces.

► **Map G4** • *C/Margautas, 21* • 971 811122 • www.globales.com • Limited dis acc • €€€

Apartamentos Cala Vinyes, Palma Bay

Stepped, Meso-American style, with red tile roofs and ample balconies, this complex is built on a rocky prominence at one end of the Bay of Palma, where it is surrounded by trees and near the beach.

► **Map Q3** • *C/Las Sirenas, 17, Calvia* • 971 131100 • www.globales.com • Limited dis acc • €€€€

Apartamentos Drach, Portocristo

One-bedroom apartments on the marina, all with balconies and a comfortable dining-room/lounge with two sofas that can become beds. Book well ahead of time.

► **Map G4** • *Carretera Cuevas Drach, 31* • 971 820818 • Limited dis acc • €€

Apartamentos Simar, Pollença



Standard high-rise apartment-hotel on one of the most charming and pristine cove beaches on the island. All apartments have roomy balconies, many with stunning views.

► **Map E1** • *C/Temporal s/n* • 971 530300 • www.globales.com • Limited dis acc • €€€

Can'Aí, Sóller

The shady orange groves and small canals surrounding this ancient manor house date back to Arab times. The incomparable setting, in a silent valley ringed with mountains, provides all the serenity guests seek. Rooms are all unique and very charming.

► **Map C2** • *Camí de son Sales, 50, Sóller* • 971 632494 • Limited dis acc • €€€

Ca'n Verdera, Fornalutx

Sophia Loren has stayed in this very chic and modern remodelling of a huge old house.

► **Map D2** • *C/des Toros, 1* • 971 638203 • www.canverdera.com • Limited dis acc • €€€€

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Shopping

Aquamarine, Pollença

This is a jewellery shop offering precious and semi-precious stones set in silver and gold. All designs are original, and many of the stones are unusual, such as the "rose of the Incas", purple sugilites, and two-toned Alexandrite sapphires.

► *C/Jesús, corner of Calvari steps • 971 534315*

Arrels, Port de Pollença

An amazing array of hand-made Mallorcan crafts, some of it the island's very best quality. The traditional ceramic whistles are featured, as well as olive-wood carvings, and a special line of leather masks by Calimba of Palma.

► *Passeig Saralegui, 54 • 971 867017*

Art-Metall, Manacor

The place to find the wrought-iron objects seen all over the island – candelabra, mirrors etc.

► *Avda des Cos 1 • 971 844 023*

Avinguda Jaume III, Palma



This elegant, arcaded avenue is one of Palma's main streets for chic boutiques, including Cartier and Loewe and good local shops such as Persepolis for antiques. Worth a stroll even if you don't want to buy.

► *Map J-K2*

Bar Bellavista, Port d'Andratx

A great place to stop for Irish coffee, iced coffee and even iced chocolate. Sit on the waterfront at one of the best locations on the main drag of the port for people-watching, day or night.

► *Avda. Mateu Bosch, 31 • 971 671625*

Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró, Palma



Miró's Mallorcan roots go deep – both his mother and his wife were Mallorcan-born, and the great artist spent the last years of his life on the island. So it is entirely fitting that the place he worked in that final period should have been turned into a museum devoted to him.

Museu de Lluç

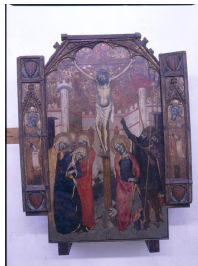
An interesting hotchpotch of prehistoric artifacts, Roman finds, ceramics (including some lovely majolica), religious pieces, and an exhaustive array of works by 20th-century Valdemossan artist Josep Coll Bardolet, who liked mountain scenery.

Museu de Mallorca, Palma



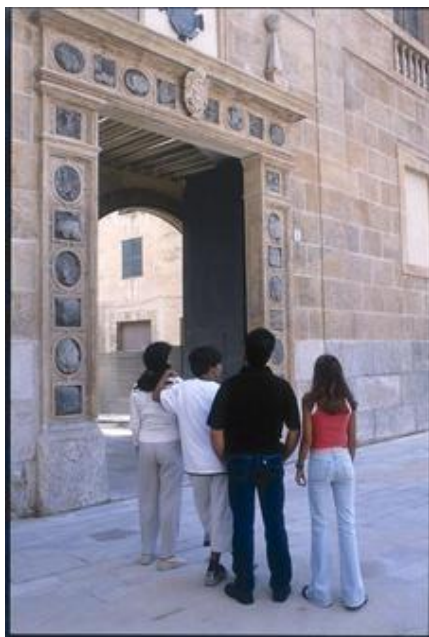
The palace that houses this terrific museum dates from 1634. The collections present a full and well-documented

range of Mallorcan artifacts, from the prehistoric up to fine examples of Modernista furniture. The Talayot figures – small bronze warriors – and recreations of Neolithic dwellings are other highlights.



Panel, Museu de Mallorca

Museu Diocesà, Palma



Housed in the former Episcopal Palace, this treasure trove contains archaeological artifacts, ceramics, coins, books and paintings spanning the 13th to 16th centuries. Highlights include the jasper sarcophagus of Jaume II, an Arab tombstone and a painting of St George and the Dragon with a background impression of what 15th-century Palma might have looked like.

Museu d'Art Espanyol Contemporani, Palma



One of the finer legacies left by Mallorcan Joan March, who became the world's third-richest man during the Franco era, in what many say was a dubious rags-to-riches rise. The renovated museum aims to spotlight the contributions of Spanish artists to the global art scene, so you'll find works by Picasso, Miró, Dalí and Gris, and also Mallorca's greatest modern painter, Miquel Barceló (see Museu d'Art Espanyol Contemporani, Fundació March).

Museu Etnològic, Muro

Fascinating glimpses into Mallorca's past include a recreated traditional kitchen pharmacy. There is a fine collection of siurells (Mallorcan clay whistles) featuring men on horseback. The Felanitx pottery bears the characteristic floral decoration.

► *C/Major 15 • Map E3 • Closed Mon • Adm*

Sa Seu: Palma Cathedral

The 14th-century cathedral is an imposing pile, with its Gothic buttresses, finials and bosses softly glowing in the sun. Legend has it that King Jaume I ordered it built in 1230, though in fact he merely modified an existing mosque. Work began in 1306 and has continued to this day. The western façade was rebuilt after an earthquake in 1851. Controversial touches were added in the 20th century by Antonio Gaudí.

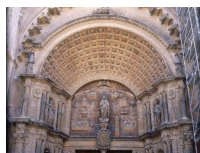
For the *Palau de l'Almudaina*, which stands opposite Sa Seu, see *Palau de l'Almudaina*

More on Mallorca's great churches

Top 10 Features

1 Exterior
Looking up from the old wall on the seafront, Sa Seu seems to have more in common with a craggy Mallorcan mountain than it does with any other European cathedral. It represents the might of the island's Christian conquerors.

2 Portal del Mirador
The seaward, Gothic façade is the most spectacular side. Rows of ornate buttresses surround an elaborate door, which was formerly called the Door of the Apostles but is now known as the Mirador (vantage point).



3 Portal Major
Although it is Gothic in overall style, the main door is mainly the product of Renaissance workmanship. A figure of Mary is surrounded by objects pertaining to her immaculate nature.

4 Portal de l'Almoina
This doorway is the humblest of them all; its name refers to the distribution of alms to the poor. It was the last Gothic contribution to the building's exterior, built in the last decade of the 15th century. The rectangular surround and the pointed arch have been finely carved, but the doorway itself has very little embellishment.

5 Bell Tower
This bell is set within a three-storey-high tower surmounted with a "crown of lace" – a perforated parapet with small pinnacles. The structure is probably of Islamic origin.

6 Nave Columns
Sa Seu is one of Europe's tallest Gothic structures, and the sense of space in the interior is enhanced by graceful, elongated pillars that seem almost to melt away in the upper reaches of the nave.

7 Rose Windows
A vibrant rose window at the end of the nave is the main one of seven (a few are blocked up). Some say that the 20th-century "restoration" of the window's colours was too strong.

8 Gaudí Modifications
In 1904–14, the great Modernista architect set about improving Sa Seu's interior, removing mediocre altars and changing the lighting effects. The controversial baldachin is actually only a mock-up – he never finished the final canopy.

9 Chapels
In all, there are 20 chapels, though some are now part of the chancel, with their altarpieces displayed in the museum. The tombs of Jaume II and Jaume III are in the Trinity Chapel.

10 Museum
The collection includes some of Sa Seu's earliest altar panels, a polychrome wood sarcophagus, ornate reliquaries and furniture. Most mind-boggling are the pair of 18th-century Baroque-style candelabra, each as tall as a person.

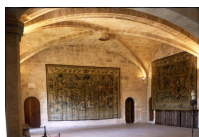
Palau de l'Almudaina

1 Function of the Palace
Standing directly opposite Sa Seu, in an equally prominent position that actually obscures the cathedral's main façade from all but close-up view, this ancient palace adds a lighter, more graceful note to Palma's assemblage of civic buildings. Today, the palace is used for legislative and military headquarters, royal apartments and a museum.

2 Building Style
An amalgam of Gothic and Moorish styles, the palace has a unique charm. Square, medieval towers have been topped with dainty Moorish-inspired crenellations. Refined windows and open, airy arcades also tell of an abiding Islamic influence.



3 Central Courtyard
Known variously as the Patio de Armas, the Patio de Honor and the Patio del Castillo, this central courtyard also evokes a Moorish feel, with its elegantly looping arches and central stand of palm trees. A fountain incorporates an Islamic lion from the 11th century.



4 Hall of Councils
The largest room on the ground floor takes its name, Salón de Consejos, from a meeting of ministers called here in 1983 by Juan Carlos I. There are 15th- and 16th-century Flemish tapestries, coats-of-arms and furniture.

5 Officers' Mess
The walls are graced with fine 17th-century Flemish genre paintings, some by a talented contemporary of Rubens. Note the fine Mudéjar wooden ceilings, by Moorish artisans.

6 Terrace and Banyos Àrabs
Step onto the terrace for panoramic views. Then, back inside, peer into the remains of the Arab Baths. By means of mirrors, you can examine the three separate vaulted chambers below – one for hot, one for tepid and one for cold water.

7 Queen's Rooms
Taking the Royal Staircase to the upper floor, you encounter the Queen's Rooms, which contain fine antiques, oriental carpets, tapestries and paintings.



8 King's Rooms
Here, you will find richly coloured oriental carpets, huge 16th- and 17th-century Flemish tapestries, bronze statuary, Neoclassical paintings and some spectacular Empire furniture

with glittering ormolu fittings.



9 Gothic Hall
This remarkable room, noted for its huge pointed arches, is used for official receptions. Don't miss the fine 17th-century Flemish tapestry on the back wall, depicting the Siege of

Carthage.

10 Chapel of St Anne
The chapel's delicately coloured altarpiece, created in Barcelona in 1358, is a visual sonnet in sky blue and gold.



- 1 Kitchen fireplace**
- 2 Clastra (main patio)**
- 3 Cisterns**
- 4 Tafona (oil press) and mill room**
- 5 Defence tower**
- 6 Capilla (family chapel)**
- 7 Stone walls, floors and sometimes ceilings**
- 8 Vaulted ceilings**
- 9 Wood beams**
- 10 Decorative motifs derived from Islamic, Gothic, Italian Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo, Neoclassical or Modernista styles**

Typical Features of Traditional Houses

Sa Seu: Palma Cathedral

Practical information

- Map L5
- Apr–Oct: 10am–5:30pm Mon–Fri; Nov–Mar: 10am–3:15pm, 10am–2:15pm Sat
- Adm €3.50

Top tips

- The audioguide, at extra cost, can be helpful as you tour the interior, though it gives too much uninteresting detail.
- You'll find the finest views of the bay and city, as well as good fish and seafood, at La Lubina, opposite the cathedral (971 723350). It is best to book in advance.
- Otherwise, Parlament, C/Conquistador, 11 (971 726026), is an elegant institution specializing in rice dishes, shellfish and stuffed asparagus.

Orientation

During the week, visitors are expected to enter the cathedral through the museum on the north side (to justify the admission charge). However, before taking in the interior of Sa Seu, walk around to the south side, facing the sea, in order to get a better feel for the awe-inspiring scale of the edifice.

Castell de Bellver

This castle near Palma was a grand 14th-century royal fortress, royal summer residence and later royal prison. Surrounded for miles by fragrant pine woods, which are alive with whirring cicadas in the heat of summer, it also has stunning views over Palma Bay (Bellver means “lovely view” in Catalan). Looking up at this citadel, so perfectly preserved, it’s hard to believe that it has been standing for 700 years. It is among the world’s most striking castles.

More marvellous Castles and Towers

Top 10 Highlights



1 Views
Go to the top for a 360-degree panorama, including the foothills and sea to the west and the mountains to the north. The perfume of the pine forests creates a heady mix with the maritime breezes.



2 Circular Design
The elegant round shape is unique among Spanish castles and a premier example of 14th-century military architecture. The circular structure also aided in the collection of rainwater into the central cistern.



on the ground.

3 Defence Towers
There are three horseshoe-shaped towers and four smaller protuberances used for guard posts. Their windows are tiny so that archers could not be targeted by attackers



4 Keep Tower
The free-standing castle keep, called the Torre de Homenaje, is almost twice as high as the castle itself, connected to its roof by a slim, pointed Gothic archway. It is open to visitors by arrangement (971 730657).



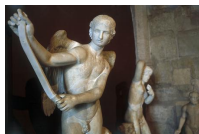
5 Central Courtyard
The beautiful, two-tiered central courtyard has 21 Catalan Romanesque arches on the lower tier, which contrast with the 42 octagonal columns supporting 21 Gothic arches on the upper tier. Classical statues, such as those of Venus and Nero, grace the lower walkway.

6 Prison
Right up until 1915, the lower reaches of the castle were used as a prison, dubbed La Olla (“the kettle”). Jaume III’s widow and sons (see Unification with Spain) were imprisoned here for most of their lives.



7 Museum Entrance and Chapel

From the central courtyard you enter Palma’s Museu de Mallorca, in which sculptures and other artifacts trace the city’s history through Talaiotic, Roman, Arab and Spanish periods. The former Chapel of St Mark is now bare vaulted rooms.



8 Museum: Ancient Artifacts

The first three rooms contain impressive Roman statuary, a perfectly preserved column of rare cippolino marble, carved seals, marble inscriptions, lamps and

1st-century pots.

9 Museum: Arab Artifacts

Surprisingly few remnants here beyond some pots, both painted and blue-glazed, a stone lion, terracotta lamps and sgraffito ware (pottery with etched designs).

10 Museum: Spanish Artifacts

A great range of styles and eras is presented, from medieval arms and a stone font with angels, dated 1591, to later works including 17th-century Mallorcan turquoise-glazed ceramics, Chinese porcelain, and items from the Belle Epoque and Fascist eras.

Castell de Bellver

Practical information

- Map R1
- 3 km (2 miles) west of city centre
- 8am–8pm Mon–Sat (to 7pm in Oct–Mar), 10am–7pm Sun (to 5pm in Oct–Mar)
- Museum closed Sun
- Adm €1.80 Mon–Sat, free Sun

Top tips

- Avoid visiting the castle on a Sunday, when its excellent museum will be shut.
- You can get to the Bellver hill by car or taxi, or take the city bus to Plaça Gomila and climb through the woods above Carrer de Bellver, passing a chapel on the way.
- Nicke's Svensk Bar & Café is a friendly spot at the bottom of Carrer de Bellver. Run by Swedish brothers, it offers sandwiches and some Swedish fare (see Nicke's Svensk Bar & Café).

5

Places to See

Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró

The artist Joan Miró lived and worked on Cala Major for 40 years. After his death in 1983, his wife converted the house and former studio into an art centre. This modern edifice, nicknamed the “Alabaster Fortress” by the Spanish press, is the work of Rafael Moneo, a leading Spanish architect. The new building houses a permanent exhibition of Miró’s paintings, drawings, and sculptures, as well as a library, auditorium and a shop selling items decorated with the artist’s colourful designs.

More on [Museums](#)

Top 10 Highlights



1 Building Design
Composed of concrete made to look like travertine marble, the starkly modern building is softened by reflecting pools, cool planes, ramps and staircases. Its high, narrow windows afford surprising views from the hilltop site. Most originally, huge marble panels are used as translucent walls, softly lighting the trapezoidal exhibition spaces.



2 Sculptures
Upon entering, you’re greeted by three whimsical bronzes and a very much larger monumental piece, which are all vaguely anthropomorphic. Downstairs, the giant Woman and Bird was executed by Miró with ceramist Llorenç Artigast.

3 Documentation
A special room is set aside near the entrance to reveal the steps Miró took in creating the various components of his graphic images.



5 Mural del Sol
Dominating one room is a five-panel sketch on paper, the study for a mural in the UNESCO building in

Paris, co-created with Llorenç Artigast in 1955–8. The work won the Guggenheim award.

6 Works on Canvas
Many of these works are mixed media – oil, acrylic, chalk and pastel. Some may have been inspired by Japanese Zen action painting. Some are blue – for Miró the most universal and optimistic colour – while some black and white works are an aggressive response to the tragedies of the Spanish Civil War.

7 Temporary Exhibitions
The temporary exhibition spaces feature the works of such up-and-coming artists as Paloma Navares.



8 Garden
In the garden, groups of rocks resembling water lilies “float” in a pool, while in other niches works by modern and avant-garde artists can be found.

9 Murals
Above one of the garden pools, a black rectangle encloses a ceramic mural by Miró, with shapes gyrating in space. Taking up a whole wall in the café is a mural of the sun and other celestial bodies.



10 Studio
Miró’s studio looks like the artist just stepped outside for a break from work in progress. Objects that inspired Miró are all around: Hopi kachina dolls, Mexican terracottas, a bat skeleton and various everyday items.

Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró

Practical information

- Map R2
- C/Juan de Saridakis, 29, Palma
- 971 701420
- May–Sep: 10am–7pm Tue–Sat, 10am–3pm Sun & hols; Sep–May: 10am–6pm Tue–Sat; 10am–3pm Sun & hols
- Adm €4.80

Top tips

- You can take the bus (EMT no. 3 and 6), taxi or drive to get to the Fundació, on a hill to the west of Palma.
- An enlightening film on Miró is shown during the day (in Spanish); sometimes it is in English.
- The café is excellent, with made-to-order sandwiches, (see Pa amb Oli) and olives, fresh orange juice and more. It's also air-conditioned and features a wonderful mural by Miró.

Miró's Style

One of the best-known artists of the 20th century, Miró (1893–1983) was a Catalan through and through. Initially influenced by Fauvism, and later by Dadaism and Surrealism, he developed his own unique style, marked by lyricism and lively colouring. After arriving in Mallorca he became interested in graphics, ceramics and sculpture, scoring significant successes in every art form. The embodiment of a uniquely Catalan way of seeing the world, he became one of the great exponents of Abstract Expressionism.

Sa Granja

This possessió (country estate) is on a site known since Roman times for its natural spring. In 1239, the Count Nuño Sanz donated the estate to Cistercian monks; since 1447 it has been a private house. Visitors come today mainly to see rural Mallorcan traditions, such as demonstrations of lace-making, embroidery and spinning, and tastings of cheese, wine, sausages, doughnuts and fig cake.

Top 10 Highlights



1 Gardens
The cultivated areas are very rich, including a walled rock garden, moss-covered rock formations, botanical gardens, a pond with a water-jet fountain and a magnificent 1,000-year-old yew tree. You can still see some of the water canal that was used for irrigation.

2 Family Apartments
These rooms evoke the genteel country lifestyle of the house's former inhabitants. Of particular note are the curtains in the main room made of roba de llenguès; the study with its curious old medical instruments; and the antique toys in the games room.

3 Dining Room
The main attraction here is the cleverly constructed dining room table that doubles as a billiard table. By turning the side crank, the height can be adjusted for both purposes. The crockery and glassware, from various eras, are original to the house, and the tile floor is also original.



4 Loggia
The loveliest architectural feature of the house evokes Florentine tenets of beauty and grace with considerable success. Providing a welcome breezeway on hot summer days and charming vistas at any time of the year, this porch-like gallery, unusual in Mallorca, is a place to pause.

5 Workrooms
The labyrinth of rooms downstairs comprises the earthy heart of the home. The estate was self-sufficient with its own oil-mill, tinsmith, winepress, distilleries (for liqueurs and cosmetics), woodworking shop, embroiderer and more.

6 Cellars
Cheeses were manufactured in the cellars, using the milk of cows, sheep and goats. Dough was kneaded using a stone mill, to make all types of pasta, for soups and other dishes. Dairy products, oil, wine and grain were all stored here.

7 "Torture Chamber"
A room displays the typical implements – including iron body cages and a rack – used against Jews, other non-Christians and suspected heretics or witches during the Spanish Inquisition of the 15th–17th centuries. Vicious-looking chastity belts are also on display.



8 Chapel
The altarpiece, with its lovely festooned arch, is Baroque; the altar itself a pretty Gothic creation; and the two kneeling, silver-winged plaster angels rather kitsch 19th-century efforts. Note the well-worn original tile floor.

9 Forecourt
The majestic space in front of the mansion contains four large plane trees that are about 150 years old. Here you can relax in their shade, watching craftsmen at work and sampling regional wines, liqueurs, juices, jams, sobrassadas (sausages), cheeses, figs, breads and bunyolas (potato flour buns).



10 Performances
Traditional music and folk dances are staged on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Sa Granja

Practical information

- Map B3
- Ctra. EsporlesBanyalbufar, km 2, Esporles (between Valldemossa and Banyalbufar; follow the signs off the main coast road, C710)
- 971 610032
- www.lagranja.net
- 10am–7pm daily (to 6pm Nov–Mar)
- Adm €8.50
- Wed & Fri €10.50 with performance

Top tips

- The easiest way to get to Sa Granja is by car or tour bus.
- Handicraft shows and music and dance performances take place on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30–5pm. Otherwise, visit in the morning to avoid the crowds.
- The Granja Restaurant serves lunch all day, featuring sopes mallorquines (Mallorcan soup), and there's a snack bar/cafeteria. You are also welcome to picnic at various charming settings within the grounds.

Traditional Music and Dancing

Fashioned from wood and animal skins, Mallorcan instruments include the xeremia (bagpipe), fabiol (flute), tamborino and guitarra. Typical famous dances are the Bolero (18th century), La Jota (from eastern Mallorca), the Fandango (a line dance), Copeo and Mateixa (both also from the east). Many dances are improvised, accompanied only by percussion instruments; a more organized ensemble will perform on formal occasions.

Valldemossa



*This small, picturesque town in the mountains is arguably where Mallorcan tourism began one cold winter in 1838, when the composer Frédéric Chopin and his lover, the female writer George Sand, rented some rooms at the former monastery here. Shunned by locals, the couple had a miserable time, as portrayed in Sand's book, *A Winter in Majorca*. However, Mallorcans today are proud of their Chopin-Sand connection, and the book is sold in every tourist shop.*

The former monastery, also referred to as the Charterhouse, is Mallorca's second most-visited building after Palma's cathedral

For highlights of the Museu Municipal de Valldemossa, which is set within the former monastery, (see Museu Municipal de Valldemossa)

Top 10 Sights

1 Former Monastery Complex

The town's top attraction is the former monastery where Chopin and Sand stayed, which also incorporates a palace and an excellent municipal museum (see Museu Municipal de Valldemossa). Given to the Carthusian Order in 1399, the estate was a monastery until 1835, when all religious orders were ousted from the island. It was bought by a French banker who rented the rooms to Chopin.

2 Monastery: Church

The Neoclassical church has a cupola decorated with frescoes by Fray Bayeu, the brother-in-law of Francisco de Goya. It is distinguished by barrel vaulting and gilt-edged stucco work.



3 Monastery: Cloisters

From the church, you can enter the atmospheric cloisters, known as the Myrtle Court. Around them are six chapels and ten spacious monks' cells.



4 Monastery: Pharmacy

Laden with tinctures and elixirs, a deconsecrated chapel recreates the estate's original pharmacy. George Sand bought marshmallow here in an attempt to cure Chopin's tuberculosis.

5 Monastery: Prior's Cell

The head monk had a private oratory, magnificent library, elegant audience chamber, bedroom, dining room, Ave Maria (praying alcove) and, of course, a sumptuous garden.



6 Monastery: Cells 2 and 4

Said to be the rooms that Chopin and Sand rented, they are full of memorabilia, including Chopin's piano, Sand's manuscripts, busts and portraits.

7 Monastery: Palace

The core of the monastery was originally the site of the palace built by Jaume II for his son Sanç. The rooms are regally decorated – an especially beautiful

piece is the 12th-century wood-carving of the Madonna and Child.



8 Old Town
The old town spills down a hillside, surrounded by farming terraces and marjades (stone walls) created 1,000 years ago by the Moors. The name “Valldemossa” derives from that of the original Moorish landowner, Muza.

9 Church of Sant Bartomeu
Near the bottom of the old town, a rustic, Baroque-style church is dedicated to one of the patron saints of the town. It was built in 1245, shortly after Jaume I conquered Mallorca, and extended in the early 18th century. The bell tower and façade date from 1863.

10 Birthplace of Santa Catalina Thomàs
Mallorca’s only saint, Catalina Thomàs (known affectionately as the “Beatata” for both her saintliness and diminutive stature), was born in 1533 at a house on C/Rectoria, 5. The house was converted into an oratory in 1792 and features saintly scenes and a statue of the “Beatata” holding a bird.

Museu Municipal de Valldemossa

1 Guasp Printworks
On the ground floor of the museum you’ll find a 17th-century hand press and one of Europe’s finest collections of 1,584 intricate boxwood engravings. On the walls are prints executed on the press, which is still in working order.



2 Archduke Luis Salvador of Hapsburg-Lorena and Bourbon
Also on the ground floor is a room dedicated to an indefatigable chronicler of Mediterranean life, whose passion was Mallorcan culture. His nine volumes on the Balearics are the most exhaustive study ever made of the archipelago.

3 Mallorcan Painters of the Tramuntana
Mallorca’s mountainous Tramuntana region has long attracted landscape painters. Among the outstanding Mallorcan artists shown here are Joan Fuster, Bartomeu Ferrà and Antoni Ribas.

4 Catalan and Spanish Painters of the Tramuntana
Works by Santiago Rusiñol and Sebastià Junyer, and the more Impressionistic Eliseo Meifrén are displayed.

5 International Painters of the Tramuntana
These include the illustrious American Impressionist John Singer Sargent and contemporary Italian master Aligi Sassu, whose works owe much to Futurism, Surrealism and Expressionism.

6 Contemporary Art: Juli Ramis
The contemporary collection was conceived as a spotlight on Juli Ramis (1909–90), one of the most important Mallorcan painters of the 20th century. Works include his signature Dama Blava and those of his Paris contemporaries, showing a cross-fertilization of influences.

7 Miró
Of note is El Vol de l’Alosa – Miró’s whimsical illustrations for the works of Mallorcan poets.

8 Picasso
On one wall in the last room is The Burial of Count Orgaz – a series of 10 engravings by Picasso, dating from 1966. The themes here are strongly sexual, as in many of the great artist’s works.

9 Tàpies
Also in the last room are a few works by the other great Catalan painter, Antoni Tàpies. Master of an elegant Abstract Expressionism all his own, his work has little in common with the more Surrealistic images of his compatriots Miró and Dalí, being more understated, poetic and monumental.

10 Other 20th-Century Artists
Finally, there are some small but significant engravings and lithographs by modern international artists, including German Surrealist Max Ernst, Italian Futurist Robert Matta, the great Alberto Giacometti, French Dadaist André Masson and the English masters Henry Moore and Francis Bacon.

Cultural and Ecological Attractions



1 Public nature parks
S’Albufera, Mondragó, Sa Dragonera, Cabrera

2 Private nature parks
La Reserva Puig de Galatzo, S'Albufereta Nature Reserve, Natura Parc, Botanicactus, Jumaica Tropical Park

3 Agroturism

4 Rural hotels

5 Centres for traditional culture
Sa Granja, Els Calderers, Jardins d'Alfàbia, Raixa, Gordiola Glassworks

6 Archaeological and historical museums

7 Accommodation in monasteries

8 Mountain shelters

9 Animal rescue and endangered species programmes
Marineland

10 Future parks
Serra de Tramuntana, Serra de Llevant, Cap Ederrocat Marine Reserve

Valldemossa

Practical information

- Map C3
- Monastery and Museum Mar–Oct: 9:30am–6pm Mon–Sat, 10am–1:30pm Sun; Nov–Feb: 9:30am–4:30pm Mon–Sat
- Adm €6.95 for both

Top tips

- The best views of the town, with its beautiful green-tiled bell tower, are those as you approach from the north.
- If you arrive by car, park in one of the municipal car parks with automatic meters, then explore the town on foot.
- One of the most developed tourist towns in Mallorca, Valldemossa has many good dining options. Costa Nord de Valldemossa (Avda. Palma, 6, 971 612425) offers a superb Mediterranean-style menu and great views.

Jardins d'Alfàbia

A legacy of the Moorish talent for landscaping and irrigation, the Jardins d'Alfàbia were probably designed by Benhabet, a 13th-century Muslim governor of Inca. The pleasures of the gardens are made possible by a spring that always flows, even in the driest of summers in this very arid land. As well as providing a fabulous oasis for visitors, Alfàbia is also a working farm.

More beautiful Parks and Gardens

Top 10 Highlights



1 Entrance and Gatehouse Façade

A broad ramp leads past a moss-covered fountain to a Baroque façade, which is set off with palm trees, scrolling arabesque curves and a pair of windows called ojo de buey (ox-eye).



2 Terraced Cascade

To the left of the gatehouse façade is a stepped, terraced cascade. Watercourses, called alfagras (little irrigation channels), serve both a practical and a decorative purpose here and

in other Moorish-style gardens.

3 Queen's Bath

An open-ended cistern frames a mirror-like pool, called the "queen's bath", which is the source of all the water in the gardens. Beyond it is an indescribably lush garden scene.



4 Pergola and Walkway

From an eight-sided pergola, a paved walkway is lined with ancient amphorae shooting out jets of water. Between column pairs four and five, don't miss greeting the black Mallorcan pig.



5 English-Style Gardens

These were created in the 19th century and feature bougainvillea, vines, box hedges, scarlet dahlias and a lily pond. Farm products are sold at a snack bar.



6 Trees

An extraordinary range of trees flourishes in the gardens, including white fir, maple, cedar of Lebanon, Monterey cypress, poplar, date palm, holm oak, carob, lemon, magnolia, walnut, eucalyptus and acacia.

7 Groves

These magical areas are given over to dense plantings in which you can lose yourself, with the refreshing sound of running water always playing in your ears. Hidden pools and ancient walls are among the discoveries to be made.



8 Hacienda

After exploring the gardens, make your way up the hill to the wisteria-covered, L-shaped hacienda with Doric columns. Inside, traditional llengues (flame) fabrics, old

prints, instruments and a guitar-shaped grandfather clock are among the exhibits.



9 Flemish Armchair
Also in the hacienda is one of the oldest and oddest pieces of furniture on the island. This 15th-century oak chair has been known, among other things, as the Moorish King's Chair, but the imagery on it has now been identified as the story of Tristan and Isolde. See if you can spot the king's head.



10 Courtyard
The courtyard features a huge, 100-year-old plane tree and a moss-covered fountain. From here, you can visit some of the other rooms, then exit through a pair of vast, bronze-covered

hobnailed doors, which were originally those of the Palace of the Inquisition in Palma.

Jardins d'Alfàbia

Practical information

- Map C3
- Ctra. de Sóller, km 17, Bunyola (just off main highway C711, before toll booth for the Sóller tunnel)
- 971 613123
- 9am– 5:30pm Mon–Fri; Apr– Oct to 6:30pm and also 9am–1pm Sat
- Adm €4.50

Top tips

- The arcing waters of the pergola walkway are operated from a button at the start of the display. However, be aware that the stones under the arbour can become very slippery.
- Books and postcards can be purchased at the entrance ticket room or snack bar.
- The garden snack bar offers delicious fresh juices, nuts and dried fruit, and other simple, refreshing tidbits, much of it from the farm itself.

Monestir de Nostra Senyora de Lluc

The monastery at Lluc is the spiritual centre of Mallorca and has been a place of pilgrimage for over 800 years. The main point of interest is the little statue of the Virgin (La Moreneta), which, so the story goes, was found by an Arab shepherd boy who had converted to Christianity. The image was initially moved to the church but it kept returning to the same spot, so a chapel was built to house it. Each year, thousands of pilgrims come to pay homage.

Other great churches and monasteries.

Top 10 Highlights



1 The Complex

The complex is rather plain but set amid fragrant forests of pine and holm oak, and laid out around courtyards. There's a good hostel, choir school, several eateries, camp sites, picnic

facilities and a huge covered area for outdoor celebrations and services.



2 Basilica Entrance

Facing an inner courtyard, the church's façade is an appealing Baroque confection that relieves the plainness of the surrounding structures. The pompous bronze statue that dominates is that of a bishop who had a hand in sprucing the place up in the early 1900s.

3 Basilica Interior

The church was deemed a Minor Basilica by the Pope – its embellishments are probably the reason. Every spare inch seems to have been laden with beaten gold. The columns are dark red jasper, crystal chandeliers light the way, and the altarpiece is alive with golden curves and gesticulating figures.

4 La Moreneta

In a special chapel stands the object of pilgrimage, La Moreneta ("the Little Dark One") – or, to be more precise, a 15th-century, possibly Flemish version of her. Unfortunately, the 1960s light fixtures in the chapel detract from the atmosphere.

5 Es Blavets

The boys' choir, Es Blavets (The Blues), was established in 1531, named after their blue cassocks. Pilgrims and tourists queue up at 11am to hear the daily concerts.



6 Museu de Lluc

A broad collection of Mallorcana includes prehistoric and ancient artifacts, coins, religious treasures, vestments, sculptures, ceramics and paintings, as well as model Mallorcan rooms from the 18th century.

7 Museum: Religious Artifacts

Pieces from the original church include a fabulous gilded Byzantine trikerion (three-part sacred utensil) from 1390, a 15th-century wooden tabernacle, a graceful 15th-century Flemish Virgin and Child, a gold filigree reliquary for a Piece of the True Cross and several devotional paintings.

8 Museum: Majolica

In the 15th century, Italy imported large amounts of tin-glazed pottery from Spain by way of the trade route through Mallorca, hence the term "majolica" from the medieval name of the island. Until the early 20th century, this type of pottery was also produced in Mallorca. Various examples are displayed.

9 Els Porxets

The gallery of the old pilgrim's hospice is a picturesque arcaded corridor, with stables on the ground floor and bedrooms off the passageway on the upper level. Declared a Historical Artistic Monument, it has recently been restored.



10 El Camí dels Misteris del Rosari

“The Way of the Mysteries of the Rosary” is a pilgrim’s route leading up the rocky hillside behind the complex, where a crucifix awaits. The broad path is punctuated by bronze sculptures framed in stone.

Monestir de Nostra Senyora de Lluc

Practical information

- Map D2
- Museu de Lluc
- 10am–1:30pm, 2:30–3:30pm
- 971 871525
- Adm €2

Top tips

- After you’ve visited the monastery, explore some of the natural areas and caves nearby, some of which are prehistoric burial sites.
- Head for Sa Fonda, in the erstwhile monks’ grand dining room, which offers Mallorcan fare (closed in July). Otherwise, try the Café Sa Plaça for snacks, or the Restaurant Ca S’Amitger, Plaça Peregrins, 6, where you’ll find tortillas espanyols, fish, roast lamb, mountain goat and rice brut, a Mallorcan country dish.

Península de Formentor

The final jutting spur of the Serra de Tramuntana has stunning views, sandy beaches and the island's original luxury resort. With weird rock formations and jagged edges pointing up at 45 degrees, its mountains rise to over 400 m (1,300 ft). The drive from Port de Pollença has dramatic scenery and is famously scary for its steep bends.

More Areas of Natural Beauty

Top 10 Highlights



1 Península Road

The famous road is narrow but well maintained, forking off to the Hotel Formentor in one direction and across to the cape in the other. Side-roads along the way – sometimes much

rougher – wind up to the Watchtower and give access to the beach, as well as makeshift car parks for Cala Figuera.



2 Main Miradors

Of the main miradors (viewpoints), Mirador de Mal Pas is closest to the road. From here you can walk along a wall with dizzying panoramas of the rocks and sea below. You can also see

the islet of Es Colomer.



3 Watchtower

The Talaia d'Albercutx has an amazing view over the Peninsula and bays of Pollença and Alcúdia. But the road to it is very bad, without guardrails, so hire a four-wheel drive if you can.

For a further adrenalin rush, you have to hike up the last bit and climb the tower itself.

4 Beach

In a long, sheltered cove with fine sand and clear turquoise water, Platja de Formentor is served both by road and a regular ferry from the Port de Pollença. Eating spots and tiki shades abound. Expect crowds of families at weekends.



5 Hotel Formentor

The posh resort opened in 1929 and has been pampering the rich and famous ever since (see Hotel Formentor, nr Port de Pollença). Part of the Platja de Formentor is reserved for

hotel guests only.

6 Casas Velles

An old Mallorcan house is preserved in the grounds of the Hotel Formentor. There's a characteristic courtyard

with an old stone well, a one-room house and a chapel with a melodramatic, life-size crucifix.

7 Mountain Tunnel

The road continues through pine woods and past more miradors on its way to En Fumat mountain. It then tunnels through the raw rock of the mountain. For those who need more thrills, there's a steep staircase up the cliff above the tunnel's western mouth.



8 Cap de Formentor

The terrain becomes rockier towards the end of the peninsula, and soon you have a plunging view down to Cala Figuera, Mallorca's most inaccessible beach, where a few boats have

anchored. It's a harrowing drive out to the end, but you're rewarded with breathtaking views.



9 Lighthouse

Around the last curve, you come upon the silver-domed lighthouse, set on a dramatic promontory with views over the sea. On a good day, you can see all the way to Menorca.

10 Flora and Fauna

The peninsula is all wild: pine trees mostly, with scrub and clump grasses, oregano, cactus and wild palmetto everywhere. On a hot summer's day, with cicadas buzzing, you'll see wild goats, lizards and birds.

Península de Formentor

Practical information

- Map F1
-

Top tips

- To avoid the heaviest traffic, visit early or late in the day. If you take the road up to the Watchtower, park at the turnout just after the first bunkers, slightly down from the top. That way you'll avoid the parking snarls at the top.
 - The Lighthouse snack bar has pizzas, sandwiches, olives and drinks of all kinds. Sit on the broad terrace for incredible views.
 - For something more refined, as well as far more expensive, head for the Hotel Formentor's beach restaurant on your way back.
-

Alcúdia



At the base of a peninsula, this delightful walled town was originally a Phoenician settlement and the capital of the island under the Romans. It was later destroyed by the Vandals, then rebuilt by the Moors, and prospered as a trading centre well into the 19th century. Extensively restored, the town contains many historical sites of interest.

More Ancient Places.

Top 10 Sights



1 City Walls

The walls were added after the Spanish conquest in the 14th century, with a second ring added in the 17th to further defend the town. By the 19th century they had begun to show the

decrepitude of age and the vagaries of town and industrial expansion, but they have now been restored almost to their original state. They are pierced with gates and incorporate 26 towers in all.



2 Historic Centre

While modern Alcúdia extends beyond the city walls and has a commercial port town attached to it (see Port d'Alcúdia), most of the sights of historic interest are located within or near the walls. These include churches, mansions, a museum and some of the island's most significant Roman ruins.

3 Arab Quarter

The narrow streets of the old town are resonant of what life must have been like under Arab rule, long after Roman orderliness had been buried. No one knows quite where the old souk (market) was, but it's easy to imagine artisan's shops, with their wares spilling out onto the dusty streets.



4 Ajuntament

The handsome Mediterranean-Revival-style edifice was given its present look in 1929. Above the balcony is a grand tower with clock, belfry and weathervane, its pitched roofs gaily tiled in red and green stripes.

5 Ca'n Torró Library

Opened in 1990, the library is housed in a prime example of aristocratic architecture in the 14th century. It hosts concerts and exhibitions.



6 Sant Jaume Church

The 14th-century church collapsed in the winter of 1870 but was recently rebuilt. The rose window is lovely, and the inner recesses feature amazing gold altars.

7 Museu Monogràfic

Just one large room, but full of great finds, especially Roman artifacts and ceramics. Particularly intriguing are the beautiful bone pins and other implements for a Roman lady's toilette.



8 Pollentia Ruins
The Roman city reached its peak in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. You can see the foundations of what may have been the forum, and insulae (apartments). A few broken pillars have been propped up, but many of the stones have been removed over the centuries.

9 Teatre Romà
The island's only intact Roman theatre is also the smallest surviving one in Spain. Even so, it would have held about 2,000 people, and today is sometimes the venue for special concerts.



10 Oratori de Sant Ana
The tiny medieval chapel, on the main road to Port d'Alcúdia, was built in the 13th century and features a stone carving of a very stocky Virgin and Child supported by an angel.

Alcúdia

Practical information

- Map F2
- Ca'n Torró Library, Carrer d'en Serra, 15
- 971 547311
- May–Oct: 10am–2pm, 5–8pm Mon–Fri; Nov–Apr: 10am–2pm, 4–8pm Mon–Fri
- Sant Jaume Church
- May–Oct: 10am–1pm Tue–Fri, 10am–noon Sun; Mass 9:30am, 12pm & 7:30pm
- adm €1
- Museu Monogràfic, c/Sant Jaume, 30
- (971 547004)
- 10am–3:30pm Mon–Fri
- adm €2
- includes ruined Roman city
- Pollentia Ruins
- adm, included in ticket to Museu Monogràfic
- Teatre Romà, C/de Sant Ana
- open access
- adm free

Top tips

- If you are arriving by car, you should find ample parking just outside the old walls.
- Es Convent restaurant, part of a fine hotel (see Es Convent, Alcúdia), has the best food in town, Mediterranean-style with interesting international touches.

6

Maps









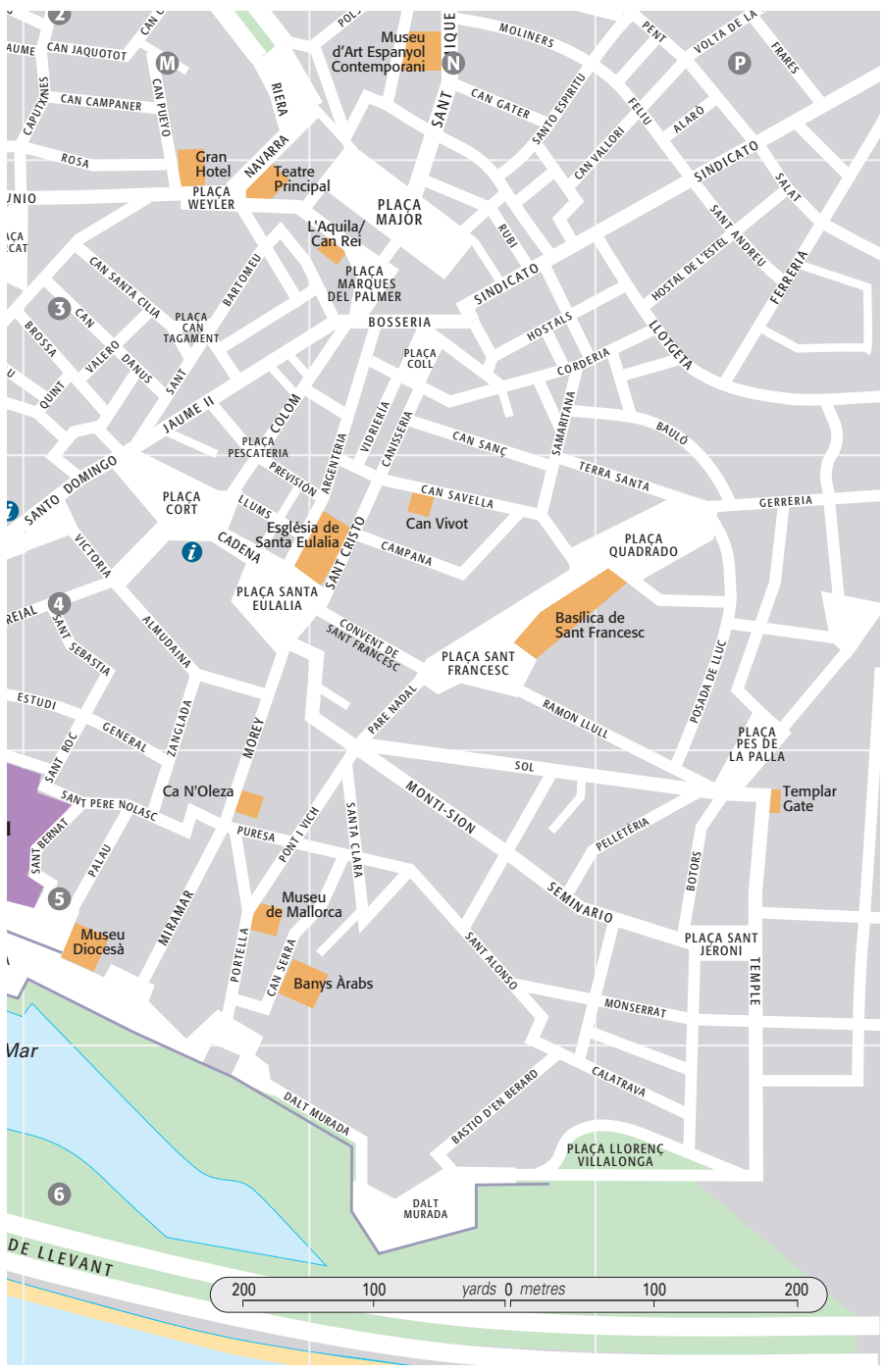














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