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Palma de Mallorca Spain

Acting as the conduit for the bucket-and-spade masses en route to Mallorca's less lovely beaches, Palma is often unfairly tarred with the same brush. In fact the city is mostly overlooked by holidaymakers, but it's a sophisticated and elegant place, bursting with boutique hotels, sleekly designed restaurants, cafés in the grand European style and some fine art collections.

Essentials

- 01 Mallorquí, the local language, is a dialect of Catalán and a matter of pride. Describe it as a variant of Spanish at your peril.
- 02 To avoid the worst excesses of tourism, don't travel more than a few kilometres round, either side of the Bahía de Palma.
- 03 Pretty towns within easy striking distance of Palma include Andratx, Deià and Valldemossa.
- 04 Local wines can be excellent. Look out for Binissalem DO.
- 05 Es Baluard is Palma's best-known art museum.



Guide/Info

Hotels

Independent and easy

Portixol
27 calle Sirena
+ 34 971 271 800
portixol.com

Dependable chain

AC Ciutat de Palma
3 Plaça Pont
+ 34 971 222 300
ac-hotels.com

Premium

Esplendido Hotel
5 Es Traves,
Puerto de Sóller
+ 34 971 631 850
esplendidohotel.com

Dining

Fast breakfast

Cappuccino
San Miguel
53 calle San Miguel
+ 34 971 719 764

Leisurely breakfast

Ca'n Joan de s'Aigo
1 paseo Marítimo

Mid-morning ice-cream

Ca'n Miguel
6 avenida de Jaume III
+ 34 971 724 909

Lunch with friends

Es Baluard
9 Plaça Port de Santa
Catalina
+ 34 971 719 609

Picnic spot

Castell de Bellver
calle Camilo Jose
Cela s/N

Lunch on your own

Orient Express
6 calle Llonja del Mar
+ 34 971 711 183

Sunset cocktail

Purobeach
1 calle Pagell
Cala Estancia
+ 34 971 744 744
purobeach.com

Best barbeque

Parrilla Asador Txakoli
14 calle Fabrica
+ 34 971 28 21 26

Dinner for two

Baisakhi
8 Passeig Marítim
+ 34 971 736 806

Dinner with friends

La Bóveda
3 calle Boteria
+ 34 971 720 026

Dining alfresco

Bahía Mediterráneo
33 passeig Marítim
+ 34 971 457 653

Drink after dinner

Abaco
1 calle Sant Joan
+ 34 971 714 939

Late drinks

Soho Urban
Vintage Bar
5 avenida Argentina
+ 34 971 454 719

Late bite

Café Port Pesquer
calle Moll de la Llotja
+ 34 971 715 220

On the tiles

Tito's
Passeig Marítim s/N
+ 34 971 730 017
titosmallorca.com

Reading

Newsstand

Fiol Llibres
45 calle Olmos
+ 34 971 721 428

Basics

Parafarmacia at
El Corte Inglés
department store
15 avenida de Jaume III
+ 34 971 770 177

Shopping

Something you can't get anywhere else

Sausage from Sobrasada
calle Sant Domingo 1
+ 34 971 714 887

Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear

El Corte Ingles
15 avenida de
Jaume III
+ 34 971 770 177
elcorteingles.com

Something for the kids

Imaginarium
11 Plaça Weyler
+ 34 971 714 340

Something for someone you love

Bonbons from
La Pajarita
4 calle Sant Nicolas
+ 34 971 711 844

Something for yourself

Camper
17 calle San Miguel
+ 34 971 726 254

Two-hour tour

- 01 La Seu Cathedral
The Spanish-Gothic building was finished in 1601. It boasts a Barceló altar piece and Gaudi's canopy
- 02 The Modern Museum Es Baluard
70 permanent pieces by Picasso, Dalí, Miró and others.
10 Plaça Porta Santa Catalina
+ 34 971 908 200
esbaluard.org

Limousine

Avantgarde Limousine
+ 34 639 317 573
avantgardelimousine.net

Transport

Mallorca Bus

+ 34 971 434 980
Buy a "bono" at newsstands for 10 bus journeys.

Buy a pass

Buy a Palma Sightseeing 24-hour bus ticket.

Rent a bike

Palma on Bike
8 Plaça Salvador Coll
+ 34 971 718 062

Fitness

Good gym

Gimnas Olímpic
10 calle Reina María
Cristina
+ 34 971 753 909
gimnasolimpic.com

Good running route

Follow the bike path from Portixol to C'an Pastilla (3km one-way).