**Mallorca**

**Overview**

It doesn’t take a genius to work out why Mallorca endures as one of Europe’s top destinations. Clean beaches? Check. Upmarket resorts? Check. Reliable weather? Check. It has all the hallmarks of a sizzling summer holiday.

Resorts big and small can be found along much of the coast, offering everything from tranquil getaways to raucous fun in the sun. Mega yachts, small sailboats and wooden fishing boats ply the waters around the island.

Bu Mallorca is more than just a beach destination. In recent years the island’s capital, Palma, has developed into one of Spain’s most beguiling small cities. Fronted by the beautifully imposing cathedral and royal palace, its narrow cobbled lanes weave away from the seafront into the heart of the old city, where pedestrianised shopping streets, charming squares, ancient courtyards and chic bars attract locals and foreigners alike. As well as its vibrant nightlife, Palma boasts a strong arts scene.

Excellent food abounds in Mallorca, which is home to some 2,000 restaurants. Seafood predominates in coastal resorts, while regional dishes are served in traditional restaurants throughout the island. The restaurant scene is thriving in Palma, where foodies can quaff anything from local cuisine to Japanese fare.

Head inland and a completely different (and much less touristy) picture of Mallorca emerges. Traditional villages lie scattered across the countryside, sheep bells tinkle, white almond blossom floats in the air and a rural tranquillity prevails.

The central plain is the agricultural heart of the island, with vineyards, sleepy hamlets and weekly markets. Along the west coast, the great Sierra de Tramuntana mountains, covered in pine forests, tower over the plains, their sharp cliffs looming large above the deep blue sea. It’s the Spain of yesteryear and it should not be missed.

**Getting There**

**Air**

As an island most people arrive in Mallorca by air, and the large [Palma de Mallorca Airport](/i/palma), Son San Joan (PMI) caters to the millions of tourists that arrive from across Europe every year. Spain’s national airline is Iberia (IB) ([www.iberia.com](http://www.iberia.com)), and while they offer competitive prices on domestic routes, budget, low-cost and charter airlines form the bulk of European carriers to the island.

There are regular international flights to Mallorca from all over Europe, with many carriers offering multiple flights a day during the summer peak season. Scheduled carriers from the UK include Easyjet ([www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)), Monarch ([www.monarch.co.uk](http://www.monarch.co.uk)), Flybe ([www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)) and British Airways (www.ba.com), while many charter companies including Thomas Cook ([www.thomascook.com](http://www.thomascook.com)) and Thompson Airways ([www.thomsonfly.com](http://www.thomsonfly.com)) also sell seats on their charter flights in the summer. Air Europa ([www.air-europa.com](http://www.air-europa.com)), Iberia ([www.iberia.com](http://www.iberia.com)), Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) and Air Berlin ([www.airberlin.com](http://www.airberlin.com)) fly between the islands and mainland Spain as well as further afield to other European destinations. There are many flights a day to Barcelona from where it is possible to connect to and from worldwide destinations.

**Air Notes**

On entering Palma de Mallorca from the UK it is necessary to go through passport control as the UK is not within the Schengen Agreement. Those travelling to and from most other EU destinations do not need to go through passport control.

**Flight Times**

From London to Palma is around 2 hours 15 minutes, while Manchester is approximately 2 hours 45 minutes. The flight time to Barcelona is around 30 minutes.

**Air Passes**

XXX

**Departure Tax**

Departure taxes are included in the price of airline tickets and therefore nothing further needs to be paid at the airport.

**Road**

XXX

**Road Note**

XXX

**Rail**

XXX

**Rail Passes**

XXX

**Rail Note**

XXX

**Water**

Mallorca has long been a Mediterranean centre of yachting, and every year many hundreds of people arrive on cruise ships, by ferry, or on private superyachts, charter vessels and small private boats.

There are countless ports and marinas around the island, the main commercial ones being located in Palma and Alcúdia. For private vessels, marinas such as Puerto Portals and Port Adriano offer a range of facilities, and there are dozens of marinas catering to small craft.

**Water Note**

XXX

**Cruise Ships**

Mallorca is a main highlight on many cruise ship itineraries and countless operators berth their ships on the island during their cruises. The island’s cruise ship terminal is located in Palma (Estación Marítima) providing easy and quick access to Palma’s sights as well as connections to the airport and the rest of the island.

**Ferry Operators**

Vehicle and passenger ferries run up to twice daily per operator from Palma and Alcúdia commercial ports. Trasmediterranea ([www.trasmediterranea.es](http://www.trasmediterranea.es/)), Baleària Eurolínies Marítimes ([www.balearia.com](http://www.balearia.com/)) and Iscomar([www.iscomar.com](http://www.iscomar.com/)) operate vehicle and passenger ferries between Palma and Barcelona, Valencia, Ibiza, Menorca and Denia. Iscomar also operate between Alcúdia and Ciutadella (Menorca).

**River Routes**

XXX

**Getting Around**

**Air**

There are no domestic flights within Mallorca.

**Air Notes**

XXX

**Air Passes**

XXX

**Departure Tax**

XXX

**Road**

Road is the main form of transport, and they are of good quality and well-signposted. Three motorways connect Palma and the airport with other parts of the island, notably the north.

Driving techniques on the island are much the same as other parts of Europe. Use of the horn is common, and it is common to stop vehicles in the street and use hazard lights to denote that the vehicle is there temporarily. Foreign drivers should note that pedestrian crossings are denoted by black and white lines (not flashing orange lights).

**Side Of Road**

Right

**Road Quality**

The quality of island roads is good, although in the mountains’ steep, narrow roads sometimes make it difficult for coaches and cars to pass other than at special points. Heavy traffic congestion is rare.

**Road Classification**

There are three motorways where the speed limit is 120kph (75mph). On main roads the speed limit is 100kph (62 mph), for minor roads it is 90kph (56 mph) and on urban roads it is 60kph (37 mph).

**Car Hire**

This is the most popular means of getting around the island and is available from Palma airport and in all the resorts. Major international and (often cheaper) local firms operate. The minimum age of car hire is 18, but most companies hire only to over 21s.

**Taxi**

Taxis are a safe and popular way of getting to and from the airport, as well as around Palma. Taxis can be hailed from the street or telephoned and all use a meter.

**Bike**

Scooters and motorbikes are available for hire, but check this doesn’t invalidate your health insurance. Bicycles are popular for exploring the island.

**Coach**

Getting around by bus is easy, efficient and cheap. Buses serve almost all towns and villages, although services are limited in rural areas. Palma’s main bus station is located adjacent to the train station in Plaza Espaňa. The number 1 bus connects Palma and the airport. See [www.emtpalma.es](http://www.emtpalma.es) for bus routes.

**Regulations**

Seatbelts are compulsory.

**Breakdown Service**

Break down services are usually provided by individual car hire companies. If not try Real Automóvil Club de Espanya (RACE) (tel: 902 300 505; [www.race.es](http://www.race.es)).

**Documentation**

You will need your national driving licence and a credit card.

**Road Note**

XXX

**Towns And Cities**

Walking is the main mode of transport for getting around towns and cities. Palma is relatively compact but buses or taxis are a good way to getting around. Bicycles are widely available.

**Rail**

Fast, efficient, affordable train services run between Palma (Plaza Espaňa) and Inca, stopping at towns such as Santa Maria, Binissalem and Festival Park shopping outlet. There are also connections between Inca and Sa Pobla and Manacor. Schedules and fares can be found at [www.tib.org](http://www.tib.org). A short metro line connects Palma city centre to university.

The Sóller railway ([www.trendesoller.com](http://www.trendesoller.com)), an antique wooden train aimed at tourists, runs from Palma to Sóller several times a day.

**Rail Passes**

XXX

**Rail Note**

Interrail passes are not valid.

**Water**

There are many companies offering sightseeing day cruises from all major resorts around the island.

**Water Note**

XXX

**Business**

**Business Etiquette**

Mallorcans in general dress well and especially so when conducting business. Smart attire is expected, including suits for men and skirts or trouser suits for women. English is widely spoken in Palma and the resorts but less so elsewhere. Some knowledge of the Spanish language (and perhaps Catalan/Mallorquín) is always appreciated and sometimes essential. Punctuality is important. Greetings are by way of a handshake if you haven’t met before (or between men) and a kiss on both cheeks for women.

**Office Hours**

Tend to vary but base hours of 0900-1330 and 1400-1800 are fairly typical. During the height of summer shops in Palma tend to stay open until 2000 or 2100. Many offices close throughout August or operate much shorter working hours.

**Economy**

Tourism forms the core of Mallorca’s economy, with most of its tourists arriving from Germany, the UK and Scandinavia. Indeed, around 23 million passengers annually pass through Palma’s airport. Around 65% of the population work in tourism which accounts for between 70% and 90% of the islands’ GDP. In addition, construction businesses plus the buying and selling of properties and businesses such as restaurants, bars, hotels and shops accounts for a substantial part of the economy. Farming accounts for much of what remains with almonds, potatoes, olive oil, fruit and wine being the main exports. Palma is the commercial centre of the island.

Mallorca is a relatively wealthy part of the nation and it is estimated that the island GDP per head is more than 50% above the Spanish average.

**GDP**

$1.49 trillion (Spain) (2011).

**Main Exports**

Olive oil, almonds, potatoes and fruit.

**Main Imports**

Machinery and equipment, fuels, chemicals, semi-finished goods and food. (Spain)/

**Main Trading Partners**

France, Germany, Italy, UK and Portugal.

**Sightseeing**

**Cathedral de Mallorca**

The cathedral ([www.catedraldemallorca.org](http://www.catedraldemallorca.org)) is a splendid example of Gothic architecture, remarkable for its height and stained glass windows. Construction began 1306 and continued for four centuries. It was remodelled by Gaudí from 1902 to 1914. The cathedral is Palma’s most famous landmark, and is beautifully illuminated at night.

**Palau de l'Almudaina (Palace of the Citadel)**

Originally home to Mallorca’s Moorish rulers and expanded for the Catalan kings, the palace is a graceful mix of Moorish, Gothic and Renaissance styles. It is now the official island residence of King Juan Carlos I and is an impressive feature on Palma’s seafront. The gardens and fountains are beautiful.

**Castell de Bellver**

This unusual, circular 14th-century castle, surrounded by forests and paths, offers breath-taking views of Palma. Formerly a royal residence it now houses the excellent City History Museum and a collection of classical sculpture. The castle is located on a hill above the city and is a major feature of Palma’s skyline.

**Cuevas del Drach (The Dragon's Cave)**

Walk through the fairy-tale world of The Dragon's Cave ([www.cuevasdrach.com](http://www.cuevasdrach.com)) on the northeast coast of the island, past fantastically shaped stalagmites, beneath a million needle-shaped stalactites, to an amphitheatre where the visit climaxes with an unforgettable classical concert on an underground lake. The tour is guided in several languages.

**Valldemosa**

Tucked high in the Tramuntana Mountains is this quaint, cobbled-lane village. At its heart is the medieval Royal Monastery complex (the Real Cartoixa), which is associated with the French writer George Sand and composer Frédéric Chopin who shared a room here in 1838-39. It's an atmospheric place in a beautiful setting.

**La Granja**

This rural *finca* (farm) in the mountains is surrounded by tranquil gardens and has been beautifully preserved to show a traditional Mallorcan working farm. La Granja ([www.lagranja.net](http://www.lagranja.net)) hosts craft demonstrations and folk dancing (Wednesday and Friday afternoons). There are also displays of antique furnishings, costumes, food tasting and farm animals.

**Palma Sóller Railway**

The Palma Sóller Railway is the best way to get to the charming, traditional town of Sóller, nestled into the Tramuntana Mountains. The vintage wooden 1912 locomotive makes a scenic 27km (16.7 miles) trip through mountains, forests and olive and orange groves offering spectacular scenic views of rural Mallorca.

**Clubbing**

Mallorca (Majorca) has many 'super clubs' such as Abraxas (formerly Pacha) or Tito's, both in Palma's trendy Paseo Maritimo district, or at BCM Planet Dance ([www.bcm-planetdance.com](http://www.bcm-planetdance.com)) in Magaluf.

**La Sierra de Tramuntana**

La Sierra de Tramuntana covers about a third of Majorca's area and is a series of craggy mountains and calm, fertile valleys that stretch along the west side of the island. Steep cliffs drop into the blue sea below and picturesque villages such as Deiá perch on the mountainsides.

**Watersports**

The crystal waters around Mallorca are perfect for water sports. The island is a popular yachting destination, while the warm waters ideal for swimming, snorkelling, diving or kayaking. Day boat cruises are a great way to see the coast and there are many excursions that can be booked locally.

**Tapas in Palma**

Palma is perfect for discovering tasty traditional tapas bars and stylish designer watering holes. Tapas are varied and can be enjoyed as a light lunch or more hearty dinner. Also worth a visit is the glorious cocktail bar Abaco, which is set in the candlelit courtyard of a 17th-century palace.

**S 'Albufera Nature**

The S 'Albufera Nature Reserve in Alcúdia bay is a large tranquil area of marshy coastline formed by lakes and natural and artificial canals. The park is home to 200 species of bird, a huge variety of plants and wildflowers, insects, fish, and some unusual amphibians, reptiles and mammals.

**Palma Old City**

The long and tumultuous history of Palma is exemplified in its old city, where cobbled streets, stout city walls, grand courtyards and gothic buildings beg to be explored. Busy shopping streets, grand squares, pavement cafés, chic restaurants, trendy bars and a flourishing art scene attract locals and tourists alike.

**Beaches and coves**

Mallorca’s coastline is pocketed with natural coves, whose clear sparkling waters attract sailboats, traditional fishing boats and are perfect for swimming in. Of these Cala Pi, Cala D’Or and Sa Calobra are particularly beautiful. Golden beaches can be found all around the island. Some good ones are Es Trenc, Alcúdia and Sa Coma.

**Inca Market**

Weekly town markets are an important part of Mallorcan life, and Inca’s market is one of the biggest. Stalls fill the town centre where everything from toys to flowers to fruit and vegetables are sold. It is most famous for its leather goods including wallets, belts, bags and shoes.

**Santuari de Lluc (Lluc Monastery)**

High up in the Tramuntana mountains is the monastery at Lluc, Mallorca’s most famous pilgrimage destination. Since the 13th century pilgrims have made their way here to pay homage to La Moreneta (the Little Dark One), a statue of the Virgin Mary. There is also a simple but unique hostel inside the monastery.

**Cap de Formentor**

The craggy, rugged tip of northeast Mallorca is one of the most picturesque parts of the island. Tall cliffs dip into deep blue seas, sporadic pine trees grow along its shore and seabirds swoop overhead. A winding, precarious driving road weaves along the coast offering spectacular views.

**Attractions**

**Attraction**

XXX

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Admission Fees**

XXX

**Disabled Access**

XXX

**UNESCO**

XXX

**Shopping**

There is a strong tradition of craftsmanship on Mallorca, and many visitors enjoy taking some traditional crafts home with them. Solid wood furniture, hand-embroidered works, brightly coloured hand-painted ceramics, carved olive-wood, wrought ironwork, blown glassware, items made from raffia and palm leaves, handmade shoes and pearls are all of high quality. Indeed, Mallorca is particularly well-known for its leather products, and shoes, belts, handbags and wallets can be bought in specialist shops throughout Palma or at the leather market in Inca on Thursday mornings (which also sells many other handicrafts and goods) – the market is the largest on the island.

Mallorcans love to shop and Palma’s old city streets are bursting with boutiques, high street shops, big name brands and designer goods. The main streets are Jaime III (where you will find designer boutiques) and Carrer del Sindicat, Carrer de Sant Miguel and other streets radiating off Plaza Mayor. The main Avinguda d’Alexandre Rosselló street that has many high street shops as well as a large branch of El Corte Inglés, an upmarket department store.

The markets are always a draw for visitors to the island, and most of the larger villages or towns have one. Apart from Inca, Santa Maria has a big Sunday market as does Sineu on Wednesdays. While some of the traditional items have been lost from these markets, and there are more commercial imported clothes sold than before, they are a great place to buy artisan cheeses, meats and fruit and vegetables, as well as pottery and artisan products.

**Shopping Hours**

Traditional shopping hours are Monday to Saturday 0900-1400 and 1700-2000. Supermarkets and department stores are open 1000-2200. Big shopping centres and tourist shops also open on Sundays, as are the big shops along Jaime III in Palma.

**Note**

XXX

**Nightlife**

Mallorca is famous for its nightlife, which ranges from sophisticated in Palma to notorious in Magalluf, and is home to some megaclubs such as Abraxas and Tito's, both in Palma's trendy Paseo Maritimo district, and BCM Planet Dance in Magalluf. All the main resorts have a good selection of clubs and bars.

Hundreds of small, trendy, unusual bars are scattered throughout the old city of Palma, and come the weekend most are in full swing. For something more refined, Puerto Portals on the south coast offers a swanky selection of bars and restaurants which cater to the yachting elite. Throughout Mallorca the Cappuccino brand of upmarket cafés has become extremely popular and in the evenings are a delightful place to watch the world go by.

In Palma, locals tend to start the evening late and finish in the early hours of the morning. After a late meal on a Friday or Saturday night, young Mallorcans will head to the bars around midnight, and on to clubs no earlier than 0200.   
  
For the latest news on the local nightlife, and details of current events in Mallorca, see the local English-language newspaper, the *Majorca Daily Bulletin*. Spanish speakers should consult the weekly listings magazine *Guia del Ocio.*

**Events**

**Town fiestas**

Every village and town on the island celebrates its patron saint with a weekend of fiestas. A fairground atmosphere, complete with bunting, fireworks, dancing, market stalls and historic parades, make these a fun and traditional experience. Most of the fiestas are celebrated in the summer months.

**Theme**

Spectacle

**Start Date**

01 Jul 2015

**End Date**

02 Jul 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Throughout the year.

**Venue Name**

Throughout the island.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Palma

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

monthly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

Medium

**Semana Santa Holy Week**

Holy Week commemorates the arrival of Jesus to Jerusalem, his crucifixion, death and resurrection. It begins on Palm Sunday and involves church services and parades, the largest being on Easter Thursday. On Good Friday and Easter Sunday Mallorcans attend church services, visit shrines and enjoy family picnics.

**Theme**

Religion

**Start Date**

24 Mar 2016

**End Date**

24 Mar 2016

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Throughout the island.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Palma

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

Medium

**Dijous Bo**

This is the island’s most important autumn fair, and the whole of Inca transforms into a celebration of agriculture with stalls, concerts and festivities. Festivities kick off with

the annual Mallorcan black pig contest and auction in the evening, followed by the official opening of the farmers market by the town mayor. Throughout the day there are art exhibitions, bird shows, and live music. The main fair attracts hundreds of thousands of people with cultural and sporting activities, livestock competitions, exhibitions, and even a fashion show.

**Theme**

Entertainment

**Start Date**

14 Nov 2015

**End Date**

15 Nov 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Inca.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Inca

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

http://www.dijousbo.es/benvinguts

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

High

**Agricultural Fairs**

November is a time to celebrate the harvest and many towns on the island have festivals. Honey, wine, olives, mushrooms and pumpkins are rejoiced at in the different villages of the central plains. There are bonfires, food tastings and exhibitions.

**Theme**

Food & Drink

**Start Date**

01 Nov 2015

**End Date**

30 Nov 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Throughout November.

**Venue Name**

Throughout the island.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Palma

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

Low

**Morosi I Cristians (Moors and Christians)**

This is Sóller’s most important historical festival and celebrates the victory of its residents over Algerian invaders on 11 May 1561. The highlight of the festival is the great, noisy battle between the Moors who arrive by sea and the villagers – all dressed in traditional costume. It is a great spectacle.

**Theme**

History

**Start Date**

12 May 2016

**End Date**

12 May 2016

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Second Sunday in May.

**Venue Name**

Throughout Sóller.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sóller

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

Low

**Nit de Foc (Night of Fire)**

Held in the Park de la Mar in Palma this is one of the island’s must-see festivals. ‘Demons’ swinging lanterns and firecrackers swirl through the crowds as more demons play rhythmic drumming. Stalls, fireworks, bonfires and a lively atmosphere attract huge crowds. This is the first festival of the summer.

**Theme**

Spectacle

Unusual

**Start Date**

23 Jun 2015

**End Date**

23 Jun 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Park de la Mar, Palma

**Thoroughfare**

Park de la Mar

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Palma

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

Medium

**Nikki Beach Mallorca White Party**

Mallorca’s most anticipated party of the year - Nikki Beach White Party – marks the official start of summer. Enjoy a world of jet-set glamour as VIPs and celebrities flock to the island to enjoy an abundance of extravagant and world-class entertainment. Visitors will be treated to an exclusive performance from winners of this year’s Britain’s Got Talent, ‘Shadow Show’, along with an appearance from renowned Spanish singer Soraya and other musical acts, including Nikki Beach dancers, acrobats and musicians.

**Theme**

Entertainment

**Start Date**

05 Jun 2016

**End Date**

06 Jun 2016

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Nikki Beach Mallorca

**Thoroughfare**

Avenida Notario Alemany 1

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Calvià

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

www.nikkibeach.com/mallorca

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Tickets are €50 and include a complimentary drink on arrival.

**Importance**

Medium

**Three Kings Celebration**

The Three Kings parade is one of Spain’s most important festivals. In Mallorca, the biggest parade runs through Palma and is attended by thousands. The Three Wise Men - who followed the star to Jesus – arrive by boat and are part of dozens of elaborate floats that weave through the city centre.

**Theme**

Religion

**Start Date**

05 Jan 2016

**End Date**

05 Jan 2016

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Palma city centre and throughout the island.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Palma

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

High

**Carnival Parade**

Celebrated 40 days before Easter, Carnival parades are held in every town and village across the island – the biggest is in Palma. Also known as Darrers Dies (the last days) signifying the last days before Lent, it is a lively, fun celebration of fancy dress and frivolity.

**Theme**

Spectacle

**Start Date**

08 Mar 2016

**End Date**

08 Mar 2016

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Throughout the island.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Palma

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

High

**Navidad (Christmas) and Christmas markets**

Mallorca seems to have escaped some of the commercialism afflicting some other countries at Christmas, and there is a special, traditional feel to the decorations, Christmas craft markets and church services that are held throughout the month of December. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve is widely attended.

**Theme**

Religion

**Start Date**

01 Dec 2015

**End Date**

31 Dec 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Throughout December.

**Venue Name**

Throughout the island.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Palma

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

Medium

**New Year celebrations**

Towns and villages across the island join in this joyous evening of celebration of the year to come. Fireworks, dancing, concerts and parties are held in town squares, and in Palma restaurants and bars are full to capacity. As the clock strikes midnight Spaniards eat 12 grapes, a long-standing tradition.

**Theme**

Spectacle

**Start Date**

31 Dec 2015

**End Date**

31 Dec 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Palma and throughout the island.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Palma

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Mallorca

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Spain

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free.

**Importance**

High

**Food and Drink**

**Introduction**

Mallorcan food is typically hearty fare, with meats and stews showing up on most menus as well as popular suckling pig. Being an island, fish is understandably a common staple, with monkfish and sea bream served up in all manner of sauces. Following the Spanish tradition, tapas (a selection of small dishes) are often served as starters, or as a lighter meal. Anyone dining in Mallorca will undoubtedly encounter the *pa amb oli*; the widely-served bread dish served with a variety of toppings, much like a bruschetta.

Eating out in Mallorca, as in the rest of Spain, is an important part of life. Evening meals are taken late, usually after 2100, and it is not uncommon to see families sitting down for a meal at 2230, especially in summer. Sunday meals usually begin at 1400 and are slow, social affairs. In Palma all manner of restaurants can be found, from popular sushi bars to Thai, Chinese, steakhouses and Italian restaurants. Tapas bars are extremely popular, with *pintxos* (bread slices with elaborate and artistic toppings) becoming as common as traditional hot tapas.

On Saturday mornings, Palma’s traditional indoor food markets such as Mercado Olivar and Mercado Santa Catalina are teeming with the city’s trendy residents who enjoy fresh oysters and champagne amidst the bustling fish stalls.

Almost all restaurants have English menus (exceptions being in more rural areas) and waiters and waitresses can usually speak at least some English (certainly in Palma and the resorts).

House wines are usually of good quality and extremely well-priced. Local wines such as Jose Ferrer and Macias Batle are excellent and should be tried. Spanish beers such as San Miguel are widely exported and very good, although most international brands can be found.

**Specialities**

• *Ensaimada* (spiral-shaped cake, dusted with icing sugar sometimes filled with cream or jam).  
• *Coca de patata* (sweet bread-like bun made from potato flour and dusted with icing sugar).  
• Almond cake.  
• *Sobrasada* (soft, spreadable red chorizo-like sausage).  
• *Sopas Mallorquinas* (Mallorcan stew made from liver or seafood with vegetables and potatoes).  
• *Tumbet* (baked dish of layered potato, courgette, aubergine and tomato sauce).  
• *Pa amb oli* (literally, bread with oil), a snack often supplemented by island cheese, jamón (cured ham), or chorizo.  
• *Lomo con col* (pork wrapped in cabbage leaves).  
• Suckling pig.  
• *Parrillada de pescado* (mixed grilled fish and seafood platter).

**Things To Know**

XXX

**Tipping**

Around 10% in restaurants.

**Regional Drinks**

*Palo* and *herbes de Mallorca* (aromatic herby liqueurs).

**Drinking Age**

18.

**History**

Owing to its central location on the ancient Mediterranean trading route, the island of Mallorca has seen its share of conquerors, invaders and settlers over the centuries.

The first settlers are dated to 3000BC, but this was small scale. Later the Greeks and the Phoenicians set up trading posts on the island, which then became part of the Carthaginian trading empire from North Africa. But it wasn’t until the Roman period that the island was settled in any great numbers. In 123BC the Romans conquered the island, and for almost 600 years Mallorca’s life and prosperity was intricately linked with Rome. Two main centres emerged, Pollentia (today Alcúdia) and Palma.

In the 5th century AD, Mallorca (and the other Balearic islands) were conquered by the Vandal Kingdom of Africa, who demolished much of the Roman infrastructure. In 534 AD the islands became part of the Byzantine Empire.

As the spread of Islam in the 7th century reached North Africa, the Moors conquered Spain and shortly after, the Balearics. Four hundred years of Arab dominance followed, and while they were eventually ousted by King Jaume I who annexed the island to his Kingdom of Aragon (thus making Mallorca part of the Catalan empire), much of their influence still remains in local culture and tradition.

A prosperous era followed, to which many of the island’s most important buildings, including Bellver Castle, the Almudaina Palace and the Convent of Sant Francese, owe their origins.

During the Spanish Civil War in the early 20th century, Mallorca - a Nationalist stronghold - was attacked by the Republicans on 16th August, 1936. What became known as the Battle of Mallorca saw the Nationalists ultimately succeed in defending the island.

Since the 1950s, Mallorca has been one of Europe’s first and most popular tourist destinations. Mass tourism throughout the following three decades saw ‘Mallorca’s resorts boom, but it unfortunately got a reputation as a cheap, sun holiday for lager louts. A clean-up operation during the past twenty years has seen the island enter a new phase of sophisticated tourism and resorts have had major makeovers. An estimated 3 million tourists visit Mallorca each year.

**Data**

**Calling Code**

+34

**Area**

3640

**Population**

858313

**Population Density**

236

**Population Year**

2014

**General**

**Area**

3,640 sq km (1,405 sq miles).

**Population**

858,313 (2014).

**Population Density**

235.8 per sq km.

**Capital**

Palma de Mallorca.

**Geography**

Located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, approximately 210km (130 miles) south of Barcelona and 300km (185 miles) north of the African continent (Algeria), Mallorca has an idyllic geographical setting. Measuring 3,640 sq km (1,405 sq miles), it is the largest of the four Balearic Islands (Ibiza and Formentera to the west and Menorca to the east) and has a hugely varied landscape.

Its main geographical feature is the Sierra de Tramuntana mountain range, which extends from the southwest to northeast of the island over 70km (44 miles), the highest peak being Puig Major at 1,445m (4,741ft). The coast is mainly rocky, pocketed with small coves, sandy beaches and caves. Three large bays provide shelter from the open seas – Palma Bay, Alcúdia Bay and Pollensa Bay. The interior of the island is covered with lush pine forest, olive and almond trees, and in the central plains agricultural terrain and vineyards.

Protected nature reserves are important for wildlife, the most significant of these being the Cabrera Island Marine Reserve and the S’Albufera Nature Reserve near Alcúdia. There are hundreds of bird species that call Mallorca home, although wild mammals are today rare, the main exception being the wild goat that can be seen in the mountainous regions.

**Government**

Parliamentary monarchy since 1978.

**Head Of State**

King Felipe VI since 2014.

**Head Of Government**

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy since 2011.

**Electricity**

230 volts AC, 50Hz. Generally, European plugs with two round pins are in use.

**Note**

XXX

**Travel Advice**

XXX

**Passport Visa**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Passport Required** | **Return Ticket Required** | **Visa Required** |
| Nationality | XXX | XXX | XXX |

**Table Note**

XXX

**Passports**

XXX

**Passport Note**

XXX

**Visas**

XXX

**Visa Note**

XXX

**Types And Cost**

XXX

**Validity**

XXX

**Transit**

XXX

**Application To**

XXX

**Schengen Visas**

XXX

**Temporary Residence**

XXX

**Working Days**

XXX

**Sufficient Funds**

XXX

**Entry Documents**

XXX

**Extension Of Stay**

XXX

**Entry With Children**

XXX

**Entry Restrictions**

XXX

**Entry With Pets**

XXX

**Healthcare**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Special Precautions** |
| Vaccination | XXX |

**Table Note**

XXX

**Healthcare**

XXX

**Food And Drink**

XXX

**Other Risks**

XXX

**Money**

**Currency Info**

XXX

**Credit Cards**

XXX

**ATM**

XXX

**Travellers Cheques**

XXX

**Banking Hours**

XXX

**Currency Restrictions**

XXX

**Currency Exchange**

XXX

**Language**

**Language**

The official language is Catalan (spoken as the local dialect Mallorquín), although Spanish is of course also spoken by all residents. English and German are widely spoken in all tourist destinations, and most literature aimed at tourists can be found in these four languages as a minimum.

**Phrases**

XXX

**Duty Free**

**Overview**

XXX

**Banned Imports**

XXX

**Banned Exports**

XXX

**Important Addresses**

**Embassy and Consulate of the Kingdom of Spain in the USA**

**Thoroughfare**

2375 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

**Neighborhood**

DC 20037

**Locality**

Washington

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(202) 728 2330.

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

Mon-Fri 0900-1300.

**Spanish Consulate General in the UK**

**Thoroughfare**

20 Draycott Place

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

London

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

SW3 2RZ

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Telephone**

(020) 7589 8989.

**Website**

http://www.conspalon.org

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Spanish Embassy in the UK**

**Thoroughfare**

39 Chesham Place

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

London

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

SW1X 8SB

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Telephone**

(020) 7235 5555.

**Website**

http://www.conspalon.org

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Tourist Offices**

**Spanish National Tourist Office in the UK**

**Thoroughfare**

6th Floor, 64 North Row

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

London

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

W1K 7DE

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Telephone**

(020) 7317 2011.

**Website**

http://www.spain.info/uk

**Opening Times**

By appointment only. Call between 0915-1330.

**Spanish Tourist Office in the USA**

**Thoroughfare**

Suite 5300 (53rd Floor), 60 East 42nd Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

NY

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.spain.info

**Opening Times**

By appointment only.

**Communications**

**Telephone**

Emergency calls: 112. Area codes are incorporated within a nine digit number.

**Mobile Phone**

Roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone companies. Coverage is good throughout the island.

**Internet**

There are a variety of internet cafes in Palma and all the larger resorts, and hotels usually offer Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi is becoming more common in cafes and public areas (although still not as common as in other parts of Europe).

**Post**

There are domestic and international postal services (correos) to all countries, although postal services are not as reliable as on the mainland. Airmail within Europe takes around five days. The main post office in Palma is at Cerrer de Constitucio 5. All the main courier companies are represented on the island including FedEx and DHL.

**Post Office Hours**

Post Office opening hours are usually Mon-Fri 0800-1200 and 1700-1930. In Palma major post offices open throughout the day and limited hours on Saturday.

**Media**

Broadcasting in Spain has witnessed an expansion in recent years with the emergence of new commercial operators and the launch of digital services. *La Radiotelevisió de les Illes Balears* is the principal local broadcaster and there are dozens of foreign-language satellite channels. There are newspapers in several languages, the main ones being the *Diari de Balears* (a Catalan-language newspaper based in Palma), *Diario de Mallorca* (the main Spanish-language daily newspaper) and the *Majorca Daily Bulletin*, Spain's oldest English-language newspaper. There are several radio stations in Spanish and English throughout the islands.

**Press**

XXX

**Television**

XXX

**Radio**

XXX

**Where to stay**

**Hotels**

With millions of tourists visiting Mallorca every year, there are thousands of hotels all across the island. All resorts have good quality hotels which are usually 3 and 4-starred, offering swimming pools, and good facilities. These types of hotels tend to be reasonably-priced, especially in off-season periods where there is less demand. Many sizeable hotels and apartments in the resorts tend to be block-booked by package tour operators.

High quality 5-star hotels are also in abundance, with Palma playing host to many of these top establishments. There are also some famous 5-star hotels on other parts of the island which exude opulence and class.

Lower-starred hotels and hostels are less common because of the availability of well-priced hotels, but there is a handful of *pensiones* and hostels in Palma and in scenic spots around the island which cater for budget travellers. There are also some delightfully quirky hostel options such as the hostel in the Lluc Monastery (see sightseeing). Monastery stays offer basic rooms, but a unique (and very tranquil) experience with some of the most spectacular views on the island.

*Agriturismo* (rural tourism) has seen an incredible boom in the last few years, and today there are some beautiful, traditional and very high quality rural hotels scattered across the island. Offering sumptuous rooms, fine dining, often spas and access to pristine countryside or idyllic villages, they are an ideal way to get away from the crowds and enjoy rural Mallorca.

**Bed And Breakfast**

Bed and breakfasts in the traditional sense are relatively rare in Mallorca, probably due to the abundance of other accommodation options. In some of the towns and villages that cater to tourists (such as Sóller) it is possible to find one or two bed and breakfasts.

**Camping**

This is not a popular option (largely due to the availability of cheap accommodation elsewhere) but there are campsites at San Pedro, near Artá and at Platja de Muro, near Alcúdia.

**Other**

The Spanish Youth Hostel Network (REAJ) offers two youth hostels, in Palma and Alcúdia. Holiday rentals are big business on the island, despite a law stating that a property cannot be rented for less than three months. From simple flats to extravagant country mansions and everything in between, holiday lets allow for independence, self-catering and a real taste of living on the island.

**Culture**

**Religion**

There is no official religion, but the majority of the population is Roman Catholic. Much of the population is practicing, and Sunday church visits and holy communions play an important part of daily life.

**Social Conventions**

Spanish life has undergone rapid change in recent decades and many of the stricter religious customs are giving way to modernity, particularly in the cities and among women. In spite of this, traditions remain strong; hospitality, chivalry and courtesy thrive. Handshaking is the customary form of greeting between men, while women to whom one has already been introduced may be greeted with a fleeting kiss to either cheek. Normal social courtesies should be observed when visiting someone's home and a small gift is always appreciated. Conservative casual wear is widely acceptable. Outside resorts, scanty beachwear should be confined to beach or poolside.   
  
The evening meal is taken late, generally 2100-2200, and bars and nightclubs don’t get busy until the small hours of the morning. A law banning smoking in offices, shops, schools, hospitals, cultural centres and on public transport was introduced on 1 January 2006, although not strongly enforced until recently. Bars and restaurants must declare whether they permit or prohibit smoking. The vast majority have opted for the former.

**Weather**

**Best Time To Visit**

The island enjoys a temperate, Mediterranean climate. The height of the summers can get very hot – in excess of 40°C - but owing to the cooling influence of the sea are not excessively uncomfortable or humid. Summer is the busiest time of the year although prices are at their highest in July and August. Year-round Mallorca has an ideal climate, with comfortable temperatures in the mid- to high-twenties during the spring and autumn months, which combined with fewer visitors and lower hotel prices makes for the best time to visit. This is also the best time for outdoor activities such as cycling and hiking holidays. The climate during the winter is generally mild and dry with occasional showers, making Mallorca an ideal winter getaway. The shoulder seasons (April-May and September-October) are generally perfect to get the best of the weather and to avoid the crowds.

**Required Clothing**

The summer months are extremely hot so lightweight clothing is needed. Long-sleeved cotton tops are recommended to protect from the fierce sun, especially for sightseeing or activities. Autumn and spring attire should be medium-weight clothing, mainly layers, with some light rainwear, while the winters can be cold so a good jacket, scarf and gloves might be necessary.