

Balearic Islands



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Mediterranean Sea



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Front Cover: *Cala Macarella, Menorca.*
Back cover: *Ibiza.*

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INTRODUCTION

▲ LA SEU, PALMA
MALLORCA

Discover the special beauty of each of the Balearic Islands: **Mallorca**, **Menorca**, **Ibiza** and **Formentera**. The climate, with over 300 sunny days a year, and the beautiful **countryside** make for endless possibilities for enjoying outdoor activities such as horse riding, boat trips, ballooning and water sports. The clear, warm waters of the Mediterranean and fantastic **beaches** are ideal for taking a refreshing dip. The choice is endless, from family-friendly beaches with a full range of services, to hidden coves in idyllic surroundings where you can enjoy amazing sunsets.

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

Entertainment is guaranteed, with concerts, festivals, clubs and so much more. You'll never have a problem finding something to do. Take part in a traditional festival, have a drink on a terrace overlooking the sea and dance till dawn in a beach club. Join us as we take a look at the main attractions and you'll be amazed by the beauty and magic of these islands.

MALLORCA

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



▲ PLAZA MAYOR, PALMA
MALLORCA

CULTURE

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

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

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

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

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

For a privileged view of the island you should climb up to the Gothic style **Bellver Castle**, about 3 kilometres from the historical town centre and one of very few round castles in Europe.



▲ BELLVER CASTLE, PALMA
MALLORCA

Now on to the **Monastery of Miramar**, in the district of Valldemossa, in the mountain range to the north of the island: you can visit the museum and stroll around the beautiful gardens.

And finally, a travel back in time and visit the **Talayots**, the settlements built by the islands' first inhabitants. One of the largest and best preserved can be found in the Artà district: **Ses Païsses**, located in a pretty holm oak forest.

▼ PILAR AND JOAN MIRÓ FOUNDATION
MALLORCA



SHOPPING IN MALLORCA

You'll just love the shopping on offer on Palma's streets, such as the Calle **Sant Miquel**, **Jaume III** and **El Born**. If you're looking for craft work then you should try the stalls laid out in the **Plaça Mayor** in the morning.

The seaside towns host lively street markets offering a wide selection of goods.

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

Unique pieces are created using the **glass-blowing** technique developed by the Phoenicians and they are fascinatingly colourful and beautiful: wineglasses, lamps, bottles, chandeliers...

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



▲ ENSAIMADA
MALLORCA

TASTING MALLORCA

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

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

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

In the **Santa Catalina Market**, the oldest in Palma, there is a blend of traditional and gourmet stalls. While you're here you could have a snack in one of the bars or eat in one of the restaurants in the surrounding area.



▲ DRACH CAVES, PORTO CRISTO
MALLORCA

NATURE

In Mallorca there is beauty everywhere you look. Even under the ground. Can you imagine listening to a classical music concert in an underground grotto over 5,000 years old? In the district of Porto Cristo you can experience this in two different venues. In the **Drach caves** you can take a boat across Lake Martel, one of the largest underground lakes and in the **Els Hams caves** there are some surprising rock formations: the Plains of Fra Mauro, the *foso del inferno* (hell's pit) and the *mar de Venecia* (Sea of Venice), an underground lake.

In the **Artá** caves, located in the Capdepera cliffs, you can make out Gothic constructions and monsters in the vast caverns. The **Campanet** caves have amazing, seductive

chambers and galleries and broad terraces with fantastic views of the Sierra de Tramontana mountains. In Palma you'll find the colourful **Génova** caves, 36 metres underground and fed by fresh water springs.

Then there's the wonderful **Sierra de Tramontana Nature Reserve**, the largest protected area in the Balearic Islands. The easiest way to explore it is by taking the hundred-year-old railway from **Palma** to **Sóller** where it connects with a wooden tramcar. If you prefer hiking then take the Ruta de Piedra Seca route. In the far north you'll get captivating views from the lookout points and coves of **Cape Formentor**, just a few kilometres from Port de Pollença.



▲ ARTÁ
MALLORCA

One of the most attractive outings you can take during your stay in Mallorca is to the **natural monument of Torrent de Pareis**, a spectacular cliff location. It is an impressive 3-kilometre gorge which leads onto the lovely Playa de **Sa Calobra** beach. It can be reached on foot or by taking a boat from **Port de Sóller**.

In the town of **Campanet** you'll find an extraordinary, spectacular natural phenomenon: the **Ses Fonts Ufanes**, a natural spring-fed stream that winds its way amongst the trees and the rocks.

The **Mondragó Nature Reserve** in **Santanyí** has abundant Mallorcan wildlife and plants. You can take one of the four suggested itineraries on foot or by bicycle. You'll pass through pine forests and farmlands, skirt around lakes and see incredible cliffs.

If you like diving then this is a paradise. Mallorca has a number of **Marine Reserves** around the coast, like those of the **Bay of Palma, Llevant** and **Migjorn de Mallorca**. Dive down to a seabed covered with sea-weed and coral and swim amongst protected species.

BEACHES

The town beaches provide comprehensive facilities. You can relax on a sun lounger under a rented parasol, enjoy a delicious meal in a restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean and enjoy your favourite water sport.

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

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



▲ MALLORCA

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





▲ MALLORCA

MALLORCA WITH CHILDREN

Get a bird's-eye view of the amazing countryside: Take your family up in a hot-air balloon. There are several interesting choices. One of these is to go up in one of the most beautiful balloons in the world: a *Montgolfière* which is an exact replica of the first balloon to fly in France in 1783.

There are a number of adventurous theme and water parks. The children

will feel just like they're in the jungle as they zoom along a zip-line in **Jungle Park** (in the district of Santa Ponça), or **Forestal Park** (Palma), and they'll have a great time in a wave pool or fly along at top speed on a gigantic water chute in **Western Park** (Magaluf) or **Aqualand** (S'Arenal).

① **Further information:**
www.infomallorca.net

GETAWAY TO THE UNSPOILED ISLAND OF CABRERA

About ten kilometres south of Cabo de Salines in Mallorca you'll find the Cabrera archipelago, a unique natural area where the very essence of the Mediterranean remains almost intact and unchanged. It consists of 19 small islands and islets. The largest is Cabrera and they were all declared a Land and Marine National Park in 1991.

Take a boat from the **Colònia de Sant Jordi** and prepare yourself for an unforgettable day out. You'll see a wide variety of raptors and sea birds. The sea floor is full of caves and sandy beds where you'll catch sight of groupers, corvinas, octopus and even dolphins, loggerhead and leatherback tur-

gles. Another option is to take a hiking route like the one which climbs up to the castle; the **Miranda** which takes you up to a hilltop with incredible views or the route to the **Faro de n'Ensiola** lighthouse, the longest route on the island.

There is also an extraordinary variety of vegetation: the island is home to over 400 botanical species, with a prevalence of woody shrubs. Or just relax on the beaches.

CABRERA ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL MARITIME
- LAND PARK



MENORCA

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

► CIUTADELLA
MENORCA



CULTURE

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

In the surrounding area there are megalithic monuments dating back to pre-historic times. You should visit the **Naveta des Tudons**, a collective Bronze Age tomb which is one of the oldest buildings in Europe.



▲ SANTA MARÍA CATHEDRAL
CIUTADELLA, MENORCA

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

Mahón, the island's capital, lies at the eastern end of the island and is one of the largest natural harbours in the world. You should visit the majestic **La Mola**, a typical polygonal German-style fortress; the **Menorca Museum** which exhibits finds from the archaeological

digs; and the **Church of Santa María** with its neo-Gothic interior. Then there's the splendid **Portal de Sant Roc**, the remains of the medieval walls that surrounded the city. At the beginning of September you can experience the popular festivities of **Mare de Déu de Gràcia**, with activities for adults and children, gastronomic sampling, parades and the traditional procession through the city streets.

Looking for something different? Fishing tourism. Excursions on board boats accompanied by traditional fishermen where you can watch dolphins, sail, eat on board and learn all about the art of fishing. There are departures from the ports of Ciutadella and Mahón.





SHOPPING IN MENORCA

One of the most pleasurable activities on the island is to visit the open-air fairs and markets to find typical local craft work and foodstuffs. You can take home a souvenir of your holiday while supporting local production. During the summer there are some very special events like the **creative craft market in Es Castell**, a pretty little fishing village near the entrance to the port of Mahón.

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



▲ MAHÓN CHEESE
MENORCA

TASTING MENORCA

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

Then there's **Mahón cheese**, a local culinary delight. It is protected by its own Designation of Origin. It can be enjoyed on its own, or in pies, stuffed potatoes and salads. Legend has it that it was created in Mahón (from where it gets its name) and that a local hotel-

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

ier served it to Marshall Richelieu who commanded the troops that seized the port of Mahón. You should taste a good local **wine** from the island with your food and try the gin perfumed with juniper berries.

There is a great variety of exquisite local sweet and savoury pastries. The renowned **cocas** are covered with all kinds of sautéed vegetables, whilst **rubiols** are a kind of pastie stuffed with vegetables, meat, fish, cottage cheese or jam.

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

NATURE

Apart from the extraordinary archaeological and cultural heritage, Menorca also offers a rich ecology and magnificent landscapes.

You can explore the island's different habitats on foot, by bicycle or on horseback. Or you could dive into its waters and discover the amazing natural treasures on the seabed. Try a little active tourism on organised tours or strike out on your own.

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



BEACHES

Discover your favourite beach in Menorca. There are over 70! In the south there are many beaches with fine, white sand and crystal-clear waters, like **Macarelleta**, one of the most popular nudist beaches in the summer; **Cala Turqueta**, a paradise hidden behind a pinewood, and the delightful **Cala Blanca** and **En Forcat**, near Ciutadella, ideal for sunbathing and learning to dive. If you're going with children then **Binibèquer Nou** is a good choice. It's in the town but looks completely unspoiled. It has a beach bar and there are sunbeds and parasols for hire. It is located in the district of Sant Lluís.

In the north the beaches have reddish sand which contrasts with the blue and green shades of the sea. There are beaches surrounded by dunes, like the Playa de **Binimel-là** in the northern Marine Reserve, and by cliffs like the Playa de **Cala Morell**, where you can sunbathe on the artificial rock platforms.





MENORCA WITH CHILDREN

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

Snorkelling, kayaking and diving are also suitable for young adventur-

ers. There are companies organising these activities in the spectacular **Northern Marine Reserve**.

You can have so much fun in water parks like the **Aqua Centre** with water tubes and a gigantic water chute, or the **AquaRock**, with a huge wave pool, both in Ciutadella. In Fornells you'll find the **Carema Splash Park** which is ideal for small children.

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

10 FANTASTIC BEACHES

Spectacular cliffs, vast unspoiled beaches, delightful coves... Find your favourite beach in the Balearic Islands and enjoy a dream holiday in the crystal-clear waters. Here is a small selection of 10 idyllic locations.



▲ CALÒ DES MORO
MALLORCA

CALÒ DES MORO, MALLORCA

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

PLAYA DEL TORRENT DE PAREIS, MALLORCA

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

PLAYA DE FORMENTOR, MALLORCA

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

ES GRAU, MENORCA

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

CALA PRESILI, MENORCA

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

CALA ESCORXADA, MENORCA

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

CALA SALADETA, IBIZA

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

PLAYA AIGÜES BLANQUES, IBIZA

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



▲ CALÒ D'ES MORT
FORMENTERA

PLAYA DE SES ILLETES, FORMENTERA

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

CALÒ D'ES MORT, FORMENTERA

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



IBIZA/EIVISSA

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

CULTURE

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

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

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

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

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

Not to be missed is the **Monographic Museum and Punic Necropolis in Puig des Molins**. Over 3,000 tombs have been discovered in this Phoenician-Punic cemetery which is one of the best preserved in the world. The funerary items found in the tombs are exhibited in the museum: necklaces, charms, coins...

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

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

You could enjoy a little creative tourism which is the latest trend in a number of cities throughout the world: you can take part in attractive activities like music, dance, photography, language and culinary workshops.



SES TAULES GATEWAY
IBIZA

Photo: theendup/123rf.com



BUST OF THE GODDESS TANIT, PUIG DES MOLINS MUSEUM
IBIZA

Photo: Javier Mendoza Cardona/123rf.com



DALT VILA
IBIZA

Photo: Malgorzata Slusarczyk/123rf.com



▲ IBIZA

SHOPPING IN IBIZA

When you're in the city of Ibiza, you can always do a little shopping in the **port**. You'll find a great selection of craft work and fashion in the narrow streets running through the **La Marina** neighbourhood. If you prefer somewhere a bit more modern and spacious, then you should try the newer part of the city called the **zona del ensanche** and the area around the **Mercado Nuevo** or New Market where you'll find magnificent, fresh, local produce.

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



▲ IBIZA

TASTING IBIZA

Healthy and so very tasty: that is how you would describe the island's cuisine. We recommend traditional dishes made from seafood and fresh, local produce. One of the most representative is the **bullit de peix** or fish stew: fish covered in a smooth **alioli** sauce (similar to mayonnaise but made only from olive oil and garlic) and seasoned with saffron. **Arroz a banda**, which is rice cooked in the broth from cooking the fish and served separately. For something sweet, try **orelletes**, traditional, fried aniseed-flavoured cakes, which you'll find in any pastry shop.

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

NATURE

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



▲ SES SALINES NATURE RESERVE
IBIZA

You can look out over a myriad of landscapes in the **Ses Salines Nature Reserve** which goes from the south of Ibiza to the north of Formentera and includes the strait which separates the two islands. On the seabed there are fields of *posidonia oceanica*, a seagrass which is vital for maintaining life under the sea and declared a World Heritage by the UNESCO. On a stroll along the coast you will see the amazingly colourful salt pans, the dunes covered with ancient juniper trees and some extraordinary cliffs.

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

CALAD'HORT
IBIZA

BEACHES

The beaches and coves along Ibiza's coast are a delight both for those who enjoy water sports and those who just love taking a dip in incredible surroundings.

The city of Ibiza has two town beaches which provide comprehensive services including sun loungers and parasols for hire, lifeguards and showers:

Ses Figueretes and **Talamanca**. They can be reached on foot, by bicycle and public transport and they are accessible for those with reduced mobility. The long, wide **Playa d'en Bossa** beach, which is in the municipal district of Eivissa but is geographically mostly in that of Sant Josep, provides the same facilities.

▼ PLAYA D'EN BOSSA
IBIZA





CALA GRACIÓ
IBIZA

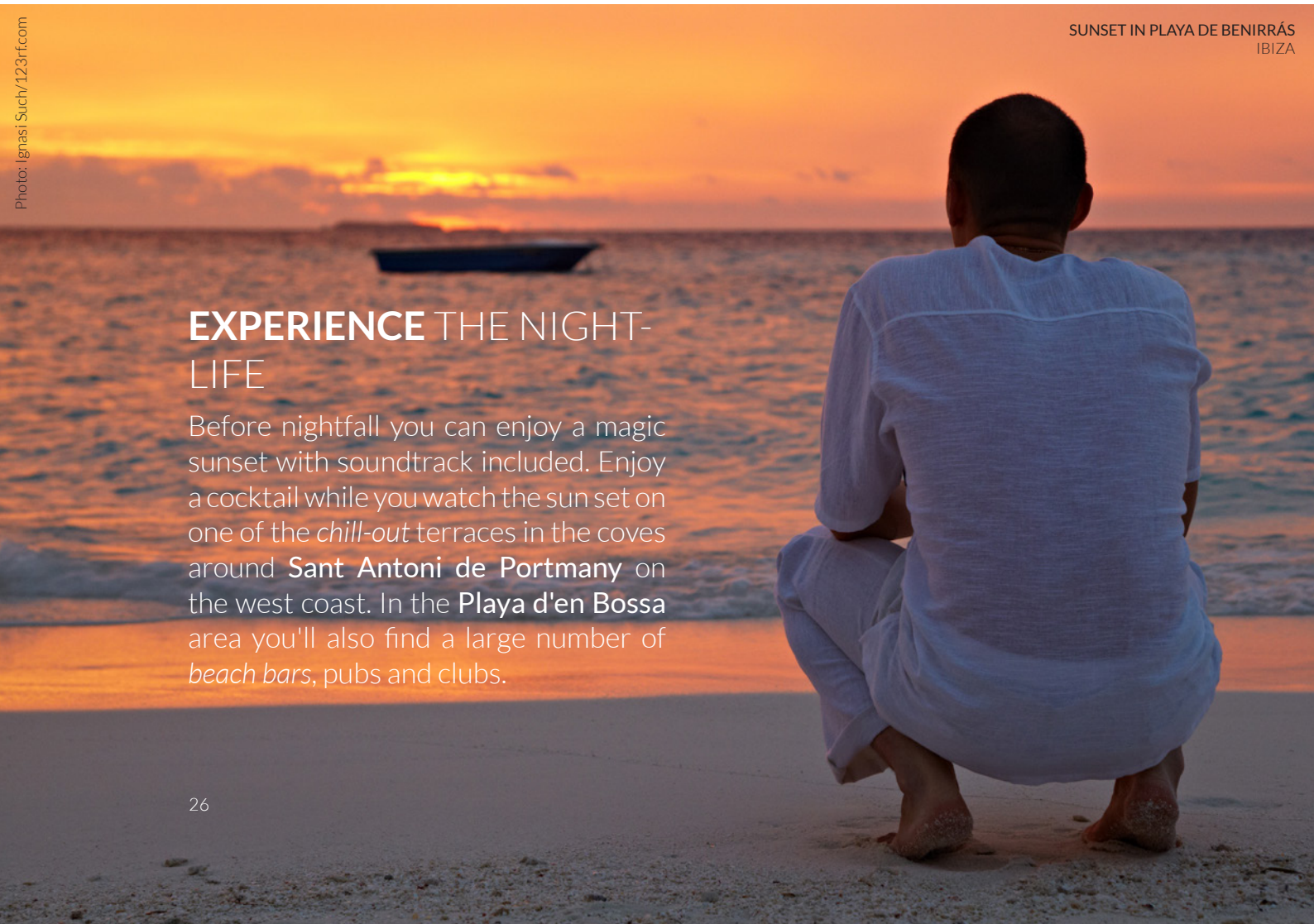
IBIZA WITH CHILDREN

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

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

Photo: Ignasi Suchy/123rf.com

SUNSET IN PLAYA DE BENIRRÁS
IBIZA



EXPERIENCE THE NIGHT-LIFE

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



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

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

📍 *Further information:* www.ibiza.travel



FORMENTERA

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

▼ FORMENTERA



YOU SHOULD TRAVEL ALL AROUND THE ISLAND FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BALEARIC ISLANDS

ALL YEAR ROUND

SUMMER

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

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

For those who love classical music there is the **Ciutadella Summer Music Festival** (Menorca), which is held in the cloisters of the seminary in the Church of El Socorro. Performers include famous

operetta singers and the "Illa de Menorca" Chamber Orchestra.

In summer the music never stops in Ibiza. The major clubs (Amnesia, Ushuaïa, Hi Ibiza, Pachá...) and hotels organise great summer opening parties with the very best DJs and internationally famous groups.

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





Photo: zixia/123rf.com

FESTIVITIES OF SAINT JOAN
CIUTADELLA, MENORCA

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

AUTUMN

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

In mid-October you can see Ibiza in a different light at the **Ibiza Light Festival**, a cultural project that transforms iconic

locations in the port and La Marina with lighting, video, sound and performance art.

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

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



FESTIVITIES OF SANT ANTONI AND SANT SEBASTIÀ
PALMA, MALLORCA

WINTER

During the coolest months the islands are at their most peaceful and true-to-life. It's the favourite time for local residents. Come and share this experience. There is a wide selection of activities: the **Better in winter** campaign has some very tempting suggestions.

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

There are some great parties at Christmas and New Year. There are also tra-

ditional festivals like **Sant Antoni Abat** in Menorca, with *foguerons* (bonfires) in the streets where *sobrasada* and *botifarron* sausages are grilled and the popular ceremony of blessing the animals.

In Mallorca, during the week of 20 January, you can participate in the festivals in honour of **Sant Antoni and Sant Sebastià**, the patron saints of Palma. The city is filled with music and activities for young and old alike. Special mention should go to La Revetla de Sant Sebastià (19 January), a night when there are concerts and bonfires in all the squares in the city.



▲ MALLORCA

SPRING

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

If you like liturgical music, you'll really love **International Organ Week** which takes place in the Basilica of Sant Francesc in Mallorca. Opera lovers shouldn't miss **Opera Week** in the Maó Principal Theatre in Menorca.

At this time of year there is a range of activities for sports enthusiasts, including **Formentera to run**, a sixty-kilometre race which takes in the most beautiful parts of the island (at the end of May/beginning of June). You can also take part in the **Formentera-Ibiza Ultrawim**, across the 30 km which separate the two islands, combined with two more races of 5 km and 750 m, which usually takes place in May.

▲ OBERT JAZZ FESTIVAL
MENORCA

This is also the time of year for nautical competitions like the **Princess Sofía SAR Trophy** for yachtsmen and women in Mallorca and the **Salt Route Regatta** in Ibiza and Formentera.

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

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

HOW TO GET THERE

BY SEA

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

BY AIR

There are numerous flights to Palma, Menorca and Ibiza. Many Spanish and international airlines have daily flights to the islands. There is no airport in Formentera. It takes half an hour by ferry from Ibiza.



HOW TO GET AROUND IN THE ISLANDS

BY BUS

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

BY BICYCLE

There are a good number of well-sign-posted routes in the Balearic Islands. You can hire a bike in many of the ports, towns and villages.

BY MOTORBIKE

A motorbike is an interesting choice if there's just you or you and your partner. You can *rent* one in all four islands.

BY CAR

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

BY FERRY

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



CO-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: CATALAN

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

📍 Further information:

www.illesbalears.travel


www.spain.info



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