

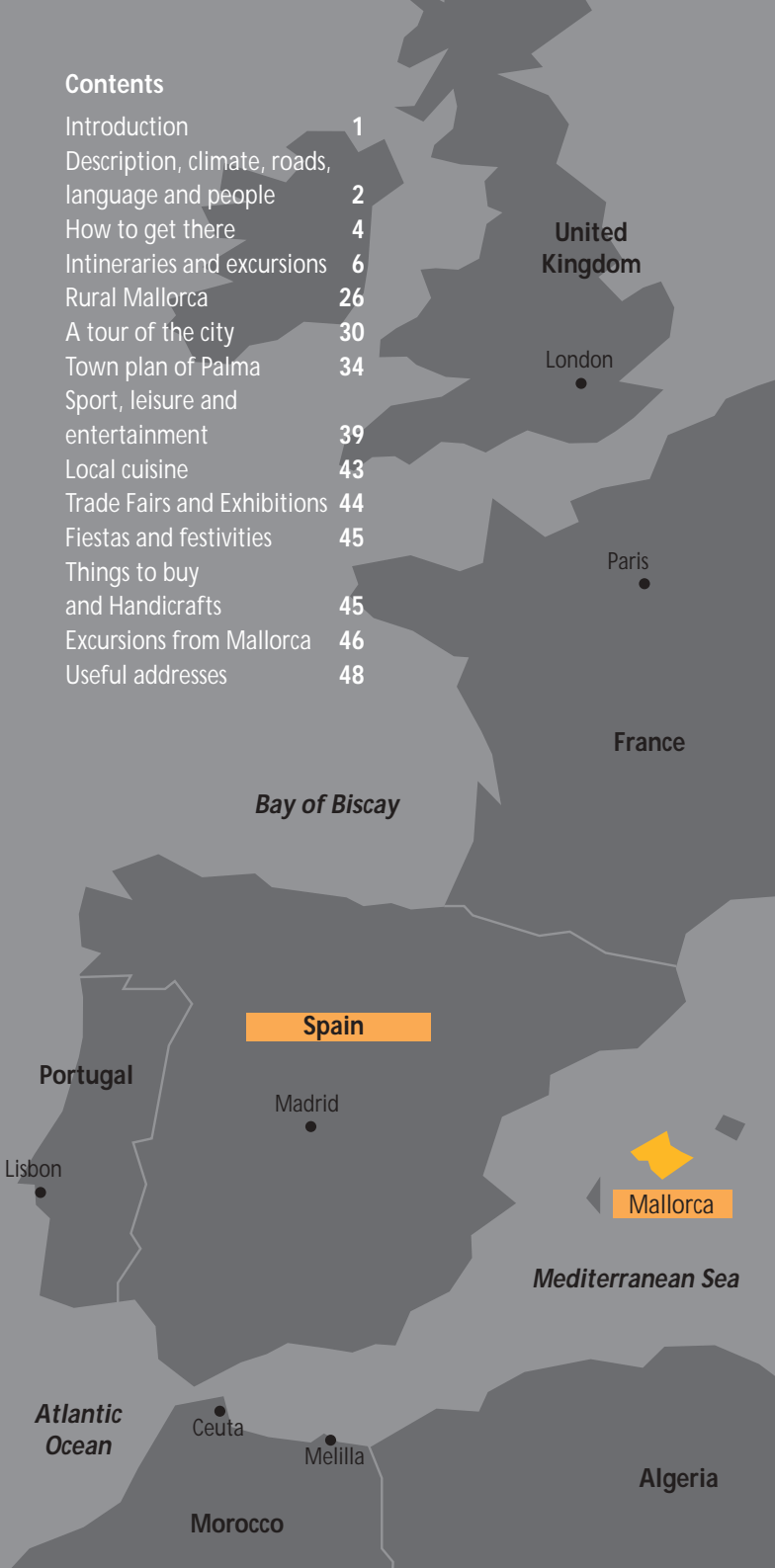
Balearic Isles **Spain**

# Mallorca



## Contents

Introduction	1
Description, climate, roads, language and people	2
How to get there	4
Intineraries and excursions	6
Rural Mallorca	26
A tour of the city	30
Town plan of Palma	34
Sport, leisure and entertainment	39
Local cuisine	43
Trade Fairs and Exhibitions	44
Fiestas and festivities	45
Things to buy and Handicrafts	45
Excursions from Mallorca	46
Useful addresses	48





## ■ Welcome!

Mallorca is the ideal choice for a holiday. Island of tranquillity; isle of light and beauty. A haven of peace where life still goes by at an agreeable, unhurried pace and there are no nagging worries or anxieties to mar the contemplation of beauty.

In summer, the sun and the beaches are an open invitation to relaxation. But whatever the time of year, Mallorca is joyous and carefree.

In winter, the island mantles itself in the glory of its innumerable almond trees. Santiago Ruisiñol has painted a canvas in which he admirably expresses the call of spring of the almond blossom. Mallorca, eternal Spring.

Mallorca is sea and mountain basking beneath a Mediterranean sun. Mallorca is scenery, and art, and the warmth of its friendly hospitable inhabitants. Welcome to Mallorca!

*Alcúdia Bay*



## ■ Description, climate, roads, language and people

Europe's paradise, an island open to the world for relaxation and entertainment. **Mallorca**, with an area of 3,640 square kilometres (just over 1,000 sq. miles), is the largest of the Balearic Isles. On Mallorca, Nature, be it mountainside or coast, is a feast. Rearing above the Tramuntana Range is the island's highest peak, Puig Mayor (close on 5,000 ft.). Mallorca's 340 miles of coastline are its chief attraction, with coves and beaches rivalling each other in magic and charm.

Not only have traces of Judaic and Islamic cultures been found on Mallorca, but richly endowed settlements bear eloquent testimony to Roman times. In

1229, King James I conquered the island and the Kingdom of Mallorca was born. Mallorca was firstly annexed to the Kingdom of Aragon under James III, and subsequently to Spain itself, coinciding with the political unification of the country in 1492 under the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabel. Nowadays, Mallorca forms part of the Balearic Isles (*Illes Balears*), one of Spain's Autonomous Regions.

Mallorca enjoys an enviable Mediterranean climate of hot summers and mild winters. In the city of Palma, the island capital, the annual average temperature is 20°C. In the mountain areas temperatures are lower and in winter, snow on the highest ridges is not an unusual sight. In

*Fornalutx*



autumn and winter, the north of the island receives a moderate rainfall and is generously forested with holm oak, pine and olive. Spring and summer brings splendid sunshine, to be enjoyed on beaches of fine white sand. Coveted blue-pennant status has been awarded by the European Union to a number of Mallorca's beaches in recognition of their being safe, clean and well tended.

Mallorca enjoys a good road network for those wishing to get about by car. Three motorways head out of Palma, bound for the airport and Lluçmajor (A-19), Palmanova-Andratx (A-1) and Inca-Alcúdia (A-27).

The official languages are Castilian Spanish and Catalán (Mallorquí). In tourist resorts, hotels and restaurants, English and German are also spoken. The bulk of tourists come from Germany, England and the Spanish mainland.

Mallorca has a population of 615,000, half of whom live in the capital. Mallorcans, while tending to be serious and reserved, are extremely polite and hospitable.



*Capdepera. Cala Son Moll*

## How to get there

### ■ PLANE

Palma's Son Sant Joan airport lies eight kilometres from the capital. Direct and connecting flights, scheduled and charter, link Palma with all main European destinations. There are daily scheduled domestic flights to Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Alicante, as well as to other cities around Spain. Buses leave the airport for the city centre (Plaza de España) every 15 minutes, and from here, buses can then be taken to other points and towns on the island. At the airport, there is a permanent taxi rank and a number of car-rental agencies.

### ■ FERRY

The Trasmediterránea Ferry Line plies between Palma and Barcelona, Valencia, Ibiza and Menorca (daily roundtrips). The ships are comfortable, being equipped with cabins, armchair-style seating and a bar and restaurant service. The Flebasa Line covers the Palma-Ibiza-Denia (Alicante) routes. The vessels used are car ferries. As from December 1996, a new rapid ferry service came into operation, linking Palma with the mainland in 4 hours.

### ■ ACCOMMODATION

Befitting its importance as a tourist centre, Mallorca has over one thousand hotels. There are hotels for all tastes and pockets, including 5- and 4-star luxury hotels, and very comfortable 3- and 2-star hotels, situated, for the most

*Cala Esmeralda*





Port d'Andratx

part, in the capital and seaside towns and villages. In the high season, visitors are recommended to book ahead. The Tourist Information Office at the airport will furnish information on hotels, locations and categories.

Another form of lodging is available in the island's interior, namely, estates and country cottages given over to agri- and rural tourism, where the visitor can be in direct contact with the countryside in a family environment

(for agritourism information kindly call, Avenida Gabriel Alomar i Villalonga, 8A, 2º A,

07006 Palma. ☎ 971 72 15 08 -  
Fax: 971 71 73 17.  
*e-mail: fincas@balears.com*).

#### ■ USEFUL INFORMATION

The peseta is the national currency. Money can be exchanged at the airport itself or at any bank. Bank opening times are 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Most establishments (shops, restaurants, hotels, etc.) accept credit cards.



## Itineraries and excursions

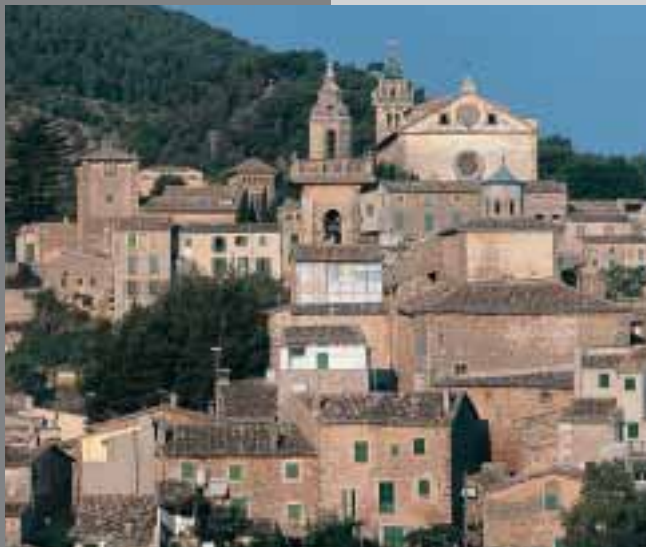
Palma

Valldemossa

Deià

Sóller

**Valldemossa** lying 17 kilometres from Palma along the s'Esgleieta road, is famous, among other reasons, for the Carthusian Monastery, known as **La Cartuja**, where Frédéric Chopin and Georges Sand spent the winter of 1838-1839. The monastery (closed Sundays), with its distinctive green-tiled belfry, rises head and shoulders above the town. In the church, there are frescoes by Miguel Bayeu, Goya's brother-in-law. The cloister encloses a beautiful garden, where summer



*Valldemossa*

concerts are held, with famous pianists playing Chopin's works. The "Pleyel" piano which the Polish musician caused to be brought from Paris can still be seen here.



Valldemossa. Son Marroig

Further points of interest include the monks' pharmacy (17th century) and the Prior's cell, now a museum and library. Worth seeing in the town are King Sancho's Palace (*Palacio del Rey Sancho*) and the House of Santa Catalina Thomas. Valldemossa is one of the most picturesque and best conserved towns on Mallorca.

Superb panoramic vistas, through olive groves and out to sea, can be had from

the C-710 corniche road from Valldemossa to Deià. In **Son Marroig** one should make a stop and take in the sight from the cliffs, easily one of the most stunning views of the entire Mallorcan coastline. Here is Na Foradada, the famous rock weathered and pierced by wind and wave. Before resuming one's journey, a visit should be paid to the House-cum-Museum of the Archduke Ludwig Salvator of Austria (*Casa Museo del Archiduque Luis Salvador*).

Continuing along the same road (C-710), flanked by the twisted trunks of ancient olives, one arrives in **Deià** (population, 600). The village straggles along a hillside. Robert Graves, author





### Deià

of "I, Claudius", chose Deià as his home, and lies buried here, in the romantic graveyard of the village church. The village, with its old island-style houses, has remained untouched by time and is a favourite haunt of artists and painters. Here one can enjoy a pleasant stroll (two kilometres down to the sea) and relax in a delightful, secluded cove.

The road descends to Sóller (14 kilometres from Deià), traversing a valley studded with orange trees. **Sóller** is a prosperous city (population, 10,500) with imposing



Sóller train

seigneurial houses and palatial mansions built by emigrants returning from France. The parish church, built in 1912, was designed by the architect, Juan Rubió i Bellver, a disciple of Gaudí's. A visit to the Balearic Natural Sciences Museum (*Museo*



*Balear de Ciències Naturales*) is well worthwhile (Port de Sóller, closed Mondays).

One can get to **Port de Sóller** by taking a typical tram-ride, an experience to be recommended. From Port de Sóller, boats leave for the creek of **sa Calobra**, a beach that is a veritable spectacle of Nature. One can return to Palma via the Sóller Tunnel, which links the two cities (the C-711).

*Port de Sóller*

*Sa Calobra. Torrent de Pareis*



Palma

Manacor

Portcristo

Cuevas del Drac

Artà



Algaida. Can Gordiola.  
Glass Museum

There's not a tourist who returns home without having crossed the threshold of the magical world carved beneath Mallorca's limestone core by the timeless dripping of water... the Caverns. In all, there are some 800 of these caverns, but only five are open to visitors: the Drach, Hams, Artà, Campanet and Génova Caves.

The C-715 traverses the old market-garden area of Palma, where cattle graze and typical windmills are seen, lending the landscape its altogether unique look. Over to the right, is the city's Son Sant Joan Airport, its newly opened terminal built to solve problems of imminent saturation; only recently, the passenger-handling facilities surpassed the 15-million mark.

Standing by the roadside is a modern castle-like construction housing the Gordiola



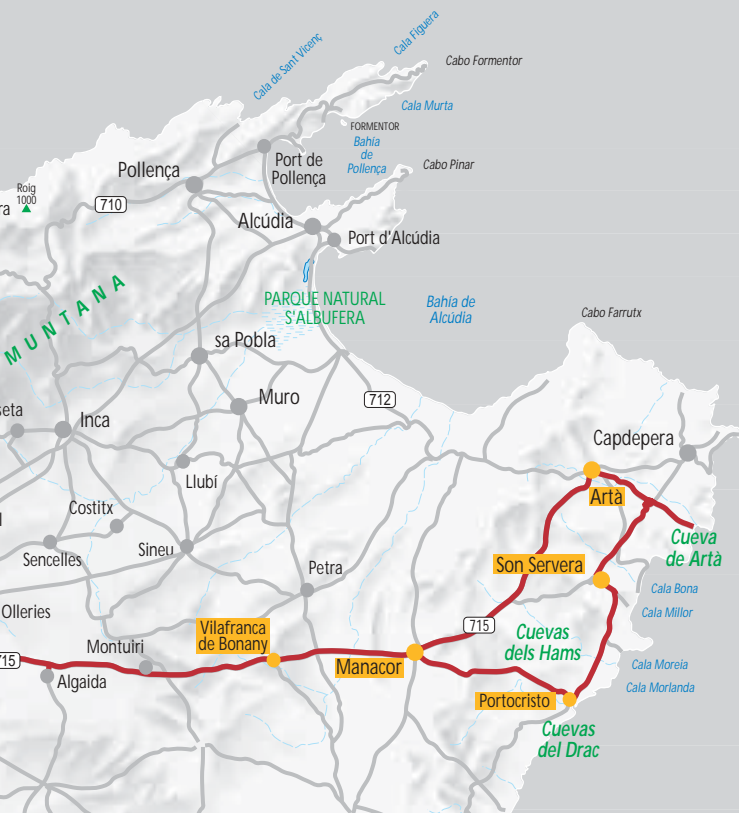


*Son Sant Joan. Typical mill*

Glassworks, where handmade glass is still blown in the traditional manner. The Glass Museum (*Museo de Vidrio*), located on the top floor, is the best and most complete in Europe (no entrance charge).

Passing by Algaida, situated near the road, and a little later, Montuiri, off to the left, one arrives in **Vilafranca de Bonany**. Driving on through the town, one sees the local produce, principally melons and garlic, laid out and displayed by the side of the road. The clay soils in the district are ideal for making tiles and bricks.

**Manacor** (population, 30,000) is both the district capital and an industrial city, specialising in furniture and cultured pearls. A visit to the world-renowned *Perlas Majórica* plant is a





*Manacor. Cloister of Monastery of San Vicente Ferrer*

“must”. Other sights worth seeing in Manacor are the cathedral-like Neogothic church, St. Dominic’s Cloister (Claustro de Santo Domingo) and the Regional Museum. Taking the coastbound road, the next stop is **Portocristo**, a scenic seaside village. Fishing

boats and pleasure craft bob at their moorings in the quiet waters of the inlet.

Lying concealed across the water are Mallorca’s most famous caverns, the **Drac Caves** (*Coves del Drac*), a fantasy world of stalactites and stalagmites. The name “Drac” comes from the dragon which, legend has it, once guarded the entrance. A combination of strategic lighting and classical music accompanies the boatride around Lake Martel, the largest subterranean lake in the world. Guided tours in groups last two hours. Two kilometres away are the **Hams Caves** (*Coves dels*

*Portocristo*





Artà cave

Hams), somewhat less grandiose, with stalactites shaped like fish-hooks.

On the way to **Son Servera**, the Autosafari game park can be visited, where free-roaming African wildlife lends an exotic touch to the landscape. Incising the nearby coast are an exquisite and, in summer, popular series of inlets, creeks and coves (*calas*): Cala Morlanda, Cala Moreia, Cala Millor, Cala Bona, etc.

Head, via Son Servera, for Capdepera and, once through the tunnel, take the turn-off to the **Artà Caves**. An enormous ochre-coloured tower dominates the local countryside, the *Canyamel* Tower, a structure dating from the end of the 12th century, a

contemporary of Seville's landmark Giralda Tower. Down by the shore, the naturally formed pointed archway of gigantic proportions that is the mouth of the **Gruta de Artà** appears, a supernatural geological wonder, which has been compared to the infernal setting of Dante's Divine Comedy.

The return trip takes in Artà, where the medieval castle, St. Saviour's Church (Santuari de San Salvador) and the Regional Museum (closed weekends) are all worth a visit.



■  
**Palma**

**Santa Ponça**

**Andratx**

**Banyalbufar**

**La Granja**

Heading westwards along the seafront drive, one leaves the city via the A-1 motorway and soon comes to Palmanova, which sprawls and merges with Magaluf, a major tourist resort in the Calvià municipal district, blessed with superb beaches and top-flight hotel facilities. Nearby are Portals Nous and Puerto Portals, with its elegant harbour sidewalk cafés. Across the way is the Marineland aquapark, with its famous dolphin show.



*Santa Ponça*



*Portals Nous. Harbour*

All these places are well signposted at crossroads and intersections.

Taking the C-719, which is the continuation of the motorway, one gets to **Santa Ponça**, marking the site



where the Christian forces of James I landed prior to their recapturing the island from the Moors (the *Reconquista*), an event commemorated every year on 9th September. Today, Santa Ponça, with its

*Andratx. Cape sa Mola*



pine-fringed beach, restaurants and yacht club, is a holiday and residential town. Good, well tended golf courses are to be found in this part of the Calvià district.

**Port d'Andratx**, a fishing harbour in which fishing boats ride at anchor alongside pleasure craft. In summer luxury yachts berth here. The town of Andratx, ensconced in the valley some distance from the harbour, huddles around the old castle-fort which once defended it from the threat of invasion.

From **Sant Elm** beach, **sa Dragonera** island can be seen. The island is now an

*Sa Dragonera*



*Sant Elm beach*

officially declared **Nature Reserve**, a living museum of Balearic fauna and flora.

Leaving Andratx, one takes the C-710 corniche road, which clings to the cliffside and is flanked on both sides by stunning scenery. Estellencs is followed by **Banyalbufar** (from the original Arabic, Ban-al-bahar), with its steep,





*Banyalbufar*



*Esporles. La Granja mansion*

mansion with an extraordinary *Museum of Ethnography*, in which farm implements and traditional handicraft tools and artefacts are displayed, along with a fine selection of furniture and domestic utensils. The visitor is treated to hot fritters (*buñuelos*), wine and other delicacies of Mallorcan cuisine.

twisting cobbled streets, terraced fields and orchards.

On the way back to Palma, a visit should be made to La Granja, near Esporles.

**La Granja** is a magnificent



Palma

Inca

Alcúdia

Pollença

Formentor

By taking the old C-713 road in preference to the modern motorway, one gets the chance of enjoying closer contact with the countryside and the people. Almond and carob trees line the route. **Santa Maria del Camí** is the first town en route. It was founded by the Romans in 100 B.C. **Consell** is a small town, with good wine and a taste for handicrafts, e.g., wrought iron, ceramicware, *alpargatas* (traditional rope and canvas sandals), glassware, needlework, kitchen knives, furniture and the like.

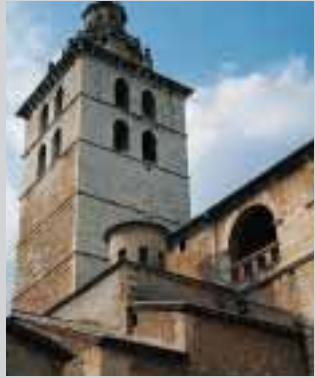


Binissalem



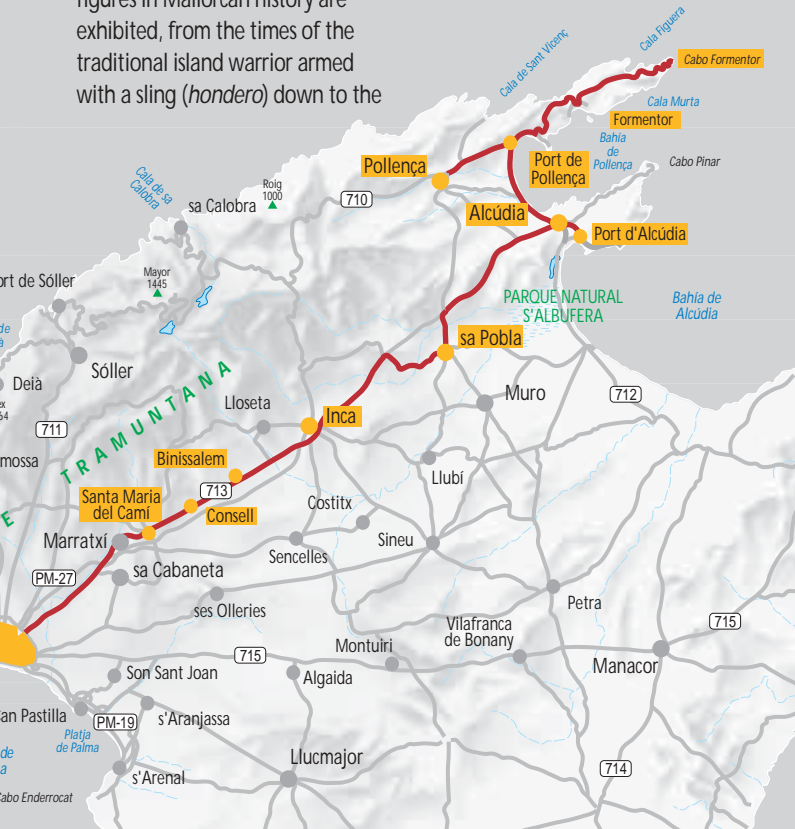
The sight of a Norman spire from afar announces **Binissalem** (from the Arabic, "sons of Salem"). Grand houses with palatial pretensions abound. Already in the 15th century, the town was famed for its wines and Binissalem has now given its name to the local seal of origin (similar to France's Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée) for full-bodied reds of 12-13% strength whose fame, according to Jules Verne, "extends far beyond the confines of the Balearics".

Housed in the castle-like Foro de Mallorca is the Historical Waxworks Museum (*Museo Histórico de Figuras de Cera*) where important episodes and figures in Mallorcan history are exhibited, from the times of the traditional island warrior armed with a sling (*hondero*) down to the



Inca. Church

present. The next stop is **Inca**, Mallorca's third largest town (pop. 22,000). Here the leather industry -footwear in particular- is the main activity. The Church of *Santa María la Mayor* is simply magnificent. Good food can be



had at the local "cellars" (wine-cellar-type bistros), which specialise in regional cuisine, and the savoury crunchy biscuits, known as *galletes d'Inca* or *gallets fortes* (a distant relative of the traditional ship's biscuit) are a popular favourite. Carrying on, one soon comes to the outskirts of **sa Pobla**. These are fertile fields, land reclaimed from the salt marshes, a Herculean task. In the town there is a monument bearing the legend "als poblers que varem fer ses marjals" (to the inhabitants of sa Pobla who dried the marshes). The soil hereabouts yields



*Alcúdia. Sant Sebastià gate*

three harvests a year: potatoes, haricot beans and vegetables. The town's principal fiesta is famous, a riot of noise, with bonfires, demons and devils on the loose, and generalised mayhem and merrymaking...the rite of fire, an ancestral rite.

Nearby is the former **Albufera** (marshland), today a Nature Reserve and a nesting site for



*Port de Pollença*

birdlife -indigenous and migratory- an ornithologist's paradise. At the end of the road lies the medieval town of **Alcúdia**, with its reconstructed ramparts and walls, and two impressive gates, the Palma or Sant Sebastià Gate and the Xara or Del Port Gate. The Church of Sant Jaume (St. James') is a magnificent sight. One mile south, in the direction of the harbour, is the Roman Theatre, the smallest of its kind in Spain, its tiers carved out of the rock in a small declivity.

**Port d'Alcúdia:** business, fishing and tourism make this a residential and shopping centre. With its port area, Alcúdia has a population of ten thousand, which in summer swells to ten times that figure. A superb stretch of beach and good hotel facilities account for this growing summer influx.

**Pollença Bay** (Bahía de Pollença) is one of the smallest and yet most exquisite of Mallorca's bays, a

medallion of transparent blue, sparkling between the encircling arms of Capes Pinar and Formentor. **Port de Pollença** is the next stop, its charms praised by poets and immortalised by artists. As one of Mallorca's pioneer tourist resorts, it has earned itself a name for excellence, both in service and quality. Boats leave from here for Formentor, taking half-an-hour to complete the crossing. One can also drive there (and go all the way to the lighthouse on the point) via a spectacular, cliff- and mountainside road. En route, one passes the belvedere or lookout, known as Mirador d'es Colomer, a vertical rock sheering away to a drop of 760 feet.

**Formentor.** A beach of fine white sand stretches down to crystalline waters surrounding the untouched isle in the bay. Here, fronting onto the beach and partly screened by a flowering terraced garden, stands a stately luxury hotel, the acknowledged glory of the



Mallorcan hotel world, frequented by a select clientele, including, among others, famous personalities and leading figures from the performing arts, politics and other walks of life.

The town of **Pollença** lies at the foot of its *calvari* hill, with its chapel and cypress-bordered stairway of 365 steps, along which the *devallament* procession (descent from the cross) passes on Good Friday. The town's main church is imposing, whilst the



*Pollença. Calvary hill*

cloister of St. Dominic's (Santo Domingo) serves as the venue for the Summer Music Festival. In the environs, to the north of the town, is a small yet well-preserved Roman bridge over the Torrente de Sant Jordi (St. George's Torrent), an invaluable testimony to the Roman occupation in the 4th century.

*Formentor beach*





Llucmajor

Felanitx

Santanyí

Colònia de Sant Jordi

Cabrera



Sant Jordi

Take the airport motorway to the Llucmajor and Manacor turn-off, and a little further on, to the right, but still heading in the direction of Llucmajor, lies the bucolic hamlet of Sant Jordi, with its windmills and reclaimed marshland. Passing the village of s'Aranjassa, the road climbs and emerges onto a plateau covered with low bush and thicket, known locally as *garriga*. Soon the solid



PARQUE NACIONAL  
MARÍTIMO-TERRESTRE  
DEL ARCHIPIÉLAGO DE  
CABRERA

silhouette of the 18th-century parish church of **Lluçmajor**, with its soaring bell tower, appears on the horizon. In the town stands a cross, marking the spot where King James III, the last of the House that ruled over the short-lived medieval kingdom of Mallorca, met his death.

From Lluçmajor one can drive up to the *Cura Monastery* (Santuario Monasterio de Cura), medieval in origin. Nearby is the grotto to which Ramón Llull, the 14th-century philosopher, theologian, mystic and father figure of

Catalonian culture, retired for a time, when he renounced the luxuries and indulgences of court life for a life of poverty, study and contemplation. In the 16th century, Cura housed a Grammar School (imparting instruction in Latin and the Arts). Today, monks of the Franciscan Order occupy the site. The church is truly lovely and commands a fine view of seemingly infinite horizons.

For the next leg of the journey to Campos, one has to return to Lluçmajor. Just where the road begins, one can visit a *windmill*,

restored down to the last detail and a superb example of those where cereals were once ground for a multure, the fee or toll exacted in kind. It is perhaps the only windmill left on the island that could begin milling right away.

**Campos** is a farm town, with a beautiful church and a typical quarter, which is a fine representative sample of traditional Mallorcan architecture, as are both Lluçmajor and Santanyí, our next staging post.

Before arriving in Santanyí, the Son Danús talaiot (also, talayot), arrogant and majestic, looms before one. It was in the Bronze Age when the so-called *talaiot culture* made its appearance. These megalithic structures take their name from the Arabic "atalaia", the word for watch tower. Talaiots were built on a circular or quadrangular groundplan and served as dwellings and look-out posts in the island's fortifications.



*Santanyí. Cala s'Almunia*

**Santanyí** is home to a charming church, which houses the monumental organ brought by sea and land from St. Dominic's Monastery in Palma in 1837. Also within the municipal boundaries is the cove of Cala Mondragó, set in privileged natural surroundings. Lying a short distance off is the city of **Felanitx**, its sumptuous 13th-century parish church a mix of Gothic, Renaissance and Churrigueresque. The town layout might have been purpose-designed for leisurely strolling, with its row of windmills looking down from the ridge. Felanitx ceramicware is the best on the island. Once in Felanitx, it is worth the effort to make the climb to St. Saviour's Monastery (*Santuario de San Salvador*), a stunning hermitage some 2,000 feet above sea level.

*Santanyí. Typical courtyard*

Not far away, perched on an impregnable outcrop of rock, are the ruins of *Santueri Castle*. From these heights, one now makes the descent seawards to visit the coves of Cala Ferrer, Cala d'Or, Portopetro, Cala Mondragó, Cala Figuera and then back to Santanyí. From here, the road wanders on to es Llombards, ses Salines and Colònia Sant Jordi.

**Colònia San Jordi** is a small fishing harbour, with a fine beach. Nowadays the area is a



*Colònia Sant Jordi. Beach*

good-sized popular tourist resort. Offshore lies the island of **Cabrera**, the first ever officially declared *Sea & Land National Park*.

Cabrera and its toy port; Cabrera and its castle; Cabrera and its tiny archipelago, floating in an intense turquoise sea, washed by limpid, translucent waters... The island

boasts an underwater treasure trove, with a great variety of fish, echinoderms (starfish, sea-urchins etc.) and crustaceans. Its shores and cliffs are home to a wide variety of birdlife, and high overhead, ospreys and peregrine falcons swoop and soar. Tourists can apply for permits to visit Cabrera (National Park ☎ 971 72 55 85).

Leaving Colònia behind, one makes for the spa of Balneario de Sant Joan de la Fontanta, the only thermal springs on Mallorca. From here, crossing Salobrar de Campos, one of the island's wetland areas, one then gets to the nudist beach of *es Trenc*, and a little farther on, *ses Covetes* beach.

An interesting route is the one that goes via sa Rapita and Cala Pi to the talaiot settlement of *Capocorb Vell*, a major and extremely well-preserved site, which the archaeologist, Giovanni Lilliu, described as, "one of the most important megalithic complexes in the western Mediterranean".

The final stretch of the return trip follows the coastal road to the cosmopolitan holiday resort areas of s'Arenal and Can Pastilla, overlooking the superb *Playa de Palma* beach.

## Rural Mallorca

Sineu

Petra

Muro

Lloseta

Consell

This is a modest route in terms of scenery and sights. Yet it is precisely here that one can find, still intact, the time-honoured traditions and lifestyles of Mallorca's people. Follow the old Inca road (C-713) past the primitive Son Bonet aerodrome and turn down to sa Cabaneta and ses Olleries, in the **Marratxí** municipal district. Potters' workshops abound in these parts, the local clays lending their wares a warm honey colour.

Travelling on through vineyards, one passes Santa Maria del Cami on the left and



Sencelles

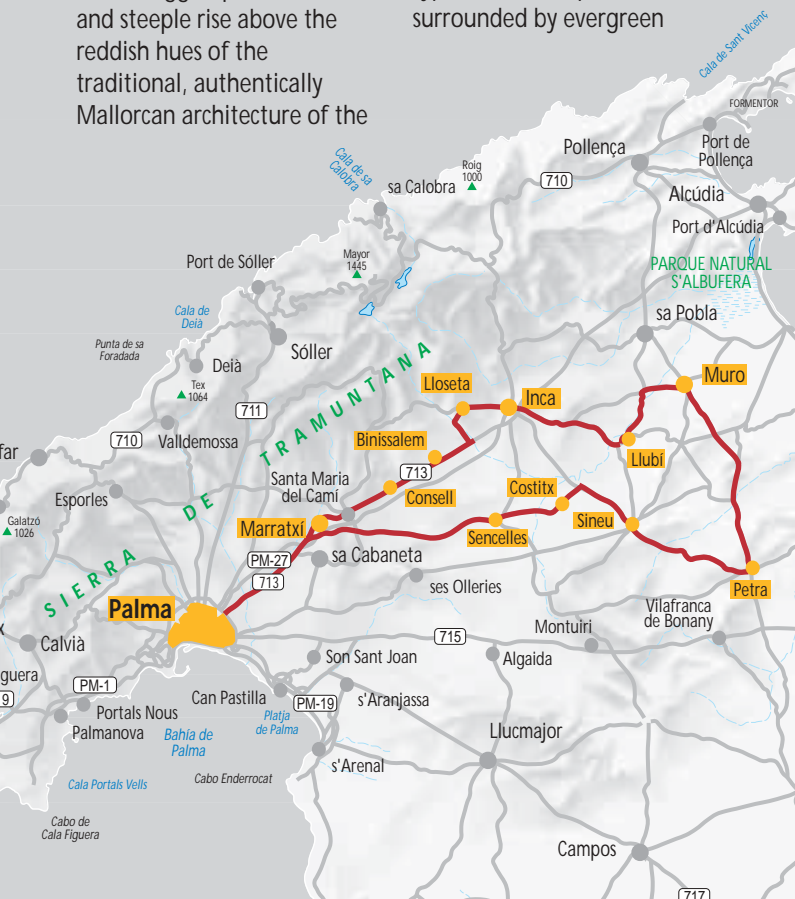




Santa Eugènia on the right, to arrive in Biniali, an old Moorish hamlet. **Sencelles** is a mite bigger: parish church and steeple rise above the reddish hues of the traditional, authentically Mallorcan architecture of the

*Costitx. Son Corró*

town centre. **Costitx** is tiny, typical and tranquil, surrounded by evergreen



fields. The villagers take pride in their *astronomical observatory*. The Museum of Balearic Fauna (*Museo de la Fauna Balear*), where there is a wide range of stuffed animals on display, is interesting.

**Sineu** is the largest town along this route. It is located in the geographical centre of the island, and in bygone days, it was here that the medieval monarchs had their palace, today converted into a monastery. The church is magnificent, and, in the town, there are excellent *cellers* (wine-cellar-type bistros) offering tasty regional cooking. The *frito mallorquin* is to be recommended.

The way now leads on to **Petra**, birthplace of the Franciscan Friar, Junípero Serra,



*Petra. Frar Junípero's house*

founder of the original Californian missions from which a good part of the State's present-day towns and cities grew and flourished. In Petra, the house where Junípero Serra was born, the San Bernadino Monastery where he was educated and the parish church where he was baptised should all be visited.

*Sineu*





*Muro. Church*

**Muro** too is worth seeing. Here the architecture is typical of the Mallorcan plain, the buildings being made from limestone blocks (*marés*). There is a good church, the lovely La Sang chapel and an excellent *Ethnological Museum*. The bullring is rather curious, in that it has been hammered and chiselled out of the cavity left by a former *marés* quarry.

Sa Pobla, with its wide swathe of fertile farmland, lies off to the right, but it is preferable

to go via Llubi to Inca. A stone's throw from Inca, in **Lloseta**, there is a magnificent palace belonging to the Marquis de Ayamans. From Lloseta the road descends to **Binissalem**, a town famed for its excellent red wine, reds which are comparable to those of La Rioja. All that remains now is to go through the town of Consell and one will find oneself on the way back to Palma.



*Lloseta. Ayamans Palace*



## ■ A tour of the city

### Palma, the old quarter

**Palma** is the capital of the Balearic Isles, and was founded by the Romans in 120 B.C. At that time, the Romans already called it Palma. The Moors -from 903 A.D.- called it *Madina't Mayurga*, and the Catalonians, following the island's recapture in 1229, renamed it *Ciutat de Mallorca*. These days it is known by the islanders as Palma or *Ciutat*.

The city tour begins in the **Parc de la Mar (1)**. Like some mirror, the lake reflects the image of the Cathedral. At the foot of the stairway, stands a bronze piece by Llorenç Roselló, representing the Balearic *hondero* (warrior armed with a sling), the mythical inhabitant of these parts. Along

one wall is a mural by Joan Miró and a sculpture group by Josep Guinovart. The stairs take one up to **La Almudaina (2)** -the Citadella (Citadel)- fortress/residence of the Moorish Walis' Caliphate (11th-13th centuries) and subsequently the palace of James II (14th century). In this fine example of civic Gothic architecture, attention should be drawn to the medieval bronze sculpture of the Angel Gabriel, keeping guard from its perch atop one of the four slender towers. A series of elegant Gothic and Renaissance halls and rooms are to be found inside. It is the Spanish Royal Family's official residence on Mallorca, as well as being the H.Q. for the Balearics Military High Command (visiting times: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily; closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. ☎ 971 71 43 68).

*Palma. Parc de la Mar*





Palma. La Almudaina (fortress/residence)

Opposite the Almudaina stands the magnificent edifice that is **Palma Cathedral (3)**, known to Mallorcans as *La Seu*. Gothic in style, it dates from the 14th-16th centuries. On its exterior, the south or *Mirador* door (overlooking the sea), is one of the true gems of Spanish Gothic. The other façades are the Renaissance-Style Major Portal (west) and the northern l'Almoina Door, through which one enters. Towering above is the belfry, with the massive N'Eloi bell, which weighs over 5,000 kilos and can be heard many miles away. In the interior, a surface area of 6,600 square metres (7,894 square yards) is divided into a nave and two aisles, the nave being one of the widest and highest in the world. The splendid rose window over the main altar at the west end is 11 metres in diameter and covers 97 square metres. It, together with

the other rose and large picture windows, are the work of the architect, Gaudí. The aisles give onto eighteen side-chapels. Of these, the Mudejar-Style *Trinitat Chapel*, is the oldest and serves as the burial place of James II and James III, erstwhile monarchs of the Kingdom of Mallorca. The *Cathedral Museum* is worth seeing (visiting times: 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. daily; closed Sundays and Public Holidays. ☎ 971 72 31 30).



Palma. City Hall



Palma. Cathedral

The street running along the Almudaina leads into the Plaza de Cort, site of the **City Hall (Ayuntamiento) (4)**. The building's façade, in a style dubbed Palma Baroque (17th century), features an overhanging 3-metre eave. Inside, in the main hall, portraits of Mallorca's most illustrious sons line the walls.

Three seigneurial mansions are to be found in the vicinity: *Can Corbella*, done in the Neo-Mudejar style (19th century); *Can Forteza Rey* and the *El Àguila* building, Modernist in style; and, in Can Savella street, the *Palau Vivot* (18th century), arches and Corinthian columns adorning its central courtyard.

Leading off Cort Square, a turn takes one into Santa Eulàlia Square. The 13th-century Gothic

**Church of St. Eulàlia (5)** is one of the oldest in Palma. Taking Calle (*calle* or *carrer*: street) Arquitecto Reynés, one gets to **St. Francis' (San Francisco) (6)**, another of Palma's historic churches. Its *Gothic cloister* is considered particularly valuable, as is the Plateresque portal tympanum by Francisco Herrera. Outside is the statue of Friar Junípero Serra, the Mallorcan evangelist who took his message to California; and inside, the tomb of Ramón Llull, medieval mystic and philosopher.

Leaving St. Eulalia's, the Calle de Morey brings one to the **Old Quarter (7)**. On the right, stands the *Roman Arch* of the Almudaina; on the left, the *Palacio Can Oleza*, a delightful

instance of seigneurial Mallorcan architecture. The Calle Platería is the centre of the old Jewish Quarter (*Barrio Hebreo Call*). A number of Mallorcan surnames trace their origins to the Jewish (*xueta*) community. The synagogue was once situated on the site where the *Montesión Church* now stands. This church, with its Baroque frontage and rich interior, was founded by the Society of Jesus.

In the Calle de Portella is the **Mallorcan Museum (8)**. Housed



Palma. Mallorcan Museum

in an old Mallorcan mansion (1634), its archaeological exhibits include prehistoric, Roman, Moorish and medieval artefacts. Paintings and sculptures are also displayed (closed Mondays. ☎ 971 71 75 40). In the Calle de Serra are the 10th-century Moorish Baths (*Banyes Arabs*), an example of Moorish art in Mallorca (visiting times: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. ☎ 971 72 15 49).








## Town Plan of Palma ▶

- 1 *Parc de la Mar*
- 2 *La Almudaina (fortress/residence)*
- 3 *Cathedral*
- 4 *City Hall*
- 5 *Church of St. Eulàlia*
- 6 *Church of St. Francis*
- 7 *Old Quarter*
- 8 *Mallorcan Museum*
- 9 *La Llotja*
- 10 *Auditorium*
- 11 *Poble Espanyol*
- 12 *Bellver Castle*



Palma. Typical courtyard

### Symbols used

-  Tourist Information Office
-  Post Office
-  Hospital
-  Car Park
-  Police
-  Railway Station
-  Bus Station

PUIGPUNYENT 25 km

ESPORLES 14 km

VALLDEMOSSA 18 Km

# PALMA

SOLLER 31 km

NCA 29 km

MANACOR 50 km

GENOVA 5 km

ANDRATX 30 km

ACROPUERTO 8 km



CARTOGRAFÍA: **GCAR, S.L.** Cardenal Silíceo, 35  
 Tel. 91 416 73 41 - 28002 MADRID - AÑO 1999



Palma. Modernist building

Along old alleyways redolent with the island's historic past, one makes one's way via Socorro street and the Avenidas, to the *Plaza de España*, the centre of the modern city. Standing in a small yet lively garden is the equestrian statue of James I. Opposite are the stations: the railway station for trains to Inca and the station for the *Tren de Sóller*, a delightful train journey from Palma to Sóller, through the mountains.

The way back takes in the *Olivar Market* and *Calle de San Miguel*, a bustling pedestrian shopping precinct, which leads one to the *Plaza Mayor* and, via the City Hall, to the *Paseo del Borne*.

The splendid *Paseo del Borne* (Passeig des Born), which begins at the *Plaza de la Reina*, is a central tree-lined walkway, an open invitation to stroll or just sit on a

bench and read the paper. In olden days, the Borne served as the site for jousts and tourneys, and as a river bed channelling torrential flood waters seawards. Today it is a meeting point and leisure area. It comes to an end in the *Plaza de las Tortugas* (*tortuga*: turtle or tortoise), now renamed the *Plaza de Juan Carlos I*. Leading off to the left is Jaime III Avenue, a modern business district. On the other side is the *Plaza Mercat*, with the solemn 18th-century Law Courts. Directly opposite is the building of the *Gran Hotel* (*Plaza Weyler*), restored and refurbished as a venue for cultural activities. Its rooms house a permanent exhibition of the works of the artist, Anglada Camarasa. Facing the *Gran Hotel* is the *Teatro Principal*, with its Neoclassical façade.

The next point on the route is *La Rambla*, a colourful walk with numerous flower stalls. Situated at the far end are the *Botanical Gardens*, with the *ficus nitida*, Palma's biggest tree. Walk down *San Jaume* street towards the *Avenida de Jaime III*, cross over and, by taking a series of alleys and lanes, one can then get to the small square of *La Llotja*.

**La Llotja (Sa Llotja) (9)**, the old commercial exchange, is a notable building, which marks the pinnacle of Mediterranean Gothic



Palma. La Llotja (commercial exchange)

(15th century). Delicate tracery and the elegant beauty of the façade are points to watch for on the exterior. In the interior, a set of six spirally fluted piers support the vaulting, making the whole look like a palm grove set in stone. Adjoining the Llotja, is the former Maritime Consulate (*Consulado del Mar*), which nowadays houses the Balearics Regional Authority (the Llotja is closed on Mondays.

☎ 971 71 17 05). The Maritime Consulate (17th century) was once a Merchant Shipping Tribunal which settled commercial and trade-related disputes. On the seaward side, there is a beautifully coffered gallery.

Verdant palm trees grace the *Paseo Marítimo* (seafront drive), which runs for three kilometres along the superb sweep of bay. Luxury hotels, modern apartment blocks and night spots overlook

the Paseo. Here too is the Yacht Club, with its pleasure craft and sailing boats.

Located on the Paseo Marítimo is the **Auditorium (10)**, the concert hall where leading international music competitions, theatre and folk-music festivals are staged. A stone lyre commemorates its founder, Marcos Ferragut. Rising at the point where the Paseo terminates are the twin *Pelaires* towers, which date from the 14th century and once served to anchor the chains that were used to close



Palma. Poble Espanyol (replica Spanish village)

off the small medieval harbour. Leaving the Paseo Marítimo, one gets to the **Poble Espanyol (11)**, the Spanish Village, which is well worth visiting. It is a living museum, which serves as a showcase for Spain's architectural and cultural heritage. Over one hundred artistic monuments and buildings are reproduced here, reflecting different eras and styles



in Spanish art down the ages. In the same complex, there is a Conference Centre, equipped with the very latest facilities.

*Palma. Bellver Castle*

**Bellver Castle (12)** dominates the city and its circular groundplan is a unique example of Gothic military architecture. Bellver means *bella vista* or beautiful view and, indeed, the view of the sea and city from the castle is quite magnificent. Originally the summer residence for the Mallorcan Monarchy, it later became a prison. Outstanding among the names of illustrious prisoners incarcerated within its walls is that of Melchor Gaspar de Jovellanos, Minister of Justice and Ambassador to Russia.

In addition to its palatial mansions, churches and monuments, Palma offers the visitor true quality as regards its open spaces. Trees, shrubs and green areas are the very lungs of the city, places where one can enjoy the relative solitude of a moment alone, contemplate a sunlit evening or just become a silent spectator, participating in the life of this island capital, bathed by the waters of the Mediterranean.



# ■ Sports, leisure and entertainment

## Sports

Apart from football, tennis and cycling, other sports enjoying a long tradition in Mallorca are sailing, golf and horseracing.

**Sailing.** Sailing of all types has a keen band of young devotees, with yacht basins and clubs offering a comprehensive range of services and facilities.

In Palma, a seafaring city par excellence, a number of regattas are held, including the King's Cup Yacht Race (Copa del Rey de Vela), in the first week in August, an event which transcends its purely sporting dimension. It is a competition with a markedly social flavour, drawing a clutch of celebrities and jet setters. Each summer, the entire Royal Family traditionally takes part in the **King's Cup**. As a mark of his personal interest and skill, H.M. King Juan Carlos usually crews on the "Bribón". His Highness, Crown Prince Felipe, as well as Princesses Elena and Cristina also venture forth under sail, one of the island's favourite pastimes.

For the space of one week, the **Real Club Náutico de Palma** (Royal Yacht Club) takes on an entirely different character. The fleet of participating vessels

(generally over one hundred strong) moors here. The race is held over one of the best regatta courses in the world, Palma Bay. For information kindly call the following numbers:

☎ 971 72 68 48

(Club Náutico de Palma).

The **Trofeo S.A.R. Princesa Sofía** (H.R.H. Princess Sofía Trophy) is held



*Palma. Royal Yacht Club*

in winter and is characterised by the high numbers of entries from all over the world in the smaller categories. For information kindly call the following number:

☎ 971 40 24 12 (Federación Balear de Vela - Balearic Sailing Federation).

The **Escuela Nacional de Vela de Calanova** (National Sailing School) offers intensive beginners' courses for the very young, as well as advanced courses. Class-rooms facilities. Boarders accepted. Address: Avenida Joan Miró, Cala Mayor (Palma). ☎ 971 40 25 12.

**Real Club Náutico de Palma:** with open-air swimming pool, bars and restaurant; Muelle San Pedro

No. 1 (Palma). ☎ 971 72 68 48.

**Club de Mar:** Muelle de Pelaires (Palma). ☎ 971 40 36 11.

**Puerto Portals:** with 670 berths and sailing school; **Portals Nous.** ☎ 971 17 11 00.

**Club Náutico de Santa Ponça:** with 522 berths and sailing school. ☎ 971 69 49 30.

**Golf.** On Mallorca, many visitors find themselves drawn to golf.



*Pollença Bay. Horse riding*

There are 12 golf courses on the island, 10 of which are eighteen-hole and two, nine-hole courses.

**The Balearics Open** is a regular event, a competition for world class professionals. In Spring, Pula Golf holds exhibition tournaments featuring some of the leading players on the European circuit. Balearic Golf Federation (☎ 971 72 27 53).

The following are among the best tended and equipped courses:

**Golf Son Vida:** 18 holes; Son Vida Estate (Palma). ☎ 971 79 12 10.

**Golf de Bendinat:** 18 holes; near

Palma, set in superb natural surroundings; Calle Campoamor (Calvià). ☎ 971 40 52 00. **Golf de Santa Ponça:** two 18-hole courses. ☎ 971 69 02 11.

**Pula Golf:** Costa de Pinos Estate (Son Servera). ☎ 971 81 70 34.

**Horseracing.** Harness or sulky racing is a well-established sport on Mallorca. Races are held every weekend at the Palma and Manacor racecourse, and draw horse lovers, in search of an attractive sports event, as well as punters eager to try their luck. For information kindly call the following number:

☎ 971 46 85 08 (Balearic Harness Racing Federation).

### **Hipódromo Son Pardo**

(*hipódromo*: racecourse): race-track, bar, restaurant, terraces for 7,000 racegoers; at the 3-km. mark on the Sóller road (Palma).

☎ 971 75 40 31.

**Hipódromo Manacor:** at the 50-km. mark on the Palma-Artà road (Manacor). ☎ 971 55 00 23.

## Aquaparks and Zoos

### **Marineland** (Costa d'en Blanes).

This is a park with a very interesting dolphin and seal show. The park also features a parrot and penguin circus, and an aquarium with sharks and reptiles (☎ 971 67 51 25. Closed in December).

### **Other Aquaparks:**

**Aquacity Park** (at the 15-km. mark on the Palma-Arenal motorway).

**Aquapark** (on the Cala Figuera-Magaluf road). **Aqualandia** (at the 25-km. mark on the Palma-Inca road). **Autosafari** (at the 5-km. mark on the Portocristo-Son Servera road), a drive-through safari park where free-roaming wild animals can be seen close up from the safety of one's own car (☎ 971 81 09 09).

## Culture, theatres, festivals, music and exhibitions

**Teatro Principal.** The building, which has a classical façade featuring Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns, was founded 350 years ago but has been refurbished on several occasions since. Today it is the yearly venue for a brilliant season of springtime opera and drama (La Rambla, opposite the Gran Hotel. ☎ 971 72 55 48).

**Auditorium.** The concert hall is the home of the Balearic Symphony Orchestra and, during the year, is host to other famous orchestras led by conductors of renown, with a concert repertoire covering both classical and modern music. Spanish and international ballet troupes visit the Auditorium every year (Paseo Marítimo, 18. ☎ 971 73 47 35).

The **Summer Piano Concerto Cycle** held annually in the gardens of La Cartuja in Valldemossa is most enjoyable. The Pollença **Summer Festival** offers concerts

given by leading orchestras against the exquisite backdrop of *St. Dominic's Cloister* (Santo Domingo).

## Art galleries and exhibition halls

**The Gran Hotel** (La Caixa Foundation) is a noteworthy Modernist building, devoted to cultural activities, with a permanent exhibition of the works of Anglada Camarasa

**The Fundación Pilar y Joan Miró** is an active arts centre. A Miró collection is on permanent display and there are temporary exhibitions of leading artists, together with debates, lectures, symposia, music cycles and so forth (Calle Joan de Saridakis, 29. ☎ 971 70 14 20. Closed Mondays).

**Palau Solleric.** This Mallorcan mansion acts as a gallery and documentation centre for contemporary art (Passeig des Born, 27. ☎ 971 72 20 92).

**Círculo de Bellas Artes (Casal Balaguer).** This is an old Mallorcan house which has been converted into an exhibition hall (Calle Unió, 3. ☎ 971 72 31 12).

**Centro de Cultura Sa Nostra.** An 18th-century Mallorcan mansion in the Old Quarter of the city with six rooms given over to exhibitions of paintings, engravings, photography and the like. Lectures, exhibitions and concerts are organised here.

Use may be made of a library specialised in art (Calle Concepción, 12. ☎ 971 72 52 10. Closed Sundays).

**Fundación Barceló.** Temporary exhibitions are held here, focusing on painting, photography and other forms of cultural expression (Calle de Sant Jaume, 4. ☎ 971 72 24 67. Closed in August).

**Galería Juan Guaita.** Paintings and sculptures by leading artists (Vía Veri, 10. ☎ 971 71 59 89).

**Galería Xavier Fiol.** Housed in a palatial mansion in the Old Quarter. Contemporary Spanish art (Calle Montenegro, 4. ☎ 971 71 89 14).

**Galería Ferrán Cano** (previously, 4 Gats). New trends. Leading artists (Calle de la Pau, 3. ☎ 971 71 40 67).

**Galería Gianni Giacobbi.** Contemporary art. Painting, sculpture, graphic art (Calle de Can Ribera, 4. ☎ 971 72 00 02).

## Palma by night

Palma offers visitors a wide and varied choice of leisure and entertainment, which tends to make the city's nightlife just that bit different and lively. There are a number of nightlife districts, though these are wont to change with passing fads and fashions.

The areas around **La Llotja** and the **Consulado del Mar**, with

their upbeat street action and music bars featuring spontaneous performances, are extremely popular with the younger crowd. The **Paseo Marítimo** is another area for discotheques and night-time entertainment. There are elegant and more informal disco's for all ages. Some have a terrace with various rooms leading off,



*Palma by night*

each with a different kind of music. The **Plaza Gomila** is a magnet for the young, with scores of disco-bars. **S'Arenal** is also a popular discotheque and nightlife area. Located outside Palma, in Magaluf, is the biggest discotheque in Europe, plus a luxury **Casino**, with dinner and floor show (☎ 971 13 00 00). A comprehensive list of all the possibilities for night-time entertainment in Palma would be endless. Before going home after a night out, go out onto one of the many terraces and enjoy the multicolour spectacle of Palma by night, sparkling beneath a star-studded sky.

## ■ Local cuisine

One of the most widely found specialities, served as a first course, are the typical Mallorcan soups, which, far from being of the consommé type, are a nourishing blend of vegetables, thinly cut slices of (brown) bread, onion and tomato. There is never a shortage of greens in the local dishes. Apart from the Mallorcan soups, another very typical dish is the *tumbet*, a ratatouille-like baked vegetable dish, usually cooked in a *greixera* (casserole) and containing aubergines (eggplant), potatoes, peppers and tomato. There is also the *frito mallorquin*, with vegetables and giblets.

Buying vegetables and fresh fruit at Palma's Olivar Market, or at any of the town markets on the island, is always a fascinating gourmet excursion. Choosing the ingredients for a vegetarian meal from among the mountains of artichokes, aubergines, peppers, tomatoes, cabbages and other locally grown greens is a simple task. The eggs are newly laid and the fruit has that special flavour that only comes when it ripens on the tree.

With regard to meat, mention should be made of the popular local roast sucking pig, and the so-called *escaldums*, duck or turkey stews with potatoes and almonds. Loin of pork with cabbage is another speciality. Then there is also the famed Mallorcan spicy red sausage spread, *sobrasada*, made of finely diced pork, seasoning, paprika and cayenne pepper.

However, the really exquisite side of island cooking, is to be found in the local fish and seafood dishes. The *caldereta de langosta* (*caldereta de llagosta* - lobster stew) is excellent, owing to the fact that it is precisely in these parts, in the waters between Mallorca and Menorca, where the most delicious lobsters are caught. The *cap roig* (*cabracho* - sea-scorpion), served freshly caught and grilled, is simply superb. Something altogether singular are the fish croquettes made with *jonquillo*, very difficult to come by outside the islands. The *jonquillo* is a kind of goby, with very exquisite white meat...what might be called the aristocratic of all gobies, well worth a try.

In Mallorca, the solution to just about any problem can be found over a good meal, and eating out is a marvellous way to relax and enjoy the unique sunny beauty of the island's Mediterranean scenery.

**Cakes and Pastries.** The *ensaimada* (from the word *saim*: lard) is very popular. Made from flour and lard, it is a sweet magically fluffy half-bun, half-pastry with a flattened, coiled, turban-like shape. The "smaller" ones are eaten with breakfast, while



Inca. Typical "celler"

## Trade fairs and exhibitions

**January 15th-20th**, Alimenta (food and wine), Palma.

**February 20th-23rd**, Feria del Caballo (horses), Palma.

**March 6th-9th**, Rastrillo Nuevo Futuro (flea market), Palma.

**15th-23rd**, Feria de antigüedades y galerías de arte (antiques and art galleries), Palma.

**29th-30th**, Muestra internacional canina (international dog show), Palma.

**April 14th-23rd**, Mostra Cuina Mallorquina (dishes from competing restaurants), Palma.

**April 22nd-May 2nd**, Balears Náutica (boat show), Palma.

**May 30th-June 8th**, Feria del Libro (book fair), Paseo del Borne, Palma.

**September 17th-21st**, Feria de Franquicias (franchises), Palma.

**November 19th-21st**, Nupcial (wedding catering and services), Palma.

**19th-24th**, Tecnoturista, Palma.

**December 2nd-12nd**, Balears (artisan work), Palma.

The Palma Showgrounds are situated on the Polígono de Levante Industrial Estate, Calle Ciudad de Querétaro s/n (s/n: not numbered), 07006, Palma de Mallorca.

☎ 971 77 13 02-

Fax: 971 77 01 60.

Mallorcan "ensaimada" pastry

the bigger ones (which can be very big indeed), filled with *cabello de angel* (literally angel's hair, a fibrous pumpkin jam) or whipped cream, are eaten as a dessert or at tea time, or taken home by visitors as a souvenir of a happy holiday spent on Mallorca.

Another island speciality are the so-called *rubiols*, made from flour and aniseed, with a cottage cheese or jam filling. In addition there is the *coca* (a pizza-like base) filled with fresh apricots or dried peaches (or dried apricots). Ice cream with almonds is also a Mallorcan specialty, while the chocolates made by the Fresquet confectionery firm represent a tradition going back to the 17th century.

**Wine and other drinks.** The Ferrer and Ribas wines bear the Binissalem Seal of Origin and are of excellent quality. By far the most popular aperitif is *palo*, a drink resembling vermouth, made from the carob bean. Liqueurs made from natural herbs enjoy wide renown.

Recently a local type of *cava* (sparkling wine) has made its



appearance, the Mallorcan *vi escumós de qualitat* brut nature, produced by Jaume Mesquida. This sparkling wine, made by the champagne method, is limpidly brilliant with a light greenish-yellow colour.

## ■ Fiestas and festivities

Traditional fiestas and feast days fill the calendar. The eve of 17th January heralds the Fiesta of Sant Antoni Abat (St. Anthony). Bonfires (*foguerons*) are lit, and there is singing, dancing and carousing in abundance. These fiestas are celebrated with special verve in Artà and sa Pobla. In addition, there are processions and blessing of animals in Palma and other towns.

**Carnival**, known as *sa Rua*, is marked in Palma with noisy and colourful parades. In **Easter Week**, the processions in Felanitx and the *devallament* in Pollença hark back to another age. The Feast of San Sebastian, patron saint of Palma, is honoured in the capital on 20th January.

One of the most popular festivities is held in Sóller on the first Monday in May. *Ses valentes dones* commemorates the attack on the city by marauding Turkish pirates in 1561. Vigorous mock battles between Moors and Christians are staged, with the local women entering the fray.

29th June in Alcúdia and 16th July in Port de Sóller and Cala Rajada are the dates that signal the launching of the **seaborne processions**. The



*Selva. Traditional dances*

*Cavalcada de la Beata* takes place in Valldemossa on 27th July.

There are other festivities, profane and joyous, connected with the harvest and with food: the *Festa des Melo* (melon) in Vilafranca on the second Sunday in September; the *Festa des Vermar* (grape harvest) in Binissalem, Mallorca's wine capital, on the last Sunday in September; the *Festa des Botifarro* (Mallorcan sausage spiced with cumin seed and cinnamon) in Sant Joan on the first Sunday in October; and the *Festa des Bunyol* in Bunyola on the last Sunday in October.

## ■ Things to buy and handicrafts

Palma offers a wide variety of top-quality leather goods and footwear, made by the factories in Inca. Browsing in shops run by registered dealers can bring to light interesting antiques and curios. Local handicrafts and Mallorcan ceramicware are to be found in many stores and are worth buying,

whether as souvenirs or gifts. No list would be complete without a mention of the prized quality of the *Majórica cultured pearls*, produced in Manacor. Another product in which the island specialises is hand-blown glass. In *Vidrios Gordiola* (at the 19-km. mark on the Manacor road), visitors are welcome to see glass-making and -blowing, as well as the items on display.

There are some curious objects, typical of Mallorca, called *siurells*. These are clay, toy-like figures with a whistle in the base. Mallorcan pottery is rich and varied, with the town of Portol being the pottery



*Handmade glassware*

capital. Locally made needle- and basketwork is sold in Artà. The inevitable ensaimada must of course be bought to take back to the family, on one's return home. But before leaving, it is a good idea to spend a Saturday morning at the Plaza Major, wandering around the open-air Jewellery and Handicrafts Market.

## ■ Excursions from Mallorca

Ferries depart daily, connecting Mallorca with Menorca and/or Ibiza. These excursions are well worthwhile as a way of getting to know the different peoples and traditions of the various Balearic islands, bound by their common denominator of sun and sea.

### **MENORCA**

The island of Menorca has a surface area of 702 square kilometres (a little over 270 square miles), contoured by rolling hills and shallow valleys. At bottom, it is an open-air archaeological museum. On landing, the traveller is greeted by the very first *talaiot*, the *Torrelló Talaiot*, at the airport. The remains of roughly one thousand six hundred prehistoric settlements, known locally as *clapers*, can still be seen.

Up until the arrival of the English, **Ciutadella**, with its stately buildings and impressive churches had traditionally been the capital. The Plaza del Born serves as the arena for the gallant fiesta in honour of Sant Joan (St. John's - 24th June), with its amazing display of skilled horsemanship, during which mediievally-clad riders get their steeds to describe, *caragols* or triple pirouettes. Quiet Moriscan lanes (from "Morisco": Moorish converts, sometimes known as Spanish Moors) lead past noble frontages. Lying to the north is Cala Morell, enclosed by rocky headlands, and Puerto Fornells, with Monte Toro at its back; to the south, is the superb beach of Cala





*Binibèquer. Menorca*

Galdana, its curve seemingly traced by the hand of a master draughtsman. In these parts the *caldereta de langosta* is to be highly recommended.

The Plaza de España is the heart and centre of **Mahón (Maó)**. Much in evidence throughout the city, the island's capital, are the British-style double-hung windows, called *boinders*, fitted with Venetian blinds, always green and very Moorish. Down at the port, one should stroll the wharves and pop into an old tavern. Here they serve a gin that is the British recipe of the Menorcan *ginebra*. Make sure to order some *escupinyes*, freshly dug clams, as a tasty *tapa* on the side. Another invention to come out of Menorca is *salsa mahonesa*, the original mayonnaise. The Albufera de Es Grau, to the north of Maó, makes a magnificent sight at sundown.

*Ibiza*

## IBIZA

Ibiza (Eivissa) is hospitable, lively and cosmopolitan. It is an island where it never snows (and according to the records it has only ever snowed once). One enters the Old Quarter in the Upper Town (*Dalt Vila*) by the Las Tablas Gate, which dates back to the time of Philip II. The Plaza de España is not only the site of the Town Hall but is also a marvellous look-out point commanding a splendid view. Noble mansions, art galleries and antique dealers line the cobbled streets. Beside the Cathedral, stands the Archaeological Museum, the most important of its kind in the world in the field of Punic (i.e., Carthaginian) culture.

Descending the steep slope, one leaves by the Nou Gateway and joins the Vía Romana which runs alongside the Carthaginian necropolis. A gentle stroll along the Paseo de Vara del Rey, with its distinctly provincial feel, takes one down to the Marina Quarter and quayside. This bustling area is full of fashionable boutiques (folk wisdom hereabouts says, "dress how you like but dress well"), souvenir shops,



restaurants, bars, sidewalk cafés and the tang of the sea air.

Following the coast, the northbound road takes one to Santa Eulària, with its fortress-church, gleaming whitely atop the Puig de Missa. Below, runs Santa Eulària des Riu's river, the only one in the entire Balearics, a small river (the Balcar) which accounts for the town's name. There is a fine beach here which attracts many tourists.

Situated on the north coast is Sant Antoni de Portmany, a small polyglot holiday resort with scores of bars and disco's. Passing through the island's white villages, charming rural churches are to be seen - Sant Jordi, Santa Eulària, Sant Augustí, Sant Josep- each with the distinctive seal of Ibizan architecture. Ibiza is natural, free-spirited and welcoming. It is easy to leave one's heart in Ibiza, be it to return or stay forever.

## FORMENTERA

Formentera is the epilogue to the Balearic saga. Formentera strikes one as some whim or caprice of Mother Nature. Ten kilometres to explore...cliffs, beaches and plain. The Puerto de la Savina is like some toy-town; the capital, Sant Francesc de Formentera, pure fairy tale. It was here that the Normans landed (859 A.D.), decided they liked the place and stayed. Their genetic heritage lives on: Formentera boasts the highest number of blue eyes and blond women per square kilometre in the whole of Spain, as well as the highest number of people living to a ripe old age, a sure consequence of a life of peace and quiet amidst such splendid scenery.

*Formentera. Punta de sa Creu*



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