



Palma & the Badia de Palma

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Why Go?

Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca's only true city, is among the most agreeable of all Mediterranean towns, arrayed around the Badia de Palma and backed by not-so-distant mountains. Surveying it all from a gentle rise, the old quarter, crowned by the Cathedral, is an attractive blend of tree-lined boulevards and cobbled laneways, Gothic churches and baroque palaces, designer bars and slick boutiques. Mallorca's renowned culinary sophistication also finds its most diverse expression here. The Badia, extending either side of Palma, is a pretty arc of bay, albeit dominated by unappealing resorts; there are exceptions including the quiet coves of Ses Illetes or the upscale charms of Es Portitxol. But above all, Palma is a beguiling port city with glamour and more earthy charms in just the right balance.

When to Go

Scarcely a month passes in Palma without a festival of some kind and, unlike the rest of the island, Palma's energy levels remain fairly constant throughout the year; most sights, hotels and restaurants remain open year-round. That said, the city does have an irresistible feel-good atmosphere when the weather's warm, the yacht harbour's filled with masts and one of the numerous sailing regattas brings the beautiful people to town – this applies from April to October. The beach resorts of the Badia de Palma effectively shut down in winter.



Palma & the Badia de Palma Highlights

- 1 Admire the fantasy of Barceló and Gaudí at the Gothic **Catedral** (p42)
- 2 Take in the contemporary art inside the one-time city walls at **Es Baluard** (p54)
- 3 Get lost in Old Palma's labyrinth, discovering the baroque courtyards and resting in the **Bany's Àrabs** (p49)
- 4 Sample Picasso, Miró and Dalí at the **Museu Fundació Juan March** (p52)
- 5 Survey the Badia de Palma from the hilltop **Castell de Bellver** (p56)
- 6 Return to Santa Catalina's roots at **Hostal Cuba Colonial** (p67), then savour its makeover at **Room** (p63)
- 7 Absorb the irresistible energy of Sa Gerreria, starting with **L'Ambigú** (p65)
- 8 Escape the crowds with a drink at **Virtual Club** (p76)
- 9 Soak up the style of **Puro Beach** (p75), in Ca'n Pastilla
- 10 Sample fine seafood at **Ca'n Eduardo** (p64) or **Nautic** (p64)