



Southern Mallorca

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Why Go?

The fortresslike coastal geography between the Badia de Palma (Bay of Palma) and Colònia de Sant Jordi has preserved this area as one of the least-developed of the island. Much of the coast is buffered by tall, nearly impenetrable cliffs splashed with the sapphire blue waters of the Mediterranean. They may not always be very accessible, but their untamed, raw beauty is hypnotising.

Beyond the cliffs are intimate coves and long beaches, true marvels of nature. Whether enclosed tightly by fjord-like cliffs, or silky sweeps of sand backed by pines and junipers, these are some of Mallorca's best beaches. And best of all, the existence of parks and natural areas, and the proliferation of working farms and rural estates has, for the most part, kept this part of the island free from the worst excesses of overdevelopment. In other words, this is how all of Mallorca's coast once looked.

Best Places to Eat

- » Port Petit (p160)
- » Varadero (p160)
- » Restaurante Petite Iglesia (p159)
- » Bodega Barahona (p156)
- » Restaurante-Bar Pep Serra (p154)

Best Places to Stay

- » Blau PortoPetro (p174)
- » Can Canals (p174)
- » Hotel Cala Santanyí (p174)
- » Hotel Ca'n Bonico (p174)
- » Ca'n Bessol (p174)

When to Go

Mallorca's southern reaches live for the summer, to the extent that you won't find much going on if you arrive before Easter or after October. That's not to say you can't visit at other times: if you do you're likely to have the place to yourself, including some eerily quiet resort towns with just a handful of restaurants, hotels and shops open. But summer is undoubtedly the best time and you'll enjoy it most if you seek out southern Mallorca's resort-free stretches of coastline.



Southern Mallorca Highlights

- 1 Take a day trip to the **Illa de Cabrera** (p154), home to Mallorca's only national park
- 2 Hike to the tiny coves that dot the coast surrounding the **Cap de Ses Salines** (p155)
- 3 Step across the thresholds of centuries-old houses at **Capocorb Vell** (p152)
- 4 Log some new bird species at the lovely **Parc Natural de Mondragó** (p155)
- 5 Get into the groove of newly cool **Ses Salines** (p155)
- 6 Discover Mallorca as it once was by lazing on the sands of **Platja des Trenc** (p155)
- 7 Learn that not all resorts are the same at quietly pretty **Cala Pi** (p152)
- 8 Promenade along the elevated walkway of **Cala Figuera** (p159)
- 9 Catch the spirit of the Mediterranean summer at Portopetro's **Varadero** (p160)
- 10 Dine in one of the sophisticated restaurants in Port Petit in **Cala d'Or** (p160)