



Eastern Mallorca

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Forn Nou (p144)
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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Jardí d'Artà (p178)
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Why Go?

There's a reason that tourists arrive in eastern Mallorca in their hundreds of thousands on their annual sun pilgrimage: this is one of the prettiest coasts on an island of many. Yes, there are stretches of coastline that can seem like a poster child for all that's abhorrent about Mediterranean coastal tourism. But Mallorca's rocky eastern walls conceal perfectly formed caves, coves and inlets, some of which are accessible only on foot – among these are Mallorca's most beautiful, with turquoise waters and nary a hotel in sight. There are even resorts that are actually rather handsome, most notably Porto Cristo with its natural harbour and wild coastal beaches nearby. Also here is medieval Artà, one of the island's better-preserved inland towns.

When to Go

You could be forgiven for thinking that eastern Mallorca hibernates throughout the winter, rumbling into life only from April to October. There's an element of truth in this: many restaurants, hotels and other businesses only open in these months (sometimes waiting until May to dust off the cobwebs). That said, winters are relatively mild and the beauty of eastern Mallorca's coastal inlets have an alluring charm without the crowds, as long as you don't wish to swim. Plus most towns and villages celebrate Sant Antoni with great gusto in mid-January.

Eastern Mallorca Highlights

- 1 Hike the wind-buckled hills of the **Parc Natural de la Península de Llevant** (p145) to reach pristine coves.
- 2 Get a grasp on Moorish Mallorca by roaming the castle ramparts and backstreets of **Artà** (p143).
- 3 Delve into the bowels of the earth at the **Coves del Drac** (p151), Mallorca's most spectacular caves.
- 4 Puzzle over Mallorca's enigmatic Talayotic history at **Ses Païsses** (p143).
- 5 Hop from one gorgeous cove to the next ending at sublime **Cala Magraner** (p154).
- 6 Survey the land and sea from high-on-a-hillside **Castell de Capdepera** (p146).
- 7 Crank up the rural romance at finca **Cases de Son Barbassa** (p146), with the cicadas as your soundtrack.
- 8 Discover Cala Ratjada's cultured side wandering past Henry Moore and Rodin sculptures at **Sa Torre Cega** (p147).
- 9 Dive, snorkel or sea-kayak in the glassy waters around **Portocolom** (p152).
- 10 Bliss out on secluded east-coast bays like **Cala Torta** (p151) and **Cala Mitjana** (p151).

