



# Southern Mallorca

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Yacht Club Cala d'Or (p165)
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- ➔ Sal de Coco (p159)
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## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Ca'n Bonico (p180)
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- ➔ Hotel Cala Santanyí (p180)
- ➔ Hostal Colonial (p179)

## 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.

## When to Go

Mallorca's southern beaches 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** Breeze across to the **Illa de Cabrera** (p163). Mallorca's only national park, on a boat trip.
- 2** Hike to the tiny coves that dot the coast surrounding the **Cap de Ses Salines** (p159).
- 3** Ping back to prehistoric times exploring the **Talayots** at **Capocorb Vell** (p157).
- 4** Explore the dunes and bird-rich wetlands of **Parc Natural de Mondragó** (p164).
- 5** Discover salt of the earth on a guided tour of **Ses Salines** (p159).
- 6** Flop on the flour white sands of serene **Platja des Trenc** (p158).
- 7** Bathe in translucent water in quietly pretty **Cala Pi** (p157).
- 8** Trace the coast's contours from lighthouse-topped **Cap Blanc** (p158).
- 9** Watch the world drift by from a cafe terrace in **Santanyí** (p161).
- 10** Find your own secluded cove sea kayaking around **Cala d'Or** (p164).

