



# Western Mallorca

## Includes →

Andratx .....	85
Port d'Andratx .....	85
Sant Elm .....	88
Valldemossa .....	94
Port de Valldemossa ..	97
Deià .....	97
Sóller .....	99
Port de Sóller .....	104
Fornalutx .....	105
Monestir de Lluc ...	108

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Trespaís (p88)
- ➔ Es Verger (p107)
- ➔ QuitaPenas (p96)
- ➔ Es Passeig (p104)
- ➔ Béns d'Avall (p103)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Ca N'Aí (p173)
- ➔ Es Petit Hotel de Valldemossa (p171)
- ➔ Alqueria Blanca (p174)
- ➔ Hostal Miramar (p172)
- ➔ Gran Hotel Son Net (p171)

## Why Go?

'A sky like turquoise, a sea like lapis lazuli, mountains like emerald, air like heaven,' enthused Romantic composer Chopin of his new home Valldemossa in 1838. His words ring true almost 200 years later in western Mallorca.

The Serra de Tramuntana range ripples all along the west coast, surveying the Mediterranean from above. Skirted by olive groves and pine forest, its razorback limestone mountains plunge 1000m down to the sea like the ramparts of some epic island fortress. Whether you hike its highland trails, bike its obstacle course of serpentine roads, or breeze along the cliff-flanked coastline by boat, these mountains will sweep you off your feet with their cinematic beauty.

Some of the island's loveliest towns and villages perch high on hilltops and deep in verdant valleys, with grandstand mountains and sea views. Wander their higgledy-piggledy lanes and be smitten, like so many artists, poets and celebrities before you.

## When to Go

Spring and autumn are peak season for cyclists in the Tramuntana, but otherwise you'll have its gorgeous coves, trails and flower-flecked heights pretty much to yourself. Most hotels and restaurants open Easter to October. In summer, coastal resorts and villages are full to bursting point, but vast expanses of wilderness means you can always find a quiet retreat, be it a *finca* (farm), castle or monastery. The festival season gets into full swing as the heat rises: both Deià and Valldemossa host classical-music concerts in summer. True pilgrims walk through the night from Palma to Lluc in August.

## THE SOUTHWEST

Look beyond the occasional blip of tasteless development and you'll find a sprinkling of little-known treasures in Mallorca's south-west crook. Use Andratx, Port d'Andratx or Sant Elm as your springboard for day trips to the exquisite coves of Portals Vells or a boat trip over to Illa de Sa Dragonera. Activities on this stretch abound, with crystal-clear sea for all manner of water sports. The epic, multiday Ruta de Pedra en Sec, Mallorca's greatest walk, begins here, too.

### Andratx

POP 12,150 / ELEV 132M

Andratx is the largest town in the southwest. Typically for Mallorca, it lies well inland as a defensive measure against pirate attack, while its harbour, Port d'Andratx, lies 4km southwest. Andratx has a low-key, untouristy vibe and makes a relaxed base for exploring the coast to the west and the mountains that spread to the northeast. Its most important buildings stand tall on two rises. The 16th-century **Castell de Son Mas**, on the hill at the northern end of town, is an elegant defensive palace that now houses the *ajuntament* (town hall). From it you can see the hulk of the **Església de Santa Maria d'Andratx**, built in the 18th century on the site of the original 1248 church.

### Eating

**Bar Restaurante Sa Societat** MALLORCAN €€  
(☎971 23 65 66; Avinguda Juan Carlos I 2; mains €11-19, 2-course menus €8.50-15.50; ☎1-4pm & 7.30-11pm Wed-Sun, 1-4pm Mon) For island fare in a time-warp atmosphere, head to Bar Restaurante Sa Societat. There's a courtyard out the back or you sit inside beneath exposed beams for some *trampó* (tomato, pepper and onion salad), followed by paella, suckling pig with crackling or cod in an aioli crust. The two-course lunch is a snip at €8.50.

### Information

**Tourist office** (☎971 62 80 19; Avinguda de la Curia; ☎10am-2pm Mon-Fri) Housed in the town hall at the top end of town.

### Getting There & Away

Bus 102 operates a roughly hourly service daily between Palma and Andratx (€4.55, 65 minutes).

## Port d'Andratx

POP 3150

Port d'Andratx surrounds a fine, long natural bay that attracts yachting fans from far and wide, and moves to an international beat rather than a Mallorquin one. It has an affluent air and a pleasant promenade for a walk and a waterfront meal. This is a relaxed west-coast base for water sports (sailing, diving and the like) and kicking back on the coves that spread picturesquely to the south.

### Sights

The port is short on sights.

### Museo Liedtke

GALLERY

(☎971 67 36 35; www.liedtke-museum.com; Carrer de l'Olivera 35; ☎hours vary) **FREE** The eccentric Museo Liedtke, 2km south of the port centre, was built between 1987 and 1993 into the cliffs near Cap de Sa Mola by German artist Dieter Walter Liedtke. Home to his art and temporary exhibitions, it's also a selling point for Liedtke's theories on life. The coastal views alone warrant the detour. Opening hours vary – it's worth calling ahead to check.

### Cala Llamp

BEACH

What a difference a bay makes. Located 2km south of Port d'Andratx, Cala Llamp is where locals gravitate for silence and sparkling, bottle green water. There's no sand but the scenery is quite special, with rugged, pine-cloaked cliffs rearing like an amphitheatre around the crescent-shaped cove. Go for a dip or relax over a drink at the Gran Folies Beach Club. It's around a 30-minute walk, or drive by taking the Ma1020 from Port d'Andratx and following the signs over the ridge.

### Activities

Like any Mallorcan coastal resort, Port d'Andratx has a small number of operators offering diving, snorkelling and boat rental.

### Diving Dragonera

DIVING

(☎971 67 43 76; www.aqua-mallorca-diving.com; Avinguda de l'Amirante Riera Alemany 23; 6-/10-dive package €204/320, 2hr snorkel adult/child €19.50/15; ☎8am-7pm mid-Mar-Oct) If you fancy exploring the underwater caves and wrecks around Port d'Andratx and Sa Dragonera, you can take the plunge with this friendly German-run dive shop. It offers the whole shebang of PADI and SSI courses.