The Grand Tour

This all-inclusive tour breaks the back of the island, whisking you from Palma's historic attractions along the mountainous coastline of the Serra de Tramuntana via charming mountain villages, seaside inlets, ancient towns and seaboard hikes, before concluding at the gorgeous coves of the Illa de Cabrera.

Spend a few days exploring Palma, prowling its colossal cathedral, soulful alleyways and impressive portfolio of galleries and palaces, then head north to the mountains and the stunning town of Valldemossa. Continue east along the coast road to restful, artsy Deià and the tranquil village of Fornalutx, with its unruffled sense of seclusion. Take the epic downhill corkscrew to Sa Calobra, then follow the pilgrims seeking spiritual restoration at the Monestir de Lluc. From here, aim for ravishing Pollença and the ancient sights of walled Alcúdia, cultured precursors to a breezy and bracing hike along the sublime Cap des Pinar. The ancient settlement of Artà lies to the south, a good base from which to explore the outstanding landscapes of the Parc Natural de la Península de Llevant. Continue to the charming town of Santanyí and nearby Cala Mondragó. Conclude your journey with a trip to the beautiful archipelago of Illa de Cabrera.
Kicking off in the island's capital, this journey charts a dramatic course through many of Mallorca's signature sights.

Warm up with a day or two in seashivered Palma before drifting southwest to beach belle Ses Illetes, harbourside Port d’Andratx and low-key Sant Elm, before hopping to Illa de Sa Dragonera. Dramatic cliff-edge and mountain views unfurl northeast from Andratx through alley-woven Estellencs and Banyalbufar and hill-town stunner Valldemossa. Just north, photogenic Deià twirls delightfully up a hillside, with the minute village of Lluc Alcari just to the east. Swing north to valley-cupped Sóller for backstreet strolls, Modernista treasures, Picasso and Miró. Time permitting, detour to charming hill-toppers Orient, Biniaraix or Fornalutx, or board a rickety vintage tram down to Port de Sóller. As the Ma10 weaves inland, take the hair-raising road down to Sa Calobra en route to pilgrims’ respite Monestir de Lluc. See the wild peaks of the Tramuntana unfurl in all their brooding splendour as you descend to the quintessentially Mallorcan town of Pollença.

Mix gorgeous beaches and sheltered coves with morsels of historic charm, inland wineries and rural vistas.

Linger in fortress-topped Artà for a day, then tour the remote coastal loveliness of Parc Natural de la Península de Llevant. From Artà, squeeze in a visit to Capdepera, a town defined by its castle. Hopscotch along the east coast to beguiling half-moon bays, such as Cala Mesquida near Cala Ratjada, and inch south for the Coves d’Artà and medieval Torre de Canyamel around Platja de Canyamel. Head further south, pondering the glittering depths of Coves del Drac in Porto Cristo, then point your compass inland to vine-streaked Petra and Sineu, stopping off at wineries along the way. As you wend your way back to the coast, visit handsome Mallorcan estate Els Calderers and then head for the boho charms of Santanyí and the good-looking port of Cala Figuera before aiming for artsy Ses Salines, detouring via pretty beaches for a quick swim. Wrap up your trip in Colònia de Sant Jordi, springboard to the island-speckled Parc Nacional Marítim-Terrestre de l’Arxipèlag de Cabrera.
### Off the Beaten Track: Mallorca

**CALA BLANCA**
Tucked away on the coastline a short drive from Port d’Andratx, Cala Blanca is a quiet, little-visited cove strewn with pebbles, affording moments of serenity and views over the sea to the two headlands and anchored boats offshore. (p92)

**ILLA DE SA DRAGONERA**
This rippled island reposes like a slumbering dragon off the island’s westernmost tip. Trails thread through this nature reserve to quiet capes, far from the beach resort swarms. (p93)

**SA FORADADA**
This finger of rock juts out into the Med at the base of Son Marroig. Wander through sheep-dotted olive groves down to the sea and linger for a watercolour sunset. (p100)

**PUIG D’ALARÓ**
Even in summer those who make it to the top of the rock are few and far between. It’s a stiff two-hour climb to the enigmatic remains of a Moorish castle. Or cheat by driving part way. (p114)
Hike up from the Ermita de la Victoria on a half-hour trek to this astonishing lookout point with 360-degree views over the peninsula and the sea. You may only have wild mountain goats for company. (p134)

Silence blankets the courtyards and chapel of this former nunnery, high above Pollença. It’s hard to drag yourself away from the views that embrace the full sweep of the north coast. (p120)

Walking is the only way to reach the tiny coves that dot the coastline north of Cales de Mallorca, but chances are you’ll have their iridescent waters all to yourself. (p160)

This 3km ribbon of frost-white, dune-backed sand hems Mallorca’s southern coast and is lapped by aquamarine water. Even in August, there’s space to breathe and go nude if you dare. (p168)
Map Legend

Sights
- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours
- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping
- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating
- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife
- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment
- Entertainment

Shopping
- Shopping

Information
- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic
- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population
- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport
- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

Routes
- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries
- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography
- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas
- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove
OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born. Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS

Hugh McNaughtan

*Palma & the Badia de Palma, The Interior, Eastern Mallorca, Southern Mallorca*

A former English lecturer and food writer, Hugh moved to the UK with his young family in 2013, and took up travel writing full time. He’s written (and eaten) his way through Mallorca, Maluku, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Britain, and still has a soft spot for the fabulous food of his home town, Melbourne. Hugh also updated the Understand chapters.

Damian Harper

*Western Mallorca, Northern Mallorca*

Ten years of British boarding school life gave Damian every incentive to explore new horizons beyond home. A degree in History of Art at Leeds University fortified this persuasion and Damian found himself living at the Shakespeare & Co bookshop in Paris, stacking shelves, fending off bedbugs and falling in love with books. Damian has been working largely full time as a travel writer (and translator) since 1997 and has also written for *National Geographic Traveler*, the *Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph*, Abbeville Press (*Celestial Realm: The Yellow Mountains of China*), *Lexean*, *Frequent Traveller*, *China Ethos* and various other magazines and newspapers. Damian also updated the Plan Your Trip section.