



# Mallorca, Menorca & Ibiza

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Simply Fosh (p784)
- ➔ Comidas Bar San Juan (p811)
- ➔ Es Racó d'es Teix (p788)
- ➔ S'Espigó (p800)
- ➔ S'Eufabi (p824)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Casa Alberti (p799)
- ➔ Can Cera (p783)
- ➔ Urban Spaces (p811)
- ➔ Es Marès (p820)
- ➔ Ca N'Ai (p789)

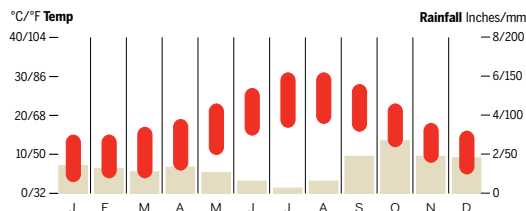
## Why Go?

The Spain of a million wish-you-were-here postcards, the Balearic Islands have all the sun and sea attributes to write home about. But there is much more to these four sisters than often meets the media eye. Beyond the 'Brits abroad' madness in Mallorca's southwest lies an astonishingly beautiful island, where gold-stone hill towns peek out from above olive groves, cliffs loom above secluded coves and the wild limestone peaks of the Serra de Tramuntana make for spectacular hikes, bike rides and hair-raising drives.

A breezy ferry hop away, low-key Menorca entices with prehistoric sites, delectable beaches and the forts her conquerors built and left behind. Unless she's still sleeping off her latest excess, Ibiza will wax lyrical about her megacclubs, boutiques and boho-cool vibes. Tiny Formentera, for her part, will pipe up to remind you of her sugar-white sands and sapphire seas – one of Europe's few true island escapes, but please whisper it quietly.

## When to Go

### Palma de Mallorca



**Mar & Apr** Spring flowers brush your boots as you walk Mallorca's rugged Serra de Tramuntana.

**Jun–Sep** Beach by day, club by night, raving round the Ibiza clock.

**Jul & Aug** Torchlit re-enactments at Maó's Castell San Felipe on Menorca.

## Walk on the Wild Side

Strike out on foot to see a wilder side to the Balearics. On Mallorca, trails weave through the limestone heights and olive groves of the **Serra de Tramuntana** (p786) – the GR221 Ruta de Pedra en Sec is an epic week-long hike. **Camí de Cavalls** (p805) loops around Menorca, taking in striking coastlines, forts and watchtowers. Ibiza and Formentera share the marshes, cliffs and salt lagoons of the Unesco-listed **Parque Natural de ses Salines** (p823), where birds like Audouin's gulls, Balearic shearwaters and migrating flamingos are often spotted.

### TOP FIVE FOOD EXPERIENCES

- Dig into Mallorcan meat dishes, such as *lechona asada* (roast suckling pig), *frit mallorquí* (a hearty lamb offal and vegetable fry-up), *llom amb col* (pork wrapped in cabbage with pine nuts and raisins) and *arròs brut* (literally 'dirty rice', soupy rice with pork, rabbit and vegetables).
- Bite into *ensaimades* (sweet pastry spirals dusted with icing sugar) at Ca'n Joan de S'Aigo (p783) in Palma, an antique-filled milk bar dating from 1700.
- Sit on a sea-facing terrace in Fornells, Menorca, while enjoying *caldereta de llagosta* (lobster stew).
- Go traditional in Ibiza with hearty stews such as *frito de pulpo* (baked octopus, potatoes, paprika and herbs) and *bullit de peix* (fish and potato stew).
- Taste the tangy cheese, mayonnaise (*salsa mahonesa*) and gin, made in Maó, Menorca's laid-back seafront capital.

## Top Five Beaches

- **Cala Saona** (p821) A dreamy arc of frost-white sand and azure water.
- **Cala Sant Vicenç** (p794) Jewel-like coves and pristine sea.
- **Cala Mitjana** (p799) Pine-stippled cliffs wrap around this soft-sand cove with crystal-clear water for snorkelling.
- **Cala Llenya & Cala Mastella** (p815) A twinset of secluded, soft-sand bays massaged by the turquoise Med.
- **Cala d'Algairens** (p799) Gorgeous tucked-away bay on Menorca's north coast.

### MENORCAN GIN

Drink it the usual way, long with tonic. Or do as the Menorcans do and ask for a *gin con limonada* (called locally a *pomada*), a shot of gin in a small glass, topped up with real lemonade. If you like your drink strong, order a *saliveta* for a shot of neat gin, graced with a green olive.

## Drive Time

Buckle up for a helter-skelter drive to Sa Calobra (p790) and cliff-hugging stunner Cap de Formentor (p794) on Mallorca. Give the crowds the slip en route to Formentera's lighthouse-tipped Far de sa Mola (p824) and the rocky cape of Cap de Favàritx (p804) on Menorca.

## Resources

- Illes Balears ([www.illesbalears.es](http://www.illesbalears.es)) Official tourism website for all the islands.
- Platges de Balears ([www.platgesdebalears.com](http://www.platgesdebalears.com)) The low-down on every beach.
- Balears Cultural Tour (<http://balearsculturaltour.net>) Walking trails, cultural events, gastronomy and more.

## Ibiza Megacclubs

- Space (p812)
- Pacha (p812)
- Amnesia (p812)