



Southern Mallorca

Includes ➔

Cala Pi	166
Colònia de Sant Jordi	166
Ses Salines	169
Illa de Cabrera	172
Santanyi.	173
Cala Figuera	174
Portopetro	175
Parc Natural de Mondragó	175
Cala d'Or	176

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restaurante Petite Iglesia (p174)
- ➔ Sal de Coco (p168)
- ➔ Casa Manolo (p169)
- ➔ Aventura (p175)
- ➔ Port Petit (p176)

Top Sight

- ➔ Cala Pi (p166)
- ➔ Centro de Visitantes Ses Salines (p168)
- ➔ Parc Nacional Maritim-Terrestre de l'Arxipèlag de Cabrera (p172)
- ➔ Cap de Ses Salines (p169)
- ➔ Capocorb Vell (p166)

Why Go?

The forbidding geography of the coast between the Badia de Palma (Bay of Palma) and Colònia de Sant Jordi has preserved this area as one of Mallorca's least developed. Much of the shoreline is ringed by high, impenetrable cliffs lashed endlessly by the 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 swathes of fine sand, true marvels of nature. Whether tightly encircled by rock, or fading into rough scrub of pine and juniper, here are some of Mallorca's best beaches. This part of the island, inaccessible or devoted to agriculture and conservation, has been spared the worst excesses of overdevelopment that have scarred parts of Mallorca. It's a glimpse of how all of the island's coast must once have 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. November to March, when the island is at its quietest and coolest, can still be a good time to visit. 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. Summer is undoubtedly the peak season; if crowds turn you off, just seek out one of many resort-free stretches of coastline.

Cala Pi

POP 412

An intimate, geographically blessed and very likeable resort, Cala Pi overlooks a gorgeous white-sand, pine-flanked slither of a beach. On the coast, a circular 17th-century defence tower stands testament to the Mallorca of centuries past, when the threat from North African pirates was constant.

Sights



Cala Pi

BEACH

Reached via a steep staircase (follow the signs along Cami de la Cala Pi), the beach is only 50m wide but it is a beauty, stretching more than 100m inland and flanked on either side by craggy cliffs that ensure the startlingly turquoise water in the inlet stays as still as bath water. There are no facilities at beach level so bring any provisions you're likely to need.

Capocorb Vell

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

( 971 18 01 55; www.talaiotscapocorbbell.com; Carretera Arenal-Cap Blanc, Km 23; €2; ☀ 10am-5pm Fri-Wed; ) At this sprawling prehistoric village, you can wander along stony pathways and beside rough stone structures that date to 1000 BC. The site, which includes 28 dwellings and five *talayots* (square and round stone towers made with – in the case of Capocorb Vell – no mortar). First excavated in the early 1900s, it gives a great sense of the scope and layout of the mysterious settlement.

Eating

Typical Mallorcan restaurants, with local as well as foreign tourists in their sights, make up the perfectly pleasant suite of options. Summer terraces, paella, suckling lamb shoulder – all the classic ingredients recur.

Restaurante Miguel

SPANISH €€

( 971 12 30 00; Carrer de la Torre 13; mains €18-22; ☀ 11am-11pm Tue-Sun Mar-Oct) Set back from the ruddy headland that sustains Cala Pi's highly photogenic 16th-century 'fire tower', Restaurante Miguel is a Mallorcan-style 'farmhouse' with a huge, inviting patio. Miguel cooks up excellent seafood dishes like paella, mussels in marinara sauce and grouper with lemon sauce, as well as heartier Mallorcan specialties like rabbit with mushrooms. There's a snack menu for grazers, too.

Getting There & Away

Bus 525 links Cala Pi and Palma once in the morning and once in the evening (€5.55, 70 minutes).

Sa Ràpita

POP 10,000

The main settlement along this stretch of coast, Sa Ràpita is a sleepy seaside village whose rocky shoreline, harangued by waves, provides a scenic diversion from a largely nondescript town, as does the profile of nearby Illa de Cabrera. Neighbouring Vallgornera has the longest cave on the island.

Sights

Platja de Ses Covetes

BEACH



This 200m sweep of pale, silky sand and gin-clear water forms part of the **Reserva Marina del Migjorn de Mallorca** (a protected marine reserve), so no buildings mar its backdrop of dunes and pines. It's unspoilt but not uncrowded. Walking east along the shore, you'll come upon Platja des Trenc. Platja de Ses Covetes is past Sa Ràpita and off the Ma6030 highway. You can park in Sa Ràpita.

Eating

Most of the places along the waterfront Avinguda de Miramar – in other words, most of the places in Sa Ràpita – hedge their bets between Mallorcan favourites and pizza and pasta. You can eat perfectly well, if unmemorably.

Xaloc

MALLORCAN €€

( 971 64 06 35; Carrer del Xaloc 36; mains €18-22; ☀ 12.30-3.30pm Tue-Sun, 7.30-11pm Tue-Sat; ) This little back-street Mallorcan joint comes highly recommended by locals, for its paellas, grilled fish and other simple Balearic favourites.

Getting There & Away

From Palma, bus 515 heads to Sa Ràpita (€5.35, one hour, up to five daily).

Colònia de Sant Jordi

POP 2734

A once-sleepy fishing village that was 'discovered' by tourism in the 1950s, Colònia de Sant Jordi's popularity with *palmero* vacationers has made it the biggest beach resort