

Photograph: Denise Pohl

Welcome to Mallorca

Majorca
Daily Bulletin

*WE BELIEVE THAT
WE LIVE IN PARADISE*



Spain travel update
with the British
ambassador

See pages 20 & 21



Mirò comes to
London in real
style

See pages 2 & 3

12 Months of events in
Mallorca - plus Food,
Hiking and the best
Attractions on the
island!

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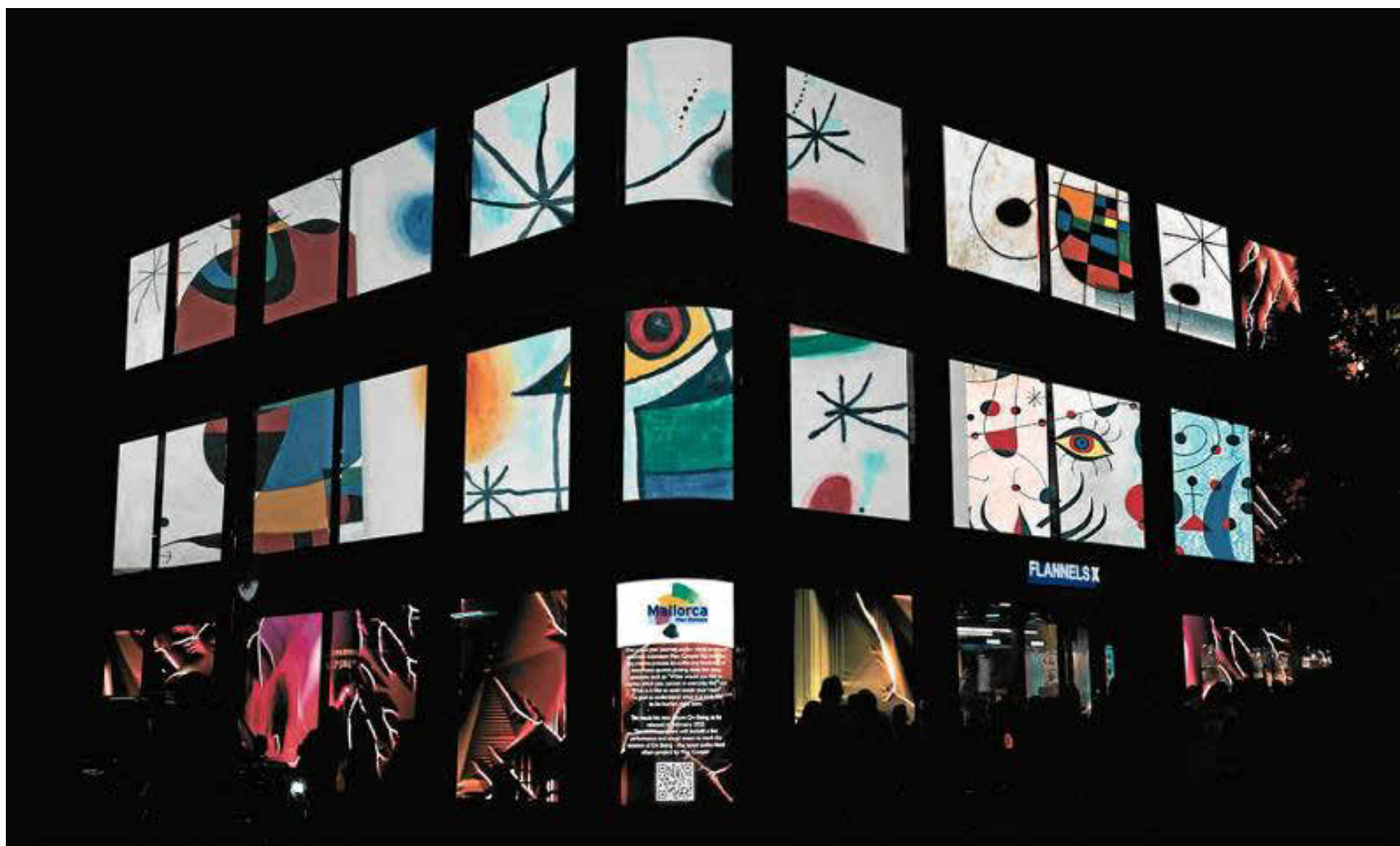


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Miró in London

London's Oxford Street is to be adorned with the colours of artist Joan Miró. This will be on November 3 as a prelude to the World Travel Market and has been arranged by the Balearic Government as a means of promoting cultural tourism.



Art Market

● Today, Miró's paintings sell for between US\$250,000 and US\$26 million; US\$17 million at a U.S. auction for the *La Caresse des étoiles* (1938) on 6 May 2008, at the time the highest amount paid for one of his works. In 2012, *Painting-Poem* ("le corps de ma brune puisque je l'aime comme ma chatte habillée en vert salade comme de la grêle c'est pareil") (1925) was sold at Christie's London for \$26.6 million. Later that year at Sotheby's in London, *Peinture (Etoile Bleue)* (1927) brought nearly 23.6 million pounds with fees, more than twice what it had sold for at a Paris auction in 2007 and a record price for the artist at auction. On 21 June 2017, the work *Femme et Oiseaux* (1940), one of his *Constellations*, sold at Sotheby's London for 24,571,250 GBP.



Panels are to be installed at the Flannels store that showcase the artist's genius on

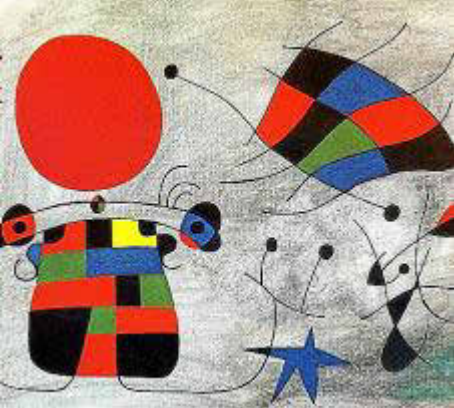
The use of Miró's work coincides with the major exhibition that is ongoing in Palma under the title Paysage Miró.

Europe's busiest street. President Marga Prohens will attend the event. The government describes it as a sensory experience that will combine art, music, and innovation as a way to demonstrate that the islands are "an archipelago where tradition and the avant-garde, art and innovation coexist in perfect harmony".

For one of the most important tourism trade fairs in the world, the whole experience is called *Blauina*, a work that will invite the London public to immerse themselves in a sound, light, and colour landscape inspired by Joan Miró's own universe.

Where to visit the exhibition in Palma

- Es Baluard Museu: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–8pm; Sunday, 10am–3pm. General admission €6. Exhibition lasts until November 9, 2025.
- Casal Solleric: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–8pm; Sunday, 11am–2.30pm. Free entrance. Exhibition lasts until November 9, 2025.
- La Llotja: Daily, 10.30am–1.30pm and 4pm–9pm. Free entrance. Exhibition lasts until February 1, 2026.
- Fundació Miró Mallorca: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm; Sunday, 10am–3pm. General admission €10. Exhibition lasts until January 11, 2026.



The music is by Michael Doherty and Iker Olabe. It combines organ and a string quartet from the Balearic Symphony Orchestra with the electronic music of DMasso, an emerging talent from the island. It is, therefore, an immersive and collaborative musical piece that also features the participation of the Mallorca Live Festival, which is held annually in Magalluf.



Blauïna will be an immersive experience where music, images, technology, digital creativity, and visual and sound art come together to showcase the island's identity to the world at one of the most important tourism events. It uses the appeal of the island's culture as its main attraction, moving away from the



clichéd image of sun and beach, while still acknowledging its importance. The use of Miró's work coincides with the major exhibition that is ongoing in Palma under the title Paysage Miró. This is a collaboration involving the Balearic Government, Palma Town Hall and the Council of Mallorca as well as national institutions such as the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid, the Pelaires Gallery, the Fundació Miró Mallorca and the Miró estate.

Colours of Joan Miró

And so on November 3, just before the World Travel Market (which will be held from the 4th to the 6th), central London will be bathed in the colours of Joan Miró to promote the island in a different way. This will highlight the cultural richness of one of the most universal artists, who called Mallorca his home and land and whose legacy remains as strong as ever through the many exhibitions and works that keep the Catalan artist's spirit alive.

Experimental style

● Joan Miró was among the first artists to develop automatic drawing as a way to undo previous established techniques in painting, and thus, with André Masson, represented the beginning of Surrealism as an art movement. However, Miró chose not to become an official member of the Surrealists to be free to experiment with other artistic styles without compromising his position within the group. He pursued his own interests in the art world, ranging from automatic drawing and surrealism, to expressionism, Lyrical Abstraction, and Color Field painting. Four-dimensional painting was a theoretical type of painting Miró proposed in which painting would transcend its two-dimensionality and even the three-dimensionality of sculpture. Miró's oft-quoted interest in the assassination of painting is derived from a dislike of bourgeois art, which he believed was used as a way to promote propaganda and cultural identity among the wealthy. Specifically, Miró responded to Cubism in this way, which by the time of his quote had become an established art form in France. He is quoted as saying "I will break their guitar," referring to Picasso's paintings, with the intent to attack the popularity and appropriation of Picasso's art by politics.

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MALLORCA EVENTS

JANUARY 2026						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15			18
	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



January 5:
Three Kings
parades.
Whole of
Mallorca.

January 16:

Sant Antoni
Eve. Especially
in northern
and eastern
Mallorca, e.g. Alcudia, Arta,
Manacor, Muro, Pollensa
and Sa Pobla.



January 17:
Sant Antoni.
Animal

blessings across the island.

January 19:
Sant Sebastià
party night.
Palma.



Final week of January to start February:

Garden Hotels Luxcom
Challenge Ciclista. Various
locations.

By
Andrew
Ede



The month of bonfires and blessings

The bells ring out, the traditional twelve grapes of good luck and prosperity are eaten, the cava flows and the parties in squares across Mallorca get into full swing. Celebration time but the celebrations certainly don't end around five or six o'clock on **New Year's Day**, for these are celebrations that are a prelude to a month of almost non-stop partying.



The New Year marquees are packed away to make space for Royal Pages to receive the letters of the island's children. The **Three Kings!** Such anticipation, such excitement. On the night of the fifth of January, Melchor, Gaspar y Baltasar miraculously appear simultaneously in the city, the towns, the ports, the villages. They come by boat.

The Kings' greetings on the quayside in Palma herald the grandest of the island's cavalcades - one hundred years or so of custom now a wonderment of floats and fantasy.

By land, by sea, the Kings have even been known to descend from the skies. Carriages and horses convey the cavalcades of Magi and their attendants to the adornments of the baby Jesus in church nativities, to town hall balconies for more greetings and to the eager recipients of the Kings' gifts. Such spectacles. But there will be more. Very much more.

St. Antony's Fire: Dancing with demons

Sant Antoni Abat is Mallorca's unofficial patron saint. The cult of worship of Anthony the Great dates back to the early decades following the conquest of Mallorca in 1229. Sant Antoni, the father of monasticism, the saint of the animals, the saint whose followers treated ergotism -

St. Anthony's Fire, the saint who was tormented by demons. Fiestas for Sant Antoni can be traced to 1365 in Sa Pobla, which is today the epicentre for rituals of the saint dancing with demons, for the blessings of animals, for the bonfires that mark a renewal. Everywhere there is the smell of wood smoke and of barbecues, and from the darkness of January nights emerge the beings of the underworld - the demons who run with fire. The correfoc!

The gangs of demons with their

grotesque appearance, their fire-spitting tridents, their warnings of devilment, their batucada drummers with incessant rhythms are a relatively new phenomenon - some fifty years old. These are demons who have escaped from a centuries-old religious theatre that originally positioned them as protagonists in processions for Corpus Christi as well as for **fiestas in Sa Pobla**. They are one variety of demon, the different guises making them central to the island's fiestas. The demon and Sant Antoni are true symbols of Mallorca.

Mid-January and the celebrations blur into one. January 16 is the eve of Sant Antoni, the 17th is day, and when the **blessings** can be on such a scale that whole flocks and herds can be manoeuvred through village centres. There is no pause, as another great saint of Mallorca, Sant Sebastià, is honoured. No more so than in Palma. **Sebastian is the city's patron saint**. He once rid the city of the plague - or rather, a bone from an arm managed this feat in 1523.



Sant Sebastià: Palma's Fiery Patron

Sebastian, a time for more **bonfires and barbecues**, for concerts in Palma's squares (the grand party night of January 19), and for fire-running on an awesome scale. Palma does this twice a year - once in winter, once in summer. Numerous gangs of demons are let loose, accompanied by beasts of fire. The dragon, **Drac de na Coca**, appears before this massive correfoc. A real beast rather than a legend in that an escaped crocodile was taken to have been a dragon by seventeenth-century residents of Palma, it breathes fire and lights the bonfire in Plaça

MY FAVOURITE EVENT ON THE ISLAND BY LAURA STADLER

After months of Christmas countdown hype, followed by New Year celebrations, January in England was a miserable time. I always found myself engulfed in a deflated cloud of anticlimax. But what I love most about living in Mallorca is that after Three Kings the fun is just beginning! Kicking off with the fabulous fiestas of Sant Antoni and San Sebastian. Particularly as while my British counterparts are huddled home by the fire, we are dancing in village squares and barbecuing al fresco with neighbours. I adore gathering with local residents and being part of the community spirit, revelling in the Mallorca culture of community celebration.



Food of the month



Arroz Brut

As winter settles in, Mallorcan kitchens fill with the heady aroma of Arroz Brut, literally "dirty rice." The name refers to its cloudy, flavour-packed broth rather than any impurity - a hearty stew-like rice dish rich with meat, vegetables and spices. Its origins trace back to rural homes where families cooked with whatever was on hand: rabbit, chicken, pork, artichokes, beans, mushrooms. The rice absorbs the juices of all these ingredients, becoming tender, earthy, and deeply aromatic, coloured golden-brown by saffron and paprika. Arroz Brut is traditionally served in clay pots, bubbling and rustic, and each village swears by its own recipe. It's less refined than paella but infinitely more soulful - messy, abundant and perfect for sharing on cool March days. With a drizzle of olive oil and a slice of crusty bread, it's Mallorca in a bowl.

By Mia Naprta

Major on the **January 19** party night. The music ranges from folk to rock to jazz to urban.



And finally it is time to catch breath, although not the riders taking part in the end of **January cycling event**. Mallorca is Europe's premier destination for winter cycling training, and the Gardens Hotels Luxcom Challenge Ciclista, with both women's and men's challenges, is the culmination of this training.



Average top
temperature



Average
minimum
temperature



Average daily
sunshine
5.5 hours

JANUARY
WEATHER IN
MALLORCA



The reason is you

We are of the sea, land and time. Life is evolution and we need to transition to a more sustainable model of tourism. On the Balearic Islands **we respect our natural spaces and care for their fragility.** We seek a balance between economic activity and our daily life to achieve what we all want for the future.
We are all part of the reason.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM INVESTMENT



Govern de les
Illes Balears
Conseller de Turisme,
Cultura i Esports

Y islands. O holidays. U contribution.

Listed buildings, windmills, convents, fortresses, woodland, markets and fairs. All these and more form part of the identity of the Balearic Islands. The restoration of buildings, the preservation of historic sites, the conservation of natural spaces are all essential for maintaining a rich heritage, one that spans cultures reaching back to prehistoric times. For the Balearic Government, this heritage is of great importance, which is why it is a focus for revenue generated from the Sustainable Tourism Tax.

Funds from the tax are being invested directly in projects

that are emblematic of this heritage, of what makes the islands so unique, so authentic. This is a virtuous circle: visitors marvel at the heritage and through their contributions they help to preserve it for future generations.

Cultural heritage projects

There are more than thirty cultural heritage projects - some completed, some in progress, some to be started. Diligently selected, these are projects specific to each of the islands, but in one case a project relevant to all

four islands. Which is where we start with this review, for of the many delights to enthrall visitors to the islands, the markets and the fairs are very high on the list.

Phase One of **'Revitalisation, preservation and enhancement of markets and unique fairs as a strategy for food sovereignty' is all but completed.** The investment of **250,000 euros** has been in establishing plans for markets and in their promotion as sources of local agri-food products. Support such as this for the farming sector makes these products more accessible to resident and visitor populations and enhances the presence of the artisan agri-food sector in markets, the authentic alternatives to large supermarkets. The markets and fairs benefit not just the primary sector as they also contribute to cultural heritage and a more sustainable and low-season tourism.

Windmill restoration

Arriving at Palma Airport, visitors can't fail to see the windmills in the airport's vicinity. In 1845, the Dutch engineer Paul Bouvij created the first true water mill in Mallorca. Harnessing wind to extract water, Bouvij's mills were for accelerating the drying of wetlands in Palma's Prat de Sant Jordi. Windmills have a much longer history, though. The sixteenth century was when they truly became a widespread feature of the rural landscape. There are nowadays four types of mill - flour windmills, windpumps, watermills and horse-driven mills. Many have unfortunately suffered serious deterioration. The Council of Mallorca has therefore launched a **project of restoration** that will receive **three million euros** of tax funds.

Restoration of the walls in Alcudia

The building of the walls in Alcudia commenced at the end of the thirteenth century. Major restoration was undertaken in the 1960s and contributed to Alcudia being declared an Historic Artistic Site. The **latest restoration of sections of the walls**, 80% completed, has been with tax funds totalling **442,020 euros**. The mediaeval city of Alcudia attracts visitors from all over Mallorca. Maintaining the walls in good condition is of social and economic benefit, because of the great tourist interest.

Cabrera castle

The origins of the castle on the island of Cabrera to the south of Mallorca are from at least the early fifteenth century. While the castle acted as a lookout for pirates, the island itself was vulnerable to raids. One was led by the Ottoman corsair Dragut in 1550, the year famously remembered in Mallorca because of Dragut's raid on Pollensa. Later that century, the castle was rebuilt. The last time that artillery was fired was at the end of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1715. A site of cultural interest since 1949, there hasn't been major refurbishment since 1982. Cabrera is now one of Spain's National Parks. Legislation gives the utmost protection to threatened



This project in Cabrera seeks to implement measures to improve the sustainability of the natural space and help it become an unparalleled showcase in order to better transfer knowledge to the larger islands.

species, such as coral, dolphins and whales. **Restoration of the castle**, recently started and with funding of **859,105 euros**, requires the use of traditional building materials, such as sandstone.

Bellver Castle and Ses Cases del Retiro

The hugely impressive mediaeval **Bellver Castle in Palma** is surrounded by woodland and a landscape of high historical and ecological value. Despite this, accessibility and conservation have been lacking. Improvements to the woodland have been made in recent years and new funding, courtesy of the Sustainable Tourism Tax (**two million euros**), will enable reforestation, the creation of pathways and bike routes, and a network of hydrants as a fire-protection measure. This is also a project in line with fostering resilience in the face of climate change. And in the vicinity of the castle is an 18th-century building, **Ses Cases del Retiro**. An important heritage asset, it has been abandoned for many a year. Restoration will turn it into a centre open to the public and with activities linked to environmental education and scientific information. The project has tax funds of **2,017,873 euros**.

Son Fornés estate

Son Fornés in Montuïri is a Talayotic settlement from the tenth century BC. A project for an archaeological heritage research and documentation centre is within the archaeological site of the **Son Fornés estate**. Comprising a museum, offices, accommodation and a laboratory, and with the old houses of the estate being restored as well, this serves various functions. One is clearly for archaeological research and for documentation storage facility that has been all but non-existent in the Balearics until now. Another is for fostering cultural tourism that will contribute to a transformation of the local economy. The original budget of half a **million euros** was slightly more than doubled and has been executed.

Minims Convent

The Minims were an order founded by Sant Francesc de Paula (Francis of Paola) in 15th-century Italy. The **Minims Convent in Campos** is an asset of regional cultural interest. It is to be redeveloped into the future headquarters of the Balearic Islands Centre for Research into Traditional Architecture. An example of sustainable construction and the public use of heritage as a resource for local development, the project has **eight million euros** of funds for three phases of work up to 2027.

Torres del Temple

The **Torres del Temple in Palma** were built into the eastern wall of the one-time Muslim city in the twelfth century. Following the Christian conquest of 1229, King Jaume I ceded the towers to the Knights Templar. The building has unique heritage value because it is one of the few remains of the Muslim period and the early Christian era. Palma Town Hall bought the building in 2007 in order to prevent it from being turned into luxury apartments. An asset in the cultural interest, the building was in a sorry state. With **2,158,242 euros** of tax funding, the restoration project,

OTHER PROJECTS



Sant Josep clamps down on illegal holiday flats

● With a budget of over €2.6 million, Sant Josep Town Council will deploy a specialist team to combat illegal holiday rentals.



Expansion of the Ibiza Conference Centre

● The goal of this initiative is to expand the Ibiza Conference Centre by executing the second phase of the project, designed to improve the capacity and functionality of the space.



Portmany bay coastal management project

● The project aims to form a walk for pedestrians and cyclists that brings together the whole coast to improve the infrastructure of the area for both residents and tourists.



Improving tourist access roads to protect the natural environment

● Menorca Island Council is promoting a project to modernise the access roads to key tourist spots on the island.



Menorca to modernise its sports network to attract off-season tourism

● Menorca Island Council is to invest over 21 million euros in improving sports facilities all over the island.



Recovery and renovation of the city walls

● The project consists of the restoration and rehabilitation of the walls of Ciutadella de Menorca (Bastion of the Governor and Real Alcázar).

now almost totally completed, has had among its aims the consolidation of Palma as a destination for cultural tourism and the creation of a centre for tourist visits.

Can Serra

Can Serra in Palma can trace its history back to the early 14th century. An old property for the nobility, it retains mediaeval elements of great historical value. It is in fact more than just one building. Several properties - mediaeval and more modern - were combined, making it a unique example of Palma's urban and architectural evolution over the centuries. It was bought by the Balearic Government in 2002 with the aim of restoring it. This was not fully pursued. With **10,452,470 euros** of Sustainable Tourism Tax, the total rehabilitation will be undertaken, making **Can Serra a focus for tourism** through an experience that combines history with local culture.

Galatzó Finca

The hydraulic systems in the Tramuntana Mountains can be found in numerous parts of the mountain range. The **Galatzó Finca in Calvia** provides a particular example, the estate having rich ethnographic heritage due to the range of agricultural and forestry resources. The provision of water for these is therefore of great importance. But water has been wasted, hence why a project to repair the system was established. The budget of **784,838 euros** has been spent on reversing the deterioration and on adapting the system for public visits, highlighting it as representative of a Mallorcan tradition that was at risk of disappearing.

Sa Torre Nova estate

Elsewhere in Calvia, visitors to Magalluf will be familiar with Torrenova, but perhaps less so with the **Sa Torre Nova estate**, which includes a 17th-century defence tower and two houses representative of urban development in the 1960s. The estate is to undergo complete redevelopment and be converted into a cultural tourism park open to the public. The funding is **998,174 euros**, with work due to start imminently.

Other projects

Other cultural heritage projects in Mallorca to benefit from Sustainable Tourism Tax funding include the **Velodrome Park in Palma (80,000 euros)**; the restoration of the **Defensora Theatre in Soller (412,500 euros)**; the restoration of the **Escolàpies Convent**, also in Soller (**two million euros**); and the visitors centre on the **island of Dragonera (two million)**. One other project, currently in the drafting phase, is the remodelling of the **Plaça Major in Palma**. This will involve opening up the currently below-ground and unused retail units and creating a whole new two-tier square.

All the projects are to do with revitalising the rich heritage of the Balearics; with bringing culture closer to the people; with a commitment to making tourism a force for giving back and respecting the islands. Through Sustainable Tourism Tax funding, the islands are being transformed while, at the same time, the past is being preserved.

For further information, go to illesostenibles.travel.

OTHER PROJECTS



Mallorca Boosts its Sustainable Tourism Strategy

● The Council of Mallorca is launching a campaign to extend the tourist season, ease summer crowds, and promote year-round cultural and sports events.



Calvia to Redevelop Peguera Boulevard to Boost its Tourist Attractions

● The projects aims to revamp pavements, lighting and green spaces along the city street.



Modernisation of the Sewage Network to Cope with Summer Pressure

● The plan includes new technology, biogas and modular solutions for tourist areas.



Regulation of boat anchoring in s'Estany des Peix

● Installation of floating piers and low impact anchoring zones.



Acquisition of the Sa Senieta de Formentera rural estate

● Purchase and restoration of the country estate and house known as Sa Senieta.



Introduction of sewer systems and the overall improvement of the Es Ca Marí tourist hub

● Project for the construction of a sewer network and an intermediate pumping point for this tourist hub in Formentera.

MALLORCA EVENTS



February 1:
Almond Blossom Fair



February 14-15:
Carnival

February 2:
Festival of Light at Palma's Cathedral



February 27:
Fira del Ram (Fun Fair)



Almond blossom and Carnival

By Andrew Ede

The **'Festa de la llum'**, festival of light is how Palma Cathedral has dubbed a phenomenon that occurs two times a year - February 2 (Candlemas) and November 11 (the feast of Saint Martin). The dates are equal periods from the winter solstice and when the morning sun (around 8am) produces the 'vuit', the figure of eight created by the reflection of the main rose window - the Gothic Eye - under the smaller window.



In 2007, the Balearic Mathematics Society drew attention to the phenomenon. It had obviously been known about for centuries - the rose window

was installed in the 14th century and the stained glass in the 16th century - but it had never been popularised. It has since become very popular.

The landscape of Mallorca in February is characterised by the fields of almond blossom - an amazingly beautiful sight.

Almond Blossom fair

In Son Servera there has been an almond blossom fair since 2010. Held on the **first Sunday in February**, the location is the estate of Ca s'Hereu, which is now an agrotourism finca but has a history that dates back to the thirteenth century. This was one of the possessions that came to be owned by the Servera family, who gave their name to what developed as a population centre, then a village and finally a municipality. Until the 1970s, Ca s'Hereu was a working farm.

Food of the month Coca de Trempó de Invierno

While *trempó* is usually a summer salad of tomato, pepper and onion, in winter Mallorcans adapt it to what's available - creating *Coca de Trempó de Invierno*. This savoury flatbread, somewhere between a pizza and a tart, sits on a base of olive-oil-rich dough, crisp at the edges and soft beneath its colourful topping. In February, the "trempó" might include roasted red peppers, caramelised onion, spinach, or even slices of sobrassada or anchovy for warmth. The dish embodies Mediterranean simplicity - dough, olive oil, vegetables, sunshine - even on grey winter days. Its roots are rural and domestic: something baked on Sundays, shared warm with family, or eaten cold at local festivals. Best enjoyed with a glass of young red wine and perhaps a little cheese, *Coca de Trempó de Invierno* is Mallorca's way of keeping summer's spirit alive through the colder months.

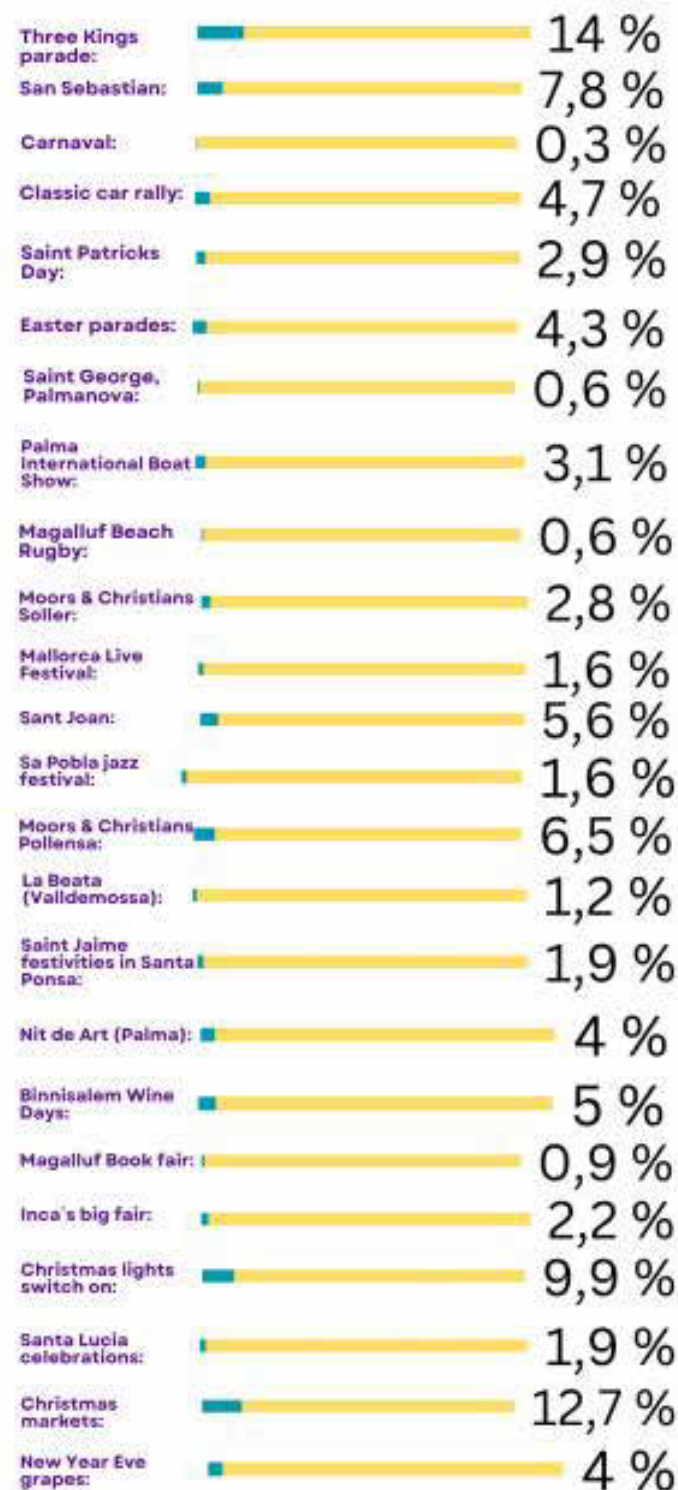
By Mia Naprta



Online survey



What is your favourite event in Mallorca



Carnival comes early

The timing of Carnival is obviously determined by when Easter falls. In 2026 it will be **mid-February - 14 and 15**. Carnival is one of those annual occasions for a good old party, a load of fun and for potentially winning some money. It depends on the town hall and the category, but prizes can be up to 500 euros. But it's not really about the winning, it's the taking part that counts - or the watching for those who don't dress up or put on a costume.



La Rua (Sa Rua in Mallorquí) has an old meaning of way or street. Nowadays, the dictionary definition is specific to Carnival. This is "the parade of people in costumes and decorated vehicles that takes place at 'Carnestoltes' ", the very old word for Carnival that is still used today - it means forbidden meats in reference to Lent. Palma has the largest Rua (obviously), but over the weekend there are parades all over Mallorca, the greater number being on Saturday rather than Sunday.

°16
Average top temperature

°8
Average minimum temperature

Average daily sunshine 6 hours

FEBRUARY WEATHER IN MALLORCA



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CALVIA HOSTED THIS YEAR'S ABTA CONVENTION WITH 400 LEADING MEMBERS OF THE UK TRAVEL INDUSTRY EXPERIENCING THE NEWBORN RESORT



By Humphrey Carter

The Mayor of Calvia, Juan Antonio Amengual, opening the ABTA convention.

THIS year marked a milestone for Magalluf, and the Mayor of Calvia, Juan Antonio Amengual, was able to showcase the 'new Magalluf' in early October when the British travel association ABTA celebrated its 75th anniversary in the famous resort.

The Mayor of Calvia, hailed the event as "historic".

"I'm extremely pleased and grateful that ABTA has decided to not only return to Mallorca for its convention after 14 years but to choose Magalluf, Calvia," he said.

"It gives us, as one of the leading tourism destinations in Spain, the chance to highlight and show what significant changes have taken place in Magalluf and other parts of Calvia and how the resort has been extensively remodelled and redesigned with local, state, European and ecotax funds as well as investment from the private sector.

"And that said, throughout this process we have always had the strong support and understanding from the British tourist industry. It's also important that ABTA chose to come

"We're putting Calvia on the global tourism map, which is where it belongs."

THE NEW MAGALLUF

Proves a big winner with the British travel industry

magnitude are a recognition of the municipality's efforts to modernise and diversify its tourism offering. It was a unique opportunity to promote Calvia as an international destination of reference. "Magalluf alone accounts for 30 percent of hotel occupancy in the whole of Calvia," he added.

The mayor also stressed the municipality's commitment to quality tourism that combines tradition and modernity: "Our goal is to offer tourism that respects the environment, promotes local culture and generates direct benefits for our community.

"Events such as ABTA allow us to show the world the new reality of Calvia: a destination

that not only welcomes visitors, but is constantly reinventing itself to offer authentic and sustainable experiences," he said.

The mayor observed that, at a time when travellers are seeking genuine connections with the places they visit, it is crucial to highlight what is truly local. "The landscapes, the gastronomy, the history, the traditions and, fundamentally, respect for the environment and the well-being of the communities that call this place home," he said. "We're putting Calvia on the global tourism map, which is where it belongs."

And the experience of exploring and enjoying the new Magalluf was well received by

"Our goal is to offer tourism that respects the environment, promotes local culture and generates direct benefits for our community."

the British tourist industry.

Mark Tanzer, Chief Executive of ABTA - The Travel Association, said: "Mallorca is one of the undisputed favourite destinations for ABTA, our members and their customers.

"We deeply value the relationship between the UK and Spain and the ABTA 2025 event puts Calvia and the Balearics at the centre of international tourism, showcasing the destination's new tourism model based on sustainability and innovation. For those delegates who have been before and may think they know Magalluf, it's a chance for them to see the new Magalluf and see how it has developed, while for those who have never been, it's a wonderful opportunity for them to experience what a great destination it is," he added.

The chance to see the new Magalluf proved a great success with the industry and travel experts.

Simon Calder, the travel correspondent for The Independent and the face of British tourism for millions of people in the UK, said: "For someone who has never been, they're going to find a very calm and pleasant location with a very random collection of bars and restaurants and activities to enjoy.

"I've been watching the resort's reinvention over the years and they've done very well. It's now a family resort. I guess there is still a wild side for those seeking it, but Magalluf is now very much in keeping with the rest of Mallorca. Calvia has done an impressive job.

"Mallorca is a great destination. For a relatively small location, Mallorca delivers so much by so many professionals, and it's just a short flight from numerous airports across the UK, which all makes it very appealing. Based on all that, I'm very optimistic about Mallorca's future."

Steve Heapy, Chief Executive Officer of Jet2 plc, and Chief Executive Officer of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays, said: "Magalluf and Mallorca is, and always has been, a great destination. It's a good safe bet and has been well loved by the British for decades. It continues to be so, our bookings speak for themselves and Mallorca will always be at the top of people's holiday wish list and we're committed to further expansion."

The Mayor of Calvia, Juan Antonio Amengual, the Balearic Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sports, Jaume Bauzá, the Secretary of State for Tourism in Spain, Rosario Sánchez, and Mark Tanzer, Chief Executive of ABTA, in Magalluf.

in October as opposed to during the peak sun-and-beach season. This helps us all reinforce the fact that we are open in low season and that there is plenty to enjoy as we lengthen the season and develop an all-year resort.

"We've finished the first phase of the new promenade with phase two due to be completed by the end of the year. The results of that are clear to see, with first-class bars and restaurants along the sea front and high-quality beach facilities open from the middle of March until the end of November," he said.

Amengual also highlighted the strategic importance of hosting the ABTA convention, emphasising that events of this



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Mancor de la Vall: Luxury home featuring exceptional design, panoramic views and complete privacy. Total surface approx. 321 m², 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. E&V ID W-02O63E, Price: € 1,970,000



Port des Canonge: Stylishly renovated house with sea view in the middle of the Tramuntana Mountains. Total surface approx. 188 m², 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. E&V ID W-0469DV, Price: € 1,185,000



Galilea: Mediterranean luxury finca with holiday rental licence and mountain views. Total surface approx. 343 m², 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. E&V ID W-02ZDXN, Price: € 1,990,000



Felanitx: Charming townhouse in the heart of the city with guest apartment, pool and complete tranquillity. Total surface approx. 423 m², 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. E&V ID W-046AJ2, Price: € 1,925,000



Font de Sa Cala: Modern villa with heated infinity pool in a quiet residential area. Total surface approx. 273 m², 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. E&V ID W-030MKW, Price: € 1,950,000



Santa Ponsa: Completely refurbished family villa on a spacious plot – a true feel-good oasis. Total surface approx. 329 m², 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. E&V ID W-0466GL, Price: € 4,200,000



Cala Pi: Modern semi-detached house in an idyllic residential area with pool, garden and rooftop terrace. Total surface approx. 123 m², 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. E&V ID W-046BB8, Price: € 1,100,000



Palma Centre: Elegant residence with terrace and parking in a renovated city palace. Total surface approx. 233 m², 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. E&V ID W-02YFTI, Price: € 3,190,000



MALLORCA

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MALLORCA EVENTS

**March 1:**
Balearics Day.
Mainly Palma.**March 5-7:**
Rally Clásico.
Base, Puerto
Portals.**February**
28-March 8
(to be
confirmed):
Marratxi Ceramics Fair.**March 15:**
St. Patrick's
Day. Santa
Ponsa.

From Ceramics to Classic Cars

By Andrew Ede

Easter also dictates when Mallorca's biggest fun-fair is held. Or should it be Palm Sunday, as **Fira del Ram** refers to the Palm Sunday origin of the fair either in the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries (it is disputed). Needless to say, today's fair is nothing like it used to be. Lasting for several weeks, it will run throughout March and up to Easter. The precise start date isn't available at present; this may be in February.

Day of the Balearics: March 1

On **March 1 1983**, the Balearics were officially granted autonomy. The following year the day was declared a fiesta and in 1999 became a public holiday. There will be a wide range of events over the first weekend of 2026. Mainly in Palma, appropriately enough as it is the seat of government, these typically range from a market for DO products and a Balearics cuisine fair to open days at places like the Balearic Parliament, to cars doing stunts and DJs and bands. Something for everyone.



The island's clay heart

Marratxi's **Fira del Fang**, the Ceramics Fair, was established in 1984 with the precise intention of supporting the labours of ceramicists, especially those from Marratxi. By the time it reached its thirtieth edition, the fair had become that greatly appreciated that it was honoured by being



awarded a national prize from the Spanish Association of Ceramics' Towns. In the commendation, it was noted that the fair had contributed to the "prestige and diffusion of

Spanish ceramics".

The association between Marratxi and ceramics is an historical one, which is today reflected by the number of ceramics businesses, especially in Portol.

Food of the month

Sopa Mallorquina

When winter rain and winds bite on the island of Mallorca, nothing comforts quite like Sopa Mallorquina. Despite its humble name, this is not a liquid soup but a hearty peasant dish — thick enough to stand your spoon upright. Its origins lie in the pagesia, the rural kitchens of Mallorca, where frugality and flavour went hand in hand. Traditionally, it starts with a generous sofrito of onion, garlic, and tomato, to which chopped seasonal vegetables are added — cabbage, spinach, cauliflower, artichoke or whatever the orchard provides in January. Thin slices of pa moreno (local brown bread) are layered into the pot to soak up the rich broth, creating a rustic texture somewhere between a stew and a pudding. Sometimes bits of sobrasada, bacon or even leftover roast meat find their way in too, but at its heart Sopa Mallorquina remains a celebration of the island's winter garden. Eaten steaming hot, it captures the essence of Mallorca's traditional cooking: seasonal, resourceful and deeply satisfying.

By Mia Naprta



MARCH 2026



Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

9	10	11	12	13	14	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
30	31					

Style on the Road

The **2026 Rally Clásico Puerto Portals** will be the 22nd edition. Over three days, the rally attracts more than 100 cars in various categories. A highly popular event, there are always some outstanding classic cars, such as MGs from the 1950s and Jaguar E-Types and Austin Healeys from the 1960s. Based in Puerto Portals, the stages are held in the Tramuntana Mountains.



Saint Patrick's Day in Santa Ponsa

In 2006, the Irish broadcaster RTE posted an article onto its website. The opening sentence read: "If Santa Ponsa did not exist, Ireland's holiday culture

would have had to create it."



The Irish didn't create Santa Ponsa as it was, by the start of the 1970s, already a thriving resort, but the Irish connection was made in that decade and largely due to tour operator Joe Walsh.

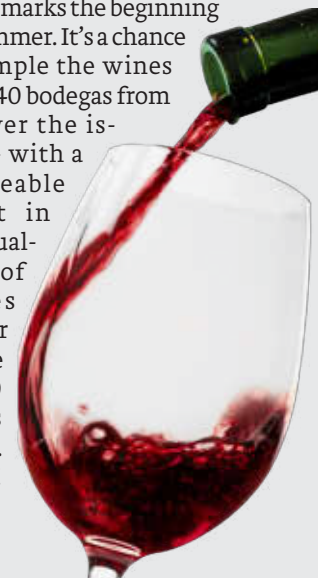
Santa Ponsa is Mallorca's centre for Saint Patrick's Day celebrations. In addition to children's activities and an artisan market, there is live entertainment - music and dance - and plenty of food and drink. And you would never guess that the food and drink might include Dublin Coddle and Guinness.

MY FAVOURITE EVENT ON THE ISLAND
BY RICHIE PRIOR

I am known as Dad Taxi as I'm constantly ferrying my sons to and from their football commitments. As a proud parent, my favourite event in Mallorca is to go and watch their teams play each week. There's nothing better than watching your own children taking part in a sporting event.

MY FAVOURITE EVENT ON THE ISLAND
BY JAMES KIDWELL

My favourite event is the Pollensa Wine Festival. I always look forward to the Pollensa Wine festival which takes place every year in early May or late April. There is always a lively party atmosphere in the 16th century cloisters of Santo Domingo convent and, for me, the event marks the beginning of Summer. It's a chance to sample the wines from 40 bodegas from all over the island - with a noticeable uplift in the quality of wines over the last 10 years or so. Salud!



Average top temperature



Average minimum temperature



Average daily sunshine 6.5 hours

MARCH
WEATHER IN
MALLORCA



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MALLORCA EVENTS

Easter, wine, and spring fairs
across Mallorca

APRIL 2026						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1			4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22		24		
27	28					

By Andrew Ede

Easter in Mallorca is a period for solemn and emotional processions. **Holy Week** starts with the processions for Palm Sunday, which will be at the end of March in 2026 (March 29). These feature the specially prepared white palms crafted into different shapes. The upper parts of the trees are tied and covered, the lack of sunlight prevents photosynthesis and the leaves grow straight and white. The end-product is transformed into various shapes. There are various star styles, the long, braided 'cadeneta' and the elaborate 'margarita' bow. Alternatively, there is the simple, straight white palm, which is what is most commonly seen.



The most important procession in Palma is **Crist de la Sang on Maundy Thursday** (April 2). Lasting more than five hours, it involves almost 5,000 members of the city's 33 brotherhoods. The procession is organised in reverse order of brotherhood seniority. The image of Christ on the cross is the most revered in Mallorca along with the Virgin of Lluç. It is housed in the Church of the Annunciation (Església de l'Anunciació also known as Església de la Sang), which was built in the late fifteenth century next to the Hospital General. The procession has been an Easter custom in Palma since 1564.

On **Good Friday**, the 'davallament' descent from the cross is reenacted in various parts of the island. Fe-

lanitx and Pollensa are regarded as being the most powerful.

Various fairs

There are various fairs during April. As their dates are influenced by when Easter falls, it is not known as yet when some will take place for certain. The Andratx fair is normally the first weekend of April but won't be because of Easter. Santa Margalida's combines with Palm Sunday, while Muro's is the weekend

MY FAVOURITE EVENT ON THE ISLAND
BY ERICA LAY

● Definitely the Palma Boat Show - it's the unofficial start of the Med yachting season. Everyone's back, sun's out, and the season's gossip starts flowing faster than the rosé. You go for "work," but really it's about catching up with friends and pretending you're networking.



April 23: St. George's Day.
Palmanova.



April 25:
Mallorca 312 OK Mobility.
Base, Playa de Muro.



April 25-26: Pollensa Wine Fair.



April 29 to May 2:
Palma International Boat Show



Food of the month



Crespells & Robiols

● Easter in Mallorca tastes of crespells and robiols. These delicate pastries, often made together in family kitchens, fill homes with laughter and the scent of lemon and vanilla. Crespells are simple, star-shaped biscuits — buttery, crumbly, and dusted with sugar — while robiols are half-moon turnovers filled with sweet pumpkin jam (cabello de ángel), ricotta, or apricot preserve. Their origins likely trace back to medieval Jewish and Arabic confectionery, blending almonds, citrus and flour in festive harmony. Children still gather around the table to cut shapes, while grandmothers ensure no crumb is wasted. More than desserts, these pastries are edible memories — a bridge between generations, baked with love and shared with joy as the year draws to a close.

By Mia Naprta



popular is it that it sells out in a matter of hours. 8,500 cyclists take part on one of three routes, the longest being 312 kilometres; the others are 167 and 225 kilometres. Each year there are honoured participants, former professional cyclists.

Palma Boat Show

The **Palma International Boat Show** has developed over the years into one of Europe's premier events. In 2025 there were a record 304 participating companies and more than 300 boats on display. A feature of the show is the Superyacht Village, dedicated to some of the finest 24-metre-plus superyachts currently on the international brokerage and charter market.

St. George's Day:
Books, roses and British cheer

In 2024, Calvia town hall, with the support of the **Bulletin**, initiated a celebration of **St. George's Day**.

An obviously English-themed occasion, the highly successful launch included concerts, sport, gastronomy, artisan market and circus acts. Otherwise in Mallorca, St. George is Sant Jordi, the day sometimes referred to as the day of books and roses, reflecting traditions of gift-giving by partners.



On the Road: Mallorca 312

The **Mallorca 312** is the island's biggest cycling event of the year. So

 20
Average top temperature

 11
Average minimum temperature


Average daily sunshine 8 hours

APRIL
WEATHER IN
MALLORCA

SOME OF THE
ATTRACTIONS
INCLUDEDPirates Adventure
MagalufCormoran Bay
CruiseGringos Family
Rave
Magaluf

Waterparks



Keeping the Family Holiday Tradition Alive

A new island-wide initiative aims to support families holidaying in Mallorca by making some of the island's best-known attractions more accessible and better value. Majorca Family Tickets is a bundled ticket platform that allows families to pre-book a selection of popular experiences in one go, saving both time and money at a moment when the cost of travelling to Mallorca has become a major topic of discussion.

The concept responds to concerns shared by both visitors and the local tourism sector. Families say that while Mallorca remains one of Europe's favourite destinations for sunshine holidays, the rising cost of flights, accommodation, eating out and activities has made the traditional family trip feel noticeably more expensive. For many, this has meant reducing the number of outings or avoiding activities altogether, and in some cases, reconsidering future holidays on the island.

Majorca Family Tickets aims to help address this by offering a clear and good value way for families to enjoy several well-known attractions without facing repeated high individual ticket prices. Instead of browsing options, comparing costs and making multiple bookings, families can reserve a tailored package in one transaction.

Attractions as a Core Part of the Mallorca Experience

For decades, Mallorca has been known not only for its beaches, but also for its family experiences: evening shows enjoyed across generations, adventure parks that have become holiday staples, relaxed mini-golf courses tucked behind promenades, and coastal boat trips that form lasting childhood holiday memories.

These experiences are part of the Mallorca tradition. However, as holiday costs have risen, some families have begun to treat these as optional extras rather than essential holiday moments. Majorca Family Tickets emphasises that enjoying the island should not require making difficult financial trade-offs. The platform works to ensure that the cultural and leisure side of a Mallorca holiday remains accessible.

How It Works

The Majorca Family Tickets website offers several package levels. Families select the attractions they want to visit and complete one booking. The platform then provides a combined ticket that can be used across the participating venues, removing both planning stress and repeated checkout costs.

The platform has been developed with the support of Pirates Adventure, the long-running Magaluf show that has welcomed millions of families over nearly four decades. The team behind Pirates has worked directly with hotels, tour operators and partner attractions to build a practical, simple and family-focused product.

"Families are the heart of Mallorca"

Catherine Sasson, CEO of Pirates Adventure and one of the project's leading supporters, says the launch reflects a shared commitment across the sector.

"Families have been coming to Mallorca for generations. They are at the heart of our island's tourism story. But we know that holidays are becoming more expensive, and we want to make sure that families still feel welcome and able to enjoy everything Mallorca offers. The attractions included in this platform are places where memories are made. By bringing them together, we are helping families relax, plan less, and enjoy more. It is about keeping Mallorca fun, accessible and family-focused." Sasson adds that the platform also helps maintain the island's identity.

"Mallorca has always been a warm, safe and joyful place for families. This initiative supports that. It encourages daytime activities, builds lasting holiday memories, and strengthens the reputation of the island as a place where families feel at home."

What's Included

Participating attractions currently include:

✪ Pirates Adventure, Magaluf

The long-established dinner show that is known for its acrobatics, staging and classic family atmosphere.

✪ Gringos Family Rave, Magaluf

An early evening interactive entertainment experience designed for parents and children to enjoy together.

✪ Katmandu Park, Calvià

A theme and adventure park offering rides,

splash zones, soft play and interactive experiences.

✪ Golf Fantasia, Palmanova

Three landscaped mini-golf courses surrounded by tropical gardens and waterfalls.

✪ Jungle Parc, Santa Ponsa

A treetop adventure park with circuits suitable for adults and children.

✪ Cormoran Bay Cruise, Southwest Coast

A coastal boat trip offering swimming stops, wild dolphins, and scenic routes.

✪ GOAT Bus Tour

A curated sightseeing experience exploring Mallorca's natural landscapes and inland culture.

Majorca Family Tickets offers families a clear, good-value way to enjoy several well-known attractions at **discounted rates** through a single tailored package, removing the need to browse options, compare costs, and book tickets separately.

The organisers say that additional attractions may join the platform in future.

A Win for Families, Hotels and Mallorca's Tourism Identity

Hotels and travel partners in resort areas are expected to offer the platform as part of guest packages, allowing them to give families a stronger reason to book and return. For Mallorca, the initiative supports the island's family tourism strategy: more daytime activity, more connection to place, and more opportunities for visitors to explore beyond hotel boundaries.

Making Holidays Feel Manageable Again

For many parents, the biggest benefit is the reassurance of knowing key activities are already organised and paid for before arrival. This reduces the pressure to make decisions on the spot and removes the feeling of being charged at every turn.

Majorca Family Tickets are now available to book online, with hotels beginning to offer the package directly to guests. For the attractions involved, and the holidaymakers who return year after year, the hope is simple: to help keep Mallorca the family holiday destination it has always been.

www.majorcafamilytickets.co.uk



MALLORCA EVENTS



June 7:
Dance of
the Eagles
and Sant
Joan Pelós. Pollensa.

Championships. Santa
Ponsa.

June 12-13:

Mallorca
Live
Festival. Magalluf.



June 23:
Nit de Foc,
Night of
Fire. Palma.

June 24: Dance of
Sant Joan Pelós,
Felanitx;
Sant Joan
Pelut, Sant
Llorenç.



June 21-27:
ATP 250
Mallorca

Music, fire and Hairy Johns

By Andrew Ede

The **Mallorca Live Festival** was first held at the end of April 2016. The venue was the Son Fusteret showground in Palma. The festival aspired to fill a notable gap in Mallorca's music scene. There was no truly international festival for pop, rock, indie and other genres in Mallorca; not one to attract really top acts. In order to meet this ambition, a different venue was sought. It was found in Magalluf, the site of the old Aquapark.

The festival is now well and truly established. It has proved to be an overwhelming success. Acts in 2025 included Iggy Pop, Massive Attack and Suede. There are different stages for artists from Spain, Europe, the States and beyond, while the site is put to greater use than just the festival. From mid-July to end-August, the **Es Jardí** (Garden) season also brings leading performers to Mallorca.



The night of fire

June is the month when the summer fiestas get into gear, the first being for Sant Joan, John the Baptist, whose feast day of June 24 ties in with rituals for the summer solstice. In Mallorca these can mean going to beaches on the eve of Sant Joan, though having small bonfires on beaches (linked to fertility rites) is now frowned upon.

But fire is never far away when the fiestas are under way, and **June 23 is the Nit de Foc**, Night of Fire in Palma. This is the second of the city's annual huge demons correfocs (plus assorted



Food of the month

Pop a la Mallorquina

As summer begins and the Mediterranean sparkles at its calmest, Mallorcan fishermen return with one of the island's most beloved catches: el pop, the octopus. Pop a la Mallorquina (Pop amb Ceba) is a slow-cooked dish that celebrates both sea and soil — tender octopus stewed with onion, tomato, potato, garlic and a touch of paprika until the flavours melt together. Born in humble coastal kitchens, this recipe is simple but deeply satisfying. The octopus is simmered first to soften, then cut into pieces and cooked slowly in olive oil with vegetables and local herbs. Some families add a splash of white wine or even a hint of sobrassada to enrich the sauce, creating a balance of sweetness, saltiness and spice. Served with patatós (small potatoes) or a thick slice of pa moreno, it's a dish that tastes like summer by the sea — rustic, warm, and full of Mediterranean character. Its colours — deep red, gold and coral — remind us of the island's landscape at sunset. Whether enjoyed at a seaside celler or cooked at home on a lazy Sunday, **Pop a la Mallorquina** reminds us that the best Mallorcan food doesn't need complexity, only patience, good produce and a little love.

By Mia Naprta



beasts of fire), the first being in January for Saint Sebastian.

Hairy Johns

There is a character in Mallorca known as **Sant Joan Pelós** (or Pelut). Based on John the Baptist, the translation can be taken to mean Hairy John. The hairiness refers to animal skin, but over time the popular image is of a long-haired John with a mask. This is how Sant Joan Pelós is in **Felanitx and Pollensa**. In **Sant Llorenç** he has a short back and sides and no mask.

The Felanitx John, who dances on June 24, has been declared a fiesta in the cultural interest, meaning that measures must be taken to preserve and indeed promote the tradition. There are only four Hairy Johns (Sant Joan has one as well), and they all share a common background of having developed from old processions for **Corpus Christi**.

In Pollensa, the John dances on the Sunday following Corpus Christi, which is when processions are held. He is accompanied by the Eagles, two young women with dresses containing jewels and figures of an eagle around their waists; these eagles also have their roots in Corpus Christi celebrations.



ATP Championship

Rather like there didn't used to be a major pop festival in Mallorca, so there also wasn't a top tennis tournament. There once was - it was on clay and ended in 2002 - but for the



Fairs and fiestas in **Lloseta** (shoes), **Biniali** (traditional games), **Puigpunyent**, **Sa Pobla** (potato gastronomy), **Santa Ponsa** (Andalusian), **Selva** (myrtle), **Arta**, **Porreres** (apricots); Sant Joan fiestas (June 24) in **Calvia**, **Deya**, **Mancor de la Vall**, **Muro**, **Portopetro**, **Sant Joan**, **Son Servera**; Sant Pere fiestas (June 29) in **Andratx**, **Buger**, **Colonia Sant Pere**, **Esportes**, **Puerto Alcudia**, **Puerto Pollensa**; Sant Marçal fiestas (June 30) in **Marratxí**.



island of Rafael Nadal and Carlos Moya, the lack of a tournament looked like an oversight. With Nadal's uncle Toni as director, the first **ATP 250 Mallorca Championship** was due to have been in 2020. Covid delayed this by a year.

In the short time since it has been going, the tournament, which is played on grass, has become an important pre-Wimbledon workout.



Average top
temperature



Average
minimum
temperature



Average daily
sunshine
10.5 hours

**JUNE
WEATHER IN
MALLORCA**

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SANT JORDI

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PUNTA REINA

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BLAU GRAN HOTEL
LAS CALDAS

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“D-Day for new entry exit scheme at Palma airport on November 19 - having the TIE card will make travel much easier for British residents”

The *Bulletin* talks to the British Ambassador to Spain Sir Alex Ellis.

By Humphrey Carter and Jason Moore

DURING an official visit to Mallorca to meet the President of the Balearics, Marga Prohens, the British Ambassador to Spain, Sir Alex Ellis, sat down to give the *Bulletin* a wide-ranging exclusive interview during which he was very keen to stress the newly “reset” close working political relationship between the United Kingdom and Spain. He considered the forthcoming changes for Britons travelling to Spain and other Schengen region countries in the European Union, in particular the EES entry and exit scheme, which is already being tested in Madrid but will be rolled out at Palma airport on November 19 after Menorca on November 4. He also showed a great deal of interest in the British tourist industry in Mallorca.

“The EES has started to be introduced in Spain but it will be rolled out over a period of six months. Madrid was the first airport to do it on October 12 and only for a limited number of passengers. So they are staggering it across Spain, Menorca is November 4 and Palma November 19; Ibiza has yet to set a date. I think that’s a good idea because we need to know how the world of this new technology is going to work.

18.4 million British tourists

“It’s an EU Schengen system. We’ve been talking to the Spanish authorities about how it’s going because there is a very big interest on the Spanish side that it’s made to work properly.

“The UK provided some 18.4 million visitors last year, so we’re talking to the various parts of the world which have a significant number of British visitors; the Balearics is one, the Canaries will be another. In fact, the Spanish have been ready to go for a while but it’s been delayed a couple of times. That’s not because of the Spanish, it’s been other countries which have not been ready.

“Everyone is tightening up their border controls where they can across the world, including the UK. But everyone has an interest in that all border controls flow efficiently; I think it’s a very good decision to stagger it,” Sir Alex said.

Advice for British travellers

With regard to his advice for the British coming to Spain he was quite clear.

“Have a good time. Allow for a little bit more time at border control because the first

time you come you will have to register two bits of biometric information, fingerprints and a retina scan. But once you are registered on the system then it should be relatively simpler; that first time may take a little longer,” he said.

“One of our main focuses here has been on British residents and if they have got their TIE (new ID card) because it’s very important that residents get their TIE. After Brexit the Spanish authorities said that your green certificate was ok, but the EU and the Schengen border code legislation bill require

“My advice to British residents is, if you have a TIE great, but if you don’t, make sure that you do by next April.”

“I’m using my meeting with the President of the Balearics to thank her, because we depend a lot on the great collaboration of the local authorities.”

the TIE in order to demonstrate that you are resident. Quite a lot of people have got them already, but many still haven’t.

“While there is no clear time frame with regard to the validity of the green certificate, I think there are different factors to take into account.

“This is about how you cross the Schengen border and the law requires you to have a TIE as proof of resident. My advice to British residents is, if you have a TIE great, but if you don’t, make sure that you do by next April when the whole system should be fully functioning. If you haven’t got one yet, make sure you can provide a proof of residence like you are on the padron or that you have an appointment pending for the TIE

card. Something you can show to the people who will be on border controls to establish your situation.

90-day rule

“It’s about passing the borders by showing that you are resident, and with a TIE you will be exempt from some of the requirements, so it is going to make life much easier if you have one. That’s probably my main message to your readers and British expatriates across Spain,” he stressed.

“I know the 90-day issue is also a concern for some Britons but that is an EU rule and I doubt very much that it will change. What is interesting is that even if you are a resident here in Spain and you’ve got your TIE and you’re going to another part of the Schengen area, you still have residential requirements. If you go to say Germany, you’re not supposed to stay more than 90 days - that’s up to the relevant country to check - but imagine you’re resident here, live in Mallorca, you go to Germany, you still have to respect the 90-day rule, residency rights in Spain or not. I see no evidence that the 90-day rule will be scrapped.

“There was an EU reset in May when we had the first EU summit since the UK left the EU, but I don’t see the EU changing the 90-day rule. The focus has been more on easing the movement of goods,” Sir Alex said.

“On freedom of movement the government has been very clear; I can’t see any major change on that either. What the reset is trying to do is improve the economic relationship between the two countries.

“There are some areas where there is a negotiation going on, such as Erasmus, students studying abroad in the EU and vice versa and a youth mobility experience. The latter will be negotiated between the EU and the UK. The UK does have agreements governing young workers overseas with some countries, but the numbers are capped at small numbers; there will not be a return to the freedom of movement. There will be negotiations on certain areas such as student or youth mobility, but they will be specific rather than overall. So will we see a return of seasonal workers you ask? Highly unlikely,” he said.

Dawn of a new era post-Brexit

The recent meeting between the Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Sir Keir Starmer at Number 10 in September, at which Sir Alex was present, marked the dawn of a new era between the two coun-

tries.

“It was fantastic. When I arrived here in Spain just over a year ago, I was really struck by the huge economic relationship between the two countries. We are top

The British Ambassador to Spain Sir Alex Ellis in Palma.
Photo: Joan Llado



ten partners with each other in trade and investment, of which tourism is a pretty important part of the economic relationship, but we didn't have a political relationship, certainly not like we did before. I think that was partly because of Brexit, the negotiations over Gibraltar which took a long time. So Pedro Sánchez going to Number 10, that was the first time in seven years that the two prime ministers had seen each other in a proper meeting either in Madrid or London, and that's quite surprising considering the flow of people and business between the two countries is enormous. And culturally we're very close as well. So it was a big deal. The two prime ministers head centre-left governments, so there's a strong political understanding, there's no doubt about that. They get on well and we've already had a lot of follow-up meetings in Madrid and London.

low-up meetings in Madrid and London.

"They signed a kind of reset. This was a turning of the page since Brexit. We're now on to a new era, a different world obviously with what's going on with Russia and Ukraine,



an obviously very different type of American administration. We need to be getting closer together - two big developed European economies - we need to be closer. So I hope that the meeting set the path and that reset document they signed gives us a work plan for the next few years," Sir Alex explained.

Closer to home in the Balearics, there are no major changes on the table for the consular service. "Clearly, what the consular staff do is adapt to constant changes of consular cases and the change over time - so they're pretty busy. What is interesting about consular work is, because you are dealing with so many people coming through, you see the changes in tendencies and what's up and down. As we were talking about before, British tourism here remains very very strong, spending is strong, the season is getting longer - which is the objective of the local government.

"We have very good relations with the local authorities and that's really important. In the end, in order to do our jobs we have to talk to the local police, local political authorities and that is vital, hence why I'm meeting the Balearic president again because that is a very important relationship to us. I'll meet her every time I'm here.

That said, the reset between the two countries has not particularly altered the focus or priorities of the Foreign Office in Spain.

"Some priorities will always be there. The consular work evolves and changes, but that was big when I was here some 24 years ago and always has and will be. In fact it's probably even more important now because of the much larger number of Britons we're dealing with.

"There's the business and trade relationship, but that's always been very strong. What you do have is a shift in focus sometimes, for example defence.

"Defence is becoming a big thing all over Europe. With Novantia, the Spanish state shipping company, buying Harland & Wolff British shipyards last year, you have quite a lot more activity on defence than you did before.

"Another big area is energy transition. We are big investors in each other's energy

The Director General for Institutional Relations and Relations with Parliament, Francesca Ramis; the British Ambassador, Alex Ellis; the Balearic President, Margalida Prohens; the British Consul and Head of Consular Services in Spain, Lucy Gorman; and the British Vice-Consul for the Balearics, Randy Valbuena.

“This was a turning of the page since Brexit. Two big developed European economies – we need to be closer.”

“British tourism here remains very very strong, spending is strong, the season is getting longer – which is the objective of the local government.”

transition. BP has always been big in Spain while Iberdrola is putting a lot of money into the UK. And then there are the technology companies.

"Both countries have innovative companies investing a lot in each other. It's relatively straightforward, you can easily hire transit people in both countries. There are a lot of good people in Spain, lots of talent and that is attractive for UK companies. The financial sector is very strong too.

Spanish working in the UK

"So, the British market likes Spain, it's

easy for them to attract this great pool of talent. I was talking to three tech companies this week and they are investing in the UK because it's a very competitive market, they have very good products and you can still go global from the UK while raising a lot of money.

"And when you look at the number of Spaniards working in the UK, it's very interesting. I think the numbers are on a par and that's a big change from when I was here before.

450,000 Spaniards in UK

"Studying and working, we think there are roughly some 450,000 Spaniards in the UK. I thought in the new world after Brexit, the figures would not have been so high. Yes, student numbers heading to the UK have dropped but less from Spain than some other countries in the European Union.

"There's still a great deal of interest in studying in the UK. For example, I think La Caixa had the biggest private student sponsorship than any other company in Spain. They cover the full costs for about 100 students who get to choose their university and more Spanish students choose the UK than any other country in the world. That shows the UK is very attractive for an aspirational young Spaniard, which is something we're obviously very keen to keep.

"I've met many business people who studied in the UK, returned to Spain to start their businesses and then looked to the UK to expand, which is very encouraging," Sir Alex added.

"So, I'm using my meeting with the President of the Balearics to thank her, because we depend a lot on the great collaboration of the local authorities. For example, they've set up, or are setting up, rape and sexual violence centres in Mallorca and Menorca - that kind of thing is really helpful to us. Secondly to hear what her vision is over the next few years in terms of Balearic tourism and where she wants to get it to.

"Brits like coming back, they are quite consistent tourists I would say. So thanks and how can we work together to ensure that support we provide is useful and helps to underpin what is really important to the Mallorcan economy," Sir Alex said.

MALLORCA EVENTS



°31

Average top temperature



°21

Average minimum temperature



Average daily sunshine 11 hours

JULY
WEATHER IN
MALLORCA

By Andrew Ede

The high summer, and Mallorca is outdoors, celebrating fiesta after fiesta after fiesta. Standing out among all the colour, the music and the dance are the fiestas for **Our Lady of Carmel** (Mare de Déu del Carme) and Saint James - Sant Jaume in Catalan but known throughout Spain as Santiago, one of the two national saints. The respective dates are July 16 and 25.

Our Lady of Carmel is the patron of seafarers and of the Spanish Navy. The navy's hymn goes: "Hail, the star of the seas. Of the iris seas, of eternal bliss. Hail, O Phoenix of beauty. Mother of Divine love." The Star of the Sea, Estrella del Mar, she was the Carmelite Order's Stella Maris, her feast day owing everything to an English saint, Simon Stock. On July 16, 1251, he supposedly had a vision of the Virgin Mary holding a scapular (originally a monk's apron). This came to be the Brown Scapular, the Scapular of Our Lady of Carmel.

Like the fiestas at the end of June for Sant Pere, Saint Peter the Fisherman, Our Lady of Carmel is marked by **flo-tillas with an image on the lead boat** - in this instance the Virgin Mary. The fiestas are mostly in coastal places. In Puerto Pollensa, the images of both the Virgin and Saint Peter are carried, the celebrations in Puerto Pollensa climaxing with one of the longer correfocs and then fireworks.



Sant Jaume fiestas

Nowhere does **Sant Jaume on more lavish a scale than Manacor**. 'Knights' on horseback carry and deliver the standard of Saint James, and there is the 'race of the ring' for

horses along the Via Verde (Green Way). The 'encamisada' procession is one of the great fiesta occasions; there are horses and there is also what is like a pantomime horse, the '**mulassa**' mule. In **Al-**



gaida, meanwhile, the **cossier dancers** perform, as they have for centuries. It is debatable whether they are the oldest cossiers. Montuiri, where the dancers appear for **Saint Bartholomew** in August, also lays a claim. The origins, with many a fiesta tradition, lie with the mediaeval Corpus Christi processions.

More music

The Mallorca Live Festival in June is the island's biggest music event, but there are any number of other festivals. One is the **Deya International Music Festival**. It runs from July until the end of September (it is possible there will also be concerts in late June). Attracting leading musicians from all over the world, the main venue is the Son Marroig estate in Deya, where the mirador viewpoint gives a spectacular view of the sea and of the Sa Foradada peninsula, the rock formation with a hole in it. The first concert for the **Sa Pobla Jazz Festival** is usually right at the end of July. 2026 will



open arms, especially at beachside chiringuitos. Locally, you'll also find **Ajoblanco Mallorquin**, a pale cousin made from almonds, garlic and bread, blended with cold water into a silky, nutty emulsion. Drizzled with olive oil and served with grapes or melon, it's simple, sophisticated, and utterly cooling. These chilled soups remind us that simplicity is the true luxury of Mediterranean summer - nourishment without effort, freshness without fire

By Mia Naprta

Food of the month
Gazpacho Andaluz / Ajoblanco Mallorquin
● When temperatures soar, even cooking feels excessive. Enter **Gazpacho Andaluz**, Spain's most iconic cold soup - tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil and vinegar blended into a refreshing liquid salad. While its roots are Andalusian, Mallorca embraces it with



JULY 2026						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Our Lady of Carmel Fiestas: Cala Bona, Cala Figuera, Cala Ratjada, Es Capdellà, Porto

Cristo, Puerto Andratx, Puerto Pollensa, Sa Rapita.
Sant Jaume Fiestas: Alcudia, Algaida, Binissalem, Calvia, Manacor, Portocolom, Sa Pobla, Santanyi.n Fair)

Other fiestas include: **Arenal** (Christopher, July 10); **Inca** (Abdon and Senen, July 30); **Petra** (Praxedis, July 21); **Sa Pobla, Santa Maria** and **Santa Margalida** (Margalida, July 20); **Valldemossa** and **Vilafranca** (La Beata, the Mallorcan saint Catalina Thomàs, July 28).

Fiestas of Sea & Sun

be its 32nd year, outstanding names from the world of jazz who have performed in the past including Kenny Garrett and McCoy Tyner. At the mediaeval **Bellver Castle** in Palma, the Balearic Symphony Orchestra holds a season of concerts. The orchestra, which is active throughout the year, is an institution in which Mallorca takes great pride, its reputation for attracting the very finest soloists having grown over the years; the concerts at the castle are testament to this.



Port Adriano has a festival of usually four concerts that kicks off towards the end of the month. Acts in 2025 included Bonnie Tyler. **'Sons de Nit'** (Sounds of the Night) is an ongoing season over the summer with concerts at various locations. Suzanne Vega and Rufus Wainwright have been among artists in previous years.

King's Regatta

Also at the very end of July, the **Copa del Rey Mafre Regatta** gets underway. Based at the Real Club Náutico de Palma, the regatta always has one very famous participant - King Felipe. Around the time of the regatta, the Royal Family spend their summer holidays in Mallorca; they stay at the Marivent Palace in Palma.



MY FAVOURITE EVENT ON THE ISLAND
BY FRANK LEAVERS

● When asked to pick my favourite Mallorca event by the Bulletin, the one event I enjoy(ed) above all others was Nit d'Art held every July in the village of S'Arracco, just to the west of Andratx Town. Art and street artists of all description, enlivened the whole village throughout the day and into the night. It was all I loved about Mallorca in terms of art, fun, and community in one small village.





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Pirates Adventure: Mallorca's Most *Legendary* Night Out

By Vicki McLeod



For almost four decades, Pirates Adventure has held the crown as Mallorca's most popular evening attraction: a spectacle of acrobatics, music, comedy and high-energy performance that continues to captivate audiences year after year.

Since it first opened its doors in 1986, this immersive dinner show in Magalluf has welcomed more than four million visitors, earning a reputation as a must-see experience for families, couples and groups visiting the island.

A night of adventure and awe

The moment you arrive at the purpose-built theatre, the story begins. Outside, performers in full pirate costume mingle with guests, setting the tone for what's to come. Inside, a tower-

ing 12-metre galleon stage rises before the audience – a detailed recreation of a pirate ship that becomes the setting for an epic battle of good versus evil.

From the first crash of swords to the bursts of flame and the gravity-defying aerial stunts, it's clear why this production has stood the test of time. The show blends world-class acrobatics, dance, comedy and live action to create an immersive experience that appeals to every age group.

Audiences are drawn into the storyline, cheering on the heroes as they take on the villains in a fast-paced, heart-pounding adventure on the high seas.

Guests enjoy a three-course dinner served before the show begins, a hearty meal of roast chicken, chips and soft drinks, with vegetarian and vegan options available on request. Then, the lights dim, the drums roll, and the pirates take the stage.

Whether you're watching from the Main Deck, Captain's Tables or the premium VVIP section, the sense of excitement is the same.

The

While the classic family show remains its flagship, the creative team behind it, led by Catherine Sasson, the daughter of Jacques Sasson, the show's original founder, have expanded their vision to include new experiences that capture the same spirit of fun, but with a modern twist.

One of the most exciting additions is the Gringos Family Rave, a high-energy early-evening event designed for both parents and kids to enjoy together.

For too

long, parents have had to give up their party days; Gringos changes that. Created by the Pirates Adventure team, this unique concept brings the energy of a bingo

rave into a family-friendly setting. Expect glow sticks, lasers, dance-offs and party games, all mixed with upbeat tunes that get everyone moving. It's playful, inclusive and designed to give families a shared night of music and laughter.

The event takes place in the same Magalluf venue, transforming it into a vibrant, sensory playground. There's even a meal included plus plenty of prizes to be won. The result is an at-

mosphere that feels as wild as a festival yet as safe and welcoming as a family night out.

venue's clever design means every seat is close to the action, and the cast's energy is infectious.

A Mallorca icon that keeps evolving

Pirates Adventure has never stood still.

A trusted name in family entertainment

After nearly 40 years of sold-out shows, Pirates Adventure has become part of Mallorca's cultural fabric. Generations of families return year after year, often bringing their children to see the show they remember from their own holidays.

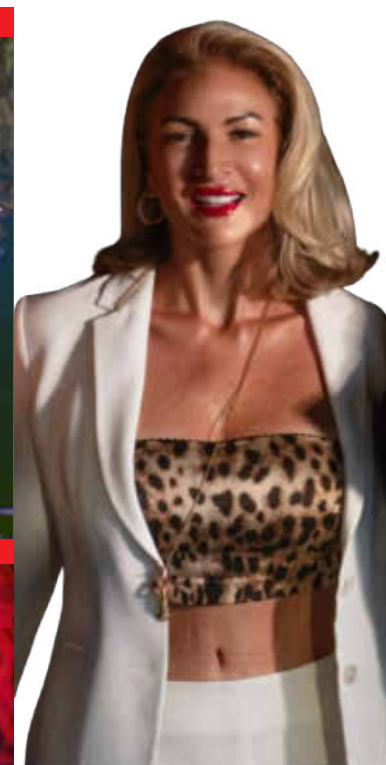
That reputation for quality has also led to the creation of Majorca Family Tickets, a brand-new online platform launched by the Pirates' team to make it easier for families to plan their holidays. The site brings to-



Pirates Adventure Show
Cami Sa Porrassa 12, Magaluf
www.piratesadventure.com

Gringos Family Rave
www.gringosfamilyrave.com

Majorca Family Tickets
majorcafamilytickets.co.uk



Catherine Sasson, owner of Pirates.

gether some of the island's top-rated attractions into one simple booking portal, offering package deals that combine theme parks, boat trips, shows and outdoor adventures, all curated to ensure value, quality and fun.

It's the same philosophy that made Pirates Adventure so beloved: memorable experiences that everyone in the family can enjoy together, delivered with exceptional organisation and hospitality.

Keeping the magic alive

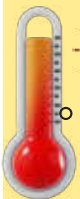
What sets Pirates Adventure apart is its ability to evolve while staying true to its original heart. The show still celebrates timeless themes: courage, loyalty, and the thrill of discovery, but it now sits at the centre of a wider world of family entertainment that continues to grow.

As Mallorca prepares for another busy season, the team behind Pirates Adventure are once again ready to welcome audiences from across the world. Their goal remains simple: to give every guest a night they'll never forget.

For some, it's the spectacle, the acrobats flipping through the air, the fire bursts, the choreography, the roar of the crowd. For others, it's the nostalgia: returning to a place that has been part of their family holidays for decades. Whatever the reason, Pirates Adventure offers an escape from the ordinary; a reminder that joy, laughter and a touch of magic are timeless.

So, whether you're looking for a thrilling night out, a family-friendly event that keeps everyone entertained, or simply an experience that captures the spirit of Mallorca, there's a seat waiting for you aboard the Hispaniola.

MALLORCA EVENTS



°34

Average top temperature



°23

Average minimum temperature



Average daily sunshine 10 hours

AUGUST WEATHER IN MALLORCA

AUGUST 2026						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5		7	8	9
	11	12	13	14		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27		29	30
31						

Pirates, saints & summer heat

By Andrew Ede

They refer to “*Mare de Déu dels Àngels, assistiu-nos. Pollencins, alçau-vos. Els pirates són aquí.*” (*Mother of God of the Angels, help us. People of Pollensa, get up. The pirates are here.*)” The words of the Pollensa hero, Joan Mas. Supposedly spoken on the night of May 30, 1550, they are now uttered on the second of August as Pollensa’s La Patrona Fiestas prepare for battle. The **Moors and Christians reenact-**

ment in Pollensa doesn’t have the scope of Soller’s in May in that there is no action in the port. It also doesn’t last as long, but it doesn’t lack for spectacular, as Joan Mas encounters the pirate commander, Dragut, before all hell is let loose in the narrow streets before concluding in the wider open space of the one-time football ground, Can Escarrintxo. The clash isn’t as long as Soller’s, but the day itself is much longer, starting as it does with



the Alborada dawn wake-up by the band of music at 5am.

Sant Roc and Sant Bartomeu

Sant Elm also has a Moors and Christians fight, a far more low-key event as part of its fiestas, the month of August being characterised by major celebrations for Sant Roc (August 16), Sant Bartomeu (Bartholomew the Apostle, August 24) and the Mare de Déu d’Agost (the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, August 15). The latter of these mark something of a climax to the entire summer at a time when there are usually more people in Mallorca than at any other time of the year. August 15 is a public holiday, and the fiestas are the excuse for some of the craziest of events.

The Mucada

The neo-fiesta, a fiesta within a fiesta, is a relatively new phenomenon. Initiated by young people in different municipalities, it typically involves a fight of some sort. In Sencelles, for instance, two giant bales of straw and a load of water are the ammo. The most popular of the lot is Sineu’s ‘**Mucada**’. Based on the tale of a mythical bull-like demon - the Muc or Much - who lives on a nearby hill, this is an all-day event of processions and general partying that attracts people from across the island.

Can Picafort’s duck release is another very popular event. Until 2007 there were

real ducks for people to catch. They are now rubber ducks. Catch the right duck and there’s a prize. Young and old dive into the sea or take a lilo or boat in picking up their ducks. Colonia Sant Jordi and Son Serra de Marina also have duck releases, but Can Picafort’s was the original; it dates back to the 1930s.



A lesser-known saint is **Candida**, one of Llucmajor’s patrons. The feast day is the eleventh, when there are dances by the cavallet cotoners, arguably the oldest of all Mallorca’s folk dance troupes. They date back to the mid-fifteenth century, having been imported from Barcelona. All children, they wear horse figures around their waists.

Back in Pollensa, and once they’ve cleaned up after the Moors and Christians, it is time for the **Pollensa Festival** to start. Founded in 1962 by British violinist Philip Newman, this is unquestionably one of the island’s premier festivals, all the concerts being held in the cloister of the Sant Domingo Convent and boasting major international musicians. Pianist Sir András Schiff was one of these musicians in 2025.

Pollensa’s isn’t the oldest festival. This honour goes to the **Chopin Festival in Valldemossa**, the first having been in 1930, almost one hundred years after Chopin and George Sand famously wintered at the Charterhouse in Valldemossa. A much newer one, over three days in the middle of the month, is at a one-time military fortress. This is the **Cap Rocat luxury hotel** in Llucmajor.

Other fiestas include: **Arta** (Salvador, August 6); **Felanitx** (Augustine, August 28); **Palmanova, Sant Llorenç, Selva** (Lawrence, August 10).



Mare de Déu d’Agost Fiestas:

Caimari, Cala d’Or, Campos, Can Picafort, Puigpunyent (also Sant Roc), Sencelles, Sineu.

Sant Roc Fiestas: Alaro, Cala Ratjada, Porreres.

Sant Bartomeu Fiestas: Capdepera, Consell, Montuiri, Ses Salines, Soller, Valldemossa.

Other fiestas include: Arta (Salvador, August 6); Felanitx (Augustine, August 28); Palmanova, Sant Llorenç, Selva (Lawrence, August 10).

Food of the month

Berenjenas Rellenas a la Mallorquina

● By August, aubergines are at their peak — glossy, firm, and begging to be stuffed. Berenjenas Rellenas a la Mallorquina is a beloved family dish found in every village. The halved aubergines are hollowed out, their flesh sautéed with onion, tomato, garlic, and minced meat (usually pork or beef), then refilled and baked until tender. Some recipes add a hint of cinnamon or a

sprinkle of breadcrumbs for texture. The result is rustic yet elegant, with sweet tomato and savoury filling balanced perfectly. It’s a dish that brings families together at long summer tables, eaten warm or at room temperature with a glass of chilled rosé. In many ways, it’s the embodiment of Mallorcan hospitality — generous, homey, and full of flavour.

By Mia Naprta





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MALLORCA EVENTS



29

Average top temperature



20

Average minimum temperature



Average daily sunshine 7.5 hours

SEPTEMBER WEATHER IN MALLORCA

Saints, Grapes & Broken Pots

By Andrew Ede

Mallorca's "most typical procession". This is how the procession for **La Beata in Santa Margalida** is described. One might argue that it is in fact the least typical procession. There is nothing else like it and it is fabulous.

La Beata, **Saint Catalina Thomàs**, was born in Valldemossa in 1531 and died in Palma in 1574. She was beatified in 1792 and canonised in 1930. Her association with Santa Margalida was precisely zero, but it was Santa Margalida that came to honour her more than either Valldemossa or Palma. One of the parts of the island that celebrated the beatification, Santa Margalida kept this going, grafting on the story of how the saint as a girl encountered an envious demon who snatched a jar of food she was taking to some poor harvesters. The demon smashed the jar and buried it, only for Catalina to retrieve the food, which turned out to be even tastier than prior to the demon's intervention.

This is why there is nowadays a great deal of **pot-smashing**. Around 150 demons take part. The whole of Santa Margalida seems to turn out. Various dignitaries (politicians, for the most part) are in attendance. Couples (some with children) in traditional dress are part of the procession. And above all, there are the demons smashing their pots in front of a defiant La Beata. An extraordinary event. It always takes place on the first Sunday in September.



Rei en Jaumes fiestas

The Moors and Christians of Pollensa and Soller recall a time when there

were regular raids by Ottoman pirates. In **Santa Ponsa**, the roles were reversed. It was the Christians who were attacking. The forces of King Jaume I of Aragon arrived in Santa Ponsa on September 10, 1229. Their mission was the conquest of Mallorca.

The **fiestas for Rei en Jaume** (King James) are the grandest in Calvia. In their current form, they are relatively recent - some thirty years old - but a highly traditional feel has been created by introducing certain rituals, such as the delivery of the standards. And they are of course an excuse for a fine old party over several days.



Underwear race and grapetreading

Otherwise in September, the main fiestas are for the birth of the **Virgin Mary** (September 8). These fiestas have different names depending on where they are held. In Palma they are **Mare de Déu de la Salut**, literally Mother of God of Health, who is the city's second but minor patron. In 2025, the town hall decided to give the fiestas greater emphasis - there had been no events of note for years - and this was in the form of a huge music event with DJs in the Parc de la Mar by the Cathedral. Something similar can anticipated in 2026.

One certainly can't overlook the bizarre goings-on for **Sant Mateu** (Matthew) in



Bunyola around September 21. The winning isn't what matters, it's the taking part and, most importantly, the dressing up in nothing more than underwear. Yes, Bunyola's neo-fiesta is an underwear race. More in keeping with the battle theme of the neo-fiesta, in Binissalem they head off to the sports ground in

order to hurl grapes and smother one another with juice.

This is for the **Vermar grape harvest fiestas**, which have come a long way from their mid-sixties origin of a gathering of wine enthusiasts, one of whom was celebrated Mallorcan author, poet and playwright, Llorenç Moyà. A grape-treading contest is another feature of the fiestas, the must from this providing the offer to Santa Maria de Robines by vermadors and vermadores, young people of Binissalem in traditional dress. This offer is on the final day, the last Sunday of the month, when there is also an extremely popular wine fair.



Autumn fairs

September sees the return of the fairs. Arta's is the first, and the main one is in Llucmajor at the end of the month to coincide with Michaelmas, September 29, the feast day of the Archangel Michael (**Sant Miquel**). Llucmajor has four fairs, and they continue into October.

Nit de l'Art and seafood

Art and the performing arts are features of September. **Art Palma Contemporani** is the association of contemporary art galleries in Palma. Founded in 2004, it seeks to boost the city's cultural life through the work of artists. The association is the organiser of Palma's Night of Art, Nit de l'Art, which has been going longer than the association. A pioneering event in Spain, 2026 will mark the 30th anniversary. Numerous galleries and cultural centres take part in the exhibitions. The date has yet to be



officially announced but will probably be Saturday, September 19. Santa Eugenia and

Food of the month



Pa amb Raïm i Formatge

As grape harvest begins, Mallorca celebrates **pa amb raïm i formatge** — bread with grapes and cheese — a simple yet poetic combination that captures the transition from summer to autumn. The sweetness of ripe grapes pairs beautifully with salty local cheeses like mahonés or formatge de cabra. Traditionally enjoyed during the verema (harvest season), it's less a recipe than a ritual: workers snacking in the vineyards, children picking grapes straight from the vine, families sharing rustic picnics. Today it appears as an elegant starter in restaurants or as a light lunch at home. Proof that Mallorcan cuisine doesn't need complexity to shine — just good ingredients and good timing.

By Mia Naprta

Sineu both have weekends for the performing arts, while other cultural events include gastronomy. The largest gastronomy event of the lot is **Maris Galícia**. Devoted to Galician seafood, it is over three weeks in Palma. Sa Pobla has meanwhile launched another gastronomy event in addition to its potatoes and rice at other times of the year. This is for hot peppers.



On the music front, **Alcudia has a jazz festival** during September and Puerto Soller has a weekend of havaneres folk songs plus the first concert for its classical music festival. In Pollensa there is another festival, which each year acts as a tribute to specific composers; Ravel in 2025.

Mallorca's patron

September 12 is Mallorca Day. The first was in 1997, the date having been changed for a brief while to December 31. In 1276, King Jaume II's coronation was on September 12. On that day his father's will was confirmed. King Jaume I had drawn up what was in effect a Magna Carta for Mallorca, and the independent Kingdom of Mallorca was also verified. On Mallorca Day (and days leading up to and after it), there are various events and activities - concerts, guided tours, giants procession, artisan market and more. These are mainly in Palma. September 12 is also the feast day for Our Lady of Lluc, Mallorca's patron.

SEPTEMBER 2026						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Mare de Déu de la Salut Fiestas:
Banyalbufar, Costitx, Fornalutx, Lloseta, Maria de la Salut, Palma.

Other fiestas include the **Cala Millor Tourist Fiestas** to tie in with World Tourism Day, September 27.

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MALLORCA EVENTS



°26
Average top temperature

°18
Average minimum temperature

Average daily sunshine 6.5 hours

OCTOBER WEATHER IN MALLORCA

OCTOBER 2026						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

By Andrew Ede

In 1543, two council men from Lluçmajor went to the court of the Holy Roman Emperor Carlos V (and King Carlos I of Castile and Aragon) when the court happened to be in Barcelona. Their task was to petition the emperor/king to grant **Lluçmajor** privileges for a weekly market and fairs, just like those that Inca and Sineu had enjoyed for many a year. At mention of the island, Carlos had “a beautiful memory” of that place. He decreed the holding of a weekly market and fairs each year between the feasts of Saint Michael and Saint Luke - in perpetuity. He wanted the “fairs of King Carlos” in Lluçmajor to be like no other in the Kingdom of Mallorca.

Inca and Sineu filed a lawsuit against this decree. They lost. In 1546



the first fair was held, and Lluçmajor has been reminding them ever since; well, sort of.

This was how **Lluçmajor came to have four fairs** to rival

those of Inca, which had to be after Saint Luke (October 18). Today the two towns have the grandest of the island's fairs, a rural Mallorca not overlooked in the numerous other attractions and themes on offer. Sport, leisure, technology, Harry Potter, art, gastronomy, wine, music, circus, cars, mediaeval market. All the fun of the fairs, mirrored by other autumn fairs in October, such as that of **Alcudia** at the start of the month, or ones with particular themes. **Esporles**, also in early October, specialises in sweet products - chocolates, pastries, cakes. Small wonder it's as popular as it is.

The autumn fairs

Alaro, Algaida, Bugar, Campos, Consell, Felanitx ('pebre bord', the Mallorcan paprika variety), Lluç, Petra, Porreres, Puerto

Andratx, Santanyi. They all have fairs, as does Cala Ratjada. This is a gastronomy fair that is dedicated to a prize local catch - the 'llampuga' or dolphinfish. The **Fresh Fish Weekend** in Cala Ratjada is a standout in the October calendar. In Sant Joan, the food is barbecued and it is the

Food of the month Frito Mallorquin

Few dishes are as quintessentially Mallorcan as Frito Mallorquin, and October — the season of *matances* (pig slaughter) — is when it truly shines. This hearty sauté of liver, potatoes, onions, red peppers, fennel, and peas is traditionally made with the freshest pork from the *matanza*, though versions with lamb or seafood also exist. Cooked in plenty of olive oil, the flavours mingle into a symphony of rustic intensity — rich yet somehow light. It's one of the island's oldest recipes, dating back to the 14th century, and still a favourite at local fairs. Served hot or at room temperature, it's a dish of celebration and gratitude — a reminder of Mallorca's deep respect for its ingredients and traditions.

By Mia Naprta



October 1-4:
Magalluf Expanded Literature Festival. (To be confirmed.)

Peguera Mallorca. (TBC.)



October 13-18:

International Masters Cycling Week. (TBC.)



October 15-17: Challenge



October 18:
TUI Marathon. Palma.

October 29-November 1:

Rolex Challenge Tour Grand Final. Alcanada. (TBC.)



Fairs, flavours & festivals

botifarró sausage, the event having originally been started by a local group of motorcycling enthusiasts in the 1960s.

Food and beer



The gastronomy theme is explored more deeply in Calvia, where **La Mostra Calvia** features special menus prepared by numerous restaurants in different

parts of the municipality; Calvia usually does this twice a year - once in spring, once in autumn. And for beer lovers, Calvia serves up an **Oktoberfest** at the El Molino showground in Santa Ponsa.

Sports month

Art nights are flourishing in Mallorca. Following the trend set by Palma, Porreres, Sa Pobla, Santanyi and Ses Salines are four places with art events in October, a month also notable for major sporting events. The **TUI Marathon in Palma** will be on October 18 in 2026. The **International Masters Cycling Week**, five races in all, is in the middle of the month and concludes with the European Masters Cup, which was based in Puerto Pollensa this year. The **Challenge Peguera Mallorca** triathlon is also in mid-October, while the Rolex Challenge Tour Grand Final for men golfers seeking cards for the main European Tour is at the Alcanada Golf Club in Alcudia at the end of the month.



Literature in Magalluf

“A weekend full of experiences linked to literature, books, art and music, which will challenge



the limits of the usual spaces destined for culture. All this in a place as unusual as it is necessary - Magalluf. We believe in culture as an engine of change, of transformation, and we want to expand it beyond its limits.”

This is a description of the **Magalluf Expanded Literature Festival**. First held in 2021, authors who have taken part in discussions and interviews include Italian-American novelist André Aciman, the author of 'Trainspotting', Irvine Welsh, and Helen Fielding of Bridget Jones fame.

Jazz Festival

The **Jazz Voyeur Festival** will be into its 19th edition in 2026. At venues in Palma, it usually starts in October and can run up to December.

An international festival, previous editions have attracted major names such as guitarist Al Di Meola.



Moors, Christians and Beatas

There aren't fiestas as such in October, but there are two events that are of a fiestas character. On the first Saturday of the month, **Valldemossa** holds its version of the Moors and Christians. Similar to Pollensa and Soller in that this remembers a raid in the sixteenth century (October 1, 1552), the reenactment is far more recent; the first was in 2014. Ramon Gual was the hero along with 36 men who saw off 400 raiders.

One of the people killed in the raid was Aina Creus, the grandmother of Saint Catalina Thomas. For **La Beata**, there is a celebration in Palma in mid-October. Like Valldemossa's fiestas at the end of July, this is more accurately **'La Beata'**, the saint as a young girl on a triumphal carriage accompanied by angels - all small children. Utterly charming.



MALLORCA EVENTS



°18

Average top temperature



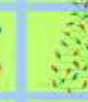
°12

Average minimum temperature



Average daily sunshine 5.5 hours

NOVEMBER WEATHER IN MALLORCA

NOVEMBER 2026						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						
2	3	TaPalma	TaPalma	TaPalma	TaPalma	TaPalma
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19			22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Good Thursday & autumn's bounty

By Andrew Ede

There are different interpretations of the 'bo' in **Dijous Bo**. Good Thursday is the standard meaning, but others aren't a single word. They are explanations for the amount of trade once carried out or descriptions of the size and scale of the fair, this latter one being justified in the present day. The last of the Inca fairs, it is the largest of all Mallorca's fairs, a day out for the islanders. **Dijous Bo** is a massive social occasion.

The first documented reference to Dijous Bo comes from

1807, but

it is much older. How old is open to debate, but the fact that it is a Thursday does appear to stem from the establishment of the Thursday market in the 13th century. In mid-November its date is determined by the feast of Saint Luke (October 18), while a further reason for it being a Thursday is that the fourth Sunday after Luke is reserved for one of the few November fiestas - Santa Maria la Major, when Inca rivals Palma for a huge correfoc of demons.

All Saints

The month starts with **All Saints**, a time for visiting the cemeteries and laying flowers. Mallorca's



Food of the month Crema de calabaza

November belongs to the pumpkin — and few things feel more comforting than a bowl of crema de carabassa. Sweet, velvety, and gently spiced, it's Mallorca's way of embracing autumn's first chill. The local carabassa is roasted or simmered with onion, potato, and a touch of nutmeg, then blended into a smooth purée. Some add cream or orange zest; others prefer a drizzle of olive oil and toasted seeds. The result is both elegant and earthy, bridging the gap between the island's summer produce and its winter heartiness. In restaurants and homes alike, crema de carabassa marks the quiet joy of the season — warmth, colour, and the promise of slower days ahead.

By Mia Naprta

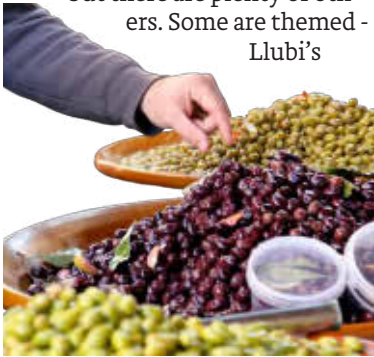


festivities for Allhallowtide have been influenced by foreign customs but they have also retained traditions, such as with food - bunyol dough-nuts, rosaries of sweets, **'panetets de mort'** that over the years have been developed for a sweet tooth.



Medieval Mallorca and fairs

The **mediaeval market** of Inca's third fair pulls in people in just the same way as Dijous Bo. Hugely popular, it helps to place Inca at the top of the fairs' league, but there are plenty of others. Some are themed - Llubí's



honey fair, **Muro's pumpkin fair**, Caimari's olives fair. They reckon that **Caimari's olive oil** is the best there is, but then 'they' are from Caimari.

Pollensa's artisan fair has pushed leading-edge artisan design to the fore, while Pollensa maintains the fair's roots (18th century) with attractions like the local lamb, for which Pollensa is celebrated. Sa Pobla's long association with **rice-growing** is highlighted at its fair, the municipality's rice production more recently linked with the 'bomba' rice for dishes such as 'arròs brut'. In **Mancor de la Vall** there are **mushrooms**, the 'esclata-sang' most obviously (the bloody milk cap).



Wine and tapas

In Santa Maria del Camí, part of the **Binissalem DO for wine**, there is a fair for the year's nouveau. And gastronomy is most definitely to the fore in Palma, where the **21st Ta-Palma** is this year and is from November 5 to 9. A competition for the best tapas at the city's Palacio de Congresos is the prelude to four days of tapas routes - 50 or so bars and restaurants with high-quality tapas at very economical prices.



Market for music

The **Alternatilla Jazz Festival** gets under way. This festival has venues across the island as well as in Palma and each year has an invited country; it continues into the first week of December. Music of various styles is on offer early in the month at **Palma's Fira B**. Described as "the professional market for music and the performing arts in the Balearics", music is in November and the performing arts in October. The concerts range from pop and rock to jazz, folk, classical, world and electronica. Many are free, others have a nominal price, and they showcase talent from overseas and Mallorca. An indispensable way to get to know about the island's contemporary music scene.



Christmas spirit

And November of course means that Christmas is coming. The lights will go on in Palma towards the end of the month - an occasion always accompanied by the spectacular - and the **Christmas market** will open with stalls in various parts of the centre of the city. The magic of Christmas truly arrives.

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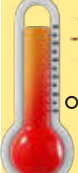
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MALLORCA EVENTS



°16

Average top temperature



°8

Average minimum temperature



Average daily sunshine 5 hours

DECEMBER WEATHER IN MALLORCA

The Song, the star & the season

By Andrew Ede

Cant de la Sibil·la, the Song of the Sybil, was declared a Unesco masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity in 2010. Its roots date back much further than the thirteenth century, but it was in that century that the chant became part of the liturgy in Mallorca. The Unesco declaration owes a great deal to the fact that Mallorca defied a Council of Trent decree in 1568, which covered anything that challenged the principle of churches being exclusively for prayer. And this included visions of the Apocalypse.



The Sibil·la deals with the Last Judgement. It is a dark prophesy, but for reasons that no one has been able to explain, Mallorca was determined to maintain it, the inclusion in Christmas celebrations having well predated the Christian conquest of Mallorca in 1229. The Church resolved that it could only be at Christmas, yet there was never any reference to Christmas until quite recently. “Humble Virgin who gave birth to the infant Jesus this night” was the inclusion.

Once upon a time it used to be sung by a boy. It is now sung by women and forms part of the Matins services on Christmas Eve at churches across Mallorca. The other two elements are the Cant de l'Àngel (Song of the Angel), which originated at Lluç Sanctuary in the late nineteenth century, and the Sermó de la Calenda (Sermon of the Calendar), believed to have originated at Palma Cathedral in the sixteenth century. A boy announces the birth of the Son of God and invites the faithful to celebrate and share the joy of the birth.

Festival of the Standard

December is a month with deep historical and cultural tradition in Mallorca. As well as the Sibil·la there is the **Festival of the Standard**, sometimes said to be the oldest national festivity in Europe. Held on New Year's Eve, it celebrates the taking of Madina Mayurqa (Palma) by Jaume I on December 31, 1229. This is nothing like it once was, a highly prominent feature of the celebrations in Palma on New Year's Eve explaining how the processions used to be in bygone days. ‘Sa Col·cada’, The Cavalcade, is a 19th-century poem about those days that is now represented in song and dance.



Christmas circus, markets and concerts

The circus comes to town for Christmas, the **Circo Alegria** company having been a feature at Palma's Son Fusteret showground for some years. And there are Christmas markets - Palma's is the biggest market and runs until January 6. Inca, Manacor, Puerto Portals are places with fairs over several days or weeks. The German ‘**Weihnachtsmarkt**’ is to be found in Santa Ponsa.

In Sineu, the **Saint Thomas Fair** over the second weekend of the month has its Christmas stalls and also its ‘**Mostra de Matances**’. The matances refer, strictly speaking, to the slaughter of animals - pigs in this instance - but there is a broader meaning to include the products. Gruesome it might perhaps sound, but this slaughter once used to be commonplace. One pig

DECEMBER 2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2			
6	7	8	9	10		
13	14	15	16	17		19
20	21	22	23		25	26
27	28	29	30			

could keep a family going for months, depending on the product. The matances’ ‘season’ traditionally starts on November 11 (the feast of Saint Martin), but the slaughter can be any time in the lead-up to Christmas. It is now far more regulated than used to be the case (for health reasons) and isn't anything like as common, but matances remain a highly traditional aspect of the island's gastronomic culture. **Sobrassada** is one of the products, and there is plenty of it at the fair. There are **Christmas concerts**

aplenty. The Balearic Symphony Orchestra typically performs at the Cathedral. Choirs include Capella Mallorquina, formed in the 1960s and famed in particular for the concert in the Torrent de Pareis in Sa Calobra at the start of July. Handel's ‘*Messiah*’ is a classic for a Mallorcan Christmas. Also in December, **Montuiri's Partridge Fair** (first weekend); **Mar-ratxi's Almond Milk Fair** (mid-month); **Capdepera's Festa de l'Esperança** (December 16-17), which recalls a pirate raid that was foiled by a miraculous fog that descended.

Food of the month
Ensaimada

● Christmas in Mallorca smells of yeast, sugar, and warm air — the unmistakable smell of ensaimadas baking. This delicate spiral pastry, made with flour, sugar, eggs, and pork lard (saïm), is Mallorca's most famous culinary export, recognised with Protected Geographical Indication status. Its origins reach back to the 17th century, possibly influenced by Sephardic baking traditions, and each family guards its own method of rolling and resting the dough. Light, flaky, and buttery, ensaimadas can be plain (lisa), filled with pumpkin jam (cabello de àngel), chocolate, cream or almond paste. Traditionally, they grace the breakfast table or accompany late-night coffees after a fiesta. The secret lies in time — the dough is allowed to rise slowly, sometimes overnight, creating its cloud-like texture. More than a pastry, Ensaimada is a symbol of Mallorcan identity — a swirl of sweetness connecting past and present.
By Mia Naprta





MALLORCA
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25 February - 31 March 2025

WHERE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS MEET
MALLORCA'S FINEST RESTAURANTS

By Erica Lay



There's a certain moment, just as you clear Palma Bay and the mountains begin to shimmer in the morning light, when Mallorca shows you exactly why it's considered one of the finest cruising grounds in the Mediterranean. The water goes glassy, the air smells of salt and pine forests, and the coastline stretches ahead like a promise.

I've watched yachts glide in and out of these waters for nearly two decades, and the magic hasn't faded. Mallorca isn't just a base for the superyacht industry - it's an island made for exploration. Whether you're running a 60-metre motor yacht or hiring a small day boat, there's nowhere better to drop anchor, refuel both boat and soul, and see what all the fuss is about!

Why Mallorca Works for Boaters

Sailors, captains and owners have known this for years: Mallorca just works. It's central in the western Med, ringed with first-class marinas, and blessed with 300 days of sunshine a year. Distances are short enough for relaxed day hops, yet the island's coastline changes dramatically every few miles - from rugged cliffs to sleepy fishing ports to wide golden bays.

The infrastructure is exceptional. Palma is one of Europe's great yachting capitals, home to shipyards, crew agencies (hello), chandleries, riggers, training schools and provisioning companies that can find you anything from a pint of milk to Michelin-quality menu ingredients in under an hour.

But convenience isn't what keeps people coming back. It's the balance: a place where you can spend the morning in a quiet cala, the afternoon exploring a mountain village, and the evening moored off a beach bar watching the sun melt into the sea.



The Must-Cruise Spots

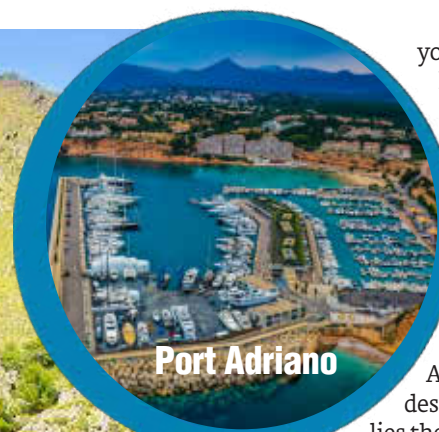
Palma Bay and the Southwest Coast

If Mallorca has a front door, it's Palma. From here



SAILING THE SWEET SPOT:

Exploring Mallorca by sea



you can head west past Illetes' turquoise shallows, Portals' polished glamour and the futuristic curves of Philippe Starck's **Port Adriano**. Each has its own personality: Illetes for lazy lunches and paddleboarding, **Portals** for people-watching, and **Adriano** for cocktails and designer boutiques. Beyond lies the wild headland of **Cala**

Fornells and the chic bustle of **Puerto Andratx** - a favourite for sundowners and dinner with a view. You can refuel, restock and still be back at anchor before the rosé warms up.

The Tramuntana Coast – Soller, Deya and Sa Foradada

Heading north, the mountains rise straight from the sea. This stretch feels cinematic: steep cliffs, waterfalls in spring, and coves so tiny they barely exist on charts. And it's my favourite coastline. **Puerto Soller** is one of the few natural harbours on this coast, a perfect refuge ringed by pastel-coloured hotels and the smell of orange blossom. From there, cruise along to **Sa Foradada**, a hidden cove beneath a rocky outcrop that looks like it's been bitten by the gods. There's a restaurant halfway up the cliff accessible only by boat or goat track - you'll hear it before you see it, thanks to the laughter and the clink of wine glasses.

The North – Cala Sant Vicenç to Formentor

Rounding the northern tip brings drama: pine-covered cliffs, pale sand coves, and the lighthouse at **Cap de Formentor** standing guard like an ancient sentinel. The water here is almost impossibly clear, and the anchorages around **Cala Murta** and **Cala Boquer** feel otherworldly at sunrise. It's a favourite area for early-morning swimmers, photographers, and anyone chasing that perfect "nobody else is here" moment.

Whether you're skippering a superyacht, chartering for a week, or just dreaming from the dock, Mallorca delivers what every sailor's heart wants most - safe harbours, clear horizons, and that elusive sense that, for once, you're exactly where you're meant to be.



TOP TIPS

Insider Tips for Smooth Sailing

► **Timing:** The best months to cruise are May to October. July and August bring the energy (and the crowds), but spring and autumn often offer perfect weather and peaceful anchorages.

► **Weather & Winds:** Watch for the Tramuntana gusts in the north and the Mistral blowing down from France. They make for exciting sailing but demand respect - and a solid anchor set.

► **Permits:** Cabrera requires an advance anchoring licence, easily applied for online. Posidonia seagrass protection zones are enforced, so check charts before dropping anchor; the fines are real.

► **Provisioning:** Palma remains the island's provisioning powerhouse - fresh produce, fine wines, and the kind of logistics that make chefs weep with relief. Most suppliers deliver directly to the quay.

► **Sustainability:** Several marinas, including Port Adriano and Alcudiamar, are investing heavily in cleaner fuel options and waste management. The shift toward responsible yachting is real, and Mallorca's leading it.

► **Pro tip:** Book restaurants before you even drop the hook. Sa Foradada, Can Eduardo in Palma, and Es Molí in Andratx are legendary for good reason. And keep a bottle of local Binissalem rosé chilled at all times - you'll want it when dolphins appear off the bow.

Puerto Andratx

fore the day boats arrive. **Cala Mondragó**, inside a protected nature reserve, offers twin beaches and crystal water ideal for snorkelling. **Portocolom** itself is a gem: pretty houses, local fishing boats bobbing between sleek yachts, and waterfront restaurants that still feel authentically Mallorcan.

Cabrera National Park

Just south of Mallorca lies **Cabrera**, a protected island chain and one of the Mediterranean's best-kept secrets. You'll need a permit to anchor overnight, but it's worth every email. The water is a shade of blue that makes your camera give up, and the lack of nightlife is exactly the point. Hike to the 14th-century watchtower, visit the tiny museum, or simply sit on deck and listen to the silence.

Ports with Personality

Every port in Mallorca tells a different story.

Palma is the beating heart of the island - cosmopolitan, stylish, and full of history. Between

Palma



Beyond the Helm

Part of Mallorca's magic is how easily sea life and shore life blend together. Step off the passerelle and you're a short drive from vineyards, markets, and mountain villages.

In the morning you could be diving off **Cabrera**; by evening you're watching the sunset from **Valldemossa** with a glass of something cold.

The island's refit yards and crew community mean many yachts stay for months, not weeks.

Captains use Palma as their Mediterranean HQ; owners

treat it as a second home. For visiting boaters, it's a place that makes everything easy - and everything beautiful.

Portocolom



The Island That Keeps You Coming Back

Sailing around Mallorca reminds you why the island has been drawing mariners for centuries. Phoenicians, traders, pirates and pleasure-seekers - all found something here that pulled them back. Maybe it's the perfect balance of wild and civilised, or the way the light turns gold on the cliffs at dusk.

For me, it's the feeling of rounding a headland and spotting yet another perfect bay, knowing that even after years here, I haven't seen them all.

Whether you're skippering a superyacht, chartering for a week, or just dreaming from the dock, Mallorca delivers what every sailor's heart wants most - safe harbours, clear horizons, and that elusive sense that, for once, you're exactly where you're meant to be.

Because once you've seen this island from the water, every return feels like coming home.

Cala Varques



Puerto Soler feels like stepping into a postcard. Nestled in a perfect horseshoe bay, it's surrounded by citrus groves and mountains. You can hop the vintage tram into town for ice cream or linger on deck as the sun sets over the water.

Porto Cristo and **Portocolom** on the east coast offer something different - smaller, slower, more traditional. You can still see fishermen mending nets at dawn. It's the kind of Mallorca that never tries to impress, and ends up being unforgettable.

The East Coast – Cala Ratjada to Portocolom

The east is a necklace of coves, each more photogenic than the last. **Cala Varques** is the wild child - unspoilt, cave-studded and best visited early be-



Porto Cristo.

Mallorca isn't just a base for the superyacht industry - it's an island made for exploration

MALLORCA

Through THE LENS:

The Island's Most

INSTAGRAMMABLE

SPOTS

By Sarah Forge



With more than two billion active users, Instagram is a social media powerhouse.

The fourth most popular platform in the world - after Facebook, WhatsApp and YouTube - it's designed to capture, edit and share images and

short videos with friends, family and total strangers. Since its 2010 launch, Instagram has taken the world by storm, and many young people now choose holidays (no word of a lie) based on how Instagrammable a destination is. From calas to cathedrals, villages to viewpoints, Mallorca is an 'igers' dream. Here are ten iconic spots.

1. Calo des Moro (Santanyi, south)

● Let's get this one out of the way early, as it's a point of painful contention. One of the most breathtaking coves in Mallorca - perhaps Spain - Calo des Moro is a victim of its own success. At just 40 metres across, the bay holds around 100 beachgoers yet is often swamped by 4,000

visitors and 1,200 cars a day in high season - the result of 'selfie tourism'. It's every bit as beautiful as you'd hope, with turquoise water cradled by limestone cliffs, so if you must add to the 'massification', get there early and take the classic top-down lagoon shot from the cliff.

2. Cap de Formentor (Pollensa, north)

● Marking the northernmost tip of the Tramuntana range, this 20km-long peninsula isn't one photo stop but a series of them. Expect a pine-fringed beach (home to the new Four Seasons), jagged cliffs, dizzying viewpoints and the windiest of roads leading to Mallorca's highest lighthouse at 210 metres above sea level. It's best captured at sunrise (misty and cinematic) or sunset (glowing and romantic). Between 1 June and 31 October, 10am - 10pm, road access is restricted, so hop on the bus from Alcudia via Puerto Pollensa - it stops at Mirador del Colomer, Formentor Beach, Cala Figuera and the lighthouse with its café.

3. Sa Foradada (Deya, west)

● A rocky finger pointing into the sea, Sa Foradada owes its fame to a gigantic 18-metre hole punched through the rock (foradada means 'hole'). From the main road - the Ma-10 that snakes the Tramuntana from Andratx to Pollença - there are several vantage points: pay the €4 entrance to Son Marroig, the former estate of Archduke Ludwig Salvator, for superb garden views (and a photo of the marble temple), or buy a caña at neighbouring Bar Mirador de Sa Foradada and shoot from the terrace. The energetic can tackle the steep 45-minute hike down to the currently-closed Sa Foradada Restaurant to better capture the magnitude of the formation.

Calo des Moro.



9994

It's west facing, so time your visit for sunset.

4. Es Trenc (Campos, south)

● Mallorca's answer to the Caribbean, Es Trenc offers kilometres of white sand lapped by turquoise sea - it must be seen to be believed. The best photos are minimalist: low angle, vivid blues, maybe a body-beautiful beachgoer for scale. Light is softest, and the sea at its calmest, early in the day. Part of the Es Trenc-Salobrar de Campos Natural Park, the area has no hotels or tourist hubs, and cars are limited to a paid car park reached by a track through salt pans, wetlands and sand dunes. Arrive early - spaces go fast.

Es Trenc.

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Cap de Formentor.





5. Soller (Soller, west)

● Set in a lush valley of orange groves between the Tramuntana and the Mediterranean, Soller brims with historic charm. For photos, timing is everything. Head to Plaça de la Constitució, settle into a café by the tramline and wait for the vintage wooden tram to pass the ornate Church of Sant Bartomeu with the mountains behind – Instagram gold. Elevate the experience and arrive via the wooden train from Palma (dating back to 1912), then hop



Soller.

natural stone arch rising hand-somely from the sea. The viewpoint is accessed via a rocky path – clearly signposted from Cala Santanyi – and, being east-facing, is best shot at sunrise. Rough seas crashing at Es Pontàs' feet only add drama to the scene.

9. Valldemossa & Deya (west)

● It's a little unfair to lump these two mountain villages together but, just 10km apart, they share honey-stone houses, flower-filled balconies and captivating corners. In Valldemossa, photograph the turquoise-tiled tower of La Cartuja, where Chopin famously wintered, and in Deya, stop for coffee at La Residencia,

97 222 55

La Seu Cathedral.



one of Mallorca's most luxurious yet bohemian hotels.

10. La Seu Cathedral (Palma, south)

● No list is complete without a mention of La Seu, a gothic marvel of a cathedral on Palma's waterfront. Built over 400 years on the site of a mosque (it faces Mecca rather than Jerusalem), La Seu is one of the Mediterranean's most photographed landmarks. For the full fa-

ç a d e and mirror-like reflections in the artificial lake, set up in Parc de la Mar. Inside, capture the stained-glass rose window – one of the largest in the world at nearly 14 metres in diameter. Twice a year, on 2 February and 11 November, morning light creates a colourful figure of eight as window reflections align – that's the money shot. While in Palma, explore the narrow lanes and courtyards of the Old Town.

#Mallorca

7. Torrent de Pareis & Sa Calobra (Escorca, west)

● Reachable by boat from Port Sóller, or via the thrilling Ma-2141 road with 26 hairpin bends and the infamous 'Tie Knot' loop, this natural masterpiece rewards the brave. After the first Sa Calobra beach, follow the well-lit pedestrian tunnel to the stony beach at the mouth of Torrent de Pareis, sandwiched between sheer limestone walls. Midday light best illuminates the turquoise water – include people for scale and wear rock shoes. Visit in winter to avoid crowds.



Above: La Residencia in Deya. Below: La Cartuja, Valldemossa.

8. Es Pontas (Santanyi, south)

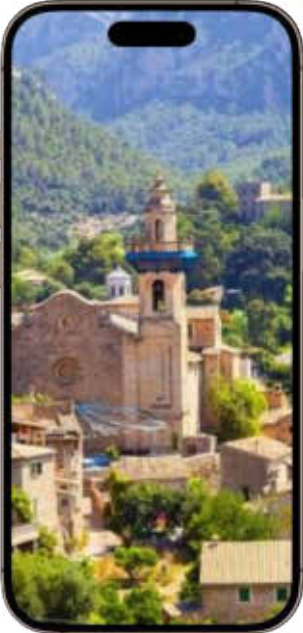
● Near Caló des Moro, Es Pontàs is a striking

6. Port de Cala Figuera (Santanyi, south)

● This impossibly charming fishing village feels like stepping back in time. The narrow inlet of emerald water, dotted with typically Mallorquin wooden boats, salty fishing nets and whitewashed boathouses, creates a postcard-perfect scene. Capture reflections in the calm morning water or follow the upper path for a top-down view. Bars and cafés abound for post-photo refreshments.



Torrent de Pareis.



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Port de Cala Figuera

The Menu del Dia came from an idea to boost tourism in the 1960s.



By James
Kidwell



Any British visitor coming to Mallorca looking for a varied and interesting culinary experience is in for a treat. But a bit of research in advance will help a lot. The island offers everything from the no-frills lunch time Menu del Dia to the finest of fine dining and everything in between. There is a willingness to embrace other cuisines which makes for an exciting voyage of discovery if you are prepared to travel the island – and it is a great shame not to.

Whereas the chefs from other Mediterranean countries are more likely to stay in their lane and stick to tradition, many of Mallorca's finest will push the boundaries. Doubtless this is because they know they are catering to an international clientele for whom meals out are a big part of their time on the island – and they are looking for a new, challenging gastronomic experience.



The Celler El Moli in Pollensa.

But let's start with the **Menu del Dia**, which came from an idea to boost tourism in the 1960s. The concept was that restaurants should offer a fixed price three course meal which would showcase Spanish cuisine for tourists. It became so popular that it was readily adopted in working-class culture. Nowadays you will usually

find two or three choices for each course. So the menu might be a simple salad or tomatoes on bread with olive oil to start (very simple and tasty when they are grown down the road), followed by a meat or fish dish with either a crême Catalan or ice cream for pudding. To accompany all this there may well be a carafe of wine or a small beer included. The pricing is always keen and will feel like great value at about €15-€25 a head. Of course, standards vary and if in doubt, pick a restaurant that has been doing it for a long time – a great example being **Celler El Moli** in the old town of Pollensa. Having said that, bad restaurants don't usually survive long in Mallorca because the competition is stiff.

There are certain island favourite dishes which are normally reliable.

Patatas bravas (roast potatoes with a paprika aioli sauce), **chipi-rones** (deep fried squid), **boquerones** (deep fried anchovies) and **croquetas** are common starters. Main course regulars include **suckling pig**, **lamb shoulder**, many

A Local's Guide TO MALLORCA'S BEST TABLES



El Camino in Palma offers fantastic tapas. Hollywood actress, Nicole Kidman, ate here back in 2023, when filming Paramount series *Lioness* on the island.

grilled fish options and of course, **paella**. A really special place to enjoy a typical selection is **La Terrassa**, the water-side restaurant of the **Illa D'Or**

hotel in Puerto Pollensa which has unbeatable views of the bay.

Tapas are a major reason why people eat out so much more in Spain. The whole idea of being able to choose a few small, freshly prepared dishes to be shared or eaten on your own if you want, with little waiting time and no big bill at the end. Why would you spend time shopping and cooking when there is a tapas bar down the street? **El Camino** in **Palma** offers fantastic tapas and is very similar to the Barrafinas restaurants in London.

There are some sensationally good places that offer tasting menus based on fresh available produce from the market. Of these, **Miceli in Selva** in the middle of the island is a foodie's paradise and a meal of equivalent quality would probably be three times the price in London.

Finally, one can't ignore the wine, especially as island wines are getting better all the time and will feature on every wine list. Many bodegas (wineries) grow grapes which are uniquely indigenous to the island and offer tastings. Some of the best can be found at the **Macie Batle, Ribas** and **Can Axartell** bodegas.



“The beauty of hiking here is variety. You can go from a gentle olive-grove stroll to a full-blown mountain climb within half an hour’s drive.”

By Erica Lay

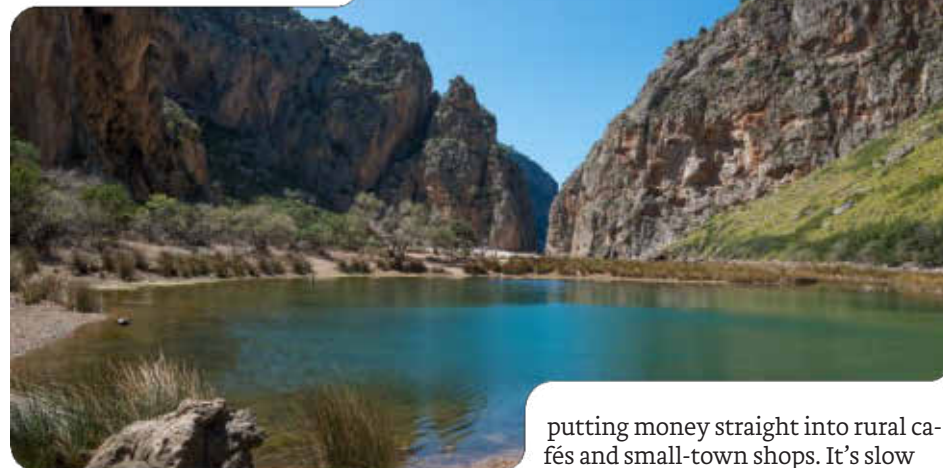
Forget infinity pools and sun-loungers - Mallorca’s real luxury is silence. The kind you only find on a mountain path, with cicadas for company and the smell of pine and sea salt twisting together on the breeze. Get far enough from the car parks and beach bars and you start to see the island differently. Not as a tourist playground, but as something raw, wild, and utterly beautiful.

I’ve lived here long enough to know that the island has two faces. There’s the Mallorca that fills Instagram feeds with turquoise coves and rooftop cocktails. My first crush. Then, there’s the other one I fell proper in love with - an island of limestone peaks, olive terraces, secret valleys and ancient footpaths that still hum with history. When you trade flip-flops for boots, Mallorca stops being a glitzy postcard and starts being an adventure.

Why Mallorca Was Made for Walking

Mallorca is, quite simply, a hiker’s dream. The Serra de Tramuntana mountain range, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, runs like a backbone down the is-

land’s northwest coast - 90 kilometres of rugged cliffs, forests, and tiny stone villages clinging to the slopes. You can start a walk ten minutes from a bustling port and end it on a windswept ridge with nothing but sheep bells clanging around you.



Torrent de Pareis

The beauty of hiking here is variety. You can go from a gentle olive-grove stroll to a full-blown mountain climb within half an hour’s drive. Spring and autumn are ideal - wildflowers, clear skies, and not too sticky. Winter has crisp, clear days that make you feel like you’re walking through a painting. Even summer works if you start early (and bring a LOT of water. And sunscreen. And a hat. Not my fave time of year as you can see).

There’s also

something wonderfully sustainable about exploring on foot. You’re not burning fuel, you’re not queuing for beach parking, and you’re

putting money straight into rural cafés and small-town shops. It’s slow travel at its best - and the island rewards you for taking your time.

The Big Ones: Mallorca’s Iconic Hikes

Some trails are legendary, and for good reason. If you want to say you’ve done Mallorca properly, these are

the ones that earn you bragging rights.

1. The GR221 – “Ruta de Pedra en Sec” (Dry Stone Route)

The granddaddy of them all. This 140-kilometre network of ancient paths runs from Andratx in the southwest all the way to Pollença in the north. It takes most walkers a week or more to complete the various stages, passing through beautiful mountain scenery - Valldemossa, Deya, Soller, Lluc. You’ll walk through olive terraces, pine forests, and cobbled mule tracks built centuries ago by hand.

You can do it in sections if time (or legs) are limited, but even one day on part of the GR221 gives you a taste of its magic. Do it for the views, do it for the history and do it for the smug factor of being able to say “Oh the Dry Stone Route? Iconic. Done it.”

2. Torrent de Pareis – The Gorge Walk

Not for the faint of heart or weak of knee, this dramatic descent follows the bed of a limestone gorge carved by flash floods over millennia. It starts in Escorca and ends at the sea in Sa Calobra, where sheer cliffs close in around you.

There’s scrambling, climbing, and some creative sliding involved, but the reward - emerging from the canyon to that prehistoric looking cove - is unforgettable. Just check the weather forecast and wear proper shoes. Trust me. Actually - get a guide.

Safer and more enjoyable!

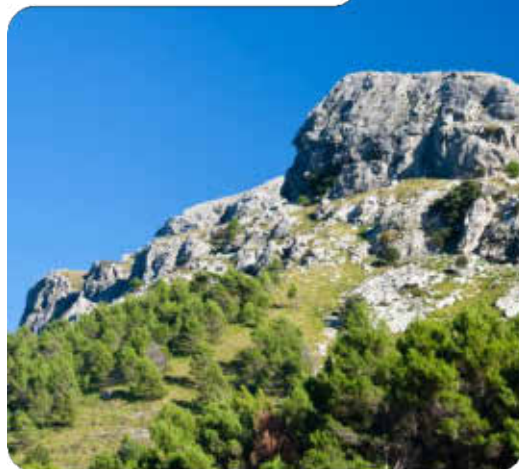


Take a hike:
Discovering
the real
Mallorca,
one trail
at a time

3. Deya to Soller – The Coastal Classic

If you only do one hike on your

Puig de Massanella



holiday, make it this one. It's about ten kilometres of pure joy: stone paths winding through olive groves, citrus orchards, and old fincas, with constant views of the sparkling coastline. You can start in either village, reward yourself with coffee and cake in Soller's square, then hop the vintage tram to Port de Soller for a swim. It's Mallorca in miniature.

4. Puig de Massanella – Climb to the Sky

At 1,365 metres, Massanella is Mallorca's second-highest peak and one of the most satisfying climbs on the island (Puig Major is the highest but you can't access that one – it's military). The views stretch across the entire Tramuntana to the sea. The route starts from Lluc Monastery and takes around five hours return. Expect steep sections, rocky paths, ice houses (yes, really), a lot of sheep, and a real sense of achievement at the top.

Hidden Gems & Local Favourites

The famous routes are brilliant, but it's the quiet ones that really show you the island's soul. These are the trails I come back to again and again, often with Nala - my German shepherd and self-appointed head of our household - trotting happily ahead.

Castell d'Alaro

A moderate uphill climb from the village of Alaro to a ruined hilltop fortress with cinematic views. Go early to avoid the crowds, then walk back down to Es Verger for roast lamb and a cold beer. The view from their terrace makes every sweaty step worth it.



Banyalbufar is a coastal route.

Hike Smart: Tips from the Trail

Mallorca's trails are well maintained but they're still wild. A few simple habits make a huge difference.

Start early, especially in summer.

Take lots of water, proper footwear, and a hat.

Don't rely on your phone - coverage can vanish the second you

turn a corner, so download offline maps or bring a paper one.

Respect the land: close gates,

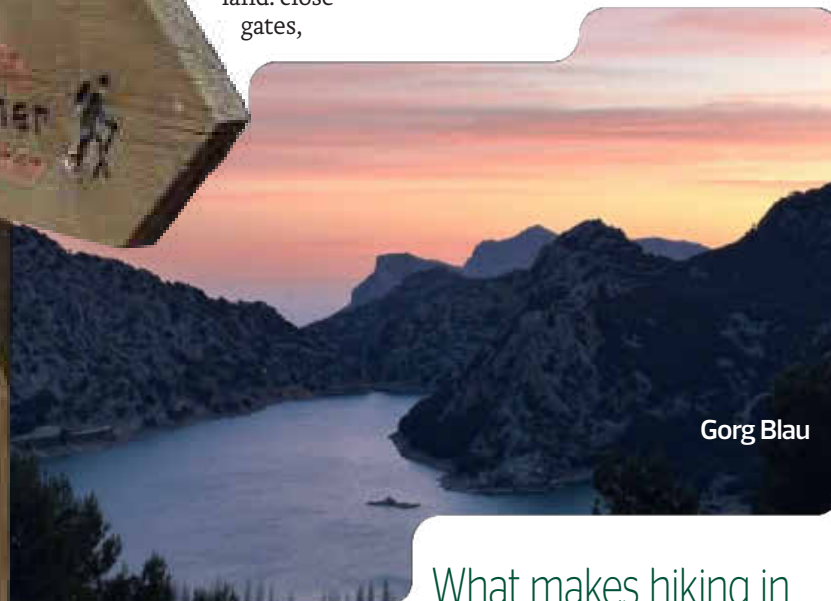
SMART TIPS

network along the GR221 where

you can stay overnight or just stop for a hearty lunch - Tossals Verds, Son Amer, Lluc. Basic, friendly, and good value.

For day hikes, the reward is usually a village café terrace: fresh orange juice, pa amb oli, and that unbeatable feeling of having earned it. If you're near Alaró, Es Verger's slow-roasted lamb is practically a rite of passage.

And if you're ending near a vineyard (as many of my walks do), there's no shame in swapping your water bottle for a glass of local wine. Hydration is hydration.



Gorg Blau

What makes hiking in Mallorca special isn't just the history or the views; it's the simplicity.

The Island That Walks You Back to Yourself

Every path here tells a story - of monks, smugglers, shepherds, or soldiers. You feel it in the stones underfoot and in the terraces carved by hands long gone. But what makes hiking in Mallorca special isn't just the history or the views; it's the simplicity.

A trail, a breeze, a bit of solitude - that's the island at its purest. You don't need to conquer a peak or rack up mileage. Just walk, look, breathe. Let the island slow you down until you remember what peace feels like.

Because Mallorca isn't just a place to visit. It's a place that walks you back to yourself - one dusty, glorious step at a time.

Refuel & Recharge

One of the best things about hiking in Mallorca is how quickly a trail ends in a meal. There's a mountain refuge



Former U.S. President Barack Obama playing golf in Mallorca's Son Gual.

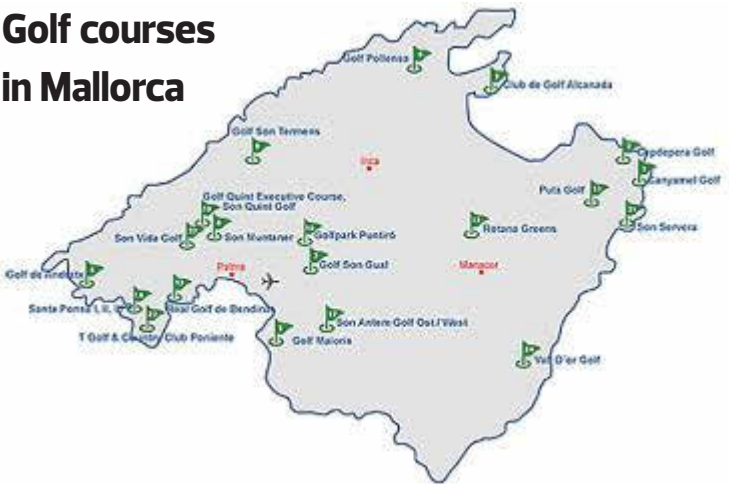


Rafa Nadal and Roger Federer enjoy a round in Mallorca.



Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta Jones look for the birdie.

Golf courses in Mallorca



WHY GOLF IS A MALLORCA HOLE IN ONE

Palma.—According to a report on the *Economic Impact of Golf in Spain* by Professor Juan Santaló of the IE University, 56,636 golf tourists own second homes in the Balearics.

The average value of property owned by these golf tourists is put at 365,000 euros, the second highest in the country after the Basque Country; the national average is 251,000 euros. The total value of the real estate investment of golf tourists in the islands amounts to 20.6 billion; it is 82.3 billion in Spain as a whole.

The home-owning tourists constitute slightly more than a quarter of all golfers who travel to the Balearics - around 206,000 per annum. They are estimated to spend a total of 870 million euros. To place

this in context, total tourist spend is some 20 billion.

The turnover of the islands' golf courses is put at 60.5 million euros per year - around three million per course. This equates to seven per cent of the national total. Each course attracts an average of some 11,000 tourists.

The CAEB president, Carmen Planas, underlined "the importance of supporting businesspeople in a sector that is so important for tourism on the islands." The Council of Mallorca's tourism councillor, José Marcial Rodríguez, said that the findings of the report should raise awareness in society as a whole about the impact of golf, "which is so important for the island's economy."



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