

Palma

Overview

The Balearic Islands' archipelago is situated south-east of Europe, in the central part of the western Mediterranean basin. Palma, the capital of the Balearics, is on Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands. It has a population of 325,000 and offers a rich mix of history, culture and nightlife. The resorts of Ca'n Pastilla and Cala Mayor are 5 miles and 4 miles away respectively.

It has an enchanting central area with narrow streets winding between ancient buildings. This historic centre of the city is easy to traverse on foot and extends inland from the commercial port and the most prominent of landmarks of the cathedral and royal palace erected over the remains of the Moorish Alcazar and mosque, destroyed when the Christians regained the island from the Moors.

A wide range of shopping opportunities can be found in the distinctive and often pedestrianised streets of the old city and in the Avenidas surrounding the area. Calle Jaime II, Calle Colon, Via Sindicato, Calle San Miguel, la Rambla, are among the streets noted for their shopping and there is a market, el Baratillo on Saturdays.

Well noted for its beaches, Can Pastilla and Cala Mayor are the most popular. Others include Es Molinar, Ciutat Jardí, Can Pere Antoni and EL Arenal. In the old centre and close to the port, sightseeing ventures should include the cathedral 'la Seu'; Almudaina palace; la Lonja and the Arab baths. Slightly further are the hilltop castle of Bellver and the Pueblo Español.

The most vibrant nightlife is available in the El Terreno district as well as the old centre and surrounding avenues. For eating out, the centre, El Terreno, and the Paseo Marítimo provide lots of choice. The tourist office publishes a full programme of concerts, exhibitions, festivals, ballet and theatre performances monthly.

Places to Visit

The Cathedral, 'la Seu'

This magnificent Gothic cathedral with sandstone walls and flying buttresses that seem to rise out of the sea is the glory of Palma. Be sure to see the the Portal del Miradon facing the sea, a 15th-century door by Guillem Sagrera featuring scenes from the Last Supper.

The Pueblo Espanol

Built between 1965 and 1967, this complex has round 100 of the most renowned reconstructed monuments and buildings in Spain, allowing visitors to travel all of Spain while staying in one place. The principal attractions include streets and square, monuments, restaurants, bars and demonstrations of popular customs and gastronomy of the different Spanish towns.

The Arab Baths

These 10th century baths that are the only existing ruins of the Arab city of Medina Mayurqa.

Almudaina Palace

Housing the 'Capitania Genera', or Harbour Office, of the Balearic Islands the Almudaina Palace contains numerous works of art, including 16th and 17th century Flemish tapestries that illustrate episodes from Spanish history; Spanish tapestries from the 17th and 18th centuries and banners decorated with scenes from the battle of Lepanto, in which the Spanish and Venetian fleets jointly defeated the Turkish fleet.

The Valldemossa Monastery

One of the principal attractions of the municipality and one of the preferred visits by tourists who come to the island Valldemossa Monastery has attracted people from all over the world including Chopin and his companion, George Sand. Dating from the times of King James II of Mallorca, the monastery is situated over 400 metres high.

Superyacht Cup Palma

In June 2010 Palma once again held the Superyacht Cup, drawing top teams of sailors from many countries. The races are in two main classes, Cruise Class and Performance Class, providing the teams with many challenges .

Regular Events

January - Saint Sebastian

In January Palma honours its patron saint San Sebastian with a week of vibrant festivities. The celebration starts with a number of music concerts held in the squares of the old quarter. At night visitors can enjoy firework displays, bonfires and barbecues on many of the plazas around the city.

February - Cavalcade Sa Rua

The annual Sa Rua festival is one of Palma's most spectacular, and marks the beginning of Lent. This colourful carnival is marked by ornate fancy dress parties, mystical masked balls and huge parades of decorated floats.

March - Semana Santa

Semana Santa marks the coming of Easter and is one of the most important religious festivals in Palma. Each day there are processions that move through the city, and church services. A play is also staged on the steps of Palma cathedral, and for children a large fairground is situated near the cemetery.

April - International Boat Show

Sailing enthusiasts flock to the annual International Boat Show known as Saló Nàutic. The event focuses on recreational sailing, with a floating exhibition of over 300 boats in Palma's harbour.

May - International Festival of Marionette Theatre

This delightful festival is perfect for children and those young at heart. Visitors can be entertained by the talents of international string puppet groups who will be giving performances throughout the city.

June - Corpus a Palma Spring Festival

Corpus a Palma is a music, culture and religious festival which is held in association with Corpus Christi a

significant Spanish Holy festival. The event includes tours of patios in Palma's old city, a series of free classical music concerts, processions and parades.

July - Bellver Castle Music Festival

Bellver Castle Music Festival invites visitors to enjoy a series of open air classical music concerts in the majestic surroundings of Palma's most symbolic building,

August - King's Cup Regatta

The King's Cup Regatta or Copa Del Rey is one of the most prestigious sailing events in the Mediterranean. With over 100 competing yachts from over 16 different countries, participants include the King and Prince of Spain, the King of Norway and a number of international award winning crews.

September - La Nit de L'art

The third Thursday in September hosts La Nit de L'art, a special event that allows visitors to experience Palma's vibrant creative scene. Each of the city's numerous galleries and museums open their doors for free to art lovers late into the night.

October - Jazz Voyeur Festival

The Jazz Voyeur Festival showcases an eclectic mix of jazz artists to local a local and international audience. The festival lasts for a number of weeks and includes live performances at locations such as Bellver Castle, The Auditórium and The Conservatory.

November - Opera Season

In November, Opera Season commences in Palma with performances at the newly renovated Principal Theatre. Opera enthusiasts can enjoy a number of sensational productions and are invited to join discussion sessions with the performers.

December - Christmas Festivities

In Palma, three main Christmas markets come alive throughout the month of December. Market's at Plaza Mayor and Plaza Espana sell a vibrant range of handicrafts and seasonal goods, whilst outside the Pueblo Espanol, children can enjoy bouncy castles, paintball and a giant Scalextric track.

Getting Around

Airport Transfers

Palma is served by Palma de Mallorca Airport which is located around 8 km east of the main city centre. As the third largest airport in Spain and (in the summer months) one of the busiest in Europe it operates flights to and from major cities all over the continent. There are a number of transport links between the airport and downtown including taxis and buses. Official airport taxi's can be hailed from outside Arrivals, and the journey into the city usually takes around 20 minutes and costs €15. Public bus number 1 leaves from outside Door D of Arrivals and takes passengers into the city. Tickets can be bought from vendors in the airport building or from the bus driver on boarding. The fare is usually around €2 and the journey takes 30 minutes depending on traffic.

Bus

Palma has an excellent bus system that transports passengers around the city centre and to surrounding areas. Operated by Empresa Municipal de Transportes Urbanes de Palma de Mallorca (EMT) bus services run across 30 lines with single fares starting from around €1.50. Tickets can be purchased from the driver on boarding.

Long distance buses arrive and depart from the main bus station found near to the train station on Plaza Espana. Frequent services run to main cities on the island and can be booked at the terminal building or via contacting the bus companies directly.

Metro

Palma metro system with its comprehensive network and reliable service is a great way of getting around the city. The metro has one main line that connects 9 stations throughout the city centre, with trains running every few minutes. Operating from 6.15 am through to 23.00 pm the metro system is a convenient mode of transport with tickets being bought from manned booths on the station concourse, or from automatic kiosks.

Train

Most trains arrive and depart from Plaza de Espana train station, located in the city centre. The station offers daily services to a number of Majorca's main destinations including Inca, Manacor and Sa Pobla. Tickets can be purchased from booths on the station concourse or by contacting the companies (Soller Train, Soller Tram and Inca Train) directly.

Taxi

There are many official taxis that operate in the city centre, which can be hailed in the street or pre-booked by telephone. Predominantly operated by large companies, vehicles are almost always licensed and use their meters – just make sure they are switched on before you set off. Fares are standard and reasonable, but expect to pay extra fees for heavy luggage, waiting, call out and certain destinations.

Local Services

Activities

La Reserva Puig De Galatzo

La Reserva Puig de Galatzó is a unique nature reserve in Majorca, with over 2,5 million m² of flourishing vegetation and where a great variety of exceptionally beautiful animals live in a breathtaking environment.

The park is an ideal place for hiking. A 3,5km hike along its easygoing paths offers the possibility to enjoy over 30 amazing waterfalls. This leads to the main recreation area where our bar and BBQ services, as well as our “Refreshing Mountain” swimming pool facilities are at your disposal.

Daring visitors are welcome to feel the thrill of “Aventur”, an adventure park with suspension bridges, climbing walls and a series of amazing zip lines.

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