

# ADVANTAGE

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# BEYOND SAND AND SEA

*Where to stay, play and eat on the Balearic island of Mallorca*

The sapphire seas and crescent white sands of Mallorca, the largest Balearic island off the coast of Spain, have long been a magnet for sun-seekers with a taste for the good life. Yet the destination is much more than the sum of its golden beaches. The island enjoys a rich culture stemming from a long legacy of Roman, Arab and Catalan rule. Historic mansions and farmhouses are being converted into stylish heritage hotels, the Serra de Tramuntana mountains and crystalline waters serve as a playground for fresh-air adventures, and local chefs champion back-to-the-land gastronomy—all of which showcase the best of Mallorca’s manifold charms.

## STAY

The main gateway to Mallorca is through Palma, a vibrant harbor capital where ancient roots juxtapose of-the-moment restaurants, boutiques and galleries. Check into Sant Francesc Hotel Singular, a former 19<sup>th</sup>-century neoclassical mansion located in historic Old Town, and enjoy showstopping modern art and an impressive rooftop pool and terrace with sweeping city views. Its newly opened sister hotel, Can Ferrereta, gives new life to

*The Serra de Tramuntana mountains and crystalline waters serve as a playground for fresh-air adventures, while local chefs champion back-to-the-land gastronomy.*

a 17<sup>th</sup>-century summer residence in the golden sandstone village of Santanyí. The 32-room property is a graceful oasis with gardens of fragrant jasmine and bougainvillea, a hammam spa, and easy access to virgin beaches and neighboring Mondragó Natural Park.

Once a formidable military fortress on a protected peninsula overlooking the Bay of Palma, Cap Rocat is now a refuge of peace for hotel guests. Revel in the privacy of suite terraces furnished with sea-facing day beds, antique Mallorcan beds and a glamorous infinity pool gazing over the Mediterranean. LJs Ratxó, a new retreat nestled in the foothills of the Serra Tramuntana mountains, harmonizes sustainability and luxury. Boho-chic interiors are fashioned from reclaimed wood, an organic garden supplies fresh produce and water is sourced directly from the mountains. In addition, restaurant menus feature the owner’s private line of small-batch wines, gin, organic beer, and olive oil, while the spa focuses on well-being offerings that bring guests back to the basics.



### EMBRAER TIP

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**Left page**  
LJs Ratxó is a new retreat nestled in the foothills of the Serra Tramuntana mountains, harmonizing sustainability and luxury

**Right page (from top)**  
Can Ferrereta is a 17<sup>th</sup>-century mansion turned five-star hotel—an ideal place for people wishing to unwind

Located in the center of Palma, Sant Francesc Hotel Singular is a former neoclassical mansion with modern design

Cala Marmols is a spectacular unspoiled cove with fine white sand located near Santanyí

WORDS Nora Walsh, IMAGES (left page) © LJs Ratxo, (right page from top) © Can Ferrereta, © Sant Francesc Hotel Singular, © Pixabay





PLAY

With such a plentitude of diversions, Mallorca satisfies all manner of traveler’s tastes. Tap luxury outfitter Your Trip to Spain & Portugal to experience the best of the island while avoiding the crowds. Charter a private yacht or catamaran for the day to visit hard-to-reach coves and beaches famous for their beauty like Cala Màrmols and Platja des Coll Baix.

On land, the rugged Serra de Tramuntana mountain range (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) fringes the dramatic northwestern coast and offers opportunities to trek, cycle and meander historic hamlets. Take an impressive two-hour hike from the cobblestone village of Valldemossa to coastal Sa Foradada, pit-stopping at such iconic sites as the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Miramar Monastery, panoramic lookouts like Guix, Pi and Tudons, and the former mansion of Archduke Luis Salvador. The trek culminates with lunch at an authentic beach *chiringuito* and a dip in the sea. In addition to Valldemossa, don’t miss a trip to the charming villages of Deià and Sóller—the latter, built on the wealth of its orange trade with France, offers a ride back to Palma on a vintage tram.

Tennis enthusiasts should head to the city of Manacor, whose native son Rafael Nadal founded a tennis academy

*For a memorable taste of rural Mallorca, board a private hot-air balloon and float high above the countryside to visit Son Mesquidassa, a family-run olive oil mill, and Mesquida Mora, a biodynamic winery that uses indigenous grape varieties.*

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**Left page**  
Perched on a hilltop into the Serra de Tramuntana mountains, Valldemossa is a charming town with a rich cultural heritage

**Right page (top)**  
Ca Na Toneta captures the essence of Caimari, a village in the central region of Mallorca

**Right page (bottom)**  
Arquinesia Perfumes offers fragrances inspired by the scents of the multifaceted Balearic Islands

that offers training programs with top-notch coaches. If shopping is your favorite sport, drop into Rialto Living along Palma’s Golden Mile to peruse chic apparel and accessories in an 18<sup>th</sup>-century palace. Visit Monge for leather espadrilles handcrafted on the island, Mimbrería Vidal for high-quality straw and wicker goods, and Oma Project for local artisan-made home décor. To take home the refreshing scents of the Mediterranean, shop Arquinesia Perfumes new collection of handmade ceramics featuring signature fragrances like fig and sea breeze.

EAT

Arrive with an appetite to this food lover’s paradise where you’re never too far from a mouthwatering meal—be it at a local market, Michelin-Starred restaurant or anywhere in between. Orient yourself to the island’s prodigious culinary bounty with a private food tour and cooking class with a Mallorcan chef at local market Mercat de l’Olivar. Sample fresh produce and traditional delicacies like sobrasada (cured paprika sausage), pa amb oli (rustic rye bread) with homegrown olive oil, goat cheese and Mallorcan herb liqueur. Then, prepare typical dishes like the paella-style Fideuà Mallorquina and squid Pica Pica in a private dining room. One thing you will discover quickly is that Mallorcans love their pastries. For breakfast, try a flaky ensaimada (coil-shaped sweet bread) at Ca’n Joan de s’Aigo, a café founded in 1700. When it comes to fine dining, Michelin Star restaurants Adrian Quetglas, Marc Fosh and Bens d’Avall do not disappoint. Neither do produce-driven locales like Botànic, Ca Na Toneta and Brut. For a memorable taste of rural Mallorca, board a private hot-air balloon and float high above the countryside to visit Son Mesquidassa, a family-run olive oil mill, and Mesquida Mora, a biodynamic winery that uses indigenous grape varieties. Amidst centenary vines, raise a glass of locally grown callet and toast to the majesty that is Mallorca. ◀