

WHERE TO STAY



PALMA MAJORCA

TRADITIONAL

HOTEL DALT MURADA

LOCATION The Dalt Murada could not be more central – in the medieval old town and close to the magnificent Gothic La Seu. The entrance is on the quiet and pedestrian-only Almudaina Street.

CHARACTER This grand, 16th-century courtyard house has been owned by the Moragues family for 250 years and has been a hotel for the past nine. Though no longer their home, the hotel is still a family affair and manager Ferran Moragues is so proud of his ancestry that he will gladly drop all duties to give guests a guided tour. The antique furniture has been passed down through the generations and many of the paintings have been restored by Ferran's mother.

ROOMS The three double rooms and five suites all have tiled floors; dark, heavy furnishings and tapestries; high ceilings and four-poster beds. Ours had double doors leading onto a balcony overlooking the courtyard and terracotta-tiled roofs beyond. Bathrooms, though not modern, are simple, white and clean. Wi-Fi as well.

FOOD There is no restaurant or bar.

A simple Majorcan breakfast – breads, meat, fruit, home-made cakes and cheese – is served in the courtyard.

WE LIKE The peace and quiet, despite the location. The airy, medieval building remains cool during the midday heat.

NOT SO KEEN Given that the hotel is a b&b, its four-star status is misleading.

ESSENTIALS 0034 971 425300; www.daltmurada.com. Doubles from €173 (€144).



Cathedral close: Dalt Murada, a 16th-century courtyard house, is moments from Palma's La Seu, the city's soaring Gothic masterpiece

WHY PALMA?

Parts of Majorca have a certain reputation, but calm, dulcet Palma is a far cry from the island's busy and sometimes tacky beach resorts so popular with hen and stag parties.

The Majorcan capital is also one of the easiest short-break destinations in Europe. The old town is a 10-minute taxi ride from Palma airport, while the tangled streets inside the old city wall combine the best restaurants, shopping and culture Majorca has to offer.

While hazily hot in the summer, temperatures remain pleasant (and hotel prices dip and crowds thin) during the rest of the year when there is also more elbow room to explore the city.