

TRAVEL

DAY 1

Take a view

The southern flank of the Seu provides a spectacular view across the entire Bay of Palma from the Carrer del Mirador. To the east you can see the resorts stretching into the distance; to the west, a forest of masts announces the location of the yacht marina.

Turn around to admire the flying buttresses of the cathedral's exterior, then wander around the main (west) façade to the north side, where the entrance is located (catedraldemallorca.org). Open 10am-5.15pm from Monday to Friday, 10am-2.15pm on Saturdays; it is closed to all but worshippers on Sunday.

The interior is notable for the slender columns that support one of the biggest Gothic structures in Europe; for a vast stained-glass rose window; and for Antonio Gaudi's wrought-iron canopy – symbolising the Crown of Thorns – suspended above the altar.

Take a hike

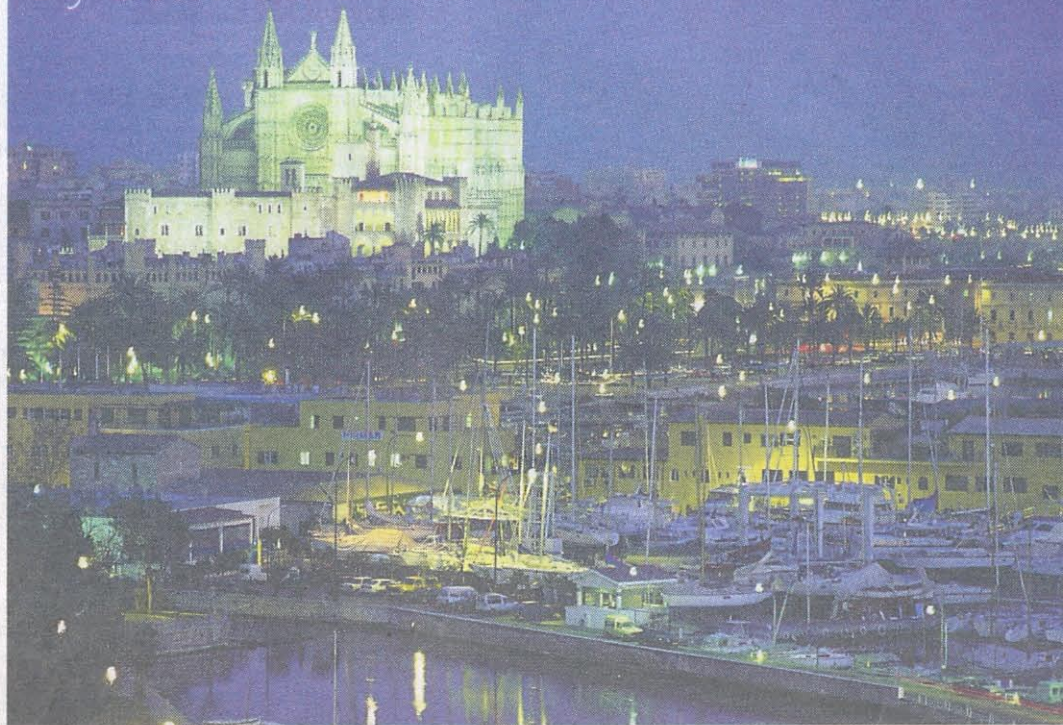
From the cathedral entrance, thread your way through the lanes of the old Moorish quarter. Go north along Palau, nudge right then left into Zanglada, and do the same again into Morei. This widens out to the Plaça de Santa Eulalia, named after the monumental church opposite, and a good place to pause for coffee. Take the street running to the left of the church, Carrer de Santa

48 HOURS IN...

Palma

The capital of Mallorca offers an enticing blend of ancient streets and modern art.

By **Ben Ross** and **Simon Calder**



The majestic architecture of Palma's cathedral, known as the Seu, dominates the skyline REX FEATURES



TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

Why go now?

With half-term imminent, thousands of families will head for Mallorca's beaches and a final burst of sunshine. But the largest Balearic island will remain warm and mainly sunny for the next month or so. Even when the temperature drops, Palma is still full of cafés, shops and culture. Festivities continue into the autumn, with events such as tomorrow's Festa dies Butifarro, celebrating the local blood sausage – sometimes served raw.

Touch down

Between them, easyJet (0905 821 0905; easyjet.com), Monarch (08719 40 50 40; monarch.co.uk) and Ryanair (0871 246 0000; ryanair.com) offer links from a wide range of UK airports. The airport is 8km east of the city. From the arrivals hall, follow the

Eulalia. At the end, turn right and note a splendid Modernista pharmacy. Walk across the Plaça Major, busy with tourists and street entertainers, and into another ancient street: Sant Miquel. Pass the cloister of the Capuchin monastery, which is now an art space; wander in for a free peep if the doors are open. Then bear right along Carrer del Convent dels Caputxins. Abbreviate the walk at the city's vast market, the Mercat d'Olivar to buy the makings of a picnic, or continue to the Plaça Espanya.

Lunch on the run

The Hostal Terminus faces you across Plaça Espanya. It occupies

DAY 2

Sunday morning: go to church

The Seu so dominates Palma, it's easy to overlook the city's other ecclesiastical treasures. For a brief tour, start at the ornate façade of Santa Eulalia, reputed to be the oldest parish church in Mallorca. Pass along Sant Francesc to the triangular plaça overlooked by the 17th-century Basilica de Sant Francesc itself. Continue along Ramon Llull and walk under the archway at the end of the street. Beyond, information boards reveal this as the site of a shrine once used by the Knights Templar. Turn back and take a left down Pelleteria, passing on to Montisyon, where the eponymous church has ornate carving around the door. Final stop: the 17th-century Convento de Santa Clara, reached by turning left down the

an old station building and serves good tortillas. To the left of this former station is its still-functioning counterpart.

Window shopping

If Taking a Hike wore out your shoe leather, then you're in the right place. Mallorca is the home of Camper (camper.com), the fashionably functional global shoe brand that has its headquarters at Inca, a town in the centre of the island – and two outlets in Palma, at Sant Miquel 17 and at Avenida Jaume III 16. Both feature striking red and white interiors; footwear prices kick off at around €100 a pair.

street of the same name. Ignore the restoration work inside and enjoy the sunshine as it streams through the ornate stained-glass window and glitters on the gilt-covered altar. Outside, at an entrance to the right of a shady square, the nuns sell pastries to hungry passers-by, 9am–12.30pm and 4.15pm–6.10pm daily.

A walk in the park

Parc de la Mar is a rewarding place for a stroll, with the Seu and city walls on one side and the sea on the other. Ranks of palm trees, a neat rose garden and a lake pierced by a huge fountain of water complete the picture.

Out to brunch

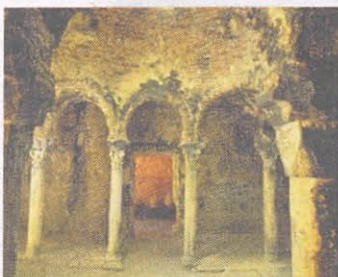
From Parc de la Mar, head along Passeig de Sagrera to the pretty Plaça Drassana, a tiny square ringed by bars and cafés. In the

Take a ride

If you missed this year's Joan Miró exhibition at Tate Modern in London, now is the chance to catch up. The Spanish artist spent the latter part of his life in Mallorca, and the dramatic Miró Foundation clings to a hillside in the suburb of Cala Major, 5km south-west of the city centre. It opens 10am–6pm daily (to 3pm on Sundays), €6. Bus 46 will get you there in 25 minutes.

An aperitif

Tucked away at San Feliu 13a lies 13%, a charming deli-cum-tapas-bar that specialises in Spanish and Mallorcan wine (00 34 971 425 187;



The Arab Baths, which date from the 10 century REX FEATURES

north-east corner, Bar Coto at Plaça Drassana 12 has expanded its reach into the building next door, now called Bar Coto Dos. Inside both, the walls are pink and the cushions gaudy, a motif that continues on the chairs arranged outside. The "Breakfast Coto" is a €8.50 platter of cheese, ham, chorizo, bread, butter and jam, plus coffee.

13porciento.com). A glass of rioja is €3.20.

Dining with the locals

Book well ahead if you want to eat at Simply Fosh. Carrer de la Missió 7a (00 34 971 720 114; simplyfosh.com). Here, the pared-down contemporary style of the restaurant throws into sharp focus the mouthwatering Menú Degustación – including fresh cod and glazed beef cheeks – that costs €58 per person (plus €35 each for wine). Marc Fosh's newest eatery, Misa Braseria, is around the corner at Maçacnet 1 (00 34 971 595 301; misabraseria.com).

Cultural afternoon

Head to the striking Es Baluard at Plaça Porta Santa Catalina 10 (esbuluard.org; 10am–8pm daily except Monday; €6), an extraordinary concoction of glass, steel and concrete all but hidden behind the looming city walls. The sculptures scattered around the space outside are pleasantly whimsical, and the boardwalk on the roof is notable for its dramatic views across Palma.

The icing on the cake

The Arab Baths, or Banys Arabs, at Can Serra 7 date back to the 10th century, and are well worth the €2 entrance fee (9am–6pm daily) – not just for a view of the interior of the domed bath house itself, but also for the tranquillity afforded by the small garden outside. The perfect place to contemplate two days of Mallorcan marvels.

"Public Bus" signs through the coach parks to the stop for bus 1, which departs every 15 minutes for a number of points around the city centre; the stops outside Corte Ingles and the Plaça Espanya are probably the most useful. One-way fare for the 20-minute journey is €2. By metered taxi, the same journey costs around €20.

Get your bearings

The main point of reference is the towering Gothic cathedral, or Seu. Other key locations are the Plaça Major, in the heart of the city; and the Plaça Espanya – the site of the city's two railway stations. The tiny municipal tourist office is set within Casal Sollerica at Passeig des Born 27, a converted 18th-century palace. The equally diminutive Mallorcan tourist office offers island-wide travel advice from Plaça de La Reina 2, close to the Seu.

Check in

Hotel Can Cera at Sant Francesc 8 (cancerahotel.com) opened in June, its 12 rooms carved from an elegant 13th-century palace. Doubles from €227 per night, including breakfast. Note that it will close for a month from 20 November. Similar in layout, if rather rougher around the edges, is the Hotel Born at Sant Jaume 3 (hotelborn.com), which offers good-value doubles in a central location from €82, including breakfast. The budget option of choice is the Hostal Ritzi at Apuntadores 6 (hostalritzi.com). Single and double rooms are available at €30 and €55 respectively, including a "light breakfast".