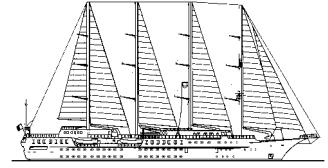


# Spain

## Palma de Mallorca

### 2005



Mallorca is the largest of the five Balearic Islands and Palma is the capital. It is located in the Mediterranean Sea off the southeast coast of Spain. The island covers 3640 square km (about 2200 sq. miles). The landscape varies from the wild panorama of the Sierra Tramontana, to beautiful valleys full of orange and lemons groves, to serene plains of almond and olive trees. Today 300,000 people populate the bustling port of Palma. About a third of the population consists of native Chuetas, who are originally of Jewish descent. The city spans about 20 kilometers around the Bahía de Palma, or the Bay of Palma, which covers approximately 12 1/2 miles. The newer districts of Palma encompass luxury hotels, restaurants, lively nightclubs and multilingual movie houses. During summer, there are bullfights in the 18,000 seat colosseum, Coliseo Balear, as well as horse racing and Jai Alai events.

However, it is the Old Town that is the true heart of Palma. A tour should include walking through the narrow streets, many of which are open to pedestrian traffic only. Some of the attractions to be seen are: the incredible Cathedral, the Palau de l'Almudaina, La Llotja, the Banos Arabes (11th century Arabian baths), and such churches as Gothic San Francisco and Santa Eulalia. As you walk along, make note of the numerous beautifully styled buildings. It is in this area that you will find many styles of architecture, such as; Moorish, Roman, Gothic and Medieval, which are all vivid reminders of the island's past history.

Beaches are plentiful, to the east are the sands of the Ribera de Levante which extend 8 miles from Ciudad Jardin to El Arenal, (El Arenal is a long stretch of beach about a 20 minute drive away and there are facilities). To the west, the Riba de Poniente includes the beaches of Cala Mayor, Illetas, Portal Nous, Palma Nova (Palma Nova is a resort town which is approximately 20 minutes away, it offers shops, sports, chair and umbrella rentals, and the access is easier here. It is considered by many as one of the better spots, the beach is sandy), and Playa Magaluf. Beyond are Santa Ponsa and Cala Fornells; the latter is one of Mallorca's less crowded beaches and is 12 miles from Palma.

The Cathedral sits on the waterfront and was built in the Gothic style between the 14th - 16th centuries. The hours are approximately 10am – 5:30pm Monday through Friday. Saturdays opening hours are from 10am - 1:30pm and closed on Sundays, however visitors are generally allowed to go in but please do not disturb the Mass in progress - Please remember when going into Churches, especially when services are taking place, that appropriate attire is required. The Cathedral is generally entered using the left side door. From the Cathedral, go to the nearby Paseo del Borne for a lovely stroll.

#### **Currency**

*The local currency in Spain is the Euro.*

#### **Banks**

*Banks are open from 9am till 2pm weekdays and closed on the weekend. You can find ATM's scattered around town.*

#### **Post Office**

*Located on Ave. Isidoro Macabich and open from 8:00 am till 2:00 pm.*

#### **Shopping**

*Opening hours are usually from 9am till 1pm and then from 5pm till 9pm (hours may vary from shop to shop). you will find the narrow streets of town lined with shops.*

#### **Taxis**

*All taxis are metered, but this does not keep the price from changing. Cars are generally not air-conditioned & most drivers do not speak English.*

#### **Golf**

*Son Vida is the closest course, approx. 6 miles from the Port. Green fees are approx. €80 + €28 club rental.*

# Museums and sites of interest around Palma

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**Almudaina Palace:** Islamic in origin. It was the residence of Royal House of Mallorca. Opening hours Monday through Friday, are approx. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and on Saturdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, closed on Sundays.

**Museum Diocesa:** Located in the Episcopal Palace, this museum houses Medieval Mallorcan paintings. Opening hours Monday through Friday are approx. 10:00am - 1pm and 4:30pm - 7pm. On Saturdays & Sunday from 10am to 1:30pm.

**Museum of Mallorca:** Contains archaeology, altar pieces and medieval paintings. Closed Mondays.

**Basilica de Saint Francesc:** A Gothic Church with a baroque facade Opening hours Monday through Friday are approx. 9:30am - 1pm and 3:30pm - 6pm. Closed Saturday & Sunday.

**La Lonja:** One of the most interesting buildings in Spanish Gothic civil style. Built in 15th century, it was originally built to house the stock exchange of Palma's enterprising merchants. Today it is used as an exhibition hall. Usually open when exhibitions are taking place.

**Banys Arabs:** These 11th Century Arab Baths are beautiful externally and have an interesting mix of architectural styles within. Opening hours daily are from 9:30am - 8pm.

**The Bellver Castle:** A circular castle built in Gothic style during the 14th century. There is a magnificent view of the harbor and city from here. The hours Mon to Sat are 8am – 8:30pm, Sunday 10am to 7pm. Transportation required, perhaps hire a taxi to take you up for the view and wait, and then have the driver bring you to town.

## **Rental Cars**

There are numerous car rental agencies along the Paseo Maritimo, between the ship and town.

## **Restaurants**

There are many cafes and good restaurants along the waterfront along the Paseo Maritimo, starting just a 15/20-minute walk from the ship. Fish, Japanese, Indian, Chinese, Italian and, of course, Spanish cuisines are available. There are also numerous restaurants, tapa bars, coffee bars and sidewalk cafes in the Old Town.

## **Valldemosa:**

A drive to the beautifully situated hillside village of Valldemosa takes about 30 minutes. This is a lovely place to stroll and visit the museum of Cartuja, see the beautifully decorated Palace of King Sancho, wander into a cafe, or have lunch at a local restaurant. The Cartuja was formerly a Monastery converted into a lodging house which was visited by such famous people as Fredrich Chopin and the French authoress George Sands. Opening hours Monday through Saturday are approx. 9:30 am - 6:00 pm and from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm on Sundays. (It is advisable to have the taxi wait for you.) There are some nice little shops in Valldemosa.