

PALMA TOURIST GUIDE

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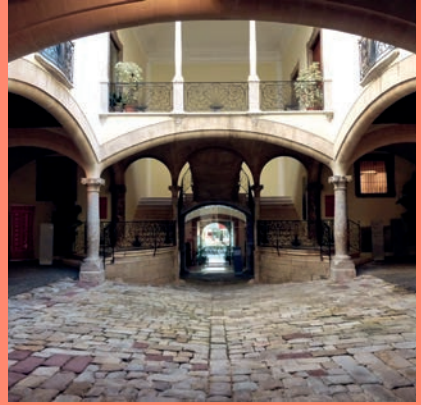
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PALMA

1 TIPS FOR RESPO



OR A



ONSIBLE

VISIT

PALMA,



AS SEEN FROM
A LLONGUET'S
POINT OF VIEW

1. TIPS FOR A RESPONSIBLE VISIT

The island's villages began to playfully call the people of Palma "llonguets," who used to eat this refined and exquisite French bread roll associated with the wealthy classes.

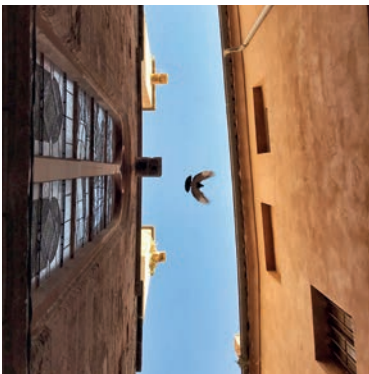
We llonguets are in love with our city, we like to take care of it, and we want those who visit us to take care of it too. Here are some tips to get to know it in our own style, enjoying and respecting it.

1.1. IN PALMA, WE SPEAK SPANISH AND ALSO CATALAN

Try starting the day with a "bon dia" or saying thank you with a smile and a "gràcies." You will also hear thousands of languages, accents and dialects from around the world in our city, so be respectful to all of them.

1.2. TO KNOW US IS TO LOVE US

Our network of tourist agents will help you discover the secrets of the city and its people, from the most essential and visited places to the most hidden and genuine spots we keep to ourselves.



1.3. SUPPORT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Stroll through our streets and discover iconic and traditional businesses that are an essential part of our city's postcard and part of our emotional heritage.



1.4. WALKING, CYCLING, TAKING THE PUBLIC BUS –DISCOVER PALMA WITHOUT POLLUTING

You can use our public bus and metro network, and you can also rent a bicycle and explore the city on two wheels.

1.5. RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Treat them as you would like to be treated in your city. Avoid noise at night.

THANK YOU!

Fundació Turisme Palma 365 is committed to sustainable and responsible tourism development, striving to achieve the maximum benefit and well-being of citizens and visitors.

2



MUSTS



10



1. PALMA CATHEDRAL, LA SEU: SIMPLY EXTRAORDINARY

As **one of the most spectacular Gothic cathedrals in the world**, it completely dominates our city's skyline. Its colourful main rose window (the largest in Gothic architecture, measuring 11 metres in diameter), the canopy or chandelier by Gaudi and Jujol, and the ceramic mural by Miquel Barceló are well worth a visit.

2. ALMUDAINA PALACE, A VERY ROYAL PALACE

This palace is right next to the Cathedral and is currently **one of the Spanish royal family's residences**. The building has Roman roots and was later modified and adapted as a fortress. Some areas are open to visitors, such as the parade courtyard, the Gothic chapel of Santa Ana, the baths from the Islamic period and the terraces with spectacular sea views and the bay of Palma.



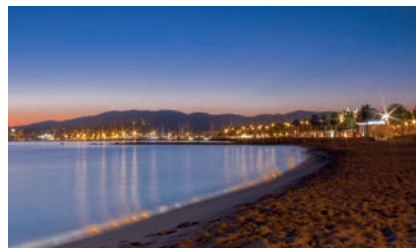
3. MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE: GAUDÍ'S INFLUENCE

Palma boasts stunning examples from this movement, whose greatest exponent, **Antoni Gaudí, left his legacy in Mallorca through his work on the Cathedral**.

Local architects such as Domènech i Muntaner followed his footprint, and today we have some outstanding examples of this movement: the Gran Hotel, the Forn del Teatre, Can Casasayas, Can Roca, Can Corbella, Casa de les Mitges, Can Forteza Rey and Almacenes El Àguila.

4. OLD TOWN 1 AND OLD TOWN 2, EVERY STREET HOLDS ITS OWN TREASURE

Palma's old town, the area within the city walls, is divided into Old Town 1 and Old Town 2. **It is one of the largest and best-preserved historic quarters in the Mediterranean and Europe**, with its medieval streets. Open doorways and courtyards belonging to old mansions (the "casals"), Art Nouveau buildings, iconic shops, museums and modern art galleries. You must stroll through the streets and get lost, and never forget that the sea awaits you below.





5. ENSAÏMADES, LLONGUETS, EMPANADAS, ROBIOLS, COCAS, COCARROIS, CUARTOS, CREPELLS...

Let's say that **the ensaïmada is to Palma what pizza is to Naples**: a source of pride, an immaterial heritage, almost always sweet, with occasional exceptions (the combination with sobrassada (cured pork sausage) is delicious). However, our culinary heritage and our recipe book do not end there. You can enjoy numerous examples of mastery of different types of dough, fermentation and fillings that will delight any curious and hungry stomach in the Ciutat's bakeries.



2. 10 MUSTS

6. ES BALUARD MUSEU D'ART MODERN I CONTEMPORANI DE PALMA: PALMA AT ITS MOST COSMOPOLITAN

Es Baluard is a vibrant museum that combines temporary exhibitions and informative and educational activities with a permanent

collection **that includes works by Antoni Tàpies, Pablo Picasso and Miquel Barceló**. It also features a spectacular panoramic view of Palma in a one-of-a-kind space (with unique spots such as the old cistern or 'aljub') that merges and connects with the medieval walls surrounding the city.



7. FUNDACIÓ MIRÓ MALLORCA, A PRIVILEGED VISIT TO THE ARTIST'S STUDIOS

Joan Miró had a dream, and he fulfilled it in Mallorca. **He designed two working studios to foster his creative growth, which was particularly intense during the latter part of his life**. The two studios (Taller Sert and Son Boter) are preserved just as the artist left them at the time of his death. Both have been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest and provide a privileged view of the master's work and creative process. The Moneo building, which exhibits Miró's permanent collection, is also open to visitors.



8. MADE IN PALMA: LOCAL BRANDS, CRAFTSMANSHIP AND FASHION

If there is one thing that distinguishes the Mallorcan character and culture – and precisely that of our city, it is our interest in creative development. **Palma is a place of inspiration and work for numerous artists, artisans and designers committed to Mediterranean-inspired** craftsmanship and fashion. Strolling through our city is about discovering workshops and brands with sustainable designs and materials and a relaxed Mediterranean approach to luxury that will seduce you.



9. SPORTS: MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO

If you like the sea and sport, welcome to Palma. **The sea is part of our DNA, and water sports play a privileged role in this particular relationship, favoured by a unique climate both in terms of temperature and wind.** But the sports on offer don't end there. During your stay with us, you can enjoy football at the spectacular Visit Mallorca Estadi – known among its fans

as Son Moix, home of RCD Mallorca; be a spectator of numerous cycling events at the Illes Balears Velodrome or go running at our Palma Marathon.



10. ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME, EXCEPT IN PALMA

In Palma, they all end in a long walk along the coastline overlooking the Bay of Palma, known as Avenida Gabriel Roca and popularly known as passeig Maritim. **This route is more than 19 kilometres long and starts in the Portopi area, and can be followed to the end of the Platja de Palma, with a cycle lane and space for pedestrians.** The meeting point for sportspeople and walkers who want to enjoy the sea breeze.



3



OF



HISTO

ABIT



DRY





MEDITERRANEAN
OPEN
COSMOPOLITAN
COZY

The city was officially founded as a Roman settlement in 123 BC by the Roman general Quintus Caecilius Metellus. This first city area corresponds to what is now the Almudaina district, which was fortified. One gate from this wall has survived: the one in the carrer de l'Almudaina.

The arrival of the first Jewish community in the city is documented between the 5th and 9th centuries (the dark centuries), and as early as 902, the Balearic Islands were incorporated into the Umayyad emirate of Córdoba.



At first, Andalusian society occupied the Roman city and called it Madina Mayurqa. A fortress was also built inside the Almudaina. **The city experienced a significant demographic increase**, which led to its growth beyond the Roman walls.

As a result, a project was carried out at the beginning of the 11th century that considerably widened the city inside a new wall, which corresponds to what is known today as the Old City.

In 1114, the Pisan-Catalan raid destroyed a large part of the city, which was rebuilt until the troops of King James I conquered Mallorca in 1229.



The conquest of the island by the King of Aragon marked a turning point in the history of Mallorca and, by extension, of the Balearic Islands. From 1229 onwards, the foundations of today's Mallorcan society were laid with the creation of the Kingdom of Mallorca: religion, culture, institutions, customs, language, etc. Madina Mayurqa became known as **Ciutat de Mallorca**.

The city of Mallorca grew slowly within its own walls during the Middle Ages and the Modern Age. The assault on the Jewish quarter in 1391, the harassment of the farmers during the Revolt of 1450 and the Germanies of 1521, in which farmers and artisans seized power in the Kingdom, are the most notable warlike events.



In 1715, the Bourbon troops of King Philip V entered the city, which had declared itself in favour of Archduke Charles. **This led to the approval of the Nova Planta Decree, by virtue of which the civil institutions that had made up the Kingdom of Mallorca since 1229 disappeared.**

The old name of Palma was recovered, replacing the Ciutat de Mallorca. Administratively, the city was organised according to the Castilian model, and the Palma Town Council was created.

During the Spanish War of Independence (1804-1814), Palma became a refuge for many mainlanders.

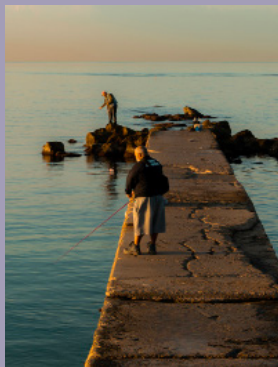
Only suburbs such as Santa Catalina and el Molinar grew slowly. It was not until 1900 that Palma approved the Calvet Town Planning Plan, from which the city expanded far beyond its defensive walls. **In 1902, the demolition of the city walls began,**

a process that was only interrupted dramatically during the tragic years of the Spanish Civil War.

By the 1950s, the tourist industry had developed rapidly and became the main driving force of the island's economy. When democracy was restored in Spain at the end of the 1970s, **Palma was already a tourist capital immersed in a modernising process that consolidated its economic,** cultural and tourist potential by promoting new projects, resulting in significant urban growth that lasted until almost the first decade of the 21st century. **Palma (and Mallorca in general) is nowadays one of the world epicentres of the tourist industry** and welcomes millions of travellers every year who are eager to discover the cultural and historical legacy of this open, cosmopolitan and welcoming Mediterranean city.

4 PALMA

BOURHO



NEIGHB



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OOD



BY

BOURHOOD

Palma, the city of a thousand faces, the city of culture and art, the city of shops, the modern and cool, the most traditional, the place that makes us fall in love and touches our hearts. Here is a tour of the city's most significant neighbourhoods, to share with the world the essence and true spirit of our city, showing its soul and authenticity and those places and plans that make Ciutat one of the most beautiful areas with the best quality of life in the whole of the Mediterranean.



4.1

EL TERRENO

Includes Castell de Bellver (Bellver Castle),
part of the passeig Marítim
and Son Armadans



Bell veer, which comes from the old Catalan, refers precisely to the beautiful views that can be seen from the castle.



The unmistakable silhouette of **Castell de Bellver (1)** towers over the whole area. It stands on a hundred-metre-high hill, and its name makes it clear that it has been a sort of lookout point since its origins. *Bell veer*, which comes from the old Catalan, refers precisely to the beautiful views that can be seen from the castle. That is not its only special feature, as it is one of the few circular castles in Europe and the oldest of its kind in the world.

King Jaume II ordered its construction at the beginning of the 14th century, more as a residential palace than as a defensive fortress and in a typical Catalan Gothic style.

The immense, deep caves – now closed to visitors – which served as a quarry and from which the stone was extracted to build some parts, such as the moat or the slopes, are still hidden in the forest.

Although it was used as a prison almost from the outset, it was not until 1802 that it received one of its most famous prisoners: the writer and politician Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos. The six years he spent imprisoned within its walls severely affected his health. However, they allowed him to write a series of studies on the main monuments of Mallorca that are still fundamental to its knowledge today.

Today Bellver houses the **Museu d'Història de la Ciutat (2)** (City History Museum), which offers a journey through Palma's development, from the Talayotic period to the 20th century. In addition, the main floor exhibits part of the important sculpture collection of Cardinal Despuig, one of the most significant Mallorcan intellectuals and patrons of the 19th century.



The Despuig family owned the land at the foot of the castle where the neighbourhood of El Terreno stands today. This area was so remote and isolated from the rest of the city that, in the mid-17th century, the quarantine station was located here, where passengers and goods arriving at the port were isolated and analysed. Today, the space is occupied by a park with a name that clearly alludes to that particular role: **els jardins de la Quarantena (3)** (Quarantine Gardens).

The remains of the first recorded house in the neighbourhood can also be seen not far from these gardens. At the end of carrer Son Catlaret, you will see an enormous, emblazoned doorway which, in 1777, was the entrance to Cristóbal Vilella's estate, which had the same name as this street.



It took another century for El Terreno to begin to take on the appearance of a summer resort and recreational centre, "with its little houses painted white, yellow and blue," as Archduke Ludwig Salvator described it. At the end of the 19th century, it became the first neighbourhood in Palma to have a tramway to the city centre, albeit still with animal-drawn trains.

Although today the sea peeps out tentatively between some buildings, at the beginning of the 20th century, there were several bathing areas here –Bellver, Can Barbarà, l'Aigua Dolça– which served as the setting for much of local people's social life, and which attracted the first tourists.

The bourgeoisie of Palma summered in this area, where they built some of the most notable **Modernist buildings** in the city and even some with Art Deco influences. Together with the stately homes hidden behind ivy or bougainvillea tangles, there are many other well-preserved examples such as **Can Schembri (4)** –home to the Swedish school–, the former **Hostal Corona (5)**, **Casa Terrassa (6)** or **Can Quetglas (7)**, located at carrer Santa Rita, 13–work of the architect Francesc Roca Simó, which has been transformed into a luxury hotel.

El Terreno was soon known for its interesting architecture and was a place where artists, writers and musicians from all over the world took refuge. The painters Santiago Rusiñol and William E. Cook, the translator Anthony Kerrigan, the poet Rubén Darío, the novelist Georges Bernanos, Ava Gardner, Errol Flynn, Grace Kelly and Charles Aznavour later came to the first hotels in the area. After all, it was here that Gertrude Stein tried to convince Robert Graves to visit the island with one of the most famous phrases in our history, "Mallorca is paradise if you can stand it."



From the 1960s onwards, **plaça Gomila (8)**, the meeting point for the neighbourhood's children a century before, became the epicentre of Palma's nightlife.

First with the nightclubs, then with nightclubs such as Barbarela, Zhivago or Tito's. The latter became internationally renowned thanks to performances by artists such as Ray Charles, Marlene Dietrich, Tom Jones, Louis Armstrong, Petula Clark and Josephine Baker.

The land was definitively linked to Palma with the urban development of **Son Armadans (9)**, which was completed in the 1930s. Two decades later, the seafront construction divided the neighbourhood into two parts: the seafront and the upper. Nowadays, both have a wide range of hotels, as well as leisure and restaurant establishments. One iconic building serves as a link between the two: the Auditorium, built in 1969.

Although initially, foreign citizens were the first to reside in this area, the Nobel Prize winner **Camilo José Cela** placed it on the national literary and cultural scene thanks to the publication of 'Papeles de Son Armadans' between 1956 and 1979. Among the authors who wrote in its pages were Dámaso Alonso, Josep Maria Castellet and Rafael Sánchez Ferlosio. It not only gave a voice to still exiled authors, such as Rafael Alberti and Luis Cernuda, but was also one of the few magazines of the time to publish texts in other official languages, such as Catalan and Galician. At number 47, carrer Josep Villalonga, a plaque commemorates what was one of its first residences on the island.



4.2

CALA MAJOR, DIC DE L'OEST, GÈNOVA

Including part of Son Armadans,
Portopí and La Bonanova



Just over five kilometres separate the historic centre of Palma from one of the lesser-known districts: **Ponent**.

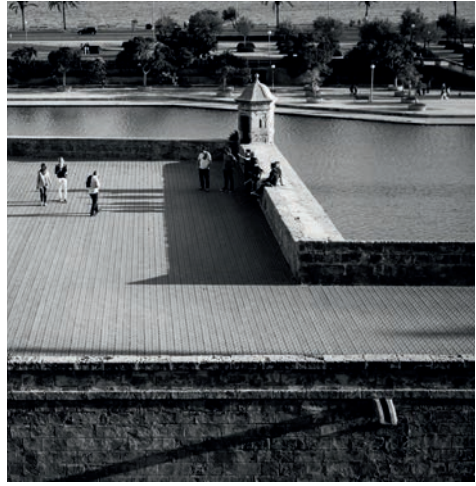


Just over five kilometres separate the historic centre of Palma from one of the lesser-known districts: **Ponent**. The **passeig Marítim (1)** runs between both ends, whose official name is the **avinguda de Gabriel Roca**: the engineer who promoted its construction at the end of the 1940s. The first stop on the route leads to **Portopi (2)**, in whose bay Roman ships used to anchor to protect themselves from storms.

This role as a marine refuge led to the construction of several towers to watch over the port, of which only two remain: the **Paraires Tower**, located on the other side of the promenade, and the one located at the **Naval Station**, located initially at the end of the inlet

and transformed into the **Portopi lighthouse** at the beginning of the 14th century. This one is the second oldest lighthouse in Spain, after the **Tower of Hercules**, and the third oldest in the world if we count the **Lantern of Genoa**.

Next to it is one of the most unknown spaces in the city: the **Museum of Maritime Signals**. In addition to its valuable archive on the Balearic lighthouse network, it has one of the best European collections of this type of guide. Optics, furniture, lamps and other items provide an insight not only into its technological evolution but also into its architecture and the day-to-day life of the lighthouse keepers.



If we continue along the so-called Dic de l'Oest road, we discover the **San Carlos Military Museum (3)**. The original fortress was built around 1600, also to protect the port of Portopí. Over the centuries, it underwent several modifications, including the addition of new cannons, even during the Spanish Civil War. In the 1990s, it lost its original function and became a centre dedicated to military history. Its collection aside, it is an iconic place to learn about 17th-century defensive architecture.

There are three other fundamental nuclei of this district on both sides of the motorway—which leads to Andratx. A series of winding curves lead away from the sea to **La Bonanova (4)**, one of the quietest neighbourhoods in Palma. The writer and Nobel Prize for Literature winner Camilo José Cela was one of its most illustrious residents. His second home, known as Casa Cela, designed by architects José Antonio Corrales and Ramón Vázquez Molezún, can still be seen in carrer Francesc Vidal i Sureda.

If we continue up to the foot of the mountain of na Burguesa, the road will take us to the neighbourhood of **Gènova (5)**, whose picturesque atmosphere and idiosyncrasy –mainly forged thanks to its remoteness from the city– make it a sort of village within Palma itself.

From very early on, the coexistence of travellers and residents worldwide was another of its hallmarks. For example, the poet Joan Alcover spent his summer holidays here, and the Hollywood actor George Sanders lived here.

Its maze of streets and squares includes several restaurants serving traditional Mallorcan cuisine, which have earned the neighbourhood a significant reputation. Its caves, discovered at the beginning of the 20th century, are today another of the most visited tourist sites. Their importance lies not only in that they served as a refuge from the bombardments during the Spanish Civil War but also in the fact that they may be one of the keys to the origin of the name Gènova itself. Some theories claim that the numerous natural cavities in the area were used to hide the fabrics brought in by smugglers from the Italian city of Genoa.

If we retrace the path down the hill, the villas and chalets of the beginning of the century are left behind.

The mountain greenery disappears, and the blue of the sea returns. Cala Major beach gives its name to this area. Halfway along the seaside, as if on a balcony overlooking the Mediterranean, the famous Joan Miró lived there. From the street, you can still see the white façade of the house in Son Abrines, where he lived from the mid-1950s on. Next to it today is the **Fundació Miró Mallorca (6)**: a museum that emerged after the donation of his workshops, as well as all the works, objects and documents they contained. It is an extensive collection of nearly 7,000 pieces, including his personal library.





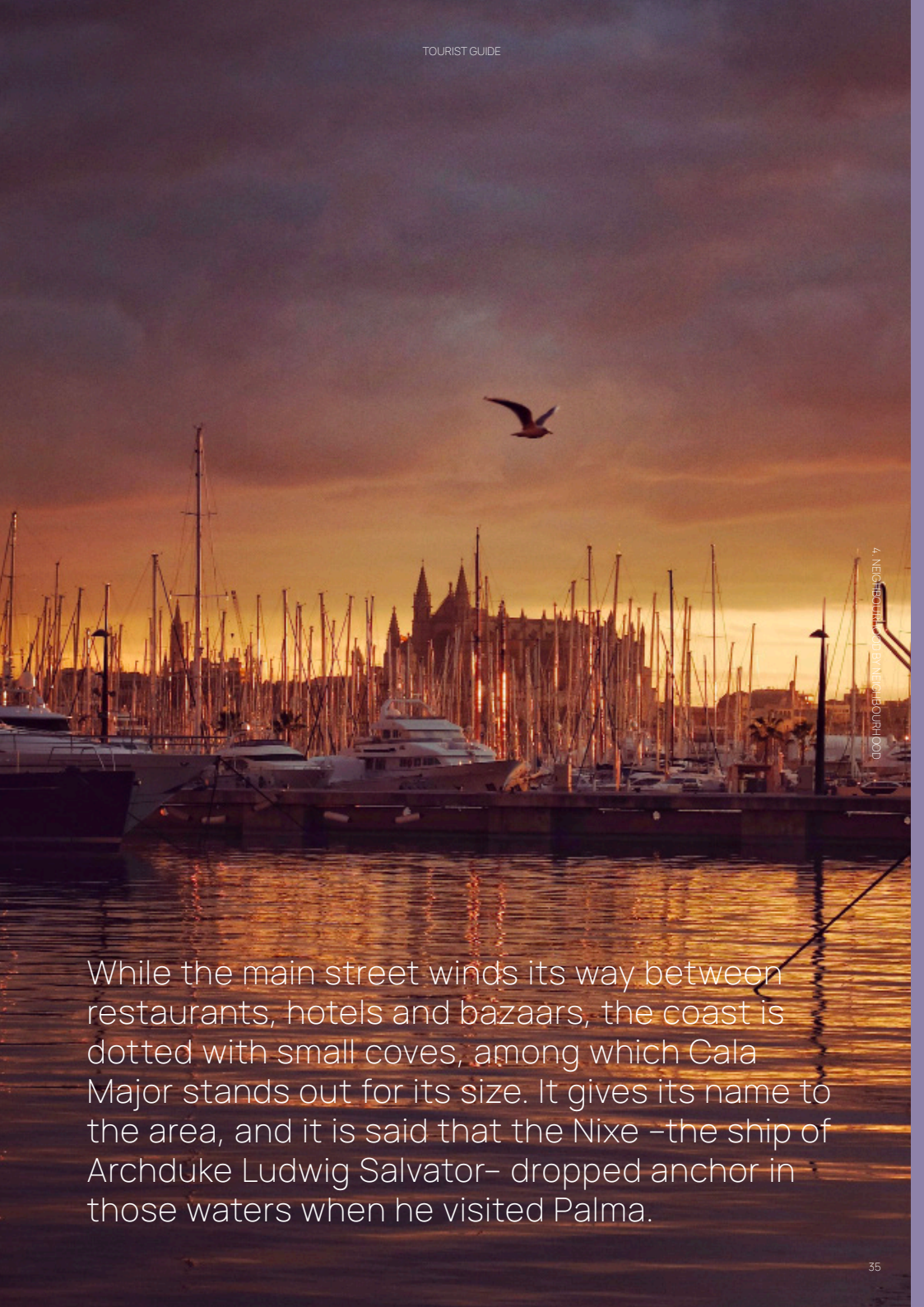
The museum is made up of three buildings that can be visited: the oldest is Son Boter, a typical Mallorcan property that the artist bought to escape the gaze of possible neighbours and which he used as a workshop to create large-format sculptures.

The Sert Building was commissioned by his friend, the Catalan architect Josep Lluís Sert—it is surprising for its use of traditional materials in a design that is part of the modern movement.

Once inside, you can admire the vast workspace in which Miró created—preserved just as he left it. The most recent is the Moneo Building, completed in 1993 by the famous architect Rafael Moneo to house the foundation's offices. The building stands out for its different levels of harmony between the garden and ponds.

The street where visitors go down to sea level bears the name of another artist: Joan de Saridakis, an Egyptian painter, collector and patron of the arts of Greek origin. In the 1920s, he designed the Marivent building, today **Marivent Palace (7)**, where he lived until his death. In the 1970s, it was handed over by the authorities to become the summer residence of the Spanish royal family.

As mentioned above, the neighbourhood we are now in is **Cala Major (8)**. Its name is documented from the end of the 16th century, but its constructions were scarce until well into the 20th century. Little remains today of the summer houses topped by a tower, characteristic of that period. The area became a tourist attraction early on, even for the first international travellers. The former **Hotel Principe Alfonso**, a curious Mudejar-inspired establishment designed by the Mallorcan architect Gaspar Bennàssar, has been converted into a restaurant. The English writer D.H. Lawrence stayed and was inspired by its rooms.



While the main street winds its way between restaurants, hotels and bazaars, the coast is dotted with small coves, among which Cala Major stands out for its size. It gives its name to the area, and it is said that the Nixe –the ship of Archduke Ludwig Salvator– dropped anchor in those waters when he visited Palma.

4.3

SANTA CATALINA AND SON ESPANYOLET



Arguably, the famous Santa Catalina district, nicknamed by some **the Soho of Palma**, was born out of a shipwreck.



In 1343, a wealthy Mallorcan merchant, Ramon Salelles, decided to found the Santa Catalina Hospital for the Poor in this area in gratitude for having been saved from a shipwreck. Later converted into an asylum and hospice, the hospital ended up giving its name to the entire neighbourhood that grew up around it.

This is one of Palma's oldest neighbourhoods. Only a century after the Catalan conquest, it went from being little more than the road leading to Portopi to becoming the city's first suburb—the first urban nucleus to emerge outside the medieval walls.

The oldest part of Santa Catalina seemed to be located in what we

know today as **el Jonquet (1)**: a sort of fishing village with low houses and flowerpots at the entrance, hidden among passages and alleys beyond **carrer Sant Magí (2)**. Before the **passeig Marítim** was built, only a few cliffs separated this area from the sea. This proximity meant it was considered a fishing neighbourhood from very early on. Still, there actually was also a proliferation of rope makers, sail makers and **mestres d'aixa**: carpenters specialising in shipbuilding.



In addition to the *llaüts* and *barques de bou* fishers typical of Mallorca, significant merchant seamen emerged from the neighbourhood. Archduke Ludwig Salvator, according to chroniclers, wrote in his *Die Balearen* that the best sailors on the island were in the suburb of Santa Catalina and Andratx.



At the beginning of the 17th century, Palma's new city wall moved the course of the Riera and meant the physical separation between the neighbourhood and the rest of the city. However, this did not stop it from continuing to grow, and in fact, some of its new inhabitants were precisely the workers who worked on the reconstruction of the wall.

A century later, one of the hallmarks of el Jonquet would come to the fore: **the flour millers**. Although their presence has been documented since the 15th century, it seems that it was then that they multiplied in number. They make up a fundamental part of its skyline and are one of the most recognisable sights of Palma from the sea. Although few people know it, they have their own names, such as d'en Garleta, d'en Carreres or la Garriguera. The mills also occupied part of the current la Feixina park and extended as far as carrer Indústria, where you can still visit some of them, transformed into restaurants and nightlife venues.

This street, together with Fàbrica, are two of the most evident reminders of the neighbourhood's industrial past at the end of the 19th century when businesses and trades diversified. An 1865 law had proposed the elimination of factories within the walls, and these had no choice but to look for new locations. Gordiola, Vidrieres Llofriu, La Alfombrera and La Cordelera set up shop in the streets of Santa Catalina. This sudden boom resulted in a population of more than 6,000 inhabitants.

Two of the area's most characteristic buildings date from the same period: **the church of the Immaculada Concepció (3)**, also known as **Sant Magí**, and the **Teatre Mar i Terra (4)**, designed by the architect Josep Segura. Somewhere between reality and legend is the anecdote that states that in 1904 Jules Verne himself sat in its seats as a spectator to see a zarzuela inspired by his *From the Earth to the Moon*.

The modernist style of the theatre was a constant in many of the buildings constructed in the neighbourhood in the following decades and today constitutes one of the neighbourhood's main attractions, thanks to the exceptional examples preserved. These include the **ironmongers' shop La Central (5)** in carrer Sant Magí with its iron balconies and decorative mouldings, the **Hostal Cuba (6)** with its tower topped by a dome of Arabic influence, and the Can Palmer house in carrer Quetglas i Despuig, with its ceramic ornamentation on the façades.



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD BY NEIGHBOUR



The demolition of the walls was the first step in bringing Santa Catalina closer to the rest of the city, but even more important was the Alomar Plan in 1940. Thanks to this plan, both passeig de Mallorca and carrer Jaume III were built to facilitate the entrance to the historic quarter. The suburb definitively became a neighbourhood.

During the 1960s, the rise in tourism drove most of the industries out of the neighbourhood, which moved to the industrial estates. The area took on a more residential character, with a multitude of small shops and the market, which has become the nerve centre of Santa Catalina for residents and visitors alike.

In recent decades, the stalls selling fresh produce that are typical of traditional markets have been joined by a significant range of cuisine.

Carrer Sant Magi, precisely where some of the oldest houses in the neighbourhood are grouped, is one of the Meccas of Palma's nightlife, complemented by the wide range of restaurants in **carrer Fàbrica (7)**. However, surprises await behind any of the alleys starting from this street and the result of the area's irregular layout: from the views from an immense viewpoint over the passeig Marítim to hidden whitewashed courtyards between historic houses or the ruins of a hundred-year-old tower.

As Santa Catalina expanded in the middle of the last century, it also came into contact with **Son Espanyolet (8)**, which had emerged in the 19th century as a summer llogaret (resort) in the upper part of the neighbourhood. Its network of narrow streets and low houses includes some towers and villas from the beginning of the century, but also the latest in contemporary design, such as the Casa Plywood, selected for the prestigious FAD Architecture Awards in 2018.





4.4

OLD TOWN 2



What you are visiting today in Old Town 2 is inextricably linked to the history of the la Riera watercourse.



In fact, before following its former course, you can still watch how it flows from the bridge on *avinguda de Portugal*. Just a few metres away stands one of the architectural complexes that constituted an artistic and educational landmark at the beginning of the 20th century and which changed the landscape of the area: **the Joan Alcover and Ramon Llull secondary schools (1)** and the *Escola Superior de Disseny* (High School of Design).

La Riera rises in the municipality of Puigpunyent and runs for 21 kilometres until it flows into the bay of Palma. The fact that its course crosses the walled city almost from one end to the other was something that worried King Jaume II as early as 1300, who ordered it to be diverted outside the walls. However, it took an enormous flood with thousands

of deaths for the project to materialise in 1613. Some experts point out that in Islamic times there was only one bridge to cross it, while in the 17th century, there were already three areas to do so.

The Rambla (2), then known as the *plad del Carme*, emerged from diverting its course towards the current *passeig de Mallorca*. In the 18th century, the central part was built, and trees were planted on both sides; four decades later, the fountain was added, which continues right at the start. It is well worth stopping here for a while. On the left, **carrer dels Oms (3)** is the main road connecting with Old Town 1.

On the right is the imposing building of **la Misericòrdia (4)**: a historic 17th-century hospice that underwent several alterations and extensions until it closed its doors at the end of the last century to become one of the Consell de Mallorca's (Mallorca Council) headquarters.

The promenade that the poet Miquel dels Sants Oliver described as "an avenue of old drawings" is today lined with flower shops and small cafés. Behind the enormous walls that flank it, the convents of Santa Magdalena and the **Carmelitas Descalzas (5)** (Barefoot Carmelites) are hidden. As you round the bend towards carrer Unió, the **church of Sant Nicolau (6)** overlooks the neighbourhood of the same name, which dates back to the Islamic period. It used to be the site of the Saturday public market. Later, its square became the scene of bullfights and some public executions.

There are many notable buildings in this area. Behind us is Palma's Teatre Principal (7), which was built in the 17th century as the Casa de Comèdies (House of Comedies) with seating for 800 people.

The current building was constructed during the 19th-century reform under the direction of the Mallorcan architect Antoni Sureda i Villalonga. In addition to its extensive theatre, music and zarzuela programmes, it also boasts an architecturally beautiful interior and is in a rare state of preservation.



The Baroque palace of Can Berga, with its large balconies and the family coat of arms in the centre, is today the seat of the Provincial Court of the Balearic Islands.



On the other side, in **Can Balaguer (8)**, the musician Josep Balaguer resided, who installed a chamber organ in the palace, which is one of the jewels of his collection. After a thorough restoration, the space has been transformed into a cultural centre with the permanent exhibition 'La casa possible' (The possible house) in which, using 350 pieces, it recreates the stately homes of Palma between the 16th and 20th centuries.

Modernism also left its mark on this area, with Can Casasayas and, above all, the **Gran Hotel (9)**. Architecturally speaking, this work by Lluís Domènech i Montaner is one of the most outstanding examples of Modernist architecture on the island, with its extensively ornamented façade with sculptural elements

and ceramics and its semicircular balconies. From a functional point of view, it was a pioneer as a luxury hotel establishment, not only in Mallorca but also on a national level. It is currently the headquarters of the CaixaFòrum Palma museum.

The large square that opens up a few metres further on is the **plaça de Joan Carles I (10)**, known among the people of Palma as the **plaça de les Tortugues** (Turtle Square) because of the small sculptures in the shape of turtles that hold up part of the central obelisk. This same fountain is where Mallorca's victories are celebrated, with hundreds of red and black flags fluttering in the wind.





This square is also the starting point of **carrer Jaume III (11)**: one of Palma's main commercial thoroughfares. Despite the appearance of its porticoed arches and uniform façades, it is much more recent than it appears. It was built as part of the Alomar Plan in the 1940s to improve access to the city from the suburb of Santa Catalina. Sometime later, Palma's wealthy class would move to its surroundings.

El Born (12) also emerged from the land gained after the la Riera diversion. The narrow side roads that until then had bordered the torrent were transformed into a wide promenade where the nobility strolled. Its proximity to the quay meant that this area was also some solemn activities scene of the celebration, such as different monarchs' proclamations.

Together with the aforementioned carrer Jaume III and carrer Sant Feliu, it makes up what is known as *Palma's golden mile*. Large national and international commercial firms coexist in these three streets with cafés and restaurants.

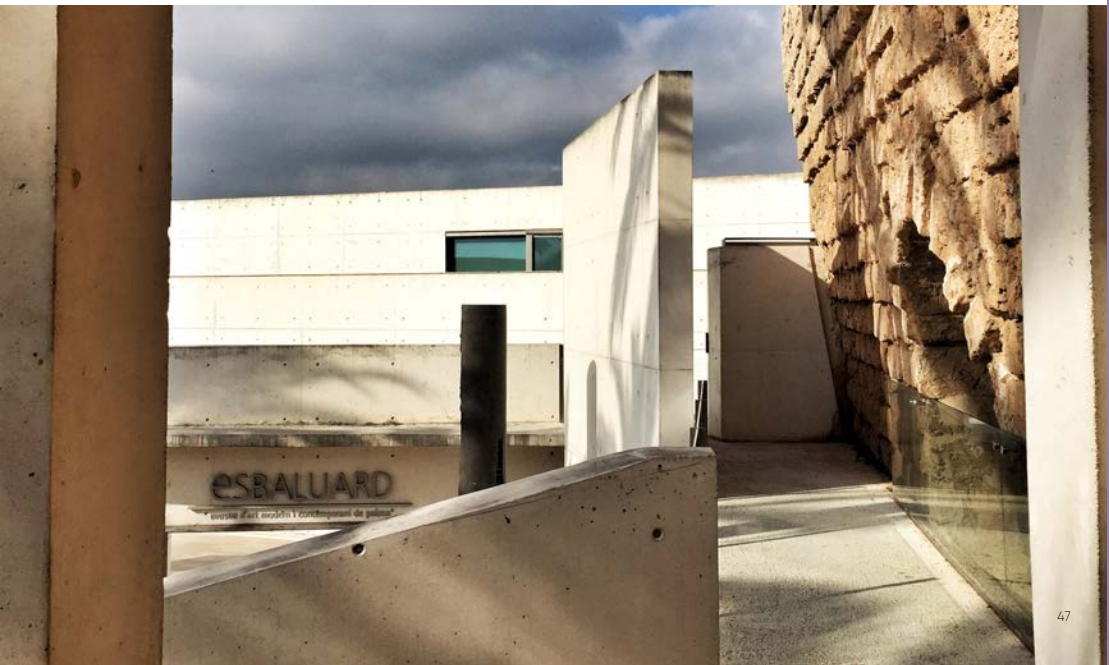
Several franchises have also occupied some of the area's historic buildings, such as **Can Puig des Rellotge**, Can Puig, with its incredible coffered ceiling crowning the latest fashion trends, or the old Sala Born, one of the city's most famous cinemas, of which several original elements are still preserved.

One of Palma's great stately homes, dating from the Baroque period, has its entrance on this same street: Can Morell, today better known as Casal Sollerich. Its interior has been adapted to house a large exhibition centre with curious spaces like an old cistern, the noble room or old chamber in which an imperial-style bed from the late 18th century is preserved.

It is not the only exhibition space in the area. The steep streets of the Puig de Sant Pere neighbourhood, whose origins also date back to the Islamic period, lead to **Es Baluard (13)**, Palma's Museum of Contemporary Art. The building, inaugurated in 2004, stands on the San Pere bastion: a stronghold of Palma's old Renaissance wall. Inside, temporary exhibitions

are combined with a permanent collection, which includes pieces from the end of the 19th century, in which artists such as Christian Boltanski, Robert Mapplethorpe, Marina Abramovic, Antoni Miralda and Louise Bourgeois feature prominently.

It is well worth visiting the remains of this old fortress, which perfectly harmonizes with the museum's avant-garde style. Its exterior terraces make up a sort of architectural play based on ramps, skylights, staircases and large balconies with excellent views of the sea and the Cathedral. The last glimpse will bring us back to the image of the new la Riera riverbed, which completes the circle of the entire route.



PALMA

4.5

LA LLOTJA



If you have reached this area, you will probably know that, along with Bellver Castle and the Cathedral, [La Llotja](#) is one of Palma's most important monuments.



That is why it ended up not only being the heart of an entire neighbourhood but also giving it its name. One of its secrets lies precisely in the guardian angel crowning its portal—a symbol of merchants. In the late Middle Ages, the activity in this area was marked by shipowners and sailors, although the merchants undoubtedly had a critical power. When architect Guillem Sagrera knocked on the door, he aimed to build a commodities exchange, a headquarters for the Merchants' Association that would "ennoble" his profession and the city itself.

The result was the building you see in front of you, constructed in the mid-15th century, which is considered one

of the best examples of civil Gothic architecture, not only in the Balearic Islands but in the whole of Europe. They say the sea was reflected in its interior when it formed part of the maritime façade. Its magnificent spiral columns, without base or top, were later imitated in the Llotja of Valencia or the bottom of the tower of San Giorgio in the Castel Nuovo in Naples. If you have the chance, don't miss the night-time visits to its terrace organised every summer.

Over time, the merchants' *temple* saw its use change. As the centuries went by, it was used as a warehouse, prison, hospital, gunpowder factory and cannon foundry, with up to five furnaces unable to cope during the Spanish War of Independence.



In the 19th century, it was a hall that hosted the masked balls during the Carnival festivities, where more than a thousand people would attend.

Although the origins of the neighbourhood date back to the Islamic period, it was during the Middle Ages that it experienced its golden years. The importance of maritime trade also left another 17th-century heritage treasure just a few steps away: the **Consolat de Mar (1)**, today the seat of the presidency of the Balearic Government, also built by the Col·legi de Mercaders (Merchants' Association).



The monumentality of the neighbourhood, which continued until the 20th century, goes beyond this square. The network of pedestrian streets that open up behind La Llotja provides a glimpse of the numerous stately mansions that stand here and there, now converted into restaurants or boutique hotels. This neighbourhood also welcomed Chopin when he arrived on the island in November 1838. You will find a plaque in carrer de la Mar that commemorates the location of the old inn where he stayed with George Sand at the beginning of a stay that would continue until February of the following year, which the novelist wrote about in *A Winter in Mallorca*.

It is precisely at the entrance to this street, coming from the passeig del Born, that you will find one of the only architectural elements from the Islamic period that remains in the city. On a reddish wall stands the **Porta de l'Almodí**, one of the entrances that went from the area outside the walls to the interior of Palma and which was probably one of the busiest gates as it concentrated all the activity in the port. If you look closely, you will see that, from the outside, it is shaped like a semicircular arch corresponding to the Islamic wall. The interior is an ogival arch from the Christian period.

If you are curious to see the interiors of these grey stone façades, go to carrer Sant Joan, 1. The former Can Marcel casal (manor house), which dates from the 18th century, is now the Àbaco bar, commissioned and committed to preserving the luxury of the Baroque period.



From the 1990s onwards, La Llotja became a fashionable neighbourhood and a reference point for Palma's nightlife. Even today, the nights are still spent in its wide range of restaurants, bars and pubs, which extend to the other side of **passeig Sagrera (2)**, which connects the neighbourhood with the sea. It was built on a single night from 23rd to 24th June 1910.

The architect Gaspar Bennàssar wanted to surprise the people of Palma on the occasion of the Regional Exhibition of the Balearic Islands, and with the help of 200 men, he transformed a spartan wasteland into a beautiful promenade with lampposts and benches.





In the **Moll Vell (3)** (Old Quay), much of the daytime activity is taken up by fishing boats and their fishers, who can be seen mending colourful nets on the street or hauling their catches at the fish market, where they are auctioned off every morning. Like Chopin, if you spend a winter in Palma, you should know that every 5th of January, the Three Wise Men from the East also disembark on this very quay before setting off on their traditional parade through our city.

Centuries ago, the neighbouring oratory of Sant Elm was the fishers' place of worship, but it was actually located at the end of carrer de la Mar. The decision was taken in the mid-20th century to move it to this new location, where it was rebuilt stone by stone. Before changing its course, the mouth of the la Riera river, which, we should remember, ran along the current Rambla and passeig del Born, was not located initially here either.

Some of the historic buildings in the La Llotja neighbourhood have been transformed into first-rate art spaces, giving the area a certain bohemian ambience.

Returning to the central area, in the bustling plaça de la **Drassana (4)**, is a spectacular three-storey modernist building home to one of the headquarters of the Horrach Moyà gallery. Following the labyrinth of pedestrian streets, we come to **carrer Sant Feliu (5)**, where Kewenig stands out among the art galleries on offer. Just over a decade ago, Kewenig installed a new art space in a 13th-century chapel, the oratory dedicated to sant Feliu, catering to both established and emerging artists.



4.6

OLD TOWN 1

FROM PARC DE LA MAR TO PL. ESPANYA

Including Mercat, plaça dels patins, Cort,
Sindicat, Montis-ion, la Calatrava



Walking through Old Town 1 is like a journey back in time.



It is like stepping into the history of a city whose pages have been written not only in its most famous monuments but also in almost hidden spaces, waiting to be discovered. The first chapter would take us to **la Seu (1)**, the Cathedral of Mallorca. Its relevance goes beyond being a first-class architectural jewel, the almost 300 years it took to build and the fact that it has the largest rose window in the Gothic world. Beneath its foundations, as well as in the basements of the current Museu d'Art Sacre de Mallorca, vestiges of ancient Roman Palma were found. As we have seen, the city officially came into being in 123 BC. The latest studies suggest that it may have been much larger than previously thought, with estimates indicating that it covered around 22 hectares. Among the few traces of this

period that remain in accessible areas are the remains of a defence tower and a stretch of Roman wall in the small urban oasis of the Jardins del Bisbe (Bishop's Gardens).

However, the origins of Old Town 1 date back to the Middle Ages, in the midst of Islamic domination. Once the Roman-era layout had been superseded, the present-day **carrer Sant Miquel (2)** became the central hub, as it was along this street that part of the irrigation channel that supplied the city ran. The new Madina Mayurqa already included part of the Sindicat, Mercat and la Calatrava areas within its walls. The latter is exactly where we find one of the most important vestiges of this period: **the Arab baths in carrer Can Serra (3)**.



From the 31st of December 1229 onwards, Palma underwent another of its great transformations with the Catalan Conquest. Jaume I's troops also entered through carrer Sant Miquel. At the junction of plaça d'Espanya and plaça de la Porta Pintada was the Bab al-Kofol gate, which became the Santa Margalida gate. Its historical relevance and symbolic significance were such that, during the demolition of the walls at the beginning of the 20th century, it was demolished at night and in secret due to the opposition that existed in large part of the population. It is said that even King Alfonso XIII wrote to the authorities to complain when he heard of its disappearance. To compensate for the supposed mistake, the City Council decided to erect a monument to the Conqueror, which is none other than the equestrian statue that still presides over the plaça d'Espanya.

The Catalan conquest brought about a whole series of social and urban changes. The new churches and convents were built taking advantage of the old existing mosques, as was the case with the Cathedral and the churches of Santa Eulàlia and Sant Miquel.

In fact, the density of monuments and listed buildings in this area is particularly notable for the religious ones, many of which managed to resist confiscation and have survived to the present day. Among them, we can highlight the **church of Sant Felip Neri (4)** or the **complex of Sant Antoniet (5)**, where the Hospital de Sant Antoni de Viana used to be at the time of the conquest. Not far away, the **churches of Santa Catalina de Sena (6)** and **Caputxins (7)** are the only remains of two convents that once occupied an entire block.



The origin of the **Call Major (8)** can also be traced back to medieval times: the primary Jewish quarter of Palma after its inhabitants were expelled from the area of l'Almudaina and the Call Menor. From around 1300 onwards, the city's Jews were forced to live and carry out their commercial and craft activities in a circumscribed, walled enclosure with its own entrances. A plaque at the beginning of Sol Street commemorates the site of the old entryway.

The terrible attack it suffered at the end of the same century by large groups of peasants killed 300 people and almost wholly levelled it. Its history is told today in the Maimó Ben Faraig Jewish culture interpretation centre in carrer de l'Almudaina, as well as in the numerous pieces kept in the Museum of Mallorca. In addition, the arch between carrer Can Dusai and carrer Monti-sion is a reminder that these were two main thoroughfares in the Jewish quarter. The lands formerly occupied by the community's synagogue were located where the Old Seminary and the church of Monti-sion stand today.

In addition to its significant religious heritage, Old Town 1 is known for its famous **courtyard route**. This area is home to a large part of the 60 casals or mansions built between the 16th and 19th centuries, showing some of the best secrets of the Mallorcan aristocracy and its architecture. These include Can Vivot, Ca la Cristiana - home to the Museum of Mallorca - Can Juny, Ca n'Oleo, as well as Can Bordils and Ca n'Oms, where different municipal offices such as the historical archive are located. Just a few metres away, in the plaça de Cort square, **Palma City Hall (9)** is well worth a stop—even though it does not have a great courtyard. Its baroque façade with Mannerist details and the well-known bench of the sinofos or ganduls (vagabonds) are sure to leave a lasting impression.





In addition to its monumental nature, neighbourhoods such as **La Calatrava (10)** had a significant industrial past. Since the 15th century and for almost 400 years, many of its residents worked tanning hides, which they prepared in this area, washed in the sea, and hung on the walls to dry.

Nowadays, Old Town 1 stands out for its intense commercial activity, centred on carrer Sindicat and carrer Sant Miquel. Since 1951 it has also been home to one of the most renowned traditional markets in the whole city: the Mercat de l'Olivar (11).

This area in the heart of Palma is also the birthplace of some of the most deeply-rooted traditions that many locals still maintain today.

Among the celebrations of the old Hospital de Sant Antoni de Viana is the custom of blessing the animals on Saint Anthony's Day. Every the 17th of January, the traditional *beneïdes* (blessings) attract crowds of curious onlookers to witness the procession of pets and farm animals to be blessed.

The area now occupied by the plaça Berenguer de Palou –whose popular name is plaça dels Patins– was once a bullring, and crowds of citizens visited the neighbouring church of Santa Margalida on Palm Sunday to venerate the image of the Santa Faz. So many that the influx led to the creation of a small market, which would become the Fira del Ram, nowadays characterised by its attractions and stalls.



PORTITXOL,
EL MOLINAR,
CIUTAT JARDI,
CALA ESTÀNCIA



Perhaps no area in Palma has undergone a greater transformation – both in terms of appearance and inhabitants – than el Molinar



For many, it is also one of the neighbourhoods with the most personality in the whole city, with a character closely linked to its seafaring past and which has managed to treasure all these changes' remains. You arrive here after walking along the kilometre-long promenade that crosses the bay from one end to the other and offers a marvellous panoramic view of Palma's skyline.

At the end of the cliffs, the first bathing area is called **Can Pere Antoni (1)**. On its sand, in the late afternoon, you can see the golden façade of the historic Gesa building reflected in a curious play of light. Not far away, there used to be a famous tavern where the carts from

the east of Mallorca used to stop during the 19th century, and whose owner was none other than one such Pere Antoni.

The neighbourhood's origin is to be found a little further away, in front of what is now the **Palau de Congressos (2)**, on the promenade that opens up between carrer Joan Maragall and the seafront. It won't take long to discover the remains of some old mills, now converted into restaurants. They have stood there for no less than four centuries, observing the city's evolution.

In the 17th century, long before it became a neighbourhood, **molinar** –in lowercase– referred to the row of windmills that relentlessly ground flour. Up to 28 of them have been documented, and when they stopped grinding, they were occupied as modest dwellings.

During the 19th century, its closeness to the sea led to the flourishing of two activities that were basically sustained by small family businesses living in the area. Firstly, there was a boom in traditional coastal fishing, and secondly, the arrival of tanners to work the hides, which were exported mainly to the mainland and the United Kingdom. Their small workshops eventually became workshops with up to fifty workers.

Towards the end of the same century, a new transformation took place, and it became an important industrial centre, mainly with companies linked to the energy sector. The first gas factory in Mallorca, up to three power stations and the la Petrolera oil refinery were successively opened. The latter included a whole complex made up of cooling mills, chimneys, workers' housing and offices installed in the **Can Salas building**, now restored and open to visitors, which houses the municipal library of the neighbourhood and a museum dedicated to environmental education.

The trend continued throughout much of the 20th century when a boiler factory, a tar manufacturing company and a cardboard factory were set up before moving to the industrial estates.



The industrialisation of el Molinar had various consequences for the population. On the one hand, it led to the emergence of a prominent workers' movement in defence of labour rights, which also led to solid political activity.

Indeed, one of its most outstanding representatives was Aurora Picornell, a seamstress who belonged to the group known today as Roges del Molinar (the Reds of Molinar), shot in 1937. She organised the Working Women's Day in 1934, which took place in this very neighbourhood. Picornell, nicknamed La Pasionaria Mallorquina, became one of the leaders of the Communist Party of Spain.

On the other hand, improvements to the economic conditions of its residents encouraged the appearance and membership of sports clubs such as the **Club Marítim del Molinar de Llevant (3)** (1917) or the **Club Nàutic Portitxol (4)** (1928), both of which are still active today. The latter is located in Portitxol: a natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Barberà river, near a small sandy beach. From the end of the 17th century and up to two centuries later, there

were several market gardens in these areas where cereals, legumes and vegetables were grown.

By the time both clubs opened their doors, numerous summer residences had already been set up in the area for the middle classes of Palma, and the fishers lived side by side with the first tourists. Improvements in transport, such as the inauguration of the tramway that connected el Molinar with Palma in 1920, also allowed bathers to come to spend the day or weekends. From 1950 onwards, the population grew and diversified with the arrival of immigrants from the mainland, primarily attracted by the need for labour in the new tourist industry.





Just less than a kilometre from this first line, we find what some call **l'Horta del Molinar**: one of the last rural areas of the city where some agricultural and livestock farms still operate. In addition, various ethnological elements have been preserved, such as the mill of Son Perera –today part of the park of the same name, located in carrer Golf de Cadis–, the cistern of Punta d'en Ferretjans or possessions such as Son Morlà, Son Benet Verger or l'Hort del Carme Nou.

A stroll along **carrer Vicari Joaquim Fuster (5)** reveals the traditional architecture of the area, based on one or two-storey houses with a white façade, often with a porch. The neighbourhood as a whole is included in the Catalogue for the Protection of Buildings and Elements of Historical, Artistic and Architectural Interest of Palma. The opening of numerous restaurants has revitalized the neighbourhood and attracted more and more local and foreign visitors.

The beach in Palma has another major focal point in the **Cala Estància (6)** area. In the past, this entire coastline was made up of rocks, but in 1964, in an action aimed at increasing its tourist attraction, it was decided to transform it into a beach thanks to the sand brought from neighbouring Can Pastilla.

The breakwaters that still exist today were built to protect it from the sea currents.



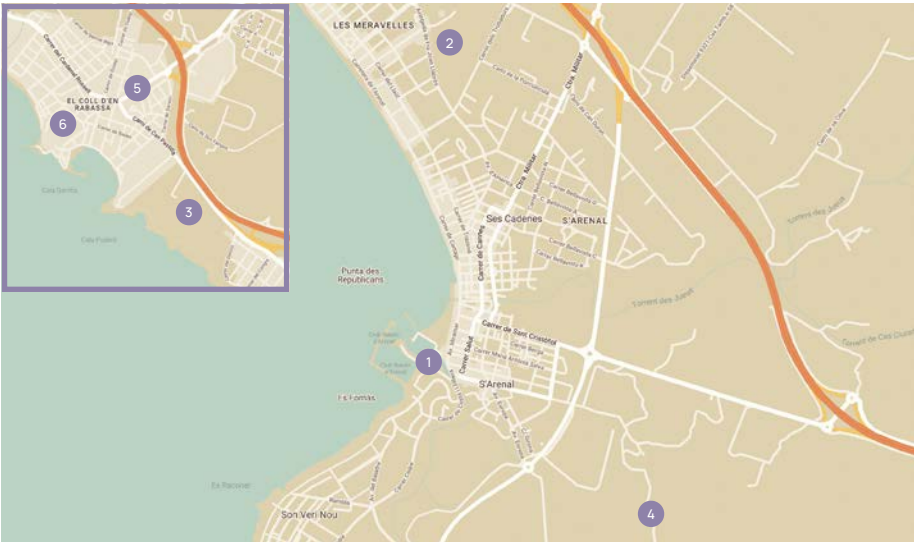


PALMA

4.8

PLATJA DE PALMA

from Coll d'en Rabassa to the
border with Lluçmajor



If you ask about **Platja de Palma**, you will have no trouble finding someone who will tell you about this magnificent stretch of sand that spans almost five kilometres and extends all the way to the border with the municipality of Lluçmajor.



An enormous expanse of white sand that, due to its crystal-clear waters privileged front sea location, has seen the arrival of holiday homes since the end of the 19th century. The first hotels arrived in the new century, but it was not until the 1950s that tourism turned this area into one of the most acclaimed in the whole city.

All kinds of services perfectly complement its wide range of hotels for visitors, shopping and restaurant areas, and a wide range of nightlife options where a multitude of nationalities live together. During the day, you can enjoy the numerous sports activities available

in the area: diving centres, tennis courts, water skiing and windsurfing companies and the **Club Nàutic de l'Arenal (1)**, which has given a significant boost to light sailing.

However, Platja de Palma also has much to offer regarding culture and landscape. If you leave the seafront behind to stroll through the interior of l'Arenal, you will be able to recognise the traces of what was once a tiny fishing and seafaring village.



It was also the area where the farmers would go with their wagons to look for seaweed, which they would then use as fertiliser for their crops. Although it is hard to imagine today, at the end of the 19th century, the place had only 21 people living there.

If you continue through the old part of the neighbourhood, you will end up finding a sample of the immense pine forests that populated this area centuries ago. Urban oases where you can escape from the sun, stroll amidst the song of the local birdlife or visit one of the architectural jewels of the area: the **church of La Porciúncula (2)**. It was built between 1964 and 1968 by the architect Josep Ferragut when the tourist boom was just beginning in the area, but even today, it is still almost invisible from the main road.

The original façade, characterised by its concrete and iron ribs, hardly gives any idea of the play of light and colours hidden inside. In fact, it is also known as the Crystal Church, thanks to the 39 stained glass windows that open up in its walls, creating a unique atmosphere, a reflection of nature and the cosmos. A sample of what characterises the Franciscan order to which it belongs.

Another of the guilds most closely linked to the history of Platja de Palma is that of the *trencadors de marès*: the workers in the marès quarries—the word we use in the Balearic Islands to refer to sandstone that has been fundamental in the construction of some of our main buildings.

For that matter, it is one of the places in Mallorca with the most quarries, here called *pedreres*, whose remains, like curious natural stone architecture, can still be seen in the neighbourhood, both facing the sea and hidden in some inland ravines.

El Carnatge (3), which in the past was used as a sandstone quarry for the construction of Palma Cathedral, is one of the most outstanding landscapes in this area. Today it is a vast natural space, declared a Natural Area of Special Interest, home to many Balearic endemic species and where we can even find remains from the Quaternary. It is easy and comfortable to walk through this spot thanks to a long stone walkway with access for pedestrians and cyclists. Along the route, you can also see some tunnels and trenches' rests, coves that are easily accessible for bathing and,

on the horizon, the islet of la Galera, where an archaeological site from the Phoenician period was found.

The life of these *trencadors* and *trencadores* –because there were also women in the trade– was far from simple: they carried out their work by hand until almost the 1950s and, during the 19th century, they lived in simple stone huts where they settled during the stone quarrying seasons. Some of them have been recovered and can be seen in the pine forests in the area. They built their own houses and towns such as les Cadenes, l'Arenal and el Pil-lari grew little by little.





In 1916, a new invention arrived in the neighbourhood to facilitate not only transport in the quarries but also the life of all its residents: the train line from Palma to Lluçmajor. Although it disappeared half a century later, some remains of this route are still preserved: carrer de la Fita follows practically the same path that the line had and will take you to the pont dels Jueus, some fifteen metres high.

This bridge, which today separates the municipalities of Palma and Lluçmajor, was the viaduct built for the train to cross the torrent of the same name.

Leaving Ciutat and next to the l'Arenal de Lluçmajor water treatment plant, you can reach the imposing **Pont de les Set Boques (4)** (Seven Mouths Bridge): a 65-metre high masterpiece of Mallorcan railway heritage.

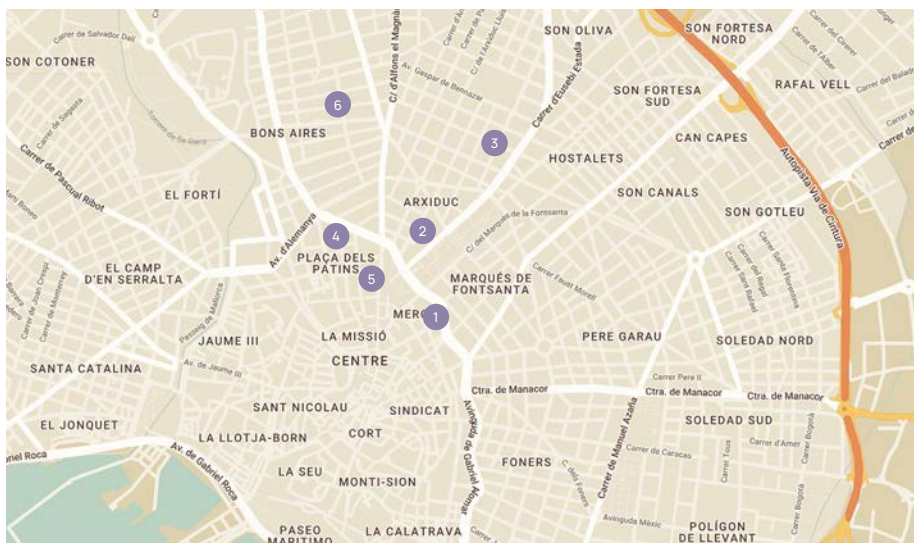
The neighbouring village of **Coll d'en Rabassa (5)** preserves one of the few stations of the line still standing in carrer Son Rossinyol, which now houses the municipal library. Another place in this mainly residential neighbourhood worth a visit is the **Torre d'en Pau park (6)**, located in an old coastal battery. An interesting example of military architecture with a whole labyrinth of tunnels, parapets and courtyards flanked by its large moat.



4.9

EIXAMPLE

from parc de les Estacions to carrer Pompeu Fabra, including neighbourhoods such as plaça de Toros, Arxiduc, etc



Until just over a hundred years ago Palma was surrounded by walls. Their route and size varied and expanded from Roman times until the 17th century.



The set of streets that we know today as Les Avingudes (The Avenues) allows you to walk along what was once its layout, always bordering the city centre.

At the end of the 19th century, many critical voices were calling to demolish these walls, mainly for hygienic reasons and to allow the city to grow. When the official authorisation was granted, three days of massive public celebration followed.

La Nova Palma (New Palma), as it was called at the time, was the result of this expansion contained in the Calvet Plan of 1901. The city grew radially and extended towards the roads to Inca, Manacor and Sóller.

They said the old town was over, and the modern city was born. However, despite the initial euphoria, it was actually a slow process; half a century later, the asphaltting of the last streets was still underway, and the sewage system was still being completed.

The Eixample (expansion) was, and still is, of great importance and influence in the life of the people of Palma, but it is often left out of visitors' routes. Our route can begin in the vicinity of the old road to Sóller.

Opposite the famous **parc de les Estacions (1)** is the train station to Sóller, a meeting point for many families on winter and summer afternoons which comprises a modest Art Nouveau building, departure point of the century-old railway, inaugurated in 1912, departs.

Its wooden carriages and the fact that it continues to use early 20th century machinery make it a true gem of engineering, as well as an important tourist attraction. The landscapes that it runs through on its route through Serra de Tramuntana mountains to what is known as the Vall dels Tarongers (the Valley of Orange trees) are among the most spectacular on the island.

The Arxiduc neighbourhood we are walking through, Arxiduc, was one of the first to be connected to the historic centre after the walls were demolished. Below the surface of the park we mentioned, you will find the Intermodal: not only the starting point for the train routes to Inca and Manacor but also for the metro that goes all the way to the university campus of the UIB. The descent is presided over by an enormous lattice roof, the work of Joan Miquel Seguí, who in 2018 won an award at the Ceramics Awards for Architecture and Interior Design for his brilliant recovery of this element of the Mediterranean tradition.

The plaça **Cardenal Reig (2)** is another of the area's highlights and an example of how much we locals like to rename places, and we call it the plaça de l'Obelisc (Obelisk Square). The column that stands in the middle of the roundabout pays homage, like the name of the neighbourhood itself, to Archduke Luis Salvador.





But if one architect stood out in the new expansion, it was Gaspar Bennàssar. One of his most celebrated buildings has the honour of giving its name to an entire neighbourhood: the **plaça de Toros (3)**. The almost 45-metre diameter of what is also known as the Balearic Coliseum has more than 11,600 seats, allowing it to host multitudinous sporting events and shows. Joe Cocker, Scorpions, Sting, Abba or Mike Oldfield have performed in its arena and hosted the Davis Cup tennis tournament.

Its fantastic architecture, in a historicist style with baroque elements, is striking as soon as you enter its imposing gateway. Four towers frame this enormous ring, crisscrossed by incredible porticoed galleries. When it was inaugurated in 1929, the area's population was already so large that it led to the creation of a tramway line linking the old quarter to carrer Sant Miquel.

Between the bullring and the Bons Aires neighbourhood –built on the site of an old estate of the same name– you can

still see some of the first houses built during the urban expansion. The font de la Vila, which in the past supplied water to the whole city, used to run along **carrer Blanquerna (4)**, today one of its most famous thoroughfares. Nearby, two of the properties that inaugurated the current carrer 31 de Desembre were also the first dwellings in the urban expansion: **Can Segura (5) and Villa Juana**.

Another building by Bennàssar is the area's emblem: l'**Escorxador (6)**, the old slaughterhouse designed and built in 1905 in what was still a vast field.





The architect, still influenced by modernist trends, wanted to emphasise functionality and designed a set of pavilions in which each task had its own space. Although he wanted to avoid exclusively decorative elements, his combined use of iron, glass and brick, and the exquisite forms, won him first prize at the 1906 National Exhibition of Fine Arts.

At the end of the 1990s, a restoration project opened up numerous interior terraces and allowed the space to be converted into a centre that houses a doctor's surgery, cultural events and the activities of the neighbourhood centre.

On the way to the lower part of Bons Aires, on carrer General Riera, another building by Bennàssar stands out: the older people's home run by the Hermanitas de los Pobres (Little Sisters of the Poor). The rear façade faces onto the Camino de Jesús, once known as the *passeig de las Quatre Campanes* (Four Bells Promenade). This area was one of the busiest where, even on the days when the walls separated it from the centre, the well-to-do people of Palma strolled to show off their carriages and clothes. It was the place to be seen and continued to be so until the construction of the new municipal cemetery tinged the route with an overly sinister character.



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4.10

PERE GARAU

from Nuredduna



Palma's most-populated neighbourhood is also **one of the youngest** in the city.



Although the presence of some houses and taverns is documented from the end of the 18th century, Pere Garau, named after the famous Mallorcan engineer, came into existence with the Calvet Plan of 1901 after the demolition of the city walls. Its first streets were built between 1910 and 1920, since until then, the area was basically occupied by farmland, with the Soc Coc estate and the La Paloma distillery standing out.

One of the best examples of the humble origins of the neighbourhood can be seen in the complex known as **les Cent Cases (1)** (The Hundred Houses), which is included in the city's Heritage catalogue. Its façades are easily recognisable at the crossroads between carrer Arquebisbe Aspàreg,

carrer Adrià Ferran and carrer Bartomeu Torres: a hundred typical two-story houses with a courtyard and a standard cistern that have been preserved practically unchanged and constitute a prime example of what Palma was like before the large blocks of flats. The cooperative La Redención del Hogar initiated the project, which, from the mid-1920s onwards, built 102 houses to house the city's working class.



If we walk a few more streets towards the city centre, we come across the symbolic "**plaça de les Columnes,**" (2) whose real name is plaça Francesc Garcia i Orell. It is shaped like a giant circular stone pergola, supported by the columns with which the locals have christened this corner and which was built almost at the same time as the neighbourhood.

The Hostal Nou Baleares stands out on its sides, full of historic shops and bars: a majestic rationalist building with a particular modernist touch, which has recovered what was once one of Palma's first inns.

In addition to its characteristic conservatory balconies or its spectacular central staircase, inside the building, we can see part of the

original hydraulic floors reminding us that, before it became accommodation, the ground floor housed the Can Boira hydraulic tile factory.

However, if there is a famous square in the neighbourhood, it is the square where the **Mercat de Pere Garau (3)** is located, which bears the same name. Experts say that it is the local market par excellence, as well as the only one in Palma where live animals are still sold. In its almost 1,000 square metres there are stalls selling fresh, seasonal, specialised products. In addition, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, its range of products is extended with an outdoor market that includes clothes, plants, as well as vegetables and fruit brought directly by the farmers from the island's villages. Since its opening in 1943, it has become the heart of the neighbourhood, the meeting point for its inhabitants and a unique place to sample some of the delicacies of the different cultures living in the district today.

Its strong multicultural character is undoubtedly one of **Pere Garau's** hallmarks. Currently, it is estimated that 40% of its residents come from overseas.

The first wave of Mallorcans arriving from the villages to Palma in the 40s and 50s was followed by a second wave of immigrants from mainland Spain looking for work in the 70s booming tourist industry. The third wave, much more recent, brought citizens from Africa, Latin America and Asia with their diverse customs and traditions to the neighbourhood.

This multiculturalism translates into a wide range of restaurants serving the best of Chinese, Moroccan, Colombian, Ecuadorian and other cuisines. However, this melting pot of cultures is not just for the palate. One of Pere Garau's interesting facts is that it is one of the few neighbourhoods with Catholic churches, Sikh and Evangelical temples and Muslim mosques. In addition, since 2016, the Association of Chinese from the Balearic Islands has been celebrating its Chinese New Year to raise awareness of their country's culture and vindicate Palma's social

diversity. Every the 1st of February, the market square hosts different traditional music concerts, craft exhibitions, children's activities and the Chinese dragon parade, known as the Great Dragon Pep, one of the most colourful performances during the celebration.

If you are interested in religious heritage, on the border of Pere Garau and Arxiduc, specifically in carrer Miquel Marquès, you can visit the striking parish **church of Sant Alonso Rodríguez (4)**, designed by the architect Josep Ferragut and built in 1962. Its most original elements include the cylindrical construction that houses the baptistery, the ceramic tile finishes, a side wall articulated like an accordion, the façade with five vertical stained-glass windows and an almost minimalist altar inside.



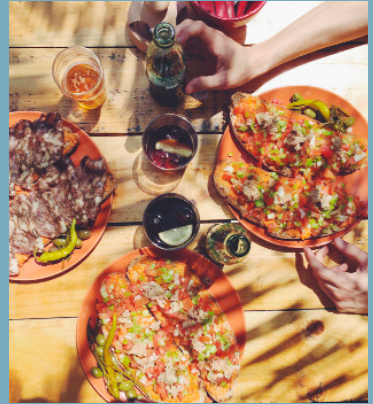




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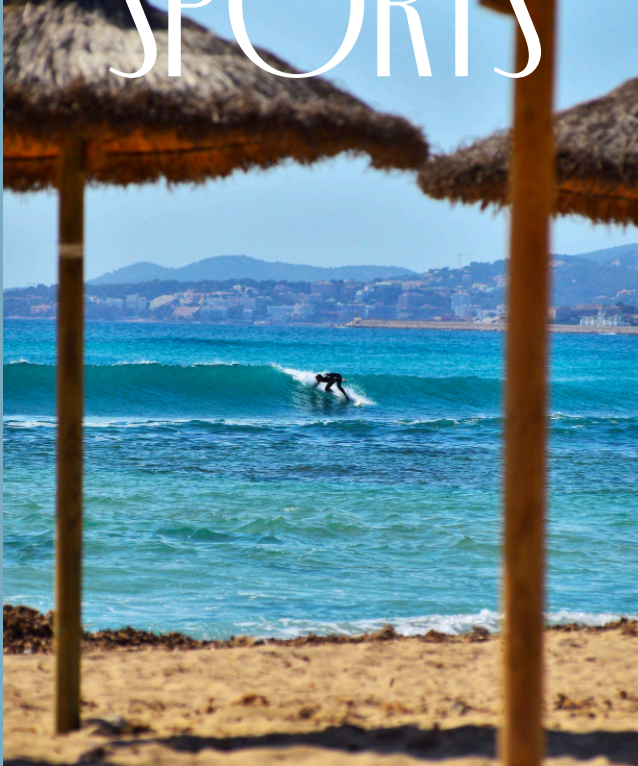


WHAT



DO?

SPORTS



Palma is the perfect city for outdoor sports. Everything you need is here: we have the sea, the mountains and a wide range of facilities and routes for you to enjoy your favourite sport. Moreover, the city's mild climate will make getting in shape an even more enjoyable experience.

AQUATIC

If water sports are your thing, you're in luck. We have a privileged bay for windsurfing, sailing, kitesurfing or sailing in our crystal-clear waters on a paddleboard, kayak or simply swimming. Our 36 kilometres of coastline have five beaches and eight other bathing areas to immerse yourself in the Mediterranean. In addition, the city has several yacht clubs and marinas that will provide you with all their services. On a professional level, we can be proud of hosting regattas such as the Copa del Rey de Vela or the Trofeo Princesa Sofía.

GOLF

For those who prefer match play, Palma is also an extraordinary destination. The city has five golf courses just a few kilometres from the historic centre. Furthermore, its proximity to different hotel areas will allow you to perfect your swing in total comfort.

BICYCLE

Palma is synonymous with a top destination for cyclists in winter. The pleasant weather and the variety of landscapes and routes mean that during these months, it is common to see numerous professional teams training. At the end of January, the Playa de Palma Challenge Ciclista Mallorca is the first event in an extensive calendar of races held in the city. But don't be intimidated: we will always have room for amateurs!

In addition to the BiciPalma service network, with 90 kilometres of cycle lanes to discover the different neighbourhoods, the passeig Marítim route offers you a flat trail that always follows the coast, so you won't have to stop pedalling.

RUNNING

The passeig Marítim is another favourite spot for running and Nordic walking. The sea breeze will make your run much more pleasant. Do you prefer the mountains and add a little extra difficulty to your route? The Bellver forest is waiting for you. Palma's green lung has a wide variety of rural trails to add kilometres to your course. Lovers of hiking and trail running will find one of their future favourite spots here.



SHOPPING



5. WHAT TO DO?

Do you remember exactly which city and how you got to the shop where you bought those fantastic shoes that everyone raves about? Like Proust's madeleine, just putting on those shoes seems to resurrect the experience of the journey that led you to them. One of the best ways to prolong those days in your memory is to get a souvenir. In Palma, it will be challenging to decide which one to choose.

THE PERFECT GIFT

It will be impossible not to find the perfect gift, or self-gift, in the city's wide range of shops. That powerful souvenir that will make you come back to our streets just by seeing it. You'll find craft shops, decoration, clothes, accessories and even art. However, we must warn you that we have two proposals you won't be able to resist: our flagship shops and our *golden mile*.



HISTORIC ESTABLISHMENTS

What are the flagship shops? They are 90 historic establishments in Palma that speak of our memory, our people and our neighbourhoods. They have been around for much longer than you can imagine, and some of them are housed in buildings that are true architectural gems. The map covers the entire city practically, and we even have guided tours so that you don't miss a single one of their marvellous shop windows. We will take you to mimbrierías, patisseries, fabric shops, grocery stores or bookshops that are authentic journeys through time.

GOLDEN MILE

Our golden mile is all about fashion and distinction. The triangle formed by el Born and carrer Sant Feliu and carrer Jaume III, with its fantastic porticoed avenue, is the epicentre of the big international firms, where the most exclusive jewellers share space with the latest trends in clothing. Don't worry if you need to sit down and recharge your batteries because the numerous terraces and cafés in the area will allow you to regain strength under the shade of the banana trees.



CULTURE



It is no coincidence that two historic landmarks, Bellver Castle and the Cathedral, are a fundamental part of our city's skyline.

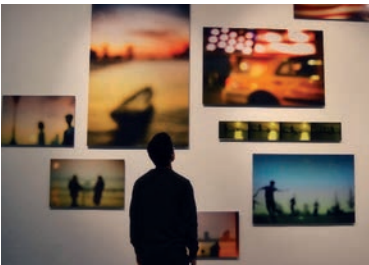
Palma is synonymous with culture. We have one of the most extensive and best-preserved historic quarters in Europe. A wealth of heritage that reflects our relevant past but also our present.

COURTYARDS AND CHURCHES

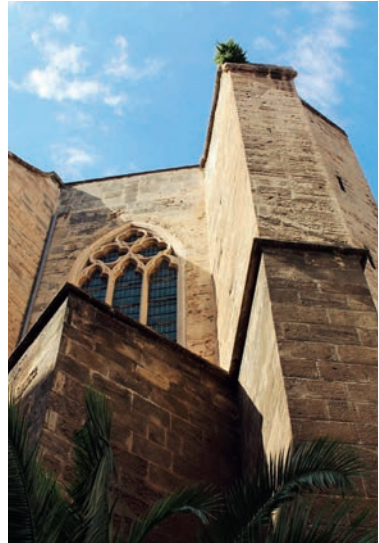
Stroll around, let yourself be carried away by the magic of streets with centuries of history. Take a look at the more than fifty courtyards that are almost a showcase to the stateliest Palma. Enter one of the churches that populate the centre whose origins date back to the Middle Ages.

CONTEMPORARY ART

But don't think that cultural Palma is only written in the past. Many of the great names in contemporary art have been exhibited in the galleries and museums you'll find in the upper and lower parts of the city. If you want to experience that Stendhal syndrome and feel fascinated, try discovering the work of some of our most emerging local artists and dive into the latest avant-garde in visual art, installation or performance. If we are talking about names, you should know that in Cala Major, you can live an almost immersive experience in Joan Miró's world. Marvel at the sketches and graffiti that became some of his best-known works. Be inspired by the creative chaos that characterised his day-to-day life at the Taller Sert.



Monuments and listed buildings allow us to reconstruct the city's evolution, from Roman times to the 20th century, but also to recover the Islamic legacy or to get to know the Jewish quarter of the Call Major thanks to its interpretation centre.



5. WHAT TO DO?

MUSIC

And if that wasn't enough, check Palma's calendar of cultural events before your visit. We are lucky to be the setting for great operas and macro-concerts by renowned international bands. Check the visitpalma.com website for more information.

FOR FAMILIES



5. WHAT TO DO?

For children, a visit to Palma can be an adventure. You can start at the parc de la Mar, the Bellver forest or the jardins de la Quarantena. Swings in the middle of urban oases covered in vegetation. Secret little nooks and crannies for perfecting your hide-and-seek and slides that go down the slopes of small hills.

The bravest can put themselves to the test in the Platja de Palma adventure park. Cross its hanging footbridges or go zip-lining through pine groves. Not far away, you can delve into the depths of the marine world in an immense aquarium with the deepest shark tank in Europe.



A HISTORICAL TREASURE HUNT

If you go to the historical centre, the city can turn into a great gymkhana. Try to find the dragons scattered around the Seminari Vell or the façade of the Town Hall, where you will also have to locate a tiny snail. Find out why we call plaça Joan Carles I Turtle Square. Find out the legend behind the huge crocodile in the Museu d'Art Sacre de Mallorca, which we know as the Drac de na Coca. Just like the Fundació Miró Mallorca, you can also find guided tours and an exciting range of activities designed for children.

SAILOR FOR A DAY

As a city open to the sea, children can also experience the adventures of a day in the life of a sailor in Palma. Embark on a fishing boat to go out into the bay and experience first-hand a day spent among the fishing rods and bait.

AT NIGHT



5. WHAT TO DO?

Palma's good weather all year round invites you to enjoy its nights beyond dinner.

And you are in luck because not only do we have a wide variety of nightlife venues, but most of them are concentrated in the city centre and the surrounding area—meaning that they are so close you can even walk from one to the next.

MUSIC FOR EVERYONE

Don't hesitate; go to one of the many bars and pubs that offer concerts and vibrate to live music, from jazz to indie. If you prefer to get in front of the mic, don't worry—we've got enough karaoke bars to make your visit almost like a tour.

COCKTAILS

Maybe you'd like to start the night with a cocktail. If so, head to passeig de Mallorca or the Old Town 2 area, where you'll find some of the best bartenders in town. You can walk to Santa Catalina, Palma's Soho, for after-dinner drinks. In Sant Magí street you will feel one of the most lively areas of the city.

FOR THE WITCHING HOUR...

Here everyone enjoys having a drink on the terrace of a modernist building overlooking the bay or dancing in an old cistern.

If you're ready to give your all on the dance floor, you'll have the best soundtrack in the nightclubs of passeig Maritim or el Jonquet.



GASTRONOMY



5. WHAT TO DO?

In Palma, we will remind you that pleasure comes through the senses and that taste is perhaps one of the most important ways to feel it. You will soon discover that we have succulent plans to pamper your palate.

AVANT-GARDE CUISINE

The most exquisite palates hungry for the latest avant-garde in gastronomy will also find their place in the hands of several renowned chefs, some with Michelin stars, who have their restaurants in Old Town 2.



LOCAL FLAVOURS

Not far away, you'll find more informal places where you can share tapas and conversation with the locals. And if you want an even more authentic experience, we encourage you to visit the city's three main markets: Santa Catalina, Mercat de l'Olivar and Pere Garau. All of them are characterised by their commitment to local and zero-kilometre products, without ever renouncing fusion or all-over-the-world cuisines. You are guaranteed that the fresh produce will be delivered to the kitchen directly in front of your eyes.

AROMA OF THE SEA

If you are looking for a table near the sea, don't hesitate to go to the Portixol, el Molinar or Ciutat Jardí areas, where you can enjoy their seafood and rice specialities right on the seafront.

When words such as *tumbet*, *frit* or *trepó* don't ring a bell, you need a master class in Mallorcan cuisine. In Gènova, several restaurants will guarantee you an immersion in our most traditional recipes.

6 PRACTICAL
TICAL
INFO

Tourist offices

OIT Parc de ses Estacions

Parque de les Estacions, 07002 Palma
+34 902 102 365

OIT Platja de Palma

Plaça de les Meravelles, 07610 Palma
+34 902 102 365

OIT Parc de la Mar,

Parc de la Mar s/n, 07012 Palma

Tourist Information Office of Mallorca

Plaça de la Reina, 2
+34 971 173 990

Airport Information Office

+34 971 789 556

Transport

Bus (Municipal Transport Company - EMT)
+34 971 214 444

Train (Serveis Ferroviaris de Mallorca - SFM)
+34 871 900 000

Radio Taxi
+34 971 755 440

Palma Radio Taxis
+34 971 401 414

Taxis for people with reduced mobility
+34 971 703 529

TIB (Transports de les Illes Balears)
+34 971 177 777

Useful telephone numbers

Palma Firefighters - 080

General emergency / civil protection - 112

Health emergencies (Insalud) - 061

Guardia Civil - 062

Municipal Police - 092

National Police - 091

Palma City Council - +34 971 225 900

Visa - 900 150 000

Son Espases Hospital - +34 871 205 000

Emergency pharmacies - 010

Telephone information - 11818 - 11824

Reverse charge calls - 1005



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