

Balearic marinas

Lying in blissful sunshine off the east coast of Spain, the Balearic Islands enjoy a long summer and welcome superyachts from as early as spring right through to late October. Home to a number of the finest marinas in the West Mediterranean, our selection is the cream of the crop.

BY MARINA MICI



Port Adriano

Mallorca

The largest of the four principal Spanish Balearic Islands, Mallorca is, arguably, the most sophisticated and diverse. At its centre you will find towering mountains and on the coast you will discover dazzling whitewashed villas and fine restaurants filled with locals and celebrities. Away from the well-known pockets of commercialism lies the essence of the islands, where the unhurried pace of village life beckons and scenic coves sit secluded beneath the headlands, many only accessible by yacht.

Sport and leisure

With its hot summer sun and refreshing sea breezes, the climate in Mallorca is perfect for golf and the island is renowned for its world-class courses. Among the best are the Golf Park Puntiro and the three courses at the Arabella Golf & Spa Resort.

Golf Park Puntiro, just outside Palma, is popular with American visitors who want to play on a Nicklaus-designed course. The 18-hole, par 71 course is situated in a protected natural area and was developed using the natural contours of the land. *Contact: Director of Golf, Philip Salvà, +34 971 797 330.*

Nestling between the hills of Son Vida and the island's capital Palma, the Arabella Golf & Spa Resort has three championship 18-hole courses. *Contact: Luigi de Rosa, +34 971 606 422.*

The La Residencia hotel in Deià, set in 30 acres of olive groves in the foothill of the Tramuntana mountains, has an award-winning spa that welcomes day guests. It offers outdoor massage areas and a huge array of treatments in the spectacular setting of this famous 16th-century property. The spa was voted one of the four best spas in Europe by Condé Nast Traveller readers in 2010. *Contact: Spa Manager, Nicola Meek, +34 971 639 011.*

Mallorca is bursting with beaches and secluded coves. Of particular note is the beautiful beach of Es Trenc as its stunning dunes and white sand stretch for approximately eight kilometers along Mallorca's southern coastline. It is worth noting that this beach is nudist, as are a few others around the island. Sa Calobra is a pebble beach and is best approached from the sea. As it sits between two huge cliff faces, it makes for a spectacular, secluded anchorage.

Culture

The cultural center of Mallorca is Palma, which dates back to Roman times but reflects a great deal of modern influence. Here you will find concerts, ballets,



The chef's table at Bacchus

exhibitions and theaters. Wander the squares and mazes of streets in this exciting city and discover designer boutiques as well as ceramic, textile, jewelry and antique shops. Palma is blessed with beautiful Renaissance properties, gothic cathedrals and art galleries. The art museum Es Baluard is worthy of a visit, particularly for one or two of its striking Picasso pieces.

Take the self-guided "patio itinerary" tour around the old town of Palma. The route follows a numbered map and takes you past historical manor houses, monuments and old architecture of Roman and Arab influence. For a taste of Mallorcan life, visit the Mercat de l'Olivar food market in Plaza Olivar with your chef. Open Monday to Saturday, dozens of stalls showcase an irresistible array of fresh meats, fish, vegetables and fruit. Florists decorate the area and there are plenty of stalls selling cheese, olives, pastries and other tasty treats to keep you going. If your yacht is moored in one of the city's main marinas, the Santa Catalina food market is an equally attractive option at walking distance from the port.

Take a ride on one of Europe's oldest railways to the town of Soller and then visit the Carthusian monastery in the northern village of Valldemossa. Chopin composed some of his most renowned preludes here. The history buffs of the party should take a trip to the prehistoric Phoenician burial ground of Son Real Necropolis. From here it is just a short walk to more than 100 fascinating ruins dating from the Iron Age to Roman times.



Dine on the terrace at Reads Hotel & Spa

Dining

When it comes to dining ashore in Mallorca, the choice is yours, with an abundance of excellent restaurants serving everything from traditional Majorcan food to delicious tapas. The standard is very high and the island has a generous helping of Michelin-starred establishments to experience.

Among those where you should reserve a table is the El Olivo restaurant at the La Residencia hotel. Here, you can delight in the chef's seven-course tasting menu with matching wine. *Contact: Chef, Guillermo Méndez, +34 971 63 9011.*

The highly lauded Heads Hotel & Spa has two restaurants of note: for fine dining, experience the chef's table at Bacchus, and for those looking for a lighter menu, the Blues Bistro, set in an 18th century olive pressing room, offers bistro style dishes. *Contact: Proprietor, Marcus Reed, +34 971 14 0261.*

Bearer of one Michelin star, Restaurant Tristan in Puerto Portals lies directly on the harbor front. Established for more than 20 years, this luxurious restaurant is a favorite with the yachting crowd and is the place to be seen. *Contact: Restaurant Manager, Juan Biedma, +34 971 675 547.*

After dark

There's a huge selection of clubs to choose from in Mallorca. The most historic is Tito's, which was the haunt of Ray Charles and Marlene Dietrich in the 1950s and 1960s. Abraxa's, built into the side of the cliff, is one of the most famous clubs you could visit while in Palma.

For those looking for a variety of music, El Garito offers everything from jazz to easy listening. In the 1970s it attracted the bohemian set, but now it retains its retro character and is a fun place to spend an evening. For alternative entertainment, play the night away at the Casino de Mallorca.

Puerto Portals continues to be the hang-out place of the more elegant crowd, who start their stroll around the quays at 7pm, which is promptly followed by cocktails, fine dining and drinks until around 3am. The old town of La Lonja also offers just about everything and is one of the favorite spots for tourists and locals alike.

Marina information

Mallorca is an excellent base for superyacht owners. The destination suits the needs of captains as it offers superyacht services, a large superyacht community and international airport connections around Europe. It also suits owners because of the good cruising grounds that surround the island.

Port Adriano

Port Adriano, in the south-west of the Bay of Palma, has been expanded into a large, contemporary marina by the Ocibar group in collaboration with French architect Philippe Starck. The resulting marina, which has 82 berths for yachts of up to 60m, is a stunning cutting-edge design that complements the area as well as enhancing it aesthetically. Port Adriano will be completed this summer.

For further information on Port Adriano visit www.portadriano.com or contact Marina Manager, Isabel Ferrer, +34 971 232 494, info@portadriano.com.



An image of the lighthouse at Port Adriano

Club de Mar

Based on the south-west side of Mallorca around the capital Palma, the impressive Club de Mar marina is wonderfully situated with access to some of the finest sporting, leisure and nightlife attractions. The marina itself has a yacht club with several lounges, a swimming pool and restaurant. With 75 berths for superyachts ranging from 30-155m, Club De Mar is an ideal base and gateway for yachts wishing to explore the area.

For further information on Club de Mar, visit www.clubdemar-mallorca.com or contact Marina Director, José Luis Arrom, +34 971 403 611, secretaria@clubdemar-mallorca.com.

Recommended

From helicopter rides to otherwise inaccessible locations, to classic car island tours, Balearic Discovery offers tailor-made tours for visitors looking for a unique experience during their time on Mallorca. Contact: Jane Stanbury, +34 971 875 395, jane@balearicdiscovery.com

Ibiza

With much more to offer than nightlife and package holidays, the bohemian island of Ibiza has a beautiful interior and countless secluded coves. Away from the bustling jet-set crowd that fills Ibiza's old town, the island is full of sleepy provincial towns, restored farmhouses, remote rocky coves and sandy beaches.

Sport and leisure

Ibiza has a number of fantastic beaches. For serious glamour, Ses Salinas is the place to go and, as it is a big draw for the celebrity crowds, it is kept in pristine condition. For something a little less crowded, anchor in the calm bay at Benirras, located at the northern tip of the island. It is a popular spot for swimming and snorkeling, but if you are still around as the sun goes down you can join the hippies drumming on the beach. Alternatively, the white sand beach at Cala Bassa is a good choice as it is backed by pine forests and its shady areas provide a means of escape from the midday sun, while the idyllic cove at Pou Des



Club de Mar is the ideal base for exploring the Balearics



Cruise over to the beachfront
Restaurant Juan Y Andrea on Formentera

Ibiza has very little shade but offers a stunning sandy beach in a beautiful location.

Ibiza is one of the best places in Europe in which to practise yoga. The choice of classes and styles is extensive and there are many retreats on the island that cater for all levels. The island's interior is a great place for walking and the coastline has some stunning hikes. The Santa Agnes coastal hike is a circular walk that offers spectacular views of Ibiza's northern coastline. Other hikes of note include an ascent up to Ibiza's highest peak, Sa Talaassa in San Jose.

Culture

Ibiza's old town is a beautiful fortified town-within-a-town with an imposing castle and cathedral at its summit. A UNESCO world heritage site, the castle was built during the 12th and 13th centuries.

The impressive 14th-century cathedral towers over the town and marina below. It was built by the Catalan troops who, in 1235, promised that they would build a temple if they conquered Ibiza. The cathedral was originally built in a gothic style, but was enhanced with Baroque splendor during the 18th century.

The hippy market, held every Wednesday, has been running since 1973. Here, stalls sell everything from sarongs, silver and jewelry to leather and other textiles collected from travels throughout India.

Dining

By day, the beach restaurant Blue Marlin on Cala Jondal is one of the coolest places to be seen in Ibiza.

White parasols and beds are provided on the beach, and the restaurant is set under the shade of ancient Ibizencan pines. *Contact: Restaurant Manager, Mattia Ulveieri, +34 971 410 117.*

One of the best restaurants on the south-west coast, Ca'n Domingo de C'an Botja is set in a delectable old farmhouse. The menu is a combination of Ibizenco and contemporary Mediterranean cuisine featuring fresh fish and seafood specialties. *Reservations, +34 971 800 184.*

Can Pujol is another rustic restaurant serving local favorites. Located on the beach at the end of Antonio bay, the fish entrées are highly recommended. *Reservations, +34 971 341 407.*

French cuisine is served in a rustic Spanish setting at La Plaza. Set within an old village house in the centrally located village of Santa Gertrudis, the ambiance is charming. *Reservations are recommended, +34 97 1187 075.*

For locally-caught fish and sea food, it is well worth taking the short drive through the hills to Es Xarçu, a little restaurant on Ibiza's southern coast. *Contact: Restaurant Manager, Claude Foruchaux, +34 971 187 867.*

Cruise over to Formentera's Juan y Andrea. This beach restaurant started as a small shack in 1972 and serves a simple menu of fresh fish. Tables are set out on the sand under the shade of the terrace and specialties include grilled sardines, fresh Formentera prawns and lobster paella. *Contact: Restaurant Proprietor, Juan Boned, +34 971 187 130.*

After dark

Sunsets in Ibiza are essential viewing. The cliffs around Cala d'Hort that overlook the imposing rock Es Vedra are the perfect secluded spot to watch from. Sunset Ashram in Cala Conta is a lovely beach bar offering a relaxing escape from the crowds on San Antonio's famous sunset strip, although there is nothing better than truly escaping by watching the sunset from the deck of your own yacht.

Contrary to popular belief, Ibiza is not just about clubbing. There are a number of sophisticated bars that attract locals and regular visitors. Aura in the north of the island is a chilled-out bar and restaurant where you might find DJs from the big clubs playing impromptu, laid-back tunes for their friends. The Jockey Club at Las Salinas is more vibrant and is half way between being a chilled-out bar and a club. For an ultra-stylish bar and restaurant with terrace views over Ibiza Town, the place to go is L'Elephant.

Marina information

Offering berths up to 55m, Marina Ibiza is located in the heart of the historic Ibiza Town. It is divided into separate areas: North Dock for yachts up to 40m, South Dock for yachts up to 55m and the main boulevard with shops, restaurants and chandlers.

For further information on Marina Ibiza visit www.marinaibiza.com or contact Marina Director, Daniel Mar, +34 971 318 040, info@marinaibiza.com

Recommended

The small island of Formentera to the south of Ibiza is relatively peaceful, even during the peak summer months. Hire a bike and spend the day cycling along the paths that cover the entire island. ■