

SPAIN · BEACHES · ISLANDS · NIGHTLIFE · HIKING · FOOD



Balearic Islands

Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera are a short hop from London and the UK's classic summer beach islands. Mallorca has the most range, from Palma's cathedral to the Tramuntana mountains; Menorca is calmer and family-friendly, Ibiza mixes clubs with quiet coves, and Formentera has some of the Mediterranean's clearest water. Go in June or September for warm seas without peak crowds, or May for walking.

 Read the UK government's travel advice for Spain and entry requirements before you go.

 COUNTRY Spain	 BEST TIME May–Jun, Sep	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 2h 20m direct ~£90–£350 return	 DAILY BUDGET £70–£320 £££ Expensive
 WARMEST MONTH July (30°C)	 SEA TEMPERATURE 14–26°C coolest–warmest	 TIME ZONE Madrid +1h vs UK now	 CURRENCY Euro £1 ≈ €1.19

Most trips are a week or two on a single island, and each has a distinct character. Mallorca is big enough to combine Palma's old town, walking in the Serra de Tramuntana and family resorts around the bays of Alcúdia and Pollença. Menorca is low-rise and largely protected, with turquoise coves reached on foot. Ibiza runs from San Antonio's sunset bars and the superclubs to rural fincas in the north, and Formentera works as a day trip or a barefoot week. July and August are hot, busy and expensive; June and September bring warm water and fewer crowds, and May suits walkers and cyclists. Outside Palma, much of the islands closes from November to March.

Highlights

- 1

NATURE

Serra de Tramuntana

The UNESCO-listed mountain range along Mallorca's north-west coast holds stone villages such as Deià and Valldemossa and the GR221 Dry Stone Route. Ride the 1912 wooden train from Palma to Sóller, then the old tram down to the port.
- 2

ARCHITECTURE

Palma Cathedral

La Seu, Palma's Gothic cathedral, rises above the old sea walls and has one of Europe's largest rose windows. Antoni Gaudí reworked the interior in the early 1900s, and Miquel Barceló's ceramic chapel is the modern counterpoint.
- 3

BEACH

Menorca's southern coves

Cala Macarella, Cala Turqueta and their neighbours are pine-fringed coves of white sand and clear water on Menorca's south coast. In summer use the shuttle buses or walk the Camí de Cavalls coastal path, as car parks fill early.
- 4

HISTORY

Dalt Vila, Ibiza Town

Ibiza Town's walled upper town sits behind 16th-century Renaissance bastions, with the cathedral at the top and views over the harbour. It is UNESCO-listed together with the island's Phoenician sites and seagrass meadows.

5

BEACH

Ses Illetes, Formentera

A narrow sand spit on Formentera's northern tip, with water as clear as anywhere in the Mediterranean thanks to the protected seagrass meadows offshore. The fast ferry from Ibiza Town takes about half an hour.

Where to stay

WHERE TO STAY

Palma, Mallorca

A proper Spanish city with a historic centre, tapas bars and city beaches, open all year and ideal for short breaks and cyclists.

WHERE TO STAY

Port de Pollença, Mallorca

A calm, shallow bay in Mallorca's north, popular with British families, walkers and cyclists, with quick access to the Tramuntana and Formentor.

WHERE TO STAY

Ciutadella, Menorca

Menorca's elegant former capital, with a small harbour, good restaurants and the best southern coves nearby; suits couples and families wanting quiet.

WHERE TO STAY

Santa Eulària des Riu, Ibiza

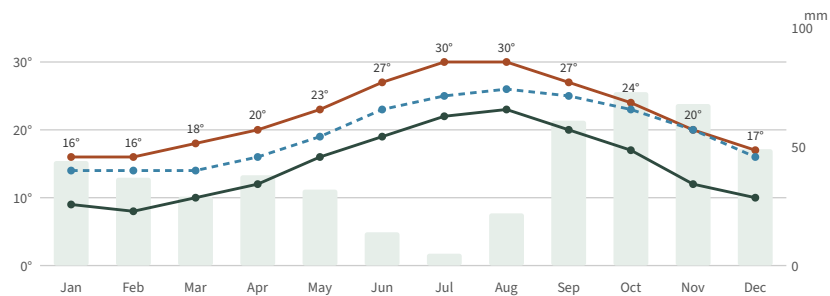
Ibiza's calmer, family-friendly side, with a promenade, sandy beaches and good restaurants, well away from the San Antonio party crowd.

When to go to Balearic Islands

Best time: **May–Jun, Sep.**

**Average climate in Palma, Mallorca**

— High °C — Low °C — Sea °C — Rain (mm)

**How much does Balearic Islands cost?**

SHOESTRING

£70

per person / day
≈ €83.33

MID-RANGE

£150

per person / day
≈ €179

COMFORTABLE

£320

per person / day
≈ €381

Per person per day excluding flights. Return flights from London typically cost £90 off-peak and £350 in school holidays.

Visas & entry for Balearic Islands

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Spain, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel: as a tourist; to visit family or friends; to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events; for short-term studies or training.

The requirements for working in Spain are different.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations

See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Rabies

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Spain

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Tue 8 Dec 2026	Immaculate Conception
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Wed 6 Jan 2027	Epiphany
Fri 26 Mar 2027	Good Friday
Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Tue 12 Oct 2027	National Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Know before you go

Hotels and holiday lets add the Balearic sustainable tourism tax per adult per night, paid locally and higher at upmarket hotels; under-16s are exempt.

Outside Palma, many hotels and restaurants on Ibiza, Menorca and in Mallorca's resorts close from November to March; for a winter break, base yourself in Palma.

Plugs, money, phrases, emergency numbers and more: see our Spain guide.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.