

Spain: Balearic Islands, Mallorca & Deia

Tour-Only Itinerary

Majestic Mallorca, with its terraced hillsides, dramatic coastline, and ancient villages, is prime territory for walkers. And hiking Mallorca is the best way to discover it all up close. Hike the cobbled byways of some of the prettiest towns in Spain, whose roots predate recorded history, and tour fascinating Roman ruins with an expert guide. Breathe in the salty air of its rugged Mediterranean coast, admiring panoramic views framed by a UNESCO-protected mountain range. And experience all its flavors, from rare Malvasia wine and fresh-squeezed juice to tapas and the liquid gold of olive oil. Each exhilarating day is well rewarded with stays at charming boutique hotels, including the only thermal spa resort in the Balearics.



Highlights

- Delve into the history of local citrus production on a stroll through a picturesque orchard, and sample a glass of fresh-squeezed juice.
- Savor a tasting of wine and tapas at a local winery, with the dramatic peaks of the Tramuntana range as your spectacular backdrop.
- Discover Mallorca's ancient Roman past on a guided walking tour of Alcúdia, and experience contemporary life here on its bustling market day.
- Stop by the oldest producer of olive oil on Mallorca, see the ancient press, and sample this "liquid gold" during a tapas-style lunch.
- Pamper yourself at the only thermal spa in the Balearic islands during a two-night stay at a chic coastal resort set in a serene national park.

On all Guided Adventures you can count on ...



Expert local guides to introduce you to the best of your destination.



Gracious accommodations that are a clean, comfortable home away from home.



Off-the-beaten-path places you'd never find on your own.



Experts to handle all the details.



A maximum of 18 fun-loving fellow travelers to share the journey.



Flight + Tour Combos include plane tickets, airport car service, and pre- and post-tour accommodations.



Delicious, authentic multi-course meals—virtually all are included.

Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate (with challenging sections) with an average of 4 to 6 miles per day. Maximum elevation gains and losses during the walks range from 500 to 1,000 feet. There are daily ascents and descents that can be steep in sections and challenging due to uneven footing. The terrain is varied—along cobble streets, dirt roads, sandy and rocky coastal paths, and single-track hiking trails with loose stones or gravel, rocks, and roots. Some trails are exposed to the sun, making the level of difficulty more challenging during warmer weather.

DAY 1

Join your Spain: Balearic Islands, Mallorca & Deia tour. Camí des Correu

Esporles to Banyalbufar; 5 miles, easy to moderate, 720-ft. elevation gain and loss

Meet your guides (after lunch on your own) in the lobby of Hotel Convent de la Missió, Carrer de la Missió, 7A, in Palma at 1:00 p.m. They'll be wearing Country Walkers shirts. Please be dressed for walking. Hiking shoes are required.

Your tour begins with a 30-minute ride to Esporles. Here, you embark on the Camí des Correu (or Old Postman's Route), a historic trail that leads to the ancient terraced village of Banyalbufar. Settled by the Moors during the 10th century, Banyalbufar is a seaside village surrounded by mountains and steeped in history. Some 2,000 terraces carved into the mountainsides and a system of irrigation that was sophisticated for its time reveal the lasting impact of the village's Moorish roots. Today, Banyalbufar is also prized for its walking trails, beaches, and local Malvasia wines.

You learn about local winemaking during a stop at a rustic, family-run bodega (wine estate) on the edge of town. The climate and soil of Banyalbufar are uniquely suited to the cultivation of the rare Malvasia grape, the specialty of the bodega. Enjoy a tasting of the wine and traditional delicacies as you take in astounding sea views.

From here, you continue to Port de Sóller. When land for olive cultivation expanded in this region during the 16th century, Port de Sóller became the main port for export of the olives to France. The name Sóller is thought to derive from the Arabic *suljar*, or gold, in honor of the golden oil pressed from the fruit. Here, you check into your historic hotel, surrounded by lush gardens, orange and lemon trees, and century-old olive trees. The sea is just a short walk away.

Get acquainted with your travel companions. s over a welcome drink. Then, head to the hotel's formal restaurant for a dinner of regional specialties, paired with a glass (or two) of local wine.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2

Deià to Sóller

6 miles, moderate with challenging sections, 1,000-ft. elevation gain and loss

Hailed as one of the loveliest hamlets on the island, magical Deià, on Mallorca's northwest coast, lies in the foothills of the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The unparalleled natural landscapes of this idyllic town lend it an air of tranquility that has unleashed the creativity of romantics, bohemians, and artists from poet Robert Graves to The Rolling Stones. The village's history dates to prehistoric times, and the prosperity it enjoyed during its Islamic and Roman eras has left a charming imprint. Scenic delights greet the eye, from streets lined with stone houses typical of traditional Mallorcan architecture to numerous hiking trails.

After a copious buffet breakfast, depart for a 30-minute drive to Deià, your launchpoint for today's walk along the Dry Stone Route. Stretching for more than 100 miles, this scenic network of trails winds through pine and holm oak forests, olive groves, and mountain villages, with scenic ocean views along the way.

Set off along a gentle walk down the Cami des Rost, following a former trade route winding among terraced hillsides. This area boasts dazzling views, from mountains, gorges, olive groves, and farmlands to beaches and the sea. You see this amazing variety as you walk. Signposts provide context for your discoveries.

Your walk culminates in Sóller, set in the "valley of oranges." A web of narrow streets lined with shops and traditional houses leads to the Plaça Constitució, the central plaza of this beautiful town—the cultural heart of the Serra de Tramuntana. Here, you find the baroque church of Sant Bartomeu, standing on 13th-century foundations, as well as traditional houses, a graceful fountain, and the old train station—a popular gathering place for local residents. Shops, plane trees, and a beautiful mountain backdrop also surround the square.

Enjoy lunch and free time to explore this charming town on your own. Browse the local shops for olive oil, marmalade from local oranges, or baskets. Or you may want to visit the Ca'n Prunera with its collection by masters such as Joan Miró, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and Paul Klee, housed in a Modernist villa.

Afterward, reunite with your guides and travel companions for a visit to a nearby citrus orchard under the

Alfabia mountain ridge. Here, as you stroll the orchards, you learn about citrus production in this fertile valley and its importance to the local economy and culture. You are welcome to sample some fresh-pressed juice for yourself.

Return to your hotel in nearby Port de Sóller, where the evening is free for independent exploring and dining.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3

Sóller to Fornalutx. Travel to Pollença

2.5 miles, easy to moderate

Today's copious buffet breakfast will fuel you for an invigorating hike along an old cobbled bridle path to the pretty village of Fornalutx. Pass citrus orchards and olive groves along the Cami de Biniaraix route, a network of stone-paved paths surrounded by terraced agricultural fields.

You stop first midway at Biniaraix, a quaint mountain village known for its green landscapes, traditional ambiance, and the production of oranges. From here, you walk to Fornalutx, where you can decide for yourself whether it deserves its reputation as "the most beautiful village of Spain." Sitting high in its UNESCO-protected mountain range, this iconic stone hamlet dates back a millennium, and its charming cobbled streets transport you back in time. Admire colorful houses with tiled roofs, adorned with plants and dried flowers; the town hall, with its 17th-century defense tower; its Gothic and baroque church; and the Plaça d'España, its central plaza, where daily life is on view.

Then, board a minibus bound for an historic olive-oil mill. With origins as early as the 16th century, it is the oldest olive-oil producer on Mallorca. During your visit, you will see the old hydraulic press and discover how the mill's production methods have changed relatively little over the past 500 years. A light lunch is served here, featuring typical snacks such as *Pa amb oli*—literally, "bread with olive oil," in which the bread is usually rubbed with a garlic clove and topped with chopped garden tomatoes.

After lunch, continue by minibus to your boutique hotel in the authentic town of Pollença. Settle in to your comfortable room, relax and refresh before enjoying an independent evening of exploring and dining.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4

Santuari del Puig de Maria

4-5 miles, easy to moderate, 870-ft. elevation gain and loss

A variety of tasty offerings and piping-hot coffee greet you at the breakfast table this morning and put a spring in your step for today's hike to nearby Puig de Maria. Built in 1348, this shrine to the Virgin Mary may have originated as a refuge from the plague or in response to the vision of three women who claim the Virgin appeared to them as they approached a great light. During the 14th century, it was a major Mallorcan monastery and school for the daughters of the nobility. Over time the monastery closed, then was renovated in various architectural styles and claimed by different religious orders. Today, it features a pleasing Gothic Revival style and primarily serves as a hostel for travelers.

Your hike here begins along a steep but paved mountain path fringed with trees. As you walk, the foliage parts to reveal panoramic views of the bay of Alcúdia, the town and port of Pollença, Cap de Formentor peninsula, the Serra de Tramuntana mountains, and even glimpses of the Mediterranean Sea.

After your visit, retrace your steps and descend to a nearby winery dedicated to reviving the winemaking heritage of Mallorca. Savor a tasting of wine and tapas, the dramatic peaks of the Tramuntana range serving as a spectacular backdrop.

Return to Pollença and enjoy a free afternoon and evening for exploring on your own. Perhaps you'll climb the Calvari Steps, a 365-step stairway leading to the Calvario Chapel with its glorious views. Pop into the Museum of Pollença, located in an ancient Dominican cloister, or one of the galleries that dot the town. Visit the thriving Port de Pollença. Or lounge poolside with a book. The hotel staff will be happy to assist with personalized recommendations for dinner on your own this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5

Alcúdia city tour. Cami Vell de la Victoria

2-3 miles, easy; 1-2 miles, easy to moderate

Savor a breakfast of seasonal fruit, homemade bread, fresh local eggs, and a variety of cooked dishes to start your day. Then, bid Pollença farewell and travel 20 minutes to nearby Alcúdia on the island's northwest coast.

Alcúdia's position between the bays of Alcúdia and Pollença has attracted centuries of conquerors, from the Phoenicians and the Romans to the Vandals and the Moors. The Roman city of Pollentia was founded here in 70 BCE and rose to become one of the most important port cities in the Balearic islands. Now an active archaeological site, Pollentia features the smallest Roman amphitheater in Spain, as well as a forum and many temples, houses, and monuments. A local expert brings its history to life during a guided walking tour.

Afterward, take time to explore Alcúdia on your own. Walk the cobbled streets of its Old Town, encircled by medieval walls. Marvel at the magnificent Església de Sant Jaume cathedral. And admire the gardens and landscapes of this strikingly beautiful town. You will be here on market day—a perfect opportunity to witness daily local life up close.

You might stop for a lunch of local tapas on your own before reuniting with your travel companions for an afternoon walk. Begin just beyond the marina of Bonaire, following the Cami Vell de la Victoria, a paved route graced with stunning views of the Bay of Pollença and the Cape of Formentor. La Victoria, a beautifully preserved 13th-century hermitage that today serves as a hostel, looms overhead. On a clear day, you can see as far as the neighboring island of Menorca. You can walk as far as you wish before turning back. Perhaps you'll pop in the sparkling waters for a refreshing swim along the way.

After your day's walking, climb aboard your minibus for a ride of about an hour to your final home away from home, a boutique hotel and thermal spa retreat adjacent to the salt mines of Es Trenc. Enjoy time to relax and settle into your room before gathering for another memorable meal of local specialties. Retire in comfort this evening after a full day.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6

Coastal Walk

5-7 miles, easy to moderate

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, step out with your guides for a beautiful coastal walk. Depending on the weather, they might lead you on a scenic trail along the southern or southeastern coast from Cala Pi, a tranquil beach town set on a harbor between two cliffs, to the Cap Blanc lighthouse, a picturesque tower that has been guarding this coastline for more than 150 years and is still in operation today. Along this rocky path, you see trees twisted by the wind, low scrub furring the rocks, and stunning sea views.

Or you might set off on a trail leading from the Far del Cap Salines lighthouse at the island's southernmost point. On this route, you'll walk toward Cala S'Almunia, a town and beach set on the crystal-clear waters of the bay and surrounded by rocky cliffs. Views of shrubby-clad cliffs and a deep-blue sea accompany you along the way.

Pause en route to savor a picnic lunch—as well as views of the unspoiled Cabrera Maritime-Terrestrial National Park, sanctuary to a host of birds, whales, loggerhead turtles, dolphins, and other native species. As you walk, you might well see indigenous bird species, as well as migratory birds that wisely enjoy a break here on their way back to Europe in the Spring. Breathe in the scent of the Mediterranean *macchia* (shrubby) as you walk.

Returning to your hotel this afternoon, take time to relax before reconvening for a memorable dinner, complete with a glass of local cava (sparkling wine) to toast the week's adventures.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7

Your Spain: Balearic Islands, Mallorca & Deia tour concludes

After an included breakfast this morning, bid farewell to your travel companions and depart at your leisure (and by the hotel's check-out time of 11:00 a.m.) to Palma to make flight connections for your onward travels. The hotel can assist with departure transportation arrangements.

Included Meals: Breakfast

What's Included

Tour Only

Exceptional boutique accommodations	✓
13 on-tour meals: 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners	✓
Local guides with you throughout tour	✓
Local wine and/or beer with dinner	✓
Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary	✓
Telescopic walking sticks provided on tour	✓