

Spain: Balearic Islands, Mallorca & Deià

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 the native Malvasia wine and tapas at a bodega in Banyalbufar, home to more than 2,000 ancient—and UNESCO-preserved—agricultural terraces.
- Discover Mallorca's ancient Roman past on a guided walking tour of Alcúdia, and experience contemporary life here on its bustling market day.
- 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.
- Follow in the footsteps of many artists and painters (and take in some stunning views!) along the charming coastal path from the peaceful village of Deià.

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

Ermita de la Trinitat to Valldemossa and Banyalbufar; 4 miles, easy to moderate. Travel to Port de Sóller

Meet your guides (after breakfast on your own) in the lobby of Hotel Convent de la Missió, Carrer de la Missió, 7A, in Palma at 8:30 a.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 the outskirts of Valldemossa, a charming village situated within the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Serra de Tramuntana range, and famous for its association with composers, artists, and writers, most notably Frédéric Chopin and George Sand. Here, you'll embark on a tranquil wooded trail through holm oak and olive trees to the Ermita de la Trinitat (Hermitage of the Holy Trinity), a beautiful stone monastery founded in the 17th century and surrounded by palms and elegant cypress trees.

Continue along an easy scenic coastal trail that traces part of the Cami de S' Escolta (the Trail of the Echoes) below the iconic Dry Stone Route (or *Ruta de Pedra en Sec*). Stretching for about 100 miles, this famous network of trails, some of which you'll explore throughout the week, winds through pine and holm oak forests, olive groves, and mountain villages, with scenic ocean views along the way.

Stroll through Valldemossa before continuing on (via a 30-minute drive) 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 bodega's specialty. Enjoy a tasting of the wine and traditional delicacies as you bask in astounding sea views.

From here, you continue by minibus 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 olives to France. The name “Sóller” is thought to derive from the Arabic *sulliar*, 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 stroll away.

Get acquainted with your travel companions 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: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2

Mirador de Ses Barques to Fornalutx and Sóller

4-5 miles, easy to moderate, 1,000-ft. elevation loss

Today’s copious buffet breakfast will fuel you for an invigorating hike along an old, cobbled bridle path to the pretty village of Fornalutx. As you walk along stone-paved paths and dirt trails, you’ll pass citrus orchards, olive groves, and terraced agricultural fields.

Travel by minibus to one of the most spectacular viewpoints (or miradors) over the Port of Sóller and your trailhead. This morning’s trail descends steadily and affords sweeping views over the Sóller Valley, or “valley of oranges,” toward the sparkling sea and Port de Sóller. The quaint villages in the valley, like Biniaraix, are known for their green landscapes, traditional ambiance, and the production of citrus fruits. Your walk culminates in 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; its charming, cobbled streets transport you back in time. Admire colorful houses sporting tiled roofs adorned with plants and dried flowers, the town hall with its 17th-century defense tower, the Gothic and Baroque church, and the central Plaça d’Espanya plaza, where daily life is on view.

Time and energy permitting, continue on foot for approximately 60 minutes to Binibassi and the outskirts of Sóller. Or board a minibus for the short ride to a nearby citrus orchard under the Alfabia mountain range. Here, as you stroll through the orchards, you’ll learn about citrus production in this fertile valley and its importance to the local economy and culture. A light lunch is served outside on the terrace featuring typical

snacks such as *Pa amb oli*—literally, “bread with olive oil,” in which the bread is typically rubbed with a garlic clove and topped with chopped garden tomatoes—as well as *coca de trampo* (a Majorcan-style pizza), an assortment of local cured meats, and of course, fresh-pressed orange juice.

Depart the citrus orchard by minibus and arrive in the heart of Sóller, where a web of narrow streets lined with shops and traditional houses leads to the Plaça Constitució—the central plaza of this beautiful town and 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.

Browse the local shops for olive oil, marmalade from local oranges, or baskets. Alternately, 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—all housed in an Art Nouveau villa.

If you prefer to return to your hotel instead of independent exploration in Sóller, the minibus is available to take you back to nearby Port de Sóller.

The evening is free for exploring and dining on your own, with recommendations from your guides and hotel staff.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

Deià to Llucalcari and Finca Son Mico. Travel to Pollença

3 miles, moderate with challenging sections, 450-ft. elevation gain or 5.5 miles, moderate with challenging sections, 1,150-ft. elevation gain

After a delicious buffet breakfast, depart on a 30-minute drive to Deià. Hailed as one of the loveliest hamlets on the island, the magical village of Deià on Mallorca’s northwest coast lies at the foothills of the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range. The unparalleled natural landscape of this idyllic town lends it an air of tranquility that has unleashed the creativity of romantics, bohemians, and artists—from poet Robert Graves to Pablo Picasso and 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 Majorcan architecture, to numerous hiking trails.

Set off along a gently descending trail toward the secluded bay of Deià, following a former trade route as it winds among terraced hillsides. This area boasts dazzling views, from mountains, gorges, olive groves, and farmlands to beaches and the sea. You see amazing variety as you walk. Signposts, and your guides, provide context for your discoveries.

The initial part of the coastal route is commonly called the Camí dels Pintors or “Painter’s Path” and it’s easy to see how painters like Picasso were mesmerized by the turquoise waters and the breathtaking vistas. The walk climbs to the tiny village of Llucalcari, where the minibus awaits for anyone who prefers not to embark on the 700-foot ascent to our lunch spot, a beautiful old *finca* (farm estate) with gorgeous views over the sea and the Tramuntana range. For those who push on through the rocky climb, your hike culminates at a very special country estate above Sóller. Your morning efforts are rewarded with a tasty lunch of quiche and salad, topped off with a slice of homemade cake.

After lunch, continue by minibus to your boutique hotel in the authentic town of Pollença, near the island’s northwest coast. Settle in to your comfortable room, relax and refresh before enjoying an independent evening of exploring and dining. Your guides will provide recommendations of their favorite tapas bars and restaurants.

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 bubonic 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 Majorcan 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 directly from your hotel, through the city street and up to the base of the mountain, where you follow a long, steep, paved mountain path fringed with trees. As you walk, the foliage parts to reveal panoramic views of the bay of Alcúdia—including the town and port of Pollença, Cap de Formentor peninsula, the Serra de Tramuntana mountains, and glimpses of the Mediterranean Sea.

After your visit to the monastery's Gothic hall, chapel, and refectory, retrace your steps back down to town. 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. Or you might pop into the Museum of Pollença, located in an ancient Dominican cloister, or one of the galleries that dot the town. You might choose to visit the thriving Port de Pollença or lounge on the rooftop terrace, poolside, with a book. The hotel staff, as well as your guides, will be happy to assist with personalized recommendations for dinner on your own this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5

Sa Bassa Blanca to Platja Aucanada and Alcúdia. Travel to Campos

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

Savor a breakfast of seasonal fruit, homemade bread, fresh local eggs, and yogurt to start your day. Then, bid Pollença farewell and travel 20 minutes to nearby Alcúdia. Your first stop is the trailhead located just outside a famous art foundation, Sa Bassa Blanca. This lovely coastal trail begins through the woods and descends through Mediterranean scrub and eventually along an easy seaside promenade. Panoramic views of the turquoise sea, a lighthouse, and, on a clear day, the neighboring island of Menorca, reward your every step. Afterward, continue to the town of Alcúdia. You will be here on market day—a perfect opportunity to witness daily local life up close. Indulge in an independent lunch, armed with restaurant and tapas bar recommendations, before reuniting with your guides and travel companions.

Alcúdia's position between the bays of Alcúdia and Pollença has attracted conquerors over the centuries, 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. With only a small excavation area completed, the site has limited hours and will not be visited on tour. Your guides, however, bring the town and its history to life during a walking tour, where you'll stroll 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.

Late afternoon, 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 a very memorable meal of local specialties. Retire in comfort this evening after a full day.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6

Coastal Walk: Cap Blanc to Cala Pi

5 miles, easy to moderate

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, step out with your guides for a beautiful coastal walk. Embark on a scenic trail along the southern coast from the Cap Blanc lighthouse, a picturesque tower that has been guarding this coastline for more than 150 years and is still in operation today. Arrive in Cala Pi, a tranquil beach town set on a harbor between two cliffs. Along this rocky path, pass trees twisted by the wind, low scrub furring the rocks, and stunning sea views—as well as views of the unspoiled island of Cabrera, home to 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 shrubbery as you trace this trail.

Arriving at the sparkling bay of Cala Pi, you may want to stop at the stunning fjord-like bay for a swim, or walk to the ancient stone watchtower, built in 1663 to protect against attacks by pirates coming from North Africa. Enjoy a packed picnic lunch before continuing on to the nearby Es Trenc salt flats, uniquely situated within a nature reserve. On a guided walk, you'll learn about the difference between table salts

and the premium-quality “flor de sal,” harvested and packed by hand. Your visit culminates with a tasting of some special salt varieties.

Returning to your hotel this afternoon, take time to relax before reconvening for a festive dinner, complete with a glass of local 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	✓