

## **Conference Guide**

## Conference Venue

Conference Location: The Occidental Playa de Palma Hotel\*\*\*\*

The Occidental Playa de Palma Hotel \*\*\*\*

The Occidental Playa de Palma\*\*\*\* hotel enjoys a unique location in the very heart of Playa de Palma, only 200 metres from the popular El Arenal beach. It has one of the best-equipped cycling centres on the island and incorporates hypoxia equipment in the large, bright rooms, designed to provide maximum comfort for guests. Guests can also enjoy a complete Wellness Centre with a sauna, a Turkish bath, a heated indoor swimming pool and a massage service, not to mention a spectacular heated outdoor swimming pool that is covered in the winter. The modern function rooms are available for visitors to host any kind of convention or business meeting, and free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel.

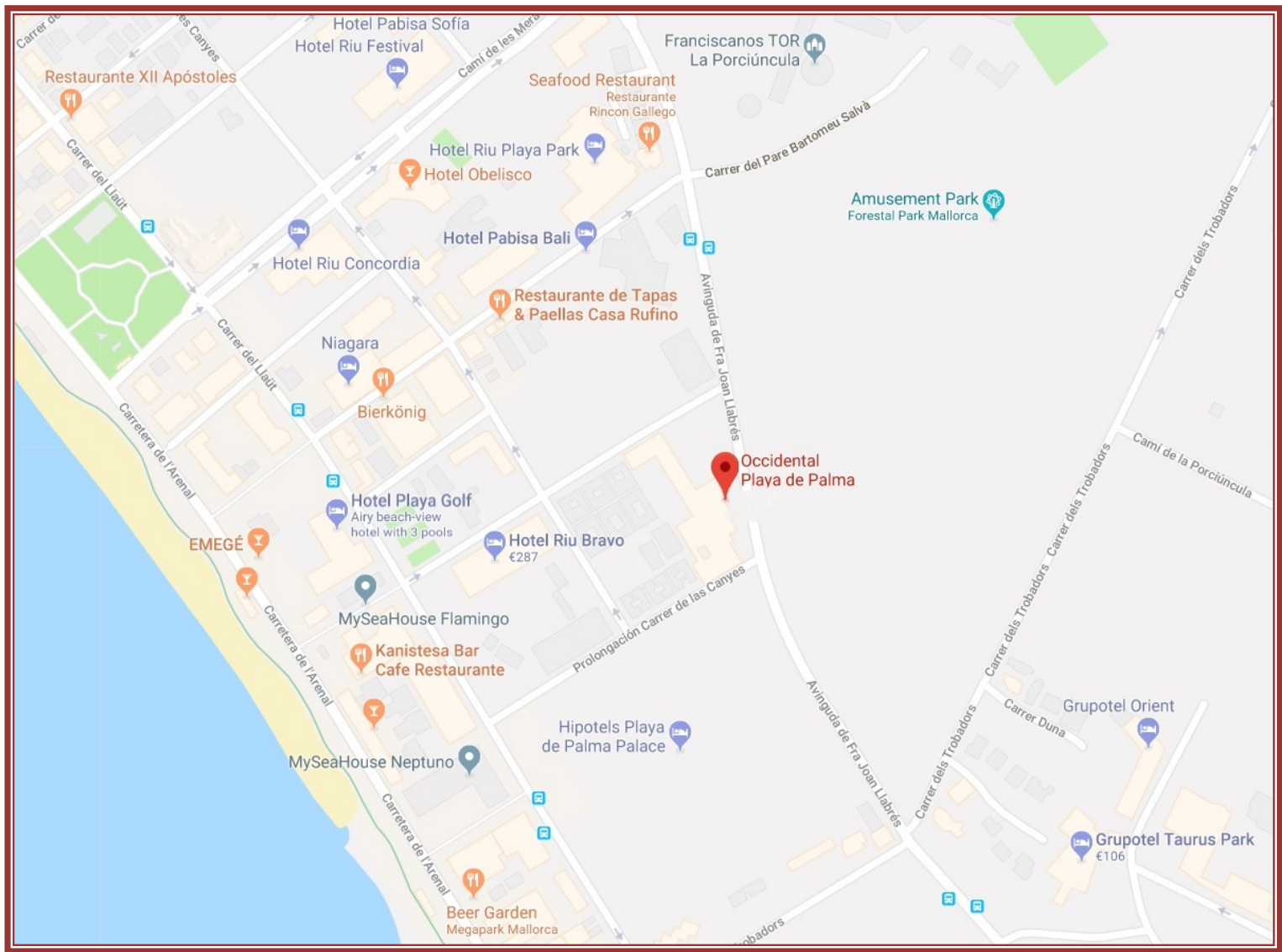


Address: CL Fra Joan Llabrés 16, 07600 Playa de Palma, Palma de Mallorca

Tel: + 34 971 261 700

Email: [playadepalma@occidentalhotels.com](mailto:playadepalma@occidentalhotels.com)

URL: <https://www.barcelo.com/en-gb/occidental-hotels>



## History of Mallorca

Majorca or Mallorca is the largest island in the Balearic Islands archipelago, which are part of Spain and located in the Mediterranean. The capital of the island, Palma, is also the capital of the autonomous community of the Balearic Islands. The Balearic Islands have been an autonomous region of Spain since 1983. Little is recorded of the earliest inhabitants of the island. Burial chambers and traces of habitation from the Neolithic period (6000–4000 BC) have been discovered, particularly the prehistoric settlements called talaiots, or talayots. From 707, the island was increasingly attacked by Muslim raiders from North Africa. Recurrent invasions led the islanders to ask Charlemagne for help. Majorca came under rule by the Taifa of Dénia, and from 1087 to 1114 was an independent Taifa. During that period the island was visited by Ibn Hazm. However, an expedition of Pisans and Catalans in 1114–15, led by Ramon Berenguer III, Count of Barcelona, overran the island, laying siege to Palma for eight months. After the city fell, the invaders retreated due to problems in their own lands. They were replaced by the Almoravides from North Africa, who ruled until 1176. In 1570, King Philip II of Spain and his advisors were considering complete evacuation of the Balearic islands. In the early 18th century, the War of the Spanish Succession resulted in the replacement of that dynastic union with a unified Spanish monarchy under the rule of the new Bourbon Dynasty. The last episode of the War of Spanish Succession was the conquest of the island of Mallorca.



It took place on July 2, 1715 when the island capitulated to the arrival of a Bourbon fleet. In 1716 the Nueva Planta decrees made Majorca part of the Spanish province of Baleares, roughly the same to present-day Illes Balears province and autonomous community. A Nationalist stronghold at the start of the Spanish Civil War, Majorca was subjected to an amphibious landing, on August 16, 1936, aimed at driving the Nationalists from Majorca and reclaiming the island for the Republic. Although the Republicans heavily outnumbered their opponents and managed to push 12 kilometres (7.5 mi) inland, superior Nationalist air power, provided mainly by Fascist Italy as part of the Italian occupation of Majorca, forced the Republicans to retreat and to leave the island completely by September 12. Those events became known as the Battle of Majorca. Since the 1950s, the advent of mass tourism has transformed the island into a destination for foreign visitors and attracted many service workers from mainland Spain. The boom in tourism caused Palma to grow significantly. In the 21st century, urban redevelopment,

under the so called Pla Mirall (English "Mirror Plan"), attracted groups of immigrant workers from outside the European Union, especially from Africa and South America.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallorca>

## How to get to Mallorca

### By Air:

**Palma de Mallorca Airport (IATA: PMI)** is 8km east of Palma de Mallorca. In summer especially, masses of charter and regular flights form an air bridge to Palma from around Europe, among them many low-cost airlines. In 2012, the airport received 22.7 million incoming passengers, making it one of the busiest in Europe. The arrivals hall is on the ground floor of the main terminal building, where you'll find a tourist information office, money-exchange offices, car hire, tour operators and hotel-booking stands. Departures are on the 2nd floor. Nearly every European airline serves Mallorca, along with the majority of budget carriers.

Visa: Generally not required for stays of up to 90 days (or not at all for members of EU or Schengen countries). Some nationalities will need a Schengen visa. Spain is one of 26 member countries of the Schengen Convention, under which 22 EU countries (all but Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the UK) plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland have abolished checks at common borders.

The visa situation for entering Spain is as follows:

Citizens or residents of EU & Schengen countries No visa required.

Citizens or residents of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, NZ and the USA No visa required for tourist visits of up to 90 days.

FAQ: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/spain/mallorca/visas>

**Palma de Mallorca Airport (IATA: PMI)**

**Tel.:** +34 91 321 10 00

**Address:** 07611 Palma

**URL:** <http://www.aena.es/en/palma-mallorca-airport/index.html>



## **How to get from the Airport to the Hotel**

### **By Car:**

Mallorca's roads are generally excellent, though there are a few coastal hair-raisers in the north and west of the island that are not for faint-hearted drivers (Sa Calobra and Formentor to name two). The narrow roads on these cliff-flanked coasts and the country roads that thread through the interior are ideal for motorbike touring. The island's main artery is the Ma13 motorway, which slices through the island diagonally, linking Palma in the west with Alcúdia in the north. The Ma1 loops southwest of Palma to Andratx. While you can get about much of the island by bus and train, especially in high season, having a car will give you far greater freedom. With your own wheels you can seek out the nature parks, secluded coves and mountain retreats away from the crowds. If your car is not equipped with sat nav, it's worth investing in a decent road map to negotiate the island's more offbeat corners. Marco Polo produce a decent one at a 1:125,000 scale.

### **Car Hire**

Car-hire rates vary, but you should be able to get an economy vehicle for between €30 and €60 per day; bear in mind that compact cars can be a tight fit for families. Additional drivers and one-way hire can bump up the cost. Extras like child seats (around €10 per day) should be reserved at the time of booking. To rent a car you have to have a licence, be aged 21 or older and, for the major companies at least, have a credit card. A word of advice: some agencies try to make even more money by charging a €90 fee for fuel, instead of asking you to bring it back with a full tank. Always read the fine print carefully before signing off.

### **By Public Transportation:**

#### **By Bus:**

Bus 1 runs every 15 minutes from the airport (ground floor of Arrivals) to Plaça d'Espanya in central Palma (€3, 15 minutes); buy tickets from the driver. A taxi for the same 15-minute journey from the centre will set you back between €18 and €22. Some hotels can arrange transfers.

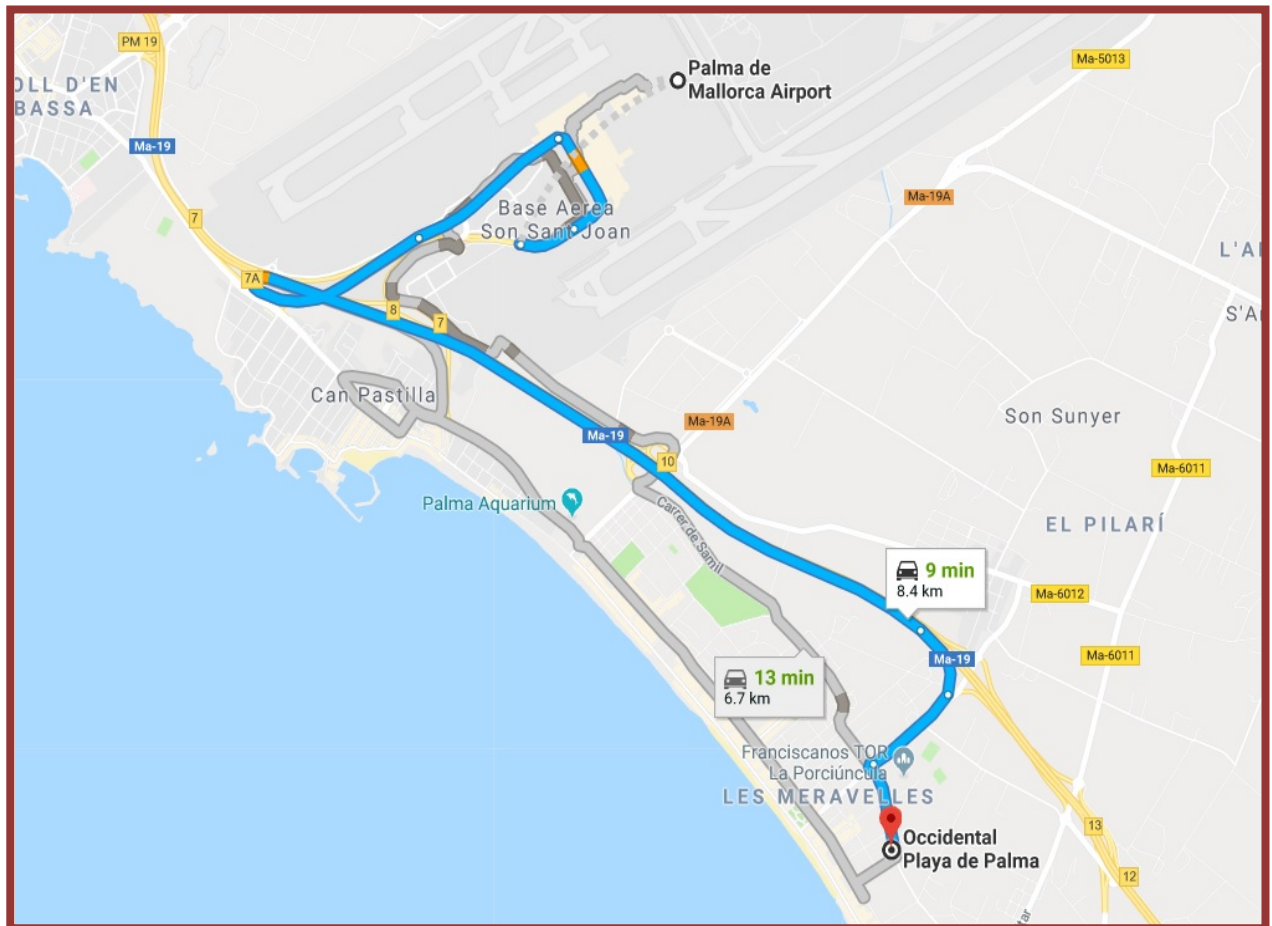
The island is roughly divided into five zones radiating from Palma. Bus line numbers in the 100s cover the southwest, the 200s the west (as far as Sóller), the 300s the north and much of the centre, the 400s a wedge of the centre and east coast and the 500s the south. These services are run by a phalanx of small bus companies, but you can get route and timetable information for all by contacting Transport de les Illes Balears. Most of the island is accessible by bus from Palma. All buses depart from (or near) Palma's Estació Intermodal on Plaça d'Espanya.

Not all lines are especially frequent, and services slow to a trickle on weekends. Frequency to many coastal areas also drops from November to April and some lines are cut altogether (such as those between Ca'n Picafort and Sa Calobra or Sóller). Although services in most parts of the island are adequate, out-of-the-way places can be tedious to reach and getting around the Serra de Tramuntana by bus, while possible, isn't always easy. Bus 200 from Palma runs to Estellencs via Banyalbufar for example, while bus 210 runs to Valldemossa and then, less frequently, on to Deià and Sóller. Nothing makes the connection between Estellencs and Valldemossa and all but

the Palma–Valldemossa run are infrequent. Distances are usually short, with very few services taking longer than two hours to reach their destinations. For fares, consult the Getting There & Away information in the On the Road chapters.

### By Train:

Two train lines run from Plaça d'Espanya in Palma de Mallorca; Transport de les Illes Balears as details. One heads north to Sóller and is a panoramic excursion in an antique wooden train, and is one of Palma's most popular day trips. The other line heads inland to Inca, where the line splits to serve Sa Pobla and Manacor. Prices are generally cheaper than buses and departures are frequent throughout the day. There are plans underway to extend the line from Manacor to Artà, although no one could tell us when the extension would be completed.





## PLACES TO VISIT

### Palau de l'Almudaina

Originally an Islamic fort, this mighty construction opposite the Cathedral was converted into a residence for the Mallorcan monarchs at the end of the 13th century. The King of Spain resides here still, at least symbolically. The royal family are rarely in residence, except for the occasional ceremony, as they prefer to spend summer in the Palau Marivent (in Cala Major). At other times you can wander through a series of cavernous stone-walled rooms that have been lavishly decorated. The Romans are said to have built a castrum (fort) here, possibly on the site of a prehistoric settlement. The Wālis (governors) of Muslim Mallorca altered and expanded the Roman fort, while Jaume I and his successors modified it to such an extent that little of the Muslim version remains. The first narrow room you enter has a black-and-white ceiling, symbolising the extremes of night and day, darkness and light. You then enter a series of three grand rooms. Notice the bricked-in Gothic arches cut off in the middle. Originally these three rooms were double their present height and formed one single great hall added to the original Arab fort and known as the Saló del Tinell (from an Italian word, tinello, meaning 'place where one eats'): this was once a giant banqueting and ceremonial hall. The rooms are graced by period furniture, tapestries and other curios. The following six bare rooms and terrace belonged to the original Arab citadel. In the main courtyard, or Patio de Armas, troops would line up for an inspection and parade before heading out into the city. The lion fountain in its centre is one of the palace's rare Arab remnants. Up the grand Royal Staircase are the royal apartments, a succession of lavishly appointed rooms (look up to the beautiful coffered timber artesonado ceilings), whose centrepiece is the Saló Gòtic, the upper half of the former Saló del Tinell, where you can see where those Gothic arches wind up.

**Address:** Carrer del Palau Reial, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

**Opening hours:** 10am-8pm Apr-Sep, to 6pm Oct-Mar

**Prices:** adult/child €9/4, audioguide €4, guided tour €6

**Email:** [pithecusae@libero.it](mailto:pithecusae@libero.it)



## Catedral

Palma's vast cathedral is the city's major architectural landmark. Aside from its sheer scale and undoubted beauty, its stunning interior features, designed by Antoni Gaudí and renowned contemporary artist Miquel Barceló, make this unlike any cathedral elsewhere in the world. The awesome structure is predominantly Gothic, apart from the main facade, which is startling, quite beautiful and completely mongrel. The Catedral occupies the site of what was the central mosque of Medina Mayurka, capital of Muslim Mallorca for three centuries. Although Jaume I and his marauding men forced their way into the city in 1229, work on the Catedral (La Seu in Catalan), one of Europe's largest, did not begin until 1300. Rather, the mosque was used in the interim as a church and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Work wasn't completed until 1601. The original was a Renaissance cherry on the Gothic cake, but an earthquake in 1851 (which caused considerable panic but no loss of life) severely damaged it. Rather than mend the original, it was decided to add some neo-Gothic flavour. With its interlaced flying buttresses on each flank and soaring pinnacles it forms a masterful example of the style. The result is a hybrid of the Renaissance original (in particular the main doorway) and an inevitably artificial-feeling, 19th-century pseudo-Gothic monumentalism. Mass times vary, but one always takes place at 9am.

**Address:** Carrer del Palau Reial 9, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

**Opening hours:** 10am-6.15pm Mon-Fri, to 2.15pm Sat

**Price:** adult/child €6/free

**URL:** <http://catedraldemallorca.org/>



## Casa Robert Graves

Casa Robert Graves is a fascinating tribute to the writer who moved to Deià in 1929 and had his house built here three years later. It's a well-presented insight into his life; on show you'll find period furnishings, audiovisual displays and various items and books that belonged to Graves himself. The three-storey stone house, Ca N'Alluny (House in the Distance), is a testament to his life and work. Graves left hurriedly in 1936 at the outbreak of civil war, entrusting the house to the care of a local. The Spanish authorities allowed him to return 10 years later and he found everything as he had left it. 'If I had felt so inclined, I could have sat down and...started work straight away', he later commented. And even now, the whole place is set up as if Graves had just stepped out for a stroll. His voice rings out through the rooms as his reading of his poem *The Face in the Mirror* is played in a loop of seemingly eternal playback; the effect is curiously powerful. Famous for such works as *I, Claudius*, the novelised version of the Roman emperor's life, Robert Graves also wrote reams of verse and a book on his adopted homeland, *Mallorca Observed* (1965); the prologue to his *The Golden Fleece* is set in Deià.

**Address:** Carretera Deià-Sóller, Deià, Spain

**Phone:** +34 971 636 185

**Opening hours:** 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat

**Price:** adult/child €7/3.50

**URL:** <http://www.lacasaderobertragraves.org/>

## Palau March

This house, palatial by any definition, was one of several residences of the phenomenally wealthy March family. Sculptures by 20th-century greats, such as Henry Moore, Auguste Rodin, Barbara Hepworth and Eduardo Chillida, grace the outdoor terrace. Within lie many more artistic treasures from some of Spain's big names in art, such as Salvador Dalí, and Barcelona's Josep Maria Sert and Xavier Corberó, as well as an extraordinary 18th-century Neapolitan baroque belén (nativity scene). Entry is through an outdoor terrace display of modern sculptural works. Centre stage is taken by Corberó's enormous *Orgue del Mar* (1973). Inside, more than 20 paintings by Dalí around the themes 'Alchemy and Eternity' catch the eye, as does the belén with hundreds of incredibly detailed figures, from angels to kings, shepherds to farm animals and market scenes, making up a unique representation of Christ's birth.

**Address:** Carrer del Palau Reial 18, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

**Phone:** +34 971 71 11 22

**Opening hours:** 10am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat

**Price:** adult/child €4.50/free



## Jardins d'Alfàbia

The Jardins d'Alfàbia reside in the shadow of the rugged Serra d'Alfàbia mountain range stretching east of Sóller. Here an endearingly faded finca with a baroque facade, which looks like it was stripped from a Florentine basilica, is surrounded by gardens, citrus groves, palm trees and a handful of farmyard animals. The murmur of water gurgling along irrigation canals hints at the place's past as the residence of an Arab Wāli (viceroy), it's no coincidence that in the Quran, paradise is a garden. Little remains of the original Arab house, except for the extraordinary polychromatic coffered ceiling, fashioned from pine and ilex, immediately inside the building's entrance. It is bordered by inscriptions in Arabic and is thought to have been made around 1170. To the right of the inner courtyard is the tafona (large oil press), a mix of Gothic, Renaissance and baroque styles.

**Address:** Carretera de Sóller Km17 , Road from Sóller to Alaró , Spain

**Phone:** +34 971 613 123

**Opening hours:** 9.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat Apr-Oct, 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-1pm Sat  
Nov, closed Dec-Feb

**Price:** adult/child €6.50/free

**Email:** [info@jardinesdealfabia.com](mailto:info@jardinesdealfabia.com)

**URL:** <https://www.jardinesdealfabia.com/en/>

## Es Baluard

Built with flair and innovation into the shell of the Renaissance-era seaward walls, this contemporary art gallery is one of the finest on the island. Its temporary exhibitions are worth viewing, but the permanent collection – works by Miró, Barceló and Picasso – give the gallery its cachet. The 21st-century concrete complex is cleverly built among the fortifications, including the partly restored remains of an 11th-century Muslim-era tower (on your right as you arrive from Carrer de Sant Pere). Inside, the ground floor houses the core of the permanent exhibition, starting with a section on Mallorcan landscapes by local artists and others from abroad; the big names here include Valencia's Joaquín Sorolla, Mallorca's own Miquel Barceló and the Catalan Modernista artist Santiago Rusiñol. A broad swath of local and mostly Catalan landscape artists is also on show here.

**Address:** Plaça de Porta de Santa Catalina 10, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

**Phone:** +34 971 90 82 01

**Opening hours:** 10am-8pm Tue-Sat, to 3pm Sun

**Price:** adult/child €6/free, temporary exhibitions €4

**URL:** <https://www.esbaluard.org/en/>





## Real Cartuja de Valldemossa

This grand old monastery and former royal residence has a chequered history, once home to kings, monks and a pair of 19th-century celebrities: composer Frédéric Chopin and George Sand. A series of cells now shows how the monks lived, bound by an oath of silence they could only break for half an hour per week in the library. Various items related to Sand's and Chopin's time here, including Chopin's pianos, are also displayed. The building's origins date back to 1310 when Jaume II built a palace on the site. After it was abandoned, the Carthusian order took over and converted it into a monastery, which, in 1388, was greatly expanded. The monastery was turned into rental accommodation (mostly to holidaymakers from Palma) after its monks were expelled in 1835. Following the rules of the order, just 13 monks lived in this cavernous space. Entry includes piano recitals (eight times daily in summer) and Jaume II's 14th-century Palau de Rei Sanxo , a muddle of medieval rooms jammed with furniture and hundreds of years of momentos, gathered around a modest cloister.

**Address:** Plaça Cartoixa, Valldemossa, Spain

**Phone:** +34 971 612 986

**Opening hours:** 10am 9.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat, 10am-1.30pm Sun

**Price:** adult/child €8.50/4

**E-mail:** [info@cartujadevalldemossa.com](mailto:info@cartujadevalldemossa.com)

**URL:** <http://www.cartujadevalldemossa.com/en/index.html>



## **DINNING IN MALLORCA**

### **Sea Club Restaurant & Lounge**

**Cuisine:** Mediterranean

**Address:** Carretera del Arenal, 45, Playa de Palma 07600 Mallorca

**Phone:** +34 971 262 650

**E-mail:** [info@seaclubrestaurant.com](mailto:info@seaclubrestaurant.com)

### **Restaurant Del Sol**

Situated directly at the boulevard of the Playa de Palma, this trendy place is an absolutely must and favourite place for the holiday-makers of all over Europe, ever since it opened more than 10 years ago. No wonder, as the overwhelming sight over the entire bay of Palma turns your dining and drinking here into an unforgettable experience. The international cuisine does justice to all tastes, be it the original italian pasta, pizza and company, right to the even more original spanish valencian paella and up to the BBQ-specialties from the real lavastone-grill. Every dish is served with a pleasant smile and an unobtrusive kindness, making the sunset even more sensational.

**Address:** Av. Miramar, 3, S'Arenal, 07600

**Tel:** +34 971 44 21 86

**E-mail:** [info@delsol-mallorca.net](mailto:info@delsol-mallorca.net)





## Bierkönig

“Bierkönig” offers all of a typical German beer garden in Playa de Palma, the very heart of holiday nightlife of the island Mallorca. Only a few steps from the seaside and surrounded by a splendid offer of bars, restaurants and discotheques, the establishment covers an area of more than 3.800 square meters of leisure with several inside and outside terraces, live concerts and the possibility to watch important sports events on giant TV screens. Just perfect for those who are seeking for fun and German style entertainment in combination with beach and a vivid nightlife.

**Address:** Calle Padre Bartolomé Salvá, 6-8, 07600 El Arenal, Balearic Islands, Spain

**E-mail:** [info@bierkoenig.com](mailto:info@bierkoenig.com)

## Ca'n Torrat

It is housed in a solid and typically Majorcan building surrounded by gardens and terraces few meters from the sea of Playa de Palma. Depending on the time of year we can choose to dine in the comfortable and attractive dining rooms, the warmth of the fireplace and overlooking the gardens, or on the large outdoor terraces where Ca'n Torrat offers us the chance to taste their specialties. Any day is good to go to Ca'n Torrat , eat well and enjoy with family or friends of their environment. Private parking.

**Address:** Camino Maravillas, 25, 07610 Palma, Illes Balears

**Phone:** +34 971 26 20 55

**URL:** <http://www.cantorrat.com/>



**Sources:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majorca>  
<https://www.seemallorca.com/emergency>  
<http://www.arrivalguides.com/en/Travelguides/Europe/Spain/MALLORCA/essentialinformation>  
<http://www.aena.es/en/palma-mallorca-airport/index.html>  
<https://www.abc-mallorca.com/>