

Halcyon





Jewel of the Balearics

With its entrancing scenery, innovative restaurants and friendly welcome, Palma de Mallorca is a city to suit all tastes Words: Danielle Berclouw

Long regarded as a mere supporting act for Mallorca's renowned beach resorts, the seaside city of Palma de Mallorca is finally being recognised as a prime attraction of its own accord. And rightly so. The city's exciting cultural and culinary treasures, not to mention its thriving nightlife and revered, laid-back personality, have meant Palma is fast becoming the jewel in the crown of the Mediterranean.

Palma genuinely offers something for everyone and is as versatile as it is incredibly generous in dishing out year-round sunshine.

From cool-hunters keen to give their credit card a workout to foodies eager to try the latest addition to the city's gourmet scene, sun-seekers partial to beaches with a Caribbean flair or art aficionados curious to experience avant-garde galleries, this is a place that offers a kaleidoscope of attractions for young, old, active and chilled-out alike.

Flourishing restaurant scene

Lovers of innovative Mediterranean cuisine can rejoice as the capital's restaurant scene is arguably one of its greatest highlights. No one-trick pony, Palma prides itself on everything from swanky seaside eateries to bustling tapas bars hidden down old-town back streets.

Visitors keen to throw their taste buds a curve ball can bypass the impossibly elegant, yet ever-busy, Jaume III and Passeig del Born, to tranquil Carrer de la Concepció and Sant Jaume. Both narrow lanes' atmospheric traditional stone buildings and quintessential Mallorcan shutters quietly impress, while the restaurants and their talented chefs will give foodies-in-the-know something memorable to shout about.

Fera, housed in an old town palace, had barely opened its doors before word had already spread about chef Simon Petutschnig's 'Mediterr-Asian' cuisine. Expect a veritable feast for the senses, both by means of the



An intriguing history and shops that appeal to all tastes and budgets are two of the city's attractions

boast a roof-top terrace offering a front row seat to tall palm trees, the glinting Palma bay or the city's charismatic old town, only adds to their attraction.

Home of the prestigious Palma Superyacht Show

Some of the world's largest and most impressive superyachts are based in the stylish marinas along Palma de Mallorca's waterfront. Add the island's year-round sailing conditions and it comes as no surprise that a number of the yachting industry's most high-profile regattas and events are hosted right here.

An event which annually pulls in the biggest international crowd is the prestigious Palma Superyacht Show. Since its debut in 2013, it's not only become a not-to-be-missed event on the yachting calendar, but also a show with its own distinct personality. If you dream of dozing off on a sunlounger under a startling sky, lulled by the sound of gentle waves lapping against the side of a hull, then you should definitely visit, as the show enables visitors to get a feel for what owning or chartering a superyacht is like.

Other enticing superyacht scenarios include sipping a glass of something pale and delicate while watching Mallorca's dramatic coastline roll by, or flying 40ft above the water on a flyboard. It's said that chartering or owning a superyacht may change the way you choose to spend your holidays irreversibly as it offers you the

This urban escape boasts more than just turquoise waters and soft golden sand

and a slice of orange alongside classic vermouth combinations, like marinated mussels and small pickled fish called boquerones, is a singular experience and a local adventure that's impossible to pass up.

Character hotels and roof top luxury

Petite restaurants with big personalities and independent boutiques selling cherry-picked treasures are matched by the capital's stylish hotels. Those who scorn chain-hotel monotony can rest assured a good number of city centre hideaways boast more character in their bathrooms than most others in their entirety.

Downtown gems such as Hotel Cort pride themselves on quirky artwork, abundant charm and rooms that have been individually decorated. The newest boutique hotel on the block is Es Princep. The soulful use of stone, wood, leather and two large indoor patios give the place an authentically Mallorcan atmosphere – more private country finca than city hotel. The fact that most hotels

Character hotels and roof top luxury The newest boutique hotel on the block is Es Princep. The soulful use of stone, wood, leather and two large indoor patios give the place an authentically Mallorcan atmosphere – more private country finca than city hotel. The fact that most hotels boast a roof-top terrace offering a front row seat to tall palm trees, the glinting Palma bay or the city's charismatic old town, only adds to their attraction.

ing... asked-about yachts visitors can revel in... social programme.

Beach is just the beginning

Even though Palma is best known for its magnificent beaches, this urban escape boasts more than just turquoise waters and soft golden sand. Dynamic, cosmopolitan yet relaxed and friendly, Palma is fast becoming Europe's best option for a city break. What's more the airport's location, just 10 minutes from the city centre, means you could be enjoying a glass of something cold and sparkly on a shaded rooftop terrace half an hour after your plane has landed.

