Mallorca
AN INVITATION
A trip to the largest of the Balearic Islands

Why Mallorca?

PALMA DE MALLORCA
A labyrinth with a Mediterranean flavour

BEACHES
Sand, atmosphere, alternatives

LANDSCAPE
The inspiration of artists

HISTORY
A meeting point for cultures

LEISURE AND PRODUCTS
The body, the mind, the Mediterranean

HOSPITALITY
A thousand and one nights, breakfast included

CULTURE
An invitation to curiosity

NATURE
The Island’s treasure

GEOGRAPHICAL MAP
Mallorca
A plane in the sky heading for Mallorca. Inside it are a hundred passengers who have chosen this destination for very personal, very different reasons.

By talking to each of these passengers we could discover the infinity of motives that have a bearing when people choose to spend their holiday on the island. Without a shadow of a doubt, the main one is that Mallorca responds to the most diverse wishes with an excellent offer. One loves the interior of Mallorca, because of its idyllic, tranquil corners. Another is drawn by the pleasant urban, cosmopolitan atmosphere of Palma. A third one knows no better place to practice a little cycle-tourism. The fourth one likes the Tramuntana mountain range, the fifth is a painter, the sixth one plays golf, the seventh is a yachting fan and the eighth is looking for night time entertainment and lively beaches.

They all have the same thing in common: Mallorca is perfect for them. Quite possibly some of the passengers on our imaginary plane are already acquainted with the island. If there is one piece of information which reflects the quality of Mallorca as a destination, it is the fidelity of its visitors. Fidelity which is often transformed into something lasting, and which confers the status of residents on them. There is no greater complement for a tourist destination.

Over the following pages we will give you a small idea of just how big Mallorca is. We explain how a destination frequented year after year by seven million visitors preserves its character and responds to such different expectations. It is an invitation to travel with the mind, the soul and the body. In Mallorca, all three are contented.
AN INVITATION

PALMA DE MALLORCA

Because of its strategic situation in the Western Mediterranean, this city has drawn sustenance from all Mediterranean cultures. Although its first inhabitants, the Romans and Muslims, left few remains, the main streets of the city centre still follow, to a large extent, the labyrinthine structure laid down over a millennium ago by the Romans. In the old town, the past is present and future. It is one of the best-preserved historical city centres in Europe. Losing oneself in the labyrinths of alleyways can lead to discoveries, such as a traditional café, a beautiful church or the elegant patio of a stately home.

Diverse styles come together in many buildings. During renovation work Gothic archways appear, or even the foundations of the former Roman wall or traces of the Muslim and Jewish cultures. As for the stately homes that line the alleyways, only their patios allow us to glimpse the beauty that is hidden behind the impressive façades. Some of these monuments have been destined to public use, enabling visitors to daydream of the splendour of other eras. This regional capital reflects the diversity that is so typical of the islands. It is home to both bars and museums, shopping centres and cultural centres, of an

A stone monarch: La Seu

Palma cathedral is, without doubt, the unlikeliest beauty and spectacular historical building on the Balearic archipelago. The dimensions of this Gothic temple are comparable to those of the Domes in Cologne and Milan: 121 metres long, 55 m. wide and 44 m. high. It houses the mortal remains of three kings, of all the Island’s bishops from Ramón de Torrella (1266), and of innumerable nobles and other citizens. It also houses great works of art from the Gothic creations of Sagrera to the modernist ones of Gaudí.

Legend attributes the project to the king of the Reconquest, Jaume I, but it is more likely it was started under Jaume II and initially designed as a chapel-mausoleum. As such it constitutes an annex to the former central mosque, which served as a church for a hundred years and remains of which survive until the 15th century. The cathedral project gained direction definitively at the end of the 13th century and continued until our times. The last contribution is from the 21st century: a chapel which is the work of the famous Mallorcan artist Miquel Barceló.

History of the capital of the Balearics

- 122 BC: Foundation of Palma by the Romans.
- 903 AD: Beginning of the Muslim era. Palma was called Medina Mayurqa and was one of the eight main cities of the Western Mediterranean. Construction of the Almudaina.
- 1229 AD: King Jaume I reconquered Mallorca for the Christian world.
- 1067 AD: A flood opened up a rift in the city. Later it was used to build splendid avenues: the Rambla and the Borne.
- 11th to 17th centuries: Construction of the Gothic “Lonja” and the Renaissance wall.
- 15th to 17th centuries: The population increased from 28,000 to 42,000 inhabitants.
- 20th century: Demolition of the wall. Palma’s population rises to 300,000 inhabitants.

Nighttime view of Palma, the Cathedral and the “Palau de l’ Almudaina” in the background
Palma in detail
Cultural centers and art exhibitions
Casal Solleric
Sa Llotja Cultural Centre
Sa Nostra Cultural Centre
Krekovic Collection
Barceló Foundation
La Caixa Gran Hotel Foundation
Miró Foundation
Palau March
Sa Llotja

Monuments
Arab Baths
Bellevue Castle
Cathedral
Llotja
Aukrovinga Royal Palace

Museums
Can Marquès
Torrents Lladó Museum-House
Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Es Baluard
Museum of Spanish Contemporary Art, Juan March Foundation
Biblical Museum
Cathedral Museum
Sports Museum
Diocesan Museum
Museum of the History of Palma (Bellver Castle)
Museum of Mallorca
Porciúncula Museum
San Carlos Military Museum
Antiqua Dilia Museum
Santa Creu

PALMA DE MALLORCA

inner city marked by history and of outskirts characterised by a modern, healthy economy. It is a city that surprises those who do not know it. In Palma, the elegance of old and the day-to-day life of today live side by side.

The port, the entrance to the island for centuries, is a favourite port of call for cruise liners, as urban life is just a few metres away whilst at the same time the idyllic rural scenery is only a few kilometres away.

SPLENDOUR AND INTIMACY: THE STATELY HOMES

Mallorca’s great families had two main seats: a rural estate with significant agricultural production, and a sleepy town house. These noble families spent the summer in their country estates, whilst the rest of the year they resided in Palma. A characteristic of the Palma stately home is a sequence of spaces separating what is public from what is private in a graduated fashion. The intermediate space is the patio, which in its day was accessible to all the passers-by. There are still a few stately homes where one can perceive the atmosphere of old. Amongst the most splendid are Can Vivot: the “Casal Solleric”, now a cultural centre; the “Casal Balaguer”, the headquarters of the Fine Arts Circle; and Can Marquès, a museum-house that shows the customs of the past.
A beach is something more than a place where sea and land meet and where access to the water for bathing is easy. Factors such as surroundings, services, quality of water and distance to one’s accommodation come into play, without forgetting the climate, of course.

The 550 kilometres of coastline and a huge geographical diversity mean Mallorca can offer a range of beaches which is difficult to beat. A range including anything from lively beaches like Arenal to hidden coves on the North coast that are raw material for poetry.

One constant factor is the quality of the water, officially

AQUATIC ACTIVITIES

Mallorca is a paradise for bathing, diving, water skiing, windsurfing, surfing, and even boarding a submarine and seeing the coast from an entirely different perspective. Mallorca is a paradise for boat trips, panoramica trips showing the varied coastal landscapes with their ancient watchtowers, villages, ports and hidden beaches.

Mallorca is a paradise for yachting tourism: around 20,000 berths in over 50 ports and marinas accommodate vessels ranging from traditional "llauts" to luxury yachts.

Mallorca is a paradise for having fun in the water: it’s never far away in an aquatic park.

Sand, atmosphere, alternatives

BEACHES

- Es Trenc beach
- Cala Carbó
- Illetes beach
- Cala Figuera de Calvià
- Port de Sóller
- Detail of the sea bed, "Gorgonias"
recognised by the European Environmental Education Foundation. In 2004, 41 Mallorcan ports and beaches were awarded Blue Flags.

The 300 days of sunshine a year are another key aspect. And added to this is the wide range of leisure possibilities: amusement parks, leisure centres, a broad cultural offer and the charms of the interior of the island.
The inspiration of artists

LANDSCAPE

There can be no greater complement to a person’s beauty than a painter’s interest in painting a portrait of it. The same is true of a region, but more specifically for Mallorca, which groups together a larger number of artists than any other territory of the same size. This is not a new phenomenon. The Englishman Gordon West, in his description of a journey made in the 1820s, met even in those early days a foreign artist who was living in a boarding house in Pollença, where he paid his rent with his paintings. Every village has its collection of extraordinary characters, of diverse nationalities and origins, who were unable to resist the magic of Mallorca. The island’s geology only explains this fascination to a certain extent. The continents of Africa and Eurasia measure their strength under it. Although they do so in a more limited extent. The islands of Africa and Eurasia as a result of the convergence of the African and Asian tectonic plates, the movement of the plates results in the formation of islands. The variety of forms in which beauty manifests itself is quite astounding. The most spectacular display is found in the Serra de Tramuntana, a scenic jewel which began to be protected in one way or another 120 years ago, when an eccentric member of the Hapsburg family, an artist, commissioned a monumental work. The work was a great success, and the artist was later able to purchase the island. Since then, Mallorca has been a magnet for artists from all over the world. In recent years, the island has become a popular destination for writers, musicians, and other creative people. The island’s beauty is a testament to the power of art to capture the imagination and inspire creativity.

Mallorca has three fundamental types of landscape: the Tramuntana range, the central plain and the Serra de Llevant. The Tramuntana is Queen: its peaks reach over 1,400 metres in height and its extensive area means that the numerous mountaineers, walkers and cyclists rarely feel crowded out. The central plain is a collection of sediments from former seas, material from mountains displaced by the forces of erosion and considerable amounts of sand from the Sahara, by courtesy of the winds of the last two million years. The Serra de Llevant range is gentler and not so high, reaching a maximum of 561 metres. The Tramuntana range is responsible for some of the island’s most spectacular landscape, with its gentle hills, villages, fields, windmills and country estates less attractive grow in number. The same is true of a region, but more specifically for Mallorca, which groups together a larger number of artists than any other territory of the same size. This is not a new phenomenon. The Englishman Gordon West, in his description of a journey made in the 1820s, met even in those early days a foreign artist who was living in a boarding house in Pollença, where he paid his rent with his paintings. Every village has its collection of extraordinary characters, of diverse nationalities and origins, who were unable to resist the magic of Mallorca. The island’s geology only explains this fascination to a certain extent. The continents of Africa and Eurasia measure their strength under it. Although they do so in a more limited extent. The islands of Africa and Eurasia as a result of the convergence of the African and Asian tectonic plates, the movement of the plates results in the formation of islands. The variety of forms in which beauty manifests itself is quite astounding. The most spectacular display is found in the Serra de Tramuntana, a scenic jewel which began to be protected in one way or another 120 years ago, when an eccentric member of the Hapsburg family, an artist, commissioned a monumental work. The work was a great success, and the artist was later able to purchase the island. Since then, Mallorca has been a magnet for artists from all over the world. In recent years, the island has become a popular destination for writers, musicians, and other creative people. The island’s beauty is a testament to the power of art to capture the imagination and inspire creativity.
Archaeological site “Pollentia”

The Myotragus Balearicus was a dwarf antelope and a good symbol of a peaceful life. Evolution made this animal lose its agility, speed and part of its field of vision due to lack of natural enemies. When man arrived around 2000 years before Christ, the Myotragus became an easy victim for hunters. The pacific lifestyle also ended for man when, in around 1200 before Christ, the “Peoples of the Sea” turned the Mediterranean into a true melting pot and settled on Mallorca. The period from then on we now know as the Talayotic era, a culture which has left us impressive remains in the form of fenced settlements with their characteristic stone structures, amongst them large towers, the purpose of which has not yet been determined for sure. (See Capocorb Vell, Llucmajor and Ses Païsses, Artà).

Half a millennium before Christ this primitive society entered into crisis (see Museum of Son Fornés, Montuïri). Little resistance could then be offered to the Romans when they invaded the island in the year 123 before Christ, establishing their capital in Pollentia (now Alcúdia) and introducing their culture. During those centuries, the Mallorcan slingshot throwers, elite warriors whose precision with the sling was legendary, were recruited by different armies, including the Romans themselves. The latter were sure to have received a stone or two on disembarking. (See Museum of Mallorca and Monographic Museum of Pollentia in Alcúdia).

The vandals finished Roman culture off and history plunged into darkness. But this situation did not change until 360 years later with the establishment of democracy in Spain in 1975. Since then, the island has formed part of a political unit determined for sure. (See Capocorb Vell, Llucmajor and Ses Païsses, Artà).

In 1229 Muslim civilization came to an end with the arrival of King Jaume I of Aragón and his troops. The island was divided up as the spoils of war and the Christians founded towns and villages where previously there had only been simple farmsteads. From 1320 to 1349 a Kingdom of Mallorca existed. Its tragic end was due to a conflict within the Royal Family. Since then, the island has formed part of a political unit which in time became what is now Spain. The Myotragus became a symbol of a peaceful life. Evolution made this animal lose its agility, speed and part of its field of vision due to lack of natural enemies. When man arrived around 2000 years before Christ, the Myotragus became an easy victim for hunters. The pacific lifestyle also ended for man when, in around 1200 before Christ, the “Peoples of the Sea” turned the Mediterranean into a true melting pot and settled on Mallorca. The period from then on we now know as the Talayotic era, a culture which has left us impressive remains in the form of fenced settlements with their characteristic stone structures, amongst them large towers, the purpose of which has not yet been determined for sure. (See Capocorb Vell, Llucmajor and Ses Païsses, Artà).

The Myotragus became a symbol of a peaceful life. Evolution made this animal lose its agility, speed and part of its field of vision due to lack of natural enemies. When man arrived around 2000 years before Christ, the Myotragus became an easy victim for hunters. The pacific lifestyle also ended for man when, in around 1200 before Christ, the “Peoples of the Sea” turned the Mediterranean into a true melting pot and settled on Mallorca. The period from then on we now know as the Talayotic era, a culture which has left us impressive remains in the form of fenced settlements with their characteristic stone structures, amongst them large towers, the purpose of which has not yet been determined for sure. (See Capocorb Vell, Llucmajor and Ses Païsses, Artà).

The Myotragus became a symbol of a peaceful life. Evolution made this animal lose its agility, speed and part of its field of vision due to lack of natural enemies. When man arrived around 2000 years before Christ, the Myotragus became an easy victim for hunters. The pacific lifestyle also ended for man when, in around 1200 before Christ, the “Peoples of the Sea” turned the Mediterranean into a true melting pot and settled on Mallorca. The period from then on we now know as the Talayotic era, a culture which has left us impressive remains in the form of fenced settlements with their characteristic stone structures, amongst them large towers, the purpose of which has not yet been determined for sure. (See Capocorb Vell, Llucmajor and Ses Païsses, Artà).

The Myotragus became a symbol of a peaceful life. Evolution made this animal lose its agility, speed and part of its field of vision due to lack of natural enemies. When man arrived around 2000 years before Christ, the Myotragus became an easy victim for hunters. The pacific lifestyle also ended for man when, in around 1200 before Christ, the “Peoples of the Sea” turned the Mediterranean into a true melting pot and settled on Mallorca. The period from then on we now know as the Talayotic era, a culture which has left us impressive remains in the form of fenced settlements with their characteristic stone structures, amongst them large towers, the purpose of which has not yet been determined for sure. (See Capocorb Vell, Llucmajor and Ses Païsses, Artà).
Ideas that go down well: food

Traditional Mallorcan cuisine could be classified as rural, with the occasional guest from the sea the closer we get to the coast. If pork was formerly more popular than fish, it was because approaching a pig involved less risk of being wrecked in a storm or kidnapped by pirates. And the Mediterranean Sea is less rich in floating food than the shoals of the Atlantic due to its low plankton content.

Logically, the culinary range has gradually been refined and incorporated external influences, but it still has its own character. A hundred years ago, in practically all of Mallorca, lords and farm workers alike all sat down to the same dinner: “sopes”. The dish consisted of a bowl of cabbage mixed with the week’s leftover bread, soaked in broth to soften it. Farm animals such as the pig, rabbit, chicken and pigeons are combined in the dish called “arròs brut” (“dirty rice”).

The characteristic colour of sobrasada, another myth in Mallorcan gastronomy, reaches its height if prepared using meat from the island’s black pig.

“Pa amb Oli”, or bread with oil, in spite of its simplicity—or perhaps thanks to it—is an authentic delight for the senses. Farmhouse bread, oil, tomato rubbed over the bread and served with cheese or ham, all accompanied by olives and good Mallorcan wine.

On occasions, extraordinary marriages between the sea and the land occur, as with the dish called “pollastres i gambes” (chicken and prawns).

In the sweets section the almond recovers the importance it had of old: almond ice cream and sponge cake are the classic desserts, although the queen of pastries is based on lard: the “ensaimada”. Then, of course, there are the Valldemossa potato “cocas” and the herb liqueurs to mark the end of the banquet.

Leisure and products

Valuable objects:
The island’s products

Because of its tradition of leather crafting and creativity, entreprenurial spirit, Mallorca is the birthplace of some very well-known brands of footwear. Inca is the centre of this industry which markets products ranging from designer shoes to climbing boots or fashion accessories.

Glass production also has a long tradition. Legend has it that the son of a family of Mallorcan glaziers travelled to Venice, the glaziers’ Mecca, of old, and fell in love with the daughter of a Venetian master, thus learning some of the secrets of those invincible artisans. Nowadays several companies offer an incredible variety of creations, and allow one to witness the entire manufacturing process.

Another emblematic Mallorcan product are the artificial pearls from Manacor.

While on the subject of crafts, we should remember the Siurell, which was probably used as a toy in the Arab era. It was made popular and transformed into a symbol of Mallorca by the artist Joan Miró.

Initially, in the ’80s, a few professionals came. Nowadays it is a phenomenon which moves a hundred thousand people. Enjoying the island by pedalling is just as fashionable as doing so by walking, following, for example, the stone route that leads from one end of the Tramuntana Mountains to the other. The horse is at the heart of popular culture here, and offers a top-quality leisure opportunity for visitors.

Golf is another passion that has taken root in Mallorca. And the importance of yachting tourism is reflected by prestigious, international-level competitions, such as the “Copa del Rey”. The sky is also the setting for much activity, with balloons, paragliders and microlights.

And if floating has a metaphorical connotation, Mallorca is the ideal launching platform. The level of services with regard to wellness and health tourism is extraordinary indeed.
AN INVITATION

The island of the famous: Royal families and the Rolling Stones

Some of Mallorca’s hotels have such a long list of famous guests that they merit a separate section. Here, we can only mention a few of these distinguished guests. Among all of the Spanish royal family, who spend every summer in Mallorca and stay in their own palace. Their presence draws visits by members of European and Oriental royal families.

From the list of famous stalwart supporters of Mallorca we must highlight the actors Michael Douglas, the late Peter Ustinov and the writer Carlos Fuentes. George Lucas came to take a break from his galactic wars, the Rolling Stones to take one from their concerts and their colleague Bono came to attend a wedding. The living legend of Hollywood, Lauren Bacall, came to work. “007” Pierce Brosnan, “Indiana Jones” Harrison Ford and also some leading names in American journalism, such as Barbara Walters, have trodden on and enjoyed Mallorca. The list of politicians is almost endless, as the island is regularly used as the setting for important meetings.

If we extend the list back into the past, we find names like Agatha Christie, Ava Gardner and Errol Flynn, as well as prominent residents such as the American writer Gertrude Stein and the Catalan artist Joan Miró. The latter left a magnificent legacy, now converted into the Miró Foundation in Palma.

The islands of tranquility: Agrotourism establishments

In just a few years what was originally conceived as an alternative has become a true star of the tourist panorama with the passage of time. Agrotourism offers the visitor a vision of the other Mallorca, its great success is due to a perfect combination of tranquillity, tradition and comfort. Agrotourism has also constituted a discovery for the Mallorcan countryside, as it has enabled the owners of large estates, whose agricultural production barely guaranteed their survival, to enter a sector with extremely good prospects. In this way, tourism has contributed to the preservation and recovery of beautiful country estates and houses.

To avoid abuse, the name of “agrotourism” is strictly controlled. An agrotourism establishment must have a minimum of 25,000 square metres of land, it must conserve its agricultural usage and its maximum capacity is 24 persons.

The origins of this new way of enjoying Mallorca go back to 1992, when only four of these establishments were running on the island. Their success, and the demand for them, have brought on a spectacular increase since then, doubling their number over the last five years, and reaching over a hundred establishments at present.
An invitation to curiosity

We could talk of the writers who have passed through the island and paid homage to it in their work, from Jules Verne and Agatha Christie to George Sand and Vigoleis Thelen. Or of the famous cartographers of the 14th and 15th centuries. Or we could talk of the concerts held not only in Palma, but also in some villages and nature spots. And then there is the Mallorcan’s passion for painting, the innumerable galleries, the exhibitions, the competitions and the artists, both Mallorcan and outsiders, who have found their inspiration here. Then again we could talk of the museums, of which there are more every year due to private initiative and institutional efforts. In spite of the predominance of Palma the cultural activities and expressions in the “Part Forana” are not far behind. There are top-notch cultural centres in villages such as Valldemossa (Costa Nord), Petra (Ca N’Oms) and Binissalem (Ca’n Gelabert), events like the Sa Pobla jazz festival and focal points for cultural activity like the town of Pollença with its art galleries and music festivals. Important trends have even appeared outside of Palma, as with the “Escuela de Pollença” or “Pollença School”, a classical painters’movement, or alternative initiatives like the “Casa del Cactus” (House of the Cactus).

MALLORCA AND LITERATURE

Three works on Mallorca have had a huge amount of success and each comes from a different country: in “A winter on Mallorca” (1842), the French writer George Sand describes her stay with the composer Frédéric Chopin in Valldemossa, a picturesque village in the Tramuntana mountains. Under the curious title of “Jogging around Mallorca” (1929), the English journalist Gordon West describes his travels around the island with such enthusiasm that after its reedition in 1994, the work was declared “travel book of the year” in the United Kingdom. And “The island of the second face” (1995), by Albert Víctor Thelmon is already a classic of German literature.

In its day the world of poetry found an exile colon with inhabitants in Mallorca. In the thirties a group of American poets published their magazine “Caravel”, in Mallorca, and in the 1930s the British patrons of the mythical “Black Mountain” magazine met here. Later the Nobel prize winner for literature, César Vallejo, and the great British poet Robert Graves enriched the island’s cultural panorama.

There are also Mallorcan writers who have won a place in international literature, like Carme Riera, Baltasar Porcel, and Maria de la Pau Janer.

But the best-studied Mallorcan author the world over is still Ramón Llull, a 13th-century missionary, philosopher and thinker, who in the Minorcan countryside (after the property of the Archduke) founded a school of Arabic language and culture for missionaries, the only institution of its kind ever to have existed.

The Museums of Mallorca

The Museums of Mallorca. See chapter on Palma in Mallorca.

ART

Yannick Collection
Ben Jobber, Alcúdia
Museum of Contemporary Art, Valldemossa
Municipal Museum, Pollença
Municipal Museum, Sa Pobla

SCIENCE AND NATURE

Els Serradors. Museum, Algaida
Carrerena Museum
Museum of Natural Science and Botanical Gardens, Sóller
The Archduke’s Museum-House of Son Marroig, Deià

CULTURE

Can Ratera Museum-House, Biniassel
Museum of Mallorca and Albera Gardens, Bunyola
Festa Gardens, Bunyola

ETHNOLOGY

Elis Caldersers House-Museum, Sant Joan Sa Granja Museum-House and gardens, Terralès
Etnológica section of the Museum of Mallorca, Miró

HISTORY

The Archduke’s Museum-House of Mahamar, Deià
The Archduke’s Museum-House of Son Marroig, Deià

MUSEUMS OF MALLORCA

Monarchical Museum, Pollença
Museum of Saint Anthony and the Devils, Sa Pobla
Sóller Museum

Archaeological sites within visiting timetables

Capocorb Vell, Costitx
Pollença, Algaida
Sa Pobla, Arta
AN INVITATION

MALLORCA

25

Pirates, prisoners, national park: the Cabrera archipelago

In its day Cabrera was a trap for sailors. This archipelago, with its 18 islands and a total surface area of 1,836 hectares, is extremely well-known among divers and archaeologists due to the quantity of sunken boats.

From the 16th century on Turkish and Berber pirates discovered the archipelago as the ideal base for their forays on the coast of Mallorca. A small fortress was built to warn of the dangers, but it was destroyed on numerous occasions. During one period the fortress was so great that even the ships that brought materials for its reconstruction were intercepted by the pirates.

A drama of epic dimensions took place on the island during the war of independence in 1808. Around 9,000 French prisoners of war were imprisoned on Cabrera, which had never had a permanent population of more than around fifty people throughout its history. When the war ended six years later, only 3,600 survivors were left.

In 1916 the island, which had hitherto been private property, was expropriated to be turned into a military zone. Its condition as such protected it from development and its old history remained practically intact. The visiting regime is extremely strict and anchoring of pleasure boats is limited. It is, in short, one of the best-preserved jewels of Mallorcan nature.

S’Albufera is to migratory birds what Son Sant Joan is to aeroplanes: this is where birds stop over. With its 2,400 hectares, S’Albufera is the largest wetland on Mallorca.

A project to drain it did not prosper and in 1985 the authorities purchased the whole area in order to preserve it. It is a paradise for “birdwatchers”, those enthusiasts armed with binoculars, reference books and inexhaustible patience. In S’Albuferar 196 bird species have been detected, a number which varies depending on the season as this enclave is used as a bridge for the great North-South migrations.

Today 40 percent of Mallorca constitutes protected areas. Amongst them are Spain’s first national maritime and land park, the Cabrera archipelago, as well as the island of Dragonera. But the largest protected surface on the island is the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range.

In 1985 the authorities purchased the whole area in order to preserve it. It is a paradise for “birdwatchers”, those enthusiasts armed with binoculars, reference books and inexhaustible patience. In S’Albuferar 196 bird species have been detected, a number which varies depending on the season as this enclave is used as a bridge for the great North-South migrations.

Today 40 percent of Mallorca constitutes protected areas. Amongst them are Spain’s first national maritime and land park, the Cabrera archipelago, as well as the island of Dragonera. But the largest protected surface on the island is the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range.

S’Albufera is the largest wetland on Mallorca. A project to drain it did not prosper and in 1985 the authorities purchased the whole area in order to preserve it. It is a paradise for “birdwatchers”, those enthusiasts armed with binoculars, reference books and inexhaustible patience. In S’Albufera 196 bird species have been detected, a number which varies depending on the season as this enclave is used as a bridge for the great North-South migrations.

Today 40 percent of Mallorca constitutes protected areas. Amongst them are Spain’s first national maritime and land park, the Cabrera archipelago, as well as the island of Dragonera. But the largest protected surface on the island is the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range.
**Mallorca**

**AN INVITATION**

**IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Surface: 3,640 km²

Coast: 554.7 km

Maximum height: 1,432 m (Puig Major)

Average annual temperature: 18.7ºC

Hours of sunshine, annual average: 2,958.7

Number of inhabitants: 753,584