

Information about Mallorca and our culture

In an increasingly globalised society connected through technology, the drive for authenticity comes from a desire to form personal connections to the people and places travellers encounter on the road. More than seeing the sites, travellers are looking for creative ways to immerse in the culture.

Travellers committed to responsible and sustainable travel must commit to respecting local cultures should be the guiding principle behind all of your actions. Even if you don't agree with a custom or a request, honour your role as visitor in someone else's home and follow their lead, allowing local actions to guide all of your behaviours. The role these locations play in the lives of locals is far more significant than the fleeting satisfaction a tourist receives from engaging with a place outside of the context locals desire.

Pre-trip research is an integral part of traveling respectfully. Understand the local customs and culture by reading books about the country. Consider how history has shaped modern attitudes, religion, and traditions. Research ethical tourism options for popular activities before you arrive so you are clear on which activities are harmonious with your intentions for sustainable, responsible tourism.

Down below we provide some tips that could be very useful:

- Dress appropriately; consider the local religion, culture, and climate when packing for a trip. Dress codes vary even within a country, and especially at important religious and cultural sites, where conservative clothing is nearly always the most respectful option.
- Be mindful when photographing; always ask permission before photographing locals. Although it seems like a passing moment for you as the tourist, that photo often represents the daily life for any locals living in a touristy area.
- Learn a bit of the local language; before you leave, take the time to learn a handful of words in the local language. Even more than communication, however, learning how to greet and express thanks in the local language expresses a willingness to better understand the culture and people.
- Adhere to the cultural etiquette, mannerisms, and superstitions; show respect for the local culture by researching appropriate gestures and traditions. Even the most commonplace action might be culturally inappropriate in another part of the world.

About the destination

Despite being one of the most popular destinations in Spain, Mallorca maintains its original and traditional essence. An enclave that, due to its strategic position, has passed through the hands of different civilizations which have enriched its history.

Each city and town has its own traditions, but in any corner of the island you can enjoy various festivals that have maintained the same festive and joyful spirit for hundreds of years. In those celebrations, music, fire, dance and parades are elements that cannot be missed.

One of the most well known festivals of the year is Sant Bartomeu, which honors the patron saint of Capdepera. It is celebrated in summer and its best known activity is the “nit del foc”, where people and demons join in a dance under the fireworks.

Another very famous celebration is the Moors and Christians Festival in Pollença, which recreates the pirates' invasion of the town, who defends itself until it is expelled. A party in August that remembers this event of the year 1550 and in which all the neighbours of the region participate.

Holy Week is a time where the tradition of Mallorca shines, with processions and religious activities of all kinds. The most anticipated is “Crist de la Sang”, where different brotherhoods of the island dress in traditional clothes and carry out the procession through the streets full of faithful.

If you are lucky enough to spend Christmas Eve in Mallorca, then you will know the medieval song of the “Sibil·la”, declared a cultural heritage by UNESCO.

Another very traditional and popular festival takes place in January in honour of Sant Antoni, the patron saint of animals. Processions and animal blessings as well as fire rituals and devils characterise this colourful and wild activity at this festival.

Also, another great way to get to know the culture of a place is through its typical dishes. Gastronomy speaks a lot about the history and tradition of each destination, and on this island, it has a very special importance.

In Mallorca, traditions also reach the kitchen with recipes that are passed from generation to generation and use the most typical products of the region. Among the most popular dishes, we find the “Frito mallorquín” (whose recipe dates back to the 14th century), “arròs brut”, “sobrassada”, “botifarró”, “camaiot”, and the “ensaïmada”.

This is also transferred to the world of oenology, with native wines that have been manufactured in the same cellars for many years, with traditional methods and that ensure an exquisite result.

Let yourself be surprised by the diversity of the island!



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