

## Mallorca

May 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
[View Photos Here](#)

For this 5-night/6-day trip, we flew out of Paris and back to Nantes as we were headed out to Brittany afterwards. At €125 total (both legs) per person, we figured we paid only slightly more than we would have paid for a train from Paris to Brittany, and got a free stop-over in Mallorca!

Despite having lived in Madrid and traveled through most regions of Spain, I had never been to the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza being the main ones). After this trip, I wondered why it took me so long! Although Mallorca was so spectacular, I'm debating whether it's worth going to Menorca or Ibiza or if I'll be disappointed. Recommendations, please!

We stayed almost entirely in the mountainous northern part of Mallorca, primarily straying never too far from the Ma-10, the main road that cuts east-west along the northern coast of the island.

We rented a car to explore as much as possible. I would definitely recommend driving if you have a fearless driver in your party. It's not easy driving though. If you're at all hesitant behind the wheel, this is not the place to rent a car. While the roads are generally very well maintained, they are very windy and narrow in places with 1,000-foot drops off the side. The Ma-10 and its offshoots are also apparently very popular among cyclists, so it's a constant challenge to share the road without having to drive along behind the cyclists.

We were fairly ambitious in our explorations, though per usual, it wasn't 100% vacation for me. We generally explored in the morning and early afternoon, went back to the hotel from about 4pm-8/8:30pm to swim, rest up or in my case work from the beautiful terrace bar at the Can Verdera hotel. With the gorgeous view, super fast wifi, shaded couches and local wine, this may rank as my all-time favorite place to "work from home". Our hotel was fantastic. I would definitely stay in Fornalutx again. I think it's one of the two or three most beautiful towns on the island if not *the* most beautiful. It's small and very walkable, though there were enough restaurants to keep us from having to attempt the treacherous driving at night.

If I return to Mallorca (which I definitely plan to do)... well, it would be to hike the entire GR221 or Tramuntana Trail, which more or less also follows the Ma-10 or visa versa. But if I went back again not for hiking, I would either stay at the Can Verdera in Fornalutx again or I would split my time between Fornalutx and Valldemossa, my other favorite town. Valldemossa is a bit larger than Fornalutx, with a few more restaurant and other entertainment options. But it's still very manageable and picturesque. Finally, budget permitting, these slightly more out-of-the-way hotels also looked spectacular:

- <http://www.tramuntana-lodge.com/english/>
- <https://www.barcelo.com/en-gb/hotels/spain/balearic-islands/mallorca/formentor-a-royal-hideaway-hotel/>

While you can visit any corner of the island as a day trip from any one base, distances take much more time than they would appear to on the map; as I said, the roads are windy! Picking a second base for the second half of the trip would not be a bad idea.

Despite the dry climate and high temperatures for a good part of the year, Mallorca has fantastic hiking. There are numerous trails and mostly well-marked. We primarily used these resources to plan our hikes:

- [http://www.conselldemallorca.net/media/46473/guia\\_itineraris\\_familiars\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.conselldemallorca.net/media/46473/guia_itineraris_familiars_ENG.pdf)
- [www.valledesoller.info](http://www.valledesoller.info)
- [http://www.conselldemallorca.net/?id\\_section=3198&id\\_parent=491&id\\_class=2992&id\\_lang=2](http://www.conselldemallorca.net/?id_section=3198&id_parent=491&id_class=2992&id_lang=2)

More useful websites:

- <https://www.skyscanner.net/news/17-most-beautiful-places-balearic-islands>
- [http://www.bodegasmallorca.com/bodegas/bodegas\\_de\\_mallorca\\_y\\_sus\\_vinos.html](http://www.bodegasmallorca.com/bodegas/bodegas_de_mallorca_y_sus_vinos.html)
- <https://www.santa-catarina.com/en>

One last thing—while Mallorcan natives generally speak Catalán and not Castellano (the Spanish of Madrid and of most Spanish-speaking countries), no one expects you to speak Catalán. In fact, no one really expects you to speak Castellano either. While I did try to brush up my Spanish and take advantage of the opportunity to practice, I think you'd find it quite easy to get around with just English.

You can view all my photos from Mallorca [here](#).

Date	To	Flight/Hotel/Car Details	Cost	Notes/Comments
Thursday, May 18th	Fornalutx, Mallorca	<p><i>Flight:</i> Vueling <b>Flight VY2859</b> Paris (Orly) TW 07:00 (ORY): Majorca (PMI): 08:50</p> <p>Vueling Cars: <b>Booking Reference Number:</b> ES796815130</p> <p><i>Hotel in Fornalutx:</i> Can Verdera <a href="http://canverdera.com/">http://canverdera.com/</a> Carrer des Toros, 1, Fornalutx, 07109, Spain <b>Phone:</b> +34971638203 Check-in 2pm; check-out by 12 noon Breakfast included Booking number: 1205730879, PIN code: 1437</p>	<p><i>Flight:</i> €125.93 round trip per person (including seat assignments)</p> <p><i>Car:</i> €75.52</p> <p><i>Hotel:</i> €941.50/2 people</p> <p>Parking nearby – in theory €7/day but we never ended up paying anything</p>	<p>Drove to Sóller (up and over, not by tunnel), great lunch on the terrace at <a href="#">Luna 36</a>, checked into hotel, explored Fornalutx, swim then worked from terrace bar. Super fast wifi, best place ever to work from “home”! Dinner at <a href="#">Restaurant Café Med</a>—I had a delicious thai chicken dish. The remaining evenings in Fornalutx, we ate at the following local spots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g580298-d6079137-Reviews-La_Cuina_d_en_Marc-Fornalutx_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g580298-d6079137-Reviews-La_Cuina_d_en_Marc-Fornalutx_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g580298-d2224178-Reviews-Sa_Aturada-Fornalutx_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g580298-d2224178-Reviews-Sa_Aturada-Fornalutx_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g580298-d985480-Reviews-Can_Nantuna-Fornalutx_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g580298-d985480-Reviews-Can_Nantuna-Fornalutx_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g580298-d1492228-Reviews-Calzone_Pizzeria-Fornalutx_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g580298-d1492228-Reviews-Calzone_Pizzeria-Fornalutx_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html</a></li> </ul> <p>All were very good. I’m not sure that any stood out over the others.</p>
Friday, May 19th		<p>Hike from Binairix (park on main road and walk to town)—loop: GR221→Can Cati→GR221. One of the most beautiful hikes of the trip. 2-3 hours. <a href="http://www.mallorcaoutdoors.com/barranc-de-binairix.html">http://www.mallorcaoutdoors.com/barranc-de-binairix.html</a></p>		
Saturday, May 20th		<p>Drove the Ma-10 to Cúber hike in the morning: <a href="http://www.conselldemallorca.net/media/29960/Fullet_familiar_CUBER_ANG_GUIA.pdf">http://www.conselldemallorca.net/media/29960/Fullet_familiar_CUBER_ANG_GUIA.pdf</a>. It’s a short hike, not the most spectacular hike we did but interesting for its very different high-altitude inland landscape.</p> <p>Very windy road down to Sa Calobra, lunch there and walk via tunnel to the beach. The road has what seems like an infinite number of hairpin turns over about 13 kilometers, but the scenery is amazing and the road itself is worth seeing as a feat of engineering. Sa Calobra is a very pleasant village and the walk to the beach is well worth it.</p> <p>Drove to Cap de Formentor – the Mirador Es Colomer is an absolute DO NOT MISS. One of the most spectacular views you’ll find anywhere on the planet. We also drove up towards Talaia d’Abercutx—a terrifying drive (wondering if anyone is coming the other way), but worth it for the views at the top. We then drove out to the tip of Cap de Formentor. Cap de Formentor is a bit of a trek from most other parts of the island but definitely worth visiting.</p>		
Sunday, May 21st		<p>Explored Deias, drove along the Ma-10 (northern coast). Hiked from Esporles to Banyalbufar (<a href="http://www.mallorcaoutdoors.com/estellencs-to-banyalbufar-esporles-mola-de-planicia.html">http://www.mallorcaoutdoors.com/estellencs-to-banyalbufar-esporles-mola-de-planicia.html</a>) along the dry stone route. Excellent lunch at Restaurant 1661 in Banyalbufar (<a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g319792-d4066372-Reviews-1661_Cuina_de_Banyalbufar-Banyalbufar_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g319792-d4066372-Reviews-1661_Cuina_de_Banyalbufar-Banyalbufar_Majorca_Balearic_Islands.html</a>)</p> <p>Explored Valldemossa, one of my favorite towns on Mallorca.</p>		
Monday, May 22nd		<p>Early morning hike: <a href="http://www.conselldemallorca.net/media/30700/Fullet_familiar_ALZINA_ANG.pdf">http://www.conselldemallorca.net/media/30700/Fullet_familiar_ALZINA_ANG.pdf</a></p> <p>Then hiked from Fornalutx to Sóller and back: <a href="https://www.seemallorca.com/reviews/soller-to-fornalutx-hiking-review-fornalutx-675992">https://www.seemallorca.com/reviews/soller-to-fornalutx-hiking-review-fornalutx-675992</a>. If you’re starting from Fornalutx, walk to the town cemetery, then continue along that same path.</p> <p>Lunch by the water in Port de Sóller (Les Oliveres: <a href="http://sollervirtual.com/restaurantes/sesoliveres.html">http://sollervirtual.com/restaurantes/sesoliveres.html</a>)</p>		
Tuesday, May 23rd	Fly to Nantes	<p><i>Flight:</i> <b>Flight VY2978</b> Majorca (PMI): 19:35 Nantes (NTE): T3 21:25</p>		<p>Early morning hike: Fornalutx to Binairix (via the Valley and Binibassi) and back to Fornalutx via the hills loop. 1 ½ hours.</p> <p>Drove the northern coast to Saint Elm (views of Isla Dragonera) and lunch in Saint Elm. Afternoon in the old town of Palma, near the Plaça Maior, before returning to the airport. Tapas on Carrer de la Unió in Palma.</p>