

PALMA

PALMA, MALLORCA, SPAIN

The city of Palma is located on the southern coast of the island of Mallorca, the largest island in the Balearic group. Mallorca Island is approximately 60 miles long, 45 miles wide, with a total area of 1,325 square miles. On the northern shores of the island, Pollensa Bay is accessible to any type of ship, and Alcudia Bay has a large anchorage, but neither has adequate harbor facilities. On the northwest shore, Port Soller has an anchorage in 30 feet of water, but the size and narrow entrance of the harbor restricts it to small craft and submarines. Palma alone has good harbor amenities and easy connections with other parts of the island.

The city stands at the head of Palma Bay, an expanse of water 10 by 6 miles, open to the south between Cabo de Cala Figuera and Cabo Blanco. The west and northwest of the city are backed by hills rising steeply to between 1,500 and 2,000 feet. The land in and around the city, especially to the east, is mostly below 150 feet. About one mile from Santa Catalina, the western suburb of Palma, is a pine-clad hill, 459 feet high, on which stands Bellver Castle, the ancient residence of the kings of Mallorca. Puerto Pi, a small creek with a wharf, is about one mile south of Bellver and two miles south-southwest of Palma. The port is 132 miles from Barcelona. The population is about 145,000.

Economically, Mallorca Island is of no great importance to Spain, but the strategic importance of the Balearic group is obvious. Most of the products of the island are for local consumption, and those exported are mainly shipped to Spain or Spanish possessions.

Although a large part of the economy of Palma is based on the tourist trade (the port, before the Civil War, was the leading port of call in Spain for tourists), the island exports clothing, cotton, wool, shoes, sandals, rubber, furniture, rugs, glassware, and costume jewelry. The major agricultural products are almonds, figs, apricots, horsebeans, and potatoes, and in the past years the place was famous for pig breeding. There are two cement factories, an artificial fertilizer factory at Puerto Pi, stone quarries in the Genova hills west of Bellver, and an active fishing industry, chiefly in Palma Bay, as well as a little ship repairing in Palma. Chief imports are coal, hardware goods, petroleum, wheat, flour, and timber. In a normal year about 85 percent of the total commerce is coastal trade.

The people are a mixture of Phoenician and Semitic races, having a language different from the mainland of Spain, but similar to Catalan. Most of the island people resemble the Catalans in type and temperament, being industrious, thrifty and sober; most of the population are engaged as farmers and artisans. The island's rugged coastline makes for ideal defenses against invasion, but the ports are all small and undeveloped. Mallorca has a central plain bordered on the northwest by a line of limestone Sierras rising to 4,741 feet, presenting a considerable barrier to island communications, and on the southeast line, by a discontinuous series of hills not exceeding 1,500 feet.



The richness of the Balearic Islands in prehistoric remains indicates their early importance in the migration of Mediterranean peoples. The earliest known inhabitants were the Iberians, and subsequently there came successive invasions of Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans.

Palma was founded about 123 B.C. as a settlement of Roman and Iberian colonists. The port acquired some importance under the Moors, but it grew most rapidly after 1229 when Jaime I captured the island and brought the whole group under his rule. In 1343, the island was incorporated into Aragon and Catalonia and consequently flourished with Mediterranean trade of that kingdom. In the fourteenth century, the mercantile trade of Palma was sufficient to warrant the construction of a mole, 387 yards long, forming the original harbor.

The city declined when, after 1516, Aragon was merged with Castile, but the island's position near the Mediterranean trade routes and its agricultural wealth maintained its relative status. The island was occupied by the British for the greater part of the 18th century, the harbor of Port Maho on the Island of Menorca being an important naval base in the center of the Mediterranean. Even today, there are many signs of British occupation, the most prosperous period in the history of the islands. Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton's house in Port Mahon is now a museum.

The ramparts, which formerly enclosed the entire city on all sides, were begun about 1562, but were not finished until 1836, those on the harbor side being demolished in 1872. Meanwhile, the mole had been extended to over 650 yards, but the harbor remained inaccessible to vessels over 18 feet. After 1875, much dredging was done, and a further addition of 136 yards was made to the mole.

The city is the provincial capital of the Balearic Islands, the seat of a Bishopric and headquarters of a Military Region. The main part of the town is the circular area lying within the line of the old walls (now replaced by side streets) at the head of the bay. In old Palma, the houses are large and solidly constructed, mainly of local sandstone and limestone, but the streets are narrow.

Palma was one of the most important ports in the Mediterranean from the 13th to the 15th centuries. The island's great cathedral and some of the most beautiful private palaces of medieval Europe were built. Then Columbus discovered America - and Palma lost its initial importance. Shipping shifted from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, and for four long centuries Mallorca became a backwater, a forgotten island. Business disappeared, population declined. But today, once again it is a very important place in that it has been found by tourists from all over the world. With its 5000 foot mountains, its beautifully lush colorful background, and comparatively reasonable prices, it has become one of Spain's favorite resorts. In 1958 more than one million mainlanders came to soak up the sun and to laze on the beaches of this beautiful island.

Points of Interest - The Seo, or Cathedral of Palma, a splendid edifice toned to a golden color by age, was begun in the reign of Jaime I, in 1230, in Gothic style. The Puerta Mayor, or main door, is of the late 16th century and the Mirador, or Navedia Door, is distinguished for its rich Gothic sculptures. The vast temple consists, in the interior, of three simple naves; the central sustained by 14 slim pillars, is 44 meters high.



The windows, some of them blind, are of beautiful stained glass, especially those on the western side. The 36' diameter rose window is the largest in Europe. In the Trinity Chapel two former kings of Mallorca are buried, Jaime I and Jaime III.

On the east of the Cathedral stands the Episcopal Palace, a splendid building of the second Renaissance (1616) in which is installed the Diocesan Museum. In front of the palace stands the famous Castle of la Alimudaina or Royal Palace today, converted into government offices.

The Exchange (La Lonja) was constructed in 1426 by Guillermo Sagera. It has four characteristic towers, and a kind of parapet round the roof. Today, the Provincial Museum is installed there. A winding staircase leads to the tower from which the sculptured decorations can be admired and a splendid view enjoyed.

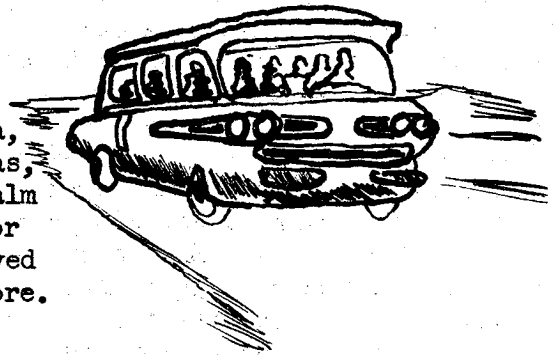
Among the noteworthy buildings to be found in the town are the Consulado, or former Tribunal of Commerce, the palace of Marques de Sollerich-Morrel, the palace of Bega-Zaforteza, the Principal Theater, the Church of San Antonia de Viana with a two-story courtyard, the hall of the modern provincial deputation and the town hall, the latter a restored Renaissance building that has a highly interesting cornice. Many old-world palaces, that lend to Mallorca an elegance difficult to match, could also be mentioned. Such as that at 2, Zavella Street and those that stand on Lulio and Morey Streets. Interesting remains of an Arab bath, built in the 10th century, can be seen in the gardens of Casa Fonty Roig.

A fine view of the city, the port and the surrounding countryside is obtained from Bellver Castle, open until 1700 daily. It was built by Jaime II in the 14th Century as a royal residence and is the best preserved castle in Europe. Jovellance was imprisoned here, and there is now a large museum of Greek and Roman relics recovered from various parts of the island. An hour away is the ancient Carthusian Monastery of Valldemesa, known as La Cartuja, where Jovellance also was imprisoned, Chopin lived with George Sand and composed some of his finest works, and Ruben Dario wrote his best poetry. The Chopin and George Sand cell is still preserved as a memorial, complete with his piano and the adjacent pharmacy with drugs still on the shelves. Just beyond Valldemesa are Miramar, the Mallorcan vacation house of the Archduke Luis Salvador of Austria, and La Bataca, a pleasure house of the Archdukes.

Loller is a lovely spot, also surrounded by orange trees, built on the seashore at the foot of a mountain of which stand the picturesque Puig Mayor, the Coll de son Torcella, and the Puig de Torella. From Soller to Pollensa the view is magnificent, the torrent de Pareys which lies in the neighborhood being especially interesting.

An interesting excursion from Palma is that to the stalactite grottoes of Drach, filled with lakes over which silent gondolas take the visitors. Concerts are given in Lake Martel. The Arta caves are also interesting, but more time is required to reach them.

Other worthwhile excursions are those to Pollensa, Alcudia, to Andraitx, Estallends, Banalbufar, Esporlas, Capdoera, Cala Ratjada, and Pugi de Fair of Ramos (Palm Sunday), which is held in the Rambla. In the interior of the island many songs and dances are still preserved which are of great interest to the student of folk-lore.



NOTE: Guided tours will probably be set up by the ship. This will give you ample opportunity to see most of the points of interest mentioned above.

Churches - Most churches in Palma are Catholic. There are two Protestant congregations. Services in English are conducted at 211 Calvo Sotelo, Terreno.

Catholic: The cathedral is clearly visible and within short walking distance from the fleet landing. Its impressive beauty and convenient location make it ideal for church parties.

Protestant: The Church of England Chapel is at 211 Calvo Sotelo. Service is 1130 on Sunday. The Iglesia Evangelica Esponola (Wesleyan Methodist) at 1100 and 1900 on Sunday. Church parties are invited to participate. The pastor's telephone number is 6493. Protestant churches are not permitted to have distinctive church architecture or outside signs and can be identified by the street number only.

Transportation - Buses are available to all points in Palma and Soller. There are some 375 licensed taxis in the city with a rate of about 3 pesetas per kilometer. It is understood that taxi drivers charge a percentage of the fare as a "return trip" fee for transportation outside certain limits of the city. This fee is charged even though the taxi is not used for return trip.

Recently a supplement has been added within the city. The driver will have a printed chart showing the metered fare plus supplement. When taking a taxi in the city, always use the meter.

Palma is connected to the rest of the island by a system of roads and railroads. However, most of the island's passenger travel is by bus with service to all the small settlements. The Trans-Mediterranean Company offers inter-island and mainland ferry service to Mahon, Ciudadela, Barcelona, Alicante, Valencia, and Cabrera. Air transportation is available to Barcelona, Valencia, Madrid, Paris, London, Algiers or Marseille.

Tours - The following tours are normally operated in Palma:

(a) Monday, and Thursday - Excursion to Valldemosa. Visiting the Royal Cart-husian Monastery, Chopin's and George Sand's cells, and an exhibition of folk dancing. Miramar Coast, Deya, and the harbor of Soller where lunch is served. The return journey is made via the impressive mountain Coll of Soller. On Mondays a visit is made to the Gardens of Raxa and on Thursdays to the Moorish Gardens of Alfavia. Price per person including lunch, is 188 pesetas.

(b) Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday - Excursion to Inca, the harbor of Pollensa and Formentor. On the return journey from Formentor to Pollensa (where lunch is served) tourists can, if they wish, cross the bay in boats. On the return journey from Pollensa to Palma, a call is made at the mountain village of Selva to see an exhibition of traditional folk dancing. Price per person, including lunch, 201 pesetas.

(c) Wednesday and Sunday - Excursion to Manacor visiting the factory where the celebrated Manacor Pearls are made, to Porto Cristo and the famous Caves of Dragon (Drac Caves) to hear the orchestra play in the vicinity of the subterranean lake. A visit is also made to the Caves of Hams. Lunch is served at Porto Cristo. Price per person, including lunch, 210 pesetas.

(d) Saturday - Excursion to the imposing Caves of Arta and the bathing beaches of Canyamel and Cala Ratjada. Lunch is served at either Canyamel or Cala Ratjada. Price per person, including lunch, 202 pesetas.



All of these tours include all entrance fees to points of interest, transportation by bus, and lunch. They are all day tours, leaving at 0915, and returning late in the afternoon. The "Sociedad Fomento de Turmismo" and tour companies join in providing tours at reduced rates during visits of American Naval vessels.

Shopping - The shops of Palma offer a variety of nationally-made goods, especially suede jackets and shoes. Of particular interest are the Spanish made dolls, linen, lace work, and leather goods. The majority of Barcelona's famous drawn and embroidered linen and lace work is actually made in Palma. Very fine rugs are also available at much cheaper than state-side prices. Beaded blouses and stoles and hand needlework are particularly good buys.

The following is a list of things to buy and where to buy them:

Antelope Jackets & Coats - Comparative sizes-American- 12-32 - 14-34 - 16-36
Spanish- 42 44 46

Terrasa - calle Merced, 30 and Alba - calle Vallori, 16. These items will be purchased at factory prices.

Articles in pure Silver - Chains - Engraving etc. (Casa Pomar) Plaza Cort.

Embroidery - (Religious Adoratrices) calle Calvo Sotelo, 6 - near Terreno - all hand work done at this Gilrs' Convent; sold at about half the price of the shops.

Films & Developing - (Casa Vila) Plaza Santa Eulalia, 3; near Plaza Cort.

Men's Shirts & Handkerchiefs - (Casa Bonet) calle San Nicolas, 15- near Plaza Ct.

Men's Shoes or Woman's to measure - Comparative sizes-Men's:

(Casa Espasas) calle Olmos, 129----- American - 6-7-8-9-10-11
Spanish - 38-39-40-41-42

Men's leather boots - at the factory. Co. Juan Frau-calle Gral, Ricardo Ortega, 150.

Men's Tailor - (Sastreria - Miguel) to measure in 24 hours-calle Obispo Campins, 16.-2.

Printing & Religious objects - (Casa Guasp) calle Morey, 6; near Plaza Cort.

Table Glass etc. - (Casa Gordiola) calle Victoria, 8 medieval workshop

Watches & Clocks - (Relojeria Espanola) calle Colon, 26; near Plaza Cort.

Almonds - About 9 million trees grow on the island; blossom during Jan, & Feb.

Olive wood - Many trees on the Island are over 1000 years old. The wood is made into fruit and salad bowls.

Fine Paintings - Many artists, from all parts of the world, work and live here.

Carpets and Mats - (Casa Quesada) Paseo Gralmo. Franco, 42 (Borne) near Fountain.

Other Tips - Selling of Spanish shawls has become a tourist racket; the only real Spanish shawls are antiques from China. Prices have skyrocketed to heights that only a naive visitor would pay. Handkerchiefs are often sleazy and expensive; women's shoes have the wrong shape for American feet and they are ordinarily limited to B, C, D, and E widths. Prices of whisky and most linen are entirely too high. Beware, also, of the metal on the cheaper varieties of handbags or costume jewelry; it may tarnish in short order.

Restaurants - There is no comprehensive list of restaurants available. As a rule, the larger hotels can be counted on to have good cuisine. The Club Nautico has very good food, and the El Patio is highly recommended. Not to be overlooked are the many small restaurants where meals are anywhere from \$1. to \$2.



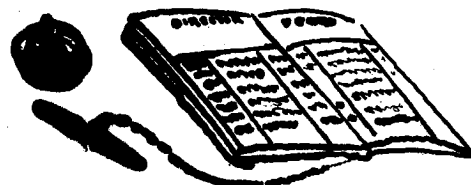
Hotels - The following are some of the luxury and first class hotels in Palma.

Luxury: (Approximately 225 pesetas per day per person with meals):

Fenix (Palma's newest and most modern, on the sea)
Mediterranean (on the sea)
Bahia Palace (on the sea)
Maricel (on the sea)

1st Class A (Approximately 175 pesetas per day per person with meals):

Victoria (on the sea)
Aleira (on the sea)
Rigel (on the sea)
Principe Aforco (on the sea)
Dux (on the sea)
Alhambra (in the city)



1st Class B (Approximately 125 pesetas per day per person with meals):

Majerios (on the sea)
Costa Azul (on the sea)
Zaida (on the sea)
Terreno (on the sea)
Virginia (near the sea, off Plaza Gomila)
El Patio (near the sea, off Plaza Gomila)

Clubs and Bars - There is a tennis club one mile from Palma. It has eight tennis courts a bar, restaurant and an orchestra for dancing. The surroundings are delightful.

The Club Nautico is opposite the port area. Its facilities include a bar, restaurant, dance hall, reading rooms and so forth.

Both clubs extend courtesies to all officers.

There are many bars, particularly in the waterfront hotel area and around the Plaza Comila. Joe's Bar, Tony's El Rodeo, the Nice Bar, and the Africa Bar appear the most popular among local residents and tourists. Nearly all serve or specialize in American type snack bars and all are inexpensive. Nightclubs are very expensive, particularly for whisky or gin drinks. The major hotel clubs are good. Tito's in season has excellent shows and La Cubana specializes in Caribbean music.

Wines, brandy and liqueurs are excellent, but whisky and gin are apt to be below par.

Athletics - In Palma the most popular sports are swimming and submarine fishing. Tennis is played the year round at the Tennis Club. There is no golf course. Sailing is available at the Club Nautico. By special arrangement with the Spanish Cavalry, horses can be made available for renting. There is a soccer field on the Spanish Naval Base in Puerto Pi which can be used for softball.

Beaches - There are numerous beaches in the vicinity of Palma, but none located in the town itself. However, all beaches can be easily reached by bus.

Note: Currency is the same as in other Spanish ports.



PALMA, MALLORCA ISLAND