

Spain: Balearic Islands, Mallorca & Deià

Tour-Only Itinerary

This lush seaside walking tour is the perfect mix of rugged beauty and sophisticated elegance. The sub-tropical Spanish island of Mallorca has long been the retreat of artists, musicians, and the European elite—and it's easy to see why. Surrounded by the clear turquoise waters of the Balearic Sea, Mallorca is a walker's paradise with its well-maintained network of trails—including the famous Drystone Route, which runs the length of the island's northwestern coast and into the UNESCO-protected Tramuntana mountain range. While most travel companies stop there, this Country Walkers adventure takes you to the island's southern coast—where you'll discover the phenomenal Cap Blanc lighthouse, the sparkling beach at Cala Pi, and the exquisite salt flats at Es Trenc. Along the way, your local Mallorquin leaders will be delighted to introduce you to an award-winning winery, as well as the elegant art galleries and incomparable cuisine that make this island paradise a delight for the senses.



Highlights

- Delve into the history of local citrus production on a stroll through a picturesque orchard, and sample a glass of fresh-squeezed juice.
- Savor a tasting of wine and tapas at a local winery, with the dramatic peaks of the Tramuntana range as your spectacular backdrop.
- Discover Mallorca's ancient Roman past on a guided walking tour of Alcúdia, and experience daily life up close with an independent lunch.

- Enjoy a swim at the indoor pool and pamper yourself at the spa during a two-night stay at a wonderful resort set in lush surroundings just steps from the sea.

On all Fully-Guided Adventures you can count on ...



Expert local guides to introduce you to the best of your destination.



Gracious accommodations that are a clean, comfortable home away from home.



Off-the-beaten-path places you'd never find on your own.



Experts to handle all the details.



A maximum of 18 fun-loving fellow travelers to share the journey.



Air Packages include plane tickets, airport car service, and pre- and post-tour accommodations.



Delicious, authentic multi-course meals—virtually all are included.

Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate (with challenging sections) with an average of 4 to 6 miles per day. Maximum elevation gains and losses during the walks range from 500 to 1,000 feet. There are daily ascents and descents that can be steep in sections and challenging due to uneven footing. The terrain is varied—along cobbled streets, dirt roads, sandy and rocky coastal paths, and single-track hiking trails with loose stones or gravel, rocks, and roots. Some trails are exposed to the

sun, making the level of difficulty more challenging during warmer weather.

DAY 1

Your Country Walkers Vacation Begins

Ermita de la Trinitat to Valldemossa; 4 miles, easy to moderate. Travel to Port de Sóller

Meet your leaders (after breakfast on your own) in the lobby of Hotel Saratoga, Paseo Mallorca, 6, in Palma at 8:30 a.m. They'll be wearing Country Walkers shirts. Please be dressed for walking. Hiking shoes are required.

Your tour begins with a 30-minute ride to the outskirts of Valldemossa, a charming village situated within the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Serra de Tramuntana range, and famous for its association with composers, artists, and writers, most notably Frédéric Chopin and George Sand. Here, you'll embark on a tranquil wooded trail through holm oak and olive trees to the Ermita de la Trinitat (Hermitage of the Holy Trinity), a beautiful stone monastery founded in the 17th century and surrounded by palms and elegant cypress trees.

Continue along an easy scenic coastal trail that traces part of the Cami de S'Escolta, (the Trail of the Echoes), below the iconic Dry Stone Route (or *Ruta de Pedra en Sec*). Stretching for about 100 miles, this famous network of trails, some of which you'll explore throughout the week, winds through pine and holm oak forests, olive groves, and mountain villages, with scenic ocean views along the way.

Your trail culminates in the hilltop village of Valldemossa, named after Murza, the area's original Moorish landowner. Surrounded by terraced terrain, Valldemossa's unique irrigation system was sophisticated for its time—revealing the lasting impact of the village's Moorish roots. Stroll through car-free cobbled streets, stopping to enjoy an independent lunch with restaurant recommendations provided by your leaders.

Afterward, reunite with your group to sample "coca de patata" or potato cake, a famous local sweet that can be found at traditional cafés and bakeries. Continue by minibus (30 minutes) to Port de Sóller. When land for olive cultivation expanded in this region during the 16th century, Port de Sóller became the main port for export of olives to France. The name "Sóller" is thought to derive from the Arabic *suljar*, or gold, in honor of the golden oil pressed from the fruit. Here, you check into your historic hotel—just a short stroll from the sea and surrounded by lush gardens, orange and lemon trees, and century-old olive trees.

Get acquainted with your travel companions over a welcome drink. Then, head into town for a dinner of regional specialties, paired with a glass (or two) of local wine.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2

Mirador de Ses Barques to Fornalutx and Sóller

4-5 miles, easy to moderate, 1,000-ft. elevation loss

Today's copious buffet breakfast will fuel you for an invigorating hike along an old, cobbled bridle path to the pretty village of Fornalutx. As you walk along stone-paved paths and dirt trails, you'll pass citrus orchards, olive groves, and terraced agricultural fields.

Travel by minibus to one of the most spectacular viewpoints (or miradors) over the Port of Sóller and your trailhead. This morning's trail descends steadily and affords sweeping views over the Sóller Valley, or "valley of oranges," toward the sparkling sea and Port de Sóller. The quaint villages in the valley, like Biniaraix, are known for their green landscapes, traditional ambiance, and the production of citrus fruits and olive oil. Your walk culminates in Fornalutx, where you can decide for yourself whether it deserves its reputation as "the most beautiful village of Spain." Sitting high in its UNESCO-protected mountain range, this iconic stone hamlet dates back a millennium; its charming, cobbled streets transport you back in time. Admire colorful houses sporting tiled roofs adorned with plants and dried flowers, the town hall with its 17th-century defense tower, the Gothic and Baroque church, and the central Plaça d'Espanya plaza, where daily life is on view.

Time and energy permitting, continue on foot for approximately 60 minutes to Binibassi and the outskirts of Sóller. Or board a minibus for the short ride to a nearby citrus orchard under the Alfabia mountain range. Here, as you stroll through the orchards, you'll learn about citrus production in this fertile valley and its importance to the local economy and culture. A light lunch is served outside on the terrace featuring typical snacks such as *Pa amb oli*—literally, "bread with olive oil," in which the bread is typically rubbed with a garlic clove and topped with chopped garden tomatoes—as well as *coca de trampo* (a Majorcan-style pizza), an assortment of local cured meats, and of course, fresh-pressed orange juice.

Depart the citrus orchard by minibus and arrive in the heart of Sóller, where a web of narrow streets lined

with shops and traditional houses leads to the Plaça Constitució—the central plaza of this beautiful town and the cultural heart of the Serra de Tramuntana. Here, you find the Baroque church of Sant Bartomeu, standing on 13th-century foundations, as well as traditional houses, a graceful fountain, and the old train station, a popular gathering place for local residents. Shops, plane trees, and a beautiful mountain backdrop also surround the square.

Browse the local shops for olive oil, marmalade from local oranges, or baskets. Alternately, you may want to visit the Ca'n Prunera with its collection by masters such as Joan Miró, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and Paul Klee—all housed in an Art Nouveau villa.

If you prefer to return to your hotel instead of enjoying an independent exploration in Sóller, the minibus is available to take you back to nearby Port de Sóller.

The evening is free for exploring and dining on your own, with recommendations from your leaders and hotel staff.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

Deià to Finca Son Mico. Travel to Pollença

3 miles, easy to moderate or 5.5 miles, moderate with challenging sections, 1,150-ft. elevation gain

After a delicious buffet breakfast, depart on a 30-minute drive to Deià. Hailed as one of the loveliest hamlets on the island, the magical village of Deià on Mallorca's northwest coast lies at the foothills of the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range. The unparalleled natural landscape of this idyllic town lends it an air of tranquility that has unleashed the creativity of romantics, bohemians, and artists—from poet Robert Graves to Pablo Picasso and The Rolling Stones. The village's history dates to prehistoric times, and the prosperity it enjoyed during its Islamic and Roman eras has left a charming imprint. Scenic delights greet the eye, from streets lined with stone houses, typical of traditional Majorcan architecture, to numerous hiking trails.

Set off along an easy-going trail following a former trade route as it winds among terraced hillsides. This area boasts dazzling views, from mountains, gorges, olive groves, and farmlands to the sea. You see

amazing variety as you walk. Signposts, and your leaders, provide context for your discoveries.

The initial part of the coastal route is just above the Camí dels Pintors or “Painter’s Path,” and it’s easy to see how painters like Picasso were mesmerized by the breathtaking vistas. The walk climbs steadily along mixed terrain of cobbled stone and rocky trail, and involves a 700-foot ascent to our lunch spot, a beautiful old *finca* (farm estate) with gorgeous views over the sea and the Tramuntana range. Your morning efforts are rewarded with a tasty lunch of quiche and salad, topped off with a slice of homemade cake. (An alternate short walk to Deia Bay and back is offered as an option to the scheduled walk. A minibus and driver will transport you to the lunch spot to meet up with the rest of the group.)

After lunch, continue by minibus to your boutique hotel in the authentic town of Pollença, near the island’s northwest coast. Settle in to your comfortable room, relax and refresh before reuniting for dinner at a wonderful local restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4

Sanctuary of Lluc Circuit

4 miles, easy to moderate

A variety of tasty offerings and piping-hot coffee greet you at the breakfast table this morning and put a spring in your step for today’s hike. Set out for nearby Santuari de Lluc, located in a high mountain valley in the heart of the Tramuntana mountains—and the most important religious and spiritual site in Mallorca. Founded in the 13th century, the sanctuary was built after a Moorish shepherd discovered a statue of the Virgin Mary on the site. Today, visitors and modern pilgrims travel to the monastery to worship, connect with nature, and experience the vibrant local culture of the region. Santuari de Lluc is also home to a 17th-century basilica—featuring a 20th century interior designed by Antonio Gaudí. The complex includes a bakery, shop, and botanical gardens—home to two hundred varieties of wild, aromatic and medicinal native and endemic plants.

Your trail departs from the sanctuary through a unique karst landscape, heading east across a stream. Soon, you arrive at Es Camell—named for the distinctive camel-shaped rock which was formed through natural erosion of rainwater on limestone. The path continues through holm oak forest to the Cometa des

Morts cave, the site of Bronze and Iron Age burials—the artifacts of which can be seen in the Museum of Lluc. The trail loops back to the monastery, offering some “miradors” or viewpoints en route.

Midday, you travel (15 minutes) to a nearby winery set among some of the oldest rock outcrops in Mallorca—and the passion project of a group of local wine enthusiasts. Here, a combination of traditional winemaking and modern technology result in a wide range of whites, rosés, reds and the unique Mallorcan Malvasia. You’ll tour the bodega, and enjoy a tasting of several wines savored with traditional specialties, including goat cheese and sobrassada, produced at the neighboring organic farm.

Mid afternoon, you return to town, where you enjoy time to relax, explore on your own, and enjoy a delightful evening of independent dining. Perhaps you’ll climb the Calvari Steps, a 365-step stairway leading to the Calvario Chapel with its glorious views. Or you might pop into the Museum of Pollença, located in an ancient Dominican cloister, or one of the galleries that dot the town. You might choose to visit the thriving Port de Pollença or lounge on the rooftop terrace, poolside, with a book. Your leaders, and hotel staff, will be happy to make personalized recommendations for dinner on your own this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5

Sa Bassa Blanca to Platja Aucanada and Alcúdia. Travel to Ses Salines

3 miles, easy to moderate and 1-2 miles, easy

Savor a breakfast of seasonal fruit, homemade bread, fresh local eggs, and yogurt to start your day. Then, bid Pollença farewell and travel 20 minutes to nearby Alcúdia. Your first stop is the trailhead located just outside a famous art foundation, Sa Bassa Blanca. This lovely coastal trail begins through the woods and descends through Mediterranean scrub and eventually along an easy seaside promenade. Panoramic views of the turquoise sea, a lighthouse, and, on a clear day, the neighboring island of Menorca, reward your every step. Afterward, continue to the town of Alcúdia. Indulge in an independent lunch, armed with restaurant and tapas bar recommendations, before reuniting with your leaders and travel companions.

Alcúdia’s position between the bays of Alcúdia and Pollença has attracted conquerors over the centuries, from the Phoenicians and the Romans to the Vandals and the Moors. The Roman city of Pollentia was

founded here in 70 BCE and rose to become one of the most important port cities in the Balearic Islands. Now an active archaeological site, Pollentia features the smallest Roman amphitheater in Spain, as well as a forum and many temples, houses, and monuments. With only a small excavation area completed, the site has limited hours and will not be visited on tour. Your leaders, however, bring the town and its history to life during a walking tour, where you'll stroll the cobbled streets of its Old Town, encircled by medieval walls. Marvel at the magnificent Església de Sant Jaume cathedral, and admire the gardens and landscapes of this strikingly beautiful town.

Late afternoon, climb aboard your minibus for a ride of about an hour to your final home away from home, a boutique hotel in the center of Ses Salines, adjacent to the salt mines of Es Trenc. Enjoy time to relax and settle into your room before stepping out for dinner on your own. Your leaders will provide recommendations of their favorite tapas bars and restaurants. Retire in comfort this evening after a full day.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6

Coastal Walk: Cap Blanc to Cala Pi

5 miles, easy to moderate, with one challenging section

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, step out with your leaders for a beautiful coastal walk. Embark on a scenic trail along the southern coast from the Cap Blanc lighthouse, a picturesque tower that has been guarding this coastline for more than 150 years and is still in operation today. Arrive in Cala Pi, a tranquil beach town set on a harbor between two cliffs. Along this rocky path, pass trees twisted by the wind, low scrub furring the rocks, and stunning sea views—as well as views of the unspoiled island of Cabrera, home to Cabrera Maritime-Terrestrial National Park, sanctuary to a host of birds, whales, loggerhead turtles, dolphins, and other native species. As you walk, you might well see indigenous bird species, as well as migratory birds that wisely enjoy a break here on their way back to Europe in the spring. Breathe in the scent of the Mediterranean macchia shrubbery as you trace this trail.

Arriving at the sparkling bay of Cala Pi, you may want to stop at the stunning fjord-like bay for a swim, or walk to the ancient stone watchtower, built in 1663 to protect against attacks by pirates coming from North Africa. Enjoy a packed picnic lunch before continuing on to the nearby Es Trenc salt flats, uniquely

situated within a nature reserve. On a guided walk, you'll learn about the difference between table salts and the premium-quality "flor de sal," harvested and packed by hand. Your visit culminates with a tasting of some special salt varieties.

Returning to your hotel this afternoon, take time to relax before reconvening for a hands-on cooking demonstration followed by a festive dinner, complete with a glass of local wine to toast the week's adventures.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7

Your Country Walkers Vacation Ends

After an included breakfast this morning, bid farewell to your travel companions and depart at your leisure (and by the hotel's check-out time of 11:00 a.m.) to Palma to make flight connections for your onward travels. The hotel can assist with departure transportation arrangements.

Included Meals: Breakfast

What's Included

	Air Package	Tour Only
Exceptional boutique accommodations	✓	✓
13 on-tour meals: 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners	✓	✓
Local leaders with you throughout tour	✓	✓
Local wine and/or beer with dinner	✓	✓
Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary	✓	✓
Telescopic walking sticks provided on tour	✓	✓
Roundtrip airfare	✓	
Two extra nights in Palma	✓	
Airport car transportation for arrival and departure	✓	
Pre- and post-tour breakfasts	✓	
Business-class upgrades available	✓	