

Ciutadella

Balearic Islands · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Ciutadella (Ciutadella de Menorca) is a historic port town on the west coast of Menorca, in the Balearic Islands, and the island's capital until 1722. It has a Gothic cathedral, stone mansions, arcaded streets and a narrow harbour lined with restaurants.

Outside town are some of the best beaches in the Balearics, as well as prehistoric monuments and quiet coastal paths. It is a base for a beach-and-culture stay of several days.

When to visit

Late May to June and September are the best times, with warm weather and fewer visitors. July and August are hot and busy, and the most popular coves are crowded. From November to March many hotels and restaurants close, but the island is quiet and green.

The Festes de Sant Joan on 23 and 24 June is the main festival, with riders on horses leaping and parading through the streets.

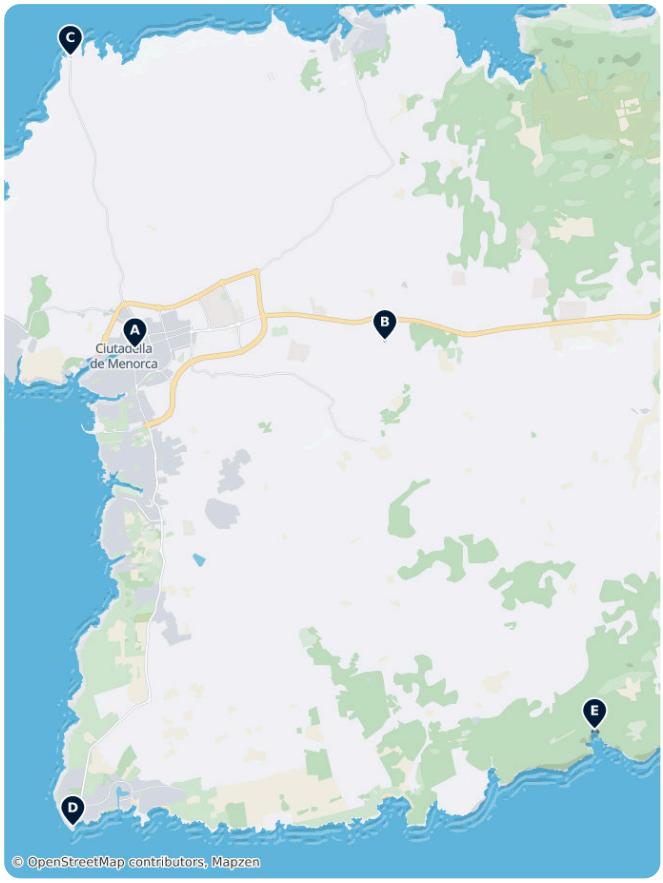
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for cycling	14° / 17° Feels like 8°	11° / 8°	Dry air
February	Good Good for hiking	13° / 16° Feels like 8°	11° / 7°	Dry air
March	Great Great for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 10°	12° / 9°	Dry air
April	Great Great for cycling	16° / 19° Feels like 13°	14° / 11°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 22°	17° / 14°	
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 27°	20° / 17°	23 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	26° / 29°	23° / 20°	25 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	27° / 30°	24° / 21°	24 sunny days · Muggy, humid air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 27°	22° / 19°	Humid air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25°	19° / 15°	
November	Good Good for cycling	18° / 21° Feels like 13°	15° / 11°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for cycling	15° / 18° Feels like 10°	13° / 9°	Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Catedral de Santa María de Ciudadela is the Gothic cathedral on the main square, built in the 14th century on the site of a mosque.
- The Plaça des Born is the main square, with the town hall (Ajuntament), the obelisk and old palaces.
- The Puerto de Ciudadela is a narrow natural harbour with cafés and restaurants.
- The Castell de Sant Nicolau is a small 17th-century fort at the harbour mouth.
- B Naveta des Tudons is a funerary monument from about 1000 BC, in the shape of an upturned boat, and one of the oldest roofed buildings in Europe.
- C Far de Punta Nati is a lighthouse on the island's northwest tip, with dramatic cliffs.
- D Far d'Artrutx is a lighthouse on the southwest tip, popular for sunsets.
- E Cala Macarella is a turquoise cove with pine trees, one of the best-known beaches on the island.
- Cala en Turqueta and Cala Galdana are other beautiful beaches on the south coast.



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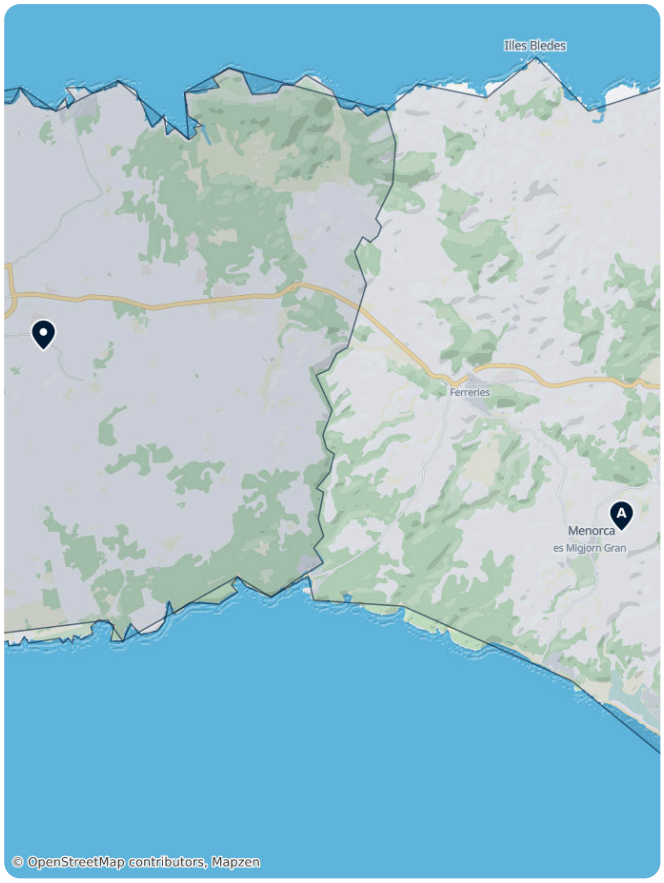
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What to experience

- Walk through the old town and have dinner at the harbour.
- Spend a day at the south coast coves, such as Macarella and Turqueta.
- Take a walk along the Cami de Cavalls at sunset.
- Visit the Naveta des Tudons.
- Try a *caldereta de langosta* (spiny lobster stew) at the harbour.

Day trips

- **Maó (Mahón)** (about 45 km, 1 hour by bus): the island's capital, with a deep natural harbour.
- **Cami de Cavalls** (the coastal path around the island): walk or cycle a section of the trail.
- **Cala Morell** and the north coast: rocky coves and prehistoric tombs.
- Menorca (the island): talayotic sites, farms and small villages.



Where to explore

Other places nearby:

- **Balearic Islands**: Menorca, Mallorca, Ibiza and Formentera.

Getting there

- **By air**: Menorca airport (MAH) is near Maó, about 45 km east. A bus or taxi takes about 45 minutes to Ciutadella. There are seasonal flights from Europe and year-round flights from the mainland.
- **By ferry**: Ferries run to Ciutadella from Alcúdia in Mallorca, and to Maó from Barcelona and Valencia.
- **By bus**: Buses run along the main road between Ciutadella and Maó.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town and the harbour are flat and compact.
- **Bus**: Buses link Ciutadella with Maó and with the nearest beaches. In summer, shuttle buses serve the busiest south coast coves.
- **Rental car**: The most flexible way to reach the beaches, though parking is limited in summer.
- **Cycling**: The island is gently rolling, with country lanes and the Cami de Cavalls.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town and the harbour are flat and compact.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The island is gently rolling, with country lanes and the Cami de Cavalls.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Yes, if you want to visit several beaches or the north coast. The town is walkable.
- **Parking**: Parking is paid or limited near the old town and the busy beaches, and the car parks at the south coast coves fill up early in summer.
- **Roads**: The roads are good but narrow in places. The roads to the coves are unpaved in parts.

Food & drink

Menorcan cuisine centers on seafood and local produce. The best-known dish is *caldereta de langosta*, a lobster stew. Look also for Mahón-Menorca cheese, *sobrassada* (soft cured sausage), *oliaigua* (a tomato and vegetable soup) and *ensaimadas* (spiral pastries).

The local gin, *Xoriguer*, is a Menorcan specialty, often mixed with lemonade as a *pomada*.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Ciutadella is safe. Use strong sun protection and drink water, especially on the beaches, where there is little shade. Check the swimming flags at the beaches, and take care on the cliffs.

History

Menorca has prehistoric monuments from the Bronze Age, including talayots and navetas. The island was held by Phoenicians, Romans and Moors, and the Catalans took it in 1287. Ciutadella was the capital until the British moved it to Maó in 1722, in the period when they ruled the island in the 18th century.

The town has kept its medieval layout and aristocratic palaces. Menorca was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1993.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

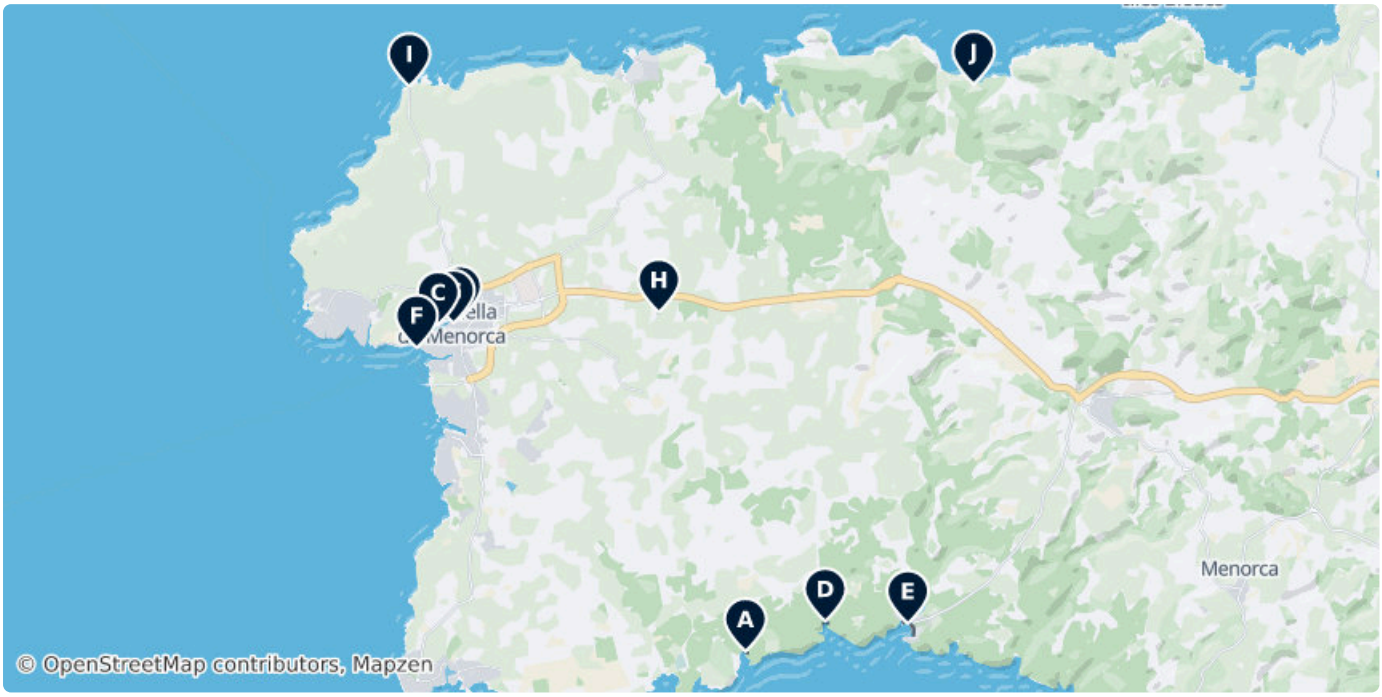
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Ciutadella de Menorca's Absolute Essentials

Ciutadella de Menorca, the island's former capital, preserves its medieval heritage through the Gothic Cathedral of Menorca and the 17th-century Castell de Sant Nicolau. The historic center revolves around the Plaza del Born, leading down to a narrow natural harbor lined with limestone cliffs. Beyond the city, the landscape features prehistoric sites like the Naveta d'Es Tudons and diverse coastal highlights, ranging from the white sands of Cala Macarella to the rugged red clay cliffs of Cala del Pilar.





A Cala en Turqueta

A secluded beach known for its turquoise waters and fine white sand. Enclosed by dense pine forests, it remains one of the island's most preserved natural coves with limited facilities and a small parking area.

07750, Spain (39.93233, 3.91528)



B Cathedral of Menorca

The Cathedral Basilica of Ciutadella de Menorca is a Roman Catholic church in Ciutadella de Menorca, in the island of Menorca, in Balearic...

Plaza de la Catedral, 1, 07760 Ciutadella de Menorca, Spain (40.00174, 3.83766)

Mo–Sa 10:00–15:30

bisbatdemenorca.com, +34 971 380 739

C Puerto de Ciudadela

A narrow, historic harbor serving fishing boats and private yachts. The waterfront is characterized by traditional Mediterranean architecture and restaurants built directly into the surrounding rock face.

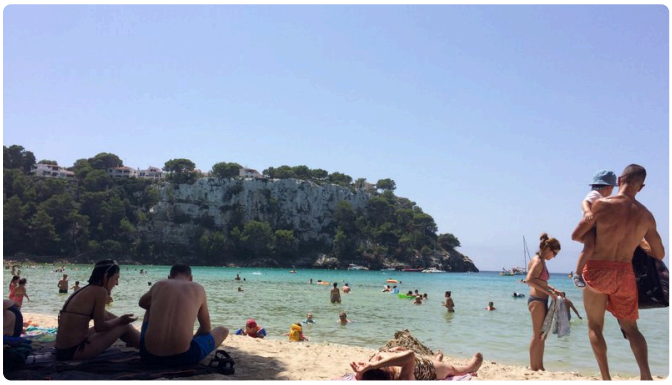
Camí des Moll, 07760 Ciutadella, Spain (40.00054, 3.83157)



D Macarella Beach

One of the most beautiful beaches in Menorca which is surrounded by high, pine clad cliffs.

Spain (39.93863, 3.93698)



E Cala Galdana

A large, horseshoe-shaped bay featuring shallow waters and extensive amenities. The beach is flanked by high limestone cliffs and serves as a primary access point for hiking trails to more remote southern coves.

Paso Peatonal Escales, Cala Galdana 07750, Spain (39.93817, 3.95948)



F Saint Nicolau Castle

An octagonal defensive tower built in the late 17th century to protect the port entrance. The structure features a small moat and a drawbridge, providing views across the channel toward Mallorca.

Paseo Marítim, Ciutadella 07760, Spain (39.99567, 3.82575)



G Plaza del Born

The city's main square, dominated by a 22-meter obelisk commemorating the 1558 resistance against Ottoman invaders. It is bordered by the Town Hall and several 19th-century aristocratic palaces.

15 Plaza del Born, Ciutadella 07760, Spain
(40.00085, 3.83576)



H Es Tudons Prehistoric Burial Site

The Naveta d'Es Tudons, or Naveta of Es Tudons, is the most remarkable megalithic chamber tomb in the Balearic island of Menorca, Spain.

07769, Spain (40.00309, 3.89166)



I Punta Nati Lighthouse

The Punta Nati Lighthouse is an active aid to navigation located on the rocky north western coast of the Spanish island of Menorca.

Carretera del Far de Punta Nati, 07769, Spain
(40.05018, 3.82370)

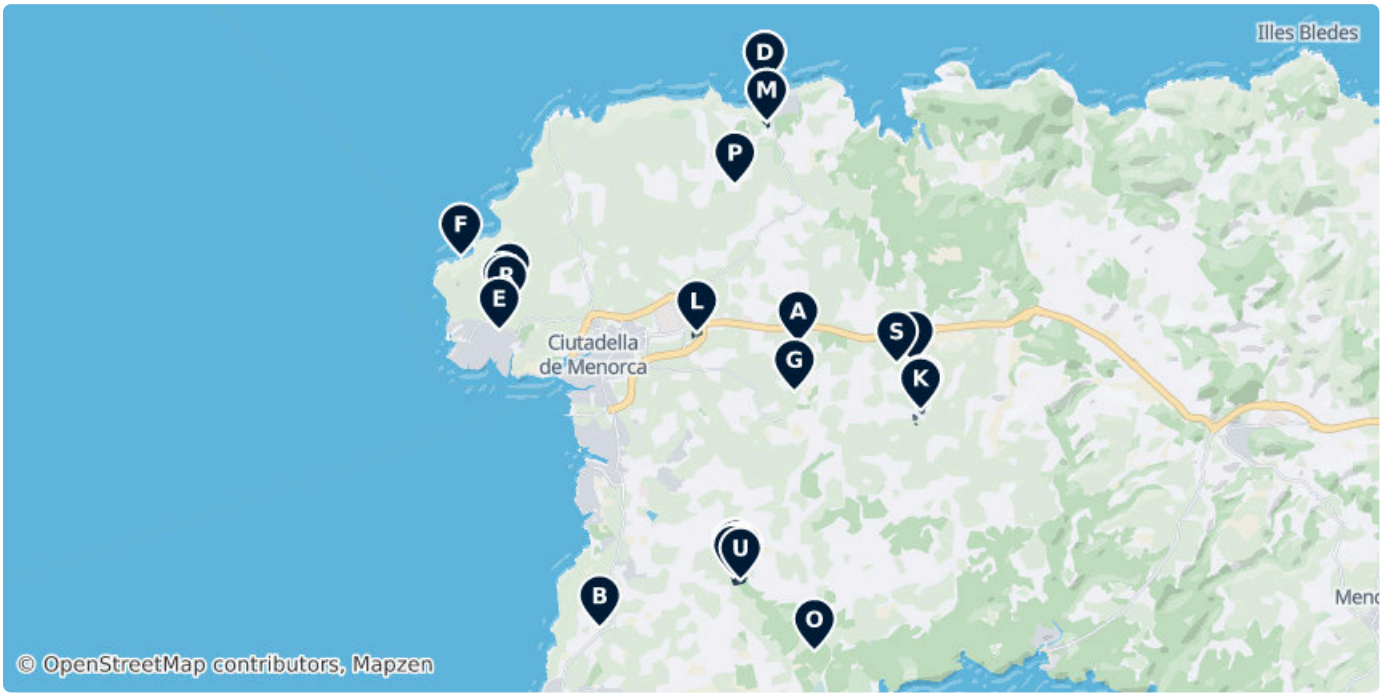
J Cala del Pilar

A remote virgin beach on the northern coast distinguished by its reddish sand and clay cliffs. Accessing the cove requires a 30-minute walk through a protected Mediterranean forest and dunes.

(40.05063, 3.97744)

Menorca's Ancient Sites

Menorca’s western region near Ciutadella contains a high concentration of Talayotic and Pre-Talayotic remains dating from the 2nd millennium BC. This collection includes navetas—unique boat-shaped megalithic burial chambers—and fortified settlements like Son Catlar, which retains its original 900-meter cyclopean wall. Visitors can explore rock-cut necropolises at Cala Morell and ritual taula enclosures, offering insight into the island's prehistoric social structures and funerary practices prior to the Roman conquest.





A Es Tudons Prehistoric Burial Site

The Naveta d'Es Tudons, or Naveta of Es Tudons, is the most remarkable megalithic chamber tomb in the Balearic island of Menorca, Spain.

07769, Spain (40.00309, 3.89166)

B Tomb Son Olivaret

Bronze Age burial structure, known as a protonaveta, representing an early stage of megalithic tomb evolution on the island.

(Unnamed Road), 07769, Spain (39.94314, 3.83707)



C Cala Morell Necropolis

A group of 14 rock-cut caves used as burial chambers during the Talayotic period, featuring architectural details like carved pillars and cisterns.

249A Calle de Lira, Cala Morell 07769, Spain (40.04963, 3.88299)



D Coastal Settlement El Coll De Cala Morell

The settlement of Cala Morell is a Menorcan pretalayotic archaeological site which is located in Ciutadella de Menorca.

07769, Spain (40.05760, 3.88246)



E Hypogeum of Torre del Ram

The Hypogeum of Torre del Ram is an archaeological site in Cala en Blanes, Ciutadella de Menorca.

152 Calle de Gregal, Urbanización Torre del Ram 07769, Spain (40.00576, 3.80946)

menorcatalayotica.info/Contingut.aspx



F Es Castellet des Pop Mosquer

A Pre-Talayotic coastal settlement located on a small peninsula, featuring defensive structures and remains of ancient dwellings.

07769, Spain (40.02139, 3.79889)

G Naveta of Binipati

A megalithic chamber tomb belonging to the Bronze Age, part of the unique funerary architecture found only on Menorca.

07769, Spain (39.99285, 3.89064)

H Naveta Torre del Ram 2

One of several Bronze Age megalithic burial structures located in the Torre del Ram area.

07769, Spain (40.01323, 3.81234)

I Son Catlar (archaeological site)

Large Talayotic settlement distinguished by its exceptionally well-preserved cyclopean wall, which spans nearly 900 meters and includes defensive towers.

07760, Spain (39.95399, 3.87485)

J Torrellafuda

A Talayotic village situated in a holm oak grove, featuring a taula enclosure, a large talayot, and several hypogea.

(39.99888, 3.92337)





K Poblat de Torretrencada

Talayotic settlement known for its well-preserved taula, which features a unique lateral support pillar, and a large circular talayot.

07769, Spain (39.98898, 3.92533)

L Poblat talaiotic de Montefi

Archaeological site featuring several large talayots and hypogea used for communal burials.

07760, Spain (40.00527, 3.86378)



M Cala Morell Necropolis

Rock-cut necropolis consisting of 14 artificial caves with diverse architectural elements and carved facades.

249A Calle de Lira, Cala Morell 07769, Spain (40.04963, 3.88300)

N Son Catlar (archaeological site)

Prehistoric settlement featuring a complete 900-meter cyclopean wall, internal talayots, and a taula enclosure.

07760, Spain (39.95384, 3.87499)

O Naveta of La Cova

A Bronze Age megalithic tomb characterized by its boat-shaped stone construction.

07760, Spain (39.93816, 3.89614)

P Naveta of Son Morell

A megalithic burial chamber from the Pre-Talayotic or early Talayotic period.

07769, Spain (40.03641, 3.87427)

Q Naveta Torre del Ram 3

A megalithic burial structure located near the coastal area of Ciutadella.

07769, Spain (40.01111, 3.81040)

R Naveta Torre del Ram 1

A Bronze Age funerary monument built with large stones in the traditional naveta style.

07769, Spain (40.01058, 3.81151)

S Naveta of Son Camps

A megalithic chamber tomb dating back to the Bronze Age.

07769, Spain (39.99883, 3.91877)



T Coastal Settlement El Coll De Cala Morell

The settlement of Cala Morell is a Menorcan pre-talayotic archaeological site which is located in Ciutadella de Menorca.

07769, Spain (40.05760, 3.88246)

U Talaiot Son Catlar (S)

A specific talayot (conical stone tower) located on the southern side of the Son Catlar settlement.

07760, Spain (39.95316, 3.87585)

V Muralla Son Catlar

Section of the 900-meter-long cyclopean defensive wall surrounding the Son Catlar settlement.

07760, Spain (39.95500, 3.87382)

W Talaiot Son Catlar (N)

Conical stone tower located on the northern perimeter of the Son Catlar archaeological site.

(39.95416, 3.87542)

X Muralla Son Catlar

Segment of the prehistoric stone fortifications at the Son Catlar site.

07760, Spain (39.95412, 3.87570)

Y Talaiot Son Catlar (NO)

Northwest talayot within the Son Catlar settlement complex.

(39.95405, 3.87604)

Z Muralla Son Catlar

Part of the massive stone wall structure protecting the ancient village of Son Catlar.

07760, Spain (39.95377, 3.87391)

AA Talaiot Son Catlar (NW)

Conical defensive or watchtower located in the northwestern section of the Son Catlar site.

07760, Spain (39.95491, 3.87450)

AB Taula Son Catlar

T-shaped megalithic monument used for religious or ritual purposes within the Son Catlar settlement.

07760, Spain (39.95412, 3.87470)

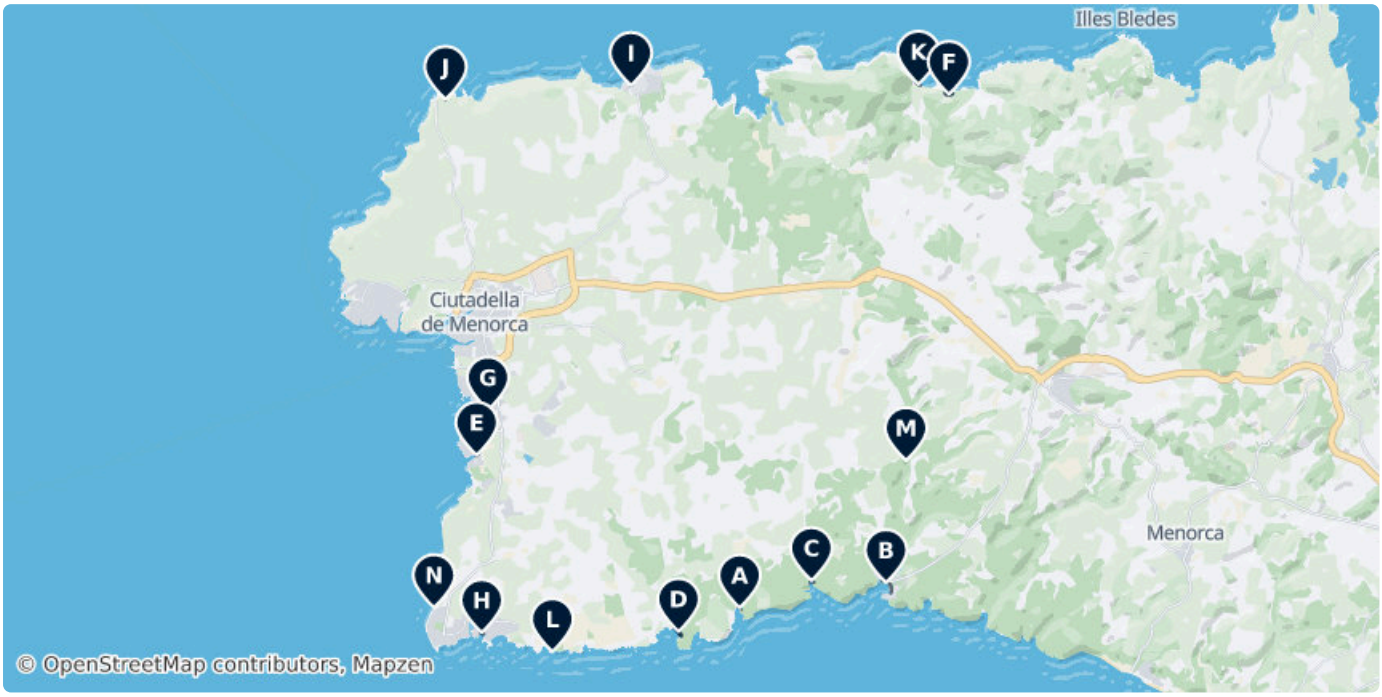
AC Torretrencada

Talayotic village featuring a notable taula enclosure and artificial burial caves.

(39.98942, 3.92574)

Beaches and Caves

Ciutadella's coastline features a stark contrast between the white sand beaches of the south and the rugged, red-toned shores of the north. This selection includes the pine-fringed turquoise waters of Cala en Turqueta and the expansive bay of Cala Galdana. Beyond the sand, the list highlights geological sites like the rounded stones of Macar d'Alfurinet and historical caves, including Cova des Càrritx—a Bronze Age burial site—and Cova dels Pardals, a former smuggler's hideout carved into the cliffs.

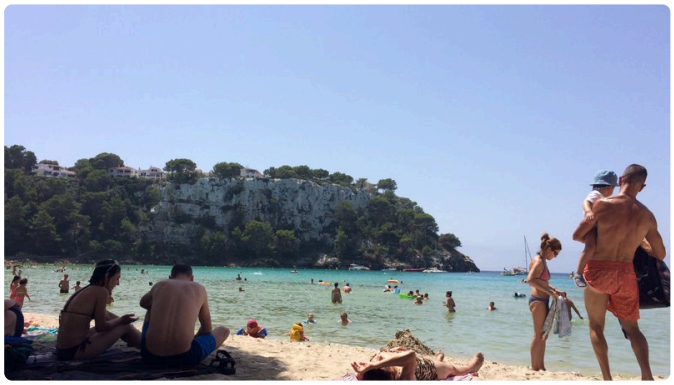




A Cala en Turqueta

White sand beach surrounded by pine forests, known for its bright turquoise waters and two distinct swimming areas separated by low rocks.

07750, Spain (39.93233, 3.91528)



B Cala Galdana

Extensive horseshoe-shaped bay with white sand and shallow water, featuring a small river outlet and high limestone cliffs.

Paso Peatonal Escales, Cala Galdana 07750, Spain (39.93817, 3.95948)



C Macarella Beach

One of the most beautiful beaches in Menorca which is surrounded by high, pine clad cliffs.

Spain (39.93863, 3.93698)

D Playa Son Saura beach

Beautiful sheltered bay, with gently shelving pure whitesand. No bar, No restaurants.

Spain (39.92683, 3.89683)



E Cala Blanca

Small inlet on the western coast with fine white sand and calm, shallow waters, located near the residential areas of Ciutadella.

1 Avenida de Llevant de Cala Blanca, Cala Blanca 07769, Spain (39.96765, 3.83585)



F Cala del Pilar

Remote northern beach characterized by its reddish sand and clay cliffs, accessible via a hike through a Mediterranean forest.

07769, Spain (40.05105, 3.97847)

G Cala de Santandria

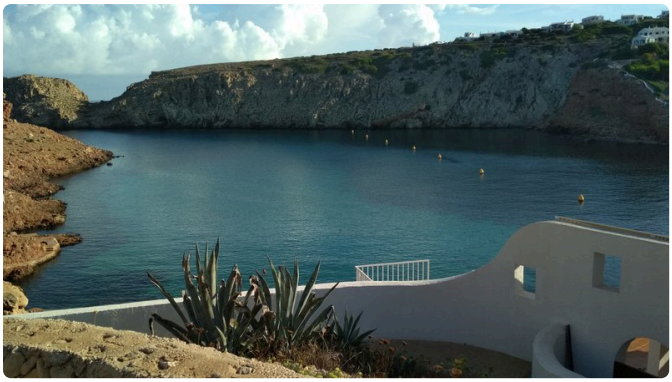
Narrow, sheltered inlet with sandy shores and accessible facilities, located within a deep natural cove on the western coast.

24 Calle de Sa Platja, Cala Blanca 07769, Spain (39.97806, 3.83927)

H Cala en Bosch

Cala en Bosch, also known as Cala'n Bosch or Cala en Bosc, is a beach, marina, hotel, and apartment resort located on the southwest coast...

07769, Spain (39.92657, 3.83742)



I Cala Morell

Rocky bay on the northern coast known for its unique geological formations and proximity to a significant Talayotic necropolis.

15 Calle de Orió, Cala Morell 07769, Spain (40.05308, 3.88248)



J Cales Pous

Small, secluded rocky cove with clear water, located near the Punta Nati lighthouse on the rugged northern coast.

07769, Spain (40.04988, 3.82649)

K sa Bombarda

Secluded northern beach covered in large, smooth, rounded stones known as macars, shaped by the Tramuntana wind and waves.

(40.05339, 3.96929)

L Cova Dels Pardals

Sea cave carved into the cliffside, historically used by smugglers and accessible via a stone staircase leading down to the water.

(39.92217, 3.85871)

M Cova des Càrritx

Natural limestone cave containing a significant Bronze Age archaeological site where preserved hair and funeral artifacts were discovered.

07750, Spain (39.96638, 3.96555)

N Cova des Moro

Coastal cave formation located near the western shoreline of Menorca.

(39.93239, 3.82301)

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