Menorca

Balearic Islands · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Menorca is the quietest of the Balearic Islands. It is a small island with a long coast of white-sand coves, rocky cliffs and pine woods. The whole island is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and building along the shore is limited.

It suits beach holidays, easy hiking and slow sightseeing. Two historic towns sit at opposite ends: Maó in the east and Ciutadella in the west. Between them are farmland, stone walls and prehistoric sites. Most visitors rent a car and stay a week.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times. The weather is warm, the sea is swimmable and the beaches are less crowded. July and August are the busiest and most expensive months, and car parks at the best coves fill early. In winter the island is quiet, and many hotels, beach bars and restaurants close.

The biggest event is the Sant Joan festival in Ciutadella, around 23 and 24 June. Riders on decorated horses parade through the old town, and the streets are packed. Book a room well in advance.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for cycling	13° / 16° Feels like 8°	11° / 7°	Dry air
February	Good Good for hiking	13° / 16° Feels like 7°	10° / 6°	Dry air
March	Great Great for hiking	14° / 16° Feels like 9°	11° / 8°	Dry air
April	Great Great for hiking	16° / 18° Feels like 12°	13° / 10°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 22°	16° / 13°	
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	20° / 17°	23 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	26° / 28°	23° / 20°	25 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	26° / 29°	23° / 21°	24 sunny days · Muggy, humid air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 27°	21° / 18°	Humid air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 24°	19° / 15°	
November	Good Good for cycling	17° / 21° Feels like 12°	15° / 10°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for cycling	14° / 17° Feels like 9°	12° / 8°	Dry air

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

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

Top sights



- A Cala Macarella is a sheltered cove with pale sand and pine trees. It is among the most popular beaches on the south coast. Nearby are Cala en Turqueta, Cala Galdana and B Cala Mitjana, all reachable by road and short walks.
- The old town of Ciutadella has a Gothic cathedral, C Catedral de Santa María de Ciudadela, and a lively harbour. Many visitors come here for the evening.
- D Fortaleza de Isabel II is a 19th-century fortress on the La Mola peninsula, at the entrance to the Maó harbour. Its tunnels and walls give wide views over the harbour mouth.
- E Cova d'en Xoroi is a cave in the southern cliffs that is now a bar. It has sea views from the terraces.
- F S'Albufera des Grau is a coastal lagoon and nature park in the northeast. It has walking trails and bird life.
- G Far de Favàritx stands on a bare, dark rocky coast in the northeast. The landscape feels very different from the sandy south.
- H Far de Cavalleria marks the northern tip of the island. The cliffs and open land around it are good for a sunset drive.
- I Naveta des Tudons is a Bronze Age burial chamber near Ciutadella, shaped like an upturned boat. It is part of the island's prehistoric heritage.
- J El Toro is the island's highest point, with views across the whole of Menorca.
- K Binibeca Vell is a whitewashed fishermen's-style village on the south coast, built in the 1970s. It is pretty but busy in summer.

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What to experience

- Walk a short stretch of the Camí de Cavalls between two coves, such as the path between Cala Galdana and Cala Mitjana. Bring water and sun protection.
- Take a boat tour of the Maó harbour. The harbour is long and deep, with forts, old villas and islands along its shores.
- Visit the Hauser & Wirth gallery on Illa del Rei, a small island in the Maó harbour reached by a short boat trip. It is open in the warmer months.
- Watch the sunset from the lighthouse at Punta Nati on the northwest coast, where the land is open and the horizon is wide.
- Snorkel in the calm, clear water of a south-coast cove in summer.

Where to explore

Menorca has two main bases:

- Maó is the capital, on a long natural harbour in the east.
- Ciutadella is the old capital, in the west, with a small stone-built harbour.

For another island, Mallorca is the nearest and the easiest to reach.

Getting there

- **By air**: Menorca Airport (MAH) is near Maó, on the southeast side of the island. It has seasonal flights from many Spanish and European cities, with the most choice in summer. Taxis and buses serve the airport. Menorca Airport
- **By sea**: Ferries link Menorca with Mallorca and with ports on the Spanish mainland. Maó and Ciutadella both have ferry ports. Check the season, as some routes run only in summer.
- **Onward travel**: Most visitors fly to the island. Flying via Palma de Mallorca or Barcelona is also common.

Getting around

- **Car**: This is the easiest way to see the island. Roads are good, and the distances are short. Book a rental car early for July and August.
- **Bus**: Public buses link Maó, Ciutadella and the main towns. Service to the beaches is limited and mostly runs in summer.
- **Taxi**: Taxis wait at the airport and in the main towns. They are useful for evenings out, as many coves have no night transport.
- **On foot and by bike**: The Camí de Cavalls is a coastal trail of about 185 km around the whole island. Walk it in short sections between coves. Cycling suits quiet back roads rather than the busy main road.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Low

Towns are walkable, but beaches and sights are spread across the island and a car is the easiest way to reach them.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Quiet back roads and the coastal Camí de Cavalls suit cycling, but the main road is busy in summer.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Yes. Many of the best coves are on narrow side roads with no buses. A car also lets you cross the island between the two main towns easily.
- **Parking**: Car parks at popular coves are small and fill by late morning in summer. Arrive early, or walk in from a farther car park. Some are paid in season.
- **Roads**: One main road crosses the island from Maó to Ciutadella. The roads to the coves are narrow and often have stone walls on both sides. Drive slowly.

Food & drink

Menorca has its own food traditions. Look for Mahón-Menorca cheese, a firm cow's-milk cheese, and for *caldereta de langosta*, a lobster stew served in Fornells and on the north coast. The local gin, made on the island since the British period, is often mixed with lemonade as *pomada*, the drink of the Ciutadella festivals. Mayonnaise is said to come from Maó, though the story is a legend.

For where to eat, go to areas rather than single places. The waterfront in Maó has many seafood restaurants. Ciutadella's small harbour is lined with restaurants on both sides. Fornells is the place for the lobster stew.

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

Menorca is very safe for visitors. Petty theft is the main risk, especially from parked cars at remote beaches. Do not leave valuables in a car.

- The summer sun is strong, so use sun protection and carry water on coastal walks.
- Strong northern winds can make the north coast rough. Check the sea conditions before swimming at open beaches.
- Wear shoes with grip on rocky coves, as the stone is often sharp or slippery.
- In an emergency, call 112.

History

Menorca has more prehistoric sites than most islands of its size. The Talayotic culture built stone towers, settlements and burial chambers here over three thousand years ago, and the site is now on the UNESCO World Heritage List as Talayotic Menorca (2023). The Bronze Age Naveta des Tudons is one of its best-known monuments. Torralba d'en Salort, near Alaior, shows the settlement and the T-shaped stone altar typical of the culture.

Ciutadella was the capital for centuries. Britain held the island for much of the 18th century and moved the capital to Maó, which explains the Georgian-style houses and the gin. In the 19th century Spain built Fortaleza de Isabel II to guard the harbour. Today the island's old walls, forts and farms show this layered past.

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

Minorca Essentials

Minorca’s landscape features prehistoric monuments like the Naveta des Tudons chamber tomb and the 19th-century Fortalesa de la Mola. Natural landmarks include the island's highest peak, El Toro, and the S'Albufera des Grau wetlands. Coastal highlights range from the stark slate cliffs of Favàritx Lighthouse to the white-sand coves of Cala Macarella and Cala en Turqueta. The island also preserves architectural heritage in the Gothic Cathedral of Ciutadella and the white-washed, 1970s-designed village of Binibeca Vell.





A Macarella Beach

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

Spain (39.93863, 3.93698)



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 Cova d'en Xoroi Club

Interesting night club in the famous cave of Menorca. A veranda with spectacular views.

Cala en Portel, 07730 Alaior, Spain (39.86546, 4.13301)

covadenxoroi.com, +34 971 377 236



D Fortalesa de la Mola

19th-century military fortress built by Queen Isabella II to defend Mahón harbor. The site features extensive underground galleries, defensive walls, and early 20th-century Vickers guns.

Carretera de la mola (39.87387, 4.31108)

fortalesalamola.com, +34 971 36 40 40



E Binibeca Vell Town

Pretty town at the eastern end of the south coast of Menorca. Binibeca Vell was designed in the 70's.

11 Poblado de Poblat de Pescadors, Binibèquer 07711, Spain (39.82297, 4.22977)



F Favàritx Lighthouse

The Favàritx Lighthouse is an active lighthouse on the Spanish island of Menorca.

Carretera del Far de Favaritx, 07701, Spain (39.99718, 4.26677)



G Port Mahon

A modern harbour on the island of Menorca. A place to see and to be seen.

100 Paseo Marítim, Mahón 07701, Spain (39.88837, 4.27450)



H El Toro

El Toro in Catalan, sometimes known by its Spanish name of Monte Toro, is the tallest hill of the island of Menorca, rising to an elevation...

Me-13, 07740, Spain (39.98508, 4.11309)



I 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)



J Cala en Turqueta

Southern coast beach known for white sand and turquoise water. Surrounded by pine forests, it is part of a protected natural area with limited parking access.

07750, Spain (39.93233, 3.91528)



K S'Albufera des Grau nature park

A 2 km-long, oval-shaped lagoon, is Menorca's largest wetland and a nucleus of the Biosphere Reserve

Ctra. de Maó a Es Grau Km 3.5 detour Llimpa, 07700 Maó, Spain (39.96968, 4.23652)

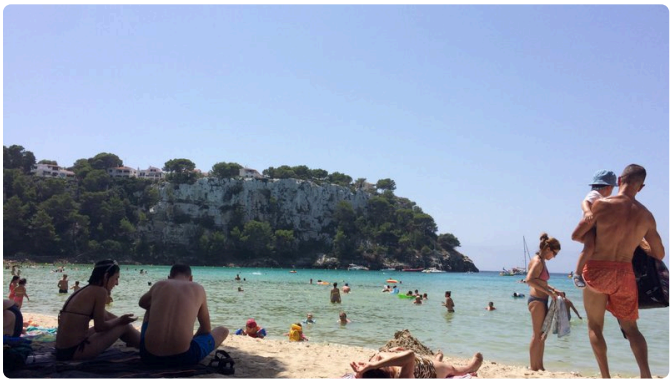
+34 971 356 303



L Cap de Cavalleria

The Cap de Cavalleria Ecomuseum is an institution which is located on the northernmost coast of Menorca, in the proximity of Cavalleria...

Camino del Far, 07748, Spain (40.08895, 4.09229)



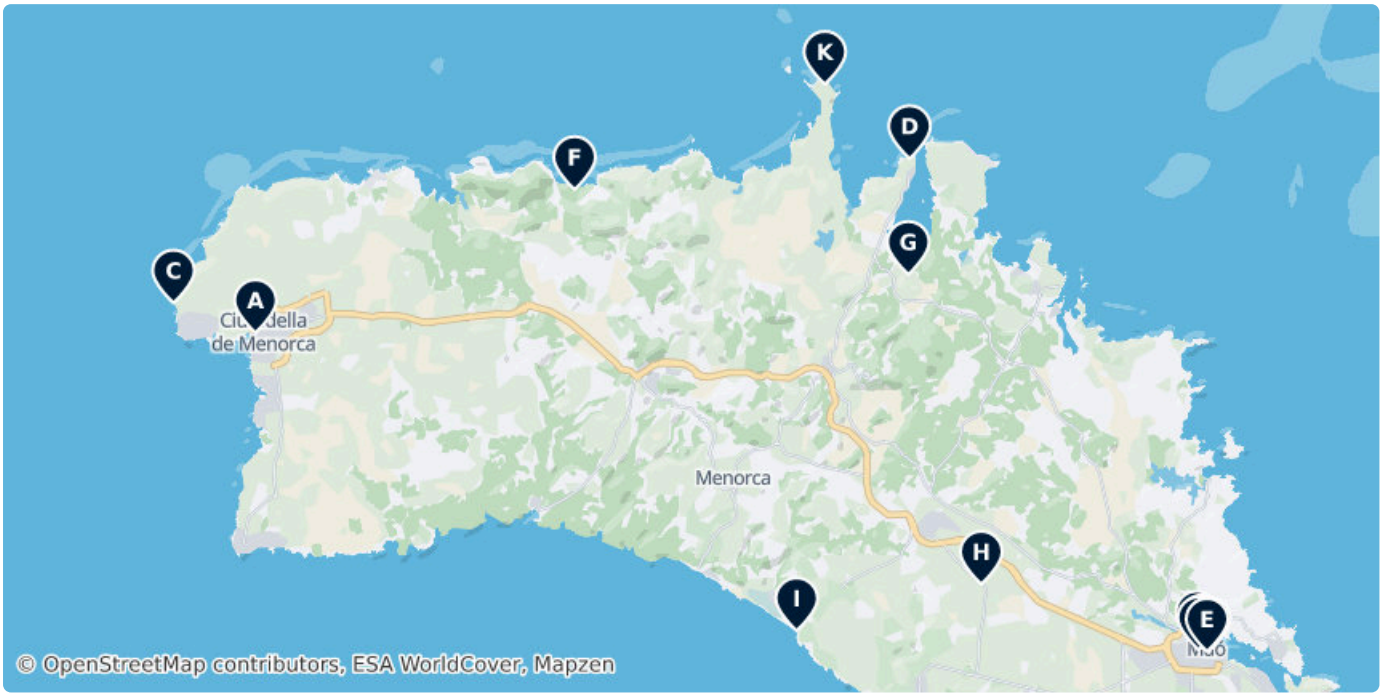
M Cala Galdana

Large, shell-shaped bay with shallow waters and white sand. This developed coastal area offers amenities, boat rentals, and access to the Camí de Cavalls coastal path.

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

Minorca Essentials

Minorca's landscape is defined by its Talayotic heritage and strategic coastal defenses. This selection features the 14th-century Pont de Sant Roc and the Taula de Torralba, a massive prehistoric megalith. Explore early Christian history at the 5th-century Son Bou and Fornells basilicas, or visit the British-built Torre de Fornells. Natural landmarks include the rock arch of Pont d'en Gil and the red-sand beach of Cala del Pilar, alongside the 18th-century Xoriguer Gin factory in Mahón.



A Puerto de Ciudadela

Historic harbor area featuring traditional Menorcan llaüts and views of the narrow inlet leading to the city's medieval center.

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



B Pont de Sant Roc

The only surviving gate of the medieval walls that once surrounded Mahón, constructed in 1359 in the Gothic style.

38 Calle de Sant Roc, Mahón 07703, Spain (39.88948, 4.26268)



C Pont d'en Gil

A natural suspension bridge formed by a limestone rock arch extending over the sea, accessible via the Camí de Cavalls trail.

07769, Spain (40.01097, 3.79413)



D Torre de Fornells

One of the island's largest defense towers, built by the British between 1801 and 1802 to protect the entrance to Fornells harbor.

07748, Spain (40.06143, 4.13055)



E Clijsters or Carmen

This 18th-century neoclassical cloister in Mahón now serves as a public space, housing a traditional food market within its stone arches.

10 Plaza del Carme, Mahón 07701, Spain (39.88888, 4.26652)

F Cala del Pilar

A remote, north-coast beach characterized by its striking red clay hills and golden sands within a protected marine reserve.

(40.05063, 3.97744)



G Basílica des cap des Port de Fornells

Archaeological remains of a 5th-century Paleo-Christian church complex, including a baptistery and mosaic fragments, located near the port.

07740, Spain (40.02090, 4.12995)

H Taula de Torralba

A prehistoric sanctuary featuring the tallest and best-preserved taula—a T-shaped megalithic monument—dating back to the Talayotic period.

(39.91251, 4.16329)

I Basilica Son Bou

Ruins of a 5th-century early Christian basilica located on the coast, featuring a three-aisle layout and a monolithic baptismal font.

07730, Spain (39.89618, 4.07892)

J Xoriguer Gin factory

A traditional distillery in Mahón harbor that has produced Menorcan gin in wood-fired copper stills since the 18th century.

(39.89149, 4.26185)



K Mirador de Cavalleria

Elevated viewpoint situated on 90-meter-high cliffs near the island's northernmost lighthouse, offering panoramas of the rugged coastline.

Camino del Far, 07748, Spain (40.08744, 4.09182)



L Mirador de la Miranda

A scenic overlook in Mahón providing views of the five-kilometer-long natural harbor and the historic naval buildings.

19 Calle de Miranda, Mahón 07701, Spain (39.88932, 4.26758)

Mirador de Ses Monges

Overlook located in the historic center of Mahón, offering views of the port area and the surrounding coastal architecture.

(39.89017, 4.26406)

Coastal Lighthouses & Ancient Ruins

Minorca’s coastline is defined by its diverse geological formations and historical maritime structures. This collection features 19th-century lighthouses like Favàritx and Punta Nati, built to navigate the island's rugged northern cliffs. The list also includes significant archaeological sites, such as the Roman city of Sanisera and the Talayotic settlement of Talatí de Dalt. Natural landmarks include the Cova des Coloms, a massive limestone cavern, and Cova d’en Xoroi, a series of caves integrated into a cliffside.





A Favàritx Lighthouse

The Favàritx Lighthouse is an active lighthouse on the Spanish island of Menorca.

Carretera del Far de Favaritx, 07701, Spain (39.99718, 4.26677)



B Cap de Cavalleria

The Cap de Cavalleria Ecomuseum is an institution which is located on the northernmost coast of Menorca, in the proximity of Cavalleria...

Camino del Far, 07748, Spain (40.08895, 4.09229)



C 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.

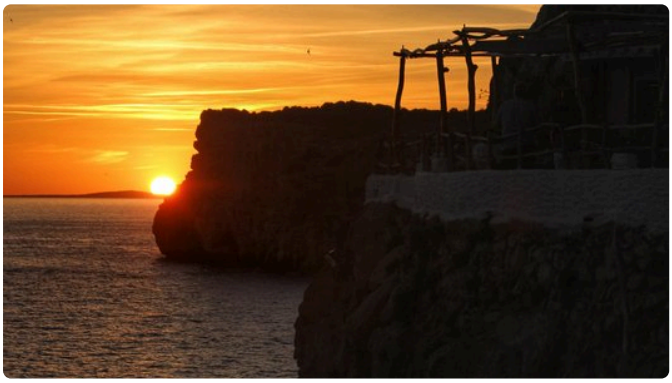
Carretera del Far de Punta Nati, 07769, Spain (40.05018, 3.82370)



D Cap d'Artrutx Lighthouse

The Cap d'Artrutx Lighthouse or Artrutx Lighthouse is an active 19th century lighthouse located on the low-lying headland of the same name...

Calle Faro del Cabo de Artrutx, Urbanización Tamarinda 07769, Spain (39.92255, 3.82424)



E Cova d'en Xoroi

Natural cave complex situated 25 meters above sea level on a vertical cliff in Cala en Porter. Historically used as a shelter, it features multiple terraces and tunnels carved into the rock face.

2 Calle de la Cova, Cala en Porter 07730, Spain (39.86565, 4.13282)

covadenxoroi.com



F Cova des Coloms

Cova des Coloms is a natural cave located in the Spanish island Menorca, in the gully of Binigaus, that has been declared Bien de Interés...

07749, Spain (39.93292, 4.03895)



G Sanisera

Sanisera was one of the Roman cities located in the island of Menorca, which was mentioned by Pliny the Elder in his book Naturalis...

Camino del Far, 07748, Spain (40.06756, 4.08955)

H Sant Antoni Castle

The Sant Antoni Castle is a fortress located in the Spanish village of Fornells, in the municipality of Es Mercadal, in Menorca.

35 Calle de los Vivers, Fornells 07748, Spain (40.05734, 4.13318)

I Ciutadella Lighthouse

The Ciutadella, Punta de Sa Farola or Sa Farola Lighthouse is an active 19th century lighthouse on the Spanish island of Menorca.

1 Carretera de Ciutadella a Cala en Blanes, Ciutadella 07760, Spain (39.99620, 3.82275)

J Cova Dels Pardals

Sea cave located near Cap d'Artrutx, accessible via a steep stone staircase. Historically utilized by smugglers, the cave features a natural pool connected to the sea and was once used to store fishing boats.

(39.92217, 3.85871)

K Talayot de Talatí de Dalt

Prehistoric Talayotic settlement featuring a well-preserved taula sanctuary, central talayots, and limestone dwellings. It is notable for an architectural anomaly where a stone pillar leans against the main T-shaped taula.

07714, Spain (39.89284, 4.21539)

L Talaia de s'Enclusa

Situated on the island's second-highest peak, this site contains the ruins of a former military base and an ancient watchtower. It provides panoramic views of the northern coast and the interior of the Ferreries municipality.

07750, Spain (39.99425, 4.00432)

DATA SOURCES

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