

## Guide to Advice for Visitors in the Balearic Islands

Welcome to the Balearic Islands, an archipelago full of rich history, vibrant culture and breathtaking natural landscapes. To enjoy your stay in a respectful and responsible way, we offer you some tips on how to experience the beauty of the islands while protecting and respecting their cultural and natural heritage.

### **1. Information on the Local Area, Culture and Heritage**

The Balearic Islands are made up of four main islands: Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera. Each one has its own cultural identity and heritage, reflected in its architecture, traditions and gastronomy. From Mallorca's stunning Gothic cathedrals to Menorca's traditional festivals and Ibiza's hippy roots, there's a wide variety of cultural experiences to explore.

- **Museums and Heritage:** Visit emblematic places such as the Cathedral of Palma, the old town of Ibiza (Dalt Vila), and the prehistoric sites of Menorca, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Take advantage of guided tours to learn more about local history.
- **Festivities and Traditions:** Find out about local festivities, such as the festivities of Sant Joan in Menorca or the traditional "Correfocs" in Mallorca, where demons dance between fire and music. Respectfully participate in these celebrations, appreciating their cultural significance.

### **2. How to Respect Local Culture and Way of Life**

The residents of the Balearic Islands deeply value their cultural identity and way of life. As a visitor, it's important that you respect that.

- **Local Etiquette:** Learn some words in Catalan or Mallorcan, such as "Bon dia" (good day) or "Gràcies" (thank you). This will be appreciated by the locals.
- **Dress and Behavior:** Dress appropriately when visiting religious or historical sites, and respect the tranquility of residential areas.
- **Local Hours:** Please note that meal times and activities may be different. Lunch is usually between 13:00 and 15:00, and dinner is served later, around 21:00.

### 3. Local Tourism Products, Services and Experiences

Supporting the local economy is a great way to contribute to the sustainability of the islands.

- **Local Shops and Markets:** Shop for local products such as sobrasada, Mahon cheese, Mallorcan olive oil, and handmade crafts at traditional markets.
- **Restaurants:** Enjoy Balearic cuisine at local restaurants. Try traditional dishes such as "arròs brut" in Mallorca or lobster stew in Menorca.
- **Excursions:** Explore the islands on foot or by bike, or join excursions organized by local guides who can give you a deeper insight into the environment and culture.

### 4. Low-Emission Transportation Possibilities

To reduce your environmental impact, opt for sustainable transportation options:

- **Public Transport:** The islands have a good bus network, especially in Mallorca and Ibiza. Use public transport to get around the cities and to get to the beaches and towns. Ask for schedules and routes at reception.
- **Bike Rentals and Walking Tours:** Many cities and towns offer bike rentals. Take advantage of cycling routes in places such as the Sierra de Tramuntana in Mallorca or the coastal routes of Formentera. There are also many signposted hiking trails that allow you to discover nature in a sustainable way.

### 5. How to Protect and Respect Areas of Environmental, Historical, or Cultural Significance

The Balearic Islands are home to numerous delicate ecosystems and protected cultural sites.

- **Protected Areas:** Respect protected areas such as the Cabrera National Park and the Es Freus Marine Reserve in Ibiza and Formentera. Do not leave rubbish and follow the marked trails.
- **Wildlife Conservation:** In turtle or seabird nesting areas, keep a safe distance and do not interfere with their habitat.
- **Historic Buildings:** When visiting historic sites, follow local rules, such as not touching ancient structures or taking photos where prohibited.

## 6. Support for Local Conservation Initiatives

You can contribute to the well-being of the islands by supporting local conservation initiatives.

- **Donations and Volunteering:** Find out about local organizations that work in environmental conservation, such as *GOB Menorca*, and consider making a donation or participating in volunteer activities such as beach cleanups.
- **Responsible Tourism:** When choosing activities, look for tour operators that promote sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

## 7. Tips for Safely Dealing with Destination-Specific Issues

It is important to be aware of some challenges that you may encounter on the islands.

- **Vulnerable People and Abandoned Animals:** If you see people in vulnerable situations or abandoned animals, contact local aid organizations or animal shelters. Avoid feeding stray animals, as this can perpetuate the problem.
- **Personal Safety:** Islands are generally safe, but as with any tourist destination, keep your belongings safe and avoid isolated areas at night.

## 8. How to Manage Wildlife Encounters

On the islands, you may encounter local wildlife in their natural habitat.

- **Respect for Wildlife:** If you encounter wild animals, keep a safe distance and do not try to feed them. If you are in the water, respect the marine life and do not touch the corals or disturb the underwater ecosystems.
- **Wildlife Watching:** If you want to do wildlife sightings, such as dolphins or birds, choose tour operators that follow ethical and responsible practices, ensuring the welfare of the animals.

We hope that this guide will help you enjoy an enriching and respectful experience in the Balearic Islands, while contributing to the conservation of their environment and the preservation of their culture.