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TRAVEL SECTION OF THE YEAR





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BEST HOTELS IN PALMA

Contemporary design combines with traditional style in a range of chic hotels to suit all budgets in Mallorca's attractive capital city.

Despite having a lively cultural scene and no end of tempting restaurants, Palma isn't huge and there's no need for a daunting list of must-do things. The medieval lanes are perfect for meandering and you can discover elegant mansions, intriguing museums and buzzy tapas bars along the way. The city has an impressive range of characterful boutique hotels, many of which occupy traditional buildings in the local honey-coloured stone.

Quite a few have spectacular views across the Bay of Palma from their roof terraces too. But take heed: hotels in Palma get very busy in summer so you need to book well ahead — and be prepared for steep rates. The city is a year-round destination with pleasant temperatures for most of the year — better for sightseeing than sweltering heat. Hotel prices are usually pretty reasonable in winter, so you could go to do a bit of Christmas shopping or snap up bargains in the January sales — or enjoy a long weekend sampling the excellent food and wine of Mallorca.



Can Bordoy Grand House & Garden, La Lonja

Best for secret garden

In the heart of La Lonja, one of the most atmospheric neighbourhoods in Palma's old town, Can Bordoy is an urban oasis where contemporary design slots perfectly into the traditional architecture of a 16th-century residence. Petrol blue and ochre tones, vintage furniture and original features lend drama to the 24 suites, where you can just sink into a sumptuous bed or bath. A walled garden with a pool, a roof terrace with a plunge pool, and a spa make this a place where you can hang out all day. The Botanic restaurant serves organic food using locally sourced ingredients and the hotel has an impressive range of sustainable practices in place.