

Tour
Information



Flowers and Wildlife of Menorca





Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Spain and France.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Spanish consulate: 20 Draycott Place, London SW3 2RZ; Tel: 020 7589 8989, Fax: 020 7581 7888.
Open Mon-Fri 0915-1400 (except Spanish National holidays).



Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all of their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore, you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at a cost that starts from £3.99 per seat.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit;

www.easyjet.com

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one** cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25 cm. Please note that personal bags (such as handbag or computer case) must be stored within your single piece of hand luggage and that on some busy flights your bag may have to go into the hold, at no extra cost. If you bring **one** piece of cabin baggage no bigger than 50 x 40 x 20 cm, it is guaranteed to always travel with you in the cabin, in the overhead lockers or under the seat in front of you.

Please contact the airline for further information

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

Transfers

On arrival in Menorca, transfer the short distance by coach to Port Mahon and the Port Mahon Hotel (approx. 20 mins)

Special Requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

Port Mahon Hotel

The Port Mahón Hotel occupies a magnificent position overlooking the Port of Mahón. We have chosen this hotel for its close proximity to the town and the many restaurants along the water's edge reached either by a few 'Spanish Steps' or the convenience of a public lift. The hotel is a classic Anglo-Menorcan building painted in the traditional dark red Menorcan style of all-important buildings on the island, and offers a buffet and an à la carte restaurant, piano bar, cafe, pool, and a splendid terrace-sun deck with exclusive views over the Port. Rooms include en-suite bathrooms, telephone, air-conditioning, TV, mini bar, rental safety deposit box, Wi-Fi and hairdryer.

For more information please visit the hotel's website: www.sethotels.com/en/port-mahon-hotel-en.html



Food

Eating out in Spain can often be reasonable, and meals substantial rather than gourmet.

The food in the Balearic Islands and Menorca reflects its history as a strategic point on ancient trade routes with different occupying forces leaving their mark, from Arabs and Catalans to the French and British. Its island nature means that seafood predominates with wonderful local produce including lobster often accompanied by the traditional Menorcan, creamy garlic sauce and traditional fishermen's stew or fish pie. Pastries and desserts also feature extensively. Some restaurants will offer a set meal at a fixed – *menú del día* – at lunchtime, generally good value for money. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, but it is customary to leave small change if good service is provided.

Generally speaking, mealtimes in Spain are much later than in the UK. Lunch is normally taken between 1400 and 1600; dinner is very often eaten any time after 2100 or even 2200.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Lunch – 1 picnic lunch

Dinner – 1 Welcome dinner at a local restaurant



Drink

Spain is essentially a wine-drinking country, with sherry being one of the principal export products. Its English name is the anglicised version of the producing town *Jerez*, from which the wine was first shipped to England. Today, Britain buys about 75% of all sherry exports. There are four main types: *fino* (very pale and dry), *amontillado* (dry, richer and darker), *oloroso* (medium, full-bodied, fragrant and golden), and *dulce* (sweet). Local Menorcan wines are available such as the omnipresent Binifadet that produces syrah and merlot varieties. There are only a handful of producers on this small island so its output is augmented by imports from Majorca and the mainland and beyond. Spanish brandy is as different from French as Scotch whisky is from Irish. It is relatively cheap, pleasant, although some brandy drinkers may find it a little sweet. Brands include *Carlos I*, *Osbourne* and *Fundador*. Well-known Spanish beers (*cerveza*) include *San Miguel*, *Damm*, *Estrella Galicia* and *Cruzcampo*.



Destination

The most easterly of the Balearic Islands, Menorca is made up of two very different geological areas. Tramontana in the north and Migjorn in the south are separated by a fracture line that runs from the harbour town of Mahón. The Northern region is ancient; its rocks are fractured and folded and are made up of mainly palaeozoic conglomerates and sandstones. The South side is much newer, dating from the Miocene period, and is made up of mainly limestone. It forms an almost horizontal platform carved out with numerous gullies (Barrancos) which outflow into beautiful coves.

Menorca is rich in wild flowers with over 1400 species of plants recorded. On the island the orchid family is represented by around 30 species, most of which flower in late March to early May. 25 different species of butterfly have also been recorded. In the spring many bird species can also be seen as the island lies on their migration route with a good number of passage migrants resting on the island as they travel en-route to more temperate climates. The Menorcan habitat is unique, hardly surprising then that the birdlife here is unique and abundant. Winters here are wet – so shallow wetlands dot the island – perfect habitats for wading birds and birds of prey.

The island is circumvented by the Cami des Cavalls, ('The Horse Road'), first built for defensive purposes by the British, but recently renovated and marked so one can walk, ride or bike the perimeter of the whole island in 20 stages.

Our tour is designed with the focus on the wonderful spring nature of the island but, at the same time, offers some insight into the historical highlights too.

Tour Guide

Your guide for this tour is a professional ornithologist and naturalist. Javier is a co-founder of Menorca Ornithologist Society and a member of Menorca Research Institute. He was born and bred in Menorca and knows the island intimately. He has been a keen birdwatcher and nature lover all his life and he has done many studies about the Menorcan bird population and its wildlife. Javier speaks good English and has a natural and infectious enthusiasm for birds and the unique wildlife of Menorca. He has been guiding groups of birdwatchers, walkers and nature enthusiasts on the island since 2001. Javier also has an excellent knowledge of the Menorcan wild flowers having also led many botanical tours.

Tour Manager

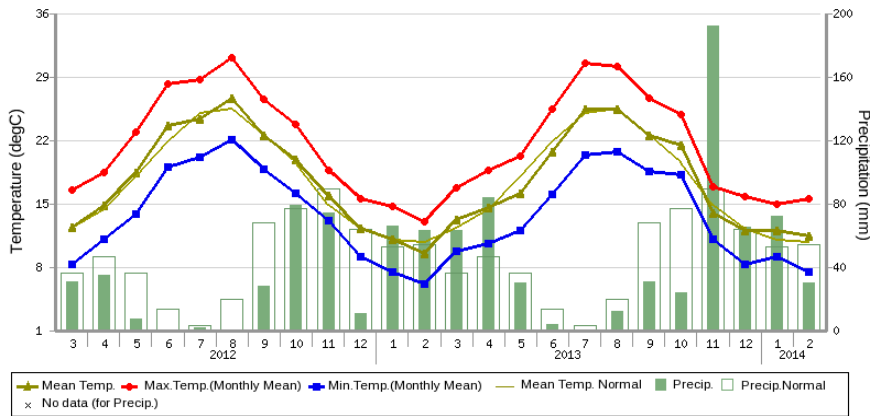
Your guide will be assisted by your tour manager, who will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him/her immediately as it is much better to resolve complaints or problems on the spot and ensure you enjoy your holiday.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Menorca at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

MENORCA/MAHON [SPAIN]



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Spanish.

Religion – Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); Spanish National holiday (12 Oct); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Spanish Constitution Day (06 Dec); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink, although some complain it has a strange taste, so it is generally recommended to drink bottled water, readily available in supermarkets and shops.

Shops and museums – Shops are open Mon-Sat 0900-1400 and 1700-2000. Supermarkets and department stores tend to open 0930-2100/2200 and may open on Sundays in larger towns. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a ‘universal’ one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in Spain, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral rehydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting –

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Spanish summers can be hot and sunny, so always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser.

A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Spain.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention. We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900 – 1700)

Outside the above hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or 00 44 1235 850720

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate General Madrid

Torre Espacio

Paseo de la Castellana 259D

28046 Madrid, Spain

Spain.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Telephone enquiries: 902 109 356 (in Spain), +34 917 146 300 (if outside Spain).

Consular phone lines are open 0900-1700.

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