

Warm temperatures all year round make Majorca a perfect destination for winter and spring breaks – and there are some great deals available too

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# Balearics can't be beat



**HAUNTING** Limestone Drach caves at Porto Cristo



**RAIL TOUR** Train at Port de Soller harbour



**SAUSAGES** Sobrassada at Palma market



**PERFECT GREENS** Real Golf Bendinat

**One of the best-loved holiday islands in the world, Majorca has 42 beautiful Blue Flag beaches and a perfect Mediterranean climate.**

It's got the lot – from buzzing Palma with its fabulous old town and cathedral to excellent restaurants and nightclubs and stunning mountainous scenery.

Oh, and shopping. It's great, especially in Palma and Andratx.

Majorca has something for every age and budget. It's not a cheap destination – it's 15 per cent more expensive than mainland Spain for food and drinks, so you need to shop around for good value. And the recent tourist tax of €2 per person per day doesn't help.

I headed over in October. It still had great weather and the island was less crowded than in summer.

I based myself in Bendinat, in Hotel RD Mar de Portals, and booked through easyJet Holidays.

This adults-only, four-star plus hotel has been refurbished and is great for those looking for accommodation offering peace and quiet as well as quality service. It also has some superb deals.

Just 150metres from Portals cove and beach and a 10-minute drive from the island's capital, Palma, it's a great location and the rooms are spacious and have balconies.

There are lovely quirky period photos throughout and an indoor and two outdoor pools. It could do

with some chests of drawers in the bedrooms to complement the small space on the open-plan wardrobe shelves but you can put up with that when you have friendly staff and are getting value for money.

For a one-night treat, we went to another lovely hotel that has just undergone a lot of renovation work.

The Pure Salt Port Adriano Hotel is in a quiet and exclusive area on the new marina of Port Adriano. It's very impressive if you want a luxury experience.

With a spa, golf simulator, indoor and outdoor pools, a gym, a well-priced restaurant and fabulous bedrooms, it's worthy of its five stars.

In this area you will find one of the best restaurants on the island – Coast by East at Port Adriano.

Its super-chic marina location is impressive enough and the food more than matches the setting. It is truly fantastic and well worth booking ahead.

The restaurant offers a varied menu and the duck salad starter and the panna cotta dessert are an absolute must.

In addition to the delicious fusion Asian/European cuisine, it also has a great bar for cocktails.

In terms of excursions, the ancient limestone Caves of Drach make an unusual day out but my fave is still a trip on the Soller railway through the Tramuntana mountains.

Majorca is a golfer's paradise with perfect temperatures for much of

the year and a selection of fine courses across the island.

For a day's golfing with excellent dining at the end of your round, visit the T Golf & Country Club Poniente near Santa Ponsa in the south-west of the island.

The course is in the final throes of being significantly upgraded but is well-designed and located in a fine setting amid open pine woods.

Green fees – with an online booking discount – are about €100, which is par for the course in Majorca.

Afterwards, be sure to enjoy the restaurant in the clubhouse which serves excellent local and international dishes. See <http://t-golf-poniente.com/t-golf> for booking details.

Although there are regular buses to most parts of the island, they take the timetable as a starting point for negotiation.

Unless you don't mind hanging around for hours, you really need a rental car to get around.

I always shop around extensively for my wheels and my top tip is [www.rentalcars.com](http://www.rentalcars.com), who have cars from as little as £6 a day based on hiring and returning full tanks (definitely the best option). They offer great value and are reliable.

Whether it's a winter break to escape the Scottish drizzle, or a Spring or Summer break to enjoy the warm sun on your face, Majorca always delivers.

It really is the island with it all.

## Travel info

■ easyJet Holidays ([www.easyjet.com/holidays](http://www.easyjet.com/holidays), tel 020 3499 5232) offer a wide range of accommodation options in Majorca. Seven nights at the four-star RD Mar de Portals Hotel in Portals Nous on B&B basis including flights from Edinburgh on April 22, 2017, costs from £437pp. Return transfers are available from an additional £32.35 per person. Go to <http://bit.ly/2eleMhQ>

**FLOODLIT**  
La Seu, the Gothic cathedral in Palma.  
Picture: Getty Images

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