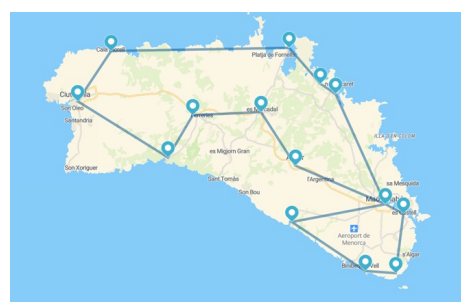




Spain (Menorca - Balearic Islands), 7 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route through the Island's Coves and Countryside

A week is the perfect amount of time to fully explore Menorca. The small size of the island means you can visit many places without covering long distances. Places such as the two main towns, Mahón and Ciutadella, both with jaw-dropping harbours that will keep your camera busy. That said, you'll be taking amazing photos everywhere you go. Just wait until you see Binibeca, one of the most beautiful villages in Spain. Once a fishing village, its whitewashed houses will instantly seduce you. And Menorca's beaches and coves are simply stunning. Both in the north and the south of the island. Some with whiter sand, others redder and a few even with dark sand, but all with a common denominator: crystal-clear waters and spotlessly clean. As you'll discover on the Coves and Countryside tour, there are some beaches that are only accessible by foot, while others will let you park up just a stone's throw from the water. But make sure you visit as many as you can! Must-see villages on this magnificent tour include Alaior and Es Mercadal, where you can climb up to the highest point of the island. Monte Toro will reward you with outstanding views of much of Menorca. Last but not least, make sure you try the wonderful local cuisine, from tasty lobster stew and Menorcan prawns to the island's incredible cheeses and excellent desserts. All washed down with the local drink par excellence, Xoriguer Gin, which is definitely the best way to cool off on a balmy summer evening. A season when a whole load of fiestas are held. There's one each summer weekend in a different village, so you'll be sure to see the true spectacle of Menorcan dancing horses. Enjoy your self-drive tour around the quietest of the Balearic Islands!



FAMILIES

**Departure date:** Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

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## ● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - MAHÓN (MENORCA)

Flight departure from the city of origin to the verdant island of Menorca. After arrival, you can pick up your rental car and start discovering the many attractions of the first place in Spain to see the sun each morning. Rest of the day at your leisure to soak up the atmosphere on the most laid-back of the Balearic Islands. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Menorca has successfully combined tourism with the conservation of its unspoilt nature. The northernmost and easternmost of the Balearic Islands, it boasts a fascinating historical and cultural heritage revolving around the sea. More than 1,500 archaeological sites make Menorca an open-air prehistoric museum. The island has more than 200 kilometres of coastline, 70 stunning beaches and an average summer temperature that tends not to exceed 30°C. A true gift from the Gods. It was precisely its strategic location in control of trade in the Mediterranean that condemned the beautiful Menorca to bloody episodes of piracy and relentless invasions. Talaiotic, Roman, Byzantine, Muslim, Aragonese, British, French, Mallorcan... Menorca has passed through almost all hands possible. Today, this eclectic and tumultuous past has become part of its charisma, forging out a unique personality for the island. From east to west, its forty-eight kilometres have lots to discover. A great place to start off your holiday is the Port of Mahón, considered one of the best natural harbours in the world, which is why it was so sought after by different countries over the course of history. It's difficult to park down by the water, so we recommend stopping off at the first free space that you see and then walking down to the seafront. Make sure you savour the delicious Menorcan cuisine on the picturesque terraces overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Our recommendations for a bit of sightseeing? Make sure you visit the Fortaleza de la Mola, the fortress at the mouth of the harbour; the Museum of Menorca, located in an former convent, which showcases prehistoric objects from the island; the Town Hall, with its clock brought from England by the British Governor Richard Kane; and the Bastion of Sant Roc, which was part of the main gate of the wall that once surrounded the city in the past; to name just a few attractions... Near Mahón are the fascinating Talaiotic remains of Talatí de Dalt. Enjoy the leisurely pace of this town, where there's no rush to do anything! Overnight stay in Mahón.

## DAY 2 · MAHÓN - ES CASTELL - PUNTA PRIMA - BINIBECA (BINIBEQUER) - CALA'N PORTER - COVA D'EN XOROI - MAHÓN

The views of Mahón harbour are outstanding. If you're there when a cruise ship comes in, you'll be amazed by the sheer experience. In the distance, you'll make out Punta de Cala Rat, the inlet to Cala Llonga and the Illa del Rey, your next destination. (Note: Tour not included. We recommend heading there first thing in the morning in order to avoid the crowds and enjoy this stunning island at its best. You can only get there by boat from Mahón, so if you're interested in this short trip, you just have to ask which company will take you there and then buy the tickets. It's a former hospice from the early 18th century that was operational until 1964, when it closed its doors to patients and opened them up to visitors). Back on dry land, there's nothing better than strolling around Mahón harbour and the shopping streets, which will take you up to the churches of Santa María and Carme, two authentic architectural jewels of sacred art. When you're finished, head back to the car and follow the signs for Es Castell. You can take the ring road or head through the port area. Both options take about the same time, so we recommend the port route to enjoy the views. Es Castell, previously known as Villacarlos, Georgetown and Cales Fonts, is a small harbour town with oodles of charm. In fact, if you're ever wondering where to eat during your time in Menorca, this town will always impress. It's a laid-back place with picture-postcard views. Very close to Cales Fonts is the esplanade, the hub of Es Castell social life. It's towered over by the Town Hall and also by an interesting Military Museum. This houses some very interesting objects, such as batteries and cannons that were used during various battles against the British army. In fact, one of the places where both powers most vehemently contested the Mediterranean was at Fort Marlborough. This fortress was built in the early eighteenth century and, interestingly, its name is due to John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, whose name was adopted in a popular children's song in Spanish... Anecdotes aside, you can visit this fortress to discover the spectacular surroundings and learn how the British soldiers from the early eighteenth century lived in Menorca. (Note: Admission not included). Next stop is one of the westernmost points of Spain. We're talking about Punta Prima, one of the great beaches in this area. Its fine white sand earned it the name of Sandy Bay during the British occupation of the island. It's a wonderful place to cool off in the sea, bask in the sun and enjoy some peace and quiet. The coastline is still dotted with refuges where fishermen would keep their tackle. (Note: Punta Prima is accessible via Sant Lluís. Pass through the town until you get to a roundabout called La Pau, where you'll find signs to the beaches on the southern part of the island). For lunch, nothing better than heading over to Binibeca, one of the most beautiful villages in Spain. You'll love the cute whitewashed houses with sea views that line the maze-like streets. (Note: the easiest way to get to Binibeca is to head towards San Luis from Mahón and then follow the signs to Binibeca (Binibequer). To get to the fishing village, take the sign for Binibequer Vell). You'll now be travelling through the southern part of the island from east to west, although today you'll only reach the central area. Basically, you can leave the southwest for another day. You might feel a bit sad to leave the beautiful Binibeca, but there's plenty more ahead that will equally impress you. You'll drive past Binisafua, Binidalí, San Clemente and Binixíquer before reaching Cala'n Porter. This stunning cove, located in one of the island's oldest tourist areas, is perfect for a refreshing dip. You can top up your tan, have a go at snorkelling or read a good book while lying on the white sand. Near the beach is a watchtower built from stone and mortar. Before the sun goes down, make sure you head over to Cova d'en Xoroi to bid farewell to the day. It's one of the best places in Spain to admire the sunset. Depending on the time of year, you'll see how the sun dips down into the horizon or takes refuge behind Cala'n Bosch. It's also the perfect place for a sundowner before heading down to Mahón for dinner. Anywhere in the port will be a great choice. You can go for fresh fish, Italian, Indian, Japanese... you decide. The variety is huge, but make sure you book a table as the top restaurants tend to fill up fast, especially in high season. Return and overnight stay in Mahón.

### ● DAY 3 · MAHÓN - ALAIOR - ES MERCADAL - FERRERIES - BEACHES AND COVES IN THE SOUTH - CIUDADELA (CIUTADELLA)

Today we'll leave Mahón behind to set off for Ciutadella (Ciutadella), the other port on the island. So, let's hit the road! En route to Alaior, almost halfway there, you find Menorca Zoo in a place called Argentina. It's a great activity if you're travelling with children, because it's not too large and is very family-friendly. You can hand-feed the baby goats, stroke the snakes and coo at the cute coatis, kangaroos and lemurs. When you've finished the visit, head up to Alaior. Known by the locals as 'Alò', it's home to some of Menorca's best footwear. You'll find some bargains at the outlets of internationally-famous manufacturers such as Pons Quintana. But this isn't the only famous export from Alaior. The town is also famous for the artisanal production of excellent local cheeses, deli meats, ice creams, desserts and liqueurs. Driving around the centre is tricky because there are very few streets where you can park, so look for one of the free car parks and then explore the area on foot. It's wonderful to stroll through the medieval streets of the old town and stumble across the Town Hall, the Can Salort Palace, Plaza de la Constitución... Bask in the sun and soak up the laid-back atmosphere in the vibrant Plaza del Ramal! The tradition here is to have breakfast at bakeries such as Ca Na Maru, where you can savour the island's typical baked delicacies: carquinyols, crespells or flaó. After the well-deserved break, you can climb up to the Church of Santa Eulàlia, very close to Parc Munt de l'Àngel, from where you'll enjoy magnificent views of the surroundings. When you finish your tour of Alaior, jump back into the car and head towards Es Mercadal, another of the larger settlements in the centre of Menorca and which dates from the time of the Reconquista and its urban nucleus focusses around the Church of Sant Martí and the former mill, now a restaurant. It's also where you'll find the island's highest point: Monte Toro. You can get right to the top by car and, if you're lucky, you'll see some brave paragliders throwing themselves off the hill and soaring over the countryside. There is a chapel devoted to Our Lady of Monte Toro, patron saint of all Menorcans, so you can pay her a visit. You'll instantly perceive the peace and quiet up here. (Note: the views of the island from this point are simply magnificent. The flat terrain of Menorca means you can see the whole island on a clear day). It's difficult to park in Es Mercadal, so find another free car park and wander into town. It's also a much more pleasant option. You'll probably walk across one of the three bridges in the town and see an almost permanently dry riverbed lined by whitewashed facades. If you're feeling peckish, look out for Ca's Sucre, where you can taste some more typical cakes and biscuits. Ferreries, your next destination, is the gateway to the stunning beaches of the south. You can choose between the sweeping sands of Santo Tomás, Binigaus and Son Bou, where you'll easily find a place to lay down your towel near the water, or the smaller coves of Cala Galdana or Cala Escorxada. Another highly recommended option is Cala Mitjana, a small unspoilt cove with turquoise waters surrounded by perfumed pine forests and flanked by towering limestone cliffs. One of the advantages of Santo Tomás, Binigaus or Son Bou is that they have large car parks, great beach bars and public showers. At the end of the day, head over to Ciutadella, the other major town on the island. After an intense day, you can take a stroll around its emblematic harbour and savour the typical seafood-based cuisine at its renowned restaurants. Overnight stay in Ciutadella.

#### DAY 4 · CIUDADELA - BEACHES AND COVES IN THE SOUTH - CIUDADELA

Whichever beach you choose for today, you should get up as early as possible. The beaches around Ciudadelada fill up quick, as do their car parks. So, to secure your place on the sand, today's not the best day for a lie-in. The most enticing options are Cala en Turqueta, Macarella, Es Talaier and, of course, Son Saura. The best way to pick one is to do a quick Internet search and see which one appeals to you the most. We can guarantee that they're all wonderful. Probably by lunchtime, after having been one of the first on the beach, you'll have had enough sun. You can head back to Ciudadelada in the afternoon and take a siesta if you fancy. Find out if your visit to the island coincides with one of the local fiestas. Every weekend in the summer, there seems to be some street party or other. Dozens of riders on spectacular horses parade through the streets and fascinate locals and tourists alike with their pirouettes. Each horse has a small mirror on its head. Legend has it that you'll come into luck if you can see yourself reflected in it. Fancy it? If there isn't a fiesta today, it's a good chance to explore the town. Its harbour and pedestrian streets are the perfect place for a leisurely stroll. Brimming with shops, ice cream parlours and restaurants, it's the ideal place to wander around for a good few hours. You'll have noticed that Ciudadelada has a majestic air to it. The narrow streets in the old town outline a pocket-sized fortified city, where the Islamic influence oozes throughout the maze-like streets that radiate from the Plaza del Born, within the walls of the Moorish city. Must-sees include the Gothic Cathedral of Menorca and the Plaza del Born itself, with its obelisk that commemorates the heroic defence of the town against the Turkish attack of 1558... Others on our essentials list are the Town Hall; the Teatre des Born; the majestic Palaces of Salort, Vivó and Torre Saura; the magnificent Castle of San Nicolás; and the Municipal Museum of Ciudadelada. There's so much to choose from that we recommend selecting which sights interest you the most depending on the time you have. At dusk, enjoy the excellent restaurants and a lively nightlife. Overnight stay in Ciudadelada.

#### DAY 5 · CIUDADELA - BEACHES AND COVES IN THE NORTH - FORNELLS - ARENAL D'EN CASTELL

After yesterday's busy schedule, nothing better today than soaking up the sun on one of the beaches in the north. Our particular favourites are: Cala Pregonda, Cala Pilar and La Vall. Cala Pregonda is an authentic jewel of the Mediterranean. Mainly because access to the sand isn't directly from the car park. You have to walk for about thirty minutes along an unshaded path, but it's still worth it. (Note: to get to the cove, set off from Mercadal and take the road towards Fornells, and then turn off when you see the sign for Cavalleria. Later on, you'll see a detour marked Binimel-là/Pregonda). The water is crystal clear and the sand is a reddish colour that could easily pass for Mars. It's highly recommended, as is Cala Pilar. The walk out to the water is a little longer than at Cala Pregonda, but the reward is perhaps even greater. Here there are no parasols or bars... so it's just you, your travel companion and little else. Turquoise blue waters and golden sands that will whisk you off to paradise. Another jewel in the northern crown is La Vall, also known as Algaiarens. You can get here by car, where a large car park will be waiting for you. La Vall is a long and wide beach, the setting for the 2010 Estrella Damm summer ad campaign, so you can already imagine the great atmosphere that prevails here. The water is always crystal clear and there's enough space not to feel overwhelmed by the crowds. It's by far the most comfortable, and the busiest, of all three. (Note: if you want to combine the beaches with a fascinating cultural visit, Cala Morell is home to many prehistoric caves with free entrance). After finishing your beach day, there's nothing better than cooling off with an ice cream in Fornells, a picturesque fishing village in the north of Menorca. With heaps of charm, this is a cute little place that you won't need too long to explore. The most visited area is its port, where many restaurants serve lobster stew, the Menorcan dish par excellence. And the most famous tourist attraction of Fornells is the Torre de Fornells. This coastal defence tower was built by the British in the early 19th century to guard the entrance to the harbour and prevent the enemy from coming ashore. It's one of the largest towers in Menorca and resembles a small castle. From the top, you can enjoy fabulous views of the coastline. You can round the day off in Arenal d'en Castell. A laid-back haven where nature, tradition and history come together to give the visitor an unforgettable experience. Its quiet and family-friendly crescent-shaped beach, its landscape sculpted by the Tramuntana wind, the small yachts that bob around on its anchoring ground, and its whitewashed houses perched precariously on the hillside all paint a stunning picture that each year attracts tourists from around the world. Just a few kilometres away, you can practise your swing at the Son Parc Golf Course. Overnight stay in Arenal d'en Castell and surroundings.

## ● DAY 6 · ARENAL D'EN CASTELL - PORT D'ADDAIA - ALBUFERA DES GRAU / FAVARITX LIGHTHOUSE - BEACHES AND COVES IN THE NORTH - MAHÓN

Your last day on the road will finish off the full circle of the island. So, today you'll be visiting the entire northeast face of Menorca. Set off from Arenal d'en Castell to visit Port d'Addaia. After arriving at a development of whitewashed townhouses, follow the signs and head down to the port, which is in the deepest part of the Bay of Addaia. It's a small but very special place. There are no gleaming boats or luxurious yachts, just calm, peace and serenity. Just fifteen minutes from here, you'll find the detour to the Favaritx Lighthouse, the most spectacular one on the whole island. There's usually quite a strong breeze here, even in the middle of summer, so don't forget to take a jacket or the like. The lighthouse is majestic, beaming out over the immensity of the Mediterranean and providing a stunning image, with the infinite blue tones of the sea and perhaps a traditional boat in the background. Take a few minutes to feel the sea breeze and listen to the hypnotic sound of the waves. When you've almost reached nirvana, it'll be time to head to one of the coves near the lighthouse. Cala Tortuga and Cala Presili are the two most beautiful examples. Picture a transparent sea and a rich marine seabed that would delight any amateur snorkeller. Both are located within the s'Albufera d'es Grau Nature Park, a protected area visited each year by thousands of birds on their migration routes. A visit to s'Albufera is the ideal plan if you're travelling with children, as they'll enjoy a few hours surrounded by nature. Es Grau is also a dark-sand beach that can only be visited when the Tramuntana wind isn't blowing, because it quickly clouds over and you won't feel like swimming. After this visit, you can set out on the trip back to Mahón. Nestled between tradition and modernity, it still retains its Mediterranean essence and colonial atmosphere. Locals say that it was during the French siege of the island when the Menorcans invented 'mahonesa', now known throughout the world as mayonnaise. As well as this claim to fame, Mahón is home to a delicious cuisine. Make sure you taste the famous Mahón cheese, with its own Designation of Origin! And the last stop on this unforgettable trip will be back in the harbour, where luxury yachts and traditional wooden llaüts float side by side. Overnight stay in Mahón.

## ● DAY 7 · MENORCA - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Mahon.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Mahon.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Ciutadella
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Ciutadella
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Beaches North Menorca.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Beaches North Menorca.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

Mahon



Es Castell



Punta Prima



Binibeca



Cala En Porter



Alaior



Es Mercadal



Ferrieres



Cala Galdana



Ciutadella



Cala Morell



Fornells



Beaches North Menorca



Port d'Addaia



## Important remarks

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- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.

- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.