
Travel Guide

Ibiza

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Quick view

Ibiza – a brief overview

The small Balearic island of Ibiza has quite the international reputation – not all of it good. Hippy-style hedonists started arriving in the 1960s, enthralled by the immaculate beaches and heavenly climate. In the 1990s, it became a clubbing mecca. Today, it's still popular with partygoers, but has begun to sharpen up its image with more sophisticated hotels and high-end restaurants.

It's possible to escape the herds of tourists by visiting the little villages dotted around, seeking out remote coves, or even taking a boat to one of the tiny islands within touching distance of Ibiza. Even in the main town of Eivissa, there's a beautiful fortified Old Town, and several museums and galleries to explore.



Spain

General Information

Country overview

Spain is one of the most popular holiday destinations in Europe. Endless beaches, brilliant sunshine and azure waters draw beach lovers to the Mediterranean coast, and the Balearic and Canary Islands. But visitors also flock to see the historical architecture of cities such as Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Leon, Seville and Segovia.

If you want to experience the real Spain, don't go to bed too early. In these parts, people stroll the city squares and dine out late into the night.

Geography

Spain accounts for roughly four-fifths of the Iberian Peninsula, with Portugal, Andorra and Gibraltar occupying the remainder. In the northeast, the Pyrenees form a natural frontier to France. The state territory also encompasses the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera) located southeast of Barcelona, in the Mediterranean, and the Canary Islands off the west coast of Africa. Ceuta, Chafarinas, Melilla and Ladu are tiny Spanish exclaves in North Africa, relics of the former Spanish Empire.

Spain is a mountainous country. The Pyrenees extend for 400 kilometers from the Basque Country in the northwest to the Mediterranean. Some peaks rise more than 3000 meters above sea level; the highest elevation here is the Pico de Aneto at 3404 meters above sea level. The country's interior consists of a vast plateau, the Meseta, which is intersected by a number of mountain ranges.

In the north and northwest, the Meseta is bordered by the Cantabrian Mountains and the Iberian Mountains, and in the South by the Sierra Morena, beyond which lies the Guadalquivir Valley. Galicia's mountainous landscape runs along the jagged Atlantic coast. The extreme south is also mountainous; the Sierra Nevada southeast of Granada belongs to the Betic Cordilleras, which run parallel to the Mediterranean and include the highest mountain on the Spanish mainland, the Mulhacén (3481 meters above sea level). The highest elevation on Spanish territory is the Pico del Teide (3718 meters above sea level) on Tenerife.

Spain has just under 5000 kilometers of coastline. The Mediterranean coast extends from the French border to the Rock of Gibraltar. The Strait of Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean and divides Spain from North Africa.

General Information

Key facts

Population: 46.33 million (2017)

Capital: Madrid.

Language

The official language is Spanish (Castellano, Castilian). In the Autonomous Communities of the Basque region, Galicia, Catalonia, Valencia, Navarra and the Balearic Islands, the relevant regional languages are also used as second official languages according to the Statutes of Autonomy. In tourist areas, English and German are commonly spoken foreign languages.

Electricity

220 V, 50 Hz (sometimes 110/125 V in older buildings in smaller places)

Currency

1 euro = 100 cents

Currency sign/abbreviation: €, EUR (ISO code). Banknotes are available in the values 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros, coins, in the nominal values 1 and 2 euros, as well as 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents.

Public holidays

Listed below are the public holidays for the period January 2020 to December 2021.

Please note

- a) several regional public holidays also exist.
- b) it is usual for public holidays, which fall on a Sunday, to be substituted by work-free days on subsequent weekdays.

* not in all parts of the country

2020

Año Nuevo (New Year's): 1 January 2020
Epifanía (Epiphany): 6 January 2020
Día de San José (St. Joseph's Day): 19 March 2020*
Jueves Santo (Maundy Thursday): 9 April 2020*
Viernes Santo (Good Friday): 10 April 2020
Domingo de Resurrección (Easter Sunday): 12 April 2020
Día del Trabajo (Labor Day): 1 May 2020
Asunción de la Virgen (Assumption Day): 15 August 2020
Fiesta Nacional de España (Spanish National Day): 12 October 2020
Fiesta de Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day): 1 and 2 November 2020*
Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day): 6 December 2020
La Inmaculada (Feast of the Immaculate Conception): 8 December 2020
Navidad (Christmas): 25 December 2020

2021

Año Nuevo (New Year's): 1 January 2021
Epifanía (Epiphany): 6 January 2021
Día de San José (St. Joseph's Day): 19 March 2021*
Jueves Santo (Maundy Thursday): 1 April 2021*
Viernes Santo (Good Friday): 2 April 2021
Domingo de Resurrección (Easter Sunday): 4 April 2021

Día del Trabajo (Labor Day): 1 May 2021
Asunción de la Virgen (Assumption Day): 15 August 2021
Fiesta Nacional de España (Spanish National Day): 12 October 2021
Fiesta de Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day): 1 and 2 November 2021*
Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day): 6 December 2021
La Inmaculada (Feast of the Immaculate Conception): 8 December 2021
Navidad (Christmas): 25 December 2021

All information subject to change.



Travel etiquette

How to fit in

Social Conventions

It is polite in Spain to shake hands in greeting. The usual courtesies should be observed. If you are invited to someone's home, your host will appreciate a small gift. Flowers are given only on special occasions.

Clothing

Casual dress is appropriate almost everywhere, although some hotels and restaurants require men to wear a jacket and tie; evening dress is only required for particularly formal occasions. Swimwear belongs without exception on the beach.

Smoking

A smoking ban applies in all public institutions, on public transportation, in telephone booths and in rooms containing ATMs, as well as in children's playgrounds and schoolyards. The smoking ban also applies to all bars, cafés and restaurants. Smoking areas inside bars and restaurants are no longer permitted.

Tipping

Tips are generally included in hotel and restaurant bills. It is nevertheless usual to leave a small tip for the service staff. Porters receive a small sum per item of luggage. The usual amount tipped in restaurants is between 10 and 15 percent. When the waiter brings your change, you leave some as the tip. It is considered extremely rude, however, to leave two- or five-cent pieces. When tipping your taxi driver, simply round up the fare.



Health

Health

Emergency telephone number: 112

Lyme disease, TBE (tick-borne encephalitis) and leishmaniasis are all diseases which are passed on by ticks and mosquitoes and also occur in Spain. Clothing that covers the skin and insect repellents provide protection.

Hepatitis A and hepatitis B occur all over Spain. A hepatitis A vaccination is generally recommended. Visitors planning an extended stay and close contact with the local population, and generally with children and young people, should also have a hepatitis B vaccination.

Measles and whooping cough occur in Spain. Before traveling to Spain, visitors should definitely check whether their vaccinations are up to date and if necessary, get a booster shot.

Epidemic outbreaks of meningococcal meningitis occur in Spain. Visitors should

seek protection by getting a vaccination and avoiding large crowds. Children and young people, in particular, should be vaccinated. According to the latest recommendations, the vaccination applies as required travel vaccination for extended stays for certain groups of people (teenagers, school and university students). Visitors should consult their physician regarding the need for vaccination in the light of recommendations in the country of destination.



Phone calls & Internet

Phone calls & Internet

Telephone

Country code: +34

Mobile telephony and Internet

Since June 2017, EU citizens traveling within the EU, and also in Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein have been able to use their cell phones and surf the Net without incurring any extra charges: In other words, customers pay the same price for phone calls, text messages and data volume as they do at home. Restrictions do apply to the constant use of SIM cards abroad, however, and caps may be set on data packages.

For full details, contact your mobile telephony provider in your country. Travelers using a SIM card from a non-EU state do not benefit from the new arrangement.

Free Internet access via Wi-Fi is possible in many busy tourist spots. When using public Wi-Fi networks, it is a wise precaution to ensure encryption of all passwords, credit card details and banking TANs entered. Use of a VPN app or security software to check the safety of a hotspot is recommended.



Top 10 sights

Top 10 sights in Ibiza

Dalt Vila

Dalt Vila is the historic centre of Ibiza's main town, Eivissa, and is quite staggeringly beautiful, with golden ramparts, ancient gateways and several pretty churches.

Eivissa
07800 Ibiza
Spain

Catedral de Sante Maria

With roots in a Phoenician temple, the present-day cathedral of Ibiza was built in the 13th century, and despite tinkering 500 years later, it still sports an impressive Gothic tower.

Plaza de la Catedral, s/n
07800 Ibiza
Spain

Opening times:
Tue-Sat 1000-1400 and 1700-2000

www.obispadodeibiza.es/es/catedral-de-ibiza.html

Museu d'Art Contemporani

This charming contemporary art gallery inside the old city walls features painting, photography and sculpture predominantly by artists with an Ibiza connection.

Ronda Narcís Putget
07800 Ciudad de Ibiza
Spain

Opening times:
Tue-Fri 1000-1400 and 1700-2000
Sat-Sun 1000-1400

www.eivissa.es/mace

Ses Salines

A short drive from the main town of Eivissa, this popular golden beach is in a wildlife conservation area. It's also a place to party, with plentiful bars, restaurants, clubs and shops.

Ses Salines
Ibiza
Spain

Agua Blanca

With looming cliffs and clear-blue water, Agua Blanca is one of the best beach spots on the island, popular with nudists.

Agua Blanca
07850 Ibiza
Spain

Formentera

Immediately to the south of Ibiza (they're almost touching), lies the smaller island of Formentera. With few tourists and quiet beaches, it's great for a day trip.

Formentera
Spain
Tel: +34 971 322 057

www.formentera.es

Tagomago

A tiny island to the northwest of Ibiza, Tagomago is ideal for fishing enthusiasts and those keen on water sports.

Tagomago Island
Spain
Tel: +34 691 858 553

www.island-tagomago.com

Museo Arqueológico de Ibiza y Formentera

With a history dating back more than 2,500 years to the Phoenicians, Ibiza (and nearby Formentera) is a treasure trove of archaeological finds, many of them displayed in this museum.

Via Romana, 31
07800 Ibiza
Spain

Opening times:
Tue-Sat 0930-1500 (Oct-Mar)
Tue-Sat 1000-1400 and 1830-2100

(Apr-Sep)
Sun 1000-1400

www.maef.es

Centro de Interpretación Madina Yabisa

Ibiza was ruled by the Moors in the Middle Ages, as explained through artefacts and exhibits at this museum, while an impressive video tells the story of the island's Islamic history.

Casa De La Curia
Carrer Major, 2
07800 Ibiza
Spain

Opening times:
Tue-Fri 1000-1400 and 1700-2000
(Apr-Jun, Sep)
Tue-Fri 1000-1400 and 1800-2100 (Jul-Aug)
Tue-Fri 1000-1630 (Oct-Mar)
Sat-Sun 1000-1400

www.eivissa.es

Benirrás

Head to this pleasant bay for snorkelling beneath rugged cliffs, or follow trails leading into forested hills for a break from sunbathing.

Carrer Benirràs A, 1B
07810 Sant Joan de Labritja
Ibiza
Spain



Shopping in Ibiza Shopping in Ibiza

Key Areas

Ibiza is known for its traditional pottery, which tends to be of high quality and good value, as well as leatherwear. The principal shopping street is Vara de Rey, with stores operating out of historic buildings flogging high-street brands. In the Old Town, there are lots of artisanal shops selling handmade goods.

Markets

Lest we forget that Ibiza's tourist roots lie in the hippies that started showing up in the 1960s, there are various markets in Eivissa and elsewhere with artisans selling jewellery, pottery, paintings, clothes and various souvenirs. Perhaps the most famous is Las Dalias Hippy Market in Sant Carles de Peralta, opened in 1973 and still going strong, now with restaurants, bars and events.

Shopping Centres

There are a handful of malls on the island. Centro Comercial la Sirena is one of the largest and best for clothes, with everything from Calvin Klein and Armani, to Diesel and Nike.

Restaurants Restaurants in Ibiza

Ibiza is known around the world as a party capital. These days it's not just techno and house DJs soundtracking the revelry, but top bands and singers, too. There are, believe it or not, also a few more laid-back bars amidst the ever-more extravagant clubs.

Nikki Beach

Imported from Miami, this new over-the-top bar on the beach is decadence personified.

Avenida S'Argamassa 153, Santa
Eulalia del Rio
07840 Ibiza
Spain

Boom

With hip DJs and residencies from the likes of UK record label Defected, this is an über-cool club.

Passeig Joan Carles I 9
07800 Ibiza
Spain

Pacha

Dating back 30 years, this cherry-flavoured nightspot is one of Ibiza's pioneering clubs.

Avinguda 8 d'Agost
07800 Ibiza
Spain

Space

One of Ibiza's most legendary locales, the party never stops in the colossal Space.

Playa d'en Bossa
07817 Ibiza
Spain

Charlies Bar

With cocktails, bingo and live music, this unpretentious venue is one of Ibiza's favourites.

Avenida Punta Arabi
Es Canar
07840 Ibiza
Spain



Calendar of events
Calendar of events

Ibiza Carnival

In the days leading up to Maundy Thursday, Ibizans celebrate with loud, colourful parades of brilliantly decorated floats and dance troupes performing synchronised moves to thumping tunes. The partying ends with the 'Burial of the Sardine' on Ash Wednesday, when a giant papier mâché sardine is set alight.

February 19 - 24, 2020

Venue: Throughout Ibiza

Eivissa Medieval

Celebrating the UNESCO World Heritage status of Ibiza's fortified Upper Town (Dalt Vila), this festival transforms the streets into medieval thoroughfares, complete with colourful bunting, flags and tents. Jousting, juggling, falconry and traditional craft demonstrations are accompanied by music played on authentic instruments.

May 7 - 10, 2020

Venue: Upper Town (Dalt Vila)

Festival Cultural Nits de Tanit

Spanish and international artists stage a terrific cultural programme on evenings throughout the summer. The festival blends classical and operatic concerts with theatrical performances, dance displays and ingenious circus acts. The setting in the historic university grounds makes for an atmospheric occasion.

July - August 2020

Venue: Most events take place in the grounds of the Universitat de les Illes Balears

Ibiza Rocks

Big-name bands and DJs keep partygoers on their feet at Ibiza's summer rock festival which stretches from May to October. The festival kicks off at the legendary Pacha opening night and continues with regular boot-stomping gigs at the Ibiza Rocks Hotel.

June - September 2020

Venue: Ibiza Rocks Hotel (most events)

Fiestas de la Tierra

Held in honour of the patron saints Santa Maria and Sant Ciriac, these annual festivities are a vibrant mix of dazzling parades, fun kids' activities, cracking live music, folk dancing and sparkling fireworks displays. The Feast of Sant Ciriac is celebrated on 8 August with a mass and procession.

August 2020

Venue: Ibiza Town

Virgen del Carmen Festivities

Every year on 16 July, religious processions are held in honour of Virgen del Carmen, the patron saint of fishermen and sailors. Statues of the Virgen are carried

aloft through the streets and onto boats, where they are accompanied out to sea by decorated flotillas.

July 16, 2020

Venue: Various locations including Ibiza Town, Sant Antoni, Es Cubells and Portinatx

Ibiza Music Video Festival

Recognising the finest music videos of the year, this festival awards prizes to the best entries in a two-day competition. Industry experts are on hand to give an insight into music video production, and workshops allow entrants and visitors to pick up creative tips.

October 2020

Venue: Sant Josep de la Talaia



Hotels Hotels in Ibiza

There's no shortage of lofty resort hotels to hole yourself up in Ibiza, particularly in Sant Antoni, with excellent beaches. There are also some more rustic options away from the tourist hubs in little villages, as well as in Els Amunts – the uplands.

Ushuaia Beach Hotel

Probably the most extravagant and hedonistic hotel in Ibiza, Ushuaia has its own poolside concert venue.

Playa d'en Bossa 10
Sant Jordi de Ses Salines
07817 Ibiza
Spain

Category: Expensive

Grand Hotel Palladium Spa & Health Resort

One of the few 5-star hotels in Ibiza, this 27-room design property is inspired by Italy.

Calle Los Lirios 1
07839 Ibiza
Spain

Category: Moderate

El Hotel Pacha

With just over 50 suites, El Hotel Pacha is an iconic party spot with restaurant and swimming pool.

Paseo Maritimo s/n
07840 Santa Eulalia del Río
Ibiza
Spain

Category: Moderate

Neptuno

For a quieter stay, try this family hotel near Es Pouet Beach, with excellent views of the sea.

C/ Bella Vista, 2
07820 Sant Antoni de Portmany
Ibiza
Spain

Category: Cheap