

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips

INSIDER TIP Tasty medicine

Menorcan *chamomile flowers* are a well-known traditional panacea and – in case you're not a fan of Chamomile tea – is really tasty as chamomile liqueur → p. 31

INSIDER TIP First class views of the port

From the end of the short alleyway *Carrer d'Alfons III* you will find the best view of extensive Port de Maó and its many boats (photo right) → p. 39

INSIDER TIP On the town walls

From the *Bastió des Governador* in Ciutadella you can cast your gaze as far as the lighthouse at the mouth of the port → p. 80

INSIDER TIP Underground nights

"Singing, laughing, having a wonderful time" – that's how a regular sums up this bar. You'll find the best atmosphere on weekends at *Es Cau*, a cave bar in Es Castell → p. 35

INSIDER TIP Hikes for those with steady nerves

The adventurous hiking tours through the unspoilt *Barranc d'Algendar* are ideal for both hiking fans and nature lovers – experienced guides ensure that no one gets lost → p. 104

INSIDER TIP Every Tuesday

Hot summer evenings: On Tuesday nights, the historic district of Maó is where the party is. During the *Nits de Música al Carrer*, the shops stay open longer and there are special deals on tapas. Bands play to warm up the crowds → p. 43

INSIDER TIP Gourmet in a quarry

The light sandstone walls in the restaurant *Sa Pedrera d'es Pujol* are reminiscent of the old quarry that used to be here, but the meals created by Daniel and Nuria are as modern as it gets: the finest Menorcan cuisine → p. 50

INSIDER TIP High C in the cloister

Delightful sounds fill the otherwise quiet cloister of the old seminary in Ciutadella during the summer music festival, the *Festival de Música d'Estiu* → p. 110

INSIDER TIP Boating to a beautiful bay

Menorca's idyllic bay can be a bit tricky to get to, but it's easy to experience the *Cala Macarella* if you approach it from the water – and you'll also get to see the gorgeous southern coast in the process → p. 87

INSIDER TIP Paddling in the lagoon

The water in the almost entirely enclosed bay of *Fornells* is so still that even newbies are happy to climb into a kayak or onto a paddleboard. When the water is clear, you can see all the way to the bottom → p. 55

INSIDER TIP Relax in a historic villa

Peacocks in the garden and organic, home-grown produce for breakfast, the *Son Granot* finca is a fine place to relax and feel good → p. 35

INSIDER TIP Sundown relaxation

Sink into the soft cushions of the patio seats at beach club *Isabella* with a drink in your hand while the sun sets into the lagoon of Fornells → p. 55

INSIDER TIP Walking with a sheep

On the "Sunday of the Sheep" at the start of the *St John the Baptist* celebrations in June, a farmer's son carries a lamb on his shoulders through Ciutadella → p. 110

INSIDER TIP Sweet seduction

You can get *turrón* – the sweet almond and honey speciality typical of the Balearic Islands – in all its delicious varieties at the specialists *El Turroneiro* in the centre of Maó (photo left) → p. 42

INSIDER TIP Lodgings with charme

An old palace, lovingly restored and featuring trendy design: *Jardi de ses Bruixes* is Maó's most beautiful hotel. Enjoy your breakfast in art nouveau ambience! → p. 45



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

FOR FREE

● Green view from the tower

The largest environmental organisation on the island (*GOB Menorca*) has its base in the capital at the *Molí del Rei* (the king's mill) which has splendid views of Maó town and harbour. Admission is free → p. 38

● Archaische Architektur

Want to explore Menorca's prehistoric era? You can visit one of the largest and most beautiful settlements for free, and it's thousands of years old: *Talaiot de Trepucó* → p. 46

● Green and free

You can visit the protected wetlands *S'Albufera d'es Grau* – with its rich variety of flora and fauna – on your own or as part of a group tour, and the best thing about it is that the guides are free (photo) → p. 56

● Free open-air observatory

Some places on the north coast are so free of light pollution that after sunset you can see thousands of stars with the naked eye. One of the best places not only for hobby astronomers is *Punta Nati* on the north-western tip of the island → p. 88

● Free wireless internet connection

Although you are usually charged for using WiFi on Menorca, the local government is now setting up free WiFi zones on all of the Balearic beaches – the project is called "IB-WiFi Playas" → p. 117

● Parking is free at the beach

Access and parking at most of the island's unspoilt beaches is once again free of charge. And you can save the 5 euros parking fee for *Calas Macarella* and *Macarelleta* by using the first car park (not far from the beach) and taking a short walk → p. 87



●●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

ONLY ON MENORCA

Unique experiences

● On horseback

Horses are to Menorca what Edelweiss is to the Alps. Experience the beautiful creatures on a trail ride (photo) by booking with a company like *Cavalls Son Àngel* – or attend celebrations like *Festes de la Verge de Gràcia* in Maó → p. 109, 111

● Agritourism

Enjoy a stylish and atmospheric stay in an old country house converted into a hotel, such as the *Binigaus Vell*: old Menorcan tools, rough plastered walls in gleaming white and modern 4-star comforts → p. 70

● Lobster stew

Not cheap, but the original *caldereta* – preferably served in an earthenware *olla* – in a restaurant such as *La Guapa* in Fornells, is as much a part of a Menorca holiday as the missing corners of the island's cheese → p. 54

● Sunken fortresses

The majority of fortresses were constructed in the era of piracy and colonial wars. Nature has reclaimed many of the buildings in the meantime, but some of them were preserved, such as the fortress *La Mola* and the *Castell de Sant Felip* near Maó → p. 46, 35

● In search of everyday Menorcan cuisine

Erected in the middle of the 19th century and renovated during the 21st century, the *Mercat* (market) in Ciutadella, tiled in green and white, has a timeless quality. Here you can look over the shoulders of Menorcan women as they go about their shopping → p. 79

● The cradle of civilisation

How did the indigenous people manage to erect these colossal structures? There are many prehistoric stone formations on Menorca, even if they are often in ruins today. One of the most impressive stone formations is the ruins of an entire city, *Torre d'en Galmés* → p. 65

● Caribbean flair

Typical of Menorca's sunny south side are the ravines which run out into small coves with fine, white sand against the backdrop of the turquoise sea. A good example is *Cala Trebalúger* near Cala Galdana → p. 69



ONLY ON

DISCOVERY TOURS

1

MENORCA AT A GLANCE



START: ① Binibèquer Vell
END: ⑬ Cap d'Artrutx

2 days
Driving time
(without stops)
3 ½ hours

Distance:
→ 140 km/87 miles



COSTS: approx. 180 euros (including rental car, petrol, food for two adults, overnight stay in affordable hotel, e.g. *S'Engolidor* → p. 70 in Es Migjorn Gran)

WHAT TO PACK: Swimwear, sun protection and picnic, if you'd like

IMPORTANT TIPS: If you can, start your tour on a Wednesday to coincide with the market held in ⑦ *Alaior*.

Day 2 shouldn't be a Monday, since the lighthouse restaurant *Es Far d'Artrutx* is closed on Mondays.

Would you like to explore the places that are unique to this island? Then the Discovery Tours are just the thing for you – they include terrific tips for stops worth making, breathtaking places to visit, selected restaurants and fun activities. It's even easier with the Touring App: download the tour with map and route to your smartphone using the QR Code on pages 2/3 or from the website address in the footer below – and you'll never get lost again even when you're offline.

TOURING
APP

→ p. 2/3

Menorca's network of roads resembles a fish's skeleton: the island is bisected by the main vertebral spine, the Me-1 motorway, running between Maó in the east and Ciutadella in the west, with smaller roads branching off to the coast in the north and south. This tour takes you from east to west and then from north to south, to the island's former and present day capital, to lively harbours and dormant villages, to paradise bays and rugged capes – explore the island's diversity on this unique tour.

The starting point is ① *Binibèquer Vell* → p. 50 with a Mediterranean breakfast of croissants and a steaming cup of *café amb llet* (milky coffee) at the *Club Náutico*. The pic-

DAY 1

① Binibèquer Vell

