

Mahon, Menorca

City Introduction

On the east coast of this delightfully unspoilt island, Mahon is its modern capital. As compact as a capital could be, it can be crossed on foot in less than 15 minutes. Its buildings are an unobtrusive blend of typically Spanish and intriguingly Georgian. But if nothing on land stands out as unmissable, that's probably because no man-made attraction could ever compete with nature. When you enter the bay, that forms this natural port, you're sailing on the best bit of Mahon! Among the biggest and most beautiful harbours in the Med, it is equally breathtaking from land or sea - so aim to be up on deck, with a camera, as Island Escape arrives and departs. By the ferry terminal, a series of stone stairways take you up to four small squares - the Plaça Espana, with exquisite bay views and an historic fish market, Plaça Carme, where shops and food stalls cluster in the cloisters of a Carmelite church; the quieter Plaça Conquesta and, finally, Plaça Constitucio, fronting the historic church of Santa Maria. There's a liberal sprinkling of cafés and tapas bars throughout the town, and one other square worth finding - the Plaça S'Esplanada, adorned with flowers and fountains. Make sure you explore Mahon on foot. It's the only way you won't miss a thing.

Port Information

Language: Spanish, but English is widely spoken and understood.

Currency: Euro. Foreign exchange is available with cash only from the Exchange Desk on deck 5. Major credit cards are accepted in most shops, cafés and restaurants. Bank and ATM machines are available in the town centre.

'Arrival' & 'All aboard' times: Please check on your Island Chat.

Transportation

Walking: It is a 10 minute uphill walk into town but the steps leading up from the quayside may be difficult for those with limited mobility. There are approx 120 steps.

Taxis: Taxis are available on the quayside to the left of where we dock. They are generally not metered so ensure that you agree a price with the driver before getting in.

Buses: The nearest bus stop is about a 5 minute walk from the port. Services operate from Mahon to local beaches, villages, and to Cuitadella, but there is no bus service that will take you up the hill into Mahon town.

Boats Trips: As you leave the ship you will find a number of kiosks offering boat trips around the harbour with historical commentary and underwater panoramic viewing area.

Local Services

Banks: There is an ATM machine situated on the quayside to the left of the ship's berth. All major credit cards are accepted.

Shopping: There are some souvenir shops along the port but the main shopping areas are located at the top of the steps and along Plaça Ravalet. The main square is Plaça d'Espanya which is Mahon's main square. Best buys in Mahon include costume jewellery, leather goods, gin and cheese. Shops generally open between 09.00-13.30 and 16.30-20.00, although souvenir shops tend to stay open all day.

Places of Interest

Church of Del Carme: Situated in the Plaça Del Carme. Commenced in 1750 and built in the neo-classical style.

Scientific and Literary Athenaeum: It has a library of Menorcan themes and fine collections of birds, molluscs and algae.

Xoriguer Gin Distillery: Menorcan gin is very aromatic and very tasty. At the front is a liquor outlet and souvenir shop where you can sample it for yourself. By walking, exit the port gates, turn right and follow the waterfront for approx 5-10 minutes.

Beaches: Menorca has many beautiful beaches to choose. The closest beach is Cala Mesquida (a 10 minute drive by taxi). A little further out is Punta Prima (a 25 minute drive) but by far the nicest beach is at Son Bou a 30 minute taxi drive away. Also, Cala Galdana and Arenal den Castell form a necklace of beautiful sandy shores, with resort facilities close to hand and boats, water scooters and sports available from the beach.

Shore Excursions: Visit the team at the Shore Excursions desk, Deck 5, if you prefer to let us organise an excursion for you.

Safety Notices

Menorca is a beautiful island and has a very low crime rate. Guests very rarely encounter any problems but it is always wise to be vigilant. Casual and cool dress is the norm, although beachwear should be restricted to the beaches. If you intend to visit any religious buildings please adhere to the religious dress code.