

SLEEPING

Where you stay depends on what you want to get out of your visit. The intimate boutique hotels of the city centre (especially those near the Passeig des Born or around the Plaça Major) place you in the thick of the capital's shopping, restaurant and nightlife districts. For views, head to the Passeig Marítim or Passeig de Mallorca. West of the centre cluster several business hotels; these aren't particularly convenient for sightseers but are practical places to stay if having wi-fi and a work centre are important considerations.

Old Palma

The often hard-to-find hotels dotted throughout Palma's historic centre offer a romantic old-world ambience.

Hostal Bronco (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 719043; www.hostalbronco.net; Carrer de Can Brondo 1, 5; €40) Without a room (€35/€60), it has bathroom (€5). Bronco's high-ceilinged rooms (try to nab No 3, which has a glassed-in gallery) are furnished in style varying from Mallorcan to vaguely Moroccan. The friendly owners are as good as a tourist office when it comes to giving advice about the city. Downsides include slightly cramped quarters and street noise.

Hotel Dalt Murada (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 425300; www.daltmurada.org; Carrer d'Almudana 6; r €140/200) This aristocratic manor-house-turned-hotel dates from 1500 and is filled with art and antique furniture that evoke days gone by. Museum-worthy paintings, chandeliers and canopied beds decorate the rooms, whose ceilings are held up by timber beams. Modern concessions include womb-like jacuzzis and an elevator.

Hotel Palaco Ca Sa Galea (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 715400; www.palacosaalea.com; Carrer de Ramon 8; s €240, d €300-435; p ☎ ☎) Staying in this luxurious 12-room hotel is like being a guest in a private, 16th-century Mallorcan mansion. The antique furniture, soaring ceilings and silk wall coverings are truly indulgent, while welcoming living spaces like a stocked reading room, breezy patio and cheery yellow kitchen (where you can help yourself to tea and cake) keep things from getting too stuffy.

Plaça Major & Around

The hotels in this buzzing central quarter stand elbow-to-elbow with upscale shops, terrace cafés and fine restaurants.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Born (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 712942; www.hotelborn.com; Carrer de Sant Jaume; s €50-65, d €73-105) Sleeping into this 16th-century Can Marroto manor house is like stepping back in time. From the palatial reception area, take the spiral staircase to a red-carpeted hallway where carved wooden doors creek open to reveal simply furnished rooms, whose high ceilings dwarf antique, slightly careworn furniture. For old-world ambience and a central location, look no further.

Hotel Ca Sa Padrina (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 425300; www.hotelcassapadrina.com; Carrer de les Terres 2; s €80, d €90-120) ☎ ☎ Ca Sa Padrina has no reception office, so all communication is via closed-circuit cameras and a telephone with a direct line to the staff of the Hotel Dalt Murada (see opposite). A small sign in the lobby reads, 'If the telephone sounds [sic] because we see you on the camera and we have to talk with you, strange. But once you get over the spooky Big Brother feel, this quaint guesthouse is quite nice. Thankfully there are no cameras in the bedrooms, where antique bathtubs, carved wooden beds and views of the old town set a cosy rest tone. * **Mov**

Misión de San Miguel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 2468; www.misiondesanmiguel.com; Carrer de Can Raquel 1; r €110-130; p ☎ ☎) A shockingly good deal, this 32-room boutique hotel is a real find. We can't help but think that once the word gets out the prices will go up, but for now Mission is a steal. The hotel is on a hard-to-find side street off Carrer dels Oms, so the dark and spacious rooms are quiet, with free wi-fi, perfectly firm mattresses and rain showers. The restaurant, T'rebol, serves a fabulous made-to-order breakfast – the omelette is divine – and to top it off you can enjoy percs like free parking and a romantic patio area.

Hotel Jaime III (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 725943; www.hoteljaimeiii.com; Passeig de Mallorca 14; r €165; ☎ ☎) This antique hotel overlooking the palm-lined Passeig de Mallorca tries a wee bit too hard to be cool, with kitschy art in the lobby and slightly snooty service. But if you're looking for a fashionable, central place at a reasonable price, this is an excellent option. Rooms boast striking white-red linens, wenge furniture, flat-screen TVs and free wi-fi. Breakfast is not included in the room price.

TOP END

Convent de la Missió (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 227347; www.conventdelamissio.com; Carrer del Convent de la Missió 7; r and

breakfast €225-390; p ☎ ☎) A functioning convent from the 1600s until 2003, this intimate boutique hotel has just 14 rooms and a Zen-like calm created by all-white rooms with wispy curtains and airy spaces. Though there's no pool, couples will enjoy the romantic Arab-style hot tub and sauna located in the stone-walled underground cellar. You can also relax on the rooftop terrace or in the artfully designed reading room. Dine in the stylishly minimalist restaurant, Refectori (p90).

Es Puig de Sant Pere

If you stay in this busy, tourist-friendly district, you'll never be more than a few minutes' walk from restaurants, tapas bars and nightclubs.

BUDGET

Hostal Pons (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 722658; Carrer del Virg s/6; r without bathroom €35/40/60) If you had a Mallorcan grandmother, her house might look like this. The 22 rooms are quaint, if dusty, with creaky 1950s-style twin beds and, for the lucky, views of an interior patio. The kindly owner has been running this place for 50-plus years and still takes reservations on an old black rotary phone. No elevator.

Hostal Apuntadores (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 734910; www.galnia-hostales.com; Carrer dels Apuntadors 4; s/d €32/64 without bathroom €33/48; ☎ ☎) Right on the main drag (bring earplugs), this unfussy spot makes up for its smallish rooms and lumpy beds with balconies, lots of sunlight and a rooftop terrace that overlooks the cathedral and serves drinks. Wi-fi in reception.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Palau Sa Font (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 712277; www.palauisfont.com; Carrer dels Apuntadors 38; s €90-105, d €145-200; ☎ ☎) Tucked away on a quiet side street, this former 16th-century palace offers 19 sparsely decorated rooms. Wrought iron beds and a few splashes of colour in the form of a pale green headboard or a simple red chair give the rooms a feeling of almost monastic calm. Internet connection for laptops.

Hotel Saratoga (Map pp70-1; ☎ 971 727240; www.hotel-saratoga.es; Passeig de Mallorca 6; s/d €115/180; ☎ ☎) Although not as quaint or intimate as other hotels in the area, this swanky four-star can't be beat for convenience. A great location, sea views, full breakfast buffet, large pool, and a fab rooftop terrace with views make it a popular place. Rooms are standard business-style

guests) followed later by a bigger and the life.

1-April Processions dot the Easter most impressive are those on Holy Processó del Sant Crist de la Mare and hooded members of (66) parade with a paso (heavy borne by a team of men). It starts at Crist de la Sang (Map pp70-1), and returns hours later.

Danses Folkloriques (www.danses.com; April) A three-day festival. A five-day folk extravaganza around the world performing in squares.

concerts.com; April) A three-day festival. A five-day folk extravaganza around the world performing in squares.

the following Sunday at 7pm. Towers are laid out in front of the a Cort. Concert cycles (many can also be visited at this pole for about a month around

23) The night before the feast celebrated with fiery dancing. As the running begins in the Parc up 35 demons, and armed with loud probably be illegal in hall, real procession. Leads then heat inferring musical groups and a partying crowd until dawn.

held in the Castell del Benker, flamenco, jazz and Cuban. See the where to buy tickets.

temporary art fair launched a four- n in Palma's airport (terminal A), 2 Art Cologne, concentrating on

A more established art event, all town throw open their trends in art.