

MALLORCA 11-18 OCTOBER 2021

With significant improvement expected over the next few months in the COVID situation and the foreign holiday outlook becoming more positive, it seems reasonable to make some plans now for a holiday in the Autumn. In a sense, we are feeling our way back to some degree of pre-Covid normality and to get the ball rolling again we are suggesting a tried and tested trip to Mallorca in October this Autumn. We have had two very successful holidays there, most recently in 2019, and it ticks a lot of the boxes in terms of an easily arranged trip to an extremely pleasant location offering a range of walking and sight-seeing opportunities (see below).

It is also appreciated that folks are understandably hesitant to commit to holiday bookings, when pandemic travel and other restrictions can intervene to derail plans. And for this reason it is important to carefully consider the cancellation/refund policies of travel companies when planning holidays (again, see below).

With all this in mind, details of the proposed trip are as follows:-

LOCATION

Mallorca is the largest of the Balearic Islands and has long been well known as a paradise not only for sun worshippers,

but also for walkers who enjoy the varied and attractive scenery and the opportunities for walking in quiet places where other people rarely go. The north west corner of the island, with Puerto Pollenca at its heart, is ideally placed for walking; situated as it is between the heights of the Sierra de Tramontana region on one side, and the coastal attractions of beaches, orchards, vineyards and flora and fauna on the fertile plains of Alcudia on the other.

The recommended "season" for walkers is from mid-September to the end of May, so our proposed trip departing on 11th October aims to optimise the opportunity for fine walking weather. This, together with cheap and easy access to the start and end points (usually by public bus or taxi), should contribute to a rewarding walking experience. Those interested in joining the holiday should note that, while there are ample opportunities for challenging hikes in the Tramontana Mountains, our proposed walks programme will focus on the scenic, rather than the very strenuous or vertiginous, and will be self-guided by Club members who have some experience of walking in the area.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

Our research indicates that an online-booked Easyjet Holidays package of flight plus hotel offers attractive, well priced options of 7 nights (and more) duration. The company is offering a Protection Promise in respect of cancellation due to Covid considerations and changed plans. Details are on its web site and are essential reading in deciding whether or not to book.

As indicated above, we propose to stay in Puerto Pollensa, which is about 1 hour transfer distance from the island's airport, Palma, on the south coast. Our base for the trip will be the very well appointed 4 Mar Senses Hotel (Google it), which is centrally located, being only a short distance from bus and taxi transport, the beach and marina, and a range of shops, bars and restaurants. The Easyjet Holidays package includes:-*

- return flights from Belfast International to Palma de Mallorca;*
- 1 small Cabin Bag*
- 1 Hold Bag up to 23kg*
- Shuttle bus airport/hotel transfer; and*
- 7 nights accommodation in the Mar Senses Hotel on a half-board - breakfast and dinner basis.*

*The cost is £506 (*correct at the time of writing) per person in shared accommodation. At this stage only a £60 per person deposit is required to secure a booking, with the balance payable before departure (about 13 September 2021).*

It is possible, of course, for individuals to extend their holiday for a few days on either side of the 11 - 18th October dates, and the Easyjet Holidays website will give details of the costs.

Rooms are likely to book up very quickly over the next few weeks/months, not to mention the inevitable price rises, so you must make a decision without delay.

A further alternative, if Easyjet Holidays are unable to accommodate you within their room quota for Mar Senses, is to book your flight only, arrange your own transfers from the airport to the hotel, and book your room directly with the

hotel. But be aware that this do-it-yourself option is generally more expensive and complicated; and, in the event of things going wrong, is unlikely to be fully covered by ABTA/ATOL protection.

Members are responsible for making their own bookings with Easyjet Holidays and (again) should note that prices can vary as the departure date approaches. Room sharing arrangements should be agreed between individual Members; the Club will not become involved in this. Those members requiring single rooms, which are usually limited in number will need to contact Easyjet Holidays via their website details to explore availability and cost.

Flight details at this stage are:

Outward journey:

Dep. 20.50 Mon 11 Oct 2021 - Belfast Int.

Arr. 00.45 Tues 12 Oct 2021 Palma Mallorca

Return journey:

Dep. 18.20 Mon 18 Oct 2021 - Palma, Mallorca

Arr. 20.15 Belfast Int.

It is, of course, open to you to decide whether or not to stay for some further nights on either side of the core week of 11th to 18th Oct. For example, some of those who will be going intend to stay for 3 extra nights up to 21 Oct. See the EasyJet Holidays website for prices.

WHAT NOW

These holidays are being snapped up very quickly and it is essential that bookings are made without delay.

If you book please advise:-

Denis Hamill

Email - *****

Apr 2021