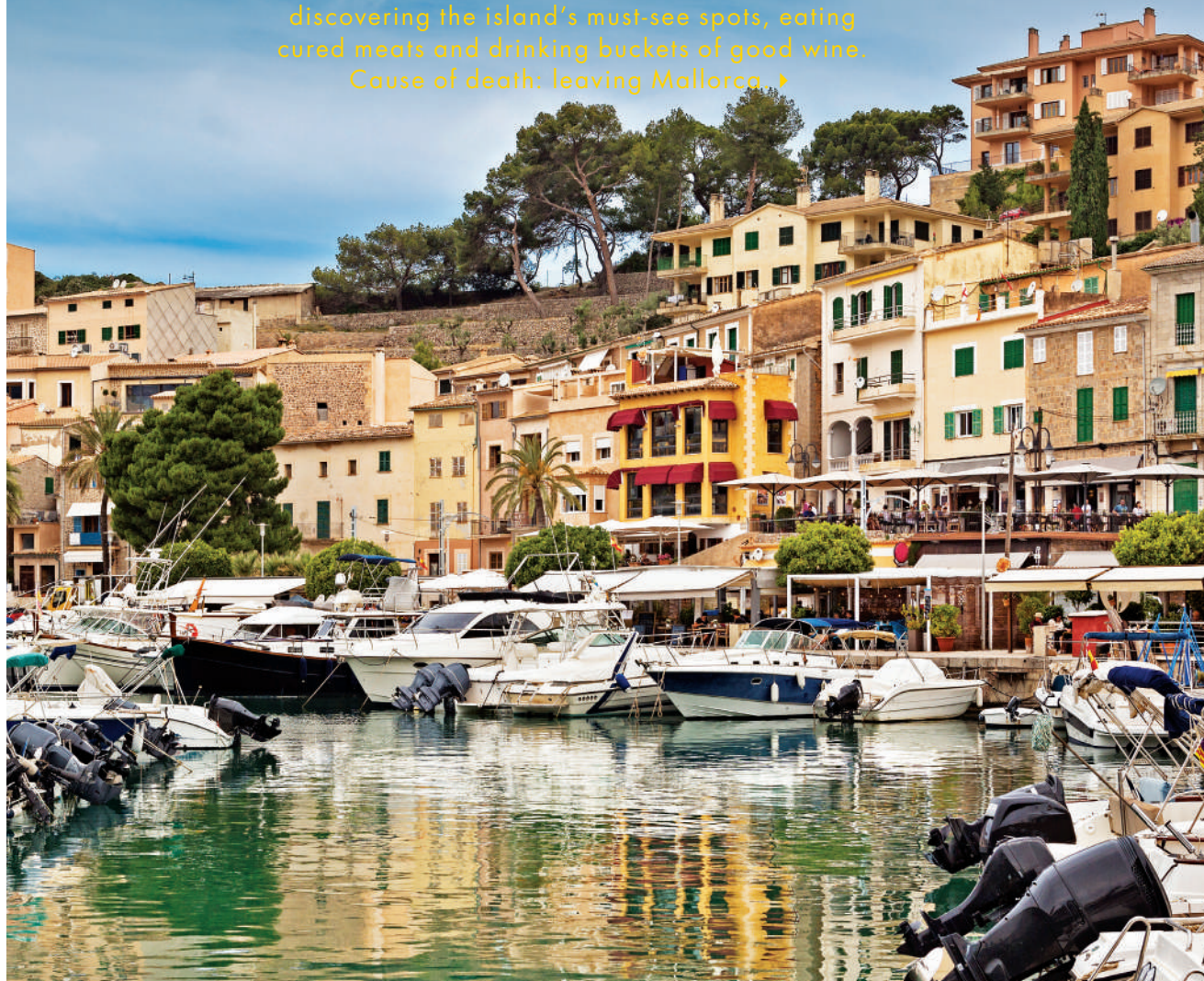


Life



So, Mallorca needs to be on your bucket list STAT

COSMO digital director Jaime Waddington spent four days exploring Mallorca with Google, discovering the island's must-see spots, eating cured meats and drinking buckets of good wine. Cause of death: leaving Mallorca. ▶



NGL, at the end of last year, girlfriend had had ~enough~. E-mails, WhatsApps, bank notifications: be gone, forever! So when the opportunity arose to jet off to Spain's largest Balearic Island, Mallorca, and be hosted by Google, I was all in. If you're like me, and think you know all there is to know about Google travel apps, prepare thyself. Here's how Google has made travelling super-easy. You'll never vacay the same way again.

Hey, Google, what should I do?

Shop (and eat!) your heart out in Palma's Old Town

Walk down the tiny alleyways of Palma's Old Town and you'll find everything from bookstores and art galleries to vintage shops and cute cafés. If you're after some delish Mallorcan products or souvenirs to bring back home, ask Google to direct you to **La Montaña**. Here you'll find the best selection of Mallorcan cheese, olive oil, wine and cured meats (look at the pic and cue the salivation!). If you're after a trendy take-home accessory, head to **Mimbrería Vidal** for a selection of the most gorge basket bags that'll pair perfectly with your 'I'm in Mallorca!' dress. Shopped out? Stop at **La Rosa Vermutería & Colmado** and order yourself a chilled glass of vermouth and some patatas bravas.

Take a ride in an old-school Spanish car and visit Valldemossa

Valldemossa is a historic town in Mallorca, situated in a picturesque valley of olive and almond trees under the **Tramuntana mountains**. The quaint streets are home to pastry shops, sidewalk cafés and boutiques. Ask Google where to go for a slice of cake, and it'll lead you to **Ca'n Molinas**. According to many locals, they make the best coca de patata (a delicious traditional potato bun) in Valldemossa. For a sugar overload, grab a cup of their delicious hot chocolate to accompany it.

Exploring the cobbled streets of Palma's Old Town



Setting off to explore Valldemossa in a vintage Spanish car



The temple at Son Marroig



View of the Cathedral of Mallorca by night



Head to Son Marroig for the best views of the island

It is one of Mallorca's most popular wedding venues, with its beautiful white temple and insane backdrop of the sea and mountains. It was also the spot for Laura and Paul's date in Season 4 of *Love Island*. #Obsessed.

Take the Sóller Tram to Port de Sóller

The tram takes you through the narrow streets of Sóller, where you can take in sights of locals dining at sidewalk restaurants and traditional Mallorcan townhouses with their famous green shutters, and witness the 'golden valley' of citrus groves. Hop off in Port de Sóller and head to **Ses Oliveres** for lunch. Indulge in the freshest seafood at this cosy and unassuming restaurant, which has beautiful views of the bay. Must-try: their steamed mussels, grilled Mallorcan rock octopus and seafood casserole. Now I'm hungry.

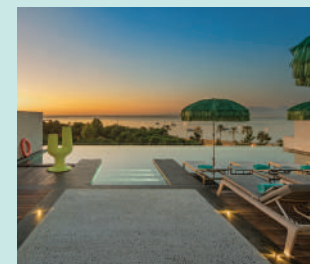
Take a boat trip and see the Cathedral of Mallorca at night

If you want to feel far away from home, hop on a yacht at sunset and take in the breath-taking sight that is the **Cathedral of Mallorca**. Board at Palma's port, pack some sundowners and enjoy panoramic views of the city and lit-up cathedral from the sea.

Hey, Google, where should I stay?

Hotel El Llorenç Parc de la Mar

El Llorenç is situated right in front of the sea in La Calatrava. On arrival, I was greeted with a glass of champers and shown to my beautifully furnished room that overlooked the courtyard. If you're keen to take a break from walking around and feasting on meat and cheese (it me!), El Llorenç has an incredible spa for some much-needed R and R. It also has an Insta-worthy pool deck, with an infinity pool looking over the Bay of Palma.



Hotel Sant Francesc

This boutique hotel is in the heart of Palma. Contemporary art, photographs and mirrors adorn the walls, so prepare yourself for loads of 'Grammable opportunities'. Their private rooftop terrace boasts a swimming pool that looks over the beautiful cathedrals and historic ceramic-topped buildings of Palma's Old Town. ▶





Google tip: ask Google what the oldest pastry shop is in Mallorca and it'll lead you to Ca'n Joan De s'Aigo. Their ensaïmades are lighter than air.

The bar at Fera Restaurant & Bar



The terrace at De Tokio a Lima



El Camino



Enjoying a glass of rosé in the heart of Palma



Catching snaps for the 'Gram at De Tokio a Lima

Hey, Google, what should I eat?

Start your day off like a true Mallorquin with Mallorca's famous sugar-dusted pastry **ensaïmada** and a coffee. This light, flaky delicacy has been proudly produced on the island since the 17th century. In Catalan (the co-official language of the Balearic Islands), the word 'saim' is translated as 'pork lard', and it's this key ingredient that gives the treat its distinctive taste and texture. Some are also filled with cream, pumpkin jam and almond paste. Drool.

Sobrasada – a cured pork sausage spiced with paprika that pairs well with bread, cheese, wine, olives and happiness – is a celeb in Mallorca. Pair this delicious, soft and salty sausage with a cold beer

and you'll become one with pure bliss. Was anyone else obsessed with trying ratatouille after watching the movie? Well, in Spain, you can try the Mallorcan version, called tumbet. It's a roasted-vegetable dish layered with slices of aubergines, potatoes and bell peppers, and topped with a tomato sauce spiced with oregano and thyme.

Tomato bread (pa amb tomàquet). Sounds weird, right? Thought the same. But it's a far stretch from the soggy mess you're imagining. Think plump, ripe smashed tomatoes, decorated with sea salt, piled on top of slices of crunchy grilled bread, rubbed with garlic and soaked in olive oil. It's crunchy, salty and sweet all at the same time.



Ensaïmada



Tumbet



Pa amb tomàquet

MUST-TRY RESTAURANTS

Fera Restaurant & Bar
In the heart of Palma, hidden on a cobbled street in Jaime III, in a spectacularly restored Old Town palace, is Fera. This minimalist, gallery-like restaurant offers anything but a minimal experience. Chef Simon Petutschnig takes inspiration from Mediterranean and Asian flavours to create innovative works of art that will make you literally say 'mmm' out loud and inappropriately. It's also exquisite. Think classy after-work (or beach!) drinks or the ideal setting for a romantic date. Try the bluefin tuna, the crispy nori roll with wagyu steak tartare (so good), and the yuzu mousse (lemon, cream and thyme crumble disguised as a whole lemon) for dessert. *Chef's kiss*

De Tokio a Lima
Located in the Boutique Hotel Can Alomar, De Tokio a Lima is the perfect lunch spot to dine alfresco. Overlooking the tree-lined Paseo del Borne, the

restaurant has two idyllic terraces, and offers a fusion of Japanese, Peruvian and Mediterranean cuisine. Try their glazed Iberian pork with sweet-and-sour sauce and a mango salad, and their creamy pie of Sóller lemons, meringue and sorbet for dessert. Pro tip: be sure to take snaps on one of the terraces for the dopest pictures.

El Camino
El Camino is a Mediterranean tapas restaurant in the centre of Palma. Although tapas restaurants are nothing new or special in Mallorca, El Camino is certainly an experience. You are invited to eat with a view of the kitchen on a long marble table, and can choose your dishes from menus that also serve as placemats. You can't reserve a spot, but the wait is 100% worth it. Their dishes are simple yet absolutely delicious. I've had three dreams about their tomato bread since then. ■

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You will be eligible to participate in a competition promoted by us after the expiry of three months after the date on which you won the last competition. **3** Unless otherwise stated, only one entry per person is allowed. Where more than one entry is received by the same person or e-mail address, only the first entry received will be deemed valid. **4** No cash alternative to the prizes will be offered. The prizes are not transferable. **5** Entrants must be South African citizens. **6** It is your responsibility to ensure that any information you provide to us is accurate, complete and up to date. **7** If you use a mobile phone for entry into a competition, the telephone calls/text messages you make will be charged at the prevailing rates, which may vary from time to time. 'Free' minutes under a cellphone contract do not apply. **8** You must possess whatever documents and permissions may be required in order to accept and use a prize, including, as regards to international travel, a valid passport and all necessary visa and travel documentation, which documents and permissions it is your responsibility to obtain at your own cost, and which documents and permissions must remain valid in such minimum form and for such minimum period after the prize date as may be required by the relevant authorities. Any and all airport taxes are not included in the prize and will be for the winner's account unless otherwise stipulated. **9** Prize allocation is to be determined in accordance with the allocated project budget. If any advertiser/affiliate/supplier/promoter with whom AMP works in relation to a prize fails or neglects to provide the prize, then it shall not be exchanged for cash, but a suitable replacement prize, to be determined at the sole discretion of AMP, shall be provided. **10** Entrants must be 18 years or older at the time of entering the competition. **11** The winner(s) consents to his/her/their name/s, biographical details and involvement in the competition being made available to the sponsors, for publicity and prize-delivery purposes. **12** AMP accepts no liability for any entries that may be lost. **13** Winners use the prize at their own risk. 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If we are, or a third-party supplier is, unable to contact a winner within seven working days of first notification from AMP or its representative, the winner will forfeit the prize, and AMP reserves the right to re-draw a new winner under the same conditions. **17** In the event that you win a prize, you agree to the publication of your name and to appear in person in the electronic media and the print media, and you agree, within reason, to endorse, promote or advertise our goods or services, for which no fee will be payable. **18** You are hereby notified that you have a right to decline consenting to your name, biographical details and involvement in the competition being made available to sponsors in terms of clause 17 above. You further have the right to decline being photographed for and to appear in a feature in an AMP magazine in terms of clause 17 above. Should you wish to exercise either or both of these rights, you shall do so by informing us within five days of the announcement that you have won the competition, via e-mail to competitions@assomedia.co.za, in which e-mail you shall provide us with particulars of the rights which you wish to exercise. Should you not inform us that you intend exercising these rights within the above five-day period, you shall be deemed to have consented to the provisions of clause 17 above. **19** In the event that you win a prize provided by a third-party supplier, the supplier will contact you to arrange the collection thereof. In this regard, you must collect the prize at the time and date arranged with the supplier of the prize. All correspondence regarding the prize must be directed to the supplier of the prize. 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An opt-out will be provided in all communication sent.

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