

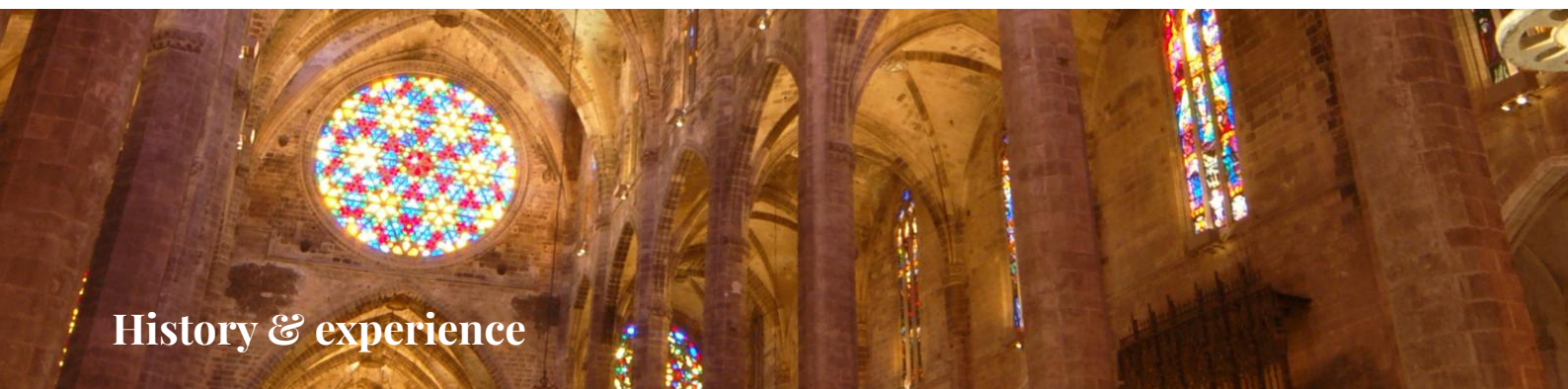


VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Cathedral of Palma de Mallorca

Palma de Mallorca · From 11€

<https://catedraldemallorca.visit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Mosque to Modern Masterpiece

GOOGLE **4.7** ★★★★★ 68 972 reviews

TIQETS **4.6** ★★★★★ 4 266 reviews

The story of La Seu begins not with a church, but with a conquest. In **1229**, King James I of Aragon conquered Palma from its Almohad rulers, transforming the city's great mosque into a cathedral site. This act of religious and political reclamation laid the foundation for one of Europe's most unique Gothic structures, blending Christian faith with the memory of the island's Islamic past.

Construction began in earnest in the 13th century, but the building evolved over nearly four centuries. The earliest surviving part is the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, completed in **1327**, which served as the burial place for the monarchs of Mallorca. By the late 15th century, the naves and vaults were finished, creating a space that defied traditional proportions. The structure is notably non-cruciform, lacking a transept or ambulatory, a design choice influenced by contemporary Catalan cathedrals like Barcelona's.

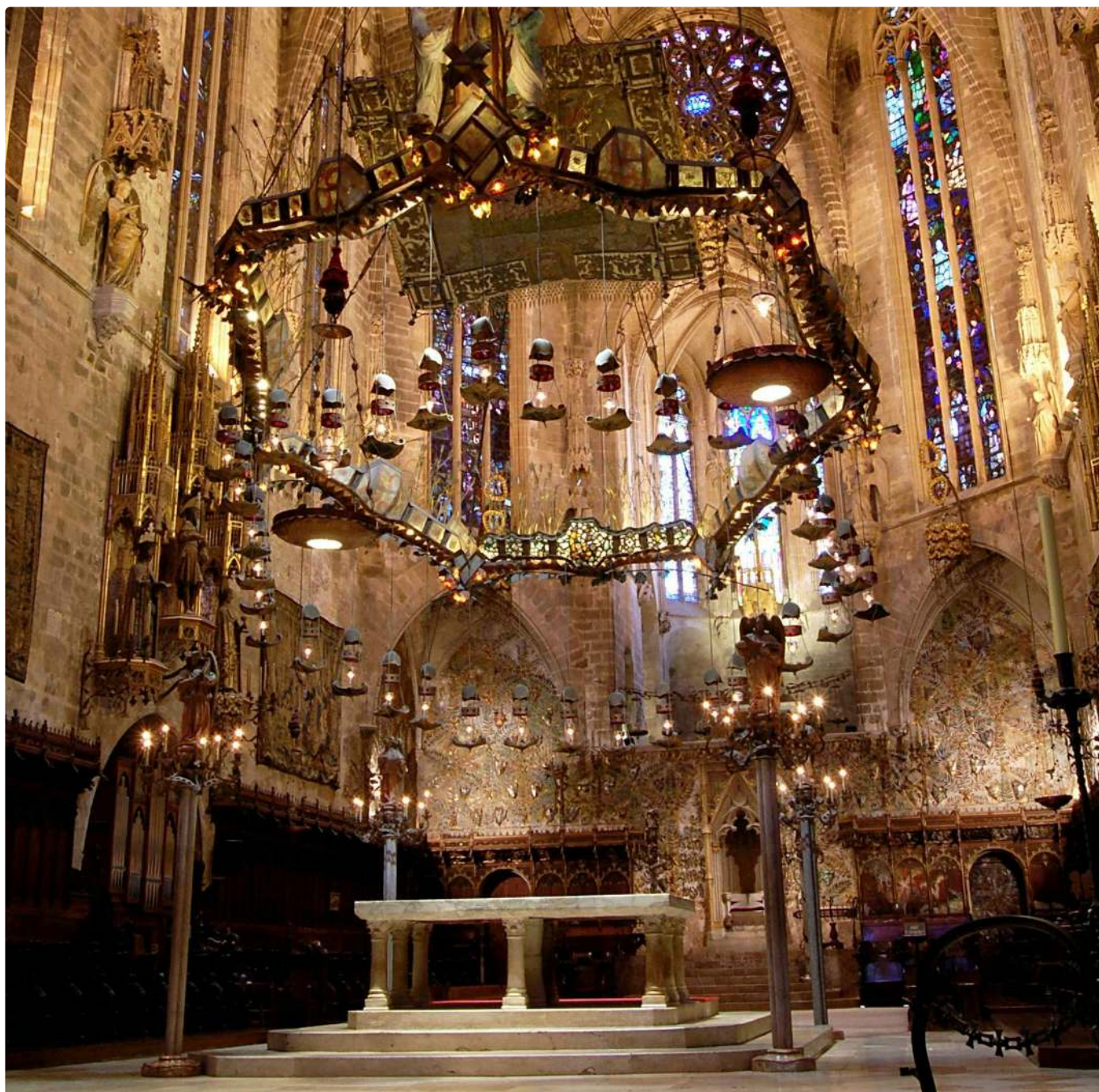
For centuries, the interior remained largely unchanged until the Baroque era added ornate decorations. However, the true transformation came in the early 20th century when **Antoni Gaudí** was invited to oversee restoration works. Between 1903 and 1914, Gaudí radically reconfigured the space to bring the liturgy closer to the faithful. He moved the choir stalls from the center of the nave to the side walls, allowing for a more open and accessible worship area, while designing an organic canopy above the altar that contrasts sharply with the surrounding stone.

In the 21st century, Mallorcan artist Miquel Barceló made another bold intervention between **2001 and 2006**. His work in the Chapel of Sant Pere introduced ceramic frescoes and grisaille stained glass evoking the sea floor, sparking debate among purists but cementing the cathedral's reputation as a living canvas where history, art, and faith continuously intersect.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping into La Seu is like entering a vertical void where light becomes a tangible force. The immediate sensation is one of awe, triggered by the sheer scale of the central nave, which soars to a height of **44 meters**. As your eyes adjust to the dimness, the natural light filtering through the massive rose window creates a hypnotic play of color on the stone floors, guiding your gaze upward toward the intricate vaults.

The atmosphere is contemplative yet dynamic, shaped by the interplay of medieval stonework and modern artistic interventions. You are surrounded by a silence that feels both ancient and alive, broken only by the distant hum of the Mediterranean outside. This unique blend of architectural grandeur and spiritual intimacy promises a visit that is less about passive observation and more about immersive discovery, where every corner reveals a new layer of history and artistry.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS Historic center · 5 min walk from Palma port. Bus: lines 1, 4, 11 stop 'Catedral'.	OPENING HOURS Check the times of religious services. Sometimes closed for private events in high season.
FEES Child free according to age (check variants). {promo}.	VISIT DURATION Plan 1h to 1h30 to appreciate the nave, the rose window and Gaudí's interventions without haste.
PHOTOS Allowed without flash in the nave. Photos are prohibited in certain specific chapels, follow the instructions. Check the rules for the choir and the stained gla	AUDIENCE Ideal for adults and cultural groups. The contemplative environment suits calm families well. Plan at least 1h30 to admire the Catalan Gothic architecture and t

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

	Car Palma de Mallorca Airport (28 min) · Estació Intermodal (7 min)
	Bike Palma de Mallorca Airport (37 min) · Intermodal Station (7 min)
	On foot Intermodal Station (14 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Cathedral of Palma de Mallorca ?



Plaça de la Seu, s/n – 07001 Palma de Mallorca

 39°34.046' N, 2°38.898' E

ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Cathedral's Layers

Ground Level (Nave & Chapels)

This level encompasses the main nave, the side aisles, and the various chapels. Here, you will encounter the massive pillars supporting the vaults and the original Gothic flooring. The central aisle offers the best view of the height and symmetry, while the side chapels house significant artworks, including the tombs of Kings James II and III.

Upper Gallery & Choir Area

Accessed via stairs or lifts, this level provides a different perspective on the nave below. It includes the reconstructed choir stalls designed by Gaudí and offers a vantage point to observe the interaction between the medieval structure and the modern interventions. This area is quieter and less crowded, ideal for detailed observation.

Roof Terrace & Bell Tower

The highest point offers panoramic views of Palma and the Mediterranean. From here, you can appreciate the exterior silhouette of the cathedral, including the flying buttresses and pinnacles. The climb is rewarding, providing a comprehensive understanding of the building's structural complexity and its relationship with the surrounding cityscape.

ACCESSIBILITY

**Disabled Access**

Main entrance equipped with ramps, fluid central nave path for wheelchairs.

**Families**

Quiet environment suitable for families, educational audioguide available to explain the history.

**Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish, German



Must-sees

SELECTION

Eight Must-See Architectural Marvels

01

Main Nave

The Central Nave Vault

Soaring to **44 meters**, this is the eighth-highest nave in the world. The narrow pillars, which are only 1/12th the width of the vault, create an illusion of weightlessness. Standing in the center, you can fully appreciate the verticality and the acoustic resonance of the space.

💡 The structural ratio of the pillars is unique globally, defying typical Gothic engineering norms.

02

West Facade

The Giant Rose Window

With a diameter of nearly **14 meters**, it is the second-largest extant Gothic rose window. Its complex geometry filters sunlight into the nave, creating a dynamic display of colors that changes throughout the day. It dominates the western facade and is a key element of the cathedral's identity.

💡 It is widely reproduced on tourist merchandise, making it one of the most recognized symbols of Mallorca.

03

ANTONI GAUDÍ Presbytery

Gaudí's Organic Canopy

Designed between 1903 and 1914, this canopy hangs above the altar, contrasting with the rigid stone surroundings. Gaudí's use of ceramic and wood introduces a fluid, naturalistic form that bridges the gap between medieval and modern aesthetics. It was intended to enhance the visibility of the altar for the congregation.

💡 Gaudí's work was controversial at the time for altering the original layout, but it has become iconic.

04

South Side

Chapel of the Holy Trinity

Completed in **1327**, this is the oldest part of the cathedral. It houses the tombs of Kings James II and James III of Mallorca. The chapel features intricate Gothic detailing and serves as a historical anchor for the site, linking the current structure to its royal origins.

💡 It was originally built as a burial space for the Monarchs of Mallorca, highlighting the close ties between the crown and the church.

05

MIQUEL BARCELÓ Chapel of Sant Pere

Miquel Barceló's Ceramic Fresco

Created between 2001 and 2006, this contemporary intervention covers the apse in Italian ceramic. The work depicts biblical scenes in a local context, using a style that blends traditional techniques with modern expression. It is a focal point for debates on the integration of contemporary art in historic spaces.

💡 Barceló's generous compensation for the project sparked some controversy, but the work remains a major attraction.

06

MIQUEL BARCELÓ Chapel of Sant Pere

Grisaille Stained Glass

Replacing older windows, these grey-toned glass panels evoke the bottom of the sea. They allow diffused light to enter, creating a serene and mysterious atmosphere within the chapel. This choice reflects the maritime heritage of Mallorca and adds a layer of poetic depth to the space.

💡 The design was meant to connect the interior with the external environment of the Mediterranean coast.

07

Presbytery

The Bishop's Chair

Dating from the 13th century, this chair is a masterpiece of Gothic craftsmanship. It was preserved and highlighted during Gaudí's renovations, which removed many Baroque altarpieces to emphasize its importance. The chair symbolizes the continuity of the diocese through centuries of change.

💡 Its survival through multiple renovations underscores the shifting priorities of the cathedral's custodians.

08

Exterior Walls

Exterior Flying Buttresses

The cathedral's exterior is highly vertical, featuring extensive use of flying buttresses and pinnacles. These structural elements support the high vaults and contribute to the building's dramatic silhouette against the sky. The neo-Gothic renovation of the 19th century accentuated these features, giving the west facade its current gable.

💡 The entire west facade, except for the main portal, was reconstructed in the mid-19th century due to structural issues.

TIPS

Essential Tips for Your Visit

TIMING

Visit in the early morning to enjoy soft light and fewer crowds, avoiding the peak hours between 10 am and noon.

BILLET

Book online in advance, especially during summer and weekends, to skip queues and ensure access to the panoramic terrace if desired.

PARCOURS

Start in the main nave to absorb the scale, then move to the side chapels and finally climb to the roof for a comprehensive experience.

PHOTO

Use the central perspective of the nave to capture the 44-meter height and the symmetry of the pillars; position yourself in the middle of the aisle for the best shot.

PAUSE

Take a break in the Jardins de la Catedral or at a restaurant in Port Vell to rest your legs and enjoy the sea view.

ENFANTS

The quiet environment suits families well; use the educational audioguide to engage children with the history of the former mosque and the gargoyles.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in French, English, Spanish, and German; it is highly recommended for understanding the complex history and artistic interventions.

CONFORT

Bring a warm layer for winter visits as the interior can be cool, and wear comfortable shoes for walking on stone floors and climbing stairs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do you really need to book in advance?

Yes, booking is highly recommended during summer and on weekends to avoid queues. On weekdays outside of holiday periods, the ticket counter remains accessible, but expect a wait of 20 to 30 minutes. Book online to guarantee your spot.

Can I cancel my ticket for free?

Most standard tickets allow free cancellation up to 24 hours before the scheduled date. Check the specific terms if you opt for skip-the-line or a combined terrace ticket. Cancellation can be done directly via your confirmation email.

Is there a current promotion?

Discounts are often available for students, seniors, and groups of more than 10 people. Keep an eye on seasonal offers on our site to benefit from preferential rates. Accompanied children generally enjoy free access.

Does the ticket include the panoramic terrace?

Note that access to the panoramic terrace is often separate from simple interior entry. Carefully check your ticket description to see if you are paying for both or just the interior. If you want the harbor view, choose the panoramic ticket.

How long does the visit take?

Allow approximately 1 hour for a complete visit of the nave and main chapels. If you include the climb to the roofs, plan for 1.5 to 2 hours. The pace depends on your interest in art history and architectural details.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Islamic Roots

The cathedral stands on the site of an old **Almohad mosque**, a testament to the island's Muslim rule before the reconquest. The foundations preserve the memory of this earlier era, adding a layer of historical depth to the Christian structure.

Structural Uniqueness

The pillars supporting the vaults are the narrowest in the world relative to the vault size, with a ratio of **1:12**. This is significantly slimmer than the 1:6 ratio found in Reims Cathedral, contributing to the nave's ethereal quality.

Gaudí's Dispute

Gaudí and his collaborators ceased work in **1914** due to disputes with local authorities. Although his plans were left incomplete, his influence on the cathedral's current appearance remains massive and undeniable.

Coastal Location

Unlike inland cathedrals, La Seu overlooks the Mediterranean shore directly above the fortifications. From the back of the nave, you can see the Port of Palma, integrating the sea into the spiritual landscape.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Located in the heart of Palma's historic center, the cathedral is perfectly positioned for a full day of exploration. Just steps away lies the **Royal Palace of La Almudaina**, offering stunning views of the bay and a glimpse into the island's royal history. For a moment of tranquility before or after your visit, the nearby Jardins de la Catedral provide a calm green retreat. Afterward, head to the Port Vell area, where numerous restaurants offer terraces overlooking the sea, perfect for a Mediterranean lunch. The proximity of these attractions allows for a seamless circuit combining religious, royal, and culinary experiences in one of Spain's most vibrant coastal cities.

Leaving La Seu, you carry with you more than just memories; you carry a sense of temporal displacement. The fusion of **Gothic austerity** and **Gaudí's organic vision** creates a space that refuses to be categorized, challenging our understanding of sacred architecture. It is a place where the past whispers and the future shouts, leaving an indelible mark on anyone who dares to look up.