

# Exeter Living

MAY 2026

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## Vibrant STYLE

COLOURFUL LOOKS FOR SUN-FILLED DAYS

### ALSO INSIDE

Josh Widdicombe on moving to Exeter

Fun summer festivals

Devon's top street food



# TRAVEL

## SCENIC ESCAPES

In this issue, we explore  
waterside getaways in Devon  
and the sunny climes of  
Mallorca.



Local 65 - Abroad 66





# *More Than Meets* **THE MED**

From Exeter to Palma de Mallorca  
in just over two hours

Words by *Lizzie Kings*

**M**allorca has outgrown its old reputation. Not so long ago, a trip here meant beach, bar, repeat -

and little in between. Now, the island, Palma in particular, has come into its own: less a gateway to somewhere else, more a destination that stands confidently on its own merits.

You see it immediately in the old town. Behind heavy doors and pale stone façades, hotels like Hotel Sant Francesc set the tone. A restored 19th-century mansion, original features have been carefully preserved and

repurposed: a former cistern now houses a compact gym and the old stables have been reimagined as the hotel's *Quadrat* restaurant.

The La Torre Studio at Sant Francesc is the one to book if you're leaning into the full experience. Three levels, a private terrace, and a whirlpool tub angled perfectly towards the skyline. Views from the bedrooms are spectacular - think cathedral spires, terracotta rooftops, and a slice of the sea.

It's a fitting base for a city that rewards doing less, but doing it well - especially in May, when Palma starts to hum with a bit of life.

In Sóller, the Es Firó annual festival transforms history into full-scale theatre on the second weekend of May. What began as a commemoration of a 1561 pirate invasion has evolved into one of the island's most







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anticipated events: mock battles played out across the town, locals dressed as villagers and corsairs, and the smell of gunpowder lingering long after the final skirmish.

Just a short trip from the centre, the Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró museum in Mallorca preserves the former studios of the renowned Catalan-Spanish artist Joan Miró. He spent nearly 30 years in Mallorca, producing some of his most experimental work here and forging a lasting creative bond with the island.

Visitors can also take part in one of the foundations printmaking workshops, held in the very rooms where Joan created his later pieces. Guided by specialists, sessions introduce traditional techniques like lithography and engraving, offering a rare chance to work in a setting that still hums with his original spirit.

If you want a reset from the city, a day trip to

Cabrera is a must. Part of the Cabrera National Park, the protected archipelago sits just off Mallorca's south coast and feels a world away.

Boats depart from Colònia Sant Jordi, and in under an hour you'll arrive at Na Foradada - the very first island amongst the archipelago. Booking in advance is essential, but in May you might just beat the crowds.

Colònia Sant Jordi itself is just a 40-minute drive from the hotel. This small, tranquil fishing village is known for its beautiful beaches, including the renowned Es Trenc, located right next door.

Once on the island, you'll have a few hours to explore. Highlights include a visit to the Botanic Garden inspired by Soler and the remote Ensiola Lighthouse, the last lighthouse of the Balearic Islands.

The excursion also includes a stop at Sa Cava, the blue cave. Here, you'll get the option to snorkel in stunning, turquoise waters and with luck, you might encounter some curious stingrays or even some loggerhead turtles.

For dinner, book The Duke. A family-run restaurant found in Santa Catalina, a short taxi or a 20-minute stroll from the hotel. The vibe is relaxed - think surf shack meets neighbourhood favourite - and the menu jumps around in the best way: Baja fish tacos, Thai curries, whatever's fresh and makes sense.

And if all you really do is rotate between your rooftop, a good restaurant and the occasional cultural outing, you're doing it exactly right.



### **Your trip**

#### **Hotel**

La Torre Studio from 1015 euros per night  
[hotelsantfrancesc.com](http://hotelsantfrancesc.com)

#### **Flight**

Exeter to Palma de Mallorca direct (2hr 10 mins, from £176 return)  
[exeter-airport.co.uk](http://exeter-airport.co.uk)

#### **Restaurant**

The Duke  
[dukepalma.com](http://dukepalma.com)

#### **Things To Do**

Es Firó Weekend, 7-11 May  
[spanishfiestas.info](http://spanishfiestas.info)

Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró museum  
[miromallorca.com](http://miromallorca.com)

Cabrera Boat Tour  
[getyourguide.com](http://getyourguide.com)

