

# The historical setting

THE island's mild climate and lovely beaches have made Mallorca a popular destination for decades, but there is a cultural richness that many haven't explored, creating a new stage of discovery on the island. The city was prosperous under the Moors and was known for its beautiful fountains and lush courtyards.

Within the walls and winding streets, signs of Palmas' past wealth are evident in its sumptuous churches, grand public

buildings and mansions that crowd the old town. Alternatively, the trendy neighbourhood of Santa Catalina exudes a vibrancy and originality in shops, restaurants and cafes taking on the same vibe that you might discover in Barcelona. The city has received much love and care over the last decade, and today it is a safe and charming destination that exhibits its real life – not simply that of a museum only to be viewed but fully experienced. ■