



## TRAVEL FILE



### WHEN TO GO

It's in Spain, so any time of the year is good. Great for summer beach fun with kids or cosy winter foodie weekends.

### BEST RESTAURANTS

Calella has a wealth of authentic, family-run restaurants serving fantastic local food. Our favourites were La Roda, Grana Gastrobar and Can Miquel. Push the boat out at La Peixateria for tasty fish, Macanudo for great Argentinian steaks or El Hogar Gallego for regional specialities. Hit Ferretti on the main road for delicious ice cream (bright blue Smurf flavour, anyone?!) [fihotels.com](#), 01423 871350

### KIDS' CLUB

Let your kids run riot on the beach at a host of free activities, or take a day trip to a waterpark.

### GETTING ABOUT

The station is right on the beachfront – head south for Barcelona or north for the bustling resort town of Blanes.

### BOOK IT

EasyJet has seven nights in September from £187pp including flights from Liverpool and B&B at a three-star hotel. [easyjet.com](#)

Thomson has half-board, seven-night breaks out of Gatwick from £278 at the end of September. [thomson.co.uk](#)

**MORE INFO** To build your own break go to [calellabarcelona.com](#)

Pictures: ALAMY/KARIN WRIGHT

Coast to coast... Calella lighthouse looks out over hidden coves and miles of golden sandy beaches

stuffed with prawns, mussels, clams and calamari. We barely had room for the traditional crema catalana dessert, but it was billed as the best in town...

Further up the hill, on a shady terrace at La Peixateria, we shared a fantastic whole sea bass baked in salt accompanied by a sautéed potato dish that was to die for.

Another of our favourite places was the cheap and cheerful La Roda, which has been in the same family since it opened in 1962.

The furniture is rustic and the decor is quirky – you can scrawl on the uneven walls if you can find a space between the old photographs and wagon wheels. We kicked off with delicious local cured meats and cheese before the main event – chicken.

La Roda has an open rotisserie outside where you can watch your meal being cooked. It's then served roughly

chopped with crusty bread, a few bits of salad... and a dipping sauce made from the chicken juices which I wish they would bottle and sell. All for less than £10 a head.

If your tastes (and bank balance) are a tad more sophisticated, the neighbouring village of Sant Pol de Mar has a restaurant, Sant Pau, with three Michelin stars. Booking – and a second mortgage – advised.

Sant Pol is worth a visit even if your budget isn't Michelin-starred. It's a pretty village with great bars along the promenade. You can walk there along the marked Blue Route – or hop on the train and be there in minutes.

Back in Calella, there are a number of nightclubs if that's your thing, and a cracking late-night rock pub called the Golden Gloves.

Perched on the cliffs between Calella and Sant Pol you'll find the lighthouse, built in the 1850s. It houses a small museum detailing its history, and the pretty gardens are the best place for a sweeping view along that massive stretch of golden beach.

You can also walk across to the ruins of the Torretes de Calella, the 19th century towers which formed part of a communications system along the coast.

Calella ticks a great many boxes – it's perfect for young families or couples, foodies or fitness fanatics. There's room for everyone.

But what I liked most about it is that it isn't a purpose-built resort catering just for foreign tourists.

It is a working town, which just happens to have a fantastic beach – so you get a great Catalan atmosphere, fabulous shops, and superb cafés and restaurants which are just as likely to be enjoyed by locals as holidaymakers.

My kinda place.

# DEALS

## OF THE WEEK

Compiled by **STACEY QUINTON**

### UNDER £100

**Butlins from £16pp:** Save an extra £40 on every 2014 Butlin's break booked before midnight on August 26. A four-night term-time break is available from this price per person per night when four share a silver room on selected breaks. [butlins.com](#), 0845 070 4730

**New Forest from £70pp:** Get creative on a two-night stay at Cottage Lodge in Brockenhurst, which is offering art courses from September 9-10 with renowned artist Mal Phillips. The courses (for £80 extra) include two days of tutored painting, two canvasses, a sketch book, paints and tuition. [cottagelodge.co.uk](#), 01590 622296

**Harrogate from £97.50pp:** Enjoy a last taste of summer on an Ice Cream Summer Break at Rudding Park Hotel including a cream tea picnic during the one-night stay, available until September 2. The price includes dinner and breakfast at the four-star Regency mansion, with up to two children under 16 staying free when sharing with parents. [fihotels.com](#), 01423 871350

### UNDER £200

**Bruges from £159pp:** Book a two-night, room-only stay at the four-star Hotel Portinari Bruges. Includes return train tickets from St Pancras on August 26. [lastminute.com](#), 0800 083 6000

**Spa Break Ireland from £193pp:** Take the car to Ireland between September 7 and 30 and enjoy a spa break at the four-star Millrace Hotel in Bunclody, County Wexford. Price is based on two people travelling in their own car plus three nights' B&B. Includes a 30-minute Elemis treatment each in the hotel's Danu Spa. [irishferries.com/holidays](#), 0871 730 0400

### UNDER £400

**Menorca from £353pp:** Chase the sun to Menorca on this seven-night all-inclusive stay at the four-star Nuramar Aparthotel in Cala'N Bosch with flights from Manchester on September 29. [lowcostholidays.com](#), 0800 111 6271

### FLORIDA from £399pp

**STAR BUY**

Enjoy a seven-night, self-catering break near the theme parks of Orlando with free car hire and baggage. The Celebration Suites Complex offers an ideal base for exploring. Flights from Manchester on August 29 or Gatwick on August 30. [broadwaytravel.com](#), 0800 011 4621



**Northern Cyprus from £375pp:** Book by August 27 to save more than half off a seven-night half-board stay at the four-star Riverside Garden Resort in Kyrenia. Includes flights from Stansted or Manchester between November 1 and December 15. [dealchecker.co.uk](#), 0203 150 0412

**Crete from £389pp:** Chill out on a seven-night, all-inclusive break at the five-star Mitsis Serita Beach and save up to £150pp. Flights are included and depart from Gatwick, Newcastle or Glasgow on September 16, 23 & 30. [blueseaholidays.co.uk](#), 0808 909 8063

### UNDER £800

**Tobago from £714pp:** Book by August 31 to spend seven nights' B&B at the four-star Magdalena Grand Beach & Golf Resort on Tobago. Flights with Monarch Airlines from Gatwick on September 10, 17, 24 or October 1. [magdalenagrand.com/uk](#), 0845 085 8080

**Las Vegas from £749pp:** Book now to save £300 off a seven-night, room-only break at the four-star Hard Rock Hotel including direct flights with United Airlines from Heathrow on October 14. [magicholidays.com](#), 020 7580 5000

Cheers... Karin toasts the stunning beaches – and the lovely food – with a cold beer

