

# City & Beach

**Barcelona** - Great restaurants, boutique hotels inspired by the cultural heritage of Gaudi, Picasso and Dali, and a sparkling clean beachfront to add the waves to a vibrant city break. Back in the city it's always worth taking a guided tour first and one option in Barcelona is to take a "Go Car" an easy self-drive tour with an automated guide passing on the history and directions as you drive. Try out the stylish 5 star hotel Claris, an easy 4 stops on the airport train and well located for a visit to La Sagrada Familia.



**Cagliari** - The beaches of Sardinia are so good that the question is whether any of the cities shape up! and Cagliari certainly does. Take to the Castello district, the highest part of the city for fantastic views and soak up the early evening sunlight with a glass of Vermentino the local wine. The city is probably the most Italian in feel and offers great dining options with the Castello and Marina districts awash with cosy restaurants. Try a Segway tour as a good alternative to the standard sightseeing bus then to cool off head for Poetto Beach at the eastern edge of town with its 7km stretch of pure white sand and limpid blue waters. Try the 4 star T Hotel for a city centre local with great views and easy access to cafes, bars and restaurants.



**Palma** - Enjoy Majorca's forever fashionable capital and its growing range of boutique accommodation at any time of year. Explore its impressive cathedral, wander the streets of the medieval centre around the Place Major and sample the style and sophistication of its Marina. Though surrounded by mass market tourist resorts Palma is an often forgotten city destination with lots of beach options, excellent restaurants and very easy access from the UK. The 5 star Palacio Ca Sa Gales offers 16th century elegance and is ideally situated in the Gothic quarter.

**Dubrovnik** - The perfectly preserved walled city of Dubrovnik is the gem in Croatia's crown. Recommended out of season as the city can be jam packed with cruise passengers and visitors from the neighbouring holiday resorts. The city walls are a must do walking tour and for some respite from the crowds the cable car offers superb views on the city in just 4 minutes. For anyone taken with the TV series a "Game of Thrones" walking tour will guide you around the filming locations and put you right in the midst of storylines. Hotels on the Lapad peninsula allow easily walking access to the city and even easier access to the crystal clear waters of the Croatian Coast. Try the Villa Dubrovnik for style and quality and an easy 15 minute stroll to the medieval centre.



**Marseille** - To get the best of a Marseille break a little effort is required but it is well worth it. The old port of Marseille famed for its fusion of French and North African cultures is awash with shops, restaurants and bars, while close by Fort Saint Jean covers a site of 1.5 hectares and links the magnificent old fort with modern design. The Cathedral at the very top of the city offers fantastic views of the old port but it is not this excursion that requires the effort. Instead a short bus journey followed by a steady one hour hike will take you to the beach at the Calanque du Sugiton, an area of breath-taking beauty and crystal blue sea. Indulge in the Sofitel Marseilles Vieux-Port for a location right in the heart of the ancient harbour area.

