

pearl in the middle of Costa Brava, the city of Palafrugell includes the picturesque beachside towns of Calella de Palafrugell, Llafranc and

A short transfer from Barcelona or Girona airports, here are 10 reasons why this slice of Costa paradise should be top of your destination wish list...

#### **MEDITERRANEAN WEATHER**

Hot summers, warm autumns and springs and mild winters. If you want to avoid the peak holiday season (July and August) when it may be too hot for your taste, September and October or May and June are the best months to visit Palafrugell and its beaches.

**FUN IN THE** 

SUN: A rock

coast at Begur

pool on the

With an average temperature of 24°C and only three rainy days per month, it's got the perfect climate.

#### CRYSTAL WATER BEACHES

Palafrugell's coast is made up by rocks, cliffs, small beaches and hidden corners of scenic beauty. Expect coarse sand and rocks and you can often swim from one beach to the other.

**NATURE AT ITS BEST** 

Both Cap Roig botanical gardens and Sant Sebastià hill offer stunning views. The former has over 1,000 different botanical species while the later has a lighthouse and a 15th century watchtower and hermitage.

#### WATERSPORTS

Take a boat excursion or rent it and drive it yourself, take a kayak or a paddle surf and reach the unspoiled spots, snorkel from the sand itself or scuba dive to discover our sea land. Many companies offer these services on the beach.

TAKE A HIKE

There are several networks

done on foot or by bike.

Follow the coastline

the GR92 coastal

path or "camí de

ronda" among

There are

beginners or

wanting to

routes for the

bravest.

**FABULOUS FOOD** 

The gastronomy of Palafrugell is very rich and

You'll find both traditional dishes and

of local restaurants, all prepared with

top-quality products. The must-try foods

the most avant-garde cuisine on the menus

enjoy the ride

and also difficult

coves and huts.

easy routes for

people simply

pine trees,

on foot through

of trails designed to be

Getting there

Ryanair has daily flights from Dublin to Girona (only 45km from Palafrugell) and Barcelona (120km away). Air Lingus flies daily to Barcelona. There are direct buses to Palafrugell from both terminals at Barcelona. In Girona, get a bus to the city centre and then another bus to Palafrugell.

See www.sarfa.es

include arròs negre (black rice sauté, not with squid ink) and suquet de peix (fish stew).

### **SHOPPING**

There's a market in Palafrugell city centre selling fish, meat, fruits and vegetables every day except Monday.
On Sunday the

market triples its size to sell other products, from clothes to gadgets.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

Every month there's a special event in Palafrugell, mainly music festivals but also gastronomic campaigns. Jazz, habaneras (traditional music from the fishermen), modern music, gigs on the streets, sports meetings...

Check what's going on when you decide to visit!

# **CULTURAL SITES**

Palafrugell has a large number of cultural spaces to show the town's cultural historu.

The Cork Museum, the Contemporary Sculptures Museum or a painter's workshop are just a few examples or the great cultural offer in town.

There's a combined ticket called Palafrugell+ to visit them all for only  $\in 8$ .

## **FURTHER AFIELD**

You didn't come all this way to only visit Palafrugell area — so keep a couple of days to visit the neighbour towns.

Medieval Pals or beautiful Begur are just 9km from Palafrugell and are really worth a visit.

For more information check out www. visitpalafrugell.cat

# TRAVEL NEWS

■ It has been a very long winter, but finally spring is upon us, with warmer days and brighter evenings putting us in the mood for a seasonal break.

And the stunning Lough Erne Resort in Co Fermanagh has some tempting packages for a family break or a luxurious getaway for two

Lough Erne is renowned as one of the North's finest five-star hotels and the latest midweek offerings – Fermanagh Down Under, which includes a complimentary tour of Marble Arch Caves, and Cruise Through Spring, designed to get you out on the lakes – have certainly peaked our interest.

Both packages include a one-night stay from Sunday to Thursday from £129/€149pps and include breakfast, access to the Infinity Pool at the Thai Spa and access to the Collop Walk on the resort

See www.lougherneresort.com for more.

■ Brittany Ferries is currently celebrating its 40-year association with Ireland – the company's first sailing was from Cork to France way back in 1978.

And Brittany is showing no sign of slowing down as the anniversary also coincides with the launch of the first ever Ireland to Spain ferry service, with a route from Cork to Santander.

The inaugural Cork to Santander crossing will take place on Monday, April 30.

Christophe Mathieu, CEO of Brittany Ferries, said: "The new route is already attracting a great deal of attention.

"Of course, not alone does the new service open up a Spanish link to Ireland but, our new Cork-Santander service will deliver an additional weekly return-sailing from Cork to Roscoff, adding much needed capacity to our existing line to France."

See www.brittanyferries.ie/holidays or call 021 427 7801 for more.