

COMMENT

I never thought I'd say this, but lockdown has me itching for a rave in Ibiza

The dream of a summer flirtation with the most mythologized Balearic is getting me through the dregs of winter

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The Balearics promise peace, and parties | CREDIT: iStock

The past year has been short on escapism. Perhaps if we could have given our past selves a hint of the hemmed in, rule-laden existence hurtling toward us, we may have taken a different approach to life.

As the first lockdown bedded in, I began to dream of Bohemian isles. I fantasized about breaking free from my responsible, decade-long relationship with London and rushing into a summer flirtation with the most mythologized Balearic.

In my twenties, I passed up a trip to [Ibiza](#), deeming its party scene beyond my means and my tolerance (even aged 18, I'd bow out of all-nighters come 2am). But now that I'm aching for a little hedonism, even the raucous stag parties wouldn't deter me. I'd dig out my most club-appropriate outfit, drag along the friends I've barely seen since Covid struck, and accept any entry fee. Hours lost on a crowded dance floor, moving to the DJ's whim, then creeping out at sunrise, would be just the salve to this stale era.

And yet, it's the non-conformity that's woven into the island's history that I could truly fall for. To turn on, tune in and drop out of the nine to five (without any call for hallucinogens). But first, we'd rent an open top car, pausing to admire bougainvillea-littered hamlets, taking dips at secluded beaches, imagining centuries past within the walls of Dalt Vila.



Ibiza's historic Dalt Vila | CREDIT: getty

Then, I'd wave goodbye to my companions, forgo my flight home and head for a yoga retreat. My hope is this would be a precursor to a permanent move to the island. If I proved an incompetent student, I'd try making a living as a yacht skipper or talentless artist. Weekends would be spent sailing around Ibiza's wizened coastline, snacking on fresh seafood and daytripping to the other islands. I could also develop a soft spot for salty Formentera.

Without the freedom to face the actualities of this fantasy life, I will continue to dream. And, yet, when this is over, my affair with Ibiza may be shorter, but all the sweeter.

1. What better way to explore the island than in a beautiful Ford Mustang cruising along the winding, tree-lined back roads with no agenda. Mustang Adventures' rental cars come in dark green, baby blue and black, but for maximum muscle points it has to be the 1965, red convertible V8, a machine that evokes all the glamour of a bygone era. mustangadventures.com

2. There's a spiritual streak running right through the core of Ibiza – claims of its magnetism, energy and appeal are rife. So when the full moon rises once a month it's an occasion lauded by yogis. In summer, head to Pure Seven Spa at Seven Pines Resort Ibiza, where full moon yoga takes place in the spa's glass atrium foyer, with the mystical island of Es Vedra looming in the distance. Less hippie, more swanky, it's spiritualism for beginners. 7pines-ibiza.com.



The clear sea around Formentera is ideal for snorkelling | CREDIT: Getty

3. No sojourn to Ibiza is complete without a boat trip, and there are no better vessels for exploring than La Bella Verde's fleet of eco-catamarans. All day trips come with a fridge full of refreshments and snorkelling equipment, and a homemade picnic can be thrown in for extra cost. Spend as much time as possible in the crystal clear waters surrounding Formentera, there are few beaches as beautiful in the world.

4. If dining is a sensory experience, then nowhere can send the eyes, ears and taste buds into overdrive quite like Los Enamorados. With a seaside location in Portinatx, Ibiza's northernmost beach, the al fresco restaurant here is really something else. Arrive at sunset to see the sky blush pale pink, and order cocktails before tucking into tapas dishes including avocado gazpacho, tuna tartar and miso aubergine.

losenamoradosibiza.com

5. It's fair to say that when Pacha Ibiza opened in 1973, it changed the clubbing landscape not only on the island, but all across the world. It started out as a traditional farmhouse with a dancefloor just outside Ibiza Town, but these days it's a multi-million pound superclub that not only attracts some of the biggest names in the international electronic music scene, but also thousands of ravers keen to soak up clubbing. pacha.com