



formentera

FORMENTERA,
A LUXURY APART



FORMENTERA, A LUXURY APART

Edita i publica:
Consell Insular de Formentera
August 2024

An aerial photograph of a person in a blue bikini lying on their back on a wide, sandy beach. The person is positioned in the upper center of the frame. The beach is covered in footprints and small debris. In the foreground, the ocean waves are breaking, creating white foam and splashing water. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with a clear blue sky visible in the background.

LUXURY EXPERIENCES IN FORMENTERA

Those with delicate tastes who love quality and spaces that are meticulously cared for can discover Formentera's good service and an optimum selection of accommodation, restaurants and active tourism establishments. The island offers excellent hotels, luxury residences, and restaurants renowned for their remarkable cuisine. Yet the real luxury of Formentera is to be found in the magnificence of its landscape. **Plunge into the transparent waters of an incomparable blue; go sailing; watch the sunset or promenade along the walkways of the unique beaches. These experiences are the true luxury that is Formentera.**

Formentera is the smallest, most southerly Balearic island, and the least accessible one. You can only reach the island by boat as there is no airport. This means that the journey to this fragile, diminutive paradise is slightly longer and more expensive. However, the island's tranquillity, its quintessential richness and the preservation of its natural resources are owed, in part, to its isolation.

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal landscape. The foreground is filled with clear, turquoise water showing some ripples. In the middle ground, there are rocky cliffs and a small settlement with white buildings on a hillside. The background shows a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

EXCLUSIVE WATERS

69 KILOMETRES OF COASTLINE

Three immense beaches extend along Formentera's peculiar contours: the Llevant and Tramuntana coasts are on the north-eastern side of the island; on the opposite side, the northwest coast boasts the island's most famous beaches, Illetes and Cavall d'en Borràs, with the Migjorn shoreline along the south.

The Es Trucadors area, to the north of the island, stretches out in a long isthmus from south to north. Here is the **Llevant** beach, while Ses Illetes and Es Cavall d'en Borràs are on the western side. Beyond the natural extension of Es Trucadors is S'Espalmador.

Cliffs dominate the western shores of the island, between which the breath-taking beauty of a small natural bay is reflected in the crystalline waters. This is the **Cala Saona** beach, one whose translucent, shallow waters are well-loved by families. Moreover, the picturesque location is framed by small bluffs and a numerous dry docks in good condition.

The island's other large sandy beach is the **Migjorn**. Its three-mile expanse extends the whole of the island's southern zone, from Es Mal Pas to the Es Copinar area. The Migjorn beach's different sections include a variety of sands and waters.



An underwater photograph showing a large school of small, silver fish swimming in clear blue water. In the foreground, there are dense, green seagrass beds. The text "EXCLUSIVE WATERS" is overlaid in white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

EXCLUSIVE WATERS

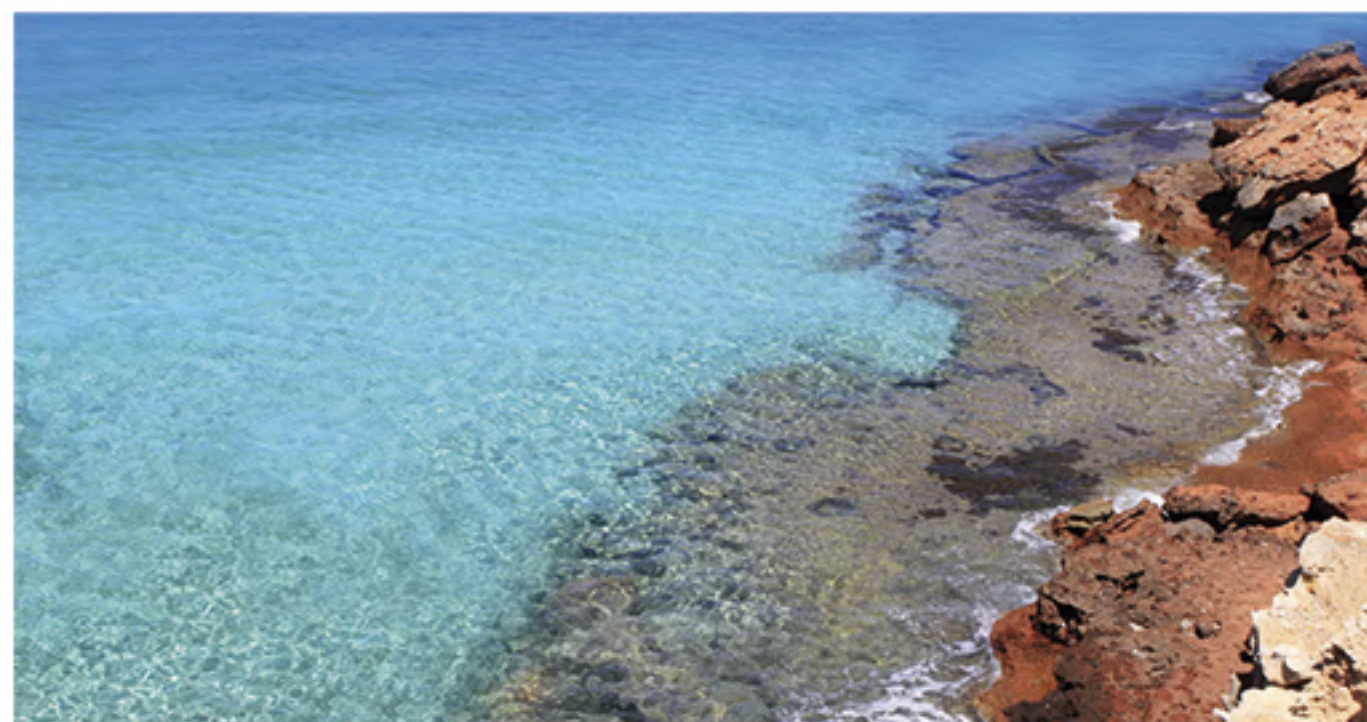
The **Tramuntana** coast occupies the central northern part of the island and is mainly formed by low-lying rock. This is one of the calmest spots, even in high season. Es Caló de Sant Agustí is the only coastal village in this area. Its fishermen's port and recommended culinary establishments are highly regarded.

THE NAME OF THE SECRET IS POSIDONIA

Formentera's crystal-clear waters are what make her spacious beaches unique and endow them with their extraordinary beauty. Their turquoise hues glow an unmistakeable shade of blue, leaving those who step into the fine coastal sands speechless. These beaches are protected and have hardly been altered by humans. Their clarity is the result of the presence of a marine plant, the *Posidonia oceanica*.

This species, also known as **Neptune grass**, is native to the Mediterranean and was declared World Heritage in 1999. This plant is one of the island's most important natural treasures because it performs an important role in filtering sediments, contributing to the quality, oxygenation and beauty of the underwater ecosystem.

This marine flora is no algae but grass. It creates prairies between the surface and to depths of 40 metres in high-quality waters such as those enjoyed in Formentera. Posidonia prairies are threatened by several factors, particularly the depth of a great many vessels whose anchors and chains scrape the ocean floor. For this reason, Formentera's moorings are regulated with **sustainable buoys**.



A photograph of an outdoor dining area with a wooden table set for a meal. The table is set with white plates, glasses of water, and a small blue vase containing a tall stem of white flowers. The background shows a clear blue ocean under a bright sky. The text "EXCELLENT GASTRONOMY" is overlaid in the center of the image.

EXCELLENT GASTRONOMY

THE LUXURY OF DINING IN FORMENTERA

In addition to the island's traditional cuisine, which owes much to its fishing tradition, the affluence of tourism has helped to establish a notable restaurant sector over the last several years. A noteworthy and diverse selection of restaurants on Formentera offer excellent quality: from signature **artisanal cuisine** to traditional dishes, prepared according to their original recipes or interpreted from a contemporary perspective, not forgetting the traditional gastronomy brought ashore from other points across the globe including Japan, Italy and Argentina.

FORMENTERA'S WINERIES AND WINE

Formentera's winemaking tradition has long stood on its shores, which include 80 hectares of vineyards. The island's wines are held in high esteem because the vines are mostly of French rootstock, not the American rootstock found throughout a large part of Europe due to the phylloxera blight that destroyed vineyards with European rootstock during the second half of the 19th century. This scourge did not affect the vineyards of Formentera, partly thanks to its geographical isolation.

There are two **wineries** on Formentera: Terramoll and Es Cap de Barbaria. All of their wines possess exceptional qualities owing to the delicate handling of the vines and the painstaking care they are given throughout the winemaking process. Both wineries arrange informative guided tours.



FASHION, JEWELLERY, AND
UNIQUE ARTISANRY

A SETTING THAT INSPIRES

The light and beauty of Formentera's natural setting provide a source of inspiration for artists, artisans and creative spirits. Since the 1960s, Formentera has opened her arms to people from all over the world as they established their creative workshops on the island, weaving a cosmopolitan social fabric that is particularly prolific in the fields of design, artisanal production and artistry.

Starting in 2007, island designers have showed off their uplifting, free-spirited creations at the **Pasarela Formentera** fashion show. More than a dozen companies design their own textiles on Formentera, which is also home to a high-end leather accessory and footwear brand. Jewellery design and production is especially important on Formentera, where artisanal pieces have a singular charm that lingers on, inspired by the island's environment.

A QUESTION OF DETAIL

Today, Sant Francesc Xavier is the centre for Formentera's fashion and jewellery business. Petite boutiques offering an elegant selection of jewellery, garments, decorations and personalised interior design line its central streets. The **artistry and artisanal markets** are another unique showcase for the personality of the island's commerce. They take place from May until mid-October. The shops tender local artisanry including handmade footwear, textiles made of island wool, jewellery, glasswork, ceramics and leathers, in addition to illustrations and paintings with the distinct essence of Formentera, all created in island workshops.



A courtyard scene featuring a large, rustic wooden cart on wheels in the foreground. A thatched roof covers the area, casting shadows on the ground. In the background, there is a building with wooden doors and windows. A large cactus is visible on the left, and a metal table with a bowl is on the right.

CHARMING LOCATIONS FOR AN EXQUISITE NIGHT'S SLEEP

SPECIAL HOTELS

Among the more than 150 accommodation establishments on Formentera, around ten hotels stand out for their character, fusing elegance and quality with the island's signature traits. Those who value good service, carefully placed interiors, and ample comfort will find wonderful options in Formentera, from hotels with seafront rooms to tiny yet characterful family-owned hotels.

The majority of these lodgings offer tempting culinary delights, as well as the option of combining rest and relaxation with wellness and personal care services. The décor of rooms and spaces, perfectly equipped with every convenience, immerse you in the inspiration of the island's light and atmosphere, combining an elegant mix of neutral colours with hardwoods, natural materials and omnipresent white.

LUXURY HOMES

A luxury experience on Formentera is available through renting exquisite homes that offer warm welcomes with exclusive interior décor and outdoor spaces. The wild and fresh spirit of nature is combined with comfort, pleasure and spaciousness in these villas, as well as state-of-the-art technology and simple yet sophisticated style. The essential zest of Formentera is retained on the inside, while the irresistible open-air spaces, patios, terraces and pools complement the ambiance of peace and balance. Those who value privacy will find refuge in these villas.





SPORT IN AN UNPARALLELED SETTING

INCOMPARABLE SURROUNDINGS

Anyone who loves to stroll, run or cycle can discover the island's **32 marked green routes**, an interlacing network of more than 100 km of paths, most of which are suitable for cycling. What's more, top-level sporting events are held here in the off-season, such as the *Illa de Formentera* half marathon in May, the *Triatlón Olímpico* and the mountain biking tour in October.

The light and signature tranquillity that permeates the air on Formentera invites the practice of disciplines such as yoga, pilates and mindfulness. These methods of harmonising the emotional and the physical are widespread on Formentera, whether through private classes with professional specialists, at establishments that offer these activities or at Formentera Zen, a three-day dedicated event.

THE UNDERWATER PARADISE

This island is perfect for diving. The perennial calm and clarity of the water owe their excellent visibility and the variety and beauty of the gorgeous submarine landscape to the posidonia prairies. There are three scuba diving schools on the island where you can take a range of courses, from basic to highly specialised levels.



A wide-angle photograph of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, a rugged, reddish-brown rock formation juts out into the water. The water is exceptionally clear, showing a gradient from deep blue in the distance to a vibrant turquoise near the shore, where the seabed is visible. In the middle ground, a sailboat with a dark hull and white sails is on the left, and a white motorboat is on the right. The horizon is a straight line under a clear, pale blue sky.

SAIL IN EXTRAORDINARY WATERS

The pleasure of sailing is multiplied when ploughing waters like those of Formentera. The turquoise blue and the alternating shoreline of white sandy beaches and cliffs outline an idyllic landscape for navigating by sail. In the summer, winds are light to moderate, ranging from 5 to 15 knots and mainly easterly. In winter, winds are generally westerly and more given to extremes, ranging from storms with winds of over 30 knots to complete calm. This is why Formentera is the ideal place for both beginners and expert sailors in winter, whereas summer is more suited to family cruising.

The island has only one port, Port de la Savina, home to Formentera's two marinas. Around 150 moorings are distributed between the two for docking sailing boats as well as up to 38-metre yachts. The marinas also offer the latest technology in port materials and nautical services such as a machining workshop, diving supplies, safe water and electricity on all docks.

A DELICATE, EXCLUSIVE SEA FLOOR

The clarity of Formentera's sea waters is due to the fact that the highest concentration of Neptune grass in the entire Mediterranean is found here. The damage that anchors and chains cause to these prairies is the reason why anchoring boats on posidonia is prohibited.



COMPREHENSIVE
WELL-BEING

LET YOURSELF BE SPECIALLY PAMPERED

For visitors, Formentera is synonymous with a calm escape and the opportunity to breathe freely. Coming to spend a holiday on the island means changing priorities, leaving behind the hustle and bustle of cities and the frantic pace of daily life, and stepping into a different, unhurried rhythm. This exceptional sensation is multiplied when we add the enjoyment of personal physical and mental care.

There are several options on Formentera for dedicating time to yourself, relaxing and letting yourself receive special attention. Some hotels offer wellness and spa services in addition to various types of à la carte massages, beauty rituals, and body and facial treatments. Formentera is a place that invites you to rest and disconnect. Along with nature and the sea, you will find select spaces for revitalising your body and your mind in the hands of professional specialists.

FORMENTERA ZEN

Since 2015, a group of professionals from various fields associated with emotional and physical well-being have organised Formentera Zen. This multi-day event is dedicated to caring for the body and mind with activities such as yoga, meditation, talks on nutrition, medicine, alternative therapy and workshops for a dynamic and fruitful experience.



UNIQUE MOMENTS



PLACES WITH ALLURE

Formentera is known for its beaches and clear waters, as well as its silence, the calm that pervades the air, that indescribable, intangible *je ne sais quoi*. It possesses particularly beautiful locations, villages, lighthouses, mills and salt flats, grottos and hidden-away caves, pine and juniper forests that shift into dunes with whimsically shaped stones. Es Caló de Sant Agustí, the La Mola lighthouse, Estany des Peix, Ses Salines and Punta Pedrera are among the island's highlights.

A SPECTACULAR SUNSET

An almost desert landscape, a narrow road, a far-off lighthouse in the centre against the blue backdrop of the sea... all of these are part of our collective film imagination. The lighthouse shot by Julio Medem in his movie "Sex and Lucía" is the one at Es Cap de Barbaria, located at the south-eastern tip of the island. Es Cap de Barbaria is the rocky point at the southernmost end of the island, and evokes an overwhelming sensation of solitude and freedom. This is the place to gather to watch the sunsets and to gaze at the magnificent views of the magical Es Vedrá islet.

Freely accessible on foot or by bike from 15 May to 15 October. Vehicles prohibited (free parking 1.7 km from the lighthouse). Access permitted for people with reduced mobility from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.



All contact information for hotels, restaurants, active tourism companies and practical information is available at:

WWW.FORMENTERA.ES

Photography by:

Formentera to run

Gecko Beach Club

Hotel Cala Saona

Hotel Es Mares

Majoral, Mediterranean-inspired jewelry

Javier Sánchez

Wallride





Consell Insular
de Formentera

www.formentera.es

formentera