formentera

FORMENTERA

TOURIST MANUAL

Tourist manual

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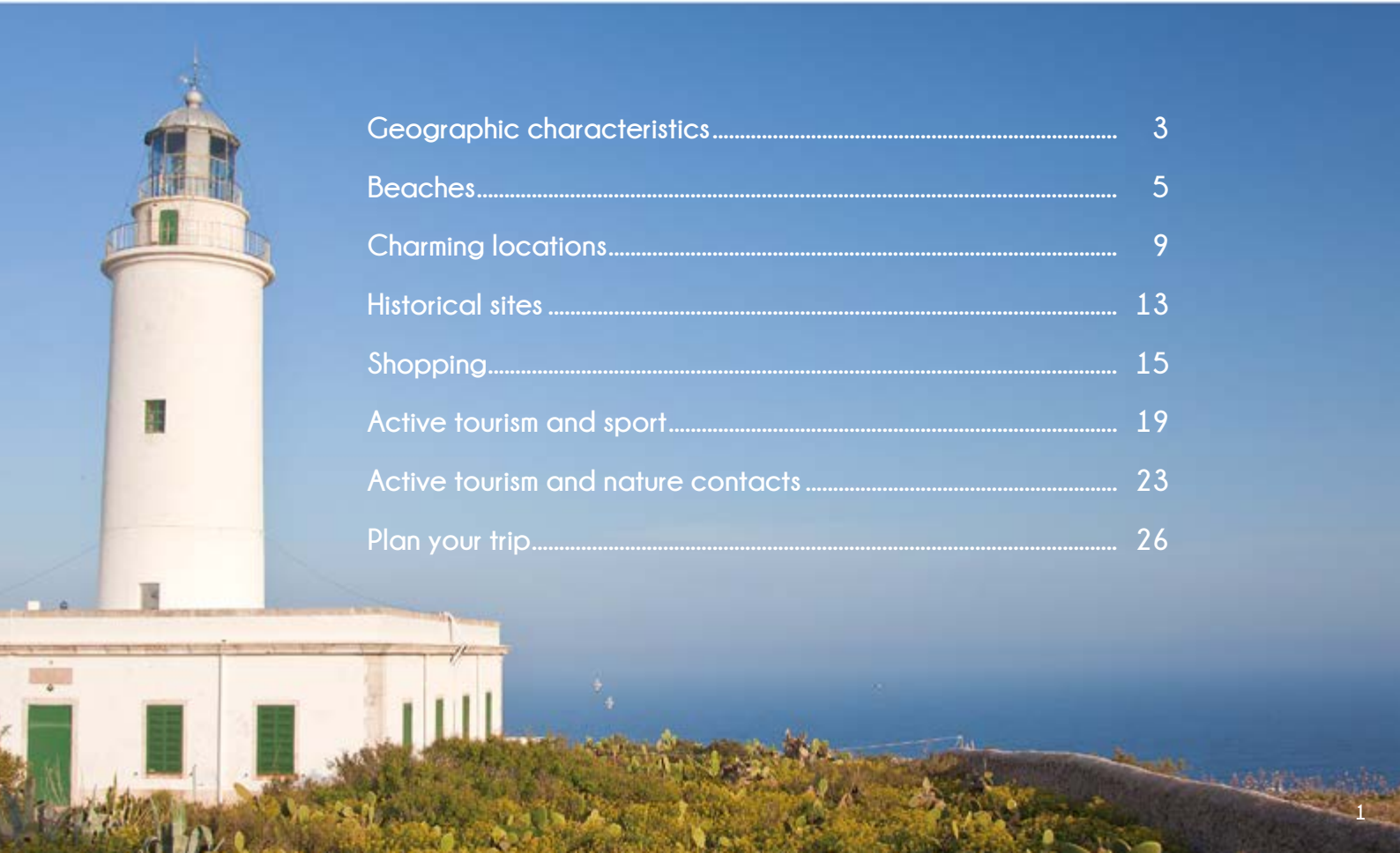
INDEX



Geographic characteristics 3

Beaches 5

Charming locations 9

Historical sites 13

Shopping 15

Active tourism and sport 19

Active tourism and nature contacts 23

Plan your trip 26

2 ES CALÓ DES MORT

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Formentera is the smallest inhabited island in the Balearic Islands. It is located just over two nautical miles south of the island of Ibiza, although the distance between the ports of Ibiza and La Savina (Formentera) is 12 miles. Although it is a small island (83 km²), its irregular shape provides it with a relatively long coastline (66 km) in proportion to its surface area. Its coastline has many large and small beaches, and numerous coves and isolated spots where you can lose yourself. The island of Formentera is small, but accessible and convenient. You can get around most of the island by bicycle, along its green paths, through its pine and juniper forests, and around its salt lakes and rural interior. The island of Formentera stands out for its great environmental beauty and wild unspoilt dune and beach landscapes, which have been preserved in excellent condition. In order to maintain these characteristics, camping is prohibited throughout the island.

As soon as you disembark on Formentera, you'll be able to take in the air of peace and tranquillity so typical of the island, which makes it such a unique place. You will immediately be captivated by its waters and their unique clarity and unparalleled turquoise tones, which evoke tropical latitudes, and whose beauty is enhanced by the largest Neptune grass meadow in the Mediterranean, which was designated a UNESCO world heritage site in 1999.

CALA SAONA

BEACHES

Formentera boasts many miles of white sandy beaches and clear waters with many amazing shades of blue and turquoise. Real blue flag beaches. Whether you are looking for small isolated coves or perfect long sandy beaches, peace and quiet is guaranteed in a natural and unspoilt environment free from overcrowding. If there is one thing that makes Formentera stand out from other Mediterranean destinations, it is that its beauty has been preserved with barely any tourist development blighting its coastline. Its commitment to sustainable development throughout past decades has made it possible to enjoy beaches of paradisiacal beauty with all the services and safety considerations you would expect from a top European holiday destination.

The beaches of Ses Salines Nature Park:

These are situated in the north of the island near La Savina port and are easily accessible on foot or by bicycle along the "Sa Guia" path, route No 1 of the Green Routes. If you are travelling by motor vehicle on the Illetes main road, a large car park is available for which you will have to pay a small fee. This fee is for the upkeep of the car park and controlling the types of vehicles that are permitted to gain access to this special environmental protection area. Access on foot, by bicycle, electric car or public transport is free of charge.

· **Cavall d'en Borras Beach.** This is the nearest beach to the port. It is quiet with crystal-clear waters. Behind the beach, there is a beautiful juniper forest where you can protect yourself from the sun during the hottest hours of the day.

· **Illetes Beach.** This is the natural continuation of Cavall d'en Borras and occupies all of the western side of the spit known as the Es Trucadors peninsula. It is named after the small islets that can be found along the coast. This is the most well known and popular beach on the island due to its crystal-clear and turquoise-shaded waters. As it is doesn't usually have many waves, it looks like a natural swimming pool. It also boasts a wide range of services: restaurants and kiosks, sun loungers and parasols. There are also plenty of quiet and isolated spots at its furthermost point where, due to the irregularity of the terrain, vehicles are not permitted.

BEACHES

· **Racó de s'Alga Beach.** This beach is located on the island of Espalmador, which is off the tip of Es Trucadors and the beaches of Illetes. Espalmador is a 2 km², environmentally protected, uninhabited island with hardly any construction. In its interior there is a mud lake, which used to be frequented by tourists who used the mud. As it is now a nesting area for birds, its use by tourists has been prohibited, as well as discouraged for reasons of sanitation.

· **Llevant Beach.** This beach occupies the eastern side of the Es Trucadors peninsula. It is a large beach with many quiet and isolated spots in spite of its proximity to the tourist beach of Illetes. Because of its mainly easterly wind, the beach has many waves and pleasant breezes in the summer. There are also various restaurants and kiosks.

Es Pujols Beach and Sa Roqueta Beach:

The shell-shaped Es Pujols beach in the northeast of the island consists of stretches of sand interspersed with low rock formations where fishermen's houses are located. It has a beautiful and lively promenade with numerous shops and restaurants, as well as souvenir stalls in the evenings. Continuing northwards and only separated from Es Pujols by some rocky outcrops is Sa Roqueta beach, a quiet corner ideal for families that connects to the southern end of Levante beach.

BEACHES

· **Migjorn Beach.** This beach is the longest on the island (5 km), running the whole length of the crescent-shaped southern coast of the island, made up of quiet sandy coves and rocky areas. Its long length and geographic location make this beach one of the quietest on the island. You can get there by taking one of the numerous paths that cross the nearby dense juniper forest. Located along the coastline are restaurants, kiosks, hotels and companies providing water sport activities, but the area does not suffer from overcrowding. The beach is divided into smaller beaches with the following names from west to east: Es Mal Pas, Es Ca Marí, Es Códol Foradat, Es Arenals, Es Copinar, Es Caló d'es Mort.

· **Cala Saona Beach.** This small beach (140 m) in the west of the island is very popular for its beautiful scenery. From the surrounding forest, there are stunning views of the neighbouring island of Ibiza and the beautiful Punta Rasa cliffs, which are easily accessible on foot and which boast a number of kiosks and restaurants. It is a very popular cove due to the wonderful sunsets that can be seen there and its shallow waters for families.

· **Ses Platgetes Beach.** This small beach with fine sand, interspersed with low rocky outcrops, is located to the east of the island in the quiet and rocky coastal area of Tramuntana near the village of Es Caló.

8 SES SALINES

CHARMING LOCATIONS

Formentera is well known for its beaches and crystal-clear waters, but if you go off the beaten track, you can also find small picturesque villages, lighthouses, towers and windmills, lakes and salt works, caverns and hidden caves, and beautiful juniper and pine forests interspersed with sand dunes and whimsically -shaped rock formations.

• **Es Caló of Sant Agustí.** A small fishing village typical of the area where you can enjoy the seafaring surroundings. We recommend you to visit its unique natural harbour and its restaurants, which serve the traditional food of the area. If you take a walk in the surrounding area, you will find many contrasts: whimsically-shaped rocks, scattered fishing huts, the small sandy coves of Ses Platgetes to the west and the cliffs of La Mola to the east. Also nearby is the starting point of route No 25, "Camí de Sa Pujada" of the Green Routes, where you can retrace the steps of the Augustinian monks who in their time used to inhabit La Mola.

• **La Mola Lighthouse.** La Mola lighthouse at the western end of the island is considered by many visitors as a magical place, like a lighthouse at the end of the world. Next to the lighthouse is a memorial in honour of the writer Jules Verne, who mentioned the island and the lighthouse in his book "Off on a Comet". Since 2019 hosts a cultural space and dissemination of the maritime heritage of Formentera. Anywhere on the La Mola plateau is a great starting point for paths that weave their way through forests and take you into the island's most rural and authentic interior, far away from summer tourism except for craft market days.

• **Barbaria Lighthouse.** Es Cap de Barbaria is the rocky elevation located in the south of the island, which rises to 108 metres at its highest point. It is a beautiful place in which you can feel the sensations of extreme isolation and freedom. The lighthouse stands on the edge of the elevated cape, and many visitors recall the famous scene from the Julio Medem film "Sex and Lucia", which was shot here. It is an ideal meeting place to watch the sun set behind the magical islet of Es Vedrá. Visiting and exploring this place is a must to get the full impact of its solitude and grandeur. Within walking distance of the lighthouse is the 18th century lookout tower, Torre des Garroveret, which in its time protected the island from invaders.

• **Estany des Peix.** Estany des Peix is a small lake with a narrow opening to the sea. It has stretches of beach where you can bathe. It is an ideal place to do water sports with shallow-draught vessels: windsurfing, kayaking, sailing, etc. It is also highly recommended to explore its surrounding area to enjoy the natural environment.

ES CAP DE BARBARIA

CHARMING LOCATIONS

· Estany Pudent and Ses Salines

Pudent is the name of the large lake in the north of the island, between the towns of La Savina and Es Pujols, but bathing is prohibited. Instead, we recommend you to go for a walk or bike ride around the lake and neighbouring salt works, which stand out for their scenic beauty and their importance as a place to observe the numerous birds that nest in the area or use it as a place of rest during migration. The Las Salinas salt works are a testament to the cultural heritage of Formentera, since they used to be the main source of income for the island before the arrival of tourism, producing salt of the highest quality.

· Can Marroig and Sa Pedrera Point

If you visit the eastern coast, between the port of La Savina and Cala Saona, you will find a rugged coastline made up of rocks with strange and curious shapes known as Sa Pedrera, which in its time was once a quarry. If you view the coastline from the sea in a boat, you can also enjoy the enormous richness of the sea. The shallow waters close to the shore are recommended for snorkelling and it is common to see visitors on diving excursions exploring the beauty of the sea floor, which is covered in Neptune grass. On land, the landscape is completed by a wooded area, the Can Marroig reserve, which takes its name from an estate that has now been converted into a Nature Interpretation Centre, from where route 5 starts to reach the tower of sa Gavina.

SANT FRANCESC XAVIER

HISTORICAL SITES

· **Sant Francesc Xavier church.** This church has a sober appearance and the thickness of its walls reminds you of its role as a fortress to repel invaders. Its door, fortified with iron plates, is of particular note. The church was completed in 1738 and is located in the island's capital opposite the regional government offices (the Consell Insular).

· **Sa Tanca Vella chapel.** Built in the second half of the 14th century and dedicated to San Valero, this chapel is small in size and covered by a barrel vault. It is located in the town of Sant Francesc Xavier and has been the property of the local council since 1986.

· **Cap de Barbaria megalithic settlement.** The archaeological site at Cap de Barbaria shows that this area of the island was densely populated between 1600 and 1000 BC. There are three different sites in which significant discoveries have been made such as ceramics, bones and a piece of bronze.

· **The roman Castellum at Can Blai.** Remains of a rectangular fortification with a tower at each corner and another to protect the entrance. Its location on high ground between La Savina and La Mola (at kilometre 10 of the road) shows the importance the local inhabitants used to place on being able to survey the entire coastline.

Alfredo Montero

HISTORICAL SITES

· Windmill Vell de la Mola

This is one of the seven windmills on the island that were used to mill grain. It was documented as early as 1778 and still retains its original appearance as well as its original machinery inside. This windmill can be visited.

· Ca Na Costa megalithic settlement

A burial site that was used between approximately 2000 and 1600 BC. Its existence shows that the island had a stable population at the end of the third millennium BC. It consists of a central chamber surrounded by large stone slabs, three paved concentric circles, various radiuses that served as buttresses and an access passage.

SHOPPING

MARKETS

In general, markets start up in early May and pack up in the middle of October. The island's craft markets come with a guarantee issued by Formentera's local council, which ensures that the products sold have been designed and manufactured in workshops on the island. This initiative seeks to encourage and promote local arts and crafts. In the craft markets, traditional crafts can be found: baskets, "espardenyes" (espadrilles), clothing, textiles made of wool from the island, jewellery, glass work, ceramics, leather, recycled materials, etc. All of these pieces of art are a reminder of an island with a great personality.

• La Mola Craft Market:

Wednesdays and Sundays at evenings-nights..

This is Formentera's main market in terms of the number of sellers and visitors, and has become an important focal point. In its central square there is usually live music and around it, there are numerous lively terrace bars. It started out as a private initiative started by various artists and artisans, which endeavours to remain faithful to its initial concept: showing, selling and promoting arts and crafts, making an alternative lifestyle possible within an industrialised society.

Amparo Arias

Alfredo Romero

16 LA MOLA CRAFT MARKET

SHOPPING

· **La Savina Market:** Daily throughout the day.
· **Sant Francesc Market:** Daily in the mornings.
· **Sant Ferran artisan market:** Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings.
· **Art market of Sant Ferran:** Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings.
· **Es Pujols Market:** Daily afternoons and evenings.
· **Antoni Tur Gabrielet Craft Centre:** An arts and crafts exhibition centre with workshops, which seeks to sustain local arts and crafts. It also plays host to a farmers' market selling local foods. From Monday to Saturday.

OPENING HOURS: Shop opening hours are usually 9 am - 2 pm and 5 pm - 8 pm. In the summer season, however, many establishments are open in the afternoon and often until midnight, including Sundays and bank holidays.

José Antonio Arribas

WINDSURF

ACTIVE TOURISM AND SPORT

Formentera is not only the last paradise in the Mediterranean, where you can enjoy peace and relaxation, it also offers many possibilities to take part in active tourism and the best conditions to enjoy water sports and especially diving, thanks to its crystal-clear waters and warm sea temperatures. Moreover, the unique shape of the island provides ideal conditions for sailing, windsurfing and sea kayaking throughout the year. For walking and cycling enthusiasts, the island has 32 well marked Green Routes that pass through areas of outstanding scenic beauty.

SCUBA DIVING

The island of Formentera is ideal for scuba diving, thanks to the clarity and colour of its waters. Its coastline is one of the last remaining unspoilt and well-preserved areas of the Mediterranean. In fact, the island is home to the Es Freus Marine Reserve of Ibiza and Formentera, which is the only natural area in the Mediterranean that has been designated a UNESCO world heritage site.

When diving, what strikes you first is the excellent visibility (up to 50 metres) and the rich diversity of the underwater landscape: caves, rock walls with sea fans, fragments of wrecks, shallow waters with beautiful landscapes and Neptune grass meadows, considered the best preserved in the Mediterranean. The water temperature is about 30°C in summer, 22°C in spring and autumn and 15°C in winter.

John Osorio

ACTIVE TOURISM AND SPORT

KAYAKING

The coastline of the island is ideal for sea kayaking, which is also the only way to explore the hidden caves and passages created by the erosive effects of the wind and sea on the calcareous rock. There are six routes recommended for their scenic beauty, as well as various active tourism centres that provide all necessary kayaking services.

SAILING

Formentera, a sailing and water sports paradise, offers 66 km of very diverse coastline.

Its turquoise-blue waters and white sandy beaches interspersed with vertical cliffs provide an idyllic backdrop for sailing. Moreover, distances are short, meaning that you can sail from the north to the south of the island in a couple of hours. During the summer season, there are light or medium easterly winds of 5 to 15 knots. During the winter, winds are usually westerly and all weather extremes can be experienced: ranging from storms with winds exceeding 30 knots to absolute calm. Formentera is therefore an ideal place during the summer for family sailing and beginners, and for expert sailors in the winter. Sailing conditions and facilities on the island are so good for training and perfecting technique that many sportsmen and women have set up their training bases here.

ACTIVE TOURISM AND SPORT

SPORTS FACILITIES ON FORMENTERA

1 indoor swimming pool 25 x 12.5 with changing rooms · 1 football pitch with artificial grass (changing rooms) · 3 tennis courts · 2 paddle courts · skatepark (skateboarding). Information: Consell Insular De Formentera (regional government offices) · 971 32 12 40 · www.formentera.es

GREEN ROUTES

Given the geographic characteristics of Formentera, it is obvious that the best way to get about is on foot or by bicycle, which, as well as being more environmentally friendly, enables visitors to explore the island's more unusual places at a leisurely pace, which would otherwise go unnoticed. Formentera has 32 tourist routes which can be explored on foot (Nordic walking) or by bicycle. Nordic walking is a highly recommended sporting activity for its simplicity and effectiveness. The necessary equipment is available for visitors at the island's tourist offices. Bike lovers will find the island's flat terrain ideal for cycling, and this activity is encouraged since it also helps to protect the environment.

BIRD WATCHING

Formentera has an abundance of wetland flora and fauna, especially in the area of Pudent Lake and Las Salinas. In 1993, it was included in the Ramsar Convention on protected wetlands. Check out the website www.formenterabirding.com to find out about the birds that can be found in the area, as well as other useful information.

Jordi Benítez

Alberto Collucci

ACTIVE TOURISM AND NATURE CONTACTS

For information on active and nature tourism contacts you can consult the official website of Turisme de Formentera, in the section on exploring and activities.

WWW.FORMENTERA.ES

J.A. Arribas

PLAN YOUR TRIP

TOURISTIC INFORMATION

La Savina: +34 971 32 20 57 · informacioturistica@formentera.es | Es Pujols: +34 971 32 89 97 · espujols@formentera.es
Sant Francesc : +34 971 32 36 20 · sanfrancesc@formentera.es | **Área de promoción turística:** turismo@formentera.es

SHIPPING (Ibiza – Formentera- Ibiza)

Formentera Lines: +34 971 32 31 07 | www.formenteralines.com
Trasmapi: +34 971 31 44 33 | 971 32 27 03 | www.trasmapi.com
Balearia: 902 160 180 | 971 31 20 71 | www.balearia.com
Aquabus: www.aquabusferryboats.com

· **Próximo ferry:** All the timetables of all the shipping companies on one website: www.proximoferry.com
· **Fly & Vai Global Touristic Services:** Bus transfer service from the airport to the port of Ibiza, boat tickets, accommodation, excursions, car rental and special services. +34 654 400 363 | www.flyevai.com

Moonkoala

Alfredo Montero

PLAN YOUR TRIP

ACCOMMODATION:

FORMENTERA'S OFFICIAL TOURISM WEBSITE: www.formentera.es
HOTEL ASSOCIATION: www.formenterahotelsguide.com

TRAVEL AGENCIES:

· ES FREUS: Sant Joan, Cantonada 8 d'Agost, 07860 Sant Francesc | +34 971 32 22 84|85
· ISLAMAR: Espalmador 71, 07871 Es Pujols · +34 971 328279 | reservas@viajesislamar.com | www.viajesislamar.com
· FLY & VAI GLOBAL TOURISTIC SERVICES: Aeropuerto de Ibiza - Llegadas | +34 971 93 29 62 | www.flyevai.com
· FORMENTERA BREAK: P° Marítimo, local 6 07860 La Savina | +34 932188343
· FORMENTERA NATURAL: online booking centre +34 661 141 411 | www.formenteranatural.com

TRANSPORT:

PUBLIC BUS: Formentera has regular bus lines throughout the year, reinforced in the summer months. There is also a minibus adapted for people with special mobility needs.
Timetables and details: Autocares Paya: +34 971 32 31 81 | www.busformentera.com

TAXIS: There is also a taxi service with stops in the port of La Savina and in all urban centres, one of the taxis is adapted for people with reduced mobility. Es Pujols: +34 971 32 80 16 | The port of la Savina: +34 971 32 20 02 | Sant Francesc + 34 971 32 20 16 | Radio Taxi: +34 971 32 23 42

DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER
· AUTOCARES PAYA: +34 971 32 31 81 | www.busformentera.com
· PITIÜSA SUD: +34 971 32 90 33 | www.formenteratransfers.com
· FLY & VAI GLOBAL TOURISTIC SERVICES: Aeropuerto de Ibiza - Llegadas | (+34) 971 93 29 62 | www.flyevai.com

FORMENTERA ECO

REGULATION OF THE CIRCULATION OF VEHICLES IN FORMENTERA

The Consell Insular de Formentera has promoted a regulation of the circulation of vehicles. In application of the Law for the environmental and economic sustainability of the island of Formentera, it regulates the entry to the island, circulation and parking on public roads of all types of motor vehicles.

You can consult all the information and make the procedure in the following link:
www.formentera.eco/en

Rutes verdes
rutas verdes / green routes
Formentera
Illes Balears
www.formentera.es
platja de ses Illetes
platja de Llevant
punta de sa Pedrera
la Savina
platja des Caneyers
punta Prima
torre de sa Punta Prima
platja des Pujols
Cala Saona
punta Rasa
platja des Arenals
far de la Mola
punta de sa Creu
punta des Llenyo
far de Barbaria
cap de Barbaria
torre des Garrovet
punta de l'Aguila
platja de Migjorn
es Caials
es Pujols
es Ca Marí
es Cuitadors
es Pilar de la Mola
punta Roja

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