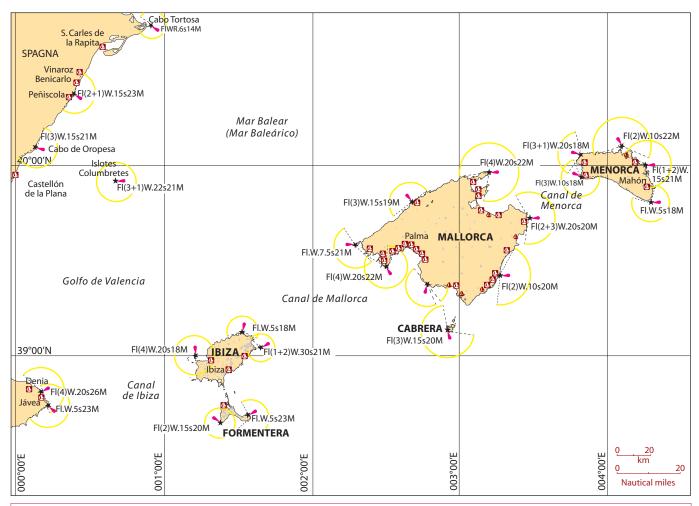
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BALEARIC ARCHIPELAGO



Mooring in the Balearic Islands

The Balearic Islands have a well-organised harbour system. In town harbours, yacht moorings are managed by PortsIB, a local government body, and local yacht clubs, but there is no shortage of luxury private marinas for large yachts. Remember, though, that the islands are extremely popular in summer and demand far outstrips the number of berths available. It is therefore a good idea to book well in advance. PortsIB is a handy, affordable and efficient service, as it shows the real-time availability of berths and enables you to book (www.portsib.es).

Don't be disappointed, however, if you can't find a berth, as the islands boast an infinite array of anchorages, some of which are extremely safe, as well as being breathtaking. Beware that the entire archipelago is covered by the Posidonia Project, which prohibits anchoring on its beds of Posidonia Oceanica in a bid to safeguard them. The authorities conduct extensive, by-the-book inspections, especially in protected marine areas, where fishing and diving are also regulated.

Environmental organisation Life Posidonia runs the moorings in the protected marine areas. The moorings themselves are set in beautiful locations and are reasonably affordable. They can be booked online or on-site (www.balearslifeposidonia.eu).

Climate and weather

The Balearic Islands are split into two climate zones. The south-west zone (Ibiza and Formentera) is influenced by mainland Spain, so the weather is mainly stable, with SE prevailing winds and rare gales. The north-east zone (Mallorca and Menorca) is influenced by the Gulf of Lion, with Menorca being particularly affected. The prevailing winds in this zone are from the N-E and N-W quarter; note that they can increase to gale force extremely quickly.

In settled weather, a sea breeze (brisa de mar) blows ever-present across the archipelago. It gets up in the morning and dies down at sunset. In some areas, especially where the breeze enters the large bays, it can reach 20 knots. This keeps temperatures at around 30-33°C, even in July and August, thus preventing them reaching the scorching 40°C found along the Spanish coast.

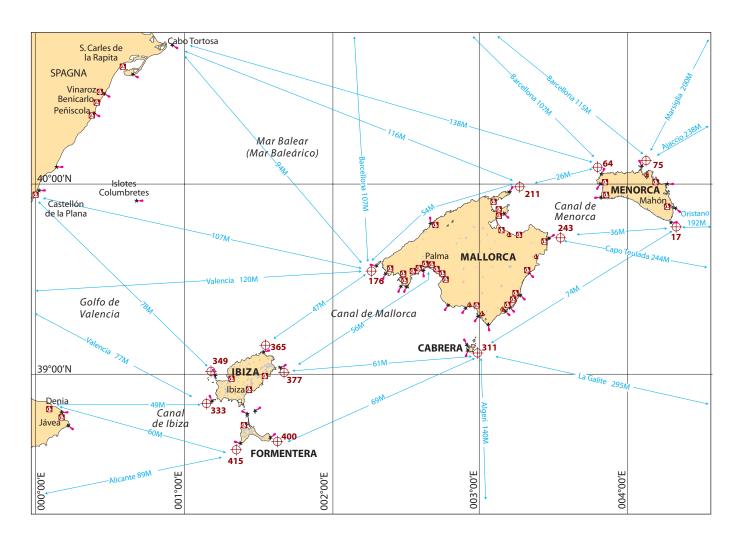
The W wind can prove dangerous between the islands of the archipelago, especially in the channel between Mallorca and Ibiza.

As mentioned above, the north of the archipelago is dominated by northerlies, in particular by the mistral (NW) and tramontana (N), The tramontana can get up suddenly and batter the northern coast of Menorca ferociously. When it does, the coast becomes extremely dangerous and you should stay well off. The arrival of a tramontana is heralded by very dry air and particularly clear skies, although sometimes long clouds will be seen. It generally blows for at least three days, but can sometimes last up to a week, if not longer.

The scirocco (leveche) blows from Africa and brings humidity, haze and cloud. When it blows hard, it picks up grains of sand which turn the rain a rusty-red colour. It is frequent in summer and usually lasts no longer than one or two days.

The vendaval (W) and levante (E) blow mainly between autumn and spring, but do occasionally get up in summer. The SW-W vendaval is short-lived and blows strongest in winter. The levante, known locally as Ilevantade, is more treacherous and can last up to three or four days when it reaches gale force. Warning signs appear several days in advance with the formation of long or large stratus clouds, followed by a mass of cloud shrouding the highlands, bringing poor visibility and a gradual intensification of swell (las tascas). Heavy rain can occur in spring and autumn.

DISTANCES AND MAIN ROUTES



NAVIGATION WAYPOINTS AND MAIN DISTANCES					
+	DESCRIPTION	WGS 84 CO	ORDINATES LONGITUDE	CHART	
17	1M SE of Isla del Aire	39°47'.50N	004°18'.00E	1-5	
64	1M NW of Cabo Nati	40°03'.91N	003°48'.61E	15-16	
75	0.5M NE of Cabo Caballeria	40°06'.00N	004°06'.00E	8-16-18	
176	0.7M SW of Isla Dragonera	39°34'.00N	002°17'.50E	39-44	
211	1.5M NE of Cabo Formentor	39°59'.00N	003°15'.00E	50	
243	1M E of Cabo de Pera	39°43'.00N	003°31'.00E	57-58-60	
311	1M SE of Isla Imperial	39°07'.10N	002°58'.30E	75-76	
333	1M SW of Isla Vedrà	38°51'.00N	001°10'.00E	84-85	
349	1M NW of Isla Conejera	39°01'.00N	001°11'.00E	86	
365	2M N of Punta Moscarté	39°09'.00N	001°33'.00E	90-93	
377	1M SE of Isla Tagomago	39°01'.00N	001°40'.00E	93	
400	1.5M SW of Punta de Codolà	38°40'.00N	001°37'.00E	98	
415	1.5M SW of Cabo Barberia	38°37'.00N	001°22'.00E	98	



