

There are more than 80 different dive sites around the Balearic Islands, including nature reserves, caves, walls, reefs and wrecks. The water is warmest in the summer months, of course, but there is good diving year round for enthusiasts. Visibility averages around 30m, though can extend to 50m in places.

The islands offer something for every diver, from beginner to advanced. Whether you are looking for a shallow taster dive or a complex cave dive, there are some excellent dive centres and guides who will tailor trips around your preference.

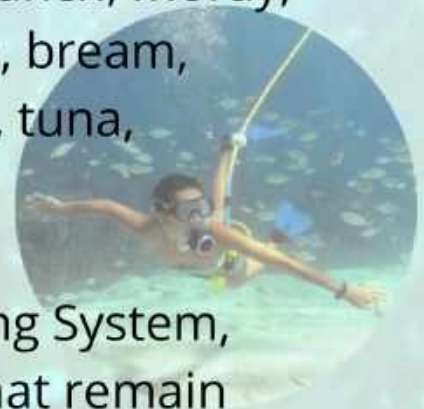
Permits are required to dive in the reserves, which we can arrange for you in advance. For private guided dives, these are best arranged well in advance, as local guides tend to get booked up in high season.

Mallorca



Mallorca's coastline offers a great variety, from easy shore dives to technical dives for advanced or expert divers, to depths up to 70 metres.

Among the interesting caves and swim-throughs, sea-life varieties typically found include nudibranch, moray, barracuda, wrasse, scorpionfish, rabbitfish, bream, damselfish, lobster, grouper, conger, coral, tuna, scorpionfish, octopus and many more.



In Sóller it is possible to try the PETER Diving System, using long lines to compressed air tanks that remain on the surface. The lack of BCDs and tanks to be worn makes PETER particularly beneficial for elderly divers or people with disabilities.



Cabrera is a designated nature reserve and is one of the best dive sites of Mallorca. Great biodiversity and precipitous underwater cliffs await.

Barracuda shoals, seahorses, red starfish, dolphins, sea turtles and corals can be found here. The 'Cova Azul' (or blue grotto) is a key attraction, famous for luminously blue water and many shoals of fish.

Yachts up to 30m can moor here overnight, with a handful of buoys that are bookable up to 14 days ahead. Day buoys are available for tenders up to 15m.

Protected since 1995, the Island of Dragonera is one of Mallorca's finest dive sites.



Underwater cliffs down to 50m lead down to a panoramic reef, with many different shapes and colours of nudibranchs, corals, sponges and tube anemones. The slopes and caves are a rich habitat for large grouper, barracuda and lots of damsel fish. At max depth, also look out for large prawns and lobsters.



Another marine reserve lies off the coast at Illa del Toro. Marine life here includes moray eels, scorpionfish, golden redfish, amberjacks, red

dragonfish and wrasses. A 40-metre deep wall contains lots of crevices and small caves, home to octopus and conger eels. The nearby Punta Cautius dive site lies outside of the reserve, though lots of marine life can be seen here, including eagle rays. Because of strict regulations, diving is permitted only with authorisation of a diving club.

Malgrats, near Santa Ponsa, was designated a nature reserve in 2004. It is home to a 133m long wreck, which is rich in plant and marine life, making the site one of



the most popular dives in Mallorca. Among the red coral reefs, sponges and sea grass are octopus tucked into tiny holes, moray eels, breams and mussels.

Peñon S'aguiot

Near Malgrats, this site drops to 35m, where there is a small wreck and the remains of an aircraft wing. Among the yellow madrépora, sea feather dusters, sabela, red serpula there's lots of marine life, including octopus, cuttlefish, scorpionfish, rockfish, red mullet, moray eel, conger eel, barracuda and nudibranch.

Isla del Sec

Staying southwest, this site boasts three wrecks down to 32m, and is home to many eels and large shoals of barracuda, among the larger species that forage here.

Isla de Sa Porrassa

Off Magaluf, this small island is a lovely setting for a relaxed dive, especially suitable for beginners. Maximum depth is 15m, with cavernous landscape and nice walls. Lots of posidonia seagrass means plenty of marine life, bringing barracuda here and, on a good day, dolphins too.

Sa Madonna

Near Cap de Llamp, Sa Madonna is a large cave with two air pockets. Inside is a statue of the Madonna, installed here by fishermen to give thanks for the sea and her riches.



Palma Bay

Right in front of Palma's cathedral, in the bay, there are four wrecks to be explored down to 35m. While the site houses many shoals of fish, visibility here is hindered by traffic in and out of the busy port.

Pirate Cave

Cave divers should head for Pirate Cave, near Cala Varques, to the east. The cave is large with various tunnels, subterranean lakes and chambers.

The Big Cheese

To the north, in the Cala Ratjada marine reserve, The Big Cheese is made up of a reef the front of which protrudes the surface, dropping down to a depth of 60m behind. It is a network of tunnels, caverns and caves, full of groupers, barracudas, moray eels and nudibranchs.

'A' Cave

For advanced divers only, off Cap de Formentor lies a series of caves. The entrance has two oblique sides with a bridge in between, forming a letter 'A'. From 30m, the formation leads through four caves in one dive, Jeronimo, Hammer Cave, 'A' Cave and 'S' Cave.



Menorca has some of the finest dive sites in the Balearics. The most popular sites are concentrated off the west coast, though all along the south coast, down to Isla del Aire, there are plenty of great spots to explore.

La Plataforma

This artificial reef is a sunken platform used in the construction of a marina at Cala 'n Bosch, lying at 40m. Present here are large-scaled scorpions, forkbeards, moray eels, groupers, greater amberjacks and hermits, while common eagle rays are also spotted at times.



Cala'n Blanes

This is an easy dive, to a maximum of 15m, with several caves and some sunken motorcycles to explore. With lots of seagrass here, marbled electric rays roam, as well as white seabreams, two-banded seabreams, ornate wrasses, rainbow wrasses, and damselfish. Among the rocks you will spot moray eels and octopus.



Punta Del Contrabandista

Off Ciutadella, this site down to 18m has some caves and lots of marine life, though with only moderate visibility, a torch is recommended. Aside from groupers and moray eels, there are shakers, bream, sea breams, wrasses, salemas, red mullets, combers and cuttlefish.

Cala Blanca

Easy shore dive, great for beginners, to max depth of 12m, but with plenty of marine life to see. Typically, white sea bream, two-banded sea bream, ornate wrasses, striped red mullets, combers, painted combers, greater weevs and wide-eyed flounders can be found here.



There are numerous dive sites to explore all around Ibiza, including caves and caverns, as well as what is probably the Mediterranean's largest wreck.

Es Vedrà and nearby islets are a popular area with divers, with clear waters and unspoilt marine life. The rock holds a certain mystique after centuries of mythical, unexplained lights and sounds emanating from the water, as well as UFO sightings overhead.



Just outside of Ibiza Town's main port rests the freighter MS Don Pedro at 47m. The wreck offers five different dives. Experienced divers will be able to enter the hold, to view the intact freight trucks and cargo. In the sandy bottom, look for small-spotted cat sharks or sandy dogfish.

Cala Llonga

Off the eastern shore, entered via a wide opening at 5-10m depth, this cave is a favourite, with an enclosed air pocket to surface into. Not many fish reside here, but torch light will illuminate plenty of prawns and different types of crab.

Bajo

Bajo near Es Vedra, also known as 'La Aguja' is a huge rock at 35m, topping out at 5m, with schools of seabream and barracudas accompanying divers here. The dive starts at a platform at 10m, leading to valleys between tall walls and a cave containing an air pocket. Expect to find moray eels and nudibranchs tucked away.

La Galera

The next site at Es Vedra, the islet of La Galera, is a wall dive to 28m, swimming through a crevice that houses cardinalfish, rainbow wrasses and damselfish, among others. Bryozoan colonies adorn the walls, as well as a wide variety of sponges and sea squirts. In the summer months, fortunate divers may spot seahorses here too.

La Bota

Nearby, La Bota is a pinnacle that stands at 40m, rising to just a metre below the waterline. Strong currents mean plentiful marine life, including large groupers, barracudas, scorpionfish, moray eels, lobsters, seabream and tuna. Sightings of seahorses are regularly reported here too.

Formentera

Formentera's Caribbean-style sandy beaches and clear, calm waters make this a great destination for novice divers and beginners. The abundance of seagrass gives the water its great clarity and draws plenty of marine life.

