

CRUISING CLUB OF AMERICA MALLORCA RALLY

PALMA

- Best berths for non-charter boats would be at the Real Club Nautico de Palma (RCNP), perhaps the most prestigious yacht club in Spain but also the cheapest berthing in Palma! If the restaurant 49 Steps is where it looks from the photo, Marina Moll Vell is immediately below it and I imagine the chartered yachts will be in Marina La Lonja Charter which is a couple of minutes' walk towards the fish dock; RCNP is just beyond the fish dock, 5-15 minutes' walk depending on where berthed in the large marina (by the clubhouse is best).
- For provisioning there is a large Carrefour supermarket in Porto Pi, almost opposite Club de Mar Marina. Also, in Avenida Jaume 111, El Corte Ingles have a good food hall in their basement.
- The old town of Palma is very attractive, as indeed is most of the island and I would recommend those who can do so to spend time on the island and perhaps the other islands as well before, or better after, the cruise.

HARBOURS/ANCHORAGES, SOUTH COAST EAST OF PALMA

- Puerto de la Rapita at the west end of the Ensenada de la Rapita is a good marina with reasonable facilities. There is a good restaurant just outside the northeast end.
- Anchoring is straightforward immediately outside the marina and indeed it is possible to anchor on sand almost anywhere in the three miles or so to Colonia de Sant Jordi. The beach along this stretch, Playa del Trench, is said to be the best in Mallorca.
- The marina at Colonia de Sant Jordi is really just for small yachts. There is an anchorage immediately outside with some reports of foul bottom or poor holding but OK with care and perhaps a trip line to the anchor. Otherwise Playa des Carbo is within an acceptable dinghy ride.
- Sant Jordi is a holiday resort rather for the Spanish, with many restaurants. Just inland are some very ancient, but still functioning, salt pans.

CABRERA

- This national park is well worth a visit but, in the context of a two week cruise, I suggest that one night is quite sufficient. As previously recommended you could ask the charter company to make a block booking when it is known how many boats of what lengths wish to go there.
- There is in fact little to do in Cabrera except visit the fort and short walks ashore. There is a small bar/café but no restaurant.
- About one and a half miles from Puerto de Cabrera are the Blue Caves. This is rather a long way except in a powerful dinghy and there is no anchorage, but yachts can hover off leaving some crew in command whilst the dinghy enters the caves.

HARBOURS/ANCHORAGES, EAST COAST

This coast is often called the “Costa de Calas” due to the number of harbours and anchorages along its entire length, with only short distances between them. We give below a selection of the best, from south to north.

- Cala Mondrago: a good sized anchorage and reasonably undeveloped with a café/bar on each of its beaches.
- Porto Petro: One of our favourites. A good marina belonging to the Club Nautico with good facilities. Each part of the cala has mooring buoys managed by the Club Nautico, including three for yachts up to 25 metres. Some excellent restaurants ashore. Reasonable provisioning.
- Cala Mitjana: Not large but good protection. It may be necessary to take a line ashore.
- Puerto Colom: You have planned a beach paella party here, presumably on Playa s’Arenal to starboard on entry (is the Blue Bar providing the paella?). This is the only place in Colom where it may be allowable for a few yachts to anchor; otherwise there is the marina of the Club Nautico who also control the large number of buoys laid for mooring. PortsIB also have two pontoons. A dinghy ride from any of these to the beach is feasible.
- Cala Magraner and Barquetas. Quiet, undeveloped, and really rather lovely.

- Cala Barcas: the same comment!
- Porto Cristo: The Club Nautico marina is very good with plenty of visitor berths. There are also a good number berths on the town side of the cala run by PortsIB which are much cheaper. Good provisioning 10 minutes' walk up the hill behind PortsIB (Hypo Centro). The Cuevas del Drach are spectacular, well worth a visit.
- Cala de Canamel: A rather open anchorage in the northwest corner of the bay, but a rather nice restaurant with a dinghy landing and only a five minute walk to the Cuevas de Arta which are also supposed to be worth a visit. Canamel is a small holiday resort but quite pleasant and quiet.
- Puerto de Cala Ratjada: An active fishing port and good berthing run by PortsIB. Also a pleasant holiday resort with many restaurants. Good provisioning.

DIVERSION TO CIUDADELA DE MENORCA

Ciudadela is only 25 miles from Cala Ratjada and then back to Alcudia in Mallorca is 35 miles. Once the capital of Menorca, Ciudadela has a beautiful harbour and fascinating old town full of history; indeed the whole of Menorca is exciting for anyone with an interest in naval history. Ciudadela does of course have the link to David Farragut, first Admiral of the U.S.Navy. Many good restaurants, we recommend S'Amarrador or Café Balear at the head of the harbour by and just beyond the bridge.

NORTH COAST HARBOURS AND ANCHORAGES

- Aucanada anchorage (not Alcanada): We do not know La Terraza beachfront restaurant, but would note that in the event of inclement weather you would be unlikely to find berths in Marina Alcudiamar. The marina does not have visitor berths although it will let out berths where the regular berth-holder is away. An alternative location would be Cala Formentor where there are beach restaurants and also the Hotel Formentor where Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier of Monaco spent their honeymoon. The hotel is a lovely place for a "sundowner" or a meal. Puerto de Pollensa is very close if weather dictates a late change of plan, with a selection of visitors berths at the Club Nautico and PortsIB and a

reasonably protected anchorage (see below). Note that the old town of Alcudia, well worth a visit is almost equidistant from Puerto de Alcudia and Marina de Bonaire.

- Puerto de Pollensa: The large harbour contains a thriving Club Nautico and a substantial PortsIB marina, the latter having the better and more protected visitor berths. The large number of visitor berths makes it likely that berths may be found at short notice in the event of bad weather. There are anchorages to the northeast of the port and in the lee of Punta de la Avanzada. The port is also a small holiday resort, and the attractive old town of Pollensa is a short bus ride away. Provisioning is good with two large supermarkets just a short walk.
- Cala Formentor: see comments above. In high season anchoring is supposedly forbidden and many buoys are laid for mooring. We have been there in the second half of September and the buoys have not been in place.

NORTHWEST COAST HARBOURS AND ANCHORAGES

- Cala Figuera: This is a spectacular anchorage spoiled somewhat by the fact that in spite of its remoteness the small beach is remarkably popular with tourists. In all but very settled weather we would regard it as a lunch-time stop.
- Cala de San Vicente: A large anchorage with lots of sand for anchoring, this is again a spectacular location although there is fairly considerable tourist development. There are of course a number of restaurants ashore.
- Cala de la Calobra: The four photos in the rally information above the label “North Coast” are of this Cala with two of them looking into the opening into the barranca (gully) of the Torrente de Pareis. This cala is a “must” even if for only a brief stop.
- Puerto de Soller: This is the only well protected harbour on this coast and has a private marina and a PortsIB pontoon for either of which it is advisable to pre-book if many yachts want marina berths. Earlier this year the shore facilities were in course of redevelopment/ upgrading. There is a large anchorage in the cala which is generally well protected but can become untenable in strong northwesterlies; yachts caught anchored when this happens (unlikely in September) can end up rafted in the inner harbour.

Holding is said to be patchy; we have not had a problem but it is important to check that the anchor is well dug in. The port is a small but bustling holiday destination but very pleasant with many restaurants. A Victorian tram connects the port to the pretty town of Soller.

- Cala Deya: Best regarded as a lunch stop, perhaps at one of the restaurants in the small hamlet tucked into the corner of the cala.
- Peninsular de la Foradada (West anchorage): Again best regarded as a lunch stop below the remarkable hole through the peninsular. The holding is generally not good.
- Dragonera anchorages: these are generally small and rocky. For yachts wanting to overnight before Andraitx, a better bet is opposite off the small village of San Telmo in the lee of Isla Pantaleu where there are many mooring buoys but still reasonable space to anchor.

SOUTHWEST COAST, ANDRAITX TO PALMA

- Puerto de Andraitx: The main part of the harbour is taken up by the Club de Vela which seems to have a good capacity for visiting yachts. Ports IB have two pontoons which are more convenient for a wide choice of restaurants and for provisioning. Club de Vela also have a large number of mooring buoys in the outer part of the harbour – but still close to the marina – those to port on entry being the better protected by the outer mole. For those with time to spare against your schedule, this would be a good place to hire a car to tour the beautiful northwest of Mallorca (as would Puerto de Pollensa or Puerto de Soller)
- Calas Blanca/Camp de Mar and Las Illetas: for anyone wanting a quiet, last-night anchorage en route to Palma, the former is close to Andraitx and the latter only a couple of miles from Palma.

David and Susie Baggaley