

Formentera

Balearic Islands · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Formentera is a small, flat island south of Ibiza. It is less than 20 km long and has a small year-round population. Visitors come for very clear water, long white-sand beaches and slow days. Nights are quiet compared with Ibiza.

The island suits beach holidays, couples and families, and active travelers who like cycling and easy walks. There is no big nightlife scene. Most people rent a bike, swim in the morning and eat a long lunch by the sea. Salt pans, pine woods and low cliffs fill the gaps between the beaches.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times. The weather is warm, the sea is swimmable from early summer, and the island is calmer. July and August are the busiest months. Beaches, ferries and restaurants are full, and prices are highest.

Winter is quiet. Many hotels, restaurants and beach bars close from late autumn until spring, so check opening times before you book.

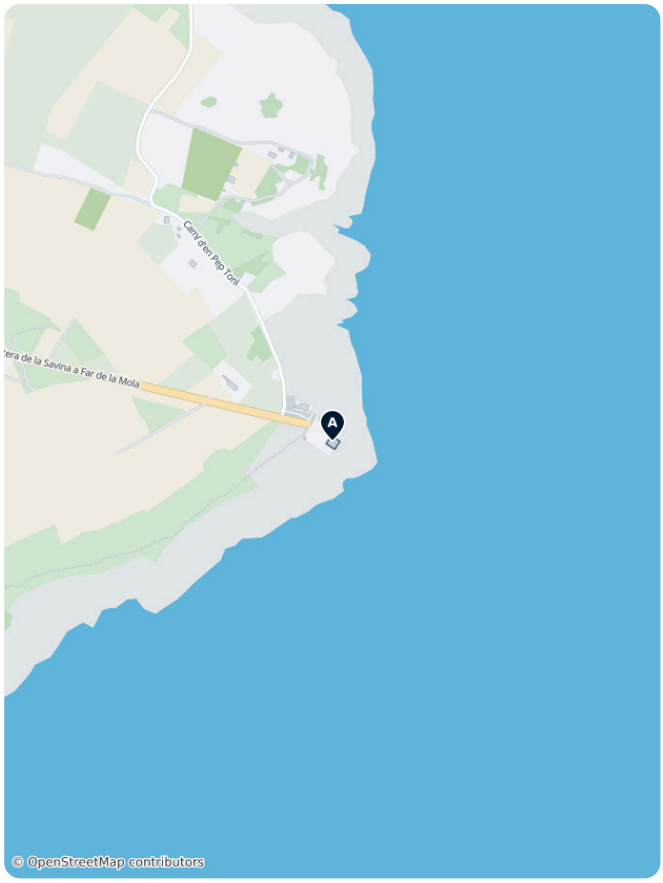
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	● Great Great for cycling	15° / 19° Feels like 11°	10° / 6°	Dry air
February	● Great Great for hiking	16° / 19° Feels like 12°	10° / 6°	Dry air
March	● Great Great for cycling	18° / 22° Feels like 14°	12° / 8°	Dry air
April	● Great Great for cycling	20° / 24° Feels like 17°	13° / 10°	Dry air
May	● Great Great for cycling	24° / 28°	16° / 13°	☀ 21 sunny days · Dry air
June	● Great Great for the beach	29° / 33°	20° / 17°	☀ 23 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
July	● Great Great for the beach	31° / 35°	23° / 20°	☀ 26 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
August	● Great Great for the beach	31° / 35°	24° / 21°	☀ 24 sunny days · Muggy, humid air
September	● Great Great for watersports	28° / 32°	22° / 18°	Humid air
October	● Great Great for cycling	24° / 28°	18° / 15°	
November	● Great Great for cycling	19° / 23° Feels like 16°	14° / 10°	Dry air
December	● Great Great for cycling	16° / 19° Feels like 12°	12° / 8°	Dry air

Best months: April, May, June, July, September, October, November

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- Ses Illetes is the island's most famous beach. It lies on a narrow sandy strip in the north, with shallow, clear water on both sides.
- The Cap de Barbaria lighthouse stands on a flat, dry headland in the far south. It is a popular place to watch the sunset.
- A La Mola Lighthouse stands on a cliff at the eastern end of the island. A monument next to it honors *Jules Verne*, who mentioned the place in a novel.
- Migjorn beach runs for several kilometers along the south coast. It is wide and has plenty of space, even in summer.
- Cala Saona is a sheltered bay on the west coast with calm water. It faces the sunset and suits families.
- The Ses Salines salt pans, north of the main port, are shallow lagoons next to the northern beaches. Birds stop here on migration.
- The Ca na Costa megalithic tomb, near Sant Francesc Xavier, is more than 3,500 years old. It is one of the oldest sites on the island.
- The church of Sant Francesc Xavier is the island's main village church. It has thick walls because it also served as a refuge from pirates.



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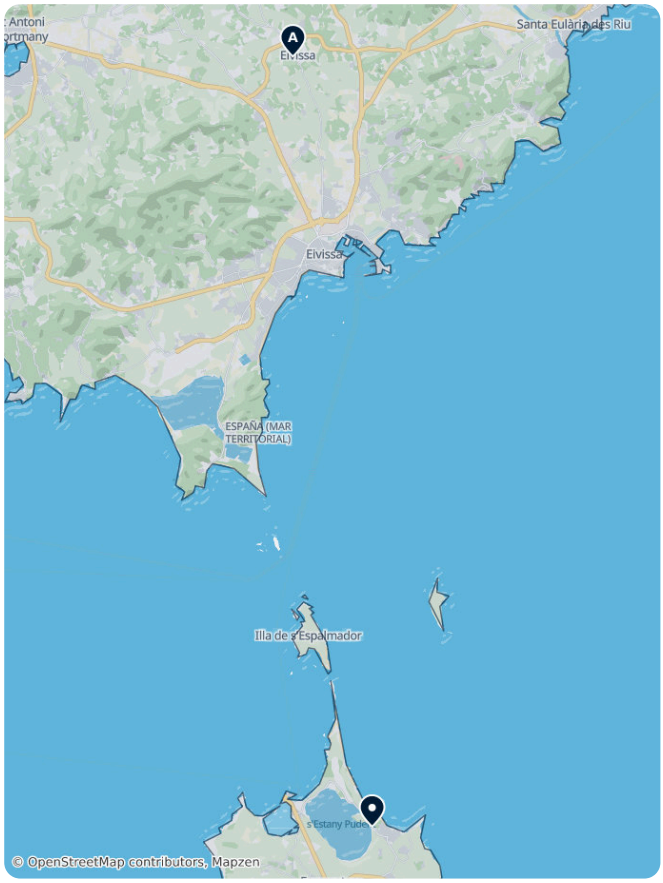
What to experience

- Cycle across the island from the port to La Mola, and stop at a village on the way.
- Browse a craft market. The La Mola market is known for handmade crafts and has a hippie history that goes back to the 1960s. Opening days change by season.
- Take a boat to Espalmador for the mud pool and a swim.
- Snorkel in the clear, shallow water of the northern beaches.
- Look for birds around the salt pans, especially during spring and autumn migration.

Day trips

Formentera is a small island, so the best day trips go by boat.

- Espalmador, a small uninhabited island just north of Formentera. Boats leave from La Savina and Ses Illetes. It has a calm beach and a famous mud pool.
- Ⓐ Ibiza, 30 minutes by fast ferry from the port of La Savina. Ibiza Town has a historic walled upper town that is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Where to explore

Formentera is part of the Balearic Islands.

- Heading north: Ibiza is the nearest island and the usual gateway.
- Other Balearic islands: Mallorca and Menorca are further north-east and easiest to reach from the mainland or by plane.

Getting there

- **By air**: Formentera has no airport. Most visitors fly into Ibiza Airport (IBZ), then take a bus or taxi to Ibiza Town port. The transfer is short.
- **By sea from Ibiza**: Ferries run from Ibiza Town to La Savina, Formentera's main port. Fast ferries take about 30 minutes, and there are frequent departures in summer. Sailings are fewer in winter. Details: Formentera tourism: transport.
- **By sea from the mainland**: Some seasonal ferries link the mainland to Formentera. Most travelers still go through Ibiza.
- **On arrival**: La Savina is where buses, bike rentals and taxis wait. Book high-season ferries ahead if you bring a vehicle.

Getting around

- **Bicycle**: The island is flat and small. Cycling is the best way to reach most beaches and villages. Rentals are easy to find at La Savina and in the main resorts.
- **Public bus**: Buses link La Savina, Sant Francesc Xavier, Es Pujols, the beaches and La Mola. They are useful for the climb to La Mola. Check the current timetable on the island's official tourism website, Formentera tourism: transport.
- **Scooter and taxi**: Scooters are popular. Taxis are available but cost more in summer.
- **On foot**: Villages are small, and walking trails link beaches, salt pans and lighthouses. Shade is limited.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Villages are small and walkable, but beaches and sights are spread out. Most visitors cycle.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The island is flat and small, and bike rental is easy.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not really. The island is small, and a bike or scooter is faster and easier to park. A car helps mainly if you stay far from the main villages.
- **Parking**: Spaces near the northern beaches fill up early in summer. Go by bike or bus, or arrive in the morning.
- **Restrictions**: Each summer, the number of cars and motorbikes that can enter the island is limited. If you plan to bring a car on the ferry, check the current rules and any fees before you travel.

Food & drink

Seafood is the main local food. Look for fresh fish, grilled or in a stew. Dried fish, local figs and sea salt from the salt pans are good things to take home.

Eat in the fishing hamlet of Es Caló, in La Savina and in Es Pujols. Sant Francesc Xavier, the main village, has many small cafes. Beach restaurants fill up at lunch in summer, so book ahead.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Formentera is very safe for visitors. Petty theft from beach bags and bikes happens sometimes, so lock your bike and do not leave valuables on the sand.

The sun is strong and shade is limited on many beaches. Bring sun protection and water. In summer, wind can make some beaches rough. Choose the side of the island that is sheltered that day.

Do not anchor boats on the seagrass meadows. This is forbidden because the seagrass is protected. Serious medical cases may be moved to Ibiza, so carry travel insurance.

History

People lived on Formentera more than 3,500 years ago. The Ca na Costa tomb near Sant Francesc Xavier is one of the island's oldest sites. Later, the Carthaginians, Romans and Moors all passed through.

From the 15th century until the early 18th century, pirate attacks left the island almost empty. From 1697, families from Ibiza began to resettle it. The church of Sant Francesc Xavier and the old watchtowers around the coast, such as the Torre de sa Gavina, date from the 18th century.

Salt production and farming shaped the economy for a long time. In the 1960s, the island became known among hippies, and that spirit still shapes the craft markets at La Mola today. The Ses Salines salt pans and the seagrass meadows are part of a UNESCO World Heritage site shared with Ibiza.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

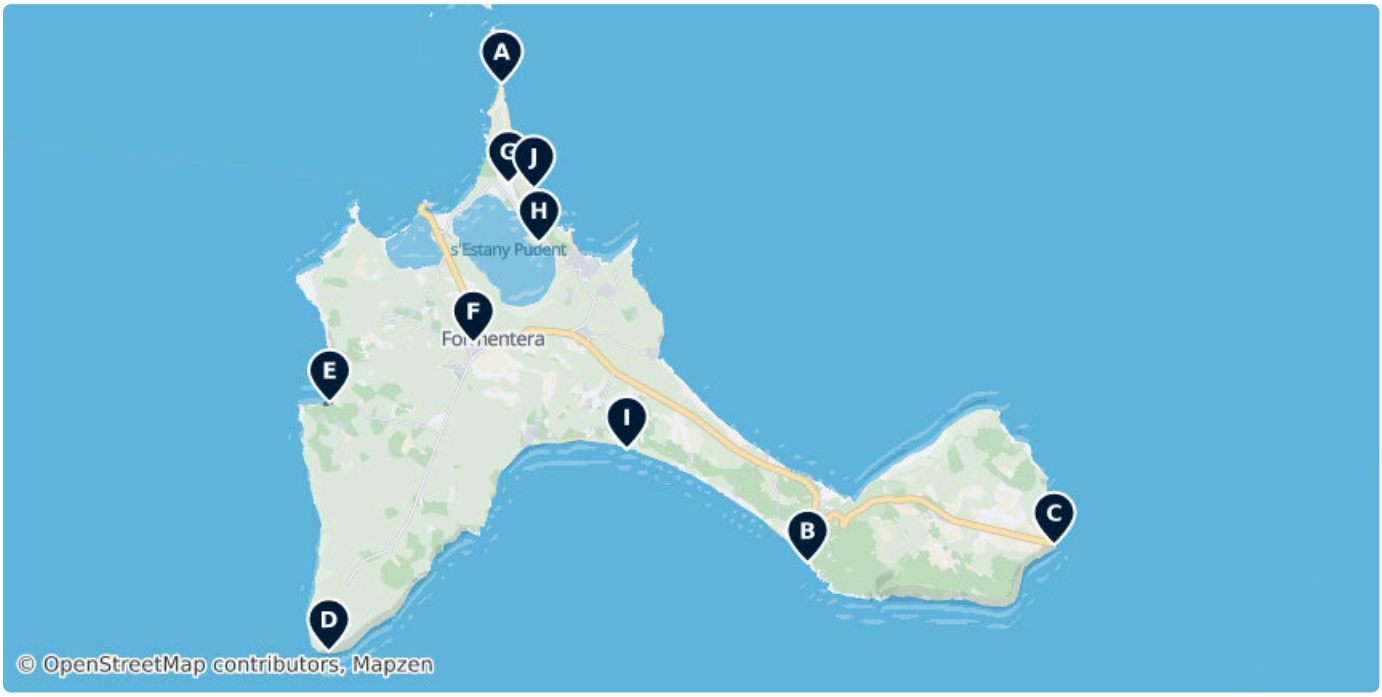
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Formentera's Absolute Essentials

Formentera features a landscape defined by the Ses Salines Natural Park, where the Trucador peninsula hosts the white sands of Ses Illetes and Llevante. The island's history is preserved in the Bronze Age megalithic tomb of Ca na Costa and the 18th-century fortified church of Sant Francesc Xavier. Dramatic coastal markers include the Far de la Mola on the eastern cliffs and the Far des cap de Barbaria to the south. From the red sandstone of Cala Saona to the five-kilometer stretch of Migjorn, the coastline offers diverse geological formations and turquoise waters.





A Platja de Ses Illetes

Located on the Trucador peninsula within the Ses Salines Natural Park, this beach is characterized by shallow turquoise waters and fine white sand.

07871, Spain (38.75969, 1.43580)

B Platja Caló d'es Morts

A secluded cove at the eastern end of Migjorn, featuring clear waters and traditional wooden boathouses built into the rocky shoreline.

07871, Spain (38.65964, 1.51772)



C Far de la Mola lighthouse

White lighthouse on the east coast of the island.

07871, Spain (38.66335, 1.58375)



D Far des Cap de Barbaria

This lighthouse stands on the island's southernmost point amidst a rocky, arid landscape. A nearby natural cave, Cova Foradada, provides a viewing point over the Mediterranean.

PM-V-820-1, 07860, Spain (38.64110, 1.38950)

E Platja cala Saona

A bay on the western coast enclosed by red sandstone cliffs. The shallow waters and sandy seabed create a distinct contrast with the surrounding rock formations.

07870, Spain (38.69315, 1.38968)



F Església de Sant Francesc Xavier

Completed in 1738, this fortified church served as a refuge against pirate incursions. Its architecture features thick, windowless walls and an austere whitewashed exterior.

14 Calle de los Molins de la Miranda, San Francisco Javier 07860, Spain (38.70554, 1.42822)

G Salines des Morroig

Ancient salt evaporation ponds located within the Ses Salines Natural Park, representing the island's historical salt industry and protected heritage.

Carretera de San Ferran a la Savina, 07870 Formentera, Spain (38.73887, 1.43760)



H Megalithic tomb of Ca na Costa

An early Bronze Age burial site dating between 2000 and 1600 BC. It consists of a central circular chamber surrounded by radiating stone slabs.

es Pujols, 07871 Formentera, Spain (38.72654, 1.44578)

I Plaja De Migjorn

Extending five kilometers along the southern coast, this is the island's longest beach, composed of various sandy stretches and rocky outcrops.

(38.68339, 1.46929)

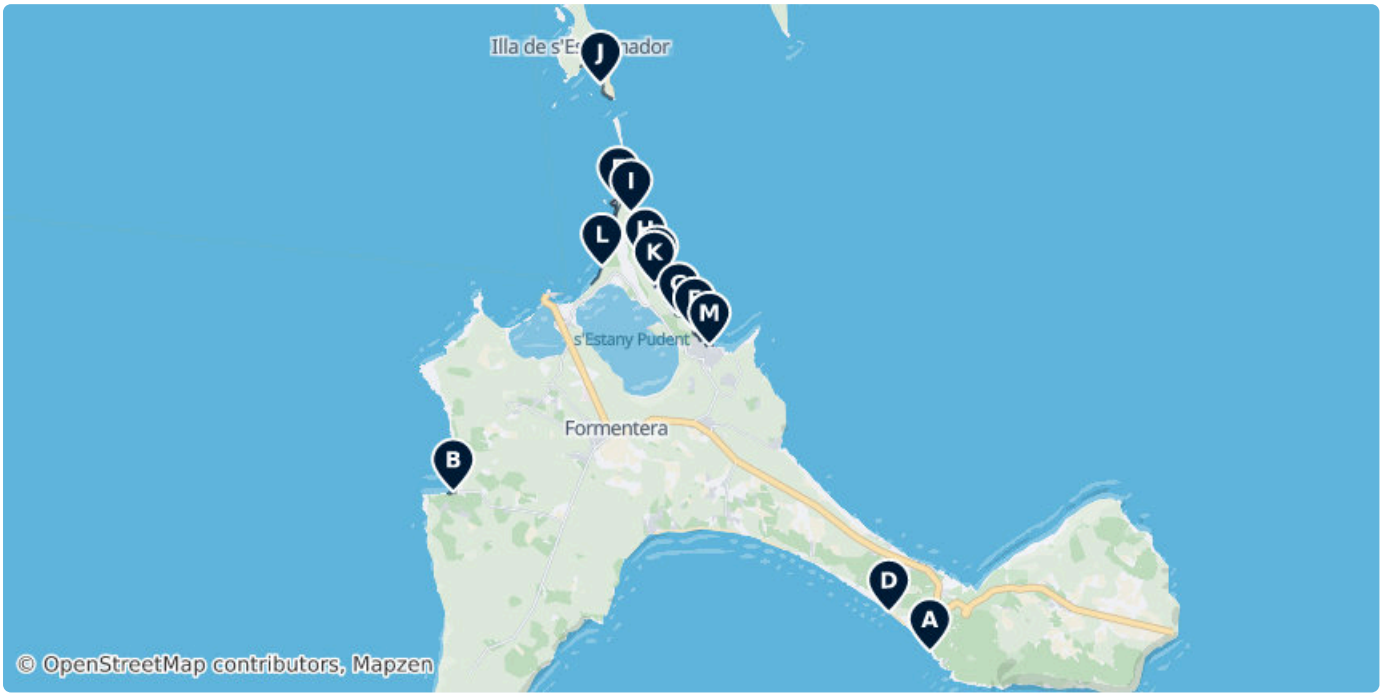
J Playa Llevante

A broad beach on the eastern side of the Trucador peninsula, characterized by its extensive dune system and proximity to the Ses Salines salt pans.

(38.73779, 1.44442)

Formentera's Best Beaches

Formentera’s coastline features a diverse range of Mediterranean landscapes, from the five-kilometer stretch of Platja de Migjorn on the south coast to the narrow Trucador peninsula. The northern tip is home to the Ses Salines Natural Park, where Ses Illetes and Llevant offer white sand dunes and shallow turquoise waters. The island's geography also includes the red sandstone cliffs of Cala Saona and the secluded rocky cove of Cala des Mort, characterized by its traditional wooden boat ramps.



A Platja Caló d'es Morts

Small rocky cove at the eastern end of Migjorn bay, featuring traditional wooden boat ramps and clear waters sheltered by low cliffs.

07871, Spain (38.65964, 1.51772)

B Platja cala Saona

A 140-meter-long sandy inlet on the western coast, enclosed by distinctive red sandstone cliffs and pine forests.

07870, Spain (38.69315, 1.38968)

C Playa Llevante

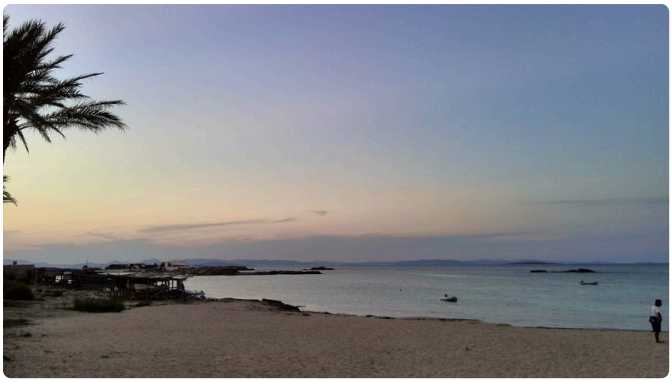
Located on the eastern side of the Trucador peninsula, this long stretch of white sand and dunes is frequently exposed to easterly winds.

(38.73779, 1.44442)

D Platja de Migjorn

The island's longest beach, spanning five kilometers along the southern coast with a mix of sandy stretches and rocky outcrops.

Spain (38.66785, 1.50672)



E Platja d'es Pujols

Urban sandy beach featuring a pedestrian promenade and small rocky islets located just offshore.

Spain (38.72696, 1.45452)



F Platja de s'Illeta

Located within the Ses Salines Natural Park, this beach is characterized by calm, shallow turquoise waters and a protected dune system.

(Unnamed Road), 07871, Spain (38.75436, 1.43408)

G Platja de ses Canyes

A quiet, narrow beach near Es Pujols, known for its low cliffs and tranquil environment.

07871, Spain (38.73009, 1.45030)

H Platja de ses Salines

Sandy beach area within the northern peninsula's protected natural park system, near the historic salt flats.

07871, Spain (38.74148, 1.44126)

I Platja de ses Salines

Part of the protected Ses Salines Natural Park, featuring fine white sand and clear Mediterranean waters.

07871, Spain (38.75165, 1.43748)

J s'Alga

Located on the uninhabited island of S'Espalmador, this pristine beach is accessible only by boat.

Spain (38.77860, 1.42922)

K Platja de ses Salines

Also known as Playa Tanga, this section of the Llevant coastline is characterized by its wide sandy area and proximity to the salt marshes.

07871, Spain (38.73669, 1.44372)

L Platja Cavall d'en Borràs

The closest beach to La Savina port, backed by a forest of junipers and offering views of the islet of Es Vedrà.

07871, Spain (38.74036, 1.42965)

M Platja d'es Pujols

Sandy beach area integrated into the Es Pujols tourist center, featuring traditional wooden fishing huts.

07871, Spain (38.72392, 1.45852)

Regional Heritage Sites

Formentera’s heritage spans from the Bronze Age to the 18th century. This collection features the island's defensive watchtowers built to guard against pirate raids, prehistoric megalithic tombs like Ca na Costa, and fortified churches such as Sant Francesc Xavier. These sites offer insight into the island's early settlements at Cap de Barbaria and its later Roman and medieval history through architectural landmarks and archaeological remains.



A Salines des Morroig

Historical salt evaporation ponds reflecting the island's traditional salt industry.

Carretera de San Ferran a la Savina, 07870 Formentera, Spain (38.73887, 1.43760)



B Església de Sant Francesc Xavier

An 18th-century fortress-church designed with thick walls to protect the population from pirate attacks.

14 Calle de los Molins de la Miranda, San Francisco Javier 07860, Spain (38.70554, 1.42822)



C Megalithic tomb of Ca na Costa

A megalithic dolmen dating back to the early Bronze Age, discovered in 1974 near Estany Pudent.

es Pujols, 07871 Formentera, Spain (38.72654, 1.44578)



D Archaelogical sites of Cap de Barbaria

Prehistoric settlement sites located on the southern peninsula, dating from the Bronze Age.

07871, Spain (38.65982, 1.40346)

E Castellum Roma de Can Blai

Remains of a small Roman fortification situated on the narrowest part of the island.

07871, Spain (38.68166, 1.49727)



F Tower of la Gavina

An 18th-century coastal watchtower once used to monitor the sea for pirate threats.

07870, Spain (38.71758, 1.38218)



G Torre de sa Punta Prima

A defensive watchtower offering views over the northern coast and Ibiza.

Calle Nueva, Club Punta Prima 07871, Spain (38.72290, 1.47073)



H Torre des Pi des Català

A restored 18th-century defensive tower located near Migjorn beach.

07871, Spain (38.68716, 1.45145)



I Torre de s'Espalmador

A defensive tower located on the islet of s'Espalmador, part of the island's historical coastal defense network.

07871, Spain (38.78485, 1.41792)

J Església del Pilar de la Mola

An 18th-century church characterized by its simple white architecture, serving the community of La Mola.

Avinguda de la Mola 7 (38.66875, 1.55677)

K Capella de sa tanca Vella

The oldest religious building on the island, dating back to the 14th century.

(38.70463, 1.42993)

L Església de Sant Ferran de ses Roques

A 19th-century parish church built with local sandstone in the village of Sant Ferran.

(38.70755, 1.45881)

M Cap de Barbaria II (Establiment Megalitic)

A prehistoric megalithic establishment forming part of the early settlement clusters on the southern cape.

07871, Spain (38.65982, 1.40346)

formenteraweb.com/pictures-formentera/sant-francesc-x...

N Cap de Barbaria I

Bronze Age archaeological remains representing some of the earliest human habitation on the island.

PM-V-820-1, 07870, Spain (38.65541, 1.39501)

formenteraweb.com/pictures-formentera/sant-francesc-x...

O Cap de Barbaria III

Megalithic archaeological site contributing to the prehistoric complex found at the island's southern tip.

PM-V-820-1, 07870, Spain (38.66044, 1.40039)

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