

A diver is seen from behind, swimming through a dark underwater cave. A bright light source, possibly a sunbeam or a powerful artificial light, illuminates the water from above, creating a strong vertical beam of light and a large amount of suspended particles. The diver is wearing a yellow tank and a mask. The cave walls are dark and rocky, with some greenish-brown growth visible on the lower right.

# **IBIZA** classic dives

ENG



• LEVEL: ★ / LOW

• LEVEL: ★ ★ / MEDIUM

• LEVEL: ★ ★ ★ / HIGH

**GPS** GEOLOCATION

 MAX. / MIN. DEPTH

 ACCESS

 TORCH

 CAVE / GROTTO

 COMPASS

 WRECK



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# IBIZA

## classic dives

### DIVING IN CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS

**If you're a fan of underwater diving but have yet to try it out around Ibiza, you'll be surprised by the extraordinary clarity of our local waters, the range of species in this part of the Mediterranean, and the amazing number of caves and shipwrecks, veritable treasure chests that attract divers from around the world.**

Sea temperatures range from 14 to 28° C throughout the year, allowing you to dive in the middle of winter.

The island has a number of diving centres where professional staff provide equipment, organize dives and are well informed about the ecological importance of our marine environment. The extensive meadows of Neptune grass (*Posidonia oceanica*), recently added to the World Heritage list, provide a habitat that shelters a wide variety of species. These meadows are what guarantees the clearness of costal waters, extending visibility to beyond 30 metres.

Exploring this underwater paradise hidden beneath the waves provides an irresistible reason for taking a holiday in Ibiza.

So why are you waiting? Go on, take the plunge!

## LLADÓ SUR

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



The Lladó are two small rocks nearly 4 km from Ibiza harbour, from which you set out heading in a NE direction. As often occurs with underwater peaks, there are numerous possibilities regarding depth route, depending on expertise and personal preference, as well as variables such as currents and visibility.

Having opted for the NE side of Lladó Sur, anchor at a buoy marking a depth of 5 metres. On diving down you find a rocky surface covered with low-growing seaweed and peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*), which drops gradually down. After gaining depth and reaching 20 metres down you proceed on the underwater circuit of the islet.

The shelf which was quite gentle at first gets steeper and steeper, with numerous scars in the rock. Lying at its base are huge broken-off boulders, among which can be seen the odd shy moray eel or octopus, always entrenched in its lair. During the dive shoals of darting damselfish are permanently on the go. Continue with the shelf always on your right and you come to a jumble of rocks which gives a chance to see species like greater forkbeard and brown meagre. The bed drops away beyond 30 metres here, but the latter depth must be your limit. Continue exploring the rocks, and as you ascend follow the rocky wall, penetrated 8 metres down by a narrow tunnel 2 metres wide and 5 metres high. You can

swim through this, emerging on the far side of the Lladó, but take care not to damage the delicate covering of false coral and encrusting anemone which adorn its surface. After emerging from the tunnel, and depending how much air remains in your tank, continue exploring the area without diving any deeper in order to return to the boat when you wish.

**GPS** 38° 55.007 N / 001° 29.591 E

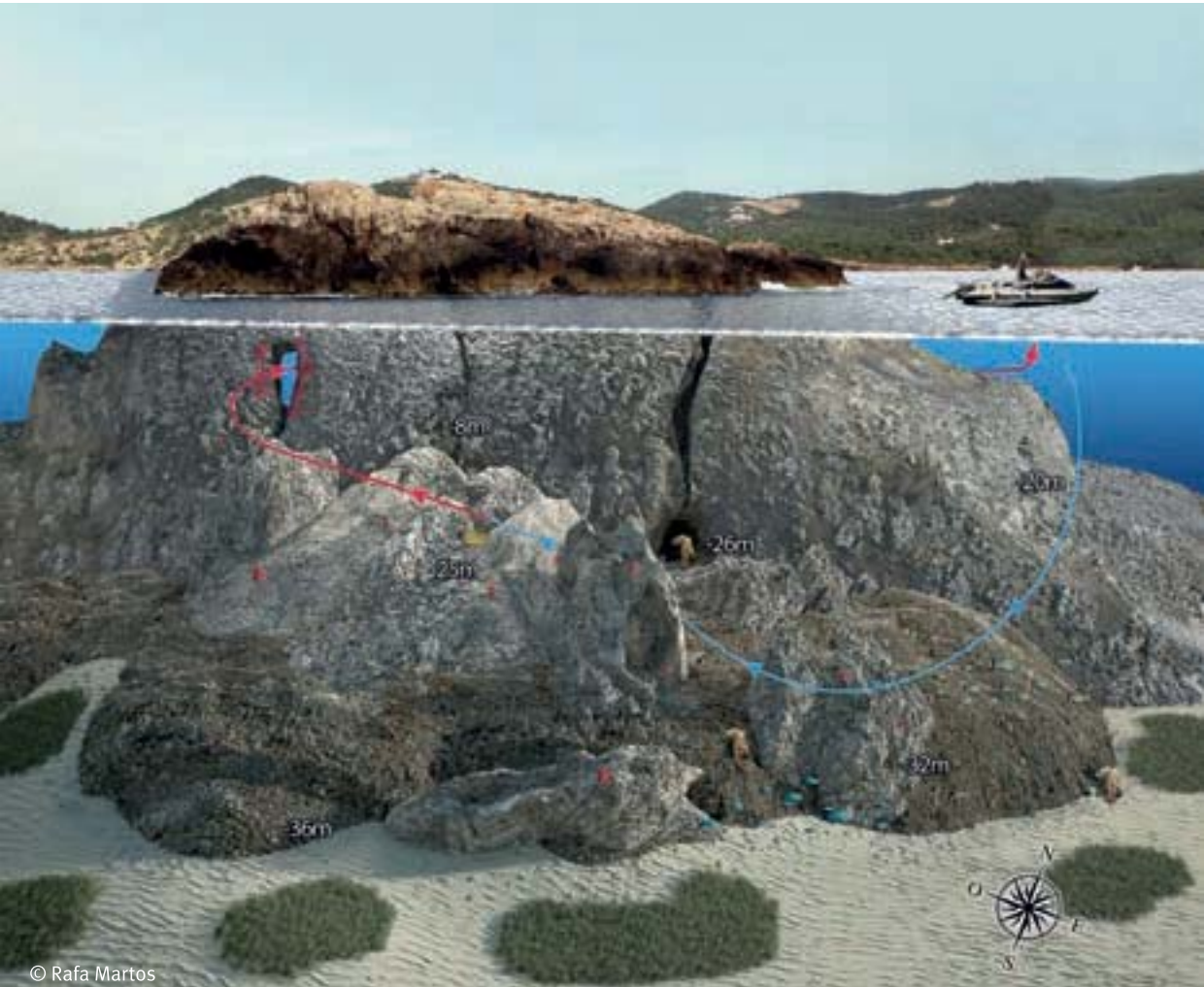
**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -32 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**COMPASS**

**CAVE**





DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						



## DADO PEQUEÑO

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



Very close to Ibiza's yacht harbour, less than 3 km to the SE, lie two small islets known as *Los Dados* (*Es Daus* in Catalan, 'the Dice'). The larger has a lighted buoy, while it was on the rocks of the '*Dado pequeño*' slightly to the south that the *Don Pedro* ran aground and sank in 2007.

Anchor on the E side of the *Dado pequeño*, in barely 5 metres of water, and seek a rocky formation which drops down at an angle of roughly 90°, resembling a lengthy hump or mound with vertical walls falling to a depth of 30 metres.

Follow this rocky wall keeping it always on your left until you come round to face in a W direction. Large rocks appear with hollows where scorpionfish and octopus find a secure refuge, while shoals of brown meagre graze with seeming indifference in the horizontal crevices of the wall.

Down at the foot of the wall are balcony-shaped hollows covered with orangey tapestries of false coral and yellow anemone, and at a depth of 16 metres you come to a small cave with a slimy floor on which noble pen shells stand erect.

We continue in the same direction and very soon come to the underwater mound, against which the hull of the *Don Pedro* ran aground. We make our way round this, and after doubling back pass along the channel between the mound and the *Dado pequeño*, returning to the starting point, always keeping an eye out for shoals of rapier-like barracuda.

**GPS** 38° 53.308 N / 001° 27.271 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -16 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**

**CAVE**





DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

# ROUTE 3

## DON PEDRO

• LEVEL: \*\*\*



The *Don Pedro* was a roll-on/roll-off boat which, in the summer of 2007, hit underwater rocks off the islet of the 'Dado pequeño' near Ibiza harbour, and ended up on the sea floor, up to 45 metres below the surface in this area. It has since acquired a reputation as one of Europe's finest shipwrecks for divers.

Leaving aside the unfortunate nature of the accident, this wreck has become an entire ecosystem for various species that have colonized the countless nooks and crannies of the immense bulkhead, 140 metres long and 20 metres wide. The *Don Pedro* now lists on its port side, while the bow is raised at an angle of 105°, and the shallower parts lie 24 metres below the surface, requiring divers to be of a certain level and preparation. The vessel's considerable length and average depth mean two or more dives are necessary to cover it properly, one to explore the bow area and another for the stern.

As the boat was carrying a cargo of motor vehicles as well as other goods, after it sank all entrances to the interior were sealed to remove the temptation to explore its interior. For this reason, the *Don Pedro* dive deals only with the ship's exterior.

Moor at one of the buoys submerged 11 metres below the surface, and from there follow the anchor line down to the

boat's starboard side. Then head to the deepest part in order to explore the propeller 36 metres below, the cargo ramp and the stern bridge (if this is the chosen dive), or alternatively the anchor, propeller and bulbous bow (for the other dive).

In either case, the diving plan must be strictly followed and reserve air tanks should be ready 5 metres down.

**GPS** 38° 53.080 N / 001° 27.169 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -45 m  
**MINIMUM DEPTH:** -23 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**

**SHIPWRECK**







DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

# LA ESPONJA

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**La Esponja is a small islet SE of Ibiza town, facing the Sal Rossa watchtower in the area of Platja d'en Bossa, not far from Ibiza harbour.**

**Dive off the N side of the island where the anchor hits the sea bed 8 metres down. You first of all find a very steep slope covered with low-growing seaweed, which falls to the underwater plain of sand and Posidonia 30 metres below.**

Without swimming all the way down and maintaining a depth which matches your experience, proceed around the wall keeping it always on your right. You soon come to some large rocky formations on the bottom, covered with bryozoans such as *Pentapora fascialis*, a colony of microscopic creatures typical of rocky seabeds at this depth. It's worth investigating any hollows in the rocky surface where shy brown meagre may be seeking a refuge.

Further on you come to another conical rock 27 metres down dotted with yellow anemone, which leads in a S direction to more large rocks in which conger eels sometimes shelter. Head back to La Esponja's shelf, now a vertical drop plunging 20 metres below the surface, and this immediately gives way to a tongue of rock with a promontory 12 metres below. Swim round this to begin on the NW side of La Esponja, where the seabed again is covered with rocks tumbled on

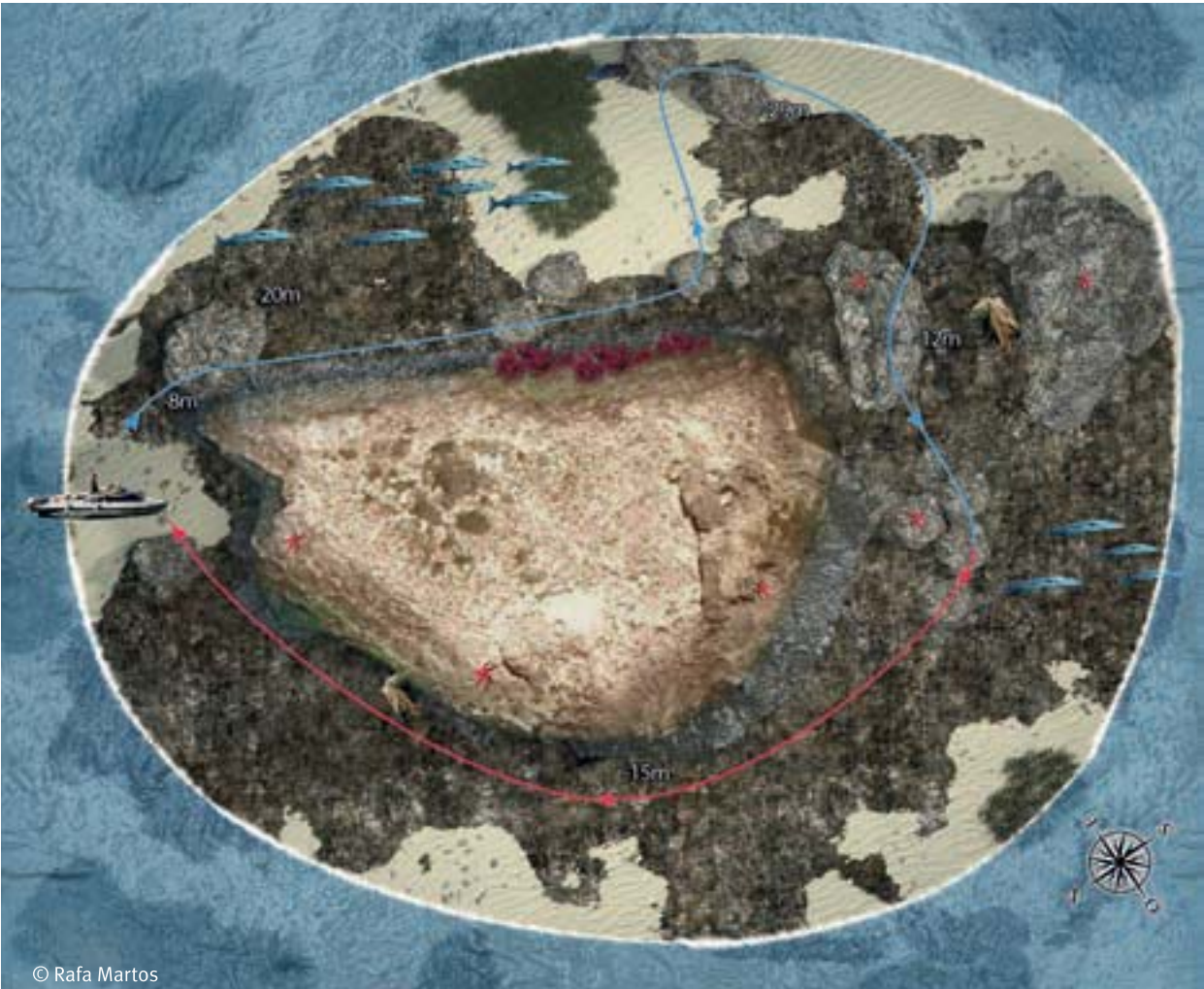
top of each other. Turn your back on these and proceed along the rocky wall until you get back to the boat, thereby completing your circuit.

**GPS** 38° 52.502 N / 001° 25.582 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -30 m

**ACCESS:** By boat





© Rafa Martos

DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

# THE MARIANA PLATFORM

• LEVEL: ★★/★★★



**The Mariana Platform was once a fish farm for fattening gilt-head sea bream, 500 metres from the E side of s'Espardell in the strait that divides Ibiza from Formentera.**

The platform fell to one side after it was totally abandoned, and has now ended up on the sea floor. Diving down you'll find an utterly amazing underwater 'landscape' created out of concrete columns and metal structures.

While the top part of the platform lies only 11 metres from the surface and the bottom is 32 metres down, suppress the urge to admire the upper part of the structure, and instead dive down to the maximum depth you have in mind. At the base you can explore a labyrinthine landscape where numerous hollows shelter grouper, moray eel and large-scaled scorpionfish, quite unruffled by your presence.

You then begin your gradual ascent, taking in the whole spectacle of this bizarre wreck, swimming through the platform's enormous arches, coming out by the columns, and enjoying the shoals of barracuda that calmly patrol this fascinating submerged hulk.

**GPS** 38° 47.378 N / 001° 28.349 E

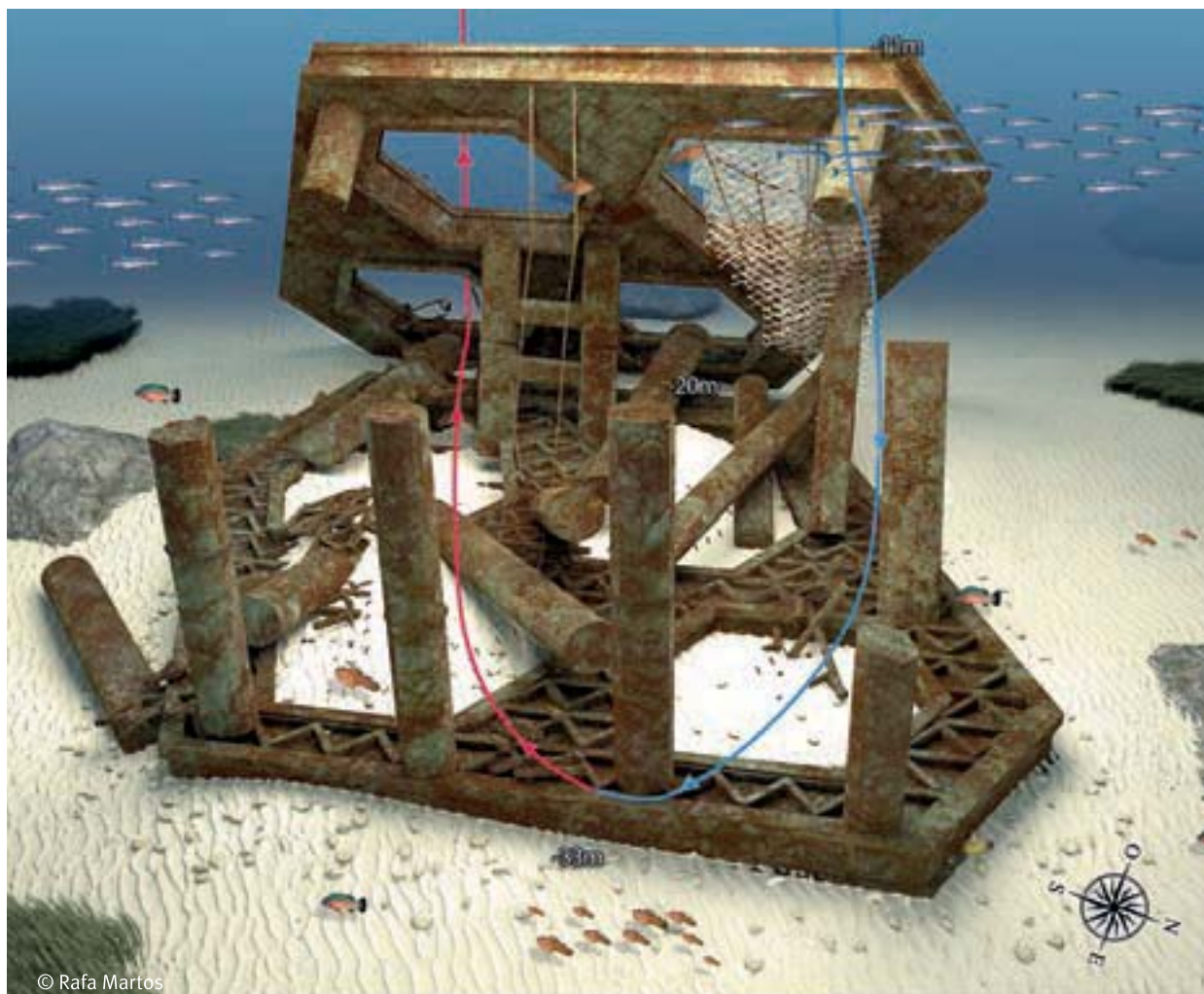
**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -33 m  
**MINIMUM DEPTH:** -11 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**







DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						



## LA AGUJA D'ES VEDRÀ

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**The Aguja (Needle) is an underwater peak near a headland on the SW side of Es Vedrà in the region of Sa Bestorre, which rises from a maximum depth of 40 metres to just 3 below the surface.**

After anchoring in a small cove beneath the spot where the island's majestic cliffs are marked with large dark stains, dive 8 metres down to the rocky seabed, then proceed in a N direction, observing the wall of the island immediately on your right, beneath which rest large blocks of stone forming arches and passageways.

Head towards the Aguja's underwater peak on your left, its profile rather like a conical-cylindrical tower, and swim round it. When you are on a bearing of 210° another small underwater mound appears on your right, and beyond that the sandy bottom, over 35 metres down. Continue on round and once facing SE-N the slopes of the Aguja are gentler and the sea bed scattered with rocks once again.

After you have completed your circuit of the Needle carry on over the large rocks seen at the beginning and head straight towards the wall of Es Vedrà itself. There you find a small cave which you enter and, after a brief look round (never losing sight of the light), you can rise if you so wish to the surface, where there is a well-lit crypt within the rock. Dive back down, noting two openings in the rock on your

left, and pass through one to find yourself practically at the anchor chain where you moored.

During this dive you may see lobster, grouper, lots of ocellated wrasse, an occasional scorpionfish (including the large-scaled species), and, of course, rock surfaces covered with delicate bryozoans, sponges and colonies of encrusting anemone. Back aboard the boat look out for goats grazing on Es Vedrà's rocky surface.

**GPS** 38° 51.887 N / 001° 11.401 E

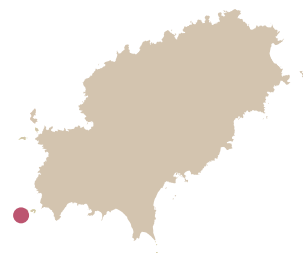
**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -35 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**

**COMPASS**

**CAVE**





© Rafa Martos

DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

## LA BOTA D'ES VEDRÀ

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**La Bota d'es Vedrà is a submarine peak roughly 1 mile NW of Es Vedrà, which rises from more than 50 metres below the surface to just a few centimetres under the water, swirling waves being the only thing to betray its presence. Because of its distance from the coastline, the area provides a good opportunity to see species passing through from the open sea, including tuna, amberjack and schools of barracuda, the latter nearly always present.**

The dive is straightforward, although careful attention must be paid to prevailing currents.

As the underwater peak is roughly circular, you dive down to the maximum depth desired, and proceed slowly around the island, whose S and E shelves slope more gently while those on the N and W faces are distinguished by sheer drops. You will find the rock wall richly covered with plants and hollows teeming with tiny fish, and at greater depths, spiny lobsters, slipper lobsters and the occasional grouper. The sandy white sea floor has medium-sized rocks, and facing N there is a prominent mound on the right between 25 and 35 metres down.

During the dive keep an eye out for the fleeting presence of amberjack, which feed voraciously in these depths, and gradually complete a circuit of the submarine peak, rising slowly all the time. Once close to the surface, about 10

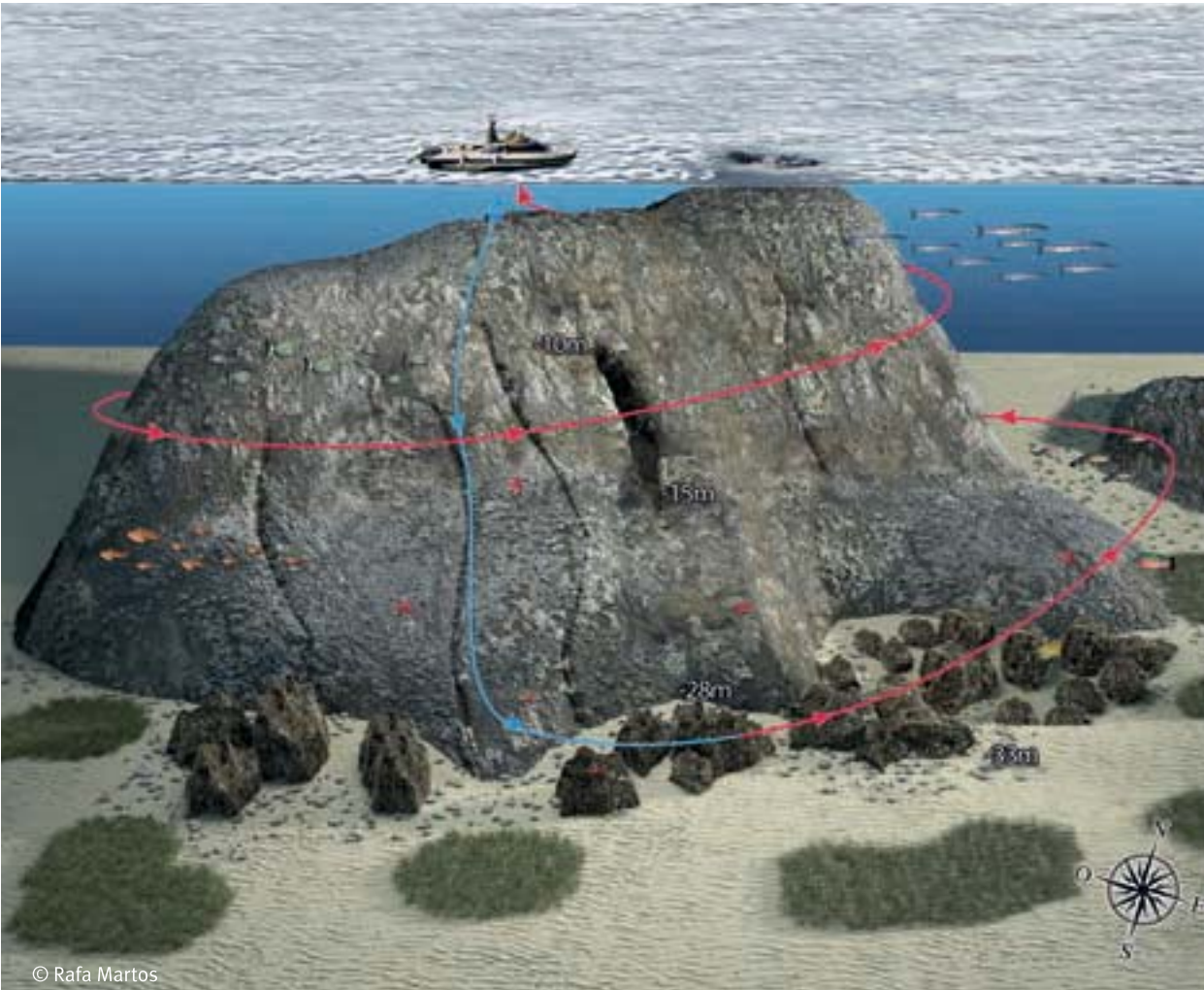
metres down, linger to observe banks of barracuda which will almost certainly be present, patrolling not far from the surface and giving lively chase to smaller prey.

**GPS** 38° 52.777 N / 001° 10.760 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -50m

**ACCESS:** By boat





DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						



# ES VEDRANELL UNDERWATER CANYONS

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**E of Es Vedrà lies the horseshoe-shaped islet of Es Vedranell. Head for the latter's W tip, and according to the prevailing wind, you can dive either on the N side or else on the S, where there is a small cove.**

Your aim is to follow the winding canyons or underwater gorges which run parallel to each other towards the adjoining island of Es Vedrà.

If you dive on the N side, between Vedranell's tip and a small islet, descend about 8 metres to the seabed covered with rocks and Posidonia. It is best to set off in a SW direction in order to descend to the maximum depth which corresponds to the last needle formed by the third canyon, 26 metres down. This rocky mass drops down sharply, with encrusting yellow anemones and fragile bryozoan colonies, a surface texture seen throughout the dive.

Go round this needle and you come immediately to the first canyon, 25 metres in length with a width reaching 3 metres, a brilliant corridor of colourful tapestries which you follow N. When you emerge from it keep the rocky wall on your right, and you immediately come to the second canyon, same maximum depth, distinguished by a large round boulder wedged firmly 20 metres below the surface. Follow this S, and on coming out of the canyon turn completely round and pass through the third canyon, maximum depth

12 metres, also full of fragile sea creatures like small sea slugs (nudi-branchia).

Head back towards the boat ascending as you approach the little islet where you dived in, and swim round this to reach the anchorage point and the end of the dive.

**GPS** 38° 52.131 N / 001° 12.433 E

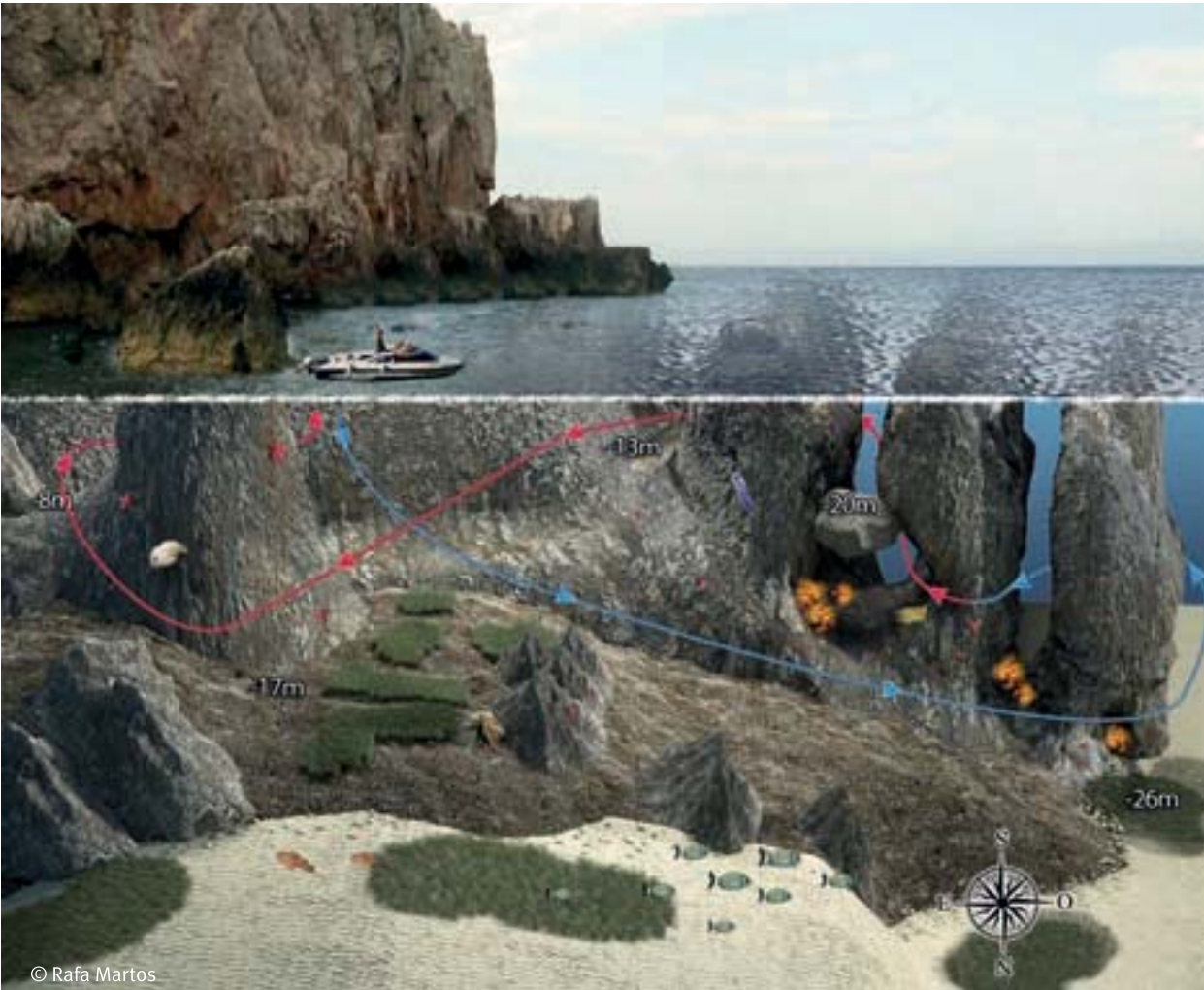
**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -26 m

**ACCES:** By boat

**COMPASS**







DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

## S'ESPARTAR

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**The island of S'Espartar lies in the strait between the s'Illa des Bosc and Sa Conillera, sailing from Sant Antoni. It is more than 2 km in length, a size which guarantees excellent opportunities for exploring underwater.**

Dive down off the island's SE side in a shallow rocky area only 3 metres deep, where the seabed has medium-sized rocks covered with seaweed. In the open parts there is plenty of bright green Posidonia, together with large examples of noble pen shells. You gain depth crossing these gentle Posidonia slopes, and after descending to 12 metres arrive at some formations of larger rocks which drop vertically like steps down to 20 metres. There is then a narrow shelf, followed by a further drop taking you 40 metres below the surface, where the surface flattens to a sandy bottom. Swim round to face the above-mentioned steps and proceed in a W direction, i.e. keeping to your right the rocky wall in which you find crevices that shelter moray eels and spiny lobsters, all against the brilliant coloured background of reddish star coral and yellow encrusting anemone. Noble pens shells are usually found in Posidonia meadows, but at a depth of 33 metres you might well come across one standing up like an erect monolith on a rocky surface, the shell spotted with the variegated tones of encrusted sponges and bryozoans.

Shortly after this you come to some large rocks 35 metres down like underwater hills which you keep on your left, and a group of smaller mounds among which the occasional grouper may be seeking refuge.

You begin the ascent along the rocky wall by doubling back along the route you came, reducing depth and keeping the wall on your left, thus making your way back to the spot where you began the dive.

**GPS** 38° 57.412 N / 001° 11.964 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -40 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**





DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

## THE SEA FANS

• LEVEL: \*\* / \*\*\*



**Ses Bledes is a small and picturesque archipelago 6.5 miles SW of Sant Antoni and a short distance from the islands of s'Espartar and Sa Conillera. As a nature reserve of great beauty it has plenty of spots for diving and some stunning sea beds. We here suggest a dive off the Bleda menor at a spot known as *Las Gorgonias* (The Sea Fans).**

After passing through a narrow strait which separates the Bleda menor from an islet, you dive down off the latter's SW side where the anchor comes to rest in 10 metres of water. You gain depth fairly quickly and are immediately aware of an impressive drop down to the sea floor. Keep the shelf to your right and head in a NW direction, and slightly more than 30 metres down you'll see the first examples from the spectacular underwater gardens of vivid red gorgonians or sea fans. Because of the depth they can only be seen properly with a good torch. The entire wall is covered with this delicate living colony which looks like the intricate skeleton of a brightly coloured bush.

This sublime underwater landscape is a veritable delight for divers, a place where you might easily come across a moray eel or even a John Dory as you swim among the fans. But careful attention must be given to the air level in your tank, and also to starting decompression, given the great depth at which sea fans grow.

Depending on the diving schedule, it's a good idea to reverse the outward route in order to head back to the anchorage, keeping the shelf now on your left, and gradually reducing depth until you arrive back at the boat, or if you prefer, swimming past it to make a comfortable safety halt in the turquoise waters of the narrow strait.

**GPS** 38° 58.136 N / 001° 09.947 E

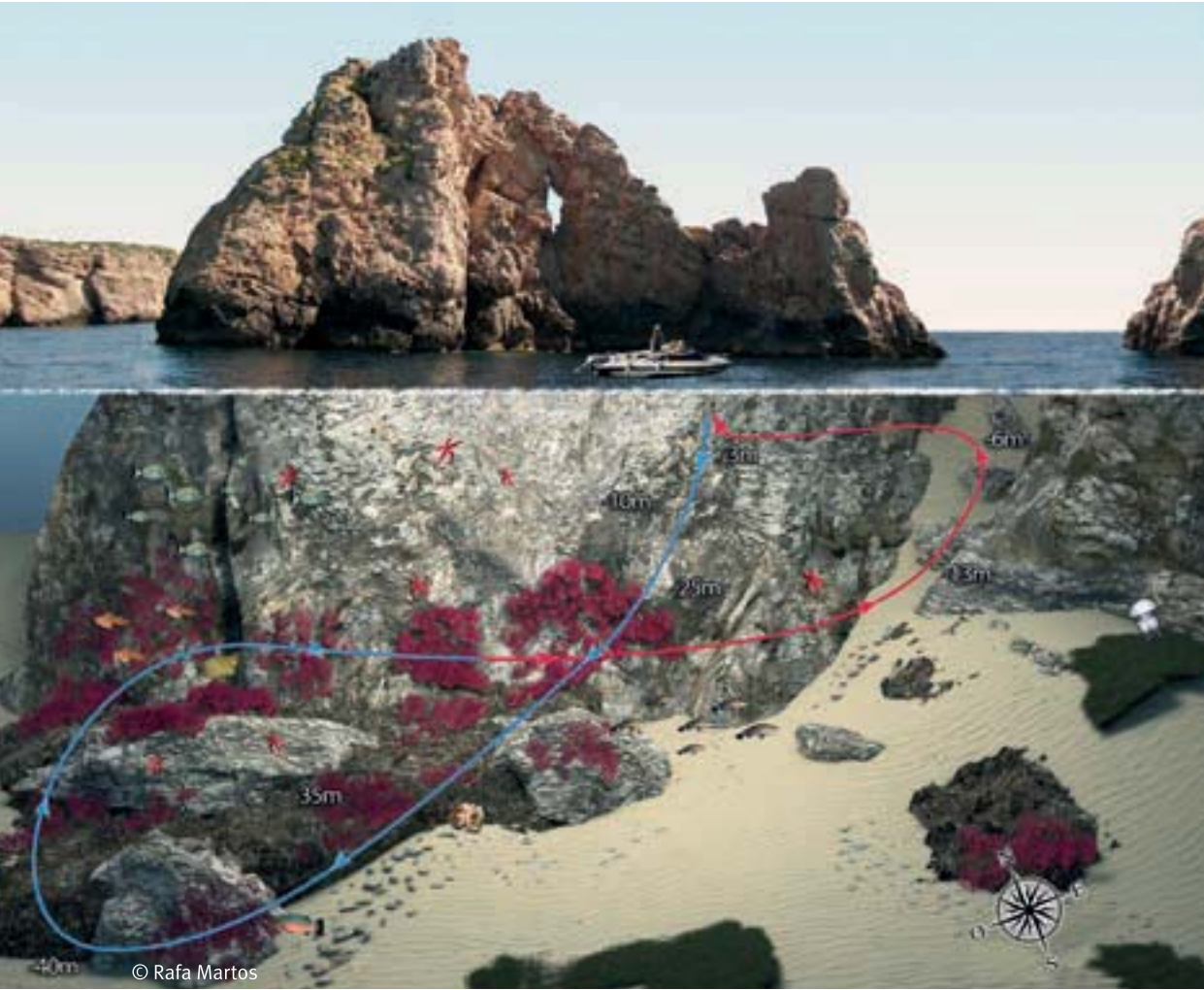
**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -50 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**







DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						



## SA CONILLERA

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**The island of Sa Conillera faces the harbour of Sant Antoni, and near its lighthouse a small outcrop known as Conillereta rises above the surface, which is where you head for.**

Dive down on the S side to a rocky bed about 3 metres below, which drops down in steps some 15 metres below the surface.

Begin swimming, keeping the wall to your left, and you come to a jumble of rocks carpeted with seaweed and sponges of many colours, home to forkbeard and the occasional grouper. Work your way round the shelf until you're facing NW, when spectacular natural arches appear in the rocky wall about 20 metres down. These provide a marvellous viewing point to pause and enjoy the blue depths.

During the dive you'll be surprised by the amount of tiny tufted marine organisms carpeting walls and rocks in cavities, grottoes and passages. But don't forget to check the open waters, because it is not uncommon to see schools of open-sea fish like amberjack and barracuda.

It's possible to continue in the same direction, in which case you'll be obliged to ascend to shallows barely 2 metres below the surface, the maximum depth in the narrow passage that completes the circuit. It is therefore recommended that you finish the dive by doubling back along the same route,

reducing depth in a more comfortable and gradual manner, and enjoying the lively and colourful sights that cross your path all along the way.

**GPS** 38° 59.251 N / 001° 12.928 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -20 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**COMPASS**

**CAVE / GROTTO**





© Rafa Martos

DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

## ES PALLARET

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**Sailing towards the island of Sa Conillera from Sant Antoni, near the Punta de Sa Torre, you come to a small islet, the goal of your underwater excursion.**

Dive down on the SW side of the islet to a depth of 12 metres, where the rocky seabed continues the steep descent of the islet's walls. The route consists of going round the islet in one direction or the other, depending on the current, if there is one (remember you should begin a dive swimming against the current - if there is one - so that the return stage is easier). If you're swimming with the underwater shelf on your left, you quickly gain depth, and at 23 metres down come across the remains of a scooter that has been there quite some time, judging from the covering of incrustations and organisms that have made it part of the underwater landscape.

After this strange curiosity there are endless objects of interest thanks to the many hollows, fissures, and hiding places waiting to be explored, where you may find moray eels, brown meagre or the occasional spiny lobster. The entire rocky sea floor is covered with false coral and sponge colonies, offset by colourful sea-slugs. You should remain at a reasonable depth considering the shelf drops below 40 metres, which noticeably reduces the period of time you can remain at the bottom. It is best to maintain a moderate

depth so as to enjoy the rich biodiversity that gives this particular locale its unique colour.

As the dive draws to an end reduce the depth accordingly as you return to the spot you dived in.

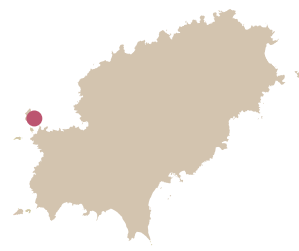
**GPS** 38° 58.610 N / 001° 13.899 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -40 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**

**COMPASS**





DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						



## SES MARGALIDES

• LEVEL: ★★



**Ses Margalides are two small islets on Ibiza's northern coast beyond Cap Negret, if you're sailing from Sant Antoni, the nearest harbour. The only way to reach them is by boat, which provides an opportunity to see magnificent cliffs and explore hidden coves along the way.**

The larger Margalides islet, which is shaped like a horseshoe, features an impressive natural arch which boats love to pass beneath. Dive down to an underwater shelf located near this islet, some 9 metres down and facing the smaller islet, and looking W locate a stepped drop which takes you down to 18 metres below the surface, keeping the rocky wall on your left. You soon come to some attractive arches that you can swim through, covered with colourful encrusting yellow anemone and colonies of *Aplidium* (sea squirts).

Head now towards the smaller islet, going deeper, and during this stage you come across formations made of large rocks, which you swim among enjoying the varied creatures like barracuda, schools of which ceaselessly patrol the refulgent depths.

You should swim round the smaller islet, keeping it to the left, and carefully controlling your depth as the bottom here falls away to beyond 40 metres, and owing to the unusual transparency of these waters you might not be aware of your descent. Continue N towards the larger islet and, among

enormous rocky blocks, you find the entrance to another gallery 18 metres down, with hollows in the rock that produce dazzling light effects.

You now reduce depth until, after passing through the arch of the larger islet once again, you reach the stage in your dive where you can comfortably pause to take in the surroundings while getting rid of surplus nitrogen.

**GPS** 39° 02.960 N / 001° 18.890 E

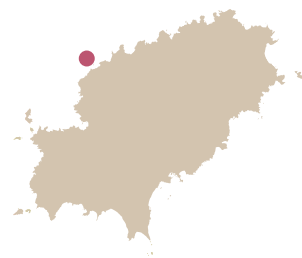
**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -40 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**

**CAVE / GROTTO**

**COMPASS**







DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

# CAVE OF LIGHT PILLARS OF HERCULES

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**Half way between Sant Antoni de Portmany and Port de Sant Miquel, Cap d'Albarca (Cape Albarca) stands at the entrance to a large bay of the same name. Under some impressive cliffs are two dives which can be carried out separately, but are here united in one. These are the Pillars of Hercules and the Cave of Light.**

Dive down near the summit of an underwater platform opposite the entrance to the first cave, to a depth of 12 metres, and head S which takes you directly to the underwater shelf. After making your way round some large rocks locate the entrance porch 10 metres down, a well-lit and easy way in. The moment you get inside observe how erosion has created enormous columns dividing the interior into curious and fantastic halls inside the cliff. The same phenomenon can be seen further on, so that we seem to be diving inside a timeless work of human origin although, the architect was again Nature itself. Walls covered with orange and reddish colonies of polyps, abundant yellow incrusting anemones and sponges visited by colourful sea-slugs are all suffused with glowing natural light. When you come out swim on a bearing of 210°, keeping the wall to your left, and after a few minutes make sure there is a pronounced left turn, now heading due S, and after a large rock, appears the impressive entrance to the Cave of Light.

Looking out towards the blue from inside, enjoy the enormous dimensions of this interior space whose walls provide shelter to colourful and fragile invertebrates, so that great care must be taken with your flippers.

In this cave you can even rise to the surface, discovering an airy vault through which the sun's light streams in, a delightful touch. After having a good look round the interior of this cave, perhaps catching sight of a slipper lobster if it's the right time of year, swim out and return to where you dived in, keeping the wall on your right (or alternatively arrange for the skipper to be waiting when you emerge from the cave).

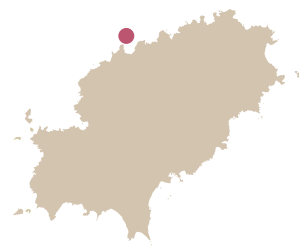
**GPS** 39° 04.410 N / 001° 22.972 E

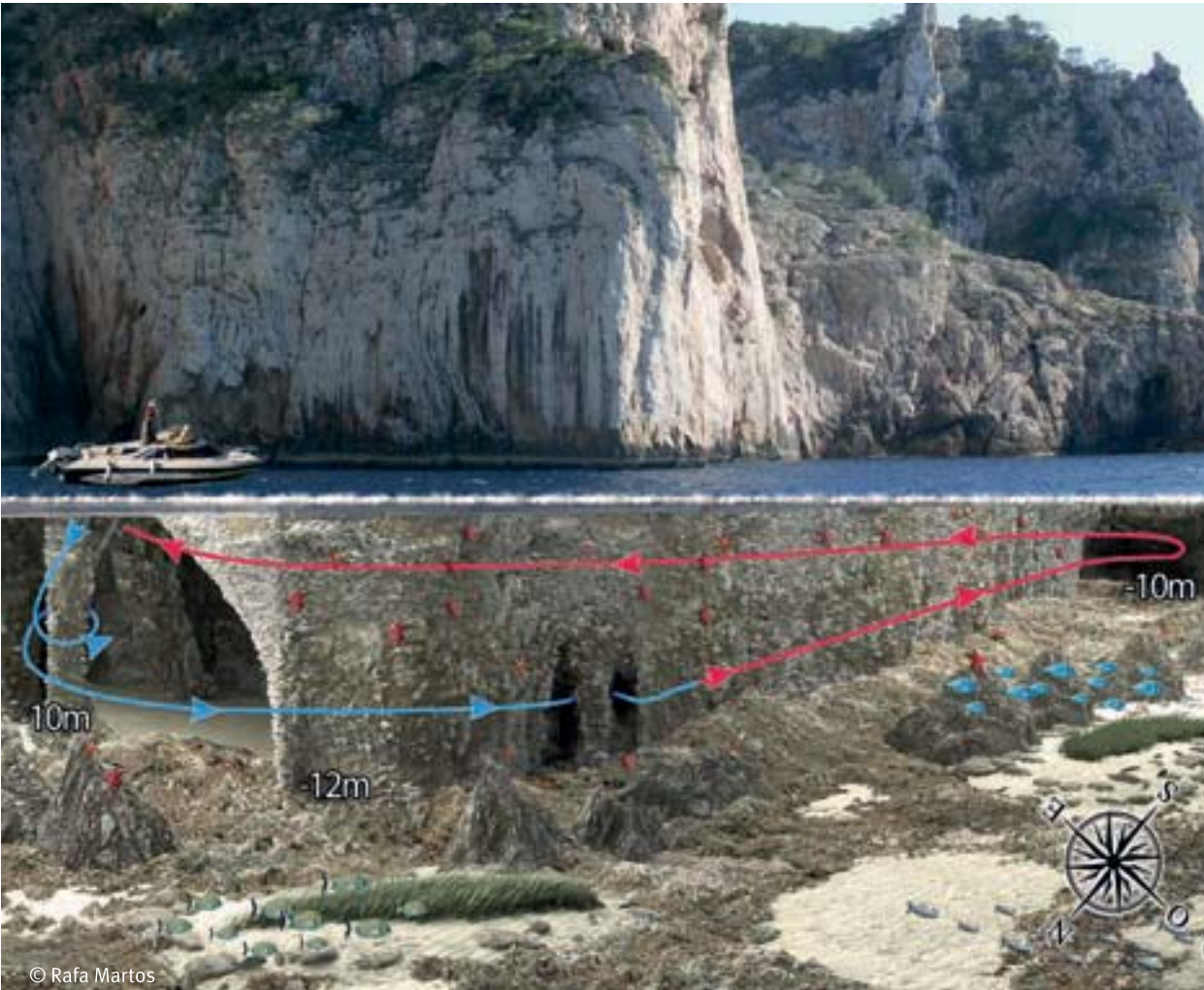
**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -12 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**

**CAVE / GROTTA**





DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						



## ILLA MURADA

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**Near Puerto de Sant Miquel and facing the Torres des Molar watchtower lies Illa Murada, a small island with a long shape, 200 m long and aligned N-S.**

Anchor between the island's S tip and a smaller nearby islet, and set off on your underwater circuit of the latter. Descend first to a depth just under 10 metres, and then continue on down, keeping the rock face on your right.

A landscape with steep underwater cliffs soon comes into view, a continuation of the island's sea wall. This gives way to massive piled-up boulders, including some which look like the enormous cubes in breakwaters, although these owe their shape to the haphazard forces of nature. On this initial stretch you are advised to descend to the maximum depth - without descending beyond 30 metres- and proceed in a N direction, examining the many hollows created by chance among the rocks and turning them into the haunt of greater forkbeard, brown meagre and moray eel.

Little by little you reduce depth to around 15 metres, thereby maintaining air consumption at a level which allows the route to be completed in comfort. The walls are covered with invertebrates, eye-catching starfish and orange, red and blue sponges - a veritable mosaic of many colours.

When close to the island's northern point the entrance to a grotto appears 15 metres below the surface, with large

openings through which light enters. Shortly after emerging from this you come to another cavity hollowed out in the rock with pleasing light effects, revealing walls covered with yellow encrusting anemone and other polyp colonies. Continue on over vertical crevices, investigating gaps in the surface where octopi or perhaps spiny lobsters might be found, to complete the circuit back at the starting point.

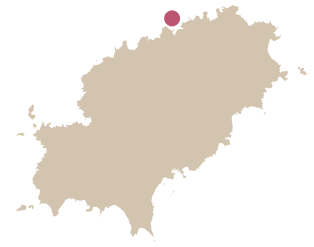
**GPS** 39° 05.450 N / 001° 25.887 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -35 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**

**CAVE / GROTTA**







DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

## CATHEDRAL OF PORTINATX

• LEVEL: ★ ★ ★



**Ibiza's most northerly point, Punta des Moscat, is crowned by a lighthouse with black and white spiral stripes. This helps you locate a rocky staircase some 300 metres from the shore, which drops from 25 metres below the surface to almost double that.**

The skill of the skipper, who should be someone with a good knowledge of the area, enables you to anchor next to a large hole in the seabed 28 metres down. Because of possible currents, descend via the anchor chain, and you quickly reach the sea floor covered with *Posidonia* grass which continues to the edge of the hole. Make a dizzying 'free dive' down from this to a sandy bottom 40 metres below. The entrance is roughly 8 metres wide and 3 metres long, and like the shaft of a well, draws you into the spectacular Cathedral of Portinatx, an impressive rocky crypt hollowed out by nature.

After having a good look around, leave the crypt by heading N and locating a passage with a sandy bottom and walls covered with colonies of anemone, yellow madrepore (yellow coral), and countless colourful organisms. There are also cavities that provide shelter to huge lobsters, brown meagre, and above all rare red coral, *Corallium rubrum*, whose white polyps can be seen down here at a depth of 48 metres. Further along you spot a large rock over 50 metres below

the surface, but given your current depth, you should simply carry on, ascending via the slopes of the rocky staircase, and without further delays, heading for the boat's anchor chain, where you observe an obligatory stop for decompression.

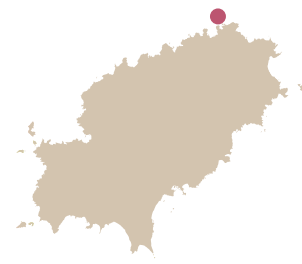
**GPS** 39° 07.336 N / 001° 31.989 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -50 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**TORCH**

**CAVE / GROTTA**





© Rafa Martos

DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

## THE CAVES OF SES CALETES

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**In the far north of Ibiza, a short distance by boat from the beach of Portinatx heading for the inlet of Ses Caletes anchor the vessel in a small cove flanked on the right by a spur of the coastal cliffs.**

Dive down and you come to a seabed composed of medium-sized rocks which get bigger closer to the shore. Descend no more than 4 or 5 metres, and then head off on a bearing of 210°, passing over one of the large boulders and finding in the rocky wall a gap 4 metres below the surface, which leads to a submerged gallery. This gradually drops to 10 metres below the surface as you swim along an impressive stretch rather like a perforated tunnel, lit by shafts of light. Shortly after this you come to the entrance of another gallery whose arches and openings again take you by surprise, with suggestive light effects as rays of light enter the blue depths, illuminating the gallery's interior.

The entire dive must be carried out with great care as the walls are home to fragile colonies of invertebrates and filtering organisms, which could easily suffer from a sudden movement of flippers.

After emerging from the second tunnel, and still at a depth of 20 metres, you come to a Posidonia meadow that you can swim across to reach a long mound, between 30 and 35 metres underwater. This is covered with Posidonia and

shelters ocellated wrasse, noble pen shells and the occasional cuttlefish, as well as plenty of damselfish and Salema porgies. After swimming round this aim S, returning to the wall which you now keep to your right, examining the hollows that riddle its surface and rocks that have tumbled to the seabed, until you arrive back at your starting point.

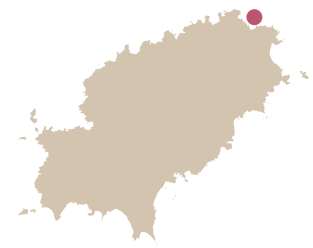
**GPS** 39° 05.861 N / 001° 34.190 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -35 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**COMPASS**

**CAVES / GROTTOS**







DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

# FIGUERAL UNDERWATER PLATFORM

• LEVEL: ★ / ★ ★



After passing the island of Tagomago coming from Santa Eulària, you see a small rocky outcrop to the NW that rises no more than a metre above the waves, a danger for navigation but a veritable oasis for divers. This is the apex of a submerged peak that continues north with another rocky formation entirely below the water, 3 metres below at its highest point.

The large size of this submarine shelf allows for various diving options, but the present excursion is N of the outcrop that emerges from the waves, between that and the platform's other (submerged) apex. Dive to the seabed 5 metres below, where you come to the rocky platform carpeted with low-growing seaweed and patrolled by clouds of damselfish.

Swimming in an E direction you come to a vertical drop that takes you 20 metres below the surface, followed by another which plunges 30 metres below. Continue on, this time in a S direction, keeping the shelf on your right and exploring the numerous hollows that make perfect hideouts for moray eel, scorpionfish, brown meagre and other timid sea creatures. The wall is covered with gorgeous spiral (wreathy-tuft) tube worms, which add a colourful accent, and plenty of sponges as well as false coral.

Further along on your left a channel with a sandy bed comes

into view, which you swim past before reaching another, which you follow on a bearing of 300°. Swim around and among its large rocks and gradually ascend while observing the schools of barracuda, which will probably keep company as you head towards the boat. On arriving at the submerged shelf you make a comfortable stop to remove surplus nitrogen.

**GPS** 39° 03.021 N / 001° 37.235 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** ~32 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**COMPASS**





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DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						



# NORTH TAGOMAGO THE ANCHORS

• LEVEL: ★/★★/★★★



**To the NE of Ibiza opposite Es Pou des Lleó lies Tagomago, a fairly large island whose waters offer a range of diving options. We here choose the N side in search of two venerable anchors which are its notable feature, and begin the dive in front of an easily-recognizable cave in the island's wall, like the bowl of a giant spoon.**

Descending to barely 8 metres you see sharply dropping walls which end in a platform about 20 metres below, then another drop which takes you down to 29 metres, followed by a third which brings you 35 metres below the surface. The idea is to reach the maximum desired depth at the beginning of the dive, and head north swimming round these giant steps. You thus come to the sandy bottom, noting a few rock formations further on.

Keep an eye on the wall which is on your left as you swim in a W direction, full of hollows occupied by swallowtail seaperch (*Anthias anthias*), an orangey-pink fish, as well as numerous spiny lobsters of a decent size. Shortly after this an enormous anchor looms in front, standing almost vertical, which has rested here for quite a few generations. Take a good look but don't linger too long because of the depth, and then backtrack a few metres to enter a kind of passage which climbs in a SW direction, leading in turn to another passage on your left, where a second anchor rests at 28

metres. This is also set vertical and covered with sponges and encrusted marine life.

You now head in a SE direction, gradually ascending as you approach the area of the Tagomago cave, an area known for hollows varying in depth between 5 and 15 metres, ideal for new divers. After comfortably getting rid of your surplus nitrogen, swim back to where you dived in.

**GPS** 39° 02.500 N / 001° 38.283 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -39 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**COMPASS**







DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						

# SANTA EULÀRIA UNDERWATER PLATFORM

• LEVEL: ★ / ★★



**E of Santa Eulària and slightly under a mile SE of Punta Arabí stands a rocky submarine shelf which rises from a depth of 35 metres to almost 1 metre below the surface. Until a few years ago a succession of light beacons warned vessels of the danger, but storms have done away with them all, and their remains rest on the seabed below.**

Once you've located these shallows dive down about 8 metres to the rocky platform, which looks like an irregular grid, and is carpeted with low-growing seaweed and stands of Posidonia. Swim in a N direction increasing your depth until you arrive at a sandy bottom in which there are the shapeless vestiges of an old wreck. After inspecting this head towards the rocky wall, keeping it to your left and observing the many creatures that live in these waters, including octopi, moray eel, and clouds of tiny fish, which react instantly to the presence of predators like dentex that patrol the area. Note a long fracture in the wall, a kind of crevice, which drops from 9 to 15 metres below the surface, and proceed along this until you come to an enormous cylinder aligned E-W on the seabed 12 metres down. This is the last of the floating beacons marking the rocks, and next to it is an older one which provides a refuge for shoals of white bream.

After inspecting these curious relics you ascend to the base of the shelf, and escorted by numerous fish return to the starting point.

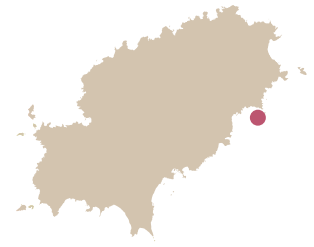
**GPS** 38° 58.610 N / 001° 35.622 E

**MAXIMUM DEPTH:** -29 m

**ACCESS:** By boat

**COMPASS**

**WRECK**





DATE	DEPTH	DURATION	AQUALUNG	DIVING SUIT	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
NOTES:						



# MARINE SPECIES



**Swallowtail seaperch**  
*Anthias anthias*



**Thicklip grey mullet**  
*Chelon labrosus*



**Damsel fish**  
*Chromis chromis*



**Conger eel**  
*Conger conger*



**Rainbow wrasse**  
*Coris julis*



**Dentex**  
*Dentex dentex*



**White seabream**  
*Diplodus sargus*



**Two-banded seabream**  
*Diplodus vulgaris*



**Dusky grouper**  
*Epinephelus marginatus*



**Moray eel**  
*Muraena helena*



**Saddled seabream**  
*Oblada melanura*



**Fork-tailed threadfin bream**  
*Phycis phycis*



**Salema porgy**  
*Sarpa salpa*



**Brown meagre**  
*Sciaena umbra*



**Small-scaled scorpionfish**  
*Scorpaena porcus*



**Large-scaled or red scorpionfish**  
*Scorpaena scrofa*



**Greater amberjack**  
*Seriola dumerilii*



**Painter comber**  
*Serranus scriba*



**Gilt-head bream**  
*Sparus aurata*



**Barracuda (yellowmouth barracuda)**  
*Sphyrena viridensis*



**Ocellated wrasse**  
*Symphodus tinca*



**Ornate wrasse**  
*Thalassoma pavo*



**John Dory or Peter's fish**  
*Zeus faber*



# MARINE SPECIES



**Nudibranchs (sea slugs)**  
*Peltodoris atromaculata*  
*Dondice banyulensis*  
*Flabellina affinis*



**Octopus**  
*Octopus vulgaris*



**Noble pen shell**  
*Pinna nobilis*



**Cuttlefish**  
*Sepia officinalis*



**Spiny lobster**  
*Palinurus elephas*



**Mediterranean slipper lobster**  
*Scyllarides latus*



**Black sea urchin**  
*Arbacia lixula*



**(Black Sea) sea cucumber**  
*Holoturia sabulosa*



**Common starfish**  
*Asterias rubens*



**Ascidians or Sea squirts**  
*Aplidium*



**Star coral**  
*Astroides calycularis*



**Gorgonia**  
*Paramuricea clavata*



**Precious or Red coral**  
*Corallium rubrum*



**Yellow solitary coral**  
*Leptosammia pruvoti*



**Yellow cluster anemone**  
*Parazoanthus axinellae*



**Spiral or Annelid tube worm**  
*Spirograpihis spаланzani*



**Jellyfish**  
*Aurelia aurita*  
*Rhizostoma pulmo*  
*Pelagia noctiluca*



**Sponge**  
*Spongia officinalis*



**Neptune grass or Posidonia sea-grass**  
*Posidonia oceanica*

# TIPS FOR A DIVE THAT RESPECTS THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT



- When anchoring, use buoys wherever possible, and if none are available, anchor in areas with clear sand to avoid damaging rocks or Posidonia meadows.
- For locations reached by boat, avoid polluting the sea with fuel, motor oil, or any litter that may be produced (packaging, cigarette butts, etc.).
- Proceed underwater with proper attention and care, swimming at least a metre above the seabed and trying not to stir up sand etc. with your flippers, as apart from reducing visibility, filtering organisms and other creatures attached to the surface will be harmed.
- Do not touch or bother any living species. When observing creatures try not to make sudden movements and do not chase after them.
- Avoid turning over rocks or moving organisms like shells, as you may be placing their inhabitants at the mercy of predators.
- Avoid prolonged visits to caves and grottoes, as the bubbles you exhale may cause damage to local inhabitants.
- Do not remove any living species from the seabed. If you want a souvenir, it's much better to take a photograph.
- If you see any floating plastic, try and remove it to prevent it being swallowed by sea creatures.

**LIST OF DIVING CENTRES AVAILABLE AT:**  
**[www.ibiza.travel](http://www.ibiza.travel)**



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