

## This is a sample from the PDF edition of

Landscapes of

# IBIZA and Formentera

a countryside guide
Sixth edition



Hans Losse

This shorter sampler includes some of the introductory text, the introductions to each of the main sections (Picnicking, Car Touring and Walking) with an example of each. There is a total of 136 pages, plus a touring map for each region, in the full book.



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### Touring

Ibiza is a small island — only about 40 kilometres long by 25 kilometres wide (25 by 15.5 miles). By car you'll need hardly more than an hour to go from one end of the island to the other. Even by bus you can get to almost every village in the summer.

The car touring notes are very brief. They include little history or other information that you can obtain in general guides — or free at tourist information offices. For the same reason, the 'sights' of the towns are not described either. I've concentrated instead on the 'logistics' of touring: times and distances, road conditions, and taking you to places many tourists miss. Most of all, the car tours highlight opportunities for **walking** and **picnicking**.

The three car tours begin and end in Eivissa (Ibiza Town). If you do all three drives — including the detours — you'll



have a very good overview of all the island's landscapes.

The fold-out touring map is designed to be held out opposite the touring notes and contains all the information you will need outside the towns. Plans of Sant Antoni, Santa Eulària and Eivissa are on pages 20-23. All distances are *cumulative kilometres* from Eivissa. The symbols used in the touring notes correspond to those on the touring map; see map key for clarification.

Drive slowly and carefully. In the high season the traffic is heavy and, since distances are short, there's no need to drive fast. **Petrol stations** are numerous in the towns and on the main roads. **Hire cars** are available at many places, but it is usually cheaper to pre-book before you go. Do check out the car before you take it on the road, make sure you're aware of all the conditions in the car insurance, and carry the hire firm's telephone number with you at all times — including a number where they can be contacted outside opening hours.

Almond blossom near Santa Agnès (Car tour 3, Walk 13)

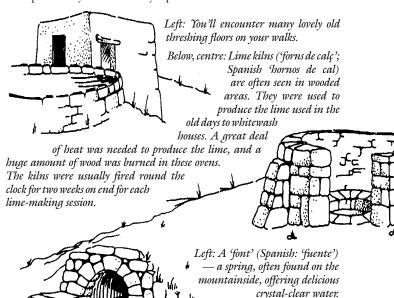




Most of the walks described in this book follow coastal tracks and paths. There's always a cool breeze blowing near the coast, so you can walk even in high summer. If you're fairly fit, you'll find all walks on Ibiza easy. You don't have to be an experienced hiker to get to know this island on foot. Only three walks (Walks 4, 13 and 15) require *really* careful footwork. But some paths are overgrown, making for uncomfortable going. It would be best if novice walkers avoided the overgrown paths: **beginners** might look at pages 111-113, for a large selection of generally easy walks to picnic spots.

Grading, waymarking, maps, GPS
Assigning grades to walks is very subjective, but my gradings are shown in the Contents, as follows:

- very easy more or less level (perhaps with a short climb to a viewpoint);
   good surfaces underfoot; easily followed
- easy-moderate ascents/descents of no more than about 300-500m/1000-1800ft; good surfaces underfoot; easily followed
- moderate-strenuous ascents/descents may be over 500m/1800ft; variable surfaces underfoot
- expert only suitable for very experienced hillwalkers



Any of the above grades may be followed by:

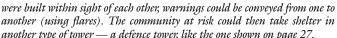
- possibility of vertigo for those with no head for heights at all
- **::** danger of vertigo you must have a very good head for heights

Some of the walks are **waymarked**. Among the many (confusing) colours, there are very old red dots, painted by the local people, when the only way to cross the island was on foot. Coloured metal poles and fingerposts for mountain bikers have been set up more recently by the island tourist board and these are often helpful for walkers as well. On some walks you'll find green/white stripes, on others pale blue dots or arrows, painted by landowners to divert walkers round their properties. While waymarks are very helpful, please remember that my walks may not always follow the waymarks, so read the text carefully.

For all the walks described here, the **maps** printed in the book (scale 1:40,000) should be adequate. They have been adapted from the 1:25,000 Mapa topográfico Nacional de España in nine sheets, available on the island or from your usual map supplier. Before you start a walk please read the complete description carefully and take a look at the map. Try to keep the important landmarks in mind. And always remember: names of houses and restaurants may change, or a path may become private.

Free GPS track downloads are available for all the walks: see the Ibiza page on the Sunflower website. Please bear in

Right: 'Talaias' (Spanish: 'talayas, atalayas') are ancient watchtowers, built in the 16th century as protection against pirates and Turkish invaders. You'll see these towers on all exposed coastal points on both Ibiza and Formentera. From these watchtowers enemy ships were spotted when still far off the coast, allowing ample time for the alarm to be raised. Since the towers





#### Meeting a landowner who denies you access

English	Spanish	Pronunciation
We are going to	Nos vamos a	Nos va-mos a
If this route	Si este camino	Si es-tay ka-mee-noh
is private,	es privado,	es pree-va-doh,
please —	por favor —	por fa- <b>vor</b> —
show us the	muéstranos	mo-ays-tra-nos
correct way.	el camino.	ayl ka- <b>mee</b> -noh.
Many thanks.	Muchas gracias.	Moo-chas gra-thee-as.

rganisation of the walks

The walks (and cycle tours) in this book are based on Eivissa (Ibiza Town), Sant Antoni, and the resorts around Santa Eulària (including Es Figueral, Can Jordi, Es Canar). The general area of each walk is shown on the pull-out touring map. Quickly flipping through the book, you will see that there's at least one photograph for each walk.

Having selected one or two potential excursions based on the map and the photographs, turn to the relevant walk. At the top of the page you'll find planning information: times and distances, grade, equipment, and how to get there and return by public transport (see timetables on pages 131-134). Note also that there are short versions of several walks, especially suitable for beginners, those of you with children, or on hot days.

When you are on your walk, you will find that the text begins with an introduction and then quickly turns to a detailed description of the route itself. The large-scale maps (all reproduced at 1:40,000) have been specially annotated with waypoints for use in conjunction with the text.

Walking times vary so greatly that I would suggest you compare your pace with mine on one or two short walks, before you set off on a longer hike. Only short stops for photography and waiting for laggards to catch up are included. Make allowances for protracted stops.

Below is a key to the symbols on the walking maps.

				_	
	dual carriageway	•+	spring, etc		watch/defense tower
	main road	— 400 —	height in metres		castle, fort
	secondary road	**	church.chapel	П	ancient site
	minor road	t	shrine or cross	•	specified building
	track (some may be	+	cemetery	*	quarry, mine
	motorable)		best views		sports ground
	path, narrow trail	4	bus stop	•	sitja, threshing floor
2→	main walk	Œ	ferry point	<b>2</b>	waypoint
2→	alternative walk	₽	car parking		cliffs
Ø\$01	cycling route	$\boldsymbol{P}$	good picnic spot	Ш	map continuation



The cycle tours described for both islands are shown on the pull-out maps at the back of the book. If you're keen on cycling on Ibiza, the most useful map is the Kompass map of Ibiza and Formentera (1:50,000). However, for Formentera you might also like to go to formentera.es/en/explore/ activities/green-routes. On this page, with its small but clear map, you can learn about 32 'green routes' (rutas verdes) for walkers and cyclists and you can download their GPS tracks. You could put whichever map you are using in a clear plastic envelope and secure it to the handlebars for easy reference.

On Ibiza my tours follow mostly quiet country roads or lanes, although there are cycle paths alongside many main roads. On Formentera there are cycle paths on both sides of the main roads. You can cycle two abreast here without danger. But, unfortunately, there is no cycle path on the steep section up to the Mola plateau.

oads and tracks

Note that in this book only the main roads are printed in red; other asphalted roads and lanes are shown in yellow. Tracks are shown as solid black lines, although many of them will be wide, motorable tracks. Most of the cycle touring routes on Ibiza are also shown on the walking maps in far greater detail.

If you do download the map referred to above, note that all asphalted roads are shown in red. 'Green routes' (rutas verdes) are printed in green. Most of the time you can cycle easily on these green routes, but sometimes you will have to push your bike.

Only bits and pieces of the old main road across Formentera (the 'Camí Vell de la Mola') are still to be found. Parts of this old mule track are asphalted; other bits are so rough that you'll have to get off and push.

🗖 quipment and clothing

If you're not cycling in the middle of winter, wear shorts. Be sure to wear something on your head in high summer. Sunglasses, too, are a must: they not only protect your eyes from the ultraviolet rays, but from dust and insects as well. Be sure to carry the telephone number of the cycle rental firm, and arrange in advance that they will come and fetch you if you have a breakdown anywhere on the island, whether Ibiza or Formentera. Of course a bicycle lock is mandatory; when you go to the beach, you'll be leaving the bike far out of sight, in the shade of trees. Finally, you must carry a bicycle pump. These are almost impossible to buy on the islands; your hire firm should supply you with one.

limate and weather

You can cycle on Ibiza and Formentera all year round. It's not too hot even in July and August; sea breezes — and the breeze you create yourself when cycling — keep you pleasantly cool. In winter, you're likely to have the islands all to yourself, but be sure to take warmer clothing with you, including raingear.

rganisation of the cycle tours

Bicycle hire is available in all the tourist centres; in summer it costs *from*  $30 \in a$  day, while naturally being less expensive the longer the rental period. Some hotels keep bicycles and give them free to their guests. Plan your daily excursions carefully: my tour descriptions only include the total number of kilometres (miles) that you will travel, and cycling times vary greatly. The cycles for hire on the islands have no odometers. Allow for an average speed of between 8-12 km/h (5-7 mph).

Make sure that the hire firm adjusts the saddle and handlebars for you before you set off (or do it yourself); if the adjustments are not correct, you will tire quickly.

Cycling enthusiasts may wish to take their own bikes to the islands with them. If you're going to stay for any length of time, this is a good idea, as it is considerably cheaper. It's

possible: get details from your travel agent.

The distances quoted are *cumulative* kilometres from the starting point of the tour. But where the capital letters KM *precede a distance* (as in KM5), this refers to a specific *kilometre marker stone* on the road. So, for example, KM4.5 means about half-way between the 4 and 5 kilometre marker stones.

Both islands have waymarked cycling routes, with signposts giving the names of the trails and their length. On Ibiza routes range from easy to very strenuous mountain biking trails (see ibiza.travel/en/cicloturismo.php; on Formentera most of the 32 routes available from the webside mentioned opposite are easy or moderate.

### Picnicking







The picnic spots suggested on pages 111-113 lie along the walks in this book and have been chosen for their fine views. Most are easily reached after a short walk from the nearest village; a few involve some climbing. The walking time to the picnic spot is shown in **bold type**.

Picnic numbers correspond to walk numbers (or, on Formentera, to cycle tour numbers). You can quickly find the general location of Ibiza picnics by referring to the Ibiza touring map, where walk areas are shown. The exact location of the picnic spot is shown on the corresponding *walking* map (for Formentera on the cycling map) by the letter P, printed in green. If you are feeling lazy, in some cases you can drive even closer to the picnic by using these large-scale walking and cycling maps. But these suggestions are intended to encourage you to stretch your legs on some short walks.

Remember to look over the comments at the start of the relevant walk before you set off for your picnic; if a fairly long walk is involved, remember to wear stout shoes and a sunhat. It's a good idea to take something to sit on as well, in case the ground is damp or prickly.

Please don't forget to take away your rubbish. I would even go so far as to suggest that you take away rubbish left by other people. Ibiza and Formentera are quite clean islands; do all you can to keep them that way!

### Getting about

There's a very good bus service on Ibiza in summer (1 May to 31 October), catering for both the locals and tourists. Although there are four different bus companies, they work together and publish one timetable which you can get in tourist offices. Timetables change twice a year: the summer timetable begins on May 1st, the winter timetable on November 1st. Be sure to pick up a new timetable when you arrive on the island or, better still, log on to www.ibizabus. com and check the timetables in this book just before you travel. This excellent website also has an interactive map.

The buses don't have any numbers; destinations are shown on the windscreens. Buy your ticket at the station in Sant Antoni and Santa Eulària, or at kiosks by the bus stops in Eivissa (or on the bus, if the kiosk is closed). Tickets are fairly inexpensive, but unfortunately there are no reduced fare cards available for tourists as we go to press.

Summer bus and boat timetables are given on pages 131-134; in winter service is much more limited. Our printed timetables are for 'work days' only (Mondays to Fridays). On weekends and holidays there are far fewer buses, and these are often very crowded, since many of the local people go visiting then. Avoid the buses on weekends and holidays — make these rest days, or else rent a car — or a bicycle (cycling has become very popular on Ibiza in the last few years; see page 15).

Opposite are plans of Sant Antoni and Santa Eulària; the plan of Eivissa follows on pages 30-31 and shows all the bus stops (with line numbers), since at present there is no official bus *station* in Eivissa.

#### Sant Antoni

- 1 Tourist information *i*
- 2 Post office
- 3 Sant Antoni church
- 4 Police
- 5 Boats to mainland Spain
- 6 Lighthouse7 Sports ground
- 8 Bus station
- 9 Club Nautic
- 10 Market
- 11 Hospital
- 😝 Taxi rank
- Petrol station

#### Santa Eulària

- 1 Tourist information *i*
- 2 Bus station
- 3 Church
- 4 Town hall
- 5 Market
- 6 Ethnological museum
- 7 Roman bridge and old
  - Roman road
- 8 Clinics
- 9 Post office
- Taxi rank
- Petrol station

#### **Car tour 1: THE HILLY WEST**

#### Eivissa • Ses Figueretes • Sant Josep • Sant Agusti • Sant Antoni • Sant Rafel • Eivissa

92km/57mi (including the detour routes described); Exit A from Eivissa (see the town plan on pages 22-23)

On route: Picnics (see pages 111-113) 3a-7, 11, 12; Walks 3-7, 11, 12 The tour follows asphalt roads all the way.

Leave Eivissa along the Avinguda Macabich (Exit A), heading west towards the airport. At the roundabout above Ses Figueretes (1km 🍎 🗶 ) follow signs for the airport and Sant Josep, on the dual carriageway EI800. At the next roundabout, keep straight on for the airport. But at the following roundabout, by the village of Sant Jordi de ses Salines (4km ) with its attractive church, ignore the road straight ahead for the airport. Fork right on the EI900 for Platja d'en Bossa, then take the Sa Canal exit from the roundabout — or take the next exit to visit Platja d'en Bossa (🍑 🕽 X; Picnics 3a, 3b).

After 9 km you come to **Sa Canal**, at the salt-pans. Parts of these *salinas* are still in use; centuries ago, the Carthaginians, the Romans and the Arabs took salt from the sea here. The island's most beautiful beach, Platja de Migjorn (also called 'Playa Salinas'; Picnics 3c, 3d), stretches out towards the southeast beyond the pans. Walk 5 ends here; Walk 3 ends just to the north, and Walk 4 passes through as it nears its end.

Head back towards Eivissa now and, back in Sant Jordi, turn off towards the airport. Pass the airport and continue to a stony beach, **Es Codolar** (19km), lying just under the flight path. Walk 5 crosses this beach. A short way further west is the old fishing port of **Sa Caleta** (20km), where you'll find a sandy cove below steep red-sand cliffs. Continue from here to **Cala Jondal** (21km), where there's a white sand beach and a couple of little restaurant beautifully set between old cedars; Walk 5 begins here.

Now head back to \$\tilde{S}a\$ Caleta and then north to the EI700, leaving the market gardens for pine woods. You pass Cova Santa, a restaurant/night club built around a limestone cave with impressive stalagtites. Turn left on the EI700, up to \$\tilde{S}ant Josep★ (31km ★※♠). Sa Talaiassa, at 487m/1600ft the highest mountain on the island (and setting for Walk 7 and Picnic 7), rises just southwest of \$\tilde{S}ant Josep.

From Sant Josep head southwest towards Es Cubells (PMV803-1). The road winds through a delightful area of olive trees, vineyards and a few grazing fields. Before you get to Es Cubells, fork off left to the little development of **Vista** 

Alegre (38km ), with a fine vantage point down over the sea. When you come to the beautifully-sited settlement of Es Cubells (42km \*\*\*), you'll enjoy fine views over to Formentera. The old monastery here is now a school for priests. From Es Cubells take the high-level 'panorama road'

The coves of Sa Caleta and Cala Jondal (Walk 5) lie at the foot of the impressive Fita des Jondal.





View across the Bay of Sant Antoni, with Puig Nunó in the background

southwest to **Ses Boques** (43.5 km ) for the views; it's no longer possible to drive all the way to Cap Llentrisca.

Return to Es Cubells (45km) and head back towards Sant Josep for a short distance, then turn left towards Cala d'Hort. To park for Walk 6 or Picnic 6, turn off left for 'Torre des Savinar' some 3.6km along the main road. At Cala d'Hort (51km ), you enjoy the fine view to Es Vedrà shown on pages 50-51. Return to the PMV803-1 and continue north, but take the left turn to Cala Vedella (56km X). Continue on the winding coast road via Cala Molí (62km) to Cala Tarida (65km), where Walk 7 ends. From here head through woods, back to the EI700. Turn right and then left up into Sant Agusti (72km \*), where the church and the nearby Bar/Restaurant Can Berri are worth a visit.

Return to the EI700 and turn right. You enter lively Sant Antoni de Portmany★ from the south (77km 🎁 🛕 💥  $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{\Phi}$ ). Walks and Picnics 11 and 12, as well as Cycle tour 2, are reached from here but, apart from the church, there is nothing of interest for the tourist.

From here continue back to Eivissa on the EI600. This fast road crosses a pleasant landscape of olive and almond plantations on its straight 15km-long run back to town. In Sant Rafel (85km \* X) you might like to take a break to see the lovely church — and enjoy views southeast to Ibiza's bay ... if the trees permit. You're back in Eivissa after 92km.

#### Eivissa • Santa Gertrudis • Portinatx • Cala d'en Serra • Port de Sant Miquel • Sant Miquel • Isla Blanca • Sant Mateu • Santa Agnès • Sant Rafel • Eivissa

106km/66mi (including the detour routes described); Exit C from Eivissa (see the town plan on pages 22-23)

On route: Picnic (see pages 111-113) 9a, 9b, 10, 13; Walks 9, 10, 13

While all the roads along this tour are asphalted, they are sometimes very narrow

— so do drive slowly.

Leave Eivissa on Avinguda Ignasi Wallis. At the large roundabout on the EI10 ring road, turn right. Heading northeast on the dual carriageway EI300, you pass through the unattractive suburbs. But soon most of the industrial ugliness is behind you and you're rolling past lemon groves and plantations of carobs, olives and figs. At first the terrain is flat, and the high hills lie some way off. You'll see light scatterings of pine trees punctuating the breaks between farms either side of the main road.

Some 5.5km along, take the EI400 exit from the roundabout for Santa Gertrudis and Sant Miquel. The dual carriageway behind you now, the landscape is more rural as you approach Santa Gertrudis (11km \*\*). Lying just about in the centre of the island, the little village attracts artists and writers. The pretty white church is topped by a bell-tower. Turn right here to head northeast via Sant Llorenç, and from there follow the main EI300 to where it ends in Portinatx\* (37km \*\*). Walk 8 ends here; Walk 9 begins here.

On your return from Portinatx take a little detour to Cala d'en Serra ( Walk 8), to enjoy the view down into the deep bay. Then head back to the main road and retrace your route, making short visits to Cala Xuclà and Cala Xarraca (Picnic 9), both of them on the route of Walk 9.

Not far beyond the junction with the road from Sant Joan, branch off right towards Sant Miquel on the EI341. Leave this road 2.5 km along and turn right to Cala Benniràs. An old stretch of road takes you from there to Port de Sant Miquel (\*X), from where Walk and Picnic 10 set out.

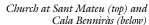
Continuing south, make a detour to the peninsula of **Na Xamena**. Head towards Punta de sa Creu as far as the helipad at the five star Hacienda Na Xamena (61km ). From here a lane takes you south through woods and cultivation, back to the main EI400 road.

Still heading south, in **Sant Miquel de la Balensat**★ (67km **\***⑤※), where the church once served as a refuge for the community during ancient pirate raids, follow signs for San Mateu and then (*carefully!*) Portitxol. You will reach the

settlement of **Isla Blanca** (73km **(57)**) with fabulous views over the north coast. From here head south, cross back over the ridge back to the Sant Mateu road, and turn right. The little village of **Sant Mateu d'Aubarca** (84km **\***\*) has a picturesque church atop a hill in an enchanting landscape.

Continue on a narrow asphalt road following signposting to the widely-scattered village of **Santa Agnès de Corona** (88km **\***%), with a small restaurant beside the church. Walk

13 begins and ends here; its short version leads to Picnic 13. From Santa Agnès head south through woods and fields to **Sant Rafel** (99km **\*\*\***), where you pick up the EI600 dual carriageway back to **Eivissa** (106km).







### Walk 1: D'ALT VILA • ES SOTO • ES BOTAFOC • TALAMANCA

See plan on pages 22-23 to begin, then map on pages 36-37.

Distance: about 9km/5.5mi; 3h

**Grade:** • easy — with a bit of climbing around D'Alt Vila and some rough scrambling on Es Soto

**Equipment:** stout shoes, long trousers for the coastal walk across Es Soto, swimwear; see also page 10 (top)

**How to get there:** the walk begins in Eivissa. *To return:* To return: To return:

A short stroll to D'Alt Vila (the ancient centre), the coastal area called Es Soto and the Botafoc lighthouse on the peninsula of Sa Mola is a lovely way to spend half a day near the capital. Time is immaterial and will depend on how many places you stop to visit.

Start the walk at the tourist office on Avinguda Ignaci Wallis (1): walk south along this shopping avenue, then climb up through the narrow streets to the beautiful old town. No specific route is shown for this part of the walk; explore at leisure. After enjoying the views over the sea from the Baluard de Sant Bernat (17 on the plan), continue round the battlements to the tunnel under the Portal Nou Bastion (2; 1h) on the western side of D'Alt Vila.

Walk down the steps to Carrer de Joan Xico and follow it uphill to the left. At a junction, go left on Carrer de Ramón

Muntaner, through a tunnel, and take the next fork to the left. leads This road to Residencia Militar (19). In front of the iron gate, follow the track to the right, down to the seaside. You look out to three small rocky islands (Illa Negra, Sa Corbeta and Illa de ses Rates), with Formentera in the far distance. Follow the wide track in a bend to the left and, when it ends, continue on a stony path climbing over the rocky ground of **Es Soto** (Picnic la). Es Soto would make an excellent recreation area, close to town. Soon you have a view of the harbour. As the path turns towards the castle, you'll

Lighthouse in Eivissa harbour



see some old ruins; they may date from Punic times. At a fork, head right downhill. The path, in places slightly overgrown, narrows and eventually joins another path leading to the castle. Follow this across the coastal rocks (there are some very old red waymarks), soon heading towards the cathedral and nearby car park. On the last stretch, before the city wall, the path is again slightly overgrown. When you reach the car park, turn right and walk down the steps, and take the footpath through the tunnel, back into D'Alt Vila (2h). (If you turn left, you come to another tunnel which leads straight to the cathedral.)

Leaving D'Alt Vila, continue by walking along the **promenade** (3), passing the place where the boats to Formentera tie up and a sun dial in the shape of a drum. The promenade ends at the fenced-in marina. You can get into the marina at the **Club Naútic** — a worthwhile detour, if you want to take some appealing photographs — but you have to leave the same way.

From the marina follow the little-used road; a fence separates it from the yachts. In a few minutes you can get back down to the quay. A bronze monument is passed at the container port, but this area is off-bounds for walkers.

Then continue southeast along the palm-lined promenade, passing the Edificio Marítimo and an old anchor in front of





Es Soto (Picnic 1a), with the Residencia Militar at the left

the Comandancia de Marina. Now follow the newer promenade which begins here. You cross a channelled streambed alongside the casino. Shortly after, you come to the splendid Las Boas complex — stunning apartments designed like an amphitheatre, from where the lucky tenants can contemplate the port and Dalt Vila from their rainbow-hued balconies bursting with plant life. Continue along the promenade or follow the walkway by the quay. You soon reach the **Botafoc Marina** and **roundabout** (4), where Walk 2 begins. From here follow the new promenade south to the **Botafoc lighthouse** (6).

From the lighthouse make your way over to the Illa Grossa peninsula. There are short-cut steps to the peninsula, but the gate in front of them is usually locked. If so, retrace your outgoing route to a rough track heading southeast. Follow this as it curls up to the **highest point on Illa Grossa** (6), where there are some old foundations dating from World War II (Picnic 1c). In the northeast the cliffs drop straight down to the sea — take care, the cliff-edge is unprotected.

Returning from the Illa Grossa, make your way back to Illa Plana along the seaside road, passing hotels and villas. You reach the beach at **Talamanca** by the **Bar Flotante** (7); **2h30min**). Walk the whole length of this beautiful beach (Picnic 2a) — either on the boardwalk or the shore. Then retrace your steps to **Talamanca's little pier** where the boat to Eivissa moors (3h). In winter, when the boats don't run, head to the **bus stop** just north of the **Botafoc roundabout** (4). Or carry on with Walk 2, if your're really fit!



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