



## NINE ISLAND, NINE LIGHTS

### The place

Ibiza, Formentera and some minor islets are the Pitiusas archipelago. Formentera is placed southern Ibiza and both are separated by the strait of Es Freus (04 nm wide, 6 m deep). The distance between the harbours of these islands is 11 nm.

Formentera was a virgin paradise in the Mediterranean sea until tourisme discovered it in the 90s. Formentera was an important spot of the hippie movement, together with the islands of Bali and Man.



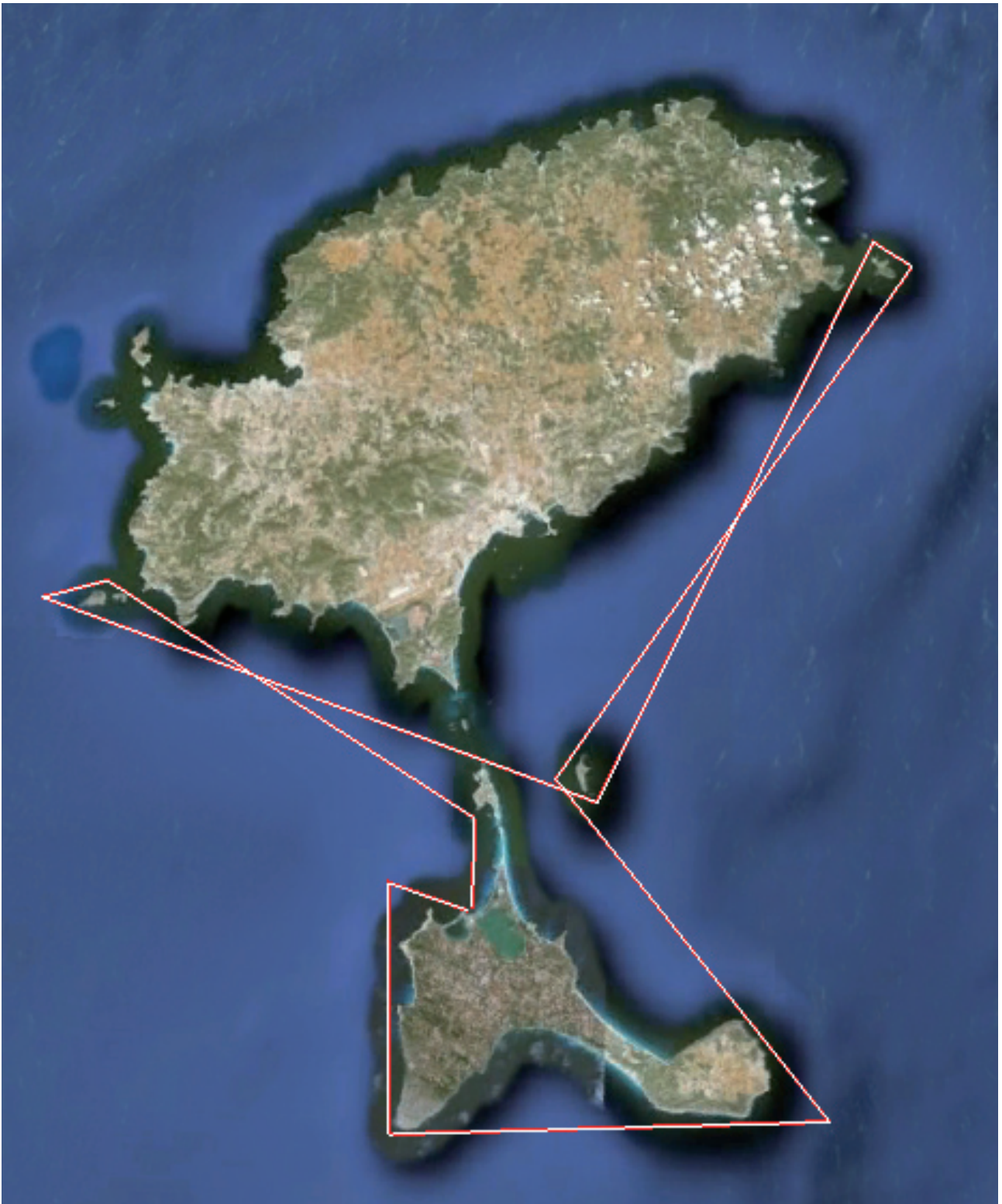
The idea of the race is enjoy virtually a magic scenery, full of islet, in the turquoise and transparent waters of the Mediterranean sea. A good place for sailing, with the dominant winds: *Mestral* or northwest, *Llevant* or east, *Xaloc* or southeast and *Llebeig* or southwest, oftentimes strong.

## The race

The race, starting and finishing at *la Savina*, the Formentera's harbour, visits most of the small islets of the archipelago of *Pituses* in a race of 115nm long.

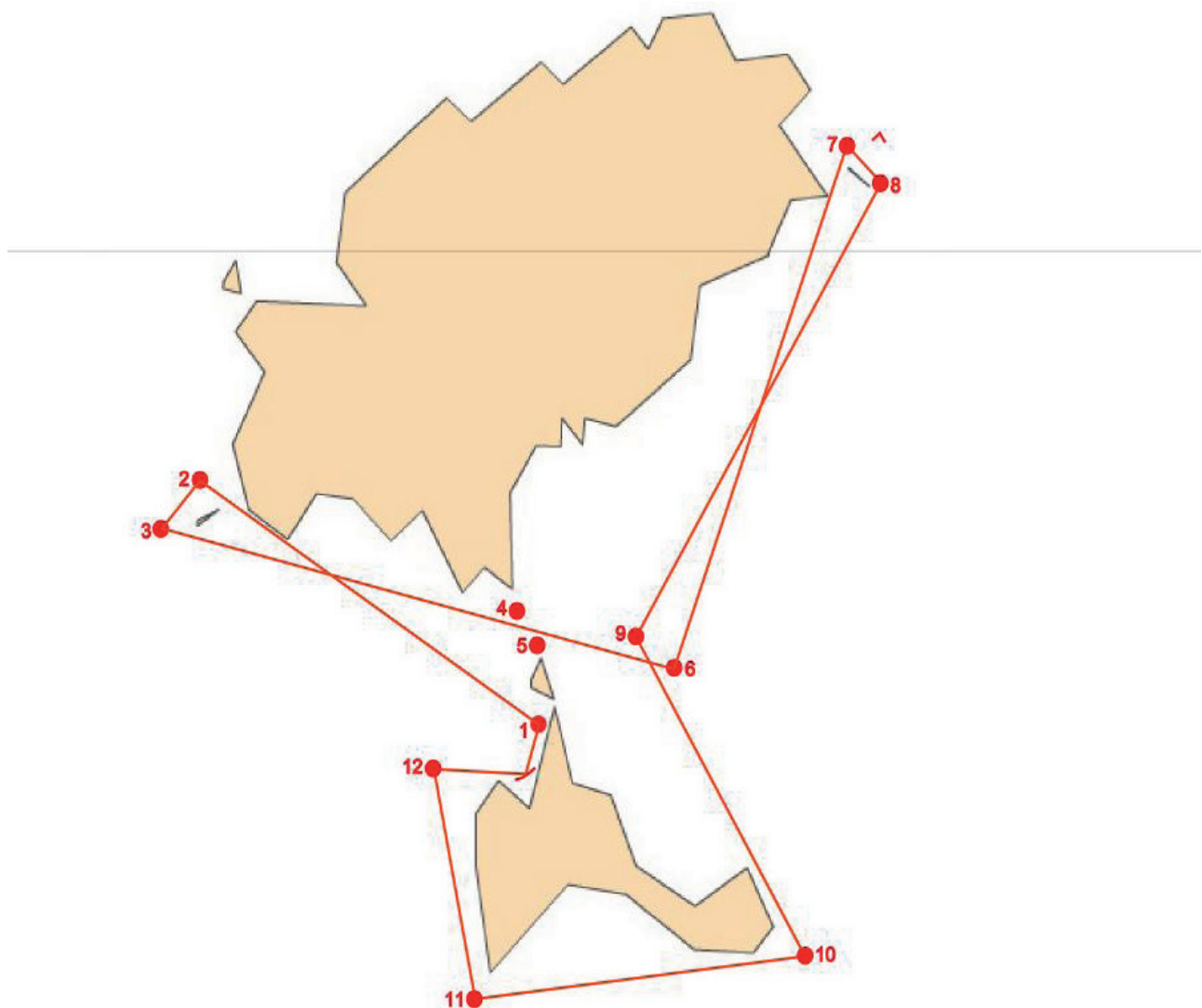
9 Islands:

Illa de Gastaví, s'Espalmador, es Vedranet, es Vedra, Illa d'es Penjats, Illa d'es Porcs, Illa de Tago Mago, s'Espardell, and Formentera, just those that can be seen from Formentera coastline.



Since SOL cartography doesn't draw some of the islets, we'd have to use some buoys for placing them:

- 00.- 38°44'07"N 01°25'09"W.....La Savina harbour–*Start*
- 01.- 38°46'29"N 01°25'06"W.....Gastavi–*leave to port*
- 02.- 38°52'32"N 01°12'13"W.....Es Vedranet–*leave to port*
- 03.- 38°52'00"N 01°10'03"W.....Es Vedra–*leave to port*
- 04.- 38°48'51"N 01°24'42"W.....Penjats–*leave to port*
- 05.- 38°47'57"N 01°25'18"W.....Porcs–*leave to starboard.*
- 06.- 38°47'02"N 01°29'11"W.....Espardell east–*leave to port*
- 07.- 39°02'56"N 01°38'16"W.....Tago Mago north–*leave to starboard*
- 08.- 39°02'15"N 01°39'38"W.....Tago Mago south–*leave to starboard*
- 09.- 38°47'37"N 01°27'46"W.....Espardell west–*leave to port*
- 10.- 38°39'01"N 01°37'05"W.....La Mola–*leave to starboard*
- 11.- 38°38'18"N 01°22'47"W.....Berbería–*leave to starboard*
- 12.- 38°44'43"N 01°22'20"W.....Sa Pedrera–*leave to starboard*
- 13.- 38°44'07"N 01°25'09"W.....La Savina harbour–*Finish*





## The lights

At the same time, we'll enjoy the 9 lights that guided the sailors in the past:

Faro de es Vedrá, Faro de Penjats, Faro d'en Pou or Porcs, Faro de Botafoc, Faro de Tago Mago, Faro de Espardell, Faro de la Mola, Faro d'es Cap de Berbería, Faro de la Savina and the 9 buoys:

The Gastaví Cardinal Mark W on the islet *Gastaví*, the Penjats Cardinal Mark S at the sea, the Porcs Cardinal Mark N on the strait es *Freus*, and the buoys of Isla Negra on the islet *Isla Negra*, Dado Grande on the islet *Dado Grande*, Losa de Santa Eulalia, es *Pujols*, on the island Formentera and the two buoys of the harbour of *la Savina* on the island Formentera.



## The boat

I think the perfect boat for this race should be the *llaüt*, a classic *latin sail*, popular at the Balearic islands in the past. Trouble is I have not its particular performance polars.



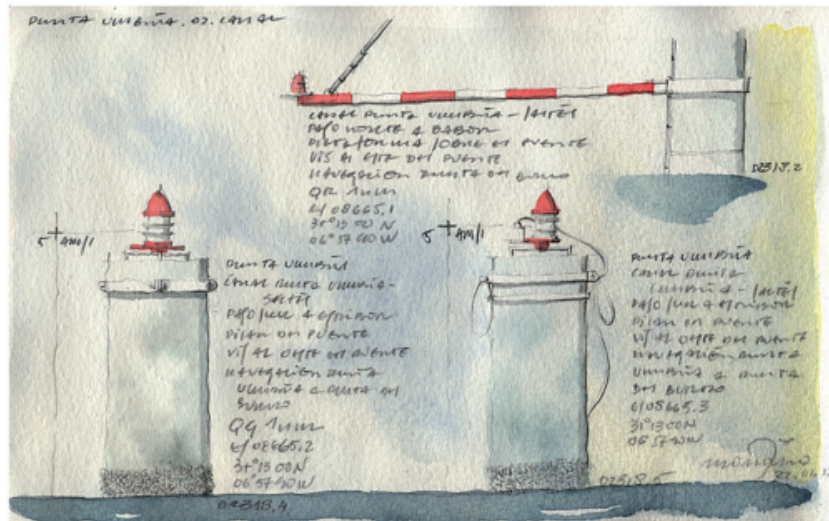
Then, I think a good choice should be the *First 47*



## Present

Like a present for celebrating the race, SOLers could download as many HD watercolor pictures as they wish from the collection of about 500 illustrations of lighthouses and buoys from my travelbooks shared on the blog:

<http://miscuadernosdiarios.blogspot.com.es/>



or just those from these islands I'll try to have ready and upload the starting day of the race at my dairy blog:

<http://horaahora.wordpress.com>





## The nature

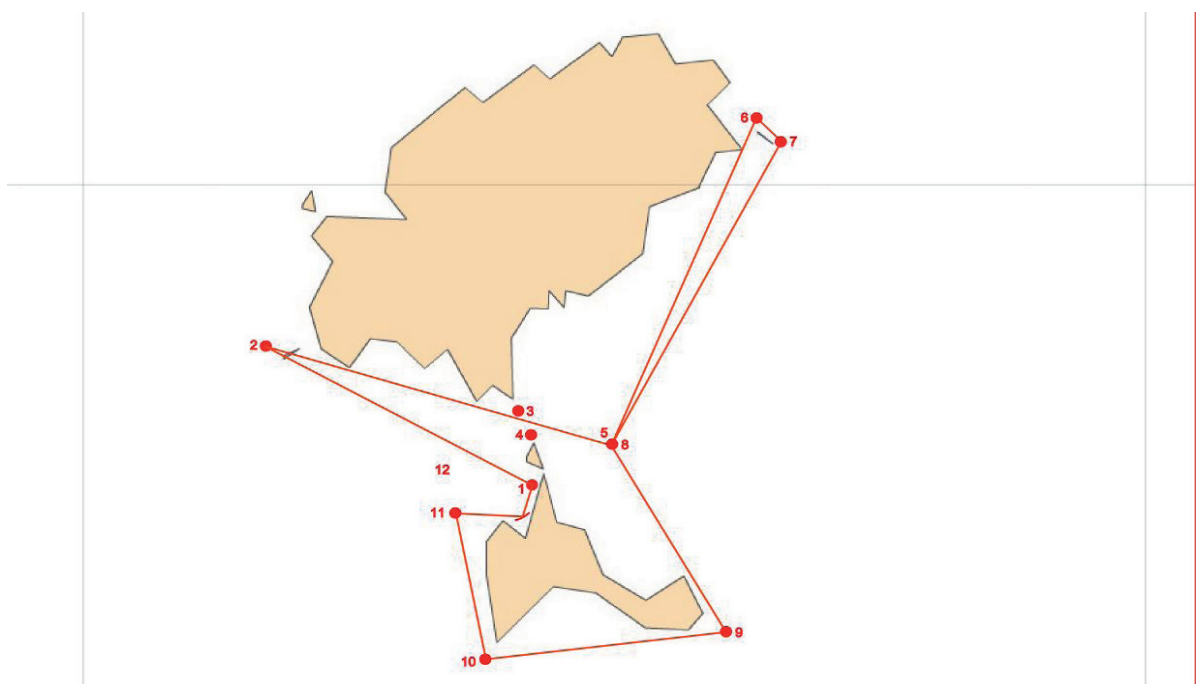
Like a final point, I'd like to say those sailors that visit ours beautiful waters to be careful and respectful with nature, having good care of anchoring not over the Posidonia prairies (*Posidonia oceánica*) also called Neptune Grass or Mediterranean tapeweed, the biggest (500 mile square) and oldest (100.000 years old) living being on Earth, declared World Heritage by the UNESCO in 1999.



## Alternatives

The buoys 2 & 3 that mark the islets *es Vedranet* and *es Vedrá*, could become only one, the 2, indicating *it has to be left to port* [ $32^{\circ}52'93''\text{N}$   $01^{\circ}11'52''\text{W}$ ]

The buoys 6 & 9 that mark the islets *s'Espardell*, could become only one, the 5/8, indicating *it has to be left to port* [ $38^{\circ}47'50''\text{N}$   $01^{\circ}28'39''\text{W}$ ]



## Dates

For being this race just in the middle of the Mediterranean sea, it should be right to sail it in the same date that villages on the coastline celebrate some traditional *fiesta*. On june 24th, day of saint John, everybody welcome the summer with evening parties, fireworks and popular dancing. That weekend (saturday 24th) should be perfect for holding *Nine islands, nine lights*.



Anchoilla, *cutting* the Formentera's north shore waters