

## Index 5

## CALA EN BLANES

**GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL DATA:**

**Municipality:** Ciutadella.

**Other place names:** not known.

**Associated urban areas:** Cala en Blanes

**Access:** by road; the urbanisation is reached from Ciutadella via the Ronda Norte (RC-1).

**Beach's location:** South facing.

**Surface area of the beach:** 1.300 square metres.

**Length of the beach:** 30 m

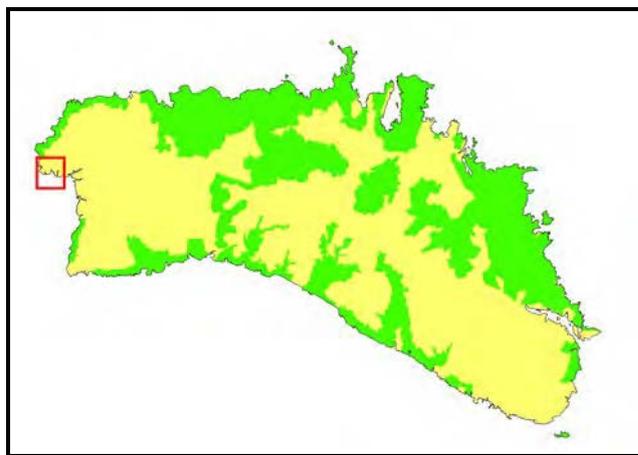
**Average width of the beach:** 50 m

**Beach occupation level:** high, in peak season

**Geology of the surrounding area:** carbonated shelf from the Upper Miocene age, made up of white calcareous rocks.

**Sediment composition:** of organic carbonated origin (+87%), with a high proportion of fine grains and white in colour.

**Protected natural area:** not included.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE ON THE BEACH:**

**Beach classification according to CIME:** Considered type A (urban) with all types of services.

**Distance from the car park area:** 25 m in the urban area.

**Lifeguard services:** there are permanent lifeguard services situated on the terraces near the bay.

**Other services:** the beach provides sunshades and sun beds, and pedalos and showers can be hired. There are two bars at the foot of the beach. There is public transport from the beach to the centre of Ciutadella and other tourist areas.

## SURROUNDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

In general, the bays on the west of the Island are characteristically wide and elongated, and have an urbanisation near by. Without doubt, the growth in tourist activity has increased the anthropization of these areas although these beaches have suffered human interference for some time. The valleys which form the bays are of the few places sheltered from the Tramontana (North wind) and in addition the ground is usually deep and fertile: therefore this type of terrain has always been ideal for agricultural use. On the other hand, the sand dune systems have never been very developed in these bays because they are narrow and are protected from the wind.

Although it is immersed in a large tourist area, the beach maintains a pleasing landscape with good views and some pre-tourist front-line buildings at the entrance of the bay which are used for recreational purposes. At the back of the bay are palm trees which provide the visitors with shady cool areas.



## PLANTS AND VEGETATION



For the reasons previously explained, there are currently few plants to be found on the sand. On the majority of these beaches, the sand dune vegetation has been reduced to a few species situated on the edges of the sand where they are protected from people walking past. These are principally nitrophilous species which also appear in other areas: common Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), buckthorn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*) (see [adjoining photo](#)) and sea fennel (*Crithmum maritimum*). Exotic garden vegetation is also found in the immediate areas round the beach.

## ANIMALS

As the beach is immersed in an urban area, the presence of wild fauna is fairly scarce. At the most, and with a little patience, one can observe Italian lizards (*Podarcis sicula*) running along the dry stone walls or the cliffs.



## IN THE SEA



This bay is very long and measures more than 500 metres from the inside to its mouth. The most interior part is shaped by sand in the centre, and by various species of seaweed at the sides. The predominant species in this area seems to be brown seaweed *Taonia atomaria*, which has a flat lamina thallus repeatedly split into two and is greenish-brown with transversal bands of a darker colour. There is also a calcified red jointed seaweed *Corallina elongata* (see adjoining photo), the green seaweeds *Ulva rígida* i *Cladophora sp* and some other seaweeds who like light such as *Padina pavonica* (in the shape of an ear) or *Acetabularia acetabulum* (in the shape of an umbrella). Two thirds of the outer areas are occupied by a meadow of posidonia.

## HISTORY AND PECULIARITIES

The valley behind the beach where there is palm grove used to be a crop area.