

Mallorca
Magazin

Mallorca
Bulletin

Special

PALMA INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 2025



MAY 1ST - May 3rd
10AM to 8PM

Moll Vell de Palma
Palma Port

Tickets from 12€
palmainternationalboatshow.com



BY ERICA LAY

You can find the main part of Palma International Boat Show on Palma's Moll Vell, a beautiful spot opposite the cathedral. Boat shuttles and golf carts will be connecting the primary site to the Superyacht New Build Hub in the freshly renovated Club de Mar.

When is it?



The show is running from the **30th April to the 3rd May 2025**.

What are the opening hours?



The show is open to the public every day from **10am - 8pm**.

Who's going to be there?



Literally everyone who's anyone in the maritime industry in Mallorca, plus a lot of others who are based further afield. It's a

fantastic networking event for industry professionals from all over the world.

Do I need to be a yachting professional to go?



Absolutely not! It's a great opportunity to wander around and enjoy the boats, toys, tenders, and gadgets up close and personal.

It's a social event, there's always something going on with lots of entertainment for the whole family and a variety of different businesses exhibiting.

How do I get my tickets?

You can purchase your tickets **any time online** via the website

<https://www.tomaticket.es/en-es/ticket-palma-international-boat-show>

The ticket will be in the form of a **QR phone** which you can show on your phone, to be scanned upon entry (or if you like, you can print it out and have it in paper format).



How much are tickets?

Industry professionals can purchase the "Pro Pass" multi entry over multi days for €48.60. Individual tickets valid for each day are available for **€12**.



What's it all about?



In a nutshell, the Palma International Boat Show is the unofficial start of the **Mediterranean Yacht Season**. It's a big deal in the superyacht and maritime sector, bringing together over three hundred exhibiting companies offering a huge range of services and products, yachts and boats of various sizes on display for charter and / or sale. Plus, there's food and drink available on site and off, and a great opportunity for anyone and everyone to have a look around and see what they yachting industry in Mallorca (and beyond) is all about!

Can I get anything to eat and drink at the

show?



Absolutely. Once again Fosh Catering by the iconic island favourite, **Chef Marc Fosh**, will be in the Moll Vell / Varadero Area. As we've come to expect from Fosh, their stand at the yacht show will offer exciting and premium gastronomic journeys, and even some entertainment.

Over in the Superyacht Square, in the heart of the Palma Superyacht Village, you can find **Mistral Coffee**, Mallorca's first Speciality Coffee Roaster. They'll be offering a range of ethically sourced coffees, hot drinks, cold drinks, and delicious snacks and food to keep you energised.

Where are the best places to grab lunch, a coffee or a drink outside of the show grounds?

If you need a little break from the show itself, why not step outside and grab a bite or a quiet moment at one of the array of bars, restaurants and cafes close by in

Palma? An old favourite is **Café La Llonja** (aka The Revolving Door Bar) this place is always buzzing with locals, tourists, and yachties. Great nice and easy no frills food and drink, opposite Moll Vell in La Llonja square.

Just around the corner and down a side street you could try **El Neo**, a very trendy arty tapas bar with awesome cocktails.

Down along the front on the Avenida de Gabriel Roca you'll find some great eateries. With **Enco** on the corner you can grab drinks and coffees, a paella or tapas. And they have ice creams!

If you're keen on trendy modern tapas, try **La Caña - Xiringo Urbano**. A very cool restaurant and part of the Forn group. Speaking of which you can wander up the road into town to **Ombu** or round the corner to **Koa or Forn** itself.

Then literally on the doorstep of the show itself in Moll Vell, you can find **Marina Bay Palma** for Spanish dishes, **Mar de Nudos** for Japanese and Mediterranean cuisine, or the **NudosAtelier**.

Palma is very much a foodie city. These recommendations barely even scratch the surface. The world is literally your oyster - the options are endless depending on how far you wish to walk!



With events like these, things are subject to change so keep an eye on social media or the website for any updates/changes! www.palmainternational-boatshow.com/

Running alongside the official PIBS programme, Estela Shipping Superyacht Agency have teamed up with the Port Authority of the Balearic Islands to host "THALASSOPHILIA!" – a nautical event. Based in the Port Centre, they will be presenting a series of seminars and presentations over a three-day period. The Centre will be open to the public for the duration, offering various free events. These sessions aim to educate and inform, and the exchange of ideas is encouraged. For further information check out estelashipping.es.

Key: Es denotes the presentation will be

WHAT'S HAPPENING DURING THE YACHT SHOW THIS YEAR?

held in Spanish or Catalan. Eng denotes English language.



PALMA INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

THURSDAY 1st May

- ▶ *Bulletin* Boat Show Supplement appears.
- ▶ **9.15AM** Port Centre: Panel discussion – Media & Social Media in Yachting Seminar (eng)
- ▶ **9.30AM** Nautic Manager Team are hosting breakfast in Booth E11
- ▶ **10.45AM** Port Centre: Panel discussion

- Maritime Safety & Safeguarding (eng)
- ▶ **12PM** Booth E11 presentation of the Marina Badalano.
- ▶ **3PM** Port Centre: Presentation – Italian Yacht Masters, discussing environmental impact, followed by "ask me anything" (eng)
- ▶ **3PM** Port Centre: Fraser host a workshop on mental wellbeing for captains and leaders (eng)

FRIDAY 2nd May

- ▶ **8AM** Join Astilleros de Mallorca, Miller Marine and e3 Systems in raising money for the Superyacht Charities Group on a fun charity cycle ride. There's no fee but there is a minimum donation of €20. Meet for breakfast and briefing at the Astilleros de Mallorca Café before setting off at 9 in 3 guided groups over 44km, returning to the PIBS at 12.30ish. (eng)
- ▶ **9.15AM** Palma Centre: Panel discussion – Yacht Exploration. (eng)
- ▶ **11AM** Palma Centre: Presentation by Andrea Mura, an Italian Ocean

PIBS Exhibition Centre: Presentation of the Rei en Jaume Regatta (es)

- ▶ **11.45AM** Palma Centre: Presentation by Diego Colon, the CEO of Astilleros Mallorca (and descendant of Christopher Columbus), where he will cover history of maritime exploration inspired by his family's own legacy. (eng)
- ▶ **12PM** PIBS Exhibition Centre: Presentation of the Illes Balears Regatta (es)
- ▶ **12PM** Booth M3: Presentation by Marivent Yachts.
- ▶ **12.30PM** PIBS Exhibition Centre: the Marcial Sanchez Barcaiztegui Award will be presented. (es)
- ▶ **12.30PM** Palma Centre: Accidental Ice Queen, a presentation by Captain Maiwenn Beadle (eng)
- ▶ **4PM** The SOIB will host 4th ESP and high school students at PIBS, from the Port Centre. (es)
- ▶ **6PM** Booth B36: Argo Yachting and Greenline Yachts presentation.
- ▶ **6.30PM** Can Eduardo Restaurant: Superyacht Charities are holding their annual Seafarers Supper

Racing Legend (eng) ▶ **11AM**



PIBS PALMA INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

30 April - 3 May'25
Moll Vell · Palma

Open the season

 **Govern de les Illes Balears**
Conselleria d'Empresa, Ocupació i Energia

 **ADR Balears**

 **BYBA**



BY ERICA LAY

The 2025 PIBS sets sail in style

The 2025 Palma International Boat Show (PIBS) is officially underway, and it's already shaping up to be another stand-out edition of this iconic Mediterranean event.

Yesterday, 30th April, marked the grand opening of what many consider the official-unofficial launch of the European yachting season. Hosted at Palma's beautiful Moll Vell marina—right in the heart of the city and in the shadow of the magnificent La Seu Cathedral—the show will run daily from 10am to 8pm until its final day on 3rd May.

This year continues the legacy of excellence that PIBS has built over more than four decades.

The first day of the show was a successful one, although it's currently too early to say, the organisers are keen to top last year's figures which boasted 295 exhibitors, 260 boats and over 28,000 visitors over the four days. We don't want to jinx it... but so far it's looking extremely promising, especially if the weather holds out for the event.

Feedback from the first day has once again been overwhelmingly positive, especially from exhibitors who are already reporting strong interest and high-quality interactions. As is tradition, the weekdays tend to attract more industry professionals—think brokers, recruitment agencies, training schools, yacht management firms, and maritime media. The Saturday usually draws a more diverse crowd of curious locals, tourists, and private clients.

PIBS remains one of the most accessible and inviting shows on

the yachting calendar. With general entry tickets priced at just €12, it's a rare chance for the public to immerse themselves in the world of superyachting without the price tag of other international shows (a day pass for the Monaco yacht show in September will set you back an eye watering €690). Whether you're a seasoned sailor, a curious first-timer, or simply someone who enjoys admiring beautiful boats, there's something here for everyone.

Palma Superyacht Village is once again featuring over 60 vessels currently available on the international brokerage market, including a variety of both sail and motor yachts represented by various companies, and the addition of the **Superyacht New Build Hub** in **Club de Mar** is a super exciting bonus this year. The water shuttles and golf carts are available all day to zip patrons from one location to the other quickly and safely and frankly, it's fun too!

The teams of brokers are on site available to guide, assist and advise, making the purchase process far easier and more pleasurable. Let's face it, buying a yacht should be enjoyable shouldn't it?

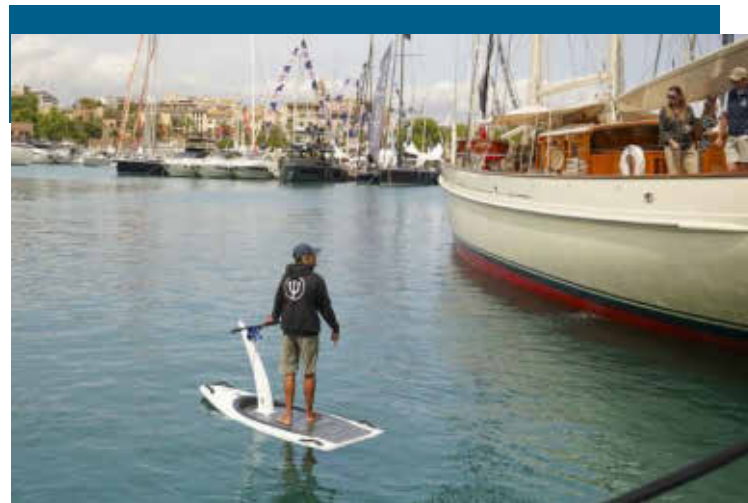
In addition to the incredible sales and charter opportunities,

the 2025 edition of the Palma International Boat Show is set to be a platform to show off the latest cutting-edge technology. This year, the event will be buzzing with innovation, as companies reveal their most advanced navigation systems, top-tier entertainment options, and the latest in ancillary equipment, water toys, tenders, and game-changing safety features designed to elevate the onboard experience. It's the perfect opportunity to explore what's new and what's on the horizon in the world of yachting. From state-of-the-art connectivity solutions to break-

through performance enhancements, the show offers an exciting glimpse into the future of yachting. And, of course, there's the glamorous side – exclusive parties, chic bars, and upscale restaurants that offer plenty of opportunities to unwind and network in style.

But beyond the sparkling lights and luxurious setting, the Palma International Boat Show is also a vital

hub for collaboration and growth within the industry. Boat builders, designers, brokers, and maritime professionals from all over the world are converging in Palma to share ideas, build partnerships, and drive the future of yachting forward. With a packed schedule of networking events, interactive exhibits, and countless evening soirées, this is the ultimate place to engage in meaningful conversations about the challenges and opportunities shaping the maritime community. As the sun dipped below the horizon on the first evening of the yacht show, the air came alive with the melodies of lively tunes, the hum of conversation, and the carefree laughter of friends and colleagues reunited, while corks popped in celebration of the day's success. And yes, maybe I've had one or two glasses myself.





PIBS PALMA INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

30 April - 3 May 2025
Visit us on Palma International Boat Show and experience the FJORD 490 world premiere!



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 **FJORD 490** OPEN / SPORT

BY ERICA LAY

In response to growing demand from the global yachting community, the Palma International Boat Show has expanded in 2025 with an exciting new development: a second exhibition area located at the emblematic, and recently redeveloped Palma yachting landmark: Club de Mar. This marks a significant milestone in the Show's 40-year history and positions it firmly on course to potentially become the world's leading superyacht showcase.

This bold expansion adds 5,000 square metres of new exhibition space to the show, offering a dedicated zone for large yachts between 40 and 100 metres, particularly one-off sailboats from prestigious shipyards. The new area also includes an on-land hub for service and supply companies specialising in refit, maintenance, naval architecture, engineering, shipbuilding, and high-end interior design.

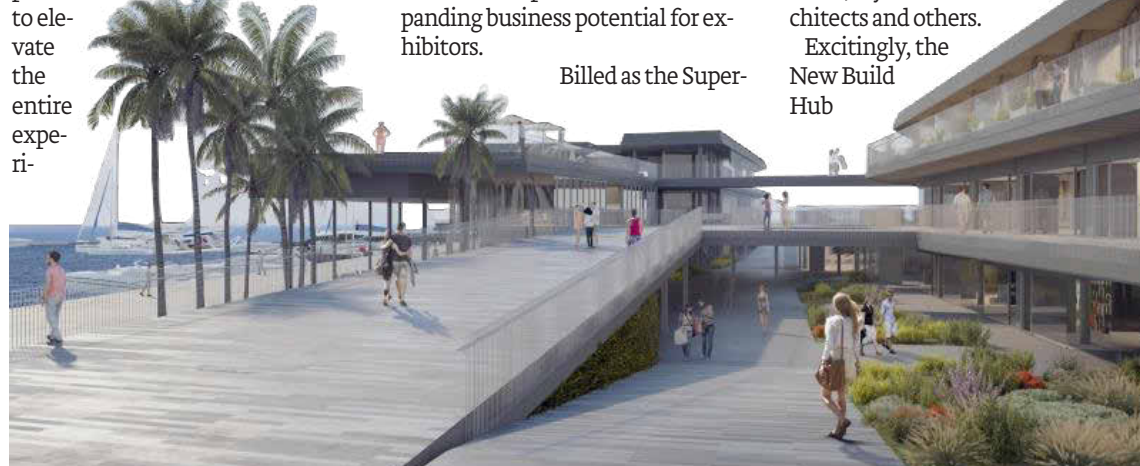
Organisers—the **Regional Ministry of Enterprise, Employment and Energy** (via ADR Balears) and the **Balearic Yacht Brokers Association** (BYBA)—have long sought ways to accommodate the surge in companies and vessels eager to participate. Until now, the event had reached its physical limit at Moll Vell, but thanks to a new agreement with Club de Mar, that bottleneck

has been lifted.

At the recent FITUR presentation, Councillor Alejandro Sáenz de San Pedro shared his enthusiasm:

“The new Club de Mar is a perfect marina for this type of yachts, with a long tradition and experience in the world of large vessels, which offers all the technical and logistical equipment for this exhibition.”

Far from just a larger footprint, the expansion represents an increase in quality that promises to elevate the entire experi-



ence. By 2027, the Club de Mar site is expected to host over 20 megayachts at sea and 40 top-tier exhibitors on land, creating a dual-centre format that is unique in the Mediterranean.

The two show areas—Moll Vell and Club de Mar—will be connected by a quick five-minute sea shuttle, or on land, via golf carts, making it easy for visitors to explore both with a single-entry ticket. This fluid format enhances the visitor experience while expanding business potential for exhibitors.

Billed as the Super-

yacht New Build Hub section of the PIBS, the Club de Mar zone will cover over 5000 square metres. They will be showcasing various sailing yachts including the 33m Wally Galma, the 35m Southern Wind Kiboko, the 40m Pendennis Halekai, the 43m Baltic Yachts Canova, along with several others. On the shore side, we can expect to see exhibitors from all the big sailing shipyards such as Royal Huisman, Vitters, Nautor Swan, Dykstra Naval Architects and others.

Excitingly, the New Build Hub

will also be showcasing Foundation Zero's innovative container installation, offering an in-depth look at the 68.9m Project Zero—currently in build at Vitters with naval architects by Dykstra Naval Architects. This groundbreaking sailing yacht is designed to operate entirely without combustion engines, achieving true zero-emission performance.

Back over at Moll Vell we will find the Brokerage, Charter and Superyacht Services and Refit & Repair sections as per previous years.

Brokerage:

Within the Palma Superyacht Village, a curated selection of premium pre-owned luxury yachts is available for sale. What sets this event apart from other industry shows is its exclusive nature. As an industry-owned event, only pre-approved and highly reputable brokerage companies are permitted to exhibit. This means that prospective buyers can feel confident knowing they'll receive expert guidance, trusted advice, and personalised assistance from some of the most experienced brokerage teams in the business.

Chartering is an excellent option for those not yet ready to commit to full ownership. It's also a fantastic way to “test the waters” before making a long-term decision. With so many choices available, charter-

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INTO CLUB DE MAR FOR
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PALMA INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

30th April to 3rd May 2025

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from 30th April to 3rd May 2025
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The two show areas—Moll Vell and Club de Mar—will be connected by a quick five-minute sea shuttle, or on land, via golf carts, making it easy for visitors to explore both with a single-entry ticket.



Club de Mar.



ing allows you to explore different types of yachts, from luxurious motor yachts and adventure-driven explorer vessels to grand sailing yachts. Why not take the opportunity to experience them all before you settle on the perfect fit?

At the Palma Superyacht Village, you'll find a wide array of vessels available for charter, all in one convenient location. Whether you're interested in water toys and family-friendly activities, a spa area with dedicated masseuses or beauticians for a relaxing escape, or a high-performance sailing yacht for thrilling adventures, there's something for every taste. Plus, you can connect with brokers to explore the options available, while building long-lasting relationships for future charters. One of the standout features of the Palma Superyacht Village is the chance to meet the captains and crew, who provide insider insight into what it's truly like to spend time aboard these extraordinary yachts.

(Left) Old image of the Club de Mar. (Right) Virtual image after the construction work is completed.

Superyacht Services and Refit & Repair:

Mallorca has firmly established itself as a leading yachting hub, renowned for its exceptional maintenance services, refits, and comprehensive yachting solutions. With state-of-the-art boatyards equipped with the latest technology, the island is the go-to destination for owners and captains seeking top-tier service. Whether it's general maintenance, full refits, paint jobs, surveys, engineering projects, winch services, rigging, or technology upgrades, Mallorca can handle projects of any scale—delivered by reputable, highly regarded companies with years of expertise.

At the Palma Superyacht Village, you'll find representatives from many of these respected companies, with a dedicated area for refit

and repair specialists. This provides you with the opportunity to gather expert advice and detailed information on the services available, all in one convenient location.

Running from April 30 to May 3, the Palma International Boat Show continues to serve as the official opener of the Mediterranean nautical season. Attracting over 30,000 visitors and more than 280 companies annually, it's not just a showcase—it's a vital engine of economic activity.

The Balearic marine sector itself is a powerhouse, as noted in a study by the Balearic Marine Cluster:

- ▶ Over 850 businesses
- ▶ More than 5,150 employees
- ▶ A yearly turnover of €1.1 billion, representing 3% of the Balearic Islands' GDP

With this bold new direction, the Palma International Boat Show isn't just keeping pace with industry demands—it's setting a new course entirely.



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Chema Sanz: Steering the *International Boat Show* in Palma for 37 Years

BY ANDREAS JOHN

Chema Sanz is a perennial favourite among boat show bosses – he has been at the helm of the International Boat Show in Palma for 37 years. For this year's edition, he has fulfilled a long-cherished wish: With the new area in the Club de Mar, the trade fair is opening up to exclusive large yachts for the first time – and thus to a market that has so far been anchored elsewhere.

Mallorca Bulletin.— Are there any changes to the fair compared to last year?

Chema Sanz. — Yes, one major change is that **we have expanded the fair to include a new exhibition area at Club de Mar** – this was a long-held wish. We have wanted to grow a little for years, and thanks to the crucial cooperation with the Club de Mar and the harbour authority, we have now been able to take this step.

MB.— What areas does the fair now cover?

Sanz. — The fair combines several segments under one roof: **the Superyacht Village, the area for conventional leisure boats and yachts, the Repair & Refit area – and now this new area, which is exclusively dedicated to large new builds from shipyards.** No charter boats, no second-hand boats – but real large yachts, usually from 30 to 35 metres in length, in future perhaps up to 90 metres. Presented by the shipyards themselves.

MB.— So no boats from brokers?

Sanz. — Exactly. The shipyards show reference objects here to **generate new orders.** The process begins with the purchase of a design – then the boat is built to order.

MB.— Do the shipyards only come from Spain?

Sanz. — From all over the world, including leading German, Dutch and American shipyards. Not standard yachts, but **customised** one-offs. A market all of its own.

MB.— Is it common for shipyards to exhibit at trade fairs?

Sanz. — No, that's a rarity. Fort Lau-

derdale, Antibes – these are the usual places. **The fact that they are now choosing Palma is new.** The initiative came from the shipyards themselves. Our previous site was too small and not designed for sailing yachts of this size.

MB.— Do the shipyards address end customers or brokers?

Sanz. — Clearly for end customers. Palma offers excellent service for maintenance and care. **Many of these yachts are already moored here.** This makes it ideal for inviting and convincing customers.

MB.— What will the range of electric boats at the trade fair look like?

Sanz. — Their number is growing steadily, even if the nautical sector is progressing more slowly than the car industry. **Some of the shuttles to the Club de Mar are electric.** There are also corresponding models among the yachts.

MB.— What types of boats are currently in fashion?

Sanz. — The trend is clearly towards so-called **day cruisers, i.e. motorboats between 8 and 12 metres.**

They are easy to manoeuvre and are suitable for cruises with family and friends. And they are relatively easy to store on land during the winter break.

MB.— The leisure boating industry on the island has been struggling for years with the dwindling number of free berths in the harbours and marinas. This is also deterring more and more potential buyers from purchasing boats, isn't it?

Sanz. — We have been talking about this for years. But we also need to preserve the scenic charm of the islands. No new marinas, but creative, temporary solutions: **floating buoy fields, jetties for the high season, then dismantled.** This has been around for a long time. It just needs to be applied. The important thing is ecological compatibility – and that is a given.

MB.— What would concrete solutions look like?

Sanz. — Here's the thing. For the majority of leisure skippers on the Balearic Islands, the season lasts from June to September. **Why not create temporary moorings during this time?** One example: Years ago, there was a company in Mahon called Ribera del Puerto, run by Javier Hernández, a visionary entrepreneur, he even had Richard Branson as a partner. They developed floating platforms with four jetties and a small pool in the centre. Electricity

and water were supplied via an underwater cable. A dinghy service brought the boat owners on board and back ashore again. At the end of the season, the floating jetties were mothballed back on land and the boats were taken out of the water.

MB.— You are certainly the longest-serving director of all boat shows in Europe. How did that come about?

Sanz. — I have been running it for 37 years. I remember the beginning very well. We received the first project draft for review. I was working in a shipyard at the time, was young and had trade fair experience as a user. **I made some changes that I have not forgotten to this day.**

MB.— What did you do before that?

Sanz. — Studied architecture, then a **master's degree in shipbuilding.** After that, I worked in various jobs in the nautical industry, including for shipyards. And then the subject of trade fairs came into my life.

MB.— Was there a nautical background in the family?

Sanz. — Yes, even as a **child I went to boat shows**

with my father. Every now and then we bought a small boat. I went to a lot of boat shows, even as an exhibitor. Boat shows used to be more exciting; there was no internet. If you wanted to see boats, you had to travel. Today, a lot of things have lost their charm. For me, a visit to a boat show back then was almost like a MotoGP race today.

MB.— And the enthusiasm has remained?

Sanz. — Yes, it's my job, and it's fun. **Many people think you work two weeks before and two weeks after the trade fair.** No, it's a year-round job. We've never done it any other way. **We never wanted a 'small' project.**

MB.— What distinguishes 'your' fair from others?

Sanz. — It is a public-private project – not for profit, but with a passion for the location and the industry. The fair is **a tool to promote the nautical industry in Mallorca and the neighbouring islands.** Our team not only organises the fair, but also many activities around it. The 'cluster' emerged from the trade fair. The Nautical Forum also emerged from it. We help the sector and publicise it – at international trade fairs, for example. Not because we have to, but because we want to.

“ The new area at Club de Mar opens the door to shipyards that previously had no space. ”

MB.— Is the exhibition area at Club de Mar accessible to everyone?

Sanz. — Yes, for all visitors. **We are setting up a water shuttle, a kind of 'sea bridge'** between the core sea area at La Lonja pier and the Club de Mar.

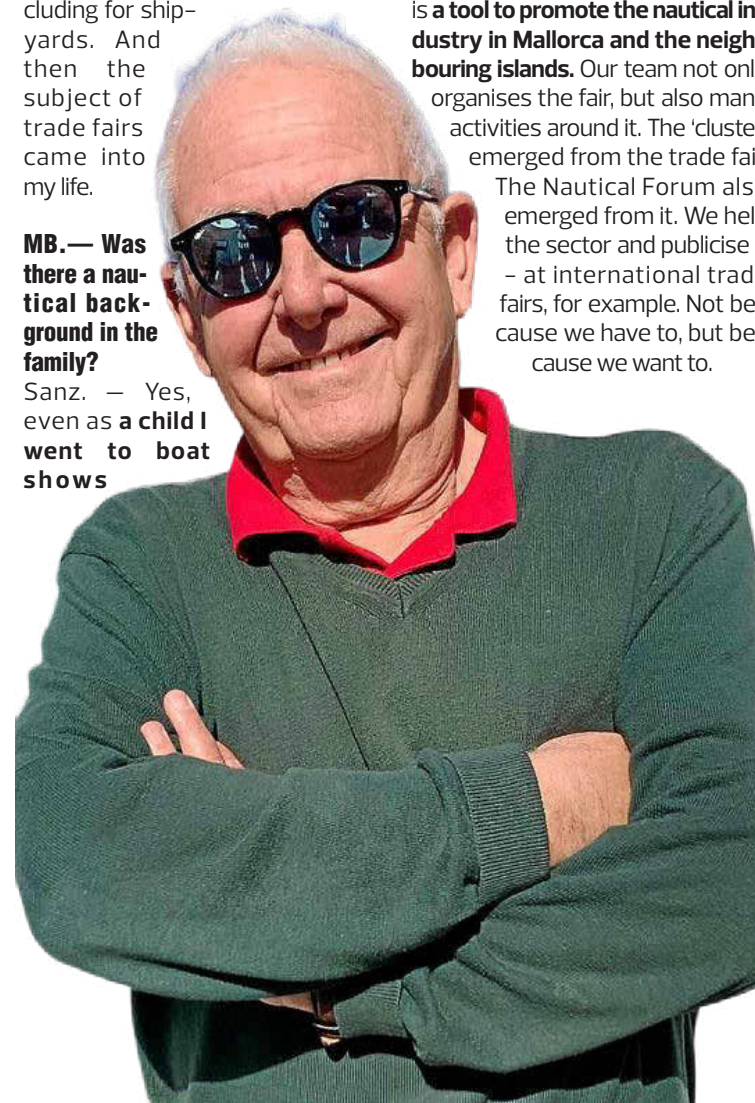
MB.— What are the advantages of this extension?

Sanz. — We are gaining space – for more exhibitors, for larger yachts. After years without growth, this is an important step. In the long term, **shipyards with large yachts could have a permanent presence there.** This would relieve the main area for smaller boats. This year, the focus is on large sailing yachts. Motor yachts could follow next year.

MB.— Will the regular exhibitors remain at the trade fair?

Sanz. — Yes, **around 90 per cent are coming back;** only the product is changing. But the new area opens the door for shipyards that previously had no space.

The number of medium-sized yachts is also increasing – by around ten per cent



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programme **HERE** ▶



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Balearic Helicopters has carved out a niche supporting this growing market, offering end-to-end services from helideck design and crew training to operational support worldwide.

The world of superyachts is constantly evolving, and one of the fastest-growing trends is the addition of helidecks. Since the first yacht with a helicopter landing pad appeared in 1975, more than 300 superyachts now feature them—reflecting a sharp rise in demand for speed, privacy, and exploration.

Why the surge?

For the world's ultra-wealthy, helicopters are the ultimate convenience. They offer

a swift transfer from private jets to remote anchorages, provide a high level of security and discretion, and serve as a critical lifeline in emergencies. But increasingly, they're also a tool for adventure—opening up access to far-flung destinations from

Greenland to the South Pacific. Yet landing a chopper on a yacht is no simple feat. "Many assume it's just a matter of painting an 'H' on the deck—but the reality is far more complex," says a Jonny Greenall from Mallorca-based

Balearic Helicopters, a Superyacht Helideck Instructor, who has over 25 years of experience in the industry.

Helicopter selection is key. Owners must choose between single or twin-engine aircraft, balance payload with size, and ensure the chosen model is compatible with the yacht's deck and structure. Mismatches are common—either the yacht isn't built to support the helicopter, or the helicopter isn't built to support the yacht.

Deck location matters, too. Most yachts offer either a bow or aft landing area—some even feature both—that First World problem "where do my friends land their helicopter when I am aboard..."

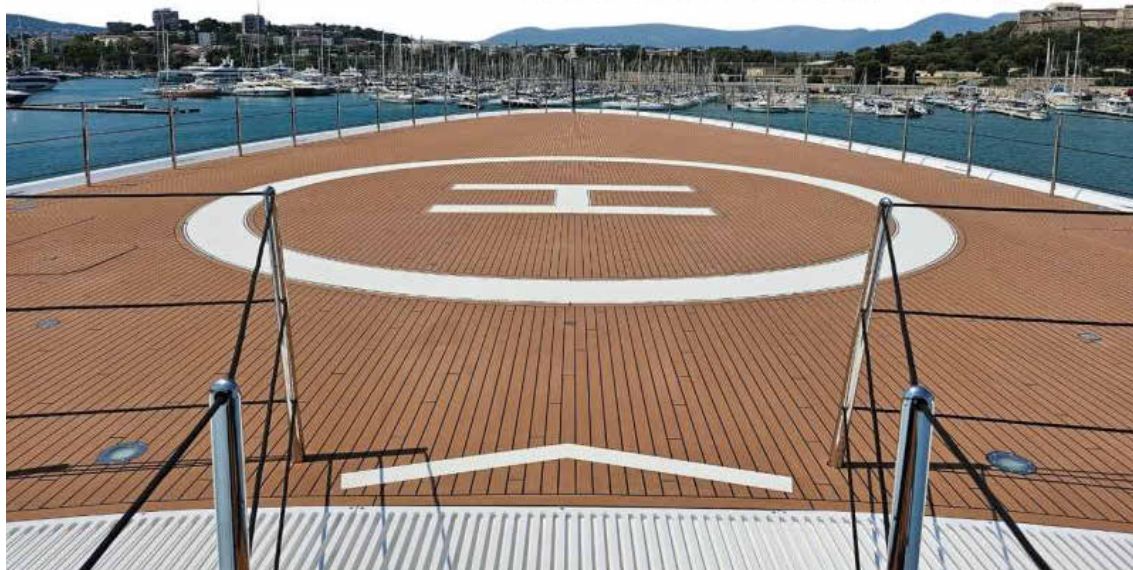
The aft deck, preferred by guests for its easy access, demands more setup from the crew. Bow decks, though less disruptive to onboard life, can pose challenges for pilots due to yacht movement and visibility restrictions.

Safety is paramount. Each yacht must have a purpose-built Helicopter Operations Manual, tailored to its unique specifications. Structural load limits, firefighting provisions, deck friction levels, and the position of masts and antennas all play critical roles in ensuring safe landings.

Behind every smooth touchdown



**FROM SEA TO SKY:
THE RISE OF HELIDECKS
ON SUPERYACHTS**



is a well-drilled crew. A minimum of six trained professionals typically take part in helicopter ops, including an HLO (Helicopter Landing Officer), Helideck Assistants in full firefighting gear, a bridge officer (OOW), and a rescue tender team on standby. Additional crew may be involved in guest handling and logistics.

Balearic Helicopters has carved out a niche supporting this growing market, offering end-to-end services from helideck design and crew training to operational support worldwide.

As luxury travel continues to push boundaries, it's clear that superyachts with helidecks aren't just a passing trend—they're becoming the new standard.



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BY SARAH FORGE

CABRERA

Day trip heaven

For more than 40 years I've either holidayed or lived in Mallorca. At no point have I ever made landfall on the protected Cabrera archipelago off the south coast – this had to change. Turned out that eight of my nearest and dearest were in the same boat. So, on my birthday (8 April, thanks for asking), we all got in the same boat from Colonia Sant Jordi to see what the fuss was about.

There are two major players on the Cabrera boat trip scene – **Excursiones a Cabrera** and **Mar-Cabrera** – both operating out of Colonia Sant Jordi. Each offers a variety of tours from 'quick' two-to three-hour circumnavigations to complete six-hour sea/land/cave experiences. Being as it was my birthday, we went for the full six-hour monty, and assembled for quayside coffee and sustenance before our 12:15 embarkation.

The boat was substantial, seating around 50, and occupied by what seemed to be a mix of German/Spanish tourists - I certainly didn't hear any other British accents. The Spanish crew were warm and friendly, and happy to answer all daft and sensible questions, from "Are there goats – **cabras** - on Cabrera Island?" (answer, "There were, but they've long gone") to "Are there rabbits – **conills** - on Conillera?" (answer, "No, but weirdly there are on Cabrera").

Despite the bright 21-degree forecast, the crossing and initial circumnavigation around the bulk of Cabrera National Park's 19 islands and islets was oddly chilly. There was a mass dishing out of cosy blankets to cover our inadequate summer clothing and a smattering of seat-swapping to avoid the prevailing sea spray. Meanwhile, crew were in waterproof technical jackets – clever them. Thankfully, the unspoiled



jagged coastline kept us suitably distracted.

Walking routes

There is only one place to disembark on the archipelago – Cabrera Harbour – and it's here you'll find the Islands' main 'settlement', a collection of white-washed buildings hosting, among others, a toilet block, visitor centre and café. The visitor centre

is a wise first stop (scrap that, second, after the loo –there's no WC on the boat) to pick up a handy info leaflet and decide how to spend your time.

There are **nine official walking routes** - some self-guided, others with a mandatory authorised guide – and it rather depends how much time you have on the Island. We had four hours' max, and coolers full of picnic yumminess, so our prime goal was to find

a postcard-perfect lunch spot. A 15-minute walk took us past Cabrera Hostel (more on that later) to an entirely deserted

Excursiones a Cabrera has tours costing between 47 euros (three hour Sunset Tour) and 68 euros (six hour Premium Tour).

beach – we'd found our spot.

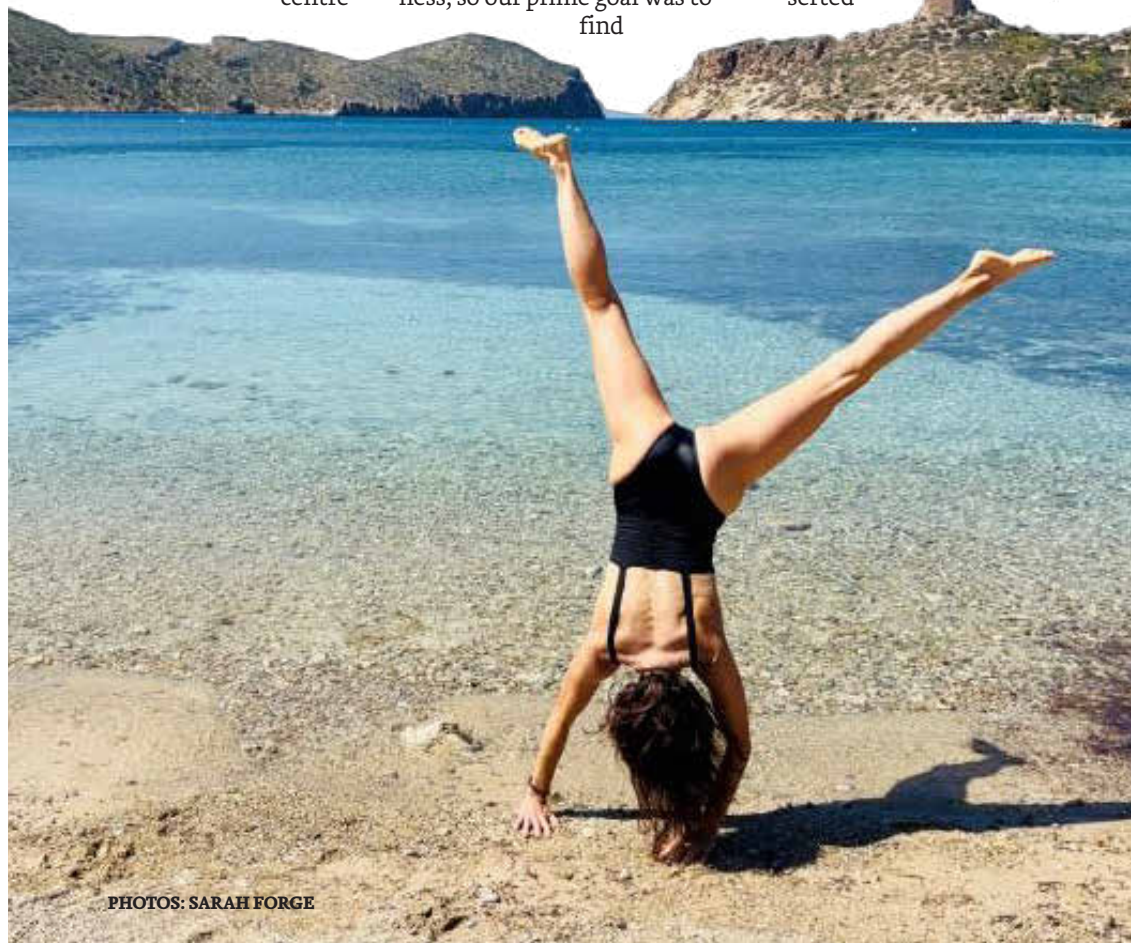
Latterly, the words 'deserted' and 'beach' haven't gone together in Mallorca - Instagram has put pay to that - but, in Cabrera,

such things exist. The only people on the Island are the dozen or so who work there (café staff, park rangers, Guardia Civil keeping an eye out for narco boats), those who've arrived in authorised boat trips (like us), and private individuals or charter companies who've reserved one of the 50 mooring buoys in the main Harbour. During our stay, there was one lonely sailing boat (one!) occupying a buoy, while the disgorged contents of our boat scattered such that we never saw them again until 17:00 departure time. In short, the beach was ours for the duration - and it was paradise found.

Turquoise water

I and three equally brave-slash-nutty friends took a nippy dip in the ridiculously turquoise water and sandwiches were accompanied by a chorus of birdsong and a view of the 14th century castle. The perfect disconnect from 'real life', a pinch-yourself few hours I will never forget.

As the time ticked down to departure, half of the party settled into the café while the other did



PHOTOS: SARAH FORGE



the 30-minute uphill schlep to the castle. Built in the 14th century to defend Cabrera from those pesky pirates, the castle is nicely preserved with stairways right to the top for the most incredible views. It's my strong belief that those who stayed in the café missed out.

As we boarded the boat to return to the mainland, there was one final treat in store – a trip to the famous **Cova Blanca** or Blue Cave. Here, the water's vibrant blue hue reflects and illuminates the cave's interior to create an otherworldly ambience. I felt obliged to swim, we'd got this far, but there was no heat left in the sun to warm our wet bodies. "Has anyone swum yet this year?" I asked the skipper, as he



fended off with a boat hook to hold us steady in position, "No" he replied. In a split second, the

words "Challenge accepted" clumsily fell out of my mouth. So, clothes off, swimmy on, and

in the fearless four jumped. Although bone-chilling, it was invigorating, and worth it for the smug factor. One other chap leapt in and I like to think we were the catalyst for that.

Would I go back to Cabrera?
Hell yes. Although the archipelago is small - a combined land area of 13 square kilometres - there is plenty to explore and we barely scratched the surface. The Islands' former barracks has been converted to hostel-style accommodation, sleeping up to 24 in 12 double rooms with bathrooms, plus a shared dining/common room. You are expected to bring your own towels, bed linen, toiletries, cooking utensils and drinking water, and can only

book for a maximum of three nights, once per year. Yes, it's pared-down, but in return you get to savour the Robinson Crusoe experience on an Island that has barely changed in centuries. Lizards scuttling across your feet, shoals of fish weaving through your legs and, once all the day-trippers have cruised home, nothing but you and a sky full of stars. Sounds magical – maybe next birthday I'll pull an all-nighter.

Excursiones a Cabrera has tours costing between 47 euros (three hour Sunset Tour) and 68 euros (six hour Premium Tour). The price only includes the tour, there is no food/drink, so bring all you need – not forgetting hat, sunscreen and walking shoes.

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Stingblade Brings Innovation to the Sea

Meet Stingblade at SYPO9, Palma Superyacht Village, until May 3rd

In the world of yachting and marine adventure, safety is often discussed in terms of navigation and equipment. But for anyone who's spent time in the Mediterranean waters, there's another persistent threat that's far less mechanical: the jellyfish sting.

Introducing **Stingblade** – a pioneering new tool designed to tackle jellyfish stings with precision, speed, and environmental care. Developed by British inventor Mark Dyer, Stingblade has already captured the attention of the ma-

rine industry. Now, it's set to make its debut at the Palma International Boat Show, where visitors can experience the innovation firsthand at **Stand SYPO9 in the Palma Superyacht Village**.

A Smarter Solution to a Common Threat

Jellyfish encounters are not only painful but can also be dangerous. Traditional first-aid methods are often ineffective or, worse, harmful.

Stingblade's patented scraping mechanism safely removes stingers and venom without activating the jellyfish's

micro-barbs – a crucial detail that significantly reduces pain and complications.

Designed for both casual sea lovers and marine professionals, Stingblade is

available in two versions:

- **Stingblade Personal Sport:** Compact, portable, and ideal for swimmers, snorkelers, and beachgoers.

- **Stingblade Super Blade Professional:** Built for yacht crews and lifeguards at beach establishments.

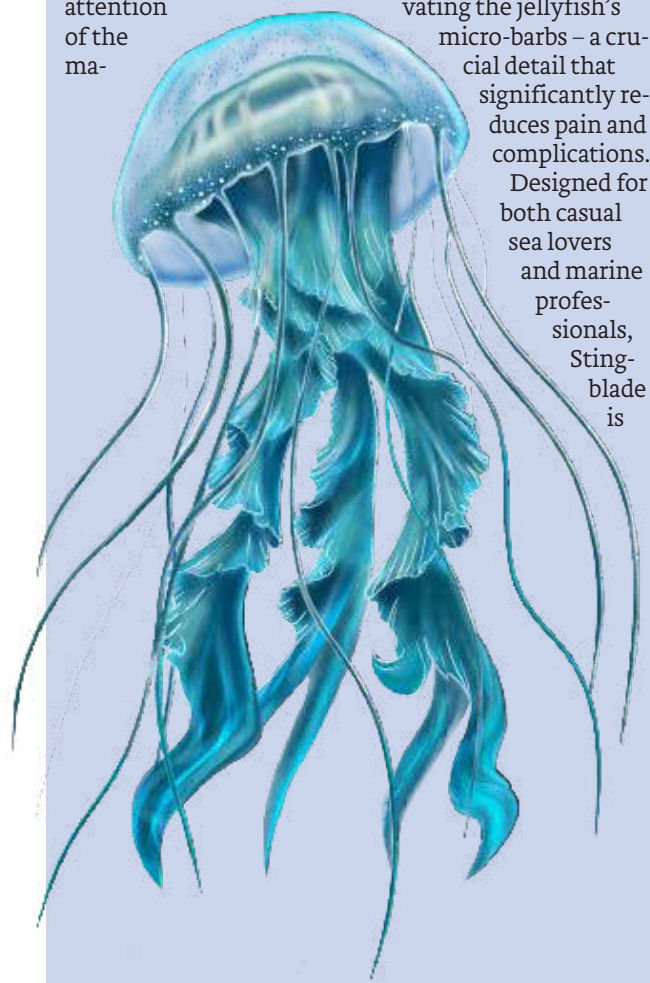
Built with Purpose – and with the Planet in Mind

What truly sets Stingblade apart is not just its effectiveness but its commitment to sustainability. Each unit is crafted using reclaimed fishing nets, a deliberate effort to help clean our oceans while protecting those who enjoy them. The tool also features interchangeable blades for long-term usability, while its buoyant design ensures it stays afloat and never gets lost in the water.

An Invitation to Industry Professionals

As Stingblade continues to expand its international presence, we extend an open invitation to marine distributors and retailers to meet with us during the Palma International Boat Show.

Whether you're looking to add innovative safety products to your portfolio or simply want to see the future of jellyfish sting relief in action, we welcome you to visit Stand SYPO9 and connect with the team behind this ocean-friendly solution.



80 years at sea: Llaüt Alzina Marks a Maritime Milestone

After decades of service as a fishing vessel, the Alzina was later reclassified as a leisure boat.

BY GABRIEL ALOMAR

The Llaüt *Alzina*, one of the last active examples of traditional Mallorcan boatbuilding craftsmanship, celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. Built in 1945 by the renowned shipbuilder Miquel Rosselló in Cala Ratjada, this wooden boat was originally used for longline fishing of lobster and dolphinfish and operated by the Alzina family. Today, it stands as a living monument to maritime history.

After decades of service as a fishing vessel, the *Alzina* was later reclassified as a leisure boat. Like many classic wooden boats with lateen sails, it came close to being scrapped—due in part to legal frameworks that favour fleet renewal over the preservation of historic vessels. A period of decline followed.

However, thanks to the dedication of the Associació d'Amics del Museu Marítim (Friends of the Maritime Museum Association) and support from both public and private institutions, the llaüt was saved and painstakingly restored by the workshop of the Departament de Medi Ambient i Natura (Department of Environment and Nature) of the Island Council of Mallorca. Today, the boat is recognised as a Bien de Interés Cultural (BIC) – an officially protected cultural asset.

The *Alzina* is now based at Club Nàutic de s'Arenal and maintained by the Alzinaires association, which has over 100 members. Regular sailing trips are organised from Cala Gamba – open to both members and students – making the boat an active contributor to preserving the island's nautical heritage.

The *Alzina* continues to prove her seaworthiness. Her legendary voyage from Palma to Seville for Expo '92, with stopovers in Ibiza and Alicante, showcased her as a representative of the historic Balearic sailing fleet. She regularly appears at maritime events, such as those in Portocolom and the popular Passetjades pel Port de Palma (Harbour Cruises of Palma), which not only keep the boat in excellent condition



but also introduce young sailors to the traditional art of handling lateen sails. Alongside the Balearic bou, the *Alzina* is one of the few classic sailing boats on the islands that is both actively used and institutionally preserved – a true floating cultural treasure.

Built in 1945, *Alzina* is now a cultural icon dedicated to education and maritime heritage.



Svensk Fastighetsförmedling

Real Estate Agency

The dream of a home in Mallorca - Rampeltin Molin estate agents

The largest estate agency in Sweden, Svensk Fastighetsförmedling Real Estate Agency, has successfully established itself in Mallorca, with the estate agency couple Christin Rampeltin Molin and Gustaf Molin. When we visit their office, or 'bobutik' as they prefer to call it, it feels like stepping into someone's living room. Here you can come by and just hang out - and take the opportunity to get expert tips on everything from housing, interior design, furniture or excursions, from the couple who really love their Mallorca. Whether you're thinking of buying or selling your property, or just having a coffee, you're welcome here.

When we step into their property shop, it's clear that this is much more than just a real estate office. There is a large, sunny patio where customers are welcome to stop by for a chat. 'We want our customers to feel that they can come by even if they don't have a specific enquiry. We like people to hang out with us and have a coffee, we're more of a meeting place than a traditional office.'

It's clear that Christin and Gustaf really love their job and their environment. They are passionate ambassadors for Mallorca. Their commitment extends far beyond the usual estate agency work - they genuinely want their clients to feel part of the island community.

'Property has always been our main interest'. We have built, renovated and decorated many homes over the years. This experience has been invaluable when we started our real estate agency. Our strength lies in our passion and commitment to client relationships and Mallorca, as well as our entrepreneurial attitude and understanding of how processes and the market work.'

A love story with Mallorca. Christin and Gustaf bought their first apartment in Mallorca 14 years ago, a year after they got married in the Church of Sweden on the island. 'I believe that our marriage here in Mallorca created a bond of love not only for each other but also for Mallorca'. Buying a property in Mallorca is by far the best investment we have made in our lives, and I don't just mean financially - but above all for the family and the quality of life.

A journey from project to real estate agency. Christin and Gustaf have a long background of working with property, renovating, decorating and networking. Their experience and entrepreneurial spirit have made them successful in their new role on the island, where they focus on building trust and good relationships. They want to offer their clients much more than just

a property deal - they want to be a guide and support through the whole process, but also be there in between the property deals. For us, customer relationships are long-term

With a passion for property, Christin and Gustaf have been demolishing, building, renovating and decorating for many years. Their extensive experience of the property market and construction projects led them to start a real estate agency.



'We are entrepreneurs at heart and this is what has shaped the way we work. We put a lot of emphasis on building customer relationships and giving our customers a holistic experience.'

Despite being relatively new to Mallorca, Christin and Gustaf have received very positive feedback. 'Clients, regardless of nationality, appreciate the Swedish quality and reliability combined with our entrepreneurial approach and personal commitment. We don't just want to help find the right property or sell a property, but also offer a complete service. We know what it's like to be new to the island without contacts and knowledge of how

things work. That's why we want to be a guide through the whole process, from viewings to liaising with the authorities, buying furniture and getting ready for viewings.' 'We really want people to feel that they can contact us for all sorts of questions, not just about property, but also about how to get a Nie number, apply for planning permission, register their children for a football club or take out an electricity subscription.'

Entrepreneurial spirit. Gustaf and Christin have been running a business together for 18 years and enjoy it. We are used to working together. Our business, work, family life and leisure have always been a mix of everything. We have never separated work from leisure or family from work, nor vice versa. I think that has been part of our success. We don't put energy into scheduling our lives, but adapt and are used to change - including the children. And the children have always been involved. Our eldest son Agaton has always worked with us and now also works with us here at Svensk Fastighetsförmedling, as a coordinator and broker. It is fantastic!



What tips do you have for those thinking of buying property in Mallorca? Get in touch with us! We will help you and guide you, leading you over any thresholds. And the best advice is: Buy! It's the best investment you can make financially - but above all for your family and your life. We're here to help you through the whole process and make sure it's a smooth and positive experience. Welcome to Mallorca and welcome to us.





DR LUCY ANTOLIN WILKINSON

WHAT'S UP DOC?

With the Palma Boat Show marking the start of another yachting season, crews and owners are busy

checking rigging, stocking up on supplies, and planning their first voyages.

Amid the excitement, it's easy to overlook your own health — yet life at sea brings unique challenges, from managing sun exposure to coping with limited medical access. A little preparation can prevent minor issues from becoming major problems.

Before casting off, run through this health checklist to ensure you're ready for the season ahead.

1. Check your medications

Whether you take regular medication or have a few just-in-case items stashed in your luggage, it's important to check them before you set off for the season.

Ensure that you have enough to last for

Setting off for the season?

An essential health checklist for yacht crews

the duration of your trip and, ideally, a little extra in case of any delays. Be aware that it may take time to source prescription-only medications in your next port of call. You should also check that everything is in-date and that any medical devices you need are in good working order.

Remember to check emergency medicines that you may need only on rare occasions. This includes epipens (for severe allergic reactions) and emergency inhalers among others.

Don't forget to review your contraception. Do you have enough to last for the duration of the trip? If you have a coil, implant or injection, plan ahead to ensure that they don't run out while you are away.

2. Have a copy of your essential medical records

Medical records aren't just paperwork: they are an essential part of ensuring that you get safe and appropriate medical care when needed.

They should include information about your vaccine history, medications, allergies (including the type of reactions), and any medical conditions you either have now or had in the past. Well-controlled conditions should also be included, as should emergency contacts.

Ideally, try to have a digital copy on your phone or other device, as well as a printed copy.

3. Check your work medicals are in date

Ensuring that your health is good enough to go to sea is an essential part of your duties as a seafarer. For many, this will mean ensuring that your ENG1 medical (or equivalent) is in date and valid.

If anything changes about your health, you need to contact the issuing authority as this may have implications for your fitness to work.

4. Update your travel vaccines

Check the requirements of your planned destinations and update your vaccines as needed. Common travel vaccines include tetanus, hepatitis A and B, typhoid, and tablets are sometimes needed for prevention of malaria.

These are all available from providers here on Mallorca in both the private and public sectors.

Some vaccines (notably yellow fever) are different, in that they can only be supplied by the state-run clinic at the Centro de Vacunación Internacional (CVI), located at Calle Muelle Viejo 7 in Palma.

Be aware that you need to plan well ahead. Some vaccines take several weeks to become effective, while others may require several doses given over weeks or months to give you adequate protection.

A little preparation can prevent minor issues from becoming major problems.

5. Don't sleep on health problems

If something is bothering you, get it checked out while you're still on dry land. Do not be tempted to ignore problems which may get worse while at sea. Speak to a doctor if you need to.

This also includes getting a dental check-up and any treatment recommended by your dentist.

6. Schedule your check-ups

If you have a seasonal job or one which requires a lot of travel, it can be easy to fall behind on essential screening tests and check-ups.

You should be having an annual review with your doctor if you have certain medical conditions, including:

- ✦ Asthma
- ✦ COPD
- ✦ Diabetes
- ✦ High blood pressure

You also need screening tests to prevent certain illnesses or catch them at an early stage. The recommendations vary by country and depend on your personal medical history, but here in Spain the recommendations are generally:

✦ **Cervical smear test** (for prevention and early detection of cervical cancer) - every 3-5 years for women between ages 25 and 65

✦ **Colorectal cancer screening** (for early detection of bowel cancer) - every 2 years between ages 50 and 69

✦ **Mammogram** (to detect breast cancer) - every 2 years for women between ages 60 and 69

Regular sexual health screening to check for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is also recommended if you are sexually active.



Medication tips for yacht crews:

- ◇ 1. Have a list of your medicines including names and doses
- ◇ 2. Pack enough to last for your journey, plus a little extra to account for delays
- ◇ 3. Check that all of your medicines are in date
- ◇ 4. If you use any inhalers or medical devices, check that they are working properly
- ◇ 5. Speak to your doctor if you need to make any changes



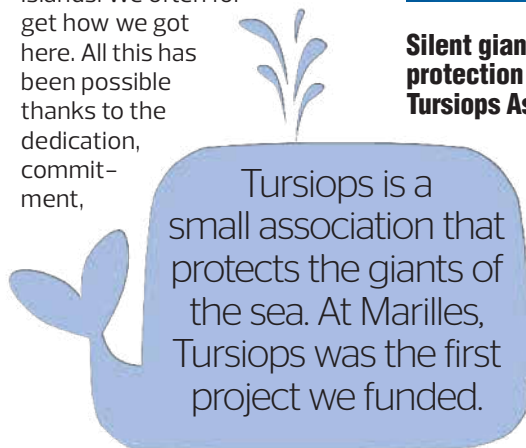
BY ANIOL ESTEBAN

Sperm whales are one of those fascinating species that swim in our seas of which we are not sufficiently aware. This spring they have been the focus of several news stories related to the proposal Asociación Tursiops (Tursiops Association) presented to the Ministry of Ecological Transition calling for the protection of a sperm whale breeding area in the north of Menorca.

The proposal is currently being studied by the Ministry and we hope it will be approved by the Spanish government soon. On 8 April, all the political parties in the Congress and the Senate – except for Vox – asked the Spanish government to declare

this zone a marine protected area. Curiously, a few days earlier, this same proposal was defeated in the Balearic Parliament because the PP and VOX voted against it. A distraction? Or a lack of commitment to the Balearic Sea?

We hope that Madrid will move forward with the declaration of the reserve proposed by Tursiops. We also hope it finally declares the three marine reserves of fishing interest in the South of Formentera, North of Mallorca, and the outer waters of Tago-mago and Islotes de Poniente in Ibiza, which have been requested for more than ten years by the Parliament of the Balearic Islands. We often forget how we got here. All this has been possible thanks to the dedication, commitment,



Silent giants of the Balearic Sea, sperm whales may soon gain protection in northern Menorca—thanks to the dedication of the Tursiops Association. PHOTO: JORDI CHIAS

and good work of the Tursiops Association, led by Txema Brotons and Marga Cerdà. They have spent more than two decades studying the populations of sperm whales and other

cetaceans such as bottlenose dolphins in Balearic waters, analysing their distribution, threats, and behaviours.

Tursiops is a small association that protects the giants of the sea. It is an example of the important role that third-sector organisations play in advancing marine conservation in our is-

lands and beyond. In 2015, the associations and foundations in the Balearic Islands had only eight people working on marine issues. Today, that figure is over 50. That's good progress, but still a long way from what is desirable and necessary.

At Marilles, we have done our bit; Tursiops was the first project we funded. We also reinforce the work of many other organisations in the archipelago through funding, training, and facilitating strategic coordination that allows the few resources that exist in this brave, hard-working, committed sector to have the maximum impact in terms of improving our marine environment.

These and other issues have been the focus of much of the discussions with Marilles and the Mediterranean donor foundations we hosted this April in Mallorca. The meeting once again highlighted both the great opportunities that exist in the Balearic Islands to advance marine conservation and the fact that the financial commitment of local companies, families, and foundations, for the moment – with very few exceptions – is practically zero.

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Lethantia: a truly capable and versatile yacht that can do whatever you ask of her.



BY ERICA LAY

About PIBS

Q.—Have you attended before?

A. — “Last year, *Lethantia* was fully dressed and on display at Club de Mar during the Palma Boat Show period, although we didn’t officially enter the show, we positioned her to be seen at her best by visitors and brokers in the marina.”

Q.—What attracted you to the show?

A. — “It’s more relaxed and approachable than some of the larger shows yet still draws serious industry professionals and strong interest. The location offers an incredible backdrop, and the marina setup works well for showcasing the yachts. There’s a great mix of boats on display.”

About Lethantia

Q.—Can you tell us a bit about the yacht’s unique features and what sets her apart from others in this size range?

A. — “*Lethantia* is an exceptionally beautiful yacht, with her wine-glass stern, clipper bow, and classic lines that are sure to make her stand out. While she may appear vintage at first glance, she is equipped with modern systems and can be operated efficiently with a crew of just five or six.”

Q.—What kind of cruising is *Lethantia* best suited for?

A. — “*Lethantia* is a truly capable and versatile yacht that can do whatever you ask of her. Over the past 8 years we’ve crossed the Atlantic multiple times, cruised the high latitudes near the Arctic Circle in Norway, explored the Caribbean, and spent extensive time in the Mediterranean. Her performance and reliability have been proven in a wide range of condi-

Classic elegance meets modern performance: **SY Lethantia at** Palma Boat Show

Your name:
Graeme Lawrence
Yacht name:
Lethantia
Size, year of build, yard:
44m, 1993, Royal Huisman
Berth number:
M-111

ing with well-organised gear and a compressor. We’ve also enjoyed paddleboarding and kayaking, but the real luxury lies in her simplicity—anchoring in quiet bays, unwinding with a book or cigar, and embracing timeless relaxation.”

Q.—How does *Lethantia* handle at sea? Any particular strengths in terms of stability, speed, or manoeuvrability?

A. — “*Lethantia*’s slightly higher freeboard was likely a deliberate design choice, keeping the deck drier and enhancing safety—ideal for safe and secure family cruising. Her schooner rig performs exceptionally off the wind, and with twin Yankee jibs, she’s surprisingly strong upwind too.”

About Graeme

Q.—How long have you been captain of *Lethantia*, and what drew you to her?

A. — “I’ve captained *Lethantia* for eight years, and this is my third yacht with the

same family—16 years of continuous employment. It’s been a rewarding experience managing their yachts and ensuring smooth operations throughout.”

Q.—Can you share a memorable cruising experience you’ve had aboard *Lethantia*?

A. — “Cruising through Norway’s stunning fjords and dramatic landscapes was absolutely breathtaking.”

Q.—What are your favourite anchorages or itineraries to recommend to charter guests or potential owners?

A. — “Mallorca has been a favourite—countless hours spent along its stunning coastline and vibrant bays. I also love Italy, especially Positano and the Amalfi Coast, with their dramatic beauty. Southeast Asia offers unmatched diversity, from Thailand’s emerald islands to Indonesia’s remote archipelagos—an unforgettable blend of nature and culture.”

About Sales & Charter

Q.—If someone is considering buying *Lethantia*, what’s the first thing you’d want them to know?

A. — “While she turns heads with her elegant lines and traditional schooner rig, she’s been meticulously maintained and upgraded with today’s comforts and systems in mind. She offers the perfect blend of classic charm and modern functionality.”

Q.—What kind of crew dynamic have you built onboard to ensure a five-star experience for guests?

A. — “Onboard *Lethantia*, our close-knit, experienced crew values discretion, detail, and genuine hospitality. Handpicked for their approachable nature and service

mindset, they anticipate guest needs—from sunrise coffee to surprise beach picnics. Clear communication and mutual respect ensure a seamless, elevated experience for every guest.”

About Operations

Q.—How easy is the yacht to manage from a technical and operational point of view?

A. — “For a classic yacht, *Lethantia* is remarkably manageable. She’s equipped with modern systems that make monitoring and running the vessel efficient. Her schooner rig, while traditional in style, is set up with modern winches and controls, allowing for smooth sailing even with a relatively small professional crew.”

Personal Touch

Q.—What’s your favourite spot onboard, and why?

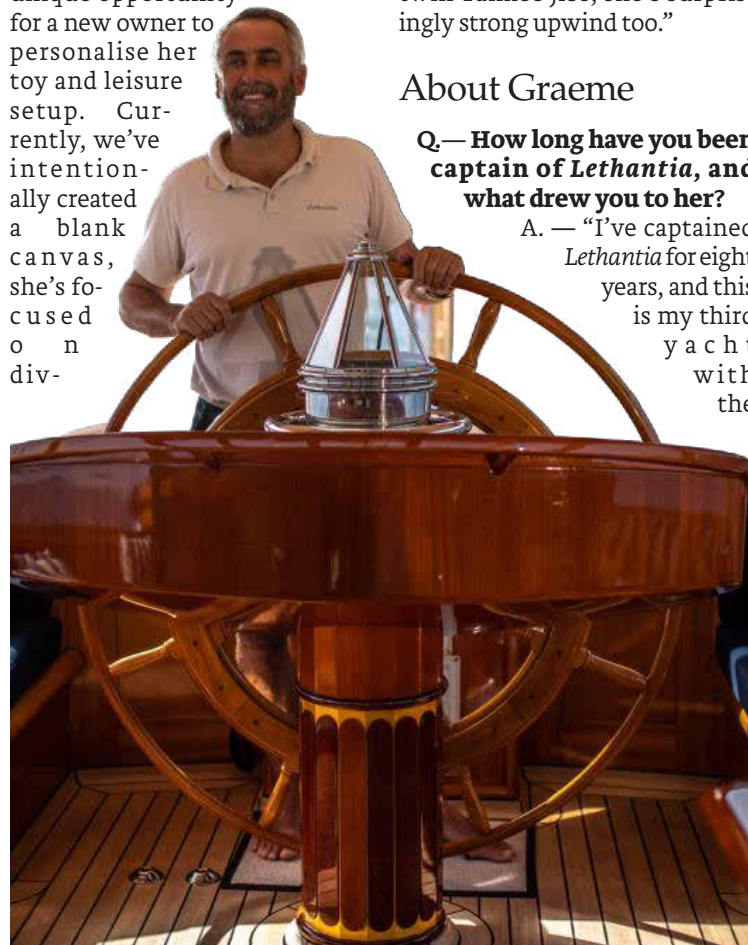
A. — “The aft deck is my favourite spot—ideal for a quiet morning coffee or sunset after a day under sail. It offers the perfect blend of comfort and connection to the sea, making you feel truly part of the yacht and the elements.”

Q.—If you could describe *Lethantia* in three words, what would they be?

A. — “Elegant. Seaworthy. Timeless.”

Q.—What do you hope visitors take away after stepping onboard during the Palma show?

A. — “I hope visitors feel something special—*Lethantia* isn’t just a yacht; she has soul. Her warmth, craftsmanship, and calm presence make her unique. More than a beautiful classic, she’s a capable world cruiser, ready for her next chapter—be it charter, private use, or both.”





At just 19, young Mallorcan sailor **Marta Cardona** is teaming up with Tokyo bronze medallist **Jordi Xammar** aboard the 470 Mixed. They are united by a clear goal: the **2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles**.

Chasing Olympic Dreams:

Mallorcan on the Road to LA 2028



Above: Spanish sailors Jordi Xammar and Marta Cardona (left) in the 470 race, during the 54th Trofeo Princesa Sofia sailing regatta in Palma bay in April. PHOTO: EFE/ MIQUEL A. BORRÁS

BY FERNANDO FERNANDEZ

Discipline, perseverance and the will to win." These three virtues were decisive in a decision that changed the life of a young sailor. Jordi Xammar, bronze medallist in Tokyo, world champion and multiple successful sailor, decided to embark on his next Olympic mission with 19-year-old Marta Cardona from Mallorca. Together, they want to represent Spain in the 470 Mixed at the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Cardona, who competes for the El Arenal Yacht Club, was inspired and supported in this decision by none other than Paula Barceló – herself an Olympic champion in the 49erFX. Barceló is regarded as a close reference person at the club and a role model for the young sailor. The choice by Xammar and the confirmation by the technicians of the

Spanish Sailing Federation (RFEV) came as a surprise to Marta, but marks the start of intensive preparation: 'After four years, you can relax and make yourself comfortable,' explains Xammar, who has already won six world championship medals.

The new duo's first test recently took place in the bay of Palma at the Trofeo Princesa Sofia. 'We have to work from day one as if the Games were still two months away,' emphasises Xammar. The Mallorcan regatta was a good starting point to create a solid basis and recognise the level of performance. In addition to work on the water, training



"It wasn't so long ago that I was watching him... and now we're sharing a boat."

sessions on land and targeted preparation for future competitions are also part of the plan – with the World Championships in Poland in June as the next milestone.

For Marta Cardona, this opportunity is a turning point: 'It would be a dream to take part in the Games, but to get there you have to work hard and well.' The student teacher admits that

her life has changed completely in just a few weeks. Even before the Trofeo Princesa Sofia, she and Xammar had already proven at the Mallorca Sailing Centre Regatta that they harmonise as a team.

'It wasn't so long ago that I was watching him at the World Championships in Arenal – and now we're sharing a boat...', Marta recalls. Her big goal: to become the second Balearic sailor after Paula Barceló to make Olympic history. 'She told me that she was happy for me and wished me all the best,' she says about the news from her club mate. Xammar recognises the potential of his young partner – but also the responsibility of not overburdening her. "She is 19 years old and still has her whole future ahead of her. But she is in an important phase of her development. And I think it's better to reach a high level at 22 than at 28, and she has what it takes."

Cardona is grateful for the support and words of appreciation. Every day she learns something new from Jordi, she says – and she wants to make the most of this unique opportunity. 'I know that many people dream of having this experience – and now it's my turn.' The 2028 Olympic dream is always in the back of her mind, but she remains realistic: 'Hopefully...', she says quietly – as the great hope of the Balearic women's Olympic sailing team.



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BY ERICA LAY

About PIBS

Q.—Have you attended before?

A. — “This is the 2nd time the yacht has entered the show, the previous time my rotation captain was on board for the event.”

Q.—What attracted you to the show?

A. — “I’ve heard many good things regarding the show and there was a fair amount of interest last year. Hence our Broker recommended we participated again this year.”

About Bliss

Q.—Can you tell us a bit about the yacht’s unique features and what sets her apart from others in this size range?

A. — “As well as being a keen sailor, the owner really enjoys his food and to look after the crew. Therefore, *Bliss* is blessed with a very sizable and well-equipped crew mess and galley. She has a very open planned saloon, which gives you 360-degree views, and the wrap around windows keeps the area beautifully lit. When sailing you also have a great all-round view and the retractable bimini means it’s always possible to make sure the sails are trimmed perfectly.”

Q.—What kind of cruising this yacht is best suited for — is she more of a Med summer cruiser, a world adventurer, or something else?

A. — “*Bliss* is a tried and tested beautiful sailing boat, she has proven herself as a superb world cruiser, as well as a successful regatta racer. When we were chartering, we were very popular with both families and couples.”

Q.—What are some standout lifestyle amenities onboard — beach clubs, toys, wellness areas?

A. — “We have a good size swim platform that opens up to a lazarette which is full of water skis, wakeboards, inflatable towables, SUPs, Kayaks, 8 sets of dive equipment (including compressor), fishing gear, etc. The front end of the tender bay turns into a heated jacuzzi, this is a popular place for sundowners or filled with bubbles for the kids to play in.”

Q.—How does the yacht handle at sea? Any particular strengths in terms of stability, speed, or manoeuvrability?

A. — “I’ve worked on several sail boats in my time and personally I think *Bliss*’s greatest asset is the fact that you can have the sails up and be sailing in just a few minutes. That means if the breeze suddenly picks up you can be sailing immediately, making the most of your day. Being made of composite also means she will move along



This is the 2nd time the yacht has entered the show.

nically in a lot less wind than Aluminium or Steel boats.”

About Andy

Q.—How long have you been captain of Bliss, and what drew you to her?

A. — “I’ve been lucky enough to have been captain of *Bliss* for 14 years accumulating around 200,000 nautical miles, sailing to some of the most beautiful places in the world. I was approached by the manager to take her around the world, and the rest is history.”

Q.—Can you share a memorable cruising experience you’ve had onboard?

A. — “I’ve been to so many incredible places on *Bliss* it’s hard to say. It’s difficult to beat the Pacific Islands but for me Raja Ampat and



Your name:
Andy Sheltrum
Yacht name:
Bliss
Size, year of build, yard:
37m, 2009, Yachting Developments
Berth number:
M404

SY Bliss: A yacht that lives up to her name

swimming with whale sharks in Cenderawasih Bay in Indonesia wins it for me.”

About Sales & Charter

Q.—If someone is considering buying Bliss, what’s the first thing you’d want them to know?

A. — “The sailing capabilities.”

Q.—What does a typical charter itinerary look like on this yacht?

A. — “We have a great amount of freezer and fridge space available onboard which means we can really charter off the beaten track and potentially go to destinations that other boats like *Bliss* couldn’t.”

Q.—What kind of crew dynamic have you built onboard to ensure a five-star experience for guests?

A. — “All the crew are keen sailors and very experienced yachtsmen and women. They are all super lovely people that will take great care of you in a professional and informal way.”

About Operations

Q.—How easy is the yacht to manage from a technical and operational point of view?

A. — “She is very straight forward to sail, in fact I can pretty much do it on own, which leaves the crew to take care of the guests.”

Q.—Are there any design aspects or systems that make your job as captain easier or more enjoyable?

A. — “Again, the joys of sailing.”

Q.—What kind of maintenance schedule is the yacht currently on, and how has she been kept in top shape?

A. — “The boat has been maintained incredibly well, winter 2024/25 she underwent her 15 year survey with included a major over haul equipment. (Touch wood) she is currently operating perfectly.”

Personal touch

Q.—What’s your favourite spot onboard, and why?

A. — “Behind the helm when the boat is powered up.”

Q.—If you could describe this yacht in three words, what would they be?

A. — “WE ARE BLISSED!”

Q.—What do you hope visitors take away after stepping onboard during the Palma show?

A. — “Wow, that’s a boat I would love to go sailing on.”



• OLIV DE MALLORCA •

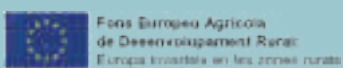
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THE FAIRLINE FILES



● *Mallorca Files* star Elen Rhys spent an afternoon aboard a Fairline Targa 40 in Puerto Pollensa ahead of the Palma Boat Show.

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Pollensa.—*Mallorca Files* star Elen Rhys spent an afternoon on board a **Fairline Targa 40** in the Bay of Pollensa. To say

that she was impressed would be an understatement. The BBC and Amazon star was mixing work with pleasure

while on the island and her visit to Fairline in the north of the island was one of their highlights of her trip.





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