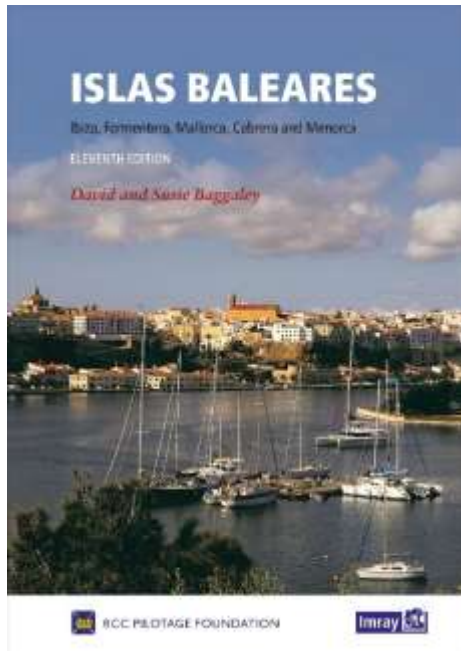


Book Review

RCC Pilotage Foundation

Islas Baleares – David and Susie Baggaley. Eleventh edition, published August 2018.



The Islas Baleares in the sunny, tideless mediterranean would at first appear to be an easy place to go sailing. That fact alone attracts many inexperienced sailors. This combines with a deluge of tourists, which creates a vast demand for waterborne entertainment in all its forms. All the more reason for needing an articulate, interesting and easy to use pilot book. That is what you get with this, very up to date, 11th edition.

David and Susie bring a balanced, pragmatic text to life, covering all aspects of pilotage for both seasoned yachtsmen and newbie charterers. There is an introduction to the islands as a group, giving a brief history, general weather, communication and security information. Each separate island then has its own colour coded section beginning with a reference chart. A clockwise circumnavigation then commences from the islands major port. This is split into easy access sections depicted by a numbered chart. The narrative covers all aspects of safe passage accompanied by chartlets and photographs.

Approach, currents, anchorages, entrance and berthing options are all explained. You are then offered information on local services including chandlers, supermarkets and food outlets so you can pre-plan where to call in when you need supplies or fancy a run ashore. All possible overnight anchorages and lunch stops receive a chapter giving concise information often accompanied by elevated clarifying photographs. The piece of mind given by a view of a new harbour/bay/anchorage is invaluable and some great effort has been expended in accessing the photograph shot locations. In this age of new technology, google satellite photographs and now drones fitted with cameras will no doubt give us even more clarity.

New technologies are a mixed blessing, I know. For me the reassurance of a printed book that needs no power source and that can be used by everyone on board, anywhere, anytime is not being replaced soon. I also inhabit the Baleares for my pleasure yachting, so I have used knowledge, new to me, from this latest edition by the trusted Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation, to visit unexplored anchorages that I had previously ignored. These include Cala Presili (page 283) and Cala de Tirant (page 267). Both were exactly as described and depicted, which gives confidence that the information throughout is up to date and accurate. I may have been tempted to keep a few secrets in this increasingly busy world, but it appears David and Susie Baggaley have been more selfless, to the benefit of all who want to explore further than they have previously.

I have no hesitation in endorsing and recommending this new edition of the Baleares Pilot.

Steve Matthews

Master Mariner, Senior examining and serving Pilot, Manchester Pilots

Islas Baleares (English edition)

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