



FOLLOWING THE LINE OF BEAUTY

SPAIN'S COSTA BRAVA, A CONTINUOUS MEANDERING LINE OF SCENIC TOWNS, SECLUDED COVES, AND SWEEPING BAYS BELOVED BY SAILORS AND CELEBRITIES ALIKE, INVITES YOU TO START IN BARCELONA AND SAIL NORTH ALONG THIS ENCHANTED STRETCH OF CATALONIAN COAST

A sailing itinerary along Spain's Costa Brava usually runs north from the marinas of Barcelona and ends along the coastal border with France. This scenic region is known for its lush greenery and charming beachfront towns like Cadaqués and Palafrugell. Islands are limited, but the craggy coastline features picturesque *calas* or coves, often with traditional fishing boats moored peacefully.

When the wind blows along the Costa Brava, it blows strong, with gusts pushing against the shoreline. Ferry boats continue service during high winds, providing a coastal connection, while sailors batten down for safety. Moorings dot each cove and are well maintained. Riding out the wind could last a day or two, even as long as three. For the less sure sailor, the coastline is replete with well-maintained marinas often adjacent to quaint towns and long sandy beaches. Refuge can be restored within the marina slips fortified by grand seawalls.

The coast is exposed to the weather, so cruising depends on sea conditions. When there are strong winds, many coves become untenable. It's wise to have a list of safe harbors marked on your charts in case conditions become too challenging for anchoring. Obstructions are limited, and island outcrops off the coast are well marked with lighthouse beacons. Unlike the coastlines of Croatia and Greece, which are filled with islands and small coves, the

Spanish shoreline from Gibraltar to France is largely one continuous squiggly line.

Planning a Costa Brava itinerary is straightforward. The coast is a straight line that runs southwest to northeast, with most routes starting in the south and sailing north or vice versa.

There are advantages, like more anchorage, to starting the itinerary along the northern edge of the coast near the French border, and then slowly sailing south to Barcelona. The northern region around the famed town of Cadaqués is filled with abundant anchorages and is worthy of several days' exploration.

PUNTA DE SA COSTA, CADAQUÉS CAP DE CREUS PENINSULA

Cadaqués is the crown jewel of Spain's Costa Brava. To truly appreciate it, dinghy ashore from the harbor, and lose yourself in the old town. Medieval in origin, the town was

