

Isla Dragonera and the Dragonera Passage

39°35'·3N 2°20'·5E

Charts	Approach	Passage
Admiralty	2832	
Spanish	970, 421, 427	4213
French	7115, 7118	

Lights

0282 **Cabo Llebeitx** 39°34'·5N 2°18'·3E
 Fl.7·5s130m20M Masonry tower on stone building with red roof 15m
 313°-vis-150°

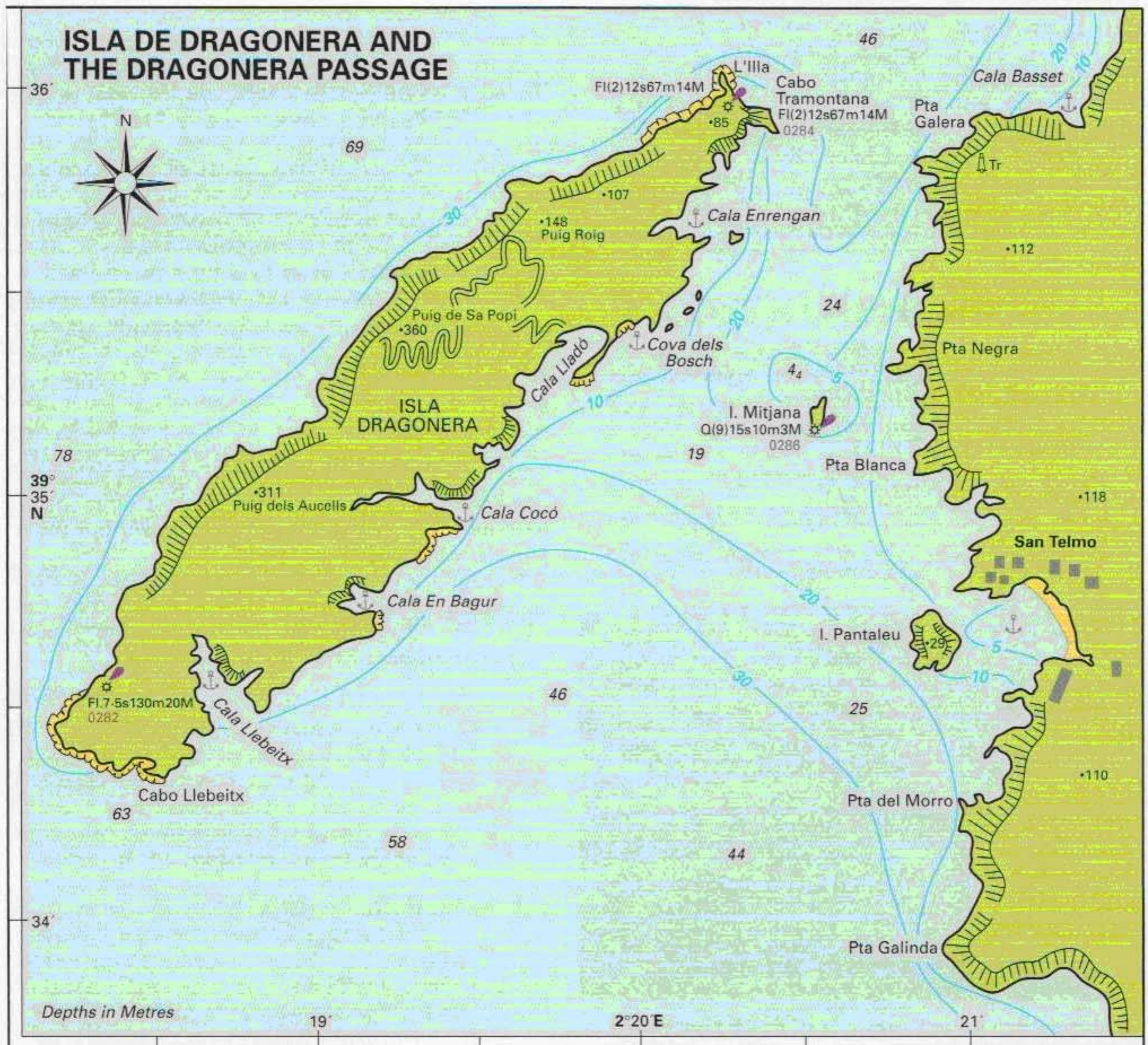
0284 **Cabo Tramontana** 39°36'N 2°20'·4E
 Fl(2)12s67m14M Round masonry tower on stone building with red roof 15m
 095°-vis-230° and 346°-vis-027°

0286 **Isla Mitjana** 39°35'·2N 2°20'·6E
 Q(9)15s10m3M West cardinal beacon 5m

General

Isla Dragonera is an island of spectacular and unique shape, being almost sheer on the northwest side and steeply sloping to the southeast. It is just over 2 miles long but only 0·6 mile wide with an old signal station and tower on Puig de Sa Popi, the pyramid-shaped 360m summit. Lighthouses (see left) mark each end of the island. There is very little ashore, but tracks link Cala Lladó to the lighthouses and the northwest coast and offer some memorable walks.

The passage between Isla Dragonera and Mallorca should present no problems to yachtsmen – the height of the surrounding hills make it appear much more alarming than it really is. The passage is funnel-shaped, opening to the south, with shoals and small rocky islets on either side of the narrows at the northern end. There are effectively two passages, either side of the 8m Isla Mitjana. The main channel is that to the west, which although



wider has unmarked foul ground on both sides stretching some 200m from both Isla Mitjana and Isla Dragonera, leaving a passage 350m wide and 19m deep. The eastern channel, though much narrower at less than 200m, has good water (10m+) close to both Isla Mitjana and Mallorca.

Heavy gusts can descend from the high land around the passage without warning, while strong currents may flow through it in either direction after a gale, the direction dictated by the wind. Fishing nets supported by small white or pink buoys may be laid from either shore of the passage.

Approach and passages

From northeast Following the coast southwestwards from Puerto de Sóller or beyond, Isla Dragonera will be seen from afar. The Mallorcan coast is steep-to and can be followed close inshore past Punta Galera with its prominent watchtower into the north entrance to the passage. Then work 200m offshore to take the eastern passage between Isla Mitjana and Mallorca in a north-south direction, approximately down the centre. There are no further hazards once the island has been passed.

Alternatively the western passage can be used, passing equidistant between Isla Mitjana and the coast of Isla Dragonera (not the off-lying rocky islands) on a south-southwest heading.

From southeast Round Punta Galinda and then Isla Pantaleu, leaving the latter 300m to starboard. To take the eastern channel pass halfway between Isla Mitjana and the Mallorcan coast, then follow this coast past Punta Galera with its prominent watchtower into the open sea.

The western channel can be used by standing out into the centre of the passage to pass equidistant between Isla Mitjana and the coast of Isla Dragonera (not the off-lying rocky islands) on a north-northeast heading before heading northeast to round Punta Galera.

At night Transitting either passage after dark is not recommended unless the area is already familiar. It would be safer to sail the extra few miles around Cabo Llebeix at the southwest end of Isla Dragonera.

Anchorage on Isla Dragonera

There are several possible daytime anchorages on the southeast coast of Isla Dragonera, all framed by spectacular cliffs. Without exception they are small with sand and rock bottoms, and tenable only in settled conditions. Taken from northeast to southwest they are:

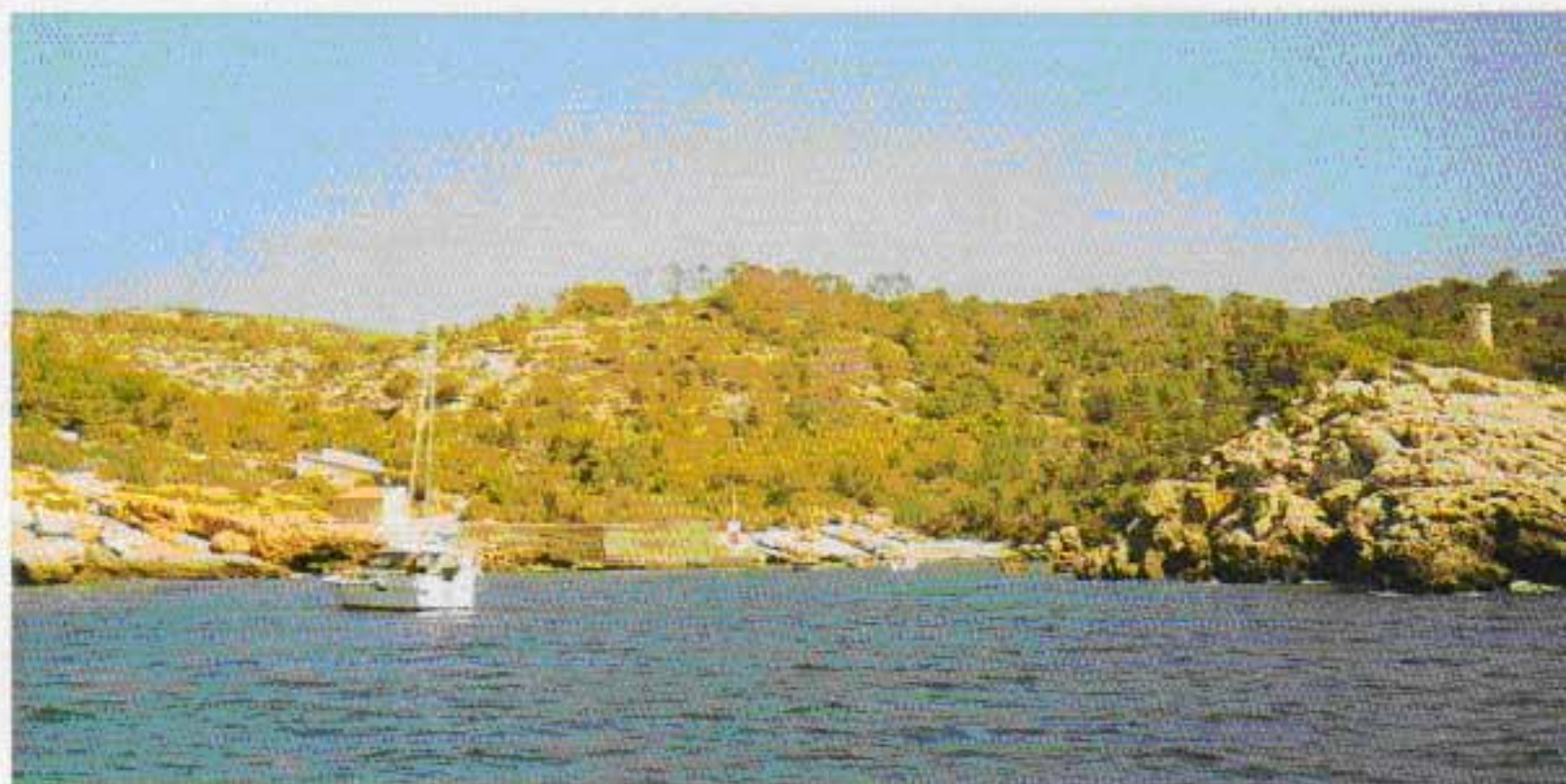
⚓ **Cala Enrengan** Reasonable shelter for one yacht, open only to northeast and east. A small island lies off the southeastern promontory.

⚓ **Cova dels Bosch** A wide open, cliffed *cala*, open from east round to south and to swell from southwest. Careful eyeball pilotage is called for. There is a low, isolated rock to the east.



The central part of Isla Dragonera looking just south of west, with Cala Enrengan in the centre and the spectacular Puig de Sa Popi on the left. Part of Cala Lladó can be seen at far left.

⚓ **Cala Lladó** A narrow *cala* with a 2m rock in the centre. A stone watchtower stands on the promontory to the southeast, with a small quay (reserved for lighthouse officials and tourist ferries) opposite. Anchor in 2m+ over sand and rock, open to southeast through south to southwest.



Looking northeast into Cala Lladó. Both the watchtower and the small quay (painted with red and white chequers) show up clearly. *Photo Claire James*

⚓ **Cala Cocó** Anchor close inshore under steep cliffs, open to northeast through east to southeast.

⚓ **Cala En Bagur** Again anchor close inshore under steep cliffs, open to northeast through east to southeast.

⚓ **Cala Llebeix** Slightly larger than Cala Cocó or Cala En Bagur, but still very small. Anchor under steep cliffs near the head of *cala*, open east round to south.