

Tamariu - The Jewel in the Crown of the Costa Brava

By Hans Baumhauer



Having visited Mallorca, Fuerteventura, Kenya and the Maldives for scuba-diving a couple a times I started searching for another very special destination that would offer those unique holiday and scuba-diving ingredients for which I have been always looking during the years before. That place had to have an outstanding natural beauty, no typical 'tourist' development, but a beautiful sandy beach, pretty apartments or comfortable hillside

houses that I would be pleased to call my "home away from home" for a few weeks of the year.

My search was over when I met Guenter Stolberg called 'Stolli' in Kenya in 1976. This role model of a unique dive master who was looking like a cutting from a fine figure of an old salt, told me that he was also running a diving school at the Costa Brava in a little former fishing village named Tamariu. After having spent my next vacation there the search for other holiday destinations was over and so I am delighted to introduce you to Tamariu, situated about 80 miles south of the border of France in a tranquil and secluded bay between the nearby towns of Palafrugell and Begur.

Small coves set amongst rugged pine covered cliffs cascading down to meet the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean have made the area famous for its outstanding beauty. Simple village houses and pavement cafes surround a lovely beach in a sheltered bay – it is this special kind of magic that entices people back year after year. So it goes without saying that from 1976 on I am coming back to Tamariu every year.

Originally a small fishing village, Tamariu has not been over developed and has easily retained its individuality and charm. Some new villas and apartments have been creatively blended with the traditional architecture but there are no high rise blocks, no English pubs and certainly no English cafes or German Ballermans*)! The quality of holiday homes here are of a generally higher standard than is usually found in holiday resorts at the Costa Brava and you will be particularly pleased with the general "solid" standards of building and finishes.



South facing on to one of the most sheltered beaches of the Costa Brava, you will find a still family owned small hotel and some small restaurants and bars where you can relax and enjoy a drink and

some of the local Catalan cuisine. The beach itself, extending nearly all around the bay is very clean and nearly all fine golden sand. The crystal clear water is ideal for swimming as the beach, especially on the right hand side, shelves at a fairly gentle angle.

The waters around this area are believed to be the purest on the coast and there are many other beautiful beaches within easy reach. Just a few miles north one can find the Cape of Begur with the beaches of Fornells, Sa Tuna, Sa Riera and the never to be forgotten scenery of Aigua Blava. This area consists of a huge geological mass dropping down to the sea in vertical cliffs and because of the height of the mountains and the density of the pine tree cover, the whole area has immense natural beauty.

Just a few miles south from Tamariu, the pretty village of Llafranc is to be found where again one can find an excellent beach, a small marina and a beautiful tree lined promenade with several excellent restaurants by the waterside. There are simply so many beautiful places to visit but for those who feel less energetic, just sit on Tamariu's beautiful beach and watch the world go by. Welcome to Tamariu - the Jewel in the Crown of Spain's rugged Costa Brava!

Getting there...

During the summer there are daily scheduled flights to Gerona airport, less than 30 miles away and numerous daily flights all year round to Barcelona's International airport, which is by car or coach about a 2 hour drive from Tamariu.

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Ballermann became a synonym for a special type of party. At first there were the "Balnearios": Pubs directly on the beaches of Mallorca with no names but only numbers. It became common for German party people to go to No. 6. The parties there were/are legendary: excessive drinking of Sangria from buckets with straws. So to say: a lot of drinking in the bright sunshine with the respective result: loud singing, dancing on the tables, being rude. The feeling was somewhat like apres-ski. The problem was, that Germans couldn't or wouldn't pronounce correctly the Spanish word "Balnearios", so it became shortly: Ballermann. Even the German verb "ballern" can be a synonym for boozing. So in Germany the Ballermann became the synonym for such a party location, and nowadays even for that type of party.