

To celebrate the occasion of the Dia del Turista, today, 19 September, the Formentera Island Council's Office of Tourism has organised an event to commemorate the fidelity of those tourists still returning to the island after 20 years.

The event was presided over by the councilor of Tourism Alejandra Ferrer and the head of tourist promotion Carles Bernús. Also present were Council president Jaume Ferrer and the first vice-president Santi Juan. This year's celebrated tourists were individuals from mainland Spain, Germany, France and Italy. For the Office of Tourism, tourist fidelity constitutes one indicator of Formentera's quality as a vacation destination, and for this reason in recent years somewhere in the area of 40 certificates recognising visitor fidelity have been awarded.

This year's awards will be bestowed upon two married couples whose example is indicative of the first tourists to arrive in Formentera. The couples, one French and one Catalan, have been visiting the island for over 40 years.

Upon closure of the ceremony, a family photo was taken and all those in attendance took part in a sampling of typical products in local gastronomy (coques, orelletes, Herbes Eivissenques, frígola) offered by the administration for the occasion.

The Office of Tourism has worked to build the importance of the Dia del Turista celebrations for for quite some time. Over the years and when possible, it has also striven to recognise those Formentera businesses and associations with relevant roles publicizing the island. This was also the case with an award in 2009 for the presidents of the Board of Tourism, a nod to that entity's work since 1983 promoting Formentera as a tourist destination.

2013 Dia del Turista Award Recipients

1) Mrs. Lieselotte Wegner and Mr. Wolfgang Peter Wegner. Germany (Hostal Rafalet)

- 2) Mr. Axel Rüttermann. Germany (Hotel Voramar)
- 3) Mr. Paul Fiedler. Germany (Hotel Voramar)
- 4) Mr. Raymond Stanners Boland. UK (Hotel Voramar)
- 5) Mr. Bernd Froning, Germany (Hotel Voramar)
- 6) Mr. Czubek Gudrun. Germany
- 7) Mr. Aldo Collizzolli. Italy (Lago Playa)
- 8) Mr. Joan Forès Jané and Mrs. Marta Malleu Sola. Catalunya. I
- 9) Mrs. Françoise Lavocat. France (Casa el Pinar, Migjorn)
- 10) Mrs. Lisa Fackler. Italy (Hostal Mar Blau)
- 11) Mrs. Helke Giambertone. Italy (Hostal Mar Blau)