SES SALINES D'EIVISSA I FORMENTERA

NATURAL PARK

Foto: J.J. Argandoña

GOVERN
ILLES
BALEARS


Foto: J.J. Aygandona

SES SALINES D'EIVISSA I FORMENTERA

Located between the two Pitiüses Islands, the salt marsh natural park Ses Salines d'Eivissa i Formentera, along with the adjacent marine and land reserves, sprawls from the south of Eivissa to the north of Formentera, and covers the channel that separates the two islands, with a land area of some 2752.5 hectares (1,776.3 of which belong to the park and 106.8 to the nature reserve) and an aquatic area of 14,028 hectares (13,611 of which correspond to the park and 416.9 to the nature reserve).

The Ses Salines d'Eivissa i Formentera Natural Park is a prime example of the Mediterranean's rich biodiversity. The uniqueness of this park resides in the fact that it is a rest area and a nesting ground for countless birds, along their migratory paths. As a Natural Area of Special Interest, the park includes a diverse range of land and marine habitats of vast international ecological, landscape, historical and cultural value.

Other measures of official protection

The Marine Reserve of Es Freus d'Eivissa i Formentera (Decree 63/1999, of 28 May).

The site forms part of the Balearic contribution to the Natura 2000 Network: special areas of conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA).

Moreover, the ponds of Ses Salines are listed on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

HISTORY OF THE NATURAL PARK

Since the 1970s, many efforts have been made to protect Ses Salines through legislation. All of those efforts were further promoted by the constant demand of the local people for the respect and protection of one of the most important natural sites in the Islands. The declaration as a Natural Area of Special Interest in 1991 covers much of the park's area, and by virtue of State Law 26/1995, of 31 July, Ses Salines became a Nature Reserve. Finally, through Law 17/2001, of 19 December, on the Environmental Protection of Ses Salines d'Eivissa i Formentera, the entire area was declared a Natural Park and the Government of the Balearic Islands undertook its management and administration.


Foto: Manu San Félix García

CULTURAL AND ETHNOLOGICAL HERITAGE

The vestiges of ancient civilizations and the footprints of history in the Pitiüses Islands can also be seen in the natural park. Bearing witness to this are the remains found at the Phoenician Settlement of Sa Caleta (which was declared World Heritage by UNESCO), and the five defence towers that dot the park's coastline. The presence of the salt industry, which dates back thousands of years, with all of its historical, cultural and socio-economic value, is an additional unique feature of vast natural beauty and importance that fits in perfectly with the natural ecosystems.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The sea accounts for approximately 85% of the park's area and is characterised by the ecological importance of its underwater *Posidonia oceanica* beds. This marine plant, which is exclusive to our sea, ensures the continued survival of the fish populations and other sea life. Moreover, it oxygenates the waters, keeping them clean and clear, while sheltering the beaches from the erosive effects of the waves and maintaining the natural dynamics of the dune systems. The best-conserved Posidonia prairies in the entire Mediterranean, these seaweed beds are protected by the Directive on Habitats (92/43/EEC) and have been declared World Heritage by UNESCO.

PLANT LIFE AND FAUNA

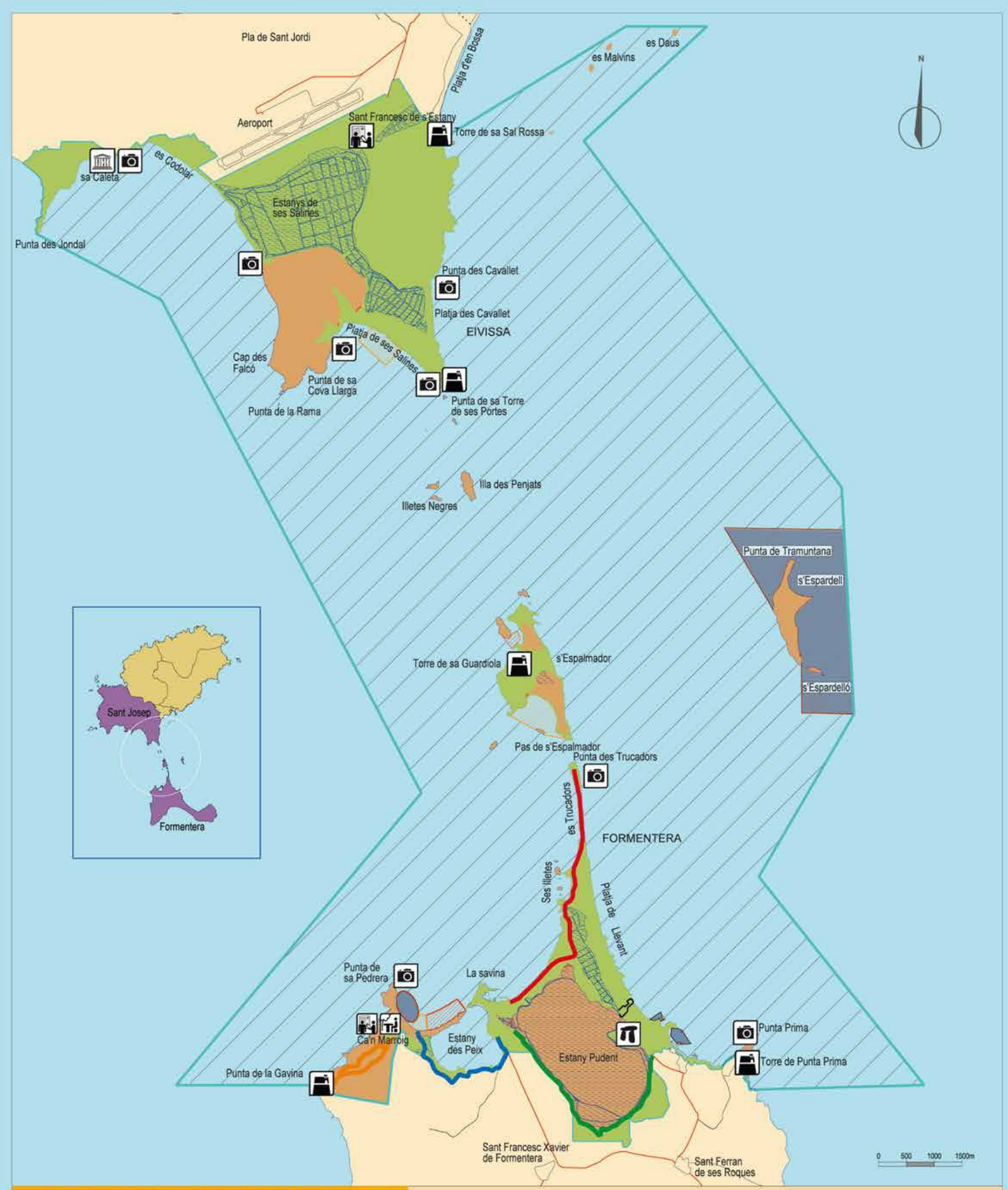

Pancratium maritimum
Foto: D. García Jiménez

On land, the natural park boasts a magnificent representation of most of the existing plant formations in the Pitiüses Islands, with some 178 different species in all. These include Mediterranean pine groves, coastal savin groves, glasswort beds and the halophilic plants that surround the ponds, the dune systems and the coastal plants found along the cliffs.

Some 210 bird species have been catalogued in the natural park. Particularly worthy of note are the aquatic bird populations, including the flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), the black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), the shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), and seafaring birds such as the Audouin's gull (*Larus audouinii*) and the Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*). The lagoon, Estany Pudent de Formentera, boasts one of the largest communities of the black-necked grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) in Europe.

Other animal species worthy of note in the park's land areas include the Eivissa wall lizard (*Podarcis pityusensis*), which is endemic to these islands and appears on the other islets in different subspecies; the large garden dormouse (*Elyomis quercinus ophiusae*) on Formentera; and many different endemic beetle and snail species.


Phoenicopterus roseus
Foto: David García Jiménez



SES SALINES D'EIVISSA I FORMENTERA NATURAL PARK

LEGEND ITINERARIES

- Can Marroig-Torre de la Gavina
- Camí de s'Estany des Peix
- Camí des Brolls
- Camí de sa Guia-Es Trucadors

LEGEND: ANCHORAGE AND OTHER AREAS

Anchorage regulations
(Decree 132/2005, of 23 December)

- Prohibited
- Regulated
- Free anchorage subject to conditions

LEGEND: NATURAL PARK

- Limits of the Natural Park and Reserves
- Natural Park (land)
- Land Nature Reserve
- Marine Nature Reserves

- Interpretation centre
- Recreational area
- Panoramic view
- Watchtower
- Prehistoric monument

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OR AUTHORISATION, AND PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

The following list includes some of the activities that require prior authorisation:

- Research projects.
- Scuba diving.
- Filming and photography sessions.
- Building fires.

Activities and uses that are incompatible with the park's conservation are not permitted. These particularly include:

- The circulation of jet skis.
- Underwater fishing.
- Bathing and use of the clay from S'Espalmador lagoon.
- Public use of the islets and rocky outcrops and therefore disembarking in and entering these areas.
- The removal or collection of land or sea flora and fauna.
- Entry to or use of the ponds or salt marsh area, beyond duly authorised visits or activities.
- Overnight stays, whether camping outdoors or in trailers.
- Any type of motorised circulation off the roads and marked paths.
- Walking on the dune systems or habitats of interest or special interest, beyond the footpaths or marked paths and roads.

To notify or request authorisation for such activities, please contact the Regional Ministry of the Environment:

Conselleria de Medi Ambient.
c/ Murcia, 6, - 07800 Eivissa or
C/ del Gremi de Corredors, 10, 1r.
Polígon de Son Rossinyol, 07009 Palma

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Foto: Vicent Guasch

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