

MA23SE

672001

Submarine landslides of Cala Torta

Location



Municipality: Artà

U.T.M. coordinates (31N ETRS89): X: 535906
Y: 4400368



Difficulty and duration



5 min

Access

From Artà, follow the signs for Cala Torta.

Principal interest

Sedimentological

Secondary interest

Stratigraphic, paleontological

Description of the locality

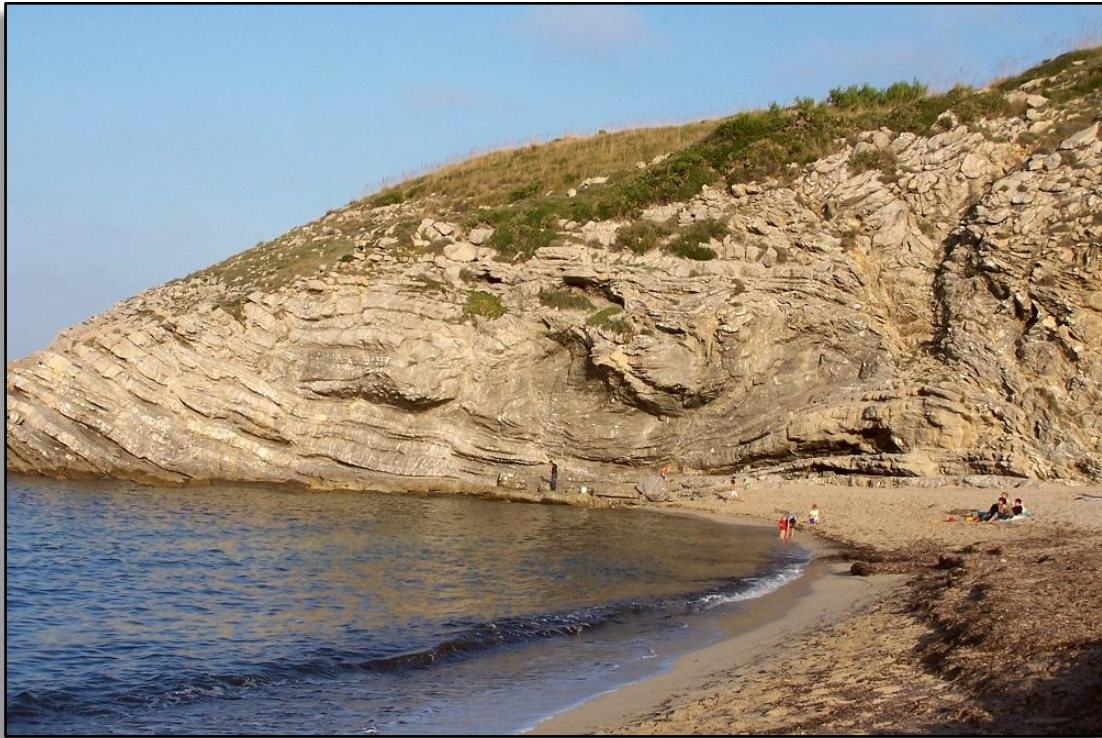
The coastal zone between Cala Torta and Cala Mesquida is formed almost entirely by a powerful series of the Lower Cretaceous, and it is the best place in Mallorca for studying its stratigraphy.

The strata of this sector are between 135 and 125 Ma old, approximately, and represent very deep seabeds.

One of their most visible characteristics is the alternation of hard levels formed by limestones and soft levels consisting of marls. The origin of the limestones is primarily biological, with accumulations of countless microfossils with calcareous shells.

The eastern edge of the cove features a typical geological structure of this type of deposits: a slump.

A slump occurs when an episode of instability (for instance an earthquake) causes a movement of a large mass of unconsolidated sediment. The result is a local deformation of the strata, producing chaotic undulating forms, which stand out in relation with the surrounding strata which are perfectly ordered.



Appearance of the large folds of the slump in the Cretaceous rocks of Cala Torta. Note the contrast between the chaotic appearance of the centre of the mass and the ordered stratification to the left.

For more information

Bourrouilh, R. 1973. *Stratigraphie, sédimentologie et tectonique de l'île de Minorque et du nord-est de Majorque (Baléares). La terminaison Nord-orientale des Cordillères Bétiques en Méditerranée occidentale*. Trav. Lab. Géol. Méd. CNRS et Dep. Géol. Struct. Univ. Université de Paris ed., 822 pp.

Recommendations

It is advisable to take a hat, water and comfortable footwear.

The visit can be made at any time of the year because it is easy and presents no problems of access. If you visit in summer you can enjoy a swim.

It is recommended to follow the Itinerary of Geological Interest Cala Torta-S'Arenalet des Verger.