

CA01MM

774004

Gypsums site of the Clot des Guix

Location



Municipality:

Palma

U.T.M. coordinates
(31N ETRS89):

X: 496503
Y: 4334173



Difficulty and duration



Access

Access to this SGI is prohibited without the corresponding permits of the National Park.

Principal interest

Mineralogical

Secondary interest

Sedimentological

Description of the locality

The oldest materials present in Cabrera are from some 220 Ma years ago and correspond to the Upper Triassic.

At the time when these sediments were deposited, Cabrera, like many other zones of the Balearic Islands and the Iberian Peninsula, formed part of a large system of ephemeral lakes, in an extremely arid climate. This type of environment, called *sebkha* (salt flat), corresponds to large flood plains that underwent sporadic invasions of the sea. In this process, which involves intense evaporation, substantial layers of salts are deposited, including gypsums. The geological formations corresponding to the Upper Triassic which represent this context are usually known as Keuper facies.

Where this is best observed is in the hollow called the Clot des Guix, where there is an old quarry that exploited the clays to extract the abundant gypsum they contain.



Panoramic view of the front of the old gypsum quarry, showing clays from the Upper Triassic.

It has been a long time since this resource was stopped. However, even today it is possible to see the ruins of the old buildings, above the embankment, or the ponds that were used to decant the extracted material, in the bottom of the valley.



Ruins of the old buildings next to the quarry (left). Decantation ponds (right).

For more information

Alcover, J. A., Ballesteros, E. & Fornós, J. *Història Natural de l'Arxipèlag de Cabrera*. Monografies de la Societat d'Història Natural de Balears, 2. 782.

Recommendations

Access to the SGI is prohibited without the corresponding permits, since it is located in the reserved zone of the National Park.