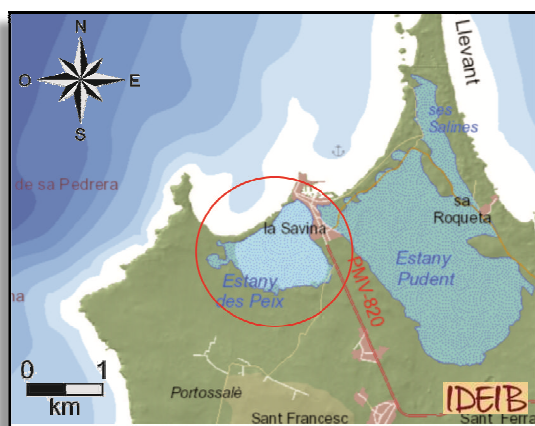


FOO2ES

824002

## Karstic collapse of S'Estany des Peix

## Location



Municipality: Sant Francesc de Formentera

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

X: 361981  
Y: 4288070



## Difficulty and duration



5 min on foot  
from Port de la  
Savina

## Access

Take the PM-820 road that joins Port de la Savina and Sant Francesc de Formentera. Take the deviation towards Port – Salè and on the right-hand side you can see the lake.

## Principal interest

## Stratigraphic

## Secondary interest

## Sedimentary

## Description of the locality

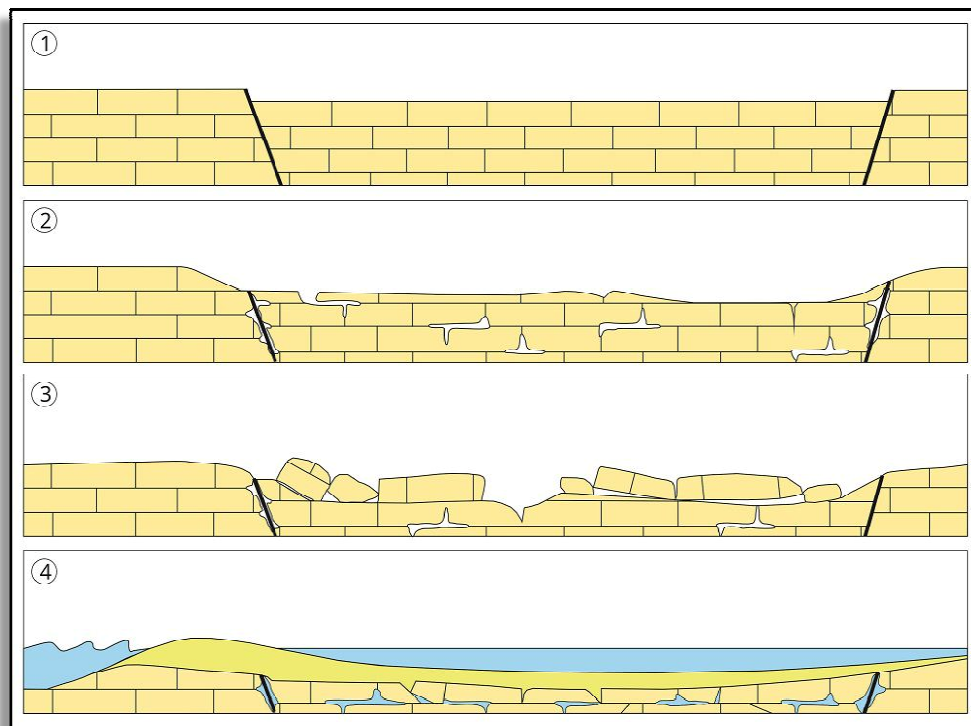
The north part of Formentera is mainly formed by two depressed lagoons called Estany Pudent and Estany des Peix. The latter seems to have been originated by a karstic collapse favoured by a system of normal faults. The origin of its nearby lagoon, S'Estany Pudent, was probably the same. This makes them a place of unique interest.



Panoramic view of S'Estany des Peix from the south-east.

The faults on the island are due to tectonic activity after the Alpine Orogeny, which is the predominant orogeny in the Balearic Islands. As a result, the materials in the area are normally affected by karstic processes that generate cavities and aquifers and which progressively cause the area to sink.

When this area is small, it is called a doline, while large ones are referred to as poljes. The size of the Formentera lagoons suggests that these could be poljes, although to date there is a lack of studies providing further information on this matter.



Hypothetical diagram of the formation of Estany des Peix.

In any case, once the land that is currently occupied by the lake collapsed, this had suffered both erosive and sedimentary processes.

During the Pleistocene period, and to date, the dunes and beaches deposited on this area have filled in the previously created basin. The oldest are fossilized and are formed by sandstone, while the more recent dunes and beaches continue to be active and are not consolidated.

Both the fossilized sediments of the beaches and dunes and the current ones form the barrier that separates the lake from the sea except for a point in the north, where the marine currents have permitted a large quantity of fish to pass, hence its name [Fish Lake].

### For more information

IGME. Mapa Geològica de España. Formentera. Instituto Geológico y Minero de España. 47 pp, 2 maps.

Mata LLeonard, R. & Roig Munar, X; 2016. *Eivissa i Formentera: camins i pedres. Descoberta geològica i geomorfològica*. Axial Natura. 218 pp.

### Recommendations

Suitable clothing and footwear are recommended. The LIG can be visited all year round. If visiting in the summer, do not miss the opportunity to visit some of the island's beaches.