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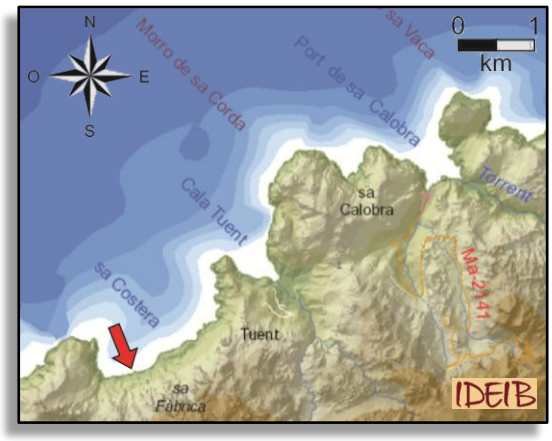
Karstic spring of Sa Costera

Location



Municipality: Escorca

U.T.M. coordinates (31N ETRS89): X: 479070 Y: 4408782

Difficulty and duration

1 **2** 3

2h 45min
1h 35min

Access

The spring of Sa Costera can be reached from the Mirador de Ses Barques or from Cala Tuent. In the first case the walk takes 2h 45 min, while in the second case it takes 1h 35 min.

Principal interest

Hydrogeological

Secondary interest

Sedimentological, stratigraphic

Description of the locality

The Font de Sa Costera, also known as the Font des Verger, is one of the fastest-flowing natural springs in the Balearic Islands. In spite of first appearances, the volume of water it moves every year is almost three times that of the reservoirs of Gorg Blau and Cuber.

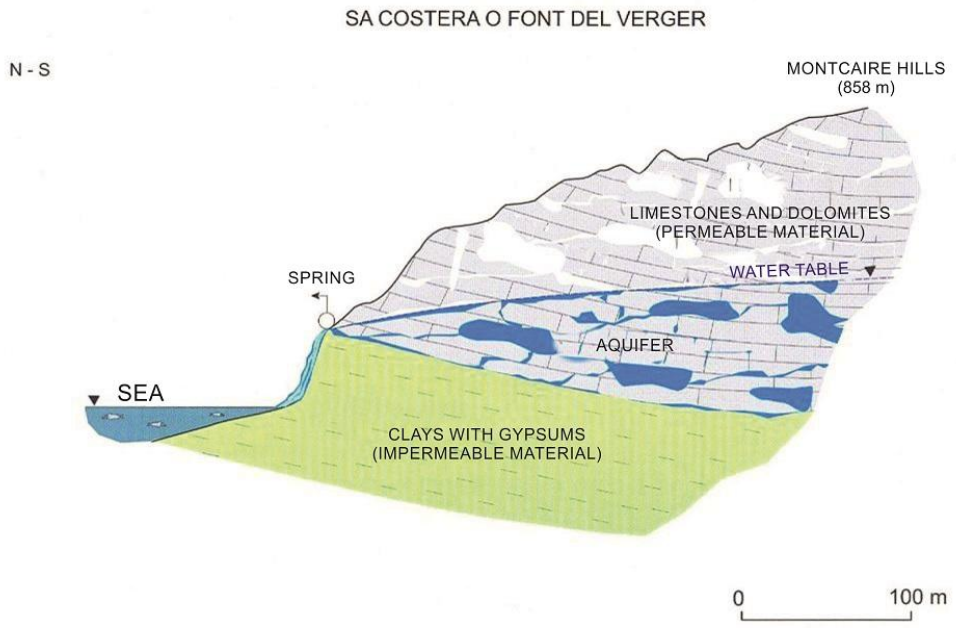


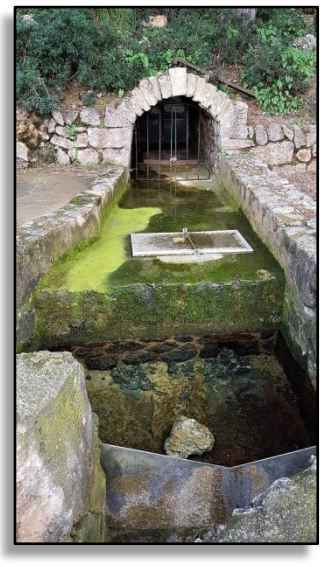
Diagram of the functioning of Sa Costera (Mateos & González, 2009).

This is a spring of karstic origin, produced by the dissolution of lime rocks (limestones and dolomites). The water runs through the cracks and cavities of the rock until it reaches an impermeable base level (clays with gypsums) which force it to well up to the surface.

The origin of its exceptional flow is related to the existence of a large aquifer with the special structural characteristics of the zone, which concentrate the exit of the water at a single point.

Since the year 2009 Sa Costera has been declared one of the island's drinking water resources thanks to an underwater pipe that connects it with the Port de Sóller.

Detail of the installations of the underwater pipe.

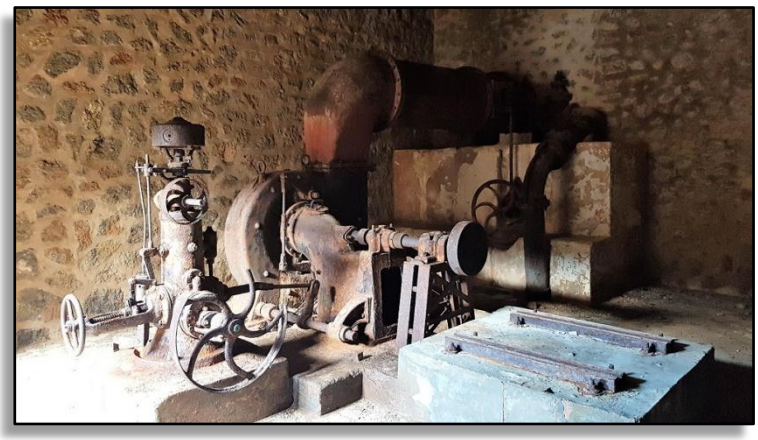


Spring of Sa Costera.

In the past, the powerful flow of the spring was used as a source of energy, driving a hydroelectric power station known as Sa Fábrica, which operated from 1908 until 1962 and supplied the town of Sóller. Today it is still possible to see the water channelling system and a part of the installations of the power station.

Coastal waterfall, channelling the water from the spring and pipes of the hydroelectric power station.

Enormous pool of water for supplying the hydroelectric power station.



Turbines of the hydroelectric power station.

For more information

IGME. 2006. *Islas de Agua. Patrimonio geológico e hidrogeológico de las Islas Baleares.* Govern de les Illes Balears. 248 pp.

Mateos Ruiz, R.M. & González Casasnovas, C. (Eds.) 2009. *Els camins de l'aigua de les Illes Balears. Aqüífers i fonts.* Govern de les Illes Balears. 267 pp.

Recommendations

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

The site is accessible all year round, but it is recommended to visit it after a rainfall to see the spring at its most active.

It is recommended to follow the Itinerary of Geological Interest Sa Calobra-Sa Costera, or alternatively to visit the SGI of Cala Tuent and the Torrent de Pareis.