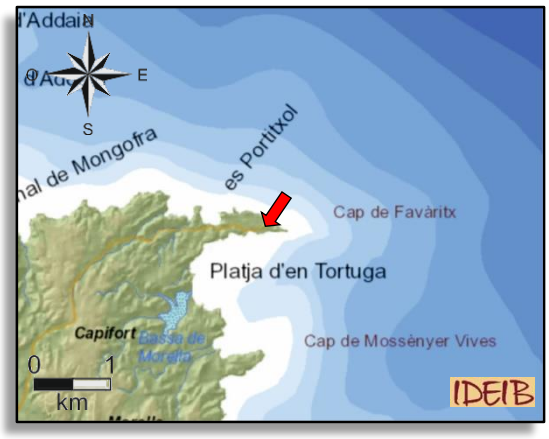
The Cap de Favàritx viewpoint

Location



Town: Maó

UTM coordinates (31N ETRS89): X: 607869 Y: 4428133

Difficulty and duration

1 2 3

0 min

Access

For direct access to the viewpoint, visitors should park in a small area next to the lighthouse. However, the Nature Park Use and Management Steering Plan limits vehicular access and transport should be by shuttle bus.

Principal interest

Stratigraphic

Secondary interest

Sedimentological and geomorphological

Description of the site

Lunar and volcanic landscape are just two of the descriptions given to this part of Menorca, although, as you may remember, these descriptions bear no resemblance to reality, because this geological landscape was not formed by volcanoes, but by avalanches of sediments that came from the continents and reached the great sea depths some 350 million years ago, and that over time have formed primarily two types of rock: sandstones and *llloselles*.

General view of Cap de Favàritx headland at the temporary pool of És Cos des Síndic, with the sea in the background. To its left, are the thick-grained, hard-wearing sandstones; to the right, at the water's edge, the softer *llosella* presents a flatter relief.

The seabed comprises a shelf (the shallower part), a talus (a steeply sloping area) and the great sea depths, with depths up to a few kilometres and that are known as abyssal plains. The rocks at Favàritx were formed from sediments that fell from the continental shelf down the talus as a current of dirty water or turbulence caused by an event such as a small earthquake.

As the figure below the text shows, the turbulence fell down the talus at great speed (1). It decelerated when it reached the abyssal plain, causing sedimentation of the thicker particles first (sand and cobbles, with the finer particles still in suspension: clay and silts) (2). Subsequently, sedimentation of the fine particles occurred (3). Over time, the thick particles formed conglomerates and sandstones, while the fine particles formed *llloselles*.

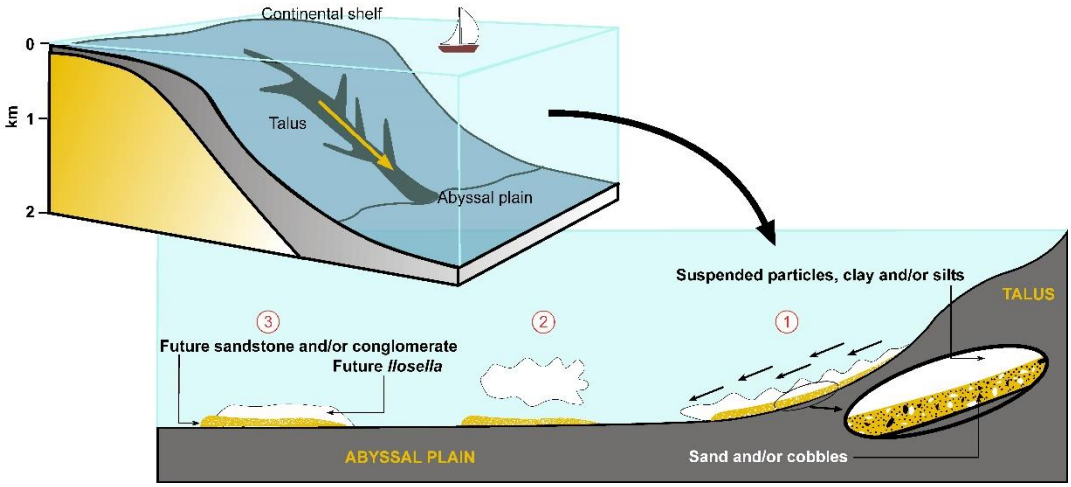


Diagram showing the structure of the ocean bed and the formation of the turbidite strata.

Conglomerates and sandstones are hard rocks with thick particles that are resistant to erosion and form the tip of Cap de Favàritx. Since *Ilosella* is a rock formed of very small grains, it is softer and erodes easily, creating depressed areas, such the És Cos des Síndic temporary pool.

To find out more

BOURROUILH, R., 1973. *Stratigraphie, sediméntologie et tectonique de l'île de Minorque et du Nord-Est de Majorque (Baléares). La terminasion Nord-orientale des Cordillères Bétiques en Méditerranée occidentale*. Trav. Lab. Géol. Méd. CNRS et Dep. Géol. Struct. Univ. Université de Paris ed. 822 p.

LLOMPART, C.; OBRADOR, A.; ROSELL, J., 1979. Geologia de Menorca. *Enciclopèdia de Menorca*. Obra Cultural Balear, T. 1: 1-83.

ROSELL, J.; ARRIBAS, J., 1989. Características petrológicas de las areniscas del Carbonífero de facies Culm de la isla de Menorca. *Bol. Geol. y Min.*, 100(5): 137-148.

ROSELL, J.; ELÍZAGA, E., 1989. Evolución tectosedimentaria del Paleozoico de la isla de Menorca. *Bol. Geol. y Min.*, 100(2): 193-204.

ROSELL, J.; LLOMPART, C., 2002. *El naixement d'una illa. Menorca. Guia de geologia pràctica*. Impressió i relligat Dacs, Indústria Gràfica, SA. Moncada i Reixac. 279 p.

Recommendations

Note that Cap de Favàritx is part of the protected nature area of S'Albufera des Grau Natural Park, the heart of the Menorca Biosphere Reserve, which we recommend you visit as it includes a wide diversity of environments with a greater or lesser degree of human intervention: wetlands, farmland and livestock land, forests, a coastline with cliffs and beaches, islets and marine area.