

ENGLISH

FONTS UFANES

NATURAL MONUMENT



Foto: Sebastià Torrens



GOVERN
ILLES
BALEARS

FONTS UFANES NATURAL MONUMENT

The Fonts Ufanes Natural Monument is located in the municipal area of Campanet, within the Gabellí Petit Estate, near the hermitage Ermita de Sant Miquel.

Officially protected by the Balearic Islands Government as a Natural Monument in 2001 (Decree 111/2001, of 31 August, BOIB No. 109 of 11/09/2001), the natural area of Fonts Ufanes covers a land surface of 50.2 ha.

The entire area of the monument has been in-

cluded within the Serra de Tramuntana Nature Area and is also a Natural Area of Special Interest (ANEI) by virtue of Law 1/1991, of 30 January, on Natural Areas and the Urban Planning Schemes for Special Protected Areas of the Balearic Islands.

Co-financed by the European Union, the Balearic Islands Government purchased the Gabellí Petit Estate, consisting of 44.91 ha, in June 2005, thus opening the springs to the public after years of social pressure.

Photo: Sebastià Torrens



HYDROGEOLOGY

The Fonts Ufanes are a singular natural hydrogeological phenomenon in the Balearic Islands. These springs receive their water from the rainfall over the Puig Tomir mountains and surrounding area, which then filters into the subsoil and accumulates in an aquifer that sits over relatively impermeable materials. After intense and constant rainfall, the aquifer overflows, and the water violently rushes up to the surface, through the springs in the lower area of the Gabellí Petit Estate.

The currents of these springs can go from 0 to 3 m³/second in a matter of minutes under normal circumstances, reaching 100 m³/second in the case of exceptional surges. On average, these springs spew out an annual volume of 10 - 12 hm³. All of this water runs through the stream known as Torrent de Teló, comes together with that of other springs in the area and spills into another stream, the Torrent de Sant Miquel. From this point on, the water then makes its way down to the flatlands of Sa Pobla, crossing the cultivation fields until it reaches the S'Albufera Natural Park. Here, in a radically different landscape marked by reeds and canals, the water virtually seems to stop in the final section of its course, before it finally flows into the sea.



Photo: Sebastià Torrens

THE LANDSCAPE

The southern trails of the Gabellí Petit Estate run across flatlands that are used for carob tree (*Cerastonia siliqua*) cultivation, a typical dry-farming crop in Mallorca.

In the north of the estate, the landscape changes, giving rise to holm oak woods, one of the best-developed forest communities in this natural monument. The thick treetops of the holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) limit the passage of light, creating a damp and shady forest that is primarily inhabited by shrubs such as the mastic tree (*Pistacia lentiscus*), the strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) and the endemic "sowbread" species *Cyclamen balearicum*. The clearings that have opened up through the years have enabled the passage of light, which has in turn favoured the growth of the pine tree (*Pinus halepensis*).

The holm oak forest also displays the marks of human presence, including wood colliers' shacks and charcoal production floors, which bear witness to the intense use of the forest for charcoal production in the past.

Moreover, the remains of a stone structure known as a *talaiot* amid the holm oaks confirm the prehistoric

presence of humans in this area. Today only the doorway of the structure has survived. The exact purpose of the *talaiots* is not completely clear: whilst some historians believe they were dwellings, others feel that they served as either meeting points or sites of social encounter and ritual related with land ownership.

The diverse landscapes of the area are the ideal habitats for a wide range of wildlife species. The mammals found here include the pine marten (*Martes martes*), the common genet (*Genetta genetta*) and the least weasel (*Mustela nivalis*). Also abounding here are countless birds including the common wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), the song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), the European robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), the common firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*), the Eurasian blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), the chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) and the greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*). You may additionally see or hear the common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), the booted eagle (*Aquila pennata*) and the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), as they fly over the area.

Photo: M^a Àngels Ferragut



Parus caeruleus
Photo: Sebastià Torrens



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Always close **the small gate** at the estate entrance as you go through it.
- The itinerary must be followed **on foot**. However, wheelchair or **Joëlette** chair access can be made available. To make arrangements, please contact the Management Office, so that they will open the large gate at the entrance.
- Bicycles, horses and motorised vehicles are **not allowed**.
- Do not leave any sort of **waste** behind (including organic waste, as it takes a great deal of time to break down, leading to a visual impact on the environment). Please be sure to take all of your waste with you and dispose of it in the selective waste bins near your home or lodging establishment on the island.
- Please respect the different **natural, cultural, archaeological and ethnological values** that have inspired the protection of this natural area.
- **Do not pick up or take** plants or animals.
- Please remain on the marked paths at all times and proceed **quietly**, so as not to disturb the fauna and the other visitors.
- We recommend that you wear the **appropriate footwear**, particularly when the springs are active.
- Please inform the **estate caretaker** of any damages or irregularities that you see.

REGULATIONS

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- Regular and calm contemplation of the surge of these springs when they occur.
- All activities that are compatible with the conservational objectives of this natural area.

ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE THE AUTHORISATION OF THE REGIONAL MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE OWNER/S OF THE ESTATES

- The collection of more than one kilogram of **wild mushrooms** for commercial purposes or for family consumption.
- Flying **drone-type planes** and similar devices.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- Any activities that might be **hazardous** or cause **damage** to the natural environment, people or the existing heritage (Article 60 of Decree 19/2007 of 16 March).
- **Walking dogs off the lead** (Article 1, Section 26 of Law 3/2013, of 17 July, which modifies Article 75, Section 11 of Law 6/2006, of 12 April).
- **Camping** anywhere in the protected natural area (Article 8, Section 3 of Decree 111/2001, of 31 August).

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

You may visit the Gabellí Petit Estate any day of the year.

There is no parking.

An **audiovisual** presentation is available for viewing at the Fonts Ufanes Interpretation Centre.

Serra de Tramuntana Nature Area Management Office.

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To request authorisations & info:

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Accessibility:



