Sa Dragonera Natural Park is made up of three islets, Illet des Pantaleu, Sa Mitjana and Sa Dragonera. With a land surface of 374 hectares, the entire Park, along with a considerable marine area, has been declared a Site of Community Importance (SCI) and an Area of Special Protection for Birds, thus also forming part of the Natura 2000 Network. Located just off the south-western coast of Mallorca, Sa Dragonera is separated from the main island by a small channel with a width of 800 m and a maximum depth of approximately 15 m. The road to the conservation of this Park was not easy. In fact, the Park’s protection largely owes itself to the heavy pressures of the local people, who fought against attempts to develop the island in the 1970s. As a result, Sa Dragonera has become a symbol of Balearic conservationism. In 1987, the Consell de Mallorca purchased the island, which was declared a Natural Area of Special Interest until it finally became a Natural Park in 1995.

THE ISLAND’S PAST

The most ancient evidence of human presence on Sa Dragonera resides in the remains that were found here, dating from the Talayotic era. The island also conserves vestiges from the eras of Roman and Muslim occupation. In fact, during the Middle Ages, the falcons used for falconry practices were taken from Sa Dragonera, and the introduction of cattle raising and cultivation fields, have modified the island’s physical appearance. In fact, during the Middle Ages, the falcons used for falconry practices were taken from Sa Dragonera, and the island’s cliffs were the collection sites of the orchiza weed (Riccia fluitans). The leaves of the European fan palm (Chamaerops humilis) were also collected here, for use in basketwork.

The towers that were built at the peaks of Na Pòpia and Cap des Llebeig bear witness to the importance of the island for the protection of Mallorca. Recently restored, the Torre de Llebeig and the Torre de Sa Mitjana, make Sa Dragonera particularly valuable, for both its history and its heritage.

THE PARK’S NATURAL TREASURES

The size of Sa Dragonera and its dry climate and relief, along with its marine influence, make for an exceptional natural wealth. Sa Dragonera is home to 361 different plant species, 18 of which are endemic to the Balearics. The largest plant populations in the Park are the scrubland communities of wild olive (Olea europaea) and spurge olive (Echium hortorum). Less extensive though extremely diverse are the plant communities that are found along the coast, on sea cliffs and in crevices and walls. In fact, it is the island’s jagged landscape that facilitates the growth of these plants. The Park’s fauna is another of its most interesting aspects. Particularly worthy of note among the invertebrates that inhabit Sa Dragonera is the wall lizard population, an endemic subspecies (Podarcis lilfordi giglioli) that cannot be found anywhere else in the world, as well as the particular snail species (Iberellus balearicus), which is also endemic to the Balearic Islands. The Park’s list of catalogued seabirds is extensive and includes the Audouin’s gull (Larus audouinii) and the Balearic shearwater (Puffinus mauretanicus), one of the few birds that are endemic to the Balearic Islands. Among the birds of prey found here, Sa Dragonera boasts the largest Eleonora’s falcon (Falco eleonorae) population in the archipelago. As to the mammals, the bats are the Park’s only naturally existing group and include at least 5 species, some of which are migrant. All of the other mammals found here (rats, rabbits and mice) have been introduced to the island, and their presence is considered a threat to the autochthonous flora and fauna.

The waters and marine floor are included in the Park’s area of marine influence, which contains a well-conserved array of underwater ecosystems representative of the western Mediterranean. Particularly worthy of note for their diversity are the Posidonia oceanica prairies, a refuge for countless marine species and coral communities.
SA DRAGONERA
NATURAL PARK

Panoramic view
Watchtower
Recreational area
Information centre
Lighthouse
Pier
Botanical garden

Itineraries
1. Na Miranda
2. Far de Tramuntana (lighthouse)
3. Far de Llebeig (lighthouse)
4. Far Vell (lighthouse)

Natural Park
Area of Marine Influence Limit (Article 7 of the Master Plan for Use and Management)