**S’ALBUFERA DES GRAU**

**AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS**

The Park houses a number of well-conserved agroforestry communities, where human activity has fostered vast plant and animal biodiversity. These communities consist of extensive pastures for cattle and sheep, fields of forage and winter grains for the cattle, fallow fields, and wild olive groves. Together, these different areas form a mosaic landscape where the diversity of the habitats promotes the coexistence of many species of flora along with their associated fauna. Thus, the biodiversity found here today is the result of a balance attained largely thanks to the constant local cattle-raising activity.

**NATURAL VALUES**

Minorca’s cultural heritage is also well represented in the Park. The wealth of ancient archeological sites, consisting of massive stone structures such as ancient watchtowers known as talaeons, navettes or collective tombs, and the T-shaped saules, as well as ethnological features including unmortared stone walls, stone farming and livestock shelters and other sites, bear witness to the human being’s long coexistence in the landscape where the diversity of the habitats promotes the coexistence of many species of flora along with their associated fauna. Thus, the biodiversity found here today is the result of a balance attained largely thanks to the constant local cattle-raising activity.

Among the reptiles and amphibians that live in the Park, mention must be made of the Balearic wall lizard (Podarcis lilfordi), which is endemic to both Majorca and Minorca and found exclusively on the islets, where it has diversified, gradually evolving into different subspecies. There are also other interesting species such as the Balearic green toad, the European tree frog, the false smooth snake and the ladder snake. The Park’s mammals include carnivorous species such as the weasel and the pine marten, insect-eating mammals like the hedgehog and the shrew, as well as rodents like the garden dormouse. Within the limits of the Park is a strip of sea with different types of sea floors. Predominant in the soft-bottom areas are the Posidonia prairies. Other aquatic plant communities live in narrow and shallow areas. These include the Cymodocea and Zostera, which are scarce in the Mediterranean. Yet there are also rocky sea floors with interesting seaweed communities. Both of these sea floors accommodate different fish and invertebrate species.

**RULES**

- Please do not walk on the dunes. The use of motor vehicles and the carrying of baggage is prohibited.
- Please bear in mind that most of the Park is private property and that there are several farms and cattle ranches that must not be disturbed.
- Please remain on the marked trails and specially protected areas.
- Please do not anchor boats in the Posidonia beds.
- Please do not remove rocks or stones from the area around the Favàritx lighthouse.
- Please do not remove plants and do not disturb the animals.
- Do not bring dogs through the main areas of strict protection and conservation, such as Favàritx and Portocolom.

**VISITING HOURS**

- April – October:
  - Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Mondays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
  - Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
- November – March:
  - Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Mondays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
  - Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**VISITORS**

Visitors are invited to view the Parks permanent exhibit, “Aragon of the lagoon” on display at the reception centre.

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