The Península de Llevant Natural Park covers much of Artà’s mountain range (Muntanyes d’Artà) and includes the Nature Reserves of Cap Ferrutx and Cap des Freu, which are located in the municipality of Artà and Capdepera. The Nature Reserves of Cap Ferrutx and Cap des Freu, which are located in the municipality of Artà and Capdepera, comprise two areas of coastal cliffs at the northern end of the Peninsula de Llevant.

The current appearance of this land is the result of centuries of human interaction with nature. Throughout the Park are extensive olive, almond, fig and carob groves. The onslaught of tourism spurred the progressive abandonment of field activities in the less profitable areas. To recover the pastureland for the herds of sheep and goats, the scrubland was repeatedly burnt down. This favoured the presence of species that easily grow back after fires, such as Mauritanian grass and the European fan palm. As a result, today Mauritanian grass covers vast expanses of the Park in areas that were once inhabited by forests and other shrub communities.

With a protected surface area of 1671 hectares, the Peninsula de Llevant Natural Park covers much of Artà’s mountain range (Muntanyes d’Artà) and includes the highest peaks of the Sierra de Llevant (Puig Morei which stands at 564 m; Puig d’Alberite at 501 m; Puig d’Es Corell at 491 m; Puig de sa Tudossa, at 441 m). The Nature Reserves of Cap Ferrutx and Cap des Freu, which are located in the municipalities of Artà and Capdepera, comprise two areas of coastal cliffs at the northern end of the Peninsula de Llevant.

Both the Park and the Reserves were officially listed as such by virtue of Decree 127/2001, of 9 November (BOIB, Official Gazette of the Balearic Islands, Number 101, of 22-11-2001). The limits of the area were later modified by Law 10/2003 of 22 December, on Tax and Administrative Measures. This natural area forms part of the European Union’s Natura 2000 Network, as both an Area of Special Protection for Birds and a Site of Community Interest.

The_vast_environmental_diversity, featuring coastal cliffs, caves and caverns, springs and streams, forests and scrubland, gives this Natural Park an immense landscape value. The area is a refuge for many species that are endemic to the Balearic Islands. As to the flora, we must point out the Balearic St. John’s wort (Hypericum balearicum) and the local cat thyme species (Teucrium marum subsp. occidentale). The area’s endemic animals include the snail species (Iberillus balearicus), the cave-dwelling false scorpion (Chthonius balearicus), and the Balearic St. John’s wort (Hypericum balearicum).

The Park’s fauna include populations of the Hermann’s tortoise (Testudo hermanni), the Algerian hedgehog (Atelerix algirus), the genet (Genetta genetta), the pine marten (Martes martes) and the Balearic green toad (Bufo balearicus). Among the birds that nest here, mention must be made of the booted eagle (Hieraaetus pennatus), the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), the Audubon’s gull (Larus audubonii), the European shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) and the Egyptian vulture (Neophron percnopterus). It is also common to see the majestic red kite (Milvus milvus), which has now returned in the Park thanks to the species’ repopulation project.

The oldest evidence of human presence in the area resides in the archaeological remains. There are also remnants of military architecture, such as the Talca Mora (a coastal watchtower) and the vestiges of an encampment built by the Republican prisoners of the Spanish Civil War. Equally worthy of note are the country estate houses, locally known as ‘cases de possessió’, which include the houses of Albància, the wooded hillside fields and the other agricultural features (olive oil mills, water wheels and water collection structures, among others).

The abundance of the fan palm gave rise to the widespread development of palm-based craftsmanship in the late 19th century. There are still a few craftsmen that continue to pursue this art today.

The_spring_time_is_the_best_period_to_visit_the_Park,