The area of Cala d’Hort and the islets of the west known as Illots de Ponent comprise one of Eivissa’s main natural areas. Thus, the area was declared a Natural Area of Special Interest by virtue of Law 1/1991, of 30 January, on Natural Spaces and Urban Regulation for Areas of Special Protection of the Balearic Islands. In February 2002, Cala d’Hort, Cap Llentrisca and Sa Talasa were declared a natural Park, and the Nature Reserves of Es Vedrà, Es Vedranell and the Illots de Ponent were officially declared, by virtue of Decree 24/2002. Since March 2005, with the enactment of Law 5/2000, of 26 May, on the Conservation of Environmentally Important Sites, the protected area takes in the Nature Reserves of Es Vedrà, Es Vedranell and the Illots de Ponent, as well as their surrounding marine environment. The approval of this law also marked the start of the process for the draft of a new Natural Resources Planning Programme that would not only cover the marine environment and the islets, but also a section of Eivissa.

T he islets are one of the main breeding grounds for aquatic birds and birds of prey including the Audouin’s gull (Larus audouinii), the Cory’s shearwater (Calonectris diomedea), the Balearic shearwater (Puffinus mauretanicus), the Eleonora’s falcon (Falco eleonorae), the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), and the European storm petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus). As regards this last species, S’Espirat houses one of the most important colonies in the western Mediterranean. Invertebrates are also well represented here, and particularly molluscs, such as the snails of the Trochichidae genus, and coleoptera, or beetles. The Eivissa wall lizard (Podarcis pityusensis) is protected by different laws, boasts a number of endemic subspecies that vary in size and colour from one islet to the next. The sea bottoms are well conserved and house a rich and diverse fauna represented by species such as the sea fans (Gorgonia sp.), the bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) and fish species including the groupers (Sphyraena sp.), among others.

The Nature Reserves of Es Vedrà, Es Vedranell and the Illots de Ponent form a protected natural aquatic and land area located in the west of Eivissa, within the municipal area of Sant Josep de Sa Talaia. The area forms part of the EU Natura 2000 Network and is thus protected by a number of European initiatives, given its classification as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive, as well as its Balearic cataloguing as a Natural Area of Special Interest.

The islands are clustered into two groups. The first is the group consisting of Es Vedrà and Es Vedranell, and the other takes in the Illots de Ponent, which include Sa Conillera, Illa des Bosc, S’Espirat and Ses Bledes: Na Gorra, Es Vajetell, Na Bosc, Na Pana and S’Escolt del Ramon (res). All of these sites are authentic natural treasures that accommodate aquatic birds, lizards and endemic invertebrates, as well as a very rich flora.

The immensely beautiful landscape of this large group of islets makes for magnificent views from both the sea and the nearby coastal areas of Eivissa. Particularly worthy of note is the silhouette of Es Vedrà, which, emerging from the sea, has become one of the most emblematic views of the Pitiüses Islands. The spectacular height of this islet, which reaches 382 metres at Es Picatxo de Migjorn, as well as its jagged relief, makes this a unique landmark in the landscape. The other islets boast features that increase their allure, such as the cliffs that dot their landscape and a few impressive cliffs, including S’Espirat and Sa Conillera ones.