The Serra de Tramuntana sprawls for approximately 90 km along the northern coast of Mallorca. With more than a dozen peaks at altitudes of over one thousand metres, these mountains form one of the most emblematic areas on the island. The predominance of calcareous stone in these mountains and constant interaction with the surrounding water have given rise to a unique landscape with endless karst formations.

The landscape of the Serra de Tramuntana is not ed for its diversity. The many different wooded, shaded and sunny areas, shaped by oak forests, pine forests, Mauritia Vine-Reed and other species, alternate with agricultural fields, where olive groves are particularly common.

One of the most significant aspects of this mountain range is the vast wealth of its plant life. The countless endemic species include some extremely rare plants and others with very extensive populations, such as the Balearic St. John’s wort (Hypericum balearicum). The Serra de Tramuntana is also a refuge for animal species such as the Mallorcan midwife toad (Alytes menutensis), and accommodates numerous endemic invertebrates, birds, cave-dwelling species, and more.

The coastline of the Serra de Tramuntana boasts abundant Posidonia oceanica prairies. Along with the maerl beds and coralline communities, these algae species are particularly worthy of note for their beauty and good state of conservation.

Human activity has been connected with the Tramuntana Mountains since time immemorial. Proof of this can be seen in the stone wall borders and terraces, snow houses, watchtowers, fortifications and water deposits, which embody an important part of our history.

The main objective of the classification of a protected Nature Area is the conservation of its natural and cultural value. The Serra de Tramuntana received its status as a Nature Area through the Balearic Islands Government Resolution of 16 March 2007 (BOIB, No. 54 EXT).

With a land zone of 62,403 ha and a marine zone of 1,123 ha, this is the largest protected nature area in the Balearic Islands. In fact, its borders cover parts of the municipal areas of Alaro, Andratx, Banyalbufar, Bunyola, Calvià, Campanet, Deià, Esporles, Estellencs, Fornalutx, Lloseta, Mancor de la Vall, Palma, Pollença, Puigpunyent, Santa Maria, Selva, Sóller and Valldemossa.

The Natural Resources Management Plan of the Serra de Tramuntana, which was approved by Decree 19/2007 (BOIB No. 54 EXT), aims to serve as a general structure for the management of natural resources and values. For such purpose, this plan has divided the area into zones (exclusion, limited use, compatible use and general use) and regulated its use (permitted, authorised and prohibited).

The Serra de Tramuntana Nature Area includes the Natural Monument of the Torrent de Pareis, Gorg Blau and Lluc (which received such status by virtue of Decree 53/2003, of 16 May) and the Natural Monument of Ses Fonts Ufanes (declared such by Decree 111/2001, of 31 August). Moreover, the Nature Area either partially or completely encompasses different zones that are also included within the Natura 2000 Network (Sites of Community Importance and/or Special Protection Areas for Birds), protected oak forests and urban protection legislation, such as the Serra de Tramuntana Natural Area of Special Interest (ANEI de Tramuntana), among others.

Photos: Sebastià Torrens
NATURE AREA OF THE SERRA DE TRAMUNTANA