LES FONTS UFANES

Les Fonts Ufanes are located in Campanet, within the Gabellí Petit Estate, near the hermitage Ermita de Sant Miquel. Officially protected by the Balearic Islands Government as a Natural Monument in 2001 (Decret 111/2001, of 31 August, BOIB No. 109 of 11/09/2001), the natural area of Les Fonts Ufanes covers a land surface of 50.2 ha.

The entire area of the monument has been included within the Serra de Tramuntana Natural Area and is also a Natural Area of Special Interest (ANEI) by virtue of Law 1/1991, of 30 January, on Natural Areas and the Urban Planning Schemes for Special Protected Areas of the Balearic Islands.

Co-financed by the European Union, the Balearic Islands Government purchased the Gabellí Petit Estate, consisting of 44.91 ha, in June 2005, thus opening the fountains to the public after years of social pressure.

HYDROGEOLOGY

A singular natural hydrogeological phenomenon in the Balearic Islands, Les Fonts Ufanes are powerful intermittent water surges that come up suddenly and in a diffused manner, once enough rainwater has accumulated in the Puig Tomir massif and its surrounding areas.

These springs get their water from the rain that falls on the mountains and filters into the subsoil. Once it filters in, the water accumulates in an aquifer that sits over relatively impermeable materials. After several days of intense and constant rain, the aquifer overflows, and the water rushes up to the surface violently through the springs below the Gabellí Petit Estate.

The currents of these springs can go from 0 to 3 m³/second in a matter of minutes under normal circumstances, reaching 100 m³/second in the case of exceptional surges. On average, these springs pump out an annual volume of 10 - 12 hm³. All of this water runs through the stream known as Torrent de Teló, comes together with that of other springs in the area and spills into another stream, the Torrent de Sant Miquel. From this point, the water placidly makes its way down to the flatlands of Sa Pobla, crossing the cultivation fields until it reaches S’Albufera. Here, in a radically different landscape marked by reeds and canals, the water virtually seems to stop in the final section of its course, before it flows into the sea.

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The flatlands of the Gabellí Petit Estate are used for carob tree (Ceratonia siliqua) cultivation, a typical dry-farming crop in Mallorca that does not require a great deal of upkeep.

The diverse landscapes of the Gabellí Estate are the ideal habitats for a wide range of wildlife species. The mammals found here include the feral goat (Capra hircus), the pine marten (Martes martes), the common genet (Genetta genetta) and the least weasel (Mustela nivalis). Also abounding here are countless birds including the common wood pigeon (Columba palumbus), the song thrush (Zoothera dauma), the European robin (Erithacus rubecula), the common firecrest (Regulus ignicapilla), the blue tit (Parus caeruleus), the chaffinch (Fringilla coelebs), and the greenfinch (Chloris chloris). You may additionally see or hear the common kestrel (Falco tinnunculus), the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), the sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus) and the European starling (Sturnus vulgaris), as they fly over the area.

THE LANDSCAPE AND FAUNA

The holm oak woods are the most well-developed forest community in this natural monument. The thick treetops of the holm oak (Quercus ilex) limit the passage of light, creating a damp and shady forest that is primarily inhabited by shrubs such as the mas-tic tree (Phistoia lentiscus), the strawberry tree (Arbutus unedo) and the Cyclem balancom. The clearings that have been made through the years have enabled the passage of light, which has in turn favoured the growth of the pine tree (Pinus halepensis).

The holm oak forest also houses the sheds of wood colliers and charcoal production floors, which bear witness to the intense use of the forest for charcoal production in the past.

The remains of a stone structure known as a talaiot in the holm oak grove speak of the prehistoric presence of humans in this area. Today only the doorway of the structure has survived. The exact purpose of the talaiot is not completely clear: whilst some historians believe that they were dwellings, others feel that they served as either meeting points or sites of social encounters and rituals relating to land ownership.

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LES FONTS UFANES
NATURAL MONUMENT

Natural Monument
Public estate
Les Fonts Ufanes itinerary
Roads
Paths
Streams
Prehistoric monument (Talaiot)
Wood collier’s shed
Interpretation centre

Limits of the Nature Area