



Photo: Sebastià Torrens

# LES FONTS UFANES

## NATURAL MONUMENT



Photo: Sebastià Torrens

For further information, please contact the **Serra de Tramuntana Nature Area Management Office**.  
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## FACILITIES AND SERVICES

**VISITING LES FONTS UFANES**  
The Gabellí Petit Estate is open to visitors from 10 am to 5 pm every day of the year. Please note that to get to the springs from the estate entrance gate you will need to follow a relatively easy circular path for some 20 minutes. Once you come to a crossroads, if you continue to the right, the trail will be easier, as it is not as steep.

- Please respect the different natural, cultural and ethnological values that have inspired the protection of this area.
- Do not pick up plants or animals.
- Please respect all archaeological elements.
- Bicycles and horses are not allowed.
- Visitors may access the estate on foot only.
- Pets, and particularly dogs, can disturb the fauna and herds. Please do not bring them to the estate.
- Please remain on the marked paths at all times and proceed quietly, so as not to disturb the fauna and the other visitors.
- We recommend that you wear the appropriate footwear, particularly when the springs are active.
- Please inform the estate caretaker of any damages or irregularities that you see.
- Wild mushrooms may be picked for family consumption. The collection of wild mushrooms for commercial purposes requires the prior authorisation of Espais de Natura Balear.

## RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## LES FONTS UFANES

**L**es Fonts Ufanès 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 (Decree 111/2001, of 31 August, BOIB No. 109 of 11/09/2001), the natural area of Les Fonts Ufanès covers a land surface of 50.2 ha.

The entire area of the monument has been included within the Serra de Tramuntana Nature

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.



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## THE LANDSCAPE AND FAUNA

**T**he holm oak woods are the most well-developed forest community in this natural monument. The thick treetops of the holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) limit the passage of light, creating a damp and shady forest that is primarily inhabited by shrubs such as the mastic tree (*Pistacia lentiscus*), the strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) and the *Cyclamen balearicum*. 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 shacks 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 talaiots 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.

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 (*Turdus philomelos*), the European robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), the common firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*), the blue tit (*Parus caeruleus*), the chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) and the greenfinch (*Carduelis 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.

## HYDROGEOLOGY

**A**singular natural hydrogeological phenomenon in the Balearic Islands, Les fonts Ufanès 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 rainfall, the aquifer overflows, and the water rushes up to the surface violently through the springs below the Gabellí Petit Estate.

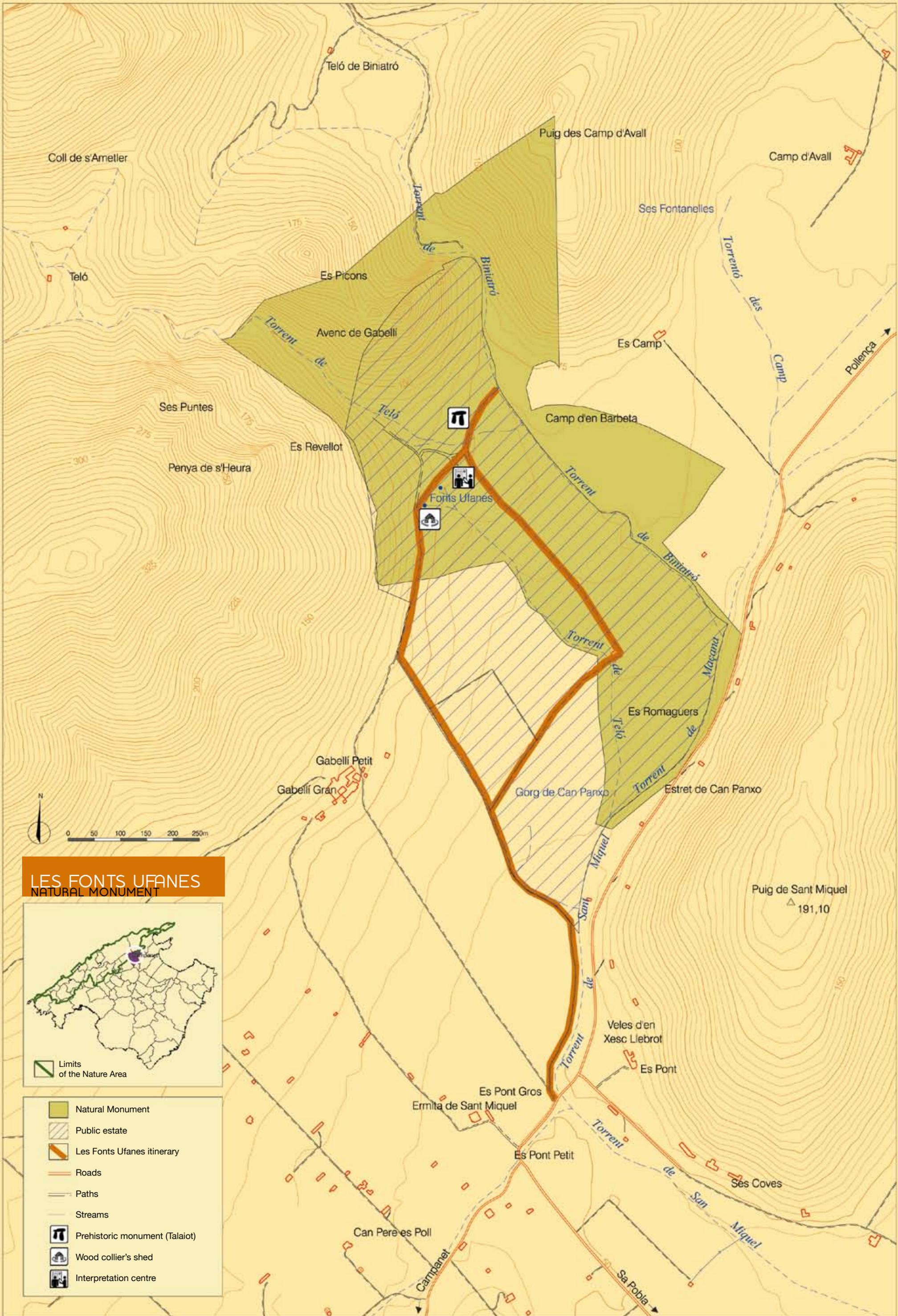
The currents of these springs can go from 0 to 3 m<sup>3</sup>/second in a matter of minutes under normal circumstances, reaching 100 m<sup>3</sup>/second in the case of exceptional surges. On average, these springs spew out an annual volume of 10 - 12 hm<sup>3</sup>. All of this water runs through the 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.

Photo: M<sup>a</sup> Angels Ferragut



Parus caeruleus  
Photo: Sebastià Torrens





**LES FONTS UFANES**  
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-  Natural Monument
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-  Les Fonts Ufanes itinerary
-  Roads
-  Paths
-  Streams
-  Prehistoric monument (Talaiot)
-  Wood collier's shed
-  Interpretation centre