

THE NATIONAL PARK

The Park is made up of the entire Cabrera Archipelago and its surrounding waters. The marine environment accounts for 98% of the surface of the Park, which is in fact the second largest national marine park in the Mediterranean. This aquatic area, spanning from the shallow waters of the coastal beaches to the sea canyons that reach depths of 2000 metres, houses different habitats including Posidonia beds, coral sea floors and diverse species including marine mammals and sea turtles.

The Archipelago itself comprises the main island, Cabrera, the island of Conillera and a group of 17 islets. Together, they have a land surface area of just over 13 km². These extraordinarily rugged islands boast a combined protected coastline of 57 km that primarily consists of coves, with an occasional small beach and frequent rocky cliffs, some of which are considerably high.

Given the scant rainfall, very little silt is washed into the sea. The results are remarkably transparent waters with extraordinary visibility.

BENEATH THE WATER'S SURFACE

The Archipelago's underwater cliffs are a surprising sight. The sea bed drops off steeply, forming vertical walls that plunge as deep as 90 m in the zone around the southern islets. Underwater caves and tunnels abound, some crossing entire islets from side to side. Other cases, such as that of the Cova Blava ("Blue Cave"), offer a unique experience. For its part, the south and south-east area, which was recently expanded, houses deep underwater cliffs, as well as large areas of maerl.

The Park is moreover a genuine natural laboratory, attracting scientists from both Spain and abroad, who come here to learn about island ecosystems. Cabrera's coastal landscape is considered to be among the best preserved in Spain. The famous Spanish naturalist Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente once described it as "The Mediterranean of Ulysses, just an hour away from Palma".

CULTURE

The area's limited natural resources are only enough to provide sustenance for small communities. Talayotic tribes, Romans, Arabs, Christians and pirates have all passed through the Archipelago at some point. Hence, like all other Mediterranean islands, the Cabrera Archipelago boasts a rich heritage of legends and traditions. The refurbished building of Es Cellar now houses an ethnographic museum, which displays the past ways of life on Cabrera

ROUTES

Self-guided tours (free access): Es Castell, archaeological visit, Coll Roig: A balcony to la Enciola, A walk through history, From the port to Sa Platgeta in the shade of pines and junipers, The "Es Cellar" Museum and the Botanical Garden.

Guided tours (with park guides or guides authorized by the park): Picamosques, Miranda, ses Sitges, the Canal de ses Figueres mountain range, the Enciola lighthouse, excursion along the Cala Ganduf path, marine itinerary, and canoe itinerary.

Other information of interest

Visitors are advised to bring food with them, as Cabrera only has one small snack bar that offers a basic beverage and snack service. Accommodations are available at the National Park hostel <https://bit.ly/2X91WNS>.

For more information, please visit the Information Centre in Cabrera Harbour

FISHING

The only extraction activity permitted in the Park is professional fishing using traditional techniques. Practiced for centuries on fleets of local traditional boats known as llauts, which come from Mallorca, today this age-old fishing technique is strictly regulated within the Park, to help maintain its sustainability.



Traditional fishing boat or "llaut" and non-mechanised fishing.



BE SURE NOT TO MISS

The view of the bay from the Fortress

The Es Cellar Ethnographic Museum (refurbished building)

A swim in the Park's crystalline waters

A visit to the Ses Salines Visitor Centre, in Colonia de Sant Jordi

FLORA

The plant life in the Park is the result of its geographical location. Abounding here is the characteristic foliage of the Mediterranean scrubland, which includes wild olives, mastic trees, Phoenician junipers, rosemary and tree spurge, which in some areas are interspersed with thickets of Aleppo pine. The Park also houses interesting sea cliff plant communities, which include a number of species endemic to the Balearics and one particular species endemic to the Park: the *Rubia peregrina* ssp. *caespitosa*. In all, the Archipelago is home to more than 500 vascular plant species. Thus far, the inventoried aquatic flora includes 450 species (diatoms, macroalgae and marine phanerogams), and more than 160 different species can be viewed here, with a particularly numerous presence of algae. In the deepest areas, the maerl bottom stands out, composed of calcareous red algae that harbor a great biodiversity.

The *Posidonia oceanica* (Neptune grass) community, endemic to the Mediterranean, is especially important, given its role in protecting the seafloor substratum against erosion and as an essential habitat for a multitude of plants and animals.

Many species feed off the organisms that live amid its leaves. Neptune grass prairies are one of the richest underwater ecosystems found in the Park. Moreover, they are particularly well represented here, where they grow at the deepest known depth of around 45 m. As a result, these prairies occupy a considerable percentage of the seafloor, where they carry out vital oxygenation functions in waters otherwise poor in nutrients. At the deepest depths, the sea floor houses colonies of maerl, calcareous red algae that provide a habitat for vastly diverse species.



1. *Medicago arborea citrina*
Medicago citrina

2. *Anacamptis pyramidalis*
Anacamptis pyramidalis

3. *Neptune grass*
Posidonia oceanica

4. *Rubia angustifolia* subsp. *Caespitosa*
Rubia angustifolia subsp. *Caespitosa*

FAUNA

Cabrera's invertebrate fauna is undeniably interesting, rich and varied. Rare species continue to appear here from time to time, and there are even a number of endemic crustaceans that were discovered in the waters of a cave. The Lilford's wall lizard population is particularly worthy of note, as there are 10 different endemic subspecies distributed amongst the islets. Moreover, 80% of the world population of this endemic Balearic reptile can be found in the Archipelago. The short list of reptile life in the Park is completed by the wall gecko on the land and the loggerhead turtle in the sea.

The mammals found here are similarly limited. The Park is home to the Algerian hedgehog, the genet, the black rat, the mouse, the feral cat and the rabbit – all of which were introduced from elsewhere – alongside five autochthonous bat species. Bird life, however, is rich and varied, as 23 different species nest in the Archipelago. The Audouin's gull, the yellow-legged gull, the shag, the stormy petrel and the Balearic shearwater are all widely present. As to the birds of prey, there are three pairs of osprey, as well as the Eleanor falcon and the peregrine falcon. Several passerines also nest here, including the Balearic warbler, which is of particular interest. Yet Cabrera truly comes into own during the migration season, when vast numbers of different birds stop off to feed and rest in the Archipelago along their migratory paths.

As to the aquatic fauna, more than 950 different species have been recorded. These include at least 25 crustaceans such as the common spiny lobster, the European lobster, the Mediterranean slipper lobster and the spider crab, which was recently brought back to these waters; as well as more than 240 other fish species.



5. *Sylvia balearica*
Sylvia balearica

6. *Balearic wall lizard*
Podarcis lilfordi

7. *Echinaster sepositus*
Echinaster sepositus

8. *Precious coral*
Corallium rubrum

9. *Balearic shearwater*
Puffinus mauretanicus

10. *Stormy petrel*
Hydrobates pelagicus

11. *Shag*
Phalacrocorax aristotelis

12. *Loggerhead sea turtle*
Caretta caretta

13. *Audouin's gull*
Larus audouinii

14. *Greater amberjack*
Seriola dumerili