S’ALBUFERA DE MALLORCA

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under the Birds Directive and a Special Area of Conser-
2000 Network - both as a Special Protection Area (SPA)
Wetland Area of International Importance under the

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reed-based handicrafts, etc.
store traditional activities such as eel fishing, cane and
Culturally, efforts are being made to maintain and re-

action, administration, wildlife monitoring, supervision,
Steering committee whose remit is to oversee social

information, administration, wildlife monitoring, supervision,
participation and control.

the management of S’Albufera is undertaken by the

VITAL STATISTICS

The Park is open from 9 am to 6 pm between 1 April and 30 September, and
10 am to 5 pm between 1 October and 31 March. Admission to the Park is FREE, but A PERMIT IS REQUIRED and must
be requested at the Reception Centre (open between 9 am and 4 pm
year-round, except for Christmas and New Year’s Day). A special permit is
required for groups, and must be requested from the Park in advance.

ACCESS

THE PARK MAY BE ACCESSED ON FOOT OR BY BICYCLE, by way of the Pont
dels Anglesos [the Englishmen’s Bridge]. Parking for vehicles is available
along the roads skirting the residential areas adjacent to the Park, or in the
designated parking area next to the Pont dels Anglesos (on the Can Picafort
side). Special visiting arrangements for physically disabled visitors can be
obtained on request to the Park.

RULES

• Please respect the wildlife and other values that have made this pro-
tected area possible. The removal of plants, flowers, animals or their
remains is not permitted.
• Please remain on the marked paths at all times, proceed slowly if on
a bicycle, and respect the signposting.
• Bicycles with more than two wheels are not permitted in the Park.
• Please respect the Park’s visiting hours.
• Noise disturbs the animals and the other visitors. Please move about
quietly.
• Food is not allowed in the hides, nor are picnics allowed in the Park.
• Bicycles are not allowed in the Park (pogging, horseback
riding, mountain biking, etc.).
• Please do not bring pets (particularly dogs) into the Park.
• In the case of a violation of the rules, the Park staff may revoke
the visitor’s permit.

photo: Sebastià Torrens

THE MANAGEMENT

The Park vegetation is dominated by common
flora and fauna alike.

Water penetrating during the summer months are
and type of terrain. Much of the Park’s water is rain-

Dune plants, and the tamarisk (Tamarix spp.).

sandy substrate.

beetles, while moth species exceed 450.

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**S’ALBUFERA DE MALLORCA**

S’Albufera de Mallorca was declared a Natural Park on 28 January 1988 (Decree 4/1988). It is also a Wetland Area of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, and is included in the EU Natura 2000 Network - both as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive.

S’Albufera is the largest and most important wetland area in the Balearic Islands. With a surface area of 1,687.65 hectares, mainly of wet grassland and marsh, the Park lies within the municipalities of Muro and Sa Pobla. The origins of the wetland date back to ancient times, and its surface area and features have fluctuated according to water levels.

While part of the grassland area developed during the Tertiary Era, the current wetlands were formed less than 100,000 years ago. The coastal dunes are considerably more recent, forming over the last 10,000 years or so.

**WATER, FLORA & FAUNA**

Water is the basis for S’Albufera’s ecological wealth. Water and the moisture of the soil enable the constant growth of vegetation, which varies depending on water depth, proximity to the sea and type of terrain. Much of the Park’s water is rainwater which, depending on water depth, proximity to the sea and type of terrain, is the basis for S’Albufera’s ecological wealth. Water and the moisture of the soil enable the constant growth of vegetation, which varies depending on water depth, proximity to the sea and type of terrain. Much of the Park’s water is rainwater which, depending on water depth, proximity to the sea and type of terrain, is the basis for S’Albufera’s ecological wealth.

**Rules**

1. Access to the Park is by foot, bicycle or car. The Park may be accessed on foot or by bicycle, by way of the Pont dels Anglesos. Parking for vehicles is available in a designated parking area next to the Pont dels Anglesos [the Englishmen’s Bridge].

2. The Park is open from 9 am to 6 pm between 1 April and 30 September, and from 9 am to 5 pm between 1 October and 31 March. Admission to the Park IS FREE, but A PERMIT IS REQUIRED and must be requested at the Reception Centre (open between 9 am and 4 pm year-round, except for Christmas and New Year’s Day). A special permit is required for groups, and must be requested from the Park in advance.

3. The Park is open to the public from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on weekdays.

4. Please do not bring pets (particularly dogs) into the Park.

5. Please stay on the marked paths at all times, proceed slowly if on a bicycle, and respect the signposting.

6. Please respect the Park’s visiting hours.

7. Outdoor tables are provided at Sa Roca for your convenience.

8. Please remain on the marked paths at all times, proceed slowly if on a bicycle, and respect the signposting.

9. Additional controls may be undertaken on weekends and holidays.

10. A bicycle must be left at the parking area at the entrance of the Park. Please leave bags in the carpark. The Park is not responsible for lost property.

**The Management of the Park**

The management of S’Albufera is undertaken by the Government of the Balearic Islands through a Park steering committee whose remit is to oversee social participation and control. A multidisciplinary team performs such diverse tasks as management, environmental education, visitor information, administration, wildlife monitoring, supervision, maintenance and agricultural and livestock work.

One of the key management tasks is to maintain the quantity and quality of the water. To achieve this, the main waterways are dredged regularly, dykes kept clean and water flow controlled by means of floodgates. In addition, various physical and chemical properties of the waters are analysed on a monthly basis. Native Mediterranean cattle, Camargue horses and other livestock are used as a management tool to create areas of open water and to diversify habitats.

The establishment of the Park has permitted a reintroduction programme for species previously lost to the area, most notably the purple gallinule, red-crested pochard and red-knobbed coot. Action is also taken to control invasive species, such as Florida terrapins, feral cats, carp and alien plants.

Culturally, efforts are being made to maintain and restore traditional activities such as eel fishing, cane and reed-based handicrafts, etc. and to encourage local crafts.

**Visiting Hours**

- The Park is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on weekdays.
- Outdoor tables are provided at Sa Roca for your convenience.
- Please remain on the marked paths at all times, proceed slowly if on a bicycle, and respect the signposting.

**Fungi**

Fungi are well represented. A good diversity currently numbers 205 species including one, Pseuderis habilis which was new to science when discovered in S’Albufera in 1992.

**Birds**

Birds are several species of dragonflies, flies and beetles, while moth species exceed 450. Among a huge abundance of invertebrates such as garganeys and swallows, which drop in massive flocks of roosting starlings. The Park is also an important resting point for a host of migrants including 64, a mix of residents and summer visitors, which breed. Over 10,000 birds spend their winter months in S’Albufera. These comprise ducks, herons and others, as well as massive flocks of roosting starlings. The Park is also an important resting point for a host of migrants such as garganeys and swallows, which drop in for a few days before resuming their journey, and it also attracts occasional wanderers like the crane, which stop off unexpectedly.