

CALA D'HORT: CONSERVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Cala d'Hort, including the islands of Es Vedra, Illots de Ponent, south-west Ibiza and the surrounding marine environment, is an extremely valuable natural area. It is considered a European conservation priority due to the presence of rare, endangered species, and comprises four internationally recognised Sites of Community importance.

Endangered species include the *Balearic shearwater*, a marine bird that breeds in coastal cliffs and is endemic to Ibiza, the *Audouin's gull*, and *Peregrine* and *Eleonora's falcon*, present also in coastal areas and in the islands. The inland is a refuge for protected birds and marine areas harbour protected fauna, such as the *Loggerhead turtle* and the *Bottlenose dolphin*. This region also abounds in rare plants, some of them strictly protected and exclusively found there.



SHORT-LIVED PROTECTION: CALA D'HORT NATURAL PARK

Cala d'Hort area, widely renowned for the emblematic Es Vedra (pictured above), is a treasured landscape in Ibiza. In 1999, 13.000 people joined a public demonstration in defence of this area, threatened at the time by a large urbanization and golf project. The motto of the protest was "Save Our Future. No More Destruction".

In 2002 the Balears government declared the area a Natural Park. But protection was short-lived, and in 2007 the area granted protection was reduced from the 2700 hectares originally included in the Park to 234 hectares, covering only the islands and the public property of Can Sora. Since then, weak and unreliable protection regulations mean that development remains a significant threat, not only to the few remaining, unspoilt coastal areas, but also to valuable inland habitats in this area.

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The Ibiza Preservation Fund is supporting research and field-work to compile and complete existing information on the biodiversity of Cala d'Hort. This information will be the basis for drafting documentation and proposals aimed at raising social awareness on the values of the area, and lobbying for appropriate management plans and protection measures to ensure its long-term conservation.

The ultimate goal of this work is to achieve effective, long-term protection of the area of Cala d'Hort, and to encourage economic activities that are compatible with the conservation of its natural and cultural values.

Overleaf is a map displaying the Cala d'Hort area, with the image on the left showing the originally designated Natural Park, and the image on the right showing the landmass currently protected.

Maps displaying the reduction in size of the Natural Park of Cala D'Hort (2002 – 2007)

