

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not leave any sort of waste behind (including organic waste, as it takes a great deal of time to break down, leading to a visual impact on the environment). Please be sure to take all of your waste with you and dispose of it in the selective waste bins near your home or lodging establishment on the island.
- Always close the gates as you go through them, to prevent the loss of livestock.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES REQUIRE PRIOR NOTIFICATION:

- Conducting research projects.
- Non-extreme sports and recreational activities when the number of participants is greater than 20 and less than 40.

ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE AUTHORISATION FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE OWNER OF THE LAND

- Sports and recreational activities when the number of participants is equal to or greater than 40 and all extreme sports activities, regardless of the number of participants (canyoning, rock climbing, caving, etc.).
- The installation of new climbing anchors in the stream areas where rappelling is practiced.
- The establishment of new climbing routes.
- The controlled burning of foliage and sections of land.
- Flying drone-type planes and similar devices.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

All activities and uses that are incompatible with the conservation of the area are prohibited, and particularly those listed below:

- The extraction and collection of dry or any other geological matter.
- Opening new trails, routes or paths.
- Any activity that might alter the aquatic systems.
- Camping outside of expressly authorised campsites.
- The installation of signs, posters, billboards or similar items other than those provided by the competent management body.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Serra de Tramuntana Nature Area Management Office

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07009 Palma
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Ca s'Amitger information and interpretation center

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TORRENT DE PAREIS

NATURAL MONUMENT

Photo: Sebastia Torrens



GOVERN
ILLES
BALEARS



Gorg
Photo: M.A. Ballester

The Torrent de Pareis is unquestionably one of Mallorca's natural wonders and possibly its most spectacular. Born at an altitude of 150 metres, out of the confluence of two streams, the Torrent des Gorg Blau and the Torrent de Lluc, in an area known as S'Entreforc, the Torrent de Pareis meanders down to the sea along its 3.3-km course amid canyon walls that tower as high as 200 metres. The descent, which moves SE-NW, has an average gradient of 5.14% until it reaches the sea at Sa Calobra.

The Torrent de Pareis received its protected status through Balearic Islands Government Decree 53/2003, of 16 May, which declared the three streams, Torrent de Pareis, Torrent des Gorg Blau and Torrent de Lluc a Natural Monument (BOIB No. 79, of 5 June 2003).

Some years later, the entire area of the monument was included within the Serra de Tramuntana Nature Area, through the Balearic Islands Government resolution of 16 March 2007 (BOIB No. 54 Ext., of 11 June 2007). The stream 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, with further protection by virtue of its inclusion in the Natura 2000 Network as both a Site of Community Importance (SCI) and a Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA).

The morphology and landscape of a stream are the products of the abrasive action of the stream water on calcareous stone and the dissolution of rock due to contact with rainwater, a process that gives rise to karst formations, generating caves, chasms, fields of karren, dolines, etc. In the case of the Torrent de Pareis, the process has also led to a large tectonic fracture, with visually spectacular results.

The Torrent des Gorg Blau originates at Tossals Verds, the course of which was altered in 1972 with the construction of the Gorg Blau reservoir. With a basin measuring approximately 14 square kilometres

and an altitude difference of 627 metres, the gorge becomes more pronounced in its final section, where the canyon's towering walls and narrow breadth block the entry of natural light. These features, together with the high level of humidity, have shaped an extraordinary and unique area locally known by the descriptive name of Sa Fosca, or, "the dark spot".

The Torrent de Lluc runs through the valley of the same name and continues into the Clot d'Albarca valley. The basin of this stream covers a surface area of approximately 28 km., with an altitude difference of 500 metres.

EXCURSION THROUGH THE TORRENT DE PAREIS



S'Olja, mouth of the Torrent
Photo: M.A. Ballester

The trek begins at the houses of Escorca, at kilometre 25.2 of the Andratx – Pollença highway (Ma-10). From here, you will go down a trail to the stream, until you come to S'Entreforc. Next, follow the streambed, always seeking the easiest spots for passage, to avoid slips and falls, until you reach the sea, at Sa Calobra. This should take approximately 5 hours.

This is an extremely difficult trek, particularly at certain points along the course of the stream. Each year, there are rescues of visitors who venture out on this excursion without the necessary preparation or expertise. Unfortunately, these careless outings usually end with complicated rescues, and occasionally human lives are lost.

To ensure a safe excursion and avoid accidents, it is important to be in good physical condition and to

go along with an experienced hiker who knows the stream well. Never set out on this trek alone.

If you know the stream and you are physically prepared for this hike, please remember that the high temperatures in the summer make it advisable to begin the trek as early in the day as possible and to bring along plenty of water, given the risk of sunstroke. In the winter, the excursion is more difficult, as the accumulation of water in streambed pools makes it a very dangerous route that requires the use of technical equipment (neoprene suits, the appropriate footwear, etc.).

It is similarly inadvisable to follow this excursion upstream through the canyon from Sa Calobra if you do not know the stream extremely well, as there are places where it is very easy to get lost.



Alytes muletensis
Photo: Sebastià Torrens

Still surviving in particularly inaccessible areas of the stream are a small population of the Mallorcan midwife toad (*Alytes muletensis*), an endangered amphibian endemic to Mallorca that is protected by law. There are also a number of small endemic invertebrates, such as the snail species *Allognathus (Iberellus) balearicus* and the leaf beetle (*Timarcha balearica*).

As to the birds, the stream boasts abundant populations of the rock dove (*Columba livia*), the blue rock thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) and the crag martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*). The most noteworthy mammals in the area include the pine marten (*Martes martes*), the common genet (*Genetta genetta*), the wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and a number of different bat species.



Vitex agnus castus
Photo: Sebastià Torrens

These streams are additionally home to more than 300 plant species, 10% of which are endemic to the Balearic Islands, including the Balearic foxglove (*Digitalis minor*), the Pastinaca lucida which is locally known as "stink weed", the Jaubert's violet (*Viola jaubertiana*), Delphinium pictum and the Pimpinella bicknellii. Mention must also be made of a number of plants with very limited distribution in Mallorca, which have found an ideal habitat in the streambed. Such is the case of the English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), the bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) and the maple species *Acer granatense*, as well as nearly all of the island's known fern species. Finally, in the summertime, the mouth of the stream is colonised by the peculiar chaste trees (*Vitex agnus castus*).



**TORRENT DE PAREIS
NATURAL MONUMENT**

- Natural Monument
- Torrent de Pareis Itinerary
- P** Parking area
- i** Temporary information point



Puig d'en Galileu
1.183 m