



**A stroll through the history of Cabrera**  
Cabrera archipelago maritime-terrestrial National Park



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Cabrera archipelago maritime-terrestrial National Park

**A journey into the past and traditional ways of life that, in some cases, continued until well into the 20th century. The route will take you past arable land that is no longer in use, a threshing floor and a smugglers' secret or hideout, the monument to the French prisoners, the former winery (which today has been converted into the «Es Celler» ethnography museum) and the botanical garden. You will also be able to see the Sa Font house and kitchen garden.**

## **Self-guided itinerary**

**Approximate duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Total distance:** 3 km

**Difficulty:** low (¼ stars)

Recommendations: Before setting off, you are advised to call in at the harbour information office, as admission to the museum depends on the opening times, which vary over the course of the year.



**Mediterranean Flycatcher (*Muscicapa tyrrenica*)  
(Photo: National Park's guides Team)**

# 1. Sa Platgeta arable land

Starting from the harbour, follow the path that runs around the bay, leading to Sa Platgeta. From there, the route takes you inland, past an area without the original maquis vegetation. This area is the former arable land used for dry farming until the 1960s. Today, and due to the abandonment of agricultural activity, the area is covered mainly by herbaceous plants and a copse of Phoenician Junipers (*Juniperus phoenicea*) growing in the centre of the valley. A number of Fig trees (*Ficus carica*), standing just off the track, are a reminder of the island's long-standing agricultural tradition. Numerous small birds forage for food in this area. Throughout the year, you will be able to spot Mediterranean Flycatchers (*Muscicapa tyrrhenica*), Common Linnets (*Linaria cannabina*) and Greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*). Other species, such as the Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and Redstart (*Phoenicurus sp.*), can only be seen in winter months.



**Pla de ses Figueres planted with vines, from an engraving published in 1892 in *La Ilustración Española y Americana***

## 2. An age of threshing and smugglers' hideouts (secret)

Following the track that skirts the former arable land leading into the valley, a signposted path will take you to the pine forest, which has been gradually spreading since the end of forest and livestock farming. In a clearing, you will see a threshing floor, a testimony to the island's agricultural past. Here, once the cereal had been reaped, a donkey or mule would walk round and round in circles pulling a threshing board to separate the grain from the chaff and straw.



Recreation of a threshing floor next to «Cas Pagès»  
(Drawing: Biel Bonnin)

You will also be able to spot a secret dug out of the rock. This was a hideout that, in times of hardship, and particularly in the post-war period, was used to safeguard contraband such as coffee, sugar, tobacco or alcohol, before they were taken to Mallorca.



«Secret» or smugglers' hideout  
(Foto: Joan Salom)

### 3. The monument to French prisoners

A little further up, you will come to the monument to the French prisoners, erected in 1847 on the initiative of the Prince of Joinville, in memory of the tragic captivity of the Napoleonic troops between 1809 and 1814 during the war against France. After their defeat at the Battle of Bailén, and after spending a time imprisoned on pontoons in Cadiz, just under 5,000 soldiers were moved to the island of Cabrera. Estimates put the total number of Napoleonic troops and officers on the island at more than 9,000. During the five years they remained on the island, they lived in caves and shacks in precarious conditions. However, they established a certain degree of



organisation in order to build their huts, obtain drinking water and ration their food supplies, which arrived at irregular intervals by ship. To allay their misfortune and the tedium of captivity, they acted out plays and carved objects out of juniper or box wood, which they would then trade for food with the fishermen who sailed there from Mallorca. The French soldiers' captivity came to an end after five long years, although only around 3,600 survived the experience and returned home.

**Napoleonic prisoners' Memorial**  
(Foto: Sebastià Torrens)

## 4. Sa Font or Can Feliu house and kitchen garden

On leaving the small pine forest, you will come to the former winery, which today houses the ethnography museum. Before entering, on the opposite slope, you will see a house, built in the late 19th century and restored in the 1990s. It was originally part of the island's agricultural resources, together with the winery and the area's arable land. Just opposite is a kitchen garden that was irrigated from an underground freshwater well. The site is completed with the palm trees that line the terraces.



**Balearic warbler (*Sylvia balearica*)  
(Foto: Sebastià Torrens)**

## 5. The ethnography museum

When the Feliu family became the owners of Cabrera in 1891, they embarked on an ambitious project to grow and produce wine. The house was built next to the fountain and the winery, which was never completed. When the vines were uprooted, the building was reused as stabling for flocks of sheep and also as a hayloft. After a period of abandonment, work began on restoring it to house the history and ethnography museum. The permanent exhibition entitled «Man and Nature on Cabrera» is divided into three sections; each located one of the three floors that make up the building.

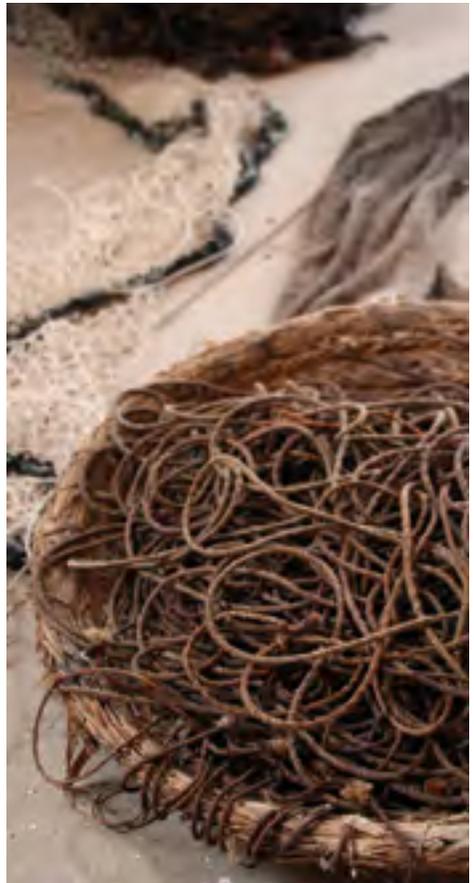
On entering via the top floor, visitors will take a journey through the history of the archipelago based on the items discovered both on land and at sea, dating from the prehistoric age to the 20th century. The numerous exhibits include Punic and Roman amphorae, ceramics from various periods, a model of the castle, as well as a selection of materials dating back to the days of the French prisoners. Also not to be missed on this floor are the magnificent panoramic views of the harbour that can be admired from the large window.



**Inner view of the museum  
(Photo: National Park's guides Team)**

The first floor provides an insight into the traditional activities carried out on the island, based on a series of texts, illustrations, historical photographs and fishing tackle.

The ground floor, which is dedicated to Cabrera's natural resources, includes brief details of how the island's flora, fauna and sea life have been used, as well as a reproduction of the Pla de ses Figueres Byzantium necropolis.



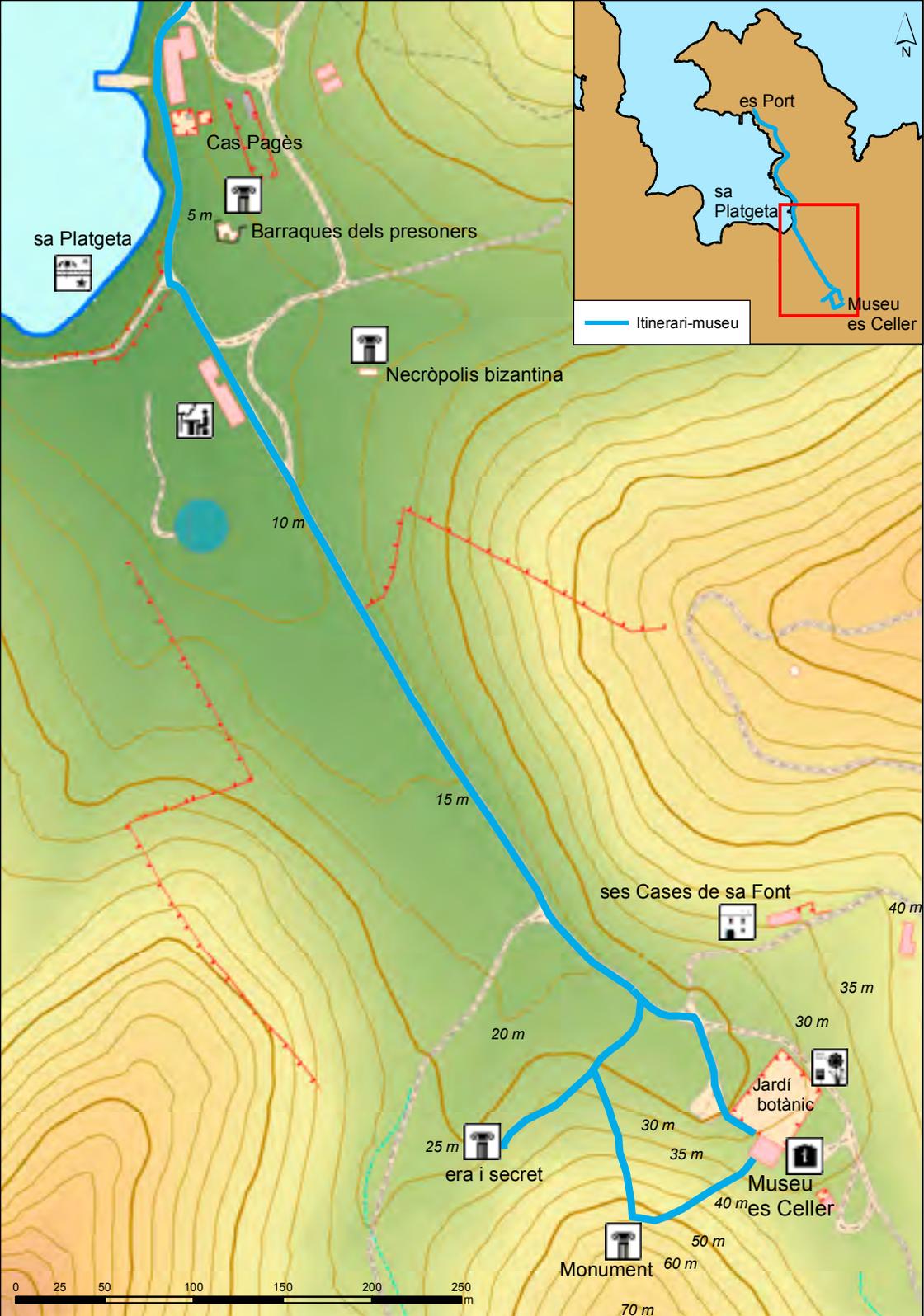
**Fishing pot and longline  
(Photo: National Park's guides Team)**

## 6. The botanical garden

The botanical garden lies next to the winery building. It boasts the National Park's most exceptional and characteristic vegetation, which is often hard to see in its natural habitat, either due to its remote setting or because it is located in a reserve. Moon Trefoil (*Medicago citrina*), Restharrow known locally as motxa or ugó (*Ononis crispa*), the Balearic Peony (*Paeonia cambessedesii*) or Rotgeta (*Rubia caespitosa*), which is endemic to the island, are authentic treasures that live on Cabrera with other, better-known species such as the Aleppo Pine, (*Pinus halepensis*), Tree Mallow (*Lavatera arborea*) or Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*).



**Botanical Garden**  
**(Photo: National Park's guides Team)**



sa Platgeta

Cas Pagès

Barraques dels presoners

Necròpolis bizantina

ses Cases de sa Font

Jardí botànic

Museu es Celler

era i secret

Monument

es Port

sa Platgeta

Museu es Celler

Itinerari-museu

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