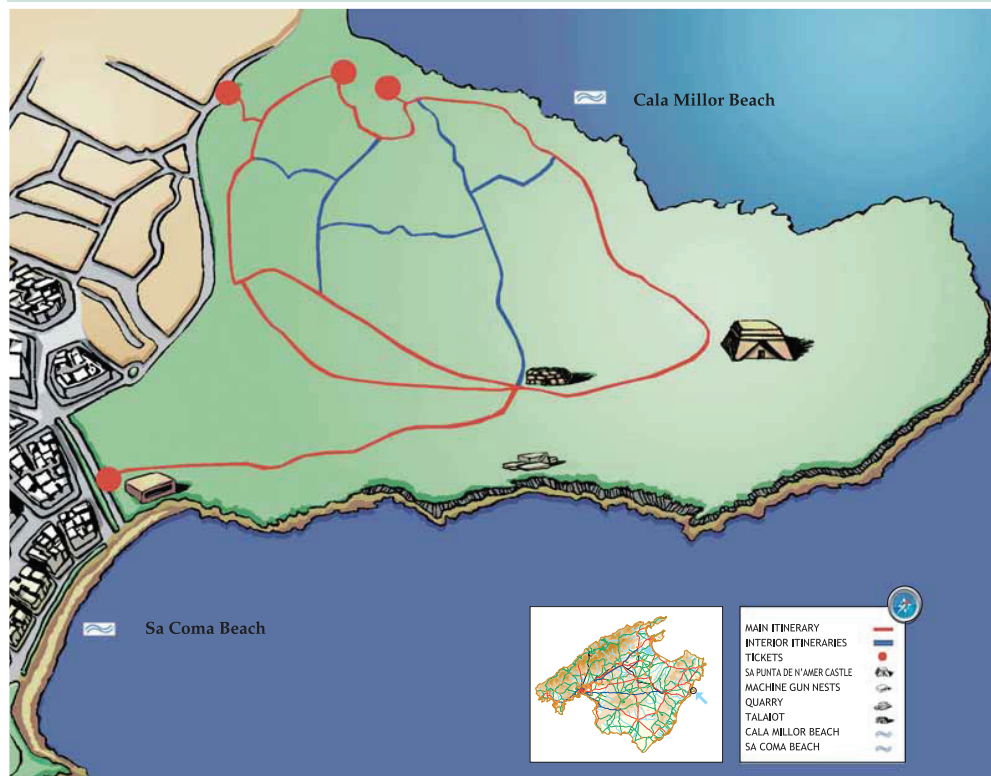


## RECOMMENDED ITINERARIES

To learn more about this area, different thematic itineraries have been created (Flora/Fauna/Geology/Dunes) which briefly describe the peculiarities of this small peninsula.

You are in a natural area, so please remember:

- Driving motorized vehicles of any kind is prohibited.
- Fire is not allowed.
- Overnight camping is prohibited.
- Please use the park's established paths.
- Respect all of the area's plants and animals.



# Sa Punta de n'Amer

ENGLISH



The natural area of Sa Punta de n'Amer is located within the municipality of Sant Llorenç des Cardassar, between the beaches of Sa Coma and Cala Millor. Sa Punta de n'Amer is a 200-hectare natural peninsula which sits over the sea. This unique area's flora, wildlife, historical remains, and dune system make it unique both visually and environmentally.

Sa Punta de n'Amer is a natural oasis conveniently situated between Sa Coma and Cala Millor, two tourism hotspots which are capable of hosting nearly 25,000 tourists. To safeguard the intrinsic natural value of this area, Sa Punta de n'Amer is under the protection of various environmental protection organizations.



## Sa Punta de n'Amer, Natural Area of Special Interest (ANEI).

In 1985, Sa Punta de n'Amer was declared a natural area of special interest (ANEI). Six years later, it was added to the Balearic ANEI list under Law 1/1991, which preserves natural spaces and controls urban planning regarding special protected areas within the Balearic Islands. This law limits any activities which may harm the ecological or scenic value of the area.

## Sa Punta de n'Amer, Site of Community Importance (SCI).

Sa Punta de n'Amer and a large extension of its sea area have been declared a Site of Community Importance (SCI) and are included in the Natura 2000 network. The abundance of seagrass (*Posidonia oceanica*) located in the waters surrounding Sa Punta de n'Amer make the area vitally important to the local ecosystem.

## HISTORICAL ELEMENTS.

**1. SA PUNTA DE N'AMER CASTLE.** The castle is located on the highest point within the area of Sa Punta de n'Amer. The castle, which is actually a defense tower, was built in the late 16th century and early 17th century. It served to keep watch over the sea and was used to defend the area's inhabitants from attacking Moorish pirates. The castle served as a lookout point between the neighboring towers of Porto Cristo and Cap Vermell as part of the network of towers surrounding the entire coast of Mallorca and was recently restored in order to preserve its history.



**2. TALAIOT DES TANCAT DE SA TORRE.** Around 1300 B.C., new constructions began going up on the islands of Mallorca and Menorca, eventually giving way to the islands' richest prehistoric age - the Talaïotic Age. The "talaïot" of Sa Punta de n'Amer is located on the right hand side of the path, going from the castle in the direction of Sa Coma beach. It is, however, difficult to see as it is covered with vegetation.

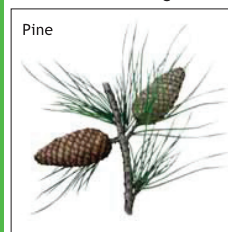
It is a short circular building with staggered burial mounds - a feature that distinguishes this specific construction from other talaïots. In ancient times this talaïot served as a worship center. Also in this area, one can find remnants of two other talaïots, s'Illot and na Pol.

**3. MACHINE GUN NESTS.** Located near the limestone quarries at the entrance of Sa Punta de n'Amer coming from Sa Coma beach, these defense elements built during the years of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) were used to prevent the landing of Republican troops.

**4. QUARRY.** These limestone quarries are of particular environmental interest. Although currently in disuse, they have been well-preserved and show activity of stone excavation. The stone in this quarry was primarily used for constructing buildings.

## FLORA.

Sa Punta de n'Amer is of special environmental interest due to its different plant ecosystems, which can be identified according to their location.



Pine

## PINE GROVE.

White pine is the most prevalent (*Pinushalepensis*), but juniper, heather and other species can also be found. In 1985, there was a forest fire which caused a significant loss; it is currently regenerating.

**COASTAL VEGETATION. Dune system:** Traces of the dune system that existed previously can still be found today. The formation of the dunes play a vital role to the ecosystem, particularly to those plants which spread their roots in the sand. The most typical plants are reeds (*Ammophila arenaria*), sea lilies (*Pancratiummaritimum*) and sea hollies (*Eryngiummaritimum*).

**Rocky Coast:** In the rocky area, sea fennel (*Crithmummaritimum*) and various species of "saladinas" (*Limonium biflorum*) can be found. They are the only

species able to withstand the wind and high concentrations of salt that rise up from the sea.

**Brush land:** Composed of mastic shrubs (*Pistacialentiscus*), heather (*Erica multiflora*), rosemary (*Rosmariusoﬀicinalis*), palm (*Chamae-ropshumilis*), white-leaved Rockrose (*Cistusalbidus*), wild olive (*Olea sylvestris europaeavar.*) and other species.

In Sa Punta de n'Amer, several species of Mediterranean orchids can be found, which bloom during March and April. The most common are *Barliarobertiana*, *Ophrys speculum* and *Ophrystenthredinifera*.

**Juniper:** Small formations of junipers (*Juniperus-phoenicea*) can be located in areas near the coast, near Cala Millor and moving inland via a continuation of the dune ecosystem.

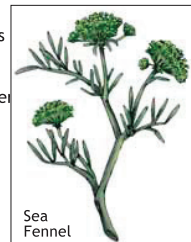
## FAUNA.

Four major wildlife environments can be found:

The coast is mostly home to different species of seabirds. The most common is the seagull (*Larusmichahellis*), but the red seagull (*Larusaudouinii*) can also be spotted on occasion. The cormorant (*Phalacrocoraxaristotelis*) can be seen fishing near the coastline while farther offshore large shearwater (*Calonectrisdiomedea*) and Balearic shearwater (*Puffinusmauretanicus*) can be observed.

Throughout the brush land, the most abundant creatures are small insect-eating birds such as the Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*), the Balearic Warbler (*Sylvia Balearica*) and, in winter, the robin (*Erithacusrubecula*). An interesting reptile, the Mediterranean tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*), can also occasionally be found.

The pine grove is home to insectivores such as the great tit (*Parusmajor*) and the wren (*Troglodytrogloglytes*), and seed-eating species such as finches (*Carduelischloris*).



Sea Fennel

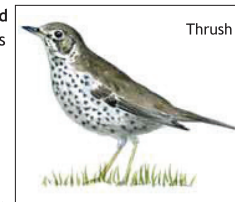


Balearic Shearwater



Tit

The area's cultivated land produces large quantities of food and is rightfully made use of by many species, including the stonechat (*Saxicolator-quata*), the Thekla lark (*Galeridatheklae*), the partridge (*Alectoris rufa*) and the winter thrush (*Turdusphilomelos*).



Thrush

## THE COAST

Sa Punta de n'Amer is an extraordinarily unique place, surrounded by the sea and neighboring two of the most well-known tourists beaches - Sa Coma and Cala Millor.

**What is a beach?** A beach is a coastal accumulation of loose sediments of variable size. Beaches are found where these sediments are being continuously mobilized by the waves. They are ecosystems which are constantly changing thanks to the waves' effects, which constantly create or remove sediment, and will cause a beach to be wider or narrower over time.

**What are dunes?** Dunes are accumulations of sand which are deposited by waves. With the help of the wind, the sand is moved to the high side of the beach farther away from the shore. Dunes often form one or more steppes which run parallel to the beach. The sand accumulates until eventually a dune is formed.

