

THE “PEÑÓN DE IFACH”

The Peñón de Ifach, a symbol of the Costa Blanca, is a 50,000 m² limestone rock that rises 332 m above the sea and is a kilometer long. Connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus, it is the result of a landslide of the nearby Sierra de Oltà, and is one of the most unique and beautiful landforms on the entire Mediterranean coast.

It is one of the most visited natural parks in the Valencian Community, and a meeting place for scuba divers, climbers and hikers.

Itinerary

The 2.5-hour signposted route starts from the Visitor Center, which has an interpretive center, an exhibition hall, and a parking area.

The first stretch reaches an approximately 30 m tunnel excavated into the rock in 1918, and runs along a path where you will find the lovely views of the Poniente and Botánico Cavanilles overlooks, and the remains of the Iberian settlement (4th century BC). After going through the tunnel, on the Levante side, between the esparto, rosemary, and junipers, the path narrows and a more complicated stretch begins on the slope that leads up to the peak. It's worth the effort for the sensation of touching the sky with your hand and enjoying the spectacular panoramic views of the Mediterranean, which on clear days reach as far as the island of Ibiza.



SALT FLATS

Calpe's salt flats occupy a depression filled with Quaternary alluvial deposits. The position of the Peñón de Ifach is an important factor in the formation of this interesting humid area. It is a lagoon of tombolic origin produced by the development of a double sandbar.

The excavated pools of the "Baños de la Reina" fish farm are located on the sandbar in the area of Calpe's bay.

Salt was a necessity for food preservation, which Calpe used to market their catch. This shows that the exploitation of Calpe's salt flats began long ago. During the Roman era, its salt production was combined with the fish farm, achieving its greatest splendor in the 2nd century AD. The salt flats acquired great importance throughout history, eventually supplying over 40 municipalities. Their decline began to be evident at the end of the 18th century, when they became the focus of infections that caused fevers among the population. Later there were various attempts to make them operational again, including by Vicente Buigues, known as "Ti Marguí", who started the modern exploitation of the salt flats, which ended in the late 1980s. In 1993 they were declared a maritime-terrestrial zone.

In the salt flats you can see various birds, one of the most striking being the flamingo, as well as vegetation unique to this peculiar ecosystem.



“SIERRA D’OLTA”

The Sierra de Oltá is a small mountainous elevation in the vicinity of Calpe which provides an excellent vantage point of the La Marina coast from Serra Gelada to Montgó, as well as the nearby Sierra de Bèrnia.

It has a camping area and a circular route formed by signposted paths and trails that allow you to climb up to its 586 m high summit after a journey of 10 km that takes about 4 hours.

TRADITIONAL TRAILS

These traditional trails and paths, used by farm workers to get to the fields, have fallen into disuse due to the abandonment of the activity. There are a total of nine marked trails with direction signs and information panels which you can stroll while contemplating the beautiful natural landscapes.

SVORAMAR TRAILS

Two beautiful trails which combine nature, sea views, and fresh air with unforgettable panoramic views.

Vorammar-Borumbot trail

From Urbanización La Manzanera to Arenal-Bol beach or Urbanización Borumbot to the height of the Plaza Mayor, you can admire the magnificent views of the coastline, the unique buildings designed by Ricardo Bofill, and Cala La Manzanera.

Vorammar-Calalga o Bassetes trail

From the top of Cala Calalga to Les Bassetes marina, next to Cala Mallorca.

PASEO ECOLÓGICO

Opened in July of 1998, this eco trail runs along the southern base of the Peñón de Ifach on a path that was part of the area dynamited in 1957 in order to construct the fishing port.

The trail is made of natural stone and occupies a 30,600 m² expanse of nearly a kilometer in length, which alternates between landscaped areas, palm trees, and various plant species, with viewpoints located in the naturally existing breakwaters.

Along the way, you can contemplate the majesty of the Peñón de Ifach with the incredible views of its steep walls, combined with the native flora and fauna and the intense blue of the Mediterranean Sea.

It is a unique example of the restoration of the scenic effect, following the preservation criteria for the ecological balance of the Natural Park.