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PLATJA DES BOT

**GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL DATA:**

Municipality: Ciutadella.

Other place names: la Vall d'Algaiarens.

Associated urban areas: none.

Access: on foot from the public parking area of the beach des Tancats. This is accessible by road from Ciutadella via the Ronda Norte (RC-1), by taking the road towards Cala Morell and turning off to the right before reaching there.

Beach location: North-west facing.

Area of the beach: 4.000 square metres

Length of the beach: 150 m.

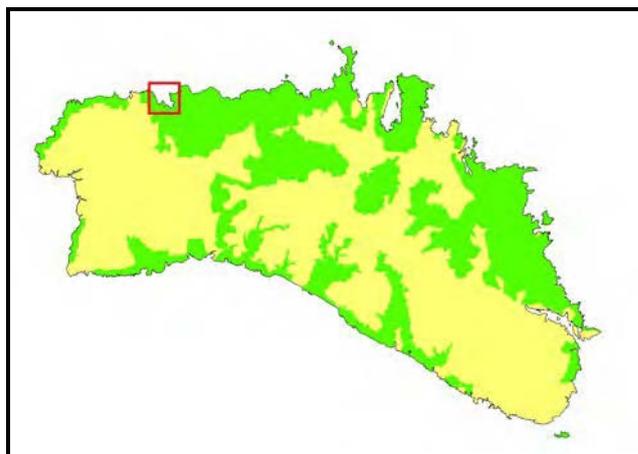
Average width of the beach: 40 m

Beach's occupation level: medium, in the height of the season. Much frequented by boats.

Surroundings geology: surrounded by hills and other small elevations with Triassic material made up of calcareous rocks and small grains of pinkish sand.

Sediment composition: of carbonated organic origin (+90%), with a high proportion of fine grains, white in colour.

Protected Natural Area: included in the Natural Area of Special Interest Me-2 and in the Nature Network of 2000.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE ON THE BEACH:**

Beach classification according to the CIME: beach type C (natural with no access by road).

Distance from the car park area: 900 m.

Lifeguard service: none.

Other services: none.

SURROUNDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

Owing to its proximity and juxtaposition and the force of the adjoining system on the nearby beach Des Tancats, the sand on the beach of des Bot is actually made up of a different sand dune system. The beach has a chain of sand dunes in front which are well developed and in a good state of preservation. The system is curtailed by the natural exit of the humid area of the river of La Vall on the south edge. Near to this cut off point, we find *climbing dunes* which go up the slope and which are curtailed by the humid zone which prevents their potential lengthwise development. This humid zone is of great naturalistic interest, especially because of the aquatic birds which can be found. (see adjoining photo). Although the water is fairly fresh, it also has important contributions from sea water on days when there are heavy storms.



PLANTS AND VEGETATION

These beaches, which are still relatively unvisited, and in addition, are associated with a river, are those which provide the greatest wealth of species, and, at the same time, also a larger selection of vegetation. This beach is a good example. On one hand we have the sand dune system which is within the beach itself and forms the first elevations with the characteristic plant: beach grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), coastal Bermuda grass (*Elymus farctus*), marine cabbage (*Calystegia soldanella*), marine thistle (*Eryngium maritimum*), sea lilies (*Pancreatium maritimum*), etc. (see adjoining photo).





Although the arrival of the river to the beach prevents the development of sand dunes, on the other hand it favours the presence of other species linked to this natural disturbance: *Suaeda spicata*, prickly saltwort (*Salsola kali*), *Atriplex postrata*, etc. All these plants are pioneering and take advantage of the organic remains left both by the sea and the river. The interest in dune vegetation on this beach is much higher towards the interior where there is an extensive sandy area with a high diversity of species. Here one can observe a clear transition of the sand dune vegetation which is clearer towards the Holm oak grove in the innermost part and passes across the most mature Junipers. Amongst the endemic species, the *Ononis crispa* stands out and this is relatively common in sandy ground, both on the coast and in the interior of the island. (see adjoining photo).

ANIMALS

In the humid zone it is customary to see diverse species of aquatic birds : the common coot (*Fulica atra*), the mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and the small grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), which, like nesting birds, are also found in the summer. In the group of reptiles, it is easy to observe European pond turtles (*Emys orbicularis*) (see adjoining photo) on the edges of pools. Even fish from the spiny loach group, such as the flattened head mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), live there.



IN THE SEA

The bottom of the sea in this bay is not of particular interest for divers as it practically all sand. There is only a small posidonia (sea grass) bush on the right hand side when leaving the bay. On the right hand edge, there is an abundance of green alga in an umbrella shape known as *Acetabularia acetabulum*, and other algae like *Jania rubens* (which gives a pinky hue to the coast), *Gastroclonium clavatum* or *Taonia atomaria*. With regard to the animal populuss in the bay, it is possible to see some sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*) and some sea anemones (*Anemonia sulcata*). On the left hand side some algae of the focus group are seen growing (*Cystoseira stricta*, *C. balearica* and *C. crinita*), and these are of great interest for the preservation of the marine biodiversity.

HISTORY AND PECULIARITIES

On the north edge of the bay there is a small building which is a traditional Menorcan recreational house. These types of private houses, sometimes hundreds of years old, can be seen often along the Menorcan coastline and they are used basically to keep a boat and/or to eat with family and friends. Their design is simple and austere but clearly marine, and these small houses are another component of the landscape of the Menorcan coast line.

